

# DURHAM JOHNSTON SIXTH FORM

Course Guide  
2019 — 2020



## ***Welcome to one of the top Sixth Form Comprehensives in Britain***

### ***Durham Johnston – Sixth Form Course Details*** ***JOHNSTON'S OFFER***

*This booklet tells you everything you need to know about the courses available in the Sixth Form at Durham Johnston. It should be read in conjunction with our Sixth Form Prospectus. Further details on general issues are available on our website. As well as A level courses we also offer the following to develop your skills and improve your employability:*

- The Extended Project Qualification (AQA)*
- Introductory Mandarin*
- Financial Awareness (LIBF)*
- Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award*

*On top of all of these there is a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities which we encourage you to take part in. As you would expect from a community working with young people, we seek to nurture, challenge and improve.*

#### ***Sixth Form - Key Dates for 2019 Entry***

<i>1 October 2018</i>	<i>Sixth Form Open Evening 6-8pm</i>
<i>2 October 2018</i>	<i>Application opens</i>
<i>5 November 2018</i>	<i>1st round application submission date</i>
<i>15 January 2019</i>	<i>2nd round application submission date</i>
<i>June 2019</i>	<i>Option blocks, based on application choices, published</i>
<i>28 June 2019</i>	<i>Sixth Form Induction Day</i>
<i>22 August 2019</i>	<i>GCSE results, registration and confirmation of places</i>
<i>23 August 2019</i>	<i>Confirmation of waiting list places</i>

#### ***Note on Post 16 Admissions***

*Every year we are oversubscribed in certain subjects. Offers depend on demand for places in your subjects, your predicted grades meeting the minimum entry requirements, your other details (see website), the date your application is received and of course places also depend on your GCSE results. Those who meet the deadline are therefore at an advantage in securing places on courses. If you are not predicted to reach the required entry grades or you apply after the places on a course are filled you may be placed on a waiting list. Students on waiting lists will be assigned places as they become available and once results are published.*

## ***The A level curriculum at Durham Johnston***

*We focus on A levels since these are the established “Gold Standard” qualifications known and relied on by universities and employers. They work well for us in our students achieving outstanding grades and progress from GCSE. If you would like to look at details on other types of courses, sources of information are listed at the back of this booklet. Since the year 2000 students have generally taken four courses in Year 12 and then focussed on three A levels during Year 13. However, around 10% of our students have taken four courses through to full A level and we expect this will continue. The advantages of the four course Year 12 are firstly that it boosts students’ UCAS points score and secondly but much more importantly that it defers the decision of the final three A levels until the students have tried out the courses. We wish to retain this advantage so students take four subjects in Year 12. At the end of Year 12 students will, if possible take AS exams in the courses they may not continue. These exam entry choices will be made following January trial exams. In the courses where students are not taking the external AS, internal exams in the summer term will decide Year 13 course progression and UCAS predictions. It is possible to take just three A level courses but it is important that they are the right three for you.*

### ***Choosing your courses***

*This is a major step and one which deserves time and attention. The general advice is to choose subjects which you find interesting – when you go from about ten subjects to four and spend five lessons plus four to five hours homework each week on a course, it really helps to want to do it. Secondly, play to your strengths; universities will offer places on the basis of grades so look at how you have done so far, use teachers’ advice and look at what the courses involve. Thirdly be aware of any requirements of the courses or careers you may be interested in. At the very least, research entry requirements - websites such as UCAS are good for this (some examples are given on the back inside cover of this booklet) - and let us know on your application form so we can include it in your interview. The fourth subject is an opportunity to broaden your education. This might mean keeping on a real passion in Art or Music but more often it is a chance to develop a relevant skill such as Maths or a language to support your university application and future employability. It is important to check that the AS qualification is available if you only intend to study the subject in Year 12.*

### ***Preparing for your courses***

*You will be given guidance on this as time goes on but in general you should research carefully your choices and probably review them as you find out more from mock results etc. The best long term foundation will be built by paying attention to media items linked to your courses and starting to develop your background reading. All of you need to be aware that GCSE results will be increasingly important in applications for university and for employment and you should be working hard from now on.*

*The details in this booklet are correct at the time of going to print. There may be further developments in curriculum, university admissions etc. which impact on our offer. We will keep applicants informed if this happens.*

### General GCSE requirements for entry to Sixth Form

- 9 - 4 grades in 5 GCSE subjects including Maths & English\*
- Including 9 - 6 in 3 GCSE subjects for Year 12
- Year 12 grades need to demonstrate potential for A level success for a place on Year 13 courses. (This will generally mean a grade D pass at AS standard or grade E at A level standard.)

### Course entry requirements

Subject	Specific subject grade(s) See individual subject pages for full details	Maths grade	English grade
Art	6 in Art or Photography or by portfolio		
Biology	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology	5	5
Business	B in Business (if taken - see course details)	5	4
Chemistry	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Chemistry	6	
Computer Science	See course details	6	
DT Product Design	6 in a Design & Technology subject	4	
Economics	6 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	6	5
English Language	5 in English Language		5
<b>English Literature</b>	6 in English Literature		6
Ethics & Philosophy	6 in a humanity e.g. History, Geography, RE (full course)		5
French	6 in French		5
Geography	6 in Geography (if taken - see course details)	5	5
German	6 in German		5
History	6 in History (if taken - see course details)		5
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics	7	
Further Mathematics	8 in Mathematics (See course details)	8	
<b>Media Studies</b>			4
Music	6 in Music or Grade 5 theory, plus at least Grade 5 ABRSM performance standard		5
Physical Education	6 in PE. In individual cases an alternative qualification may be considered		4
Physics	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Physics	6	
Politics	6 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography		5
Psychology		5	5
Sociology	5 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography if taken		5
Spanish	6 in Spanish		5

Subjects in **bold** are not available at AS.

\* See detail on English and Maths in our admissions policy on our website.

The running of any course depends on level of demand in order that they can be timetabled.

Note that the minimum entry requirement is not a target. GCSE grades go on UCAS forms and job applications with higher grades often used as a filter for selection.

As we adjust to number grading at GCSE we anticipate some turbulence and will look closely at mark level detail and try to be flexible where possible.

## ***Art and Design***

**Awarding Body OCR**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least grade 6 in GCSE Art, Design or Photography. Candidates who do not have GCSE but can demonstrate exceptional interest in pursuing A Level Art and Design must produce a portfolio of work and arrange an interview with Head of Department.

### ***Course content***

Durham Johnston Art Department is offering the two-year linear Art and Design A-level, with the option of the AS qualification in year 12. The following titles are being offered.

- **Art, Craft & Design (H600)** through a broad-based course of study, developed through a range of 2D, 3D and time-based processes and media, drawn from disciplines from at least two of the other five endorsed titles in Component 1, with study of one or more disciplines in Component 2.
- **Fine Art (H601)** through the disciplines of painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, lens-based image making.
- **Graphic Communication (H602)** through the disciplines of advertising, illustration, branding, information design.
- **Textile Design (H604)** through the disciplines of textiles for interiors, fine art textiles.
- **Three-dimensional Design (H605)** through the disciplines of spatial design, product design, design crafts.
- **Photography (H603)** through the disciplines of film-based photography, digital photography, film and video.

### **Component 01: Personal investigation 60%**

- A practical portfolio with supporting contextual research in response to a set theme. The portfolio may be presented in a format appropriate to the specialism and area of study chosen.
- A related study using words and illustrations demonstrating the context in which their portfolio exists, exploring the relevant genre, subject matter, movement or historical framework of the selected theme.

### **Component 02: Externally set task 40%**

Students can choose a starting point from any of the seven given themes for which they will generate an appropriate personal response for assessment. They will carry out preparatory work to research, plan and develop their ideas, before engaging in 15 hours of supervised time to complete their work.

### ***Career Possibilities***

A Level Art is highly valued for careers in architecture, graphic design, illustration and advertising, fashion and textiles, film and TV, print making, 3D design, ceramics and jewellery, photography, art therapy, community and performance art.

## ***Biology***

### **Awarding Body OCR**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 5 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Biology. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Biology units 1 & 2 and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Biology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Students are advised that Biological degree courses usually require supporting A Levels such as Chemistry or Maths. They should check UCAS for further details (see websites on the final page).

#### ***Course content***

Biology A Level is split into 6 modules. Modules 1 to 4 constitute a stand alone AS level qualification (AS Level marks no longer contribute towards the A Level marks). Modules 1 to 6, combined with a practical Endorsement, constitute the full A level.

**Module 1:** Development of practical skills

**Module 2:** Foundations in biology

**Module 3:** Exchange and transport

**Module 4:** Biodiversity, evolution and disease

**Module 5:** Communications, homeostasis and energy

**Module 6:** Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

#### ***Assessment***

In year 12, two papers, 1½ hours each, assess any content from modules 1 to 4.

In year 13, there are three papers:

- Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 3 assesses content from all 6 modules (1½ hours)

For year 13 at least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 10% will assess mathematical skills.

#### **Practical endorsement (Year 13 only)**

Students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This will be endorsed as pass or fail but will not contribute marks towards the A level. Practical requirements impose strict limits on class sizes and places may not be available to late applicants.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Biology is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, nursing and the health professions, scientific research, agriculture, veterinary sciences, pharmacy, environmental sciences, forestry and teaching.

## ***Business***

### **Awarding Body EDEXCEL**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least grade B in GCSE Business (if taken), grade 5 in Maths and grade 4 in an English GCSE. **It is not a requirement to have studied Business at GCSE level.** Students who have not studied GCSE Business perform equally as well as those who have.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Business need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Emphasis at A Level is to develop knowledge and understanding of business concepts, with the ability to define, analyse and evaluate problems.

The skills you learn while studying Business are:

- to evaluate data in order to make informed judgements
- to distinguish between fact and opinion
- to understand the features and dynamics of business activity
- to solve problems
- to select, organise, interpret and use information
- to evaluate evidence
- to make reasoned judgements
- to present conclusions accurately and appropriately

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

**Theme 1:** Marketing & People

**Theme 2:** Managing Business Activities

Both units cover the following: external influences, marketing, operations, human resources and financial considerations.

##### *Year 13*

**Theme 3:** Business Decisions & Strategy

**Theme 4:** Global Business

Year 12 themes are revisited in additional depth.

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

**Paper 1:** Marketing & People: 50% of total AS Level, 1½ hour written paper.

**Paper 2:** Managing Business Activities: 50% of total AS Level, 1½ hour written paper.

##### *Year 13*

**Paper 1:** Marketing, People & Global Business: 35% of total A level, 2 hour written paper.

**Paper 2:** Business Activities, Decisions & Strategy: 35% of total A Level, 2 hour written paper.

**Paper 3:** Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment: 30% of total A Level, 2 hour written paper.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

There are few areas of work where Business does not have a part to play. Even in jobs that are technical, practical or artistic, it is useful to have an understanding of how the organisation operates, especially if you want to start climbing the management ladder. For those seeking employment, A Level Business would be of obvious value for a wide range of careers in the business world. Universities offer a range of business related degrees, with specialist routes in management, marketing, economics, finance, law, human resource management, information technology, European studies/languages and international business management.

## ***Chemistry***

### **Awarding Body OCR**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Chemistry. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Chemistry units 1 & 2.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Chemistry need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Chemistry degrees often require specific supporting subjects, particularly Maths. Students should check UCAS for further details (see websites on final page).

#### ***Course content***

Chemistry A Level is split into 6 modules. Modules 1 to 4 constitute a stand-alone AS Level qualification (AS Level marks no longer contribute towards the A Level marks). Modules 1 to 6, combined with a practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

**Module 1:** Development of practical skills in Chemistry

**Module 2:** Foundations in Chemistry

**Module 3:** Periodic Table and Energy

**Module 4:** Core Organic Chemistry

**Module 5:** Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements

**Module 6:** Organic Chemistry and Analysis

#### ***Assessment***

##### *AS Year 1*

There are two papers:

- Breadth in Chemistry (1½ hours)
- Depth in Chemistry (1½ hours)

Both papers assess content from modules 1 to 4.

##### *A level*

There are three papers:

- Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 3 assesses content from all six modules (1½ hours)

For Year 13, at least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 10% will assess mathematical skills.

#### **Practical endorsement (Year 13 only):**

Students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This will be endorsed as pass or fail but will not contribute marks towards the A Level. Practical requirements impose strict limits on class sizes and places may not be available to late applicants.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Chemistry continues to be the central subject for medicine and many science based courses. A qualification in Chemistry may lead to the following careers: chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, dentistry, engineering, accountancy, law, nursing, veterinary science, pharmacology, environmental science, food and drug industries, geosciences, sports science, management consultancy and forensic science.

## ***Computer Science*** **Awarding body OCR**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths and Computer Science if taken. Students who do not have GCSE but can demonstrate exceptional interest in pursuing A Level Computer Science must produce a portfolio of work and arrange an interview with a member of the Computing department.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Computer Science need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. OCR's A Level in Computer Science will value computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. Students will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The project approach is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to Higher Education and the workplace. Each student is able to tailor their project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations.

Related degrees vary in their entrance requirements with some specifying Maths courses. Students should check UCAS for further details (see websites on final page).

### ***Course content***

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Students will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.

1. Analysis of the problem
2. Design of the solution
3. Developing the solution
4. Evaluation

### ***Assessment***

*Year 12*

Paper 1 (50%)

Paper 2 (50%)

*Year 13*

Paper 1 – Computer Systems – 140 Marks. 2½ hour written exam (40%)

Paper 2 – Algorithms and Programming – 140 Marks. 2½ hour written exam (40%)

Programming project – 70 Marks. Non-exam assessment (20%)

### ***Career Possibilities***

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computer Science and go on to a career in Software and Hardware Development, IT Systems Management, business, any type of science and many other areas.

## ***Design and Technology: Product Design (Design Engineering)***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least a grade B in a GCSE Design & Technology or Engineering (if taken) and grade 4 in Maths. It is not a requirement to have studied a D&T based subject at GCSE level. Students who have not previously studied Design & Technology at GCSE level perform equally as well as those who have.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Product Design need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

Core Technical Principles;

- Materials & their applications
- The requirements for product design, development & manufacture
- Design communication
- Digital design & manufacture
- Efficient use of materials
- Health & safety

Core Designing & Making Principles;

- Design methods and processes
- Design History
- Modern technological developments & cultural changes
- Critical analysis & evaluation
- Responsible design

Specialist knowledge;

- The characteristics and working properties of materials
- The use of surface finishes and coatings
- The use of manufacturing processes as appropriate to a range of materials



##### *Year 13*

Knowledge & principles as in Year 12 with additional content such as;

- Virtual modelling & rapid prototyping
- Safety in product design
- Protecting intellectual property
- Enterprise and marketing
- Modern manufacturing systems
- International standards



#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

- Examination – 2 hours – 80 Marks – 50% of AS Level
- Coursework (NEA) – A Single Design & Make Project – Context set by the AQA – 80 Marks – 50% of AS level.
- A written or digital design portfolio with photographic evidence of the final prototype.

##### *Year 13*

- Examination 1 – Core Technical and Designing & Making Principles – 2 hours – 100 Marks – 25% of A Level.
- Examination 2 – Specialist knowledge – 2 hours – 100 Marks – 25% Of A Level.
- Coursework (NEA) – A Substantial Design & Make Project – 100 Marks – 50% of A level.
- A written or digital design portfolio with photographic evidence of the final prototype.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

This course is ideal preparation for a wide range of university courses and careers within the Design, Manufacture & Creative sectors. It also provides a good complementary discipline for those considering a variety of career paths where creativity, practical problem solving and project management are desirable qualities.

## ***Economics***

### **Awarding Body EDEXCEL**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 5 in an English GCSE plus grade 6 in Geography or History. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Economics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Economics students are advised to continue to study a Maths course, particularly if they are interested in continuing to degree level.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

**Theme 1:** Introduction to markets and market failure

- supply and demand
- the economic problem
- government intervention in markets e.g. taxes and subsidies
- examples of market failure such public goods and externalities

**Theme 2:** The UK economy performance and policies

- aggregate demand and supply
- inflation
- unemployment
- the balance of payments
- fiscal policy
- monetary policy
- conflicts between objectives and policies

##### *Year 13*

**Theme 3:** Business behaviour and the labour market

- the objectives of firms
- the growth of firms
- costs, revenue and profit
- market structures
- the labour market

**Theme 4:** A global perspective

- international economics
- the financial sector
- poverty and inequality
- emerging and developing economies
- role of the state in the macro economy

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

The exam is based on two 1½ hour papers (covering themes 1 and 2).

##### *Year 13*

The exam is based on three 2 hour papers (covering all four themes). The papers consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended open-response questions.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Management, administration, banking, politics, teaching and accountancy. A pass in Economics is also a very good general qualification for many degree courses and for all careers. It is evidence that the candidate can think logically and analytically, write clearly and cope with numerical problems.

## ***English Language*** **Awarding Body- AQA**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.

For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 English Language need to demonstrate potential for A level success.

### **Course content**

#### *Year 12*

In this year you will cover topics that are examined at the end of year 13 for the full A level English Language course, and which are on the AS examination for any student wishing to take this at the end of the first year. This specification offers exciting opportunities to explore key language concepts and engage with a range of texts. You will explore the language we encounter on a daily basis, such as how we judge people's accent or if males and females use language differently. You will also have the chance to demonstrate your writing skills by creating your own texts in a range of forms and genres. One piece of which, with a commentary, will constitute half of the A level coursework element.

For those students opting to take the AS qualification there will be opportunities to prepare for the examination, which differs slightly from the A level.

#### *Year 13*

At this stage you will continue to work towards the full A level English Language qualification which offers you opportunities to develop your subject expertise further, including some of the bigger questions about how language has changed over time, current language trends and how we acquire language early in life. The emphasis will be on lines of enquiry, debating different views and working independently to research aspects of language in use in the form of a personal language investigation.

### **Assessment**

#### *Year 12*

All students will complete a piece of original writing with a commentary (1500 words in total) which is 10% of the total A level.

**AS qualification details (as an option)** Other students wishing to continue to the full A level will be assessed by internal examinations.

#### ***Paper One: Language and the individual. 50% of AS qualification 1½ hours***

Two texts linked by topic or theme. Each text is analysed separately and then the final question requires comparison of the two texts.

#### ***Paper Two: Language Varieties. 50% of the AS qualification, 1½ hours***

**Section A:** Language Diversity. A discursive essay on language diversity with a choice of two questions.

**Section B:** Language Discourses. A directed writing task on attitudes to language.

#### *Year 13*

#### ***Paper One: Language, the individual and society. 40% of total A level, 2½ hours***

**Section A:** Textual Variations and Representations. Two texts linked by topic or theme. Each text is analysed separately and then the final question requires comparison of the two texts.

**Section B:** Children's Language Development - An evaluative essay on children's language development from a choice of two questions.

#### ***Paper Two: Language Diversity and change. 40% of total A level, 2½ hours.***

**Section A: Diversity and Change.** An evaluative essay on either language diversity or language change.

**Section B: Language Discourses.** A question requiring a comparative analysis of how texts use language to present views on a contemporary language issue. This is then followed by a directed writing task linked to the same topic and ideas in the texts.

### **Coursework 10% of total A level**

A language investigation is produced (2000 words), which is the second part of the coursework.

### **Career Possibilities**

There is a wide range of possibilities: English Language is highly valued for careers in the media, police, business, law, social services, civil service and education. In fact, any career where language and communication skills are important. Many universities offer an English Language or Linguistics degree and all value A level English Language.

## ***English Literature***

### **Awarding Body – AQA Specification A**

**Note** - certification in this course is not available at AS

#### ***Minimum Course Entry Requirement***

At least grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 English Literature need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course Content***

English Literature A's historicist approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature A encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. English Literature A privileges the process of making autonomous meaning, encouraging students to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.

The specification encourages the exploration of texts in a number of different ways:

- the study of a literary theme over time (Love Through the Ages);
- the study of literature through engaging with two of the main historicist perspectives, the diachronic (reading texts written across widely different time periods that explore the same theme) and synchronic (reading texts written within a narrower and clearly defined time period);
- the study of various texts, both singly and comparatively, chosen from a list of core set texts and a list of chosen comparative set texts;
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.

#### ***Assessment***

English Literature is a linear course and external assessment will take place at the end of Year 13 only.

**Paper One: Love Through the Ages:** 40% of total A Level, 3 hours.

**Section A:** Shakespeare: one passage based question with linked essay (closed book).

**Section B:** Unseen poetry: comparing two unseen poems.

**Section C:** Comparing two texts that have been studied in class (open book).

**Paper Two: Texts in Context:** 40% of total A Level, 2.5 hours.

**Section A:** Set Texts: One essay on a set text that has been studied in class (open book).

**Section B:** Unseen Prose.

**Section C:** Comparing two further set texts that have been studied in class (open book).

**Non Examination Unit:** 20% of total A Level

2500 word essay comparing two texts of the student's choice; one of which must have been written pre-1900.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

English Literature is excellent preparation for careers in English teaching, journalism or the arts. The course develops skills in close reading, making presentations, structuring arguments, problem solving and working with others that are essential in many jobs including the law, banking, administration, marketing, advertising and any job where management skills are required.

## ***Ethics and Philosophy*** **Awarding Body OCR**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement.***

At least grade 5 in GCSE English and a grade 6 in a Humanities subject (full course Religious Education, History or Geography).

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Ethics and Philosophy need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

This course of study is suitable for anyone who is interested. Specifications build on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in GCSE Religious Studies, but does not assume or require any previous study of the subject or a religious background.

### ***Course content***

Candidates focus on three component parts of complimentary study. The selected units are:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religious Ethics
- Developments in Religious Thought - Christianity

### ***Assessment***

All components are assessed by written examination.

#### *Year 12*

There will be an examination paper for each of the three component parts of the course. Each paper, lasting 1½ hours, will consist of five questions, candidates must choose three questions. Each paper will carry a 90 mark value and account for 33.3% of the qualification.

#### *Year 13*

There will be an examination paper for each of the three component part of the course. Each paper, lasting 2 hours, will consist of five questions, candidates must choose three questions. Each paper will carry a 120 mark value and account for 33.3% of the qualification.

### ***Career Possibilities***

A background in Ethics and Philosophy is valuable to a number of different professions. Philosophy develops a critical approach to any area of study (not just ethics and religion). Relevant careers and courses are: teaching, law, management, lecturer, ministry, medicine, advertising, Civil Service, journalism, business, philosophy, politics, police, social work, writer and any other careers which involve working with people from different cultural and social backgrounds.

## ***French***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in French and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 French need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

This can be a stand alone qualification or year one of the two year A Level course. The Advanced Level course in French enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use. The Advanced Level qualification enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, offers an insight into another culture and society and provides students with a sound basis for further study.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One book or film
- Grammar

##### *Year 13*

The course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary French society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society.

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book or film (NB if a film is chosen in year one, then a book must be studied in year two)
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into French).

##### *Year 13*

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into French).

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.

## **Geography**

**Awarding Body: AQA**

### **Minimum course entry requirement**

At least GCSE grade 6 in geography, grade 5 in an English GCSE and grade 5 in Maths. However, it is possible to study A Level geography without having taken the subject at GCSE as long as your other GCSE grades are strong and you undertake some additional preparatory reading.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Geography need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

### **Why should I choose Geography as an A Level subject?**

1. It is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences
2. You learn about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment
3. You learn and develop a wide range of skills

*'Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future. '(Michael Palin)*

### **Course content**

*Year 12/AS Level*

Topics studied:

- Coasts
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Changing Places
- Skills, Stats and Fieldwork

*Year 13/A Level*

Topics studied:

- Carbon and Water Cycles
- Hazards
- Global Systems and Governance
- Coursework

### **Fieldwork**

You will carry out 4 days of fieldwork during your A Level geography course. Two of those days will be in Year 12 and will consist of one visit to a stretch of coastline and one visit to an urban area. These visits are to enable you to develop fieldwork and data processing techniques. The other two days are in relation to the fieldwork investigation (for those who carry on to do the full A Level).

### **Assessment**

*Year 12/AS Level*

Component 1: Coasts and Urban. 1½ hours (50%)

Component 2: Changing Places and Fieldwork/Skills/Stats. 1½ hour (50%)

*Year 13 /A Level*

Component 1: Physical Geography. 2½ hours (40%)

Component 2: Human Geography. 2½ hours (40%)

Component 3: Fieldwork Investigation (20%)

### **Career Possibilities**

Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment. Geographers enter a very wide range of career areas and, put simply, there is no such thing as a geography job, there are jobs that geographers do. Studying geography provides you with valuable skills and a firm base for life-long learning. (Royal Geographical Association)

## ***German***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in German and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 German need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

This can be a stand alone qualification or year one of the two year A Level course. The Advanced Level course in German enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use. The Advanced Level qualification enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, offers an insight into another culture and society and provides students with a sound basis for further study.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One film
- Grammar

##### *Year 13*

The course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary German society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society.

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

##### *Year 13*

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.

## ***Government and Politics***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 5 in English and a 6 in a humanity e.g. Geography or History is required.

A genuine committed interest is the main requirement needed from students who take this course. A student who studies Government and Politics as an A Level subject will be one who wants to understand current affairs in depth.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Government and Politics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course content***

Politics is separated into three sections;

1. Government and politics in the UK
  - Constitution, Devolution, Parliament, PM, Cabinet and the Judiciary
  - Democracy, participation, elections, parties and pressure groups
  
2. Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
  - Constitution, Congress, President, Supreme Court
  - Parties, pressure groups, elections, participation
  - Comparative politics between the US and the UK
  
3. Political Ideologies
  - Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism
  - One of the following, Nationalism, Ecologism, Anarchism, Feminism, Multiculturalism

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

One 3 hour paper examining section 1.

##### *Year 13*

Three 2 hour papers (one on each section) which consist of a combination of short answers and extended essay writing.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

An A Level course in Government and Politics is good preparation for anyone considering a degree in sociology, social studies, history, law, economics, business studies and public administration. It should also provide vital information for any student considering a career in journalism, law, social work and local or central government.

## **History**

### **Awarding Body OCR**

**Note** - Those studying History should expect to complete the full A-Level course, and teaching will be based upon this assumption. The AS contains the same content as Y12 History, but is examined differently.

### **Minimum course entry requirement**

At least GCSE grade 6 in History if taken and grade 5 in an English GCSE. It is not absolutely essential for an exceptional candidate to have studied GCSE History before embarking on a study of the subject at A Level. New students to the course should complete additional preparatory reading.

For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 History need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

### **Course content**

#### *Year 12*

Students will study units 1 and 2.

#### *Year 13*

Students will study units 3 and 4 and revisit units 1 and 2.

### **British period study and enquiry:**

**Unit 1 (Y113)** *Britain 1930–1997. (Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930–1951)*

The Enquiry is a source-based study.

### **Non-British period study:**

**Unit 2 (Y213)** *The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815.*

### **Thematic study and historical interpretations:**

**Unit 3 (Y319)** *Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992.*

Students will develop the ability to treat the whole period thematically, and to use their detailed knowledge of the depth study topics to evaluate interpretations of the specified key events, individuals or issues.

### **Topic based essay:**

**Unit 4 (Y100)** *A final 4th module will involve independent research on a British Prime Minister of their choice from the period 1930-1997.*

Students will complete a 3000–4000 word essay on a topic of their choice, which may arise out of content studied elsewhere in the course. This is an internally assessed unit.

### **Assessment**

External assessment will be at the end of year 13.

### **British period study and enquiry:**

(Y101-Y113) 50 marks. 1½ hour paper. 25% of total A level

### **Non-British period study:**

(Y201-Y224) 30 marks. 1 hour paper. 15% of total A level

### **Thematic study and historical interpretations**

(Y301-Y321) 80 marks. 2½ hour paper. 40% of total A level

### **3000–4000 word essay**

(Y100/03 or 04) Non exam assessment. 40 marks. 20% of total A level

### **Career Possibilities**

This subject is ideal for any student intending to be a lawyer, journalist, accountant, banker, manager, administrator, architect or civil servant. It is a highly regarded subject and provides excellent training in constructing an argument, debating, undertaking research and thinking critically.

## ***Mathematics*** **Awarding Body OCR**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

The course is specialised and demanding and therefore a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics should be regarded as the absolute minimum.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Mathematics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

### ***Course content***

There is a fixed content for AS and A Level Mathematics. All students will study a mixture of pure mathematics, mechanic and statistics. Both AS and A level maths are comprised of  $\frac{2}{3}$  pure mathematics,  $\frac{1}{6}$  mechanics and  $\frac{1}{6}$  statistics

### ***Assessment***

The typical plan for assessment is as follows:

#### *Year 12/AS*

- Paper 1- Pure and mechanics (1½ hours)
- Paper 2 – Pure and statistics (1½ hours)

#### *Year 13/A level*

- Paper 1 – Pure (2 hours)
- Paper 2 - Pure and mechanics (2 hours)
- Paper 3 – Pure and statistics (2 hours)

100% of the assessment is by examination. There is no coursework.

### ***Calculators***

The use of calculators (including graphical calculators) is permitted in all exams. You will require an advanced calculator with built-in statistical distribution functions. The calculator you used for GCSE and the "advanced" calculators available in the shops (summer 2017) will not be good enough.

Two current non-graphical calculators are suitable.

- The Casio Fx-991EX Classwiz is available for just over £20 if you hunt around on the web. **This is our preferred calculator.**
- The TI 30X-Pro is also available online, for about £17

(students qualifying for bursaries are entitled to a refund, so please keep receipt)

If you are considering buying a graphical calculator instead, please seek advice from the maths department before you make a purchase.

### ***Career Possibilities***

With numbers, statistics and computers so much part of modern life, an AS or A Level in Mathematics is one of the most generally useful qualifications. A Level Mathematics is essential for degree study in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics, and often required for courses in Computer Science, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Operational Research, Architecture and Accountancy. With statistics being widely used in many occupations this subject can be useful support for students of Geography, Social Sciences, Psychology and Biology. Other career areas where Mathematics is useful include banking, insurance, science of all types and the armed services.

## ***Further Mathematics*** **Awarding Body OCR**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 8 in Maths. The standard of this course is high. No student may take this course without studying A Level Mathematics.

Further Mathematics students often choose to complete four A levels but this is not assumed.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Further Mathematics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

### ***Course content***

AS level Further Mathematics is comprised of  $\frac{1}{3}$  Compulsory Pure Maths with  $\frac{2}{3}$  made up of the best two of Additional Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics.

A level Further Mathematics is comprised of  $\frac{1}{2}$  Compulsory Pure Maths with  $\frac{1}{2}$  made up of the best two of Additional Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics.

### ***Assessment***

The typical plan for assessment is as follows:

- AS Level Further Maths exam at the end of Year 12
  - Compulsory Pure Maths (75 minutes)
  - Additional Pure Maths (75 minutes)
  - Mechanics (75 minutes)
  - Statistics (75 minutes)
  
- A Level Further Maths exams at the end of Year 13
  - Compulsory Pure Maths 1 (90 minutes)
  - Compulsory Pure Maths 2 (90 minutes)
  - Additional Pure Maths (90 minutes)
  - Mechanics (90 minutes)
  - Statistics (90 minutes)

### ***Career Possibilities***

The depth and breadth of study provided by A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics create a strong foundation for any career with a mathematical content such as science, engineering, banking, accountancy or insurance. The most selective universities may have a very strong preference for students applying to some courses to have taken Further Mathematics. These include maths, engineering, physics, computer science and economics. Students should check UCAS for further details (see websites on final page).

## **Media Studies**

### **Awarding Body Educas**

**Note - certification in this course is not available at AS**

#### **Minimum course entry requirement**

At least grade 4 in GCSE English Language. No previous study of Media at GCSE is required.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Media Studies need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Media Studies is a challenging course which offers students the opportunity to develop a critical and analytical approach to the changing media environment which surrounds them. Students will explore how media texts are constructed and they will also create original media texts for the coursework component.

#### **Course content**

##### **Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences**

Students will be taught the key media theoretical frameworks for analysing media texts including: British newspapers, contemporary and historical adverts and charity campaigns, Radio programmes, historical film posters, video games and a cross-media study of film marketing. This unit is completed in Year 12. It consists of two sections –

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences

##### **Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth**

Section A – Television in the Global Age -Students will be studying the documentary genre and then will produce their own documentaries and accompanying marketing campaign for Component 3 coursework.

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media - Students will study contemporary and historical magazines focusing on changing gender representations and gender constructions.

Section C – Media in the Online Age - Students will study self-representation and the impact of digital technology on media production, as well as how digital technology changes the way we consume media products.

##### **Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework**

Brief set Easter term in Year 12 and completed by the end of autumn term in Year 13

Students will be producing moving image and print based media products for their coursework component - a documentary sequence and a marketing campaign. All students will be taught editing skills using Industry standard software.

#### **Assessment**

##### **Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences.**

Written examination: 2¼ hours at the end of Year 13. The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts - 35% of qualification.

Section A: Media Language and Representation - 2 analytical questions on Unseen texts

Section B: Media Industries and Audiences - 2 analytical questions on set texts

##### **Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth**

Written examination: 2½ hours at the end of Year 13. This unit is completed in Year 12 and 13 - 35% of qualification. There are 3 extended essay questions based on the set texts studied for each module – TV, Magazines and Online Media

##### **Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework.**

To be completed by the end of autumn term in Year 13 - 30% of qualification

#### **Career Possibilities**

Media Studies is a valuable and highly regarded qualification, leading directly to many media based careers. The moral and ethical debates students engage with are the analytical and investigative approach developed is excellent training for a wide range of careers including law, politics, journalism, social services, civil service and teaching. Any area which requires critical thinking and excellent communication skills would be well served by a Media Studies student.

## ***Music***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least grade 6 in GCSE Music, grade 5 theory standard **plus** at least grade 5 ABRSM performance standard and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

Students will decide in January of Year 12 whether to take the AS and finish at the end of Year 12 or whether to take the full A level. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Music need to demonstrate potential for A Level success **plus** at least grade 6 ABRSM performance standard.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

The AS syllabus content is taught as three modules;

##### **Unit 1: Appraising Music – Listening, Analysis and Contextual Understanding.**

This component provides an appropriate focus for students to appraise music and develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. The music to be studied is 'The Baroque Solo Concerto', 'The Operas of Mozart' and 'Jazz'.

##### **Unit 2: Performance**

Students will record a programme of solo and/or ensemble repertoire lasting between 6 and 8 minutes in which they will demonstrate an understanding of context including, the chosen style or genre being performed and the composer's purpose and intention.

##### **Unit 3: Composition**

Students will write two compositions which must last between 4½ and 6 minutes. One will be in response to an externally set brief and the other a free composition.

##### *Year 13*

The A Level syllabus content is taught as three modules;

##### **Unit 4: Appraising Music – Listening, Analysis and Contextual Understanding.**

This component provides an appropriate focus for students to appraise music and develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. The music studied in Year 12 is continued in greater depth, and in Year 13, students will also study 'The Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg' and 'Art Music from 1910'.

**Unit 5: Performance** - Students will record a programme of solo and/ or ensemble music between 10 and 12 minutes in which they will demonstrate an understanding of context including, the chosen style or genre being performed and the composer's purpose and intention.

**Unit 6: Composition** - Students will write two compositions which must last between 4½ and 6 minutes. One will be in response to an externally set brief and the other a free composition.

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

**Unit 1:** Written/ Listening Examination. (40% of the total AS marks)

**Unit 2:** Externally Assessed Coursework. (30% of the total AS marks)

**Unit 3:** Internally Assessed Coursework. (30% of the total AS marks)

##### *Year 13*

**Unit 4:** Written/ Listening Examination. (40% of A Level marks)

**Unit 5:** Externally Assessed Coursework. (35% of total A Level marks)

**Unit 6:** Externally Assessed Coursework. (25% of the total A Level marks)

#### ***Career Possibilities***

For those wishing to pursue a professional musical career as a performer, composer or teacher, A Level music is a pre-requisite for higher education courses at both universities and music colleges. Music also creates a practical and creative balance for those studying two or more classroom or laboratory based subjects, developing independent study and cultivating interpersonal skills through the examination of music as a communicative language.

## ***Physical Education*** **Awarding Body AQA**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least grade 6 in GCSE PE and grade 4 in an English.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Physical Education need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

### ***Course content***

The course builds upon the student experience from GCSE to enhance knowledge and increase understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in PE. The qualification looks to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work.

Students will have the opportunity to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles in sport such as performer, official and/or leader/coach. The content of the course will address current contemporary issues. Topics will include the impact of the use of ergogenic aids, technology and increasing commercialisation of sport.

### ***Assessment***

#### *Year 12*

**Paper 1:** Written 2 hour exam - 70% of AS. Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A – Applied physiology

Section B – Skill acquisition and sports psychology

Section C – Sport and society and technology in sport

**Practical performance** – students assessed as a player/performer or in full sided version of one activity - 15% of AS

#### *Plus*

Written analysis and evaluation of performance – 15% of AS.

#### *Year 13*

**Paper 1:** Written 2 hour exam – 35% of A Level. Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A – Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B – Skill acquisition

Section C – Sport and society

**Paper 2:** Written 2 hour exam – 35% of A Level. Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity

Section A – Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B – Sports psychology

Section C – Sport and society and technology in sport

**Practical performance** - 30% of A Level. Students assessed as a player/performer or in full sided version of one activity plus written analysis and evaluation of performance

### ***Career Possibilities***

Sports at all level in civilian life and the Services, leisure and recreation industries, youth services, education and related fields such as some medical careers. The subject provides a useful background in the scientific study of the working of the human body and the growing leisure sector that is valuable for a number of courses in Higher Education.

## ***Physics***

### **Awarding Body OCR**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Physics. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Physics units 1 & 2.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Physics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Degrees requiring Physics also frequently require Maths and sometimes both Maths and Further Maths.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

Modules:

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations of physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons

##### *Year 13*

Modules:

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations of physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particles and medical physics

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

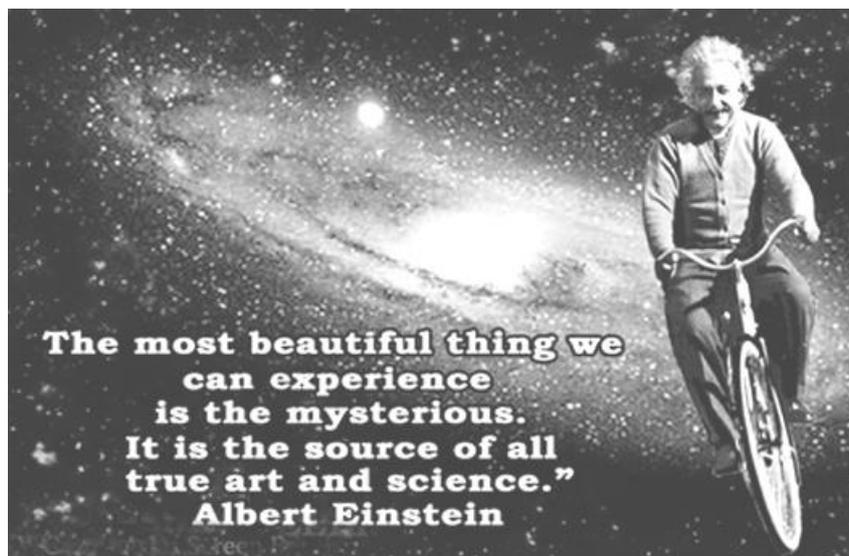
Two 1½ hour written exams.

##### *Year 13*

Two 2¼ hour exams and one 1½ hour written exam based on year 12 and 13 modules. Students also need to pass a teacher assessed practical set of tasks.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Physics A Level is a requirement of many science and most engineering courses in higher education. Physicists find employment in many areas: e.g. astronomy, computing, aeronautics, the automotive industry, electronics, laboratory work, radiography, engineering, (electrical, mechanical, civil), communications, optical, forensic science, armed forces, music, entertainment, geophysics, etc.



## ***Psychology***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 5 in Maths plus grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Psychology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

Psychopathology – looking at symptoms, causes and treatments of OCD, Phobias and Depression.

Social Influence – the effects of conformity, obedience and minority influence

Memory – theories of memory, application to EWT and how memory can be improved

Attachment – how childhood attachment affects adult relationships

Approaches & Biopsychology – Theories in Psychology

Research Methods – Scientific principles of how to carry out research in Psychology

##### *Year 13*

Gender – theories of gender, atypical gender development, GID

Schizophrenia – symptoms, theories and treatments of schizophrenia

Forensic Psychology – Measurement of crime, why crime happens, offender profiling and treatment of offenders

Approaches in Psychology – comparison of theories

Biopsychology- Biological basis of behaviour, brain, CNS

Research Methods – development of scientific principles

Issues & Debates – nature/nurture, freewill/determinism, ideographic/nomothetic, holism/reductionism, gender bias and cultural bias

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

##### *Year 13*

Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work). The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Psychology A level prepares you for a variety of careers including: child psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, educational psychology and sports psychology. With the increasing demand from employers for general and transferable skills there are many other excellent employment prospects for graduates.

Psychology can be advantageous to a wide variety of other careers including: medicine, law, advertising, sales, social work, personnel management, careers guidance, police and broadcasting.

## ***Sociology***

### **Awarding Body AQA**

#### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 5 in an English or 5 in a humanities subject (Geography or History)

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Sociology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

#### ***Course content***

##### *Year 12*

- **Families and Households:** Perspectives on the family. Divorce. Changes in family structure and the impact of social policy on the family.
- **Work, Poverty and Welfare:** The definition and measurement of poverty. The causes of poverty. The impact of the Welfare State on poverty. What is work? What is the impact of technology on the experience of work? What are the social effects of unemployment?
- **Education:** Class, race, gender and educational achievement. The functions of education. The hidden curriculum. The impact of educational reforms.
- **Sociological Methods:** The main methods and sources used by sociologists and their relationship to theory, e.g. interviews, questionnaires and observation.

##### *Year 13*

- **Global Development:** Different theories of development, Globalisation, Role of transnational corporations, Development in relation to industrialisation, Urbanisation, The Environment, War and conflict, Education, Health, Gender and population change as aspects of development.
- **Crime and Deviance:** The causes of crime. Perspectives on crime and deviance. Corporate and white collar crime. Crime statistics – how useful are they?
- **Theory and Methods:** This involves re-examining the material covered earlier plus issues such as:
  - values and objectives
  - the nature of social 'facts'
  - is Sociology a Science?
  - 'structural' v 'action' approaches to Sociology
  - 'consensus' v 'conflict' approaches to Sociology

#### ***Assessment***

##### *Year 12*

Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

##### *Year 13*

Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work). The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

#### ***Career Possibilities***

Social work, management, administration, the police service and teaching - in fact any area where dealing with people is important and for many other careers. A pass in Sociology is evidence of the candidate's ability to write clearly, think analytically and to cope with a large amount of information.

## ***Spanish*** **Awarding Body AQA**

### ***Minimum course entry requirement***

At least GCSE grade 6 in Spanish and grade 5 in an English GCSE.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Spanish need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

### ***Course content***

#### *Year 12*

This can be a stand alone qualification or year one of the two year A Level course. The Advanced Level course in Spanish enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use. The Advanced Level qualification enhances employment prospects, facilitates foreign travel, offers an insight into another culture and society and provides students with a sound basis for further study.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One book or film
- Grammar

#### *Year 13*

The course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary Spanish society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society.

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book or film (NB if a film is chosen in year one, then a book must be studied in year two)
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

### ***Assessment***

#### *Year 12*

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into Spanish).

#### *Year 13*

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into Spanish).

### ***Career Possibilities***

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.

## **SIXTH FORM STUDENT AGREEMENT**

In accepting a place in the Sixth Form students agree to the following:

1. Set a good example to other students by maintaining the highest standards in work and conduct in all areas of school life
2. Make the most of every lesson by preparation, participation and consolidation
3. Make full use of private study periods in school
4. Complete all independent work and submit it by the required time
5. Attend all form periods, lessons and private study periods on timetable
6. Provide a written explanation from parents/carers of any absences
7. Act with courtesy and treat others with respect to effect the smooth running of the Sixth Form
8. Participate in and contribute positively to the school community.

The school will do its best to:

1. Provide the highest possible quality of teaching in accordance with the ten point curriculum entitlement
2. Promote the best possible learning atmosphere in lessons and in private study
3. Provide students and parents/carers with information on students' progress
4. Discuss concerns with students, and when necessary and appropriate, with their parent(s)/carer(s)
5. Monitor attendance
6. Help to prepare for students' future and to provide references to Higher Education and employers.

## **SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENT**

For each course you will be provided with:

1. Course details / specification / exam requirements
2. Time-lines showing when topics will be taught throughout the year
3. Details of coursework deadlines and internal exam dates
4. A programme of assessed work
5. Clear deadlines for each assessed piece of work
6. Deadlines for the return of assessed work
7. Constructive feedback as to how your work can be improved
8. Guidance about how to catch up on missed work
9. File monitoring to ensure you are making good progress
10. Appropriate resources for your course

This is our promise. We ask a lot of you and in return we offer a gold standard, Sixth Form comprehensive education.

## **Useful websites:**

### **For comparing schools and colleges**

<https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables> This gives both raw scores (average grades) and progress or value added comparing A levels with the students' GCSE score.

### **For choosing A level courses**

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/index.htm>

<http://www.bestcourse4me.com/explore>

<http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch>

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcse>

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual> For a wide range of information about A levels

### **For degree information (including which A levels are suitable)**

<https://www.ucas.com>

[http://policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/pdfs/The\\_Hard\\_Truth.pdf](http://policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/pdfs/The_Hard_Truth.pdf)

### **For Higher Education finance**

[www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

### **For Degree/Advanced/Higher Apprenticeships**

[www.gov.uk/education/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-internships](http://www.gov.uk/education/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-internships)

[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships)

[www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk](http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk)

### **For general Higher Education and careers sources**

<http://www.durhamjohnston.org.uk/sixth-form/university-entry>

### **For free school meals**

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/SchoolLife/DG\\_4016089](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/SchoolLife/DG_4016089)



Crosssgate Moor  
Durham  
DH1 4SU

**Telephone:** (0191) 3843887

**Fax:** (0191) 3753020

**e-mail:** [sixthformadmissions@durhamjohnston.org.uk](mailto:sixthformadmissions@durhamjohnston.org.uk)

**web:** [www.durhamjohnston.org.uk](http://www.durhamjohnston.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 516935



We believe that all the information in this booklet was correct when it was printed. However, we are a dynamic school, constantly improving our policies and practices.