Sixth Form
A Level Options
Whether you are new to us or are moving up from Senior School we believe that your time in Sixth Form should be a time of unparalleled excitement! Our aim is for each of our sixth form students to maximise their potential, leaving Bury Grammar School as confident, articulate, independent young adults fully prepared for the challenges of Higher Education and beyond.

Embarking upon your Sixth Form journey is a time of greater independence and wider opportunities whilst focusing on your academic interests and strengths. As you approach Year 12 you will be thinking seriously about the next crucial steps of your education and where the choices that you make will lead.

It is likely that your aspirations involve university study or specialist training after leaving school. It is therefore very important that you think carefully about your A Level subject choices as they will play an important role in helping you to achieve your future goals.

The most competitive courses at the best universities require a robust combination of relevant A Level subjects, strong GCSE grades, evidence of wide participation in community life and in many cases work experience. In other words, it is important that you stand out from the crowd and make the most of all the opportunities offered to you.

Your next task is to read this booklet. In it, you will find details about the subjects from which you may select your A Level options. Sometimes, career aspirations – such as medicine – will dictate the choices that you can make, but remember that you are likely to do best in what you enjoy. Consider carefully your strengths, interests and personal qualities, if in doubt, seek advice from the Academic or Sixth Form Team.

Mrs V Leaver
Head of Sixth Form
Head of Teaching and Learning
New courses at A Level have been introduced in England; these changes have taken place between September 2015 and September 2017, and have been a period of significant transition for all schools nationally. At Bury Grammar School, we have been focused on preparing for those courses currently being introduced, and on ensuring that high quality teaching and learning for the reformed qualifications which have already been launched is maintained. During recent years our pupils have been following a combination of new and old courses.

A Level

The new A Levels will still take two years to complete but will no longer be one qualification split into AS and A2 Level. For the reformed A Level courses students will sit all exams at the end of the qualification. All external A Level exams will be taken at the end of Year 13. There will be less coursework in most subjects and a greater emphasis on exams. In line with national trends and the Higher Education landscape we have elected to adopt the 3 A Level, linear model. This means that our sixth formers will no longer undertake an AS qualification, and will study for 3 A Levels which will be examined at the end of Year 13.

A Levels will still be graded from A* - E

The Bury Grammar Schools are well resourced and prepared for the challenges that the new examination content will pose to our students.

We have been through this period of change confident that the high expectations and excellent teaching embedded at Bury Grammar School will give our students the best possible foundation to tackle any examination system with confidence and success.

Our new curriculum model should serve to strengthen our provision in the fully reformed A Level system further.
Sixth Form A Level Options

CURRICULUM 2018 - A LEVELS AND SIXTH FORM STUDY

Bury Grammar School is well known for having one of the highest achieving Sixth Forms in the region. Whilst academic success is extremely important, our teaching staff go beyond the constraints of the A Level courses and aim to instil a love of learning and curiosity that will last a lifetime. We also actively seek to provide our sixth formers with the knowledge, skills, confidence and tenacity to make the most of their university studies and professional lives.

Following the announcement to formally bring together our Sixth Forms from September 2018 we are committed to investing in our sixth formers to strengthen academic provision even further. One of the key drivers behind Curriculum 2018 is to provide more teaching time per A Level subject to our Sixth Form students, giving them the best possible opportunity to achieve in this highly competitive examination system.

A Level

Each subject will have:

• 13 x 50-minute period lessons a fortnight (Currently 16 x 35 minutes a fortnight)

• **Extra** teaching time per fortnight: 1 hour 30 minutes

• **Extra** teaching time per A Level course: 45 hours

In our new model, sixth formers will benefit from an extra *2 hours and 30 minutes teaching time* per subject, in comparison with other local A Level providers.

Students will choose 3 A Levels from a possible 22 subjects.

A Level Options*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art &amp; Design</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>Government &amp; Politics</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>Theatre Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*subject to timetabling constraints
There are a wide range of opportunities on offer to Sixth Formers to enrich their academic experience and broaden their portfolio of interests:

- **The Roger Kay Lectures** - We welcome outside speakers from many different walks of life, aiming to inspire a deeper understanding of life beyond academia and to open up important networking opportunities;

- **The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** - All students in Lower Sixth will have the opportunity to follow a study skills and research course in preparation for undertaking the formal Extended Project Qualification. Through this the sixth formers become independent thinkers, many of whom have developed a high level of knowledge and expertise in areas of personal interest through their completion of investigative research into an area of their choice;

- **University Preparation Programme** - Our UCAS preparation and support are outstanding and the hallmark of BGS Sixth Form: all students are given high quality advice, the option to take part in mock interviews, advice about extra reading and plenty of time to carefully prepare their HE applications. For those considering an application to Cambridge or Oxford, we hold a dedicated Oxbridge interview morning in the Autumn Term and mock interviews with the Principal. Interested candidates are given sessions within their relevant departments to extend their subject knowledge, support for the wide range of aptitude tests, required by some colleges, is coordinated by our highly experienced ‘Competitive Course Coordinator’ supported by the Head of Careers;

- **Science in Focus** - The group meets regularly throughout the Lower and Upper Sixth to discuss topical scientific and health issues and hosts regular speakers from visiting academics;

- **Life Skills** - As part of the weekly life skills programme followed by all sixth formers, visiting speakers from top universities come in to discuss academic issues and to advise on application procedures;

- **Academic Competitions** - Competitions such as the Biology, Languages and UKMT challenge, Maths Olympiads, along with the Sir Rhys Davis mock law trial, the Rotary Public Speaking events and Business initiatives such as Young Enterprise and the ICAEW BASE Competition ensure that there is something for everyone to take part in.

**Pastoral Care in Sixth Form**

While academic and recreational space in the Sixth Form Centre is coeducational we remain committed to single sex pastoral care and tutorials.

Sixth formers all belong to a single sex form group and follow a tutorial programme in their ‘home school’ ensuring that they maintain their strong sense of identity as a Bury Grammar School boy or girl playing a leading role in the life of either the boys or girls school. Sixth Form single sex workspaces remain in place in BGSB or BGSG for those students who prefer to study this way.

This approach really does give our sixth formers the ‘best of both worlds’ as they prepare for life beyond Bury Grammar School.
The UCAS and Higher Education advice and preparation in our Sixth Form is exceptional and something of which we are very proud. Our students benefit from having access to well informed, expert advice about their next steps in education or the workplace.

Strong relationships with Higher Education institutions and a highly specialised and experienced Sixth Form team leads to outstanding university outcomes in an admissions system which is also adjusting to the reforms. We make it our priority to stay ahead of the game in this ever-changing landscape and play a key role in ensuring our students secure places on highly competitive courses.
CAREERS AND OPTIONS ADVICE

We are committed to ensuring that you make informed choices based on sound advice and embark upon a route best suited to your personal strengths and academic interests. As such you will have tutorial time dedicated to next steps, careers and higher education guidance from the Academic Team and will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Teams to discuss your options and the rationale behind your choices.

Sixth Form Open Evening and Experience Day

These events effectively launch the A Level options process. You will hear from key members of the Academic Leadership team as well as the careers department.

Parents’ Evenings

These will be held in the usual format with the key difference being that you will attend with your parents. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your academic strengths and progress as well as asking questions about your all-important ‘next steps’.

Careers Advice

In the forthcoming months, the Academic and Careers departments will be holding Year Group assemblies and smaller workshops to advise on A Level option choices and the Higher Education or careers paths that will follow.

Pupil Meetings and Interviews

You will have a 1:1 meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your options choices. This is a great opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about this period of transition and equally for academic leaders to offer up to date, well informed advice. If we feel you need more advice and you may be potentially making unwise choices, we will discuss alternatives with you.

Option Forms

You will be issued with an options form at the start of the Spring Term in January and should be handed in ahead of February half term. You will have received a second interim assessment prior to the issue of these forms. This information should play an important part in informing decisions that you are making.
Facilitating Subjects

When you select your A Levels during Year 11 you choose to study 3 subjects.

*The A Level options you choose will influence which 3 A Level subjects you can take and your A Level subjects will influence what you can and can’t apply for at university.*

University may seem like a long way off and in many respects, it is. However, at this stage it is important that you understand what universities are looking for and how this may influence the A Level choices that you make.

The Russell Group universities who represent 24 leading UK universities have published a document titled ‘Informed Choices’ for students and parents making their Post-16 A Level choices.

This document is published online and can be found at the following address:

https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5272/informedchoices-print.pdf

In this document they express their strong preference for students to follow at least two ‘facilitating subjects’ in order to keep their options open and ensure that they are in a position to make a strong application to university.

Facilitating Subjects

- Mathematics & Further Mathematics
- English Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Geography
- History
- Languages (Classical and Modern)

*Informed Choices, Russell Group, 2016/17*
A Level Options

When you select your A Level options you will choose 3 subjects**. You will also have the option of a subject undertaking the Extended Project Qualification, participating in sport, service in the community and the activity programme.

A Level Subjects

Art & Design
Biology*
Business
Chemistry*
Computing
Economics
English Language
English Literature*
French*
Further Mathematics*
Geography*
German*
Government & Politics
History*
Latin*
Mathematics*
Music
Physics*
Psychology
Religious Studies
Spanish*
Theatre Studies

* Facilitating subject
** If you are opting for Further Mathematics this can be taken alongside 3 other A Level subjects.
Art & Design

Our Art A Level course is devised to give all students the opportunity to further explore, expand, develop and refine skills in the following disciplines; painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, digital new media, printmaking and textiles. The course consists of two components.

Component 1 = Personal Investigation. This enables students to pursue a line of enquiry through a higher level of skill taught through specialist workshops during Year 12. The students then embark on their chosen Personal Investigation pathway.

Component 2 = Externally Set Task. This is a selective external question where students will undertake an in-depth thematic response as set by the examination board.

Through extensive subject knowledge and experience, each student is nurtured and guided, with the advantage of personalised individual tutorials, within their preferred specialism and supported through portfolio reviews for university applications.

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA A Level Art & Design
The A Level courses (AQA Specification) are taught on a linear basis, with practical work at the heart of the curriculum. Throughout the course of study, there are 12 required practicals which students are assessed on; these allow students to demonstrate the skills required by universities and be awarded the practical endorsement. However, throughout the year, all students will take part in many more exercises so they can develop a sound understanding of both the techniques and theory behind the experiment. In the summer of Year 13, students sit three exams, which cover the entire two years of the course:

Paper 1 – mixed length questions on all material covered in Y12.

Paper 2 – mixed length questions on all material covered in Y13.

Paper 3 – practical based questions on all material covered in both years, with a synoptic essay.

Students attend a residential field trip, practical DNA workshop and participate in the Royal Society of Biology Olympiads. There are also internal and external lectures to widen their understanding.

The A Level Biology examinations place a great deal of emphasis on applying knowledge in unfamiliar contexts; this requires agile thinking from the students. To develop this skill, emphasis is placed on giving students the responsibility for their own learning. In Biology, this entails making use of a wide variety of learning techniques both within and outside the classroom to provide a strong base of knowledge which students can then apply to different contextual exercises. In their own time, this might involve students making use of multiple resources provided for them to make notes on a particular part of the specification; a skill which will support future university studies. Following on from this, the topic would be discussed in class and then a range of audio, visual and kinaesthetic learning activities would be used, such as practical investigations, making videos describing processes, producing presentations regarding a medical application of a technique or addressing experimental data in a new light. This is invaluable given the emphasis both universities and examiners place on applying biological knowledge rather than just recalling facts.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Biology
You do not need to have studied GCSE Business Studies to do A Level.

A Level Business will encourage you to work independently and in small groups to develop an enquiring mind and the ability to analyse and evaluate a whole range of business problems, making effective use of business knowledge, experience and case study examples. You will study the interrelated nature of Business using models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. We follow the AQA A Level Business specification which looks at all types of business operation e.g. large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing and how such differences impact decision making.

You will study the four main functional areas of business: Marketing, Accounts, Human Resources & Operations Management, excellent preparation for the world of work and undergraduate study. You will then build upon your knowledge of the functional areas in the second year as we concentrate on a more strategic approach to business decision making at corporate level.

Subject content:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Business

---

At A Level, our Sixth form pupils study the AQA specification. At the end of Year 13 pupils will take three 2 hour examinations. All examinations assess knowledge of both the theory and practical content over the duration of the courses, with the A Level examinations testing skills and knowledge from the entire course. The first paper is multiple choice. In addition, pupils will perform many experiments to develop their skills and enhance their learning. They will keep a practical handbook and will gain a practical competency mark alongside the A Level qualification.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Chemistry
Students who take A Level Computer Science you will get the opportunity to develop their programming skills using C# so that they can write programs to solve complex problems. The school follows the AQA Computer Science specification which provides a sound academic background for further study at university.

Students start off by gaining further experience of procedural-oriented programming, but developing programs that have a graphical user interface instead of a command line one and learn about other aspects of programming such as communicating with database servers using SQL. Then students move on to object-oriented programming in C# and finally they get a taste of the functional programming paradigm using Haskell and assembly language programming using the ARM instruction set.

In Year 13 students work on a substantial project of their choice, either developing a program to solve a problem or investigating an aspect of computer science. Most students produce their projects using C# but it is also possible to use other languages such as ASP or PHP for web page programming or to develop applications for mobile devices.

Students also study the fundamentals of computing devices, the logic gate circuits that enable computing devices to perform operations, the structure and role of the processor, the low-level language of the machine, and how it is used to program the hardware directly. Topics such as networking and the storage and processing of the vast amounts of data that are now generated all of the time (Big Data) are also covered.

At A-Level there are two exam papers that each last two and a half hours. One of these is a practical programming exam and the other is a traditional paper-based exam. A single piece of coursework also needs to be produced. Each exam paper is worth 40% of the final marks for the course and the coursework project is worth 20% of them.

Studying A-Level Computer Science can lead to a wider range of interesting and well-paid careers including systems analysis, games design, web site design and management, network management and management consultancy. The subject also develops logical problem-solving skills which are useful for students who intend to study subjects such as engineering, mathematics or science at university who are likely to have to do some computer programming. Many students following other subjects find the large practical element of the course is a contrast to their other subjects. A GCSE in Computer Science is not a pre-requisite for this course but students who have not programmed before will have to do some additional programming work in Year 12. We use the C# language for teaching but it is possible for students to use a different language if they want to.

If you are considering taking the subject at university, it is worth checking the entry requirements for university courses before choosing your A Level options as some universities require that students have studied A-Level Mathematics. Students regularly go on to study the subject at top universities such as Warwick and Imperial College.

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA A Level Computer Science
The subject content for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is divided into three components:

1. Drama and theatre
2. Creating original drama
3. Making Theatre

Component 1: Drama and theatre assesses the knowledge and understanding of drama through the study of two set texts. This year we have studied Ibsen’s *Hedda Gabler* and Lorca’s *Yerma*.

Component 2: Creating original theatre allows the students to use the skills they have developed at GCSE to devise their own work based upon a contemporary theme which is of particular interest to their group. Students may contribute in this examination as a performer, designer or a director.

Component 3: Making Theatre is a practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play. Extract 3 is performed as a final assessed piece, students may again contribute as performer, designer or director. A reflective report analysing and evaluating the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts is also part of the assessment.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Drama & Theatre
ECONOMICS

If you have ever wondered why a concert ticket is so expensive, why people are paid so little in part-time jobs, why petrol is taxed so heavily, or why it is more expensive to use the Metrolink before 9:30am, or perhaps what influences the rate at which you change your currency into another when you go on holiday, why some people seem to be so much richer than others, or why some firms make more profits than others, then Economics is the subject for you! Economics is an exciting and relevant discipline which will equip you with many transferrable skills through the completion of interesting and varied tasks both in and out of the classroom, including independent research, groupwork, data analysis and extended writing.

AQA A Level Economics will enable you to develop an analytical approach to problem solving which will help you to understand a wide range of issues, as diverse as factors which determine the price of an iPhone to the causes and consequences of structural unemployment in the UK. Economics is the discipline that will open your eyes to the workings of the world in which you live and in which you will eventually work. On completion of the course you will have a secure grasp of core micro and macroeconomic concepts, theories and techniques which you will have successfully applied, analysed and evaluated in a variety of local, national and international contexts.

In Microeconomics, you will use models such as demand and supply and the operation of the price mechanism to explain how markets work and why they might fail, analysing possible government policies which attempt to correct identified market failures. Other key models relate to perfect competition, monopoly, the operation of labour markets, wage determination and causes of inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. Traditional economic theory generally assumes that economic agents act rationally but there is a growing belief that this is not necessarily the case. AQA recognises this alternative view and has included a new and exciting Behavioural Economics topic into their new syllabus.

In Macroeconomics, you will study the principles which underpin behaviour in the wider economy, such as developments in the UK’s economic performance over the past fifteen years. You will also cast a critical eye over developments in the world economy, including the UK’s membership of the European Union. Furthermore, you will learn how to analyse and evaluate possible solutions to macroeconomic problems such as inflation, unemployment and recession – issues you will hear daily in the news! You will learn to assess the impact and effectiveness of current government policies to deal with such problems, as well as considering alternative policies and approaches.

Both microeconomics and macroeconomics require an interest in current affairs (get that BBC news app downloaded now!). There is no prerequisite to studying A Level Economics, however, you do need to be competent at Maths.

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA A Level Economics
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

We offer AQA English Language. English Language takes a much more scientific approach; in L6th, pupils study a range of linguistic theories and conduct detailed stylistic and linguistic analyses on texts from Old English through to the Language of Technology.

In U6th, pupils continue with their theoretical learning, conducting detailed study into the field of Child Language Acquisition, both verbal and written. They also conduct an independent research project, where they conduct analysis on a sample devised independently and form a hypothesis and report based on their own body of evidence. They also have to work creatively, creating a text aimed at a target audience of their choice. They then compile a commentary to complement their report, analysing and explaining their choices.

Examination Board and Specification:
AQA A Level Language

ENGLISH LITERATURE

We deliver the Edexcel English Literature Specification for AS and A2. Boys cover a wide range of topics and skills which equip them thoroughly for the independent and analytical level of study required in Further Education.

In Lower 6th, pupils conduct literary criticism of two pieces of prose linked by a common theme, such as Science and Society, The Supernatural or Crime and Detection. They also study a post-1900 drama text, such as A Streetcar Named Desire, which is further assessed in U6th. In addition, the boys study a wide range of modern poetry, which they are required to analyse and compare.

In U6th, pupils build upon the skills acquired in L6th and adapt these to an independent comparative analysis of two novels of their own choice, linked by author, theme or context. They also study additional poetry and a Shakespeare play. The A Level course is specifically designed to ameliorate the skills of those wishing to take a critically academic subject at university.

Our current chosen texts for study are:

- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- *Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry*
- *The New Oxford Book of Victorian Verse* ed. by Christopher Ricks
- *The Feminine Gospels* by Carol Ann Duffy

The course also includes a comparative coursework element for which students select their own texts and focus, which serves as excellent preparation for degree-level study.

Examination Board and Specification:
Edexcel A Level English Literature
**GEOGRAPHY**

Many of our students choose to pursue Geography at Advanced Level. We follow the AQA A Level specification which sets traditional Geography in a modern context. It is interesting, exciting and relevant for life in our ever changing world. Topics of study include Hazards, Coastal Landscapes, Water and Carbon Cycles, Population Issues, Changing Places, Global Governance and Resource Security.

A high proportion of our students choose to study Geography at university with a pleasing number being accepted at Oxbridge.

We also offer Sixth Form geographers the opportunity to join optional trips abroad such as the recent visits to Italy and Iceland.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Geography

---

**GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

We follow the Edexcel A Level Specification. Its three components give students a thorough grounding in the details of the British and American political systems as well as the main political ideologies such as Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism. We arrange suitable visits and invite in visiting speakers to aid understanding of the subject. Students are kept up to date with the latest happenings in the political world in order to make their answers to questions completely up to date. Students find the content of the course, with its need to consider the theory in the light of the latest events, very interesting and many go on to further study of the subject at University or an active involvement in Politics after school.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

Edexcel A Level Government & Politics
HISTORY

History A Level gives students the opportunity to gain an understanding of historical concepts and a coherent knowledge of the past. They acquire the ability to communicate, argue and reach balanced conclusions as well as developing techniques of critical thinking.

We inspire students to engage critically with the past and historians' interpretations of events through attendance at lectures, conferences and historical visits. The methods of investigation, study and research in History are very useful training for a variety of careers including law, journalism, accountancy, publishing, management, teaching and medicine.

We study the AQA A level specification:

• Component 1: Breadth Study: Consolidation of the Tudor dynasty: England 1485-1603

• Component 2: Depth Study: Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-45

• Component 3: History Investigation: a personal study based on either Russia under the tsars and communist rulers, or Britain and Ireland 1801-1921.

Examination Board and Specification:

AQA A Level History
The A Level Latin course follows the OCR specification and is made up of four components. Candidates become familiar with the language of the first century BC and the first century AD and develop an understanding of Latin literature within its literary, social and historical context. Understanding of the techniques of Latin authors is also developed and candidates learn to write confidently about literature, showing a personal response and using quotations to substantiate arguments.

The Latin language component involves the study of grammar and syntax and teaches the skill of translating unseen passages of Latin into good English. A vocabulary list is provided but this is not exhaustive and examination papers will require the students to have knowledge of vocabulary beyond the DVL or to be able to work out in the context. The Latin literature sections include both verse and prose literature. The set texts include delights such as Ovid’s love poetry, Virgil’s epic and Horace’s satires for the verse. Prose set texts include the history of Tacitus and Cicero’s superb courtroom defence speeches.

Key Skills

A good grade at GCSE level Latin is vital for anyone wishing to study Latin at A Level, along with an enjoyment of literature. Candidates develop their communication skills; they learn to work with others, improve their own learning and solve problems.

What next?

A qualification in Latin enhances a CV or UCAS form no matter what you are applying for: Latin helps you to stand out from the crowd. An A Level in Latin reflects well developed cognitive skills, a good memory and a deep appreciation of literature. This makes it a good basis for applying for a degree not only in a Classical subject but in English, Modern Foreign Languages, Law or other subjects. Latin can lead to a career in almost any field since it teaches a wealth of transferrable skills. Latin helps people to apply for anything requiring careful analysis, logical problem solving, recall of data, use of evidence to support a point of view, a good vocabulary and excellent grammar skills.

Examination Board and Specification:

OCR A Level Latin
At Key Stage 5, many students go on to study A Level Mathematics, with more able students additionally opting to study A Level Further Mathematics. These courses follow the Edexcel specification.

Further Mathematics provides students with a deeper exposure to pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics and is ideal for those who have a record of high achievement in mathematics, combined with a genuine enjoyment of the subject. It is a sought-after qualification, which is extremely respected by universities and success in Further Mathematics is considered an indicator of an exceptional student. Further Mathematicians will obtain A Levels in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

Students studying solely for the Mathematics A Level will study pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics in both Year 12 and Year 13. It is a challenging but rewarding option, enabling development of logical, analytical and creative thinking skills. Again, the qualification is considered desirable by many different university courses and equips students with an excellent mathematical grounding, which will be vital in numerous future careers choices.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

Edexcel A Level Mathematics

---

**MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Our best linguists often choose to continue their study of French, German or Spanish beyond GCSE to A Level. Here they are taught in small, specialised groups where we build on the foundations laid at Key Stages 3 and 4 in order to progress to A Level standard. We make greater use of video resources and encourage independent learning and research in the target language into areas of interest. Studying a language to A Level is challenging, yet rewarding and is excellent preparation for further education and employment as it improves communication skills and adds an extra dimension to students’ knowledge, understanding and cultural awareness.

In each language, students study all the following on which the assessments are based:

- Aspects of French/German/Spanish-speaking society: current trends and issues
- Artistic culture in the French/German/Spanish-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French/German/Spanish-speaking world
- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Individual research project

Students in Years 10-13 have the opportunity to take part in our well-established exchange programmes with the Deutzer Gymnasium, Cologne and the Lycée International Charles de Gaulle, Dijon. Our German exchange is one of the oldest in the country, having been set up by Doktor Meyer in the mid 1950s and is something of which we are very proud. The exchanges give unique opportunities to students to immerse themselves in the language and culture and allow them to experience life in France and Germany.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Languages
**MUSIC**

We follow the WJEC Music A Level specification. Pupils are required to perform a recital to at least grade 6 standard, compose and perform two compositions, and to study significant historical periods with aural questions and essay responses.

This is a challenging and academic A Level which calls for independent study and considerable musical ability.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

WJEC A Level Music

---

**PHYSICS**

In the Sixth Form, students follow the AQA Physics 7408 course. Topics covered include:

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear physics

There is also an optional unit from the following (we typically offer Astrophysics or Turning Points):

9. Astrophysics
10. Medical physics
11. Engineering physics
12. Turning points in physics
13. Electronics

There is no coursework or controlled assessment but students will cover 12 required practicals over the two year course which can be tested in the external examinations. Additionally, students may be awarded a pass or fail for their practical competency.

**Examination Board and Specification:**

AQA A Level Physics
PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology A Level course assumes students have no prior knowledge of the subject. An interest in people, a willingness to work hard, to contribute and to learn, are essential requirements.

We follow the AQA Psychology specification. This has been designed to provide an introduction to the nature of Psychology as a science. It incorporates practical work to develop understanding of research methods and a range of contemporary topics, in addition to traditional areas of study. Skills which students will have already developed; writing accurately, data analysis, and IT skills, will be used and extended during the A level Psychology course.

Course Structure - Topics you will study:

• Year 1: Memory, Attachment, Social Influence, Approaches in psychology, Psychopathology (abnormality) and Research methods.
• Year 2: Issues and debates in psychology, Schizophrenia, Relationships, Aggression and Statistical Analysis.

Examination Board and Specification:
AQA A Level Psychology

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The department offers OCR Religious Studies: Religion, Philosophy & Ethics A Level. This course enables pupils who have studied GCSE to build upon their existing knowledge base, but it is also open to those with no prior qualifications in the subject. A Level Religious Studies is a rigorous academic subject which stretches pupils to consider key issues of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics and provides a grounding in some of the most significant and influential thinkers throughout human history.

Examination Board and Specification:
OCR A Level Religious Studies