

Upton by Chester High School

Sixth Form Prospectus

2024-25



Upton-by-Chester High School
'Learning to shape the future'

Welcome to Upton-by-Chester Sixth Form

“Outstanding Sixth Form”

2019 OfSTED

As Director of Sixth Form I warmly welcome your interest in joining our successful Sixth Form. We pride ourselves in offering the best education we can that stimulates, inspires and positively challenges our learners to reach their full potential. Our results over the last 3 years place us in the top five percent of sixth forms nationally, where the vast majority of learners obtain places on their first choice university or apprenticeship courses; including 5 learners successfully obtaining a place at either Oxford or Cambridge University in September 2023. Sixth Form is a happy and vibrant place that is underpinned by hardworking individuals. We offer a holistic education that offers effective learning and study skills, high level care and guidance, enrichment opportunities and a second to none career guidance and UCAS mentoring system. Our Sixth Form curriculum offers a range and breadth of academic courses that is supported by vocational courses and the option to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to enhance future university applications and develop independent learning skills. We incorporate a VESPA (Vision, Effort, System, Practice & Attitude) mindset within our Sixth Form, allowing our learners to develop the most effective learning attitudes. Through what we do we allow our learners to leave us as young mature adults ready to be successful in the next part of their journey and beyond, whether that be at university, on an apprenticeship or in the world of work. We welcome applications from our own learners at Upton-By-Chester High School and those from other schools. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mr P Lewis
Director of Key Stage 5

I am delighted and proud to introduce you to our Sixth Form prospectus, which will give you just a flavour of the outstanding Sixth Form provision here at Upton-by-Chester High School. In May 2015 OfSTED judged the school to be ‘a good school with an **‘OUTSTANDING Sixth Form’**. In their visit in May 2019 they confirmed that this was still the case. We are highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for our learners’ needs, ensuring that they are very well equipped for the next stage of their education, training or employment. Staff secure fast progress for our learners and use their expert subject knowledge to motivate learners exceptionally well. This is demonstrated by our outstanding results achieved by our learners often placing the school in the top 10% of schools across the UK. Our sixth form learners leave us as well qualified, well-rounded individuals who have benefitted from an exceptional Sixth Form experience, both within and beyond the classroom; they are consistently securing places on their chosen pathways and excelling. This is our main measure of success. Young people who join our Sixth Form, whether from our school or increasingly from neighbouring schools, benefit from a myriad of opportunities that come from being part of a large, highly successful Sixth Form. They also benefit from the many additional opportunities available for leadership, service and extra-curricular activities afforded by being part of the largest comprehensive school in Chester. We are proud of this fantastic range of activities and the positive impact it has on our learners. It is this mix of academic excellence, strong community and provision of enriching activities that makes our Sixth Form such an outstanding place to work and learn. We would be delighted to welcome you to our Open Evening and for a tour, to support your choice of Sixth Form.

With best wishes

Mr L. Cummins
Headteacher



Upton-by-Chester High School

‘Learning to shape the future’



The Sixth Form Curriculum

Learning to shape the future

Our offer:

Learners study a minimum of 3 subjects at A level. Learners are also encouraged to study for the Extended Project Qualification. We are an academic and inclusive Sixth Form offering over **25** A level courses. We also offer **4** additional Level 3 qualifications to compliment these A level courses. Outstanding lessons are delivered by experienced A level teachers. We have an excellent pastoral team within Sixth Form headed by our Pastoral Manager and experienced form tutors. Within Sixth Form earners are also encouraged to complete the EPQ in addition to their Level 3 qualification choices, along with opportunities to support younger learners via peer mentoring or being a subject 'buddy' to them.

Applications:

Each application is given careful consideration and the learner is guided and advised on their most appropriate study path. We reserve the right to refuse admission on to a subject course or courses in the Sixth Form if, based on the professional advice given by subject teachers, we consider that studying at this level would not be appropriate.

Learners are required to reach the entry criteria set out by each respective subject offered by us at KS5, this information is available on each subject page of the prospectus, in addition to achieving five pass grades at GCSE, or equivalent.

"Teaching in the Sixth Form is outstanding. Teachers use their very strong subject knowledge to motivate students exceptionally well".

OFSTED, 2019

Destinations:

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Cohort	169	130	120	106
University (inc deferred entry)	73.9%	76%	80.8%	79.2%
Russell Group & Oxbridge	25%	24.2%	31.2%	26.4%
Apprenticeships	4%	2.3%	2.5%	3.7%
Other	5.3%	11.5%	4.1%	4.7%
Employment	8.2%	4.6%	11.6%	9.4%
College	0.5%	2.27%	0.8%	2.8%

CURRICULUM



WIDER SUPPORT

What Upton Sixth Form offers

Enrichment

In the Sixth Form all learners are actively encouraged to take on leadership roles in the school community and develop a range of transferable skills to prepare them for today's highly competitive world of work. At Upton High School, we offer an exciting, inspiring and diverse range of enrichment opportunities including:

- Sixth Form Leadership Team
- Academic Olympiads
- Peer Mentoring
- Educational visits, international travel and cultural exchanges
- Performing Arts activities:
- Debating Society
- Eco-Schools Action Team
- Representative sport

VESPA

During Sixth Form all learners will follow the VESPA program. VESPA is an acronym that stands for Vision, Effort, System, Practice and Attitude. The program is designed to develop learners motivation, integrity, and interpersonal skills to promote educational success. This will be a combined approach between curriculum and pastoral areas that help every learner become the best they can be.

Learner Support:

We aim to support our learners, parents/carers by:

- Hosting Sixth Form Parents' and Open Evenings
- Regularly monitoring, assessing and reporting on learners' progress
- Providing study areas and conference facilities
- Supervised study periods
- Regular mentoring sessions to enhance academic progress, and pastoral support.
- Counselling to work with and support learners
- Careers and UCAS guidance.

"Students develop leadership skills through democratic and international enrichment activities"

OFSTED - 2015

GCSE Resits

We offer resits in either GCSE English or Mathematics for those learners who were not successful in gaining the national standard grade, but who have been accepted into the Sixth Form.

Ambitious Applicants Programme

For learners who aspire to attain places at Oxford and Cambridge universities and for courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary studies. We offer a bespoke and individualised supportive programme to develop application and interview skills with a designated professional alongside external training where possible to support and strengthen applications for these competitive courses.

“Sixth Form provision is outstanding”

OFSTED 2015

COURSES

2023-24

ART & DESIGN

[DT- Fashion & Textiles \(BTEC Level 3\)](#)
[DT- Product Design \(A Level\)](#)
[Fine Art \(A Level\)](#)
[Graphic Communication \(A Level\)](#)
[Photography \(A Level\)](#)

BUSINESS

[Business \(A Level\)](#)
[Business \(Diploma – Cambridge National\)](#)
[Economics \(A Level\)](#)

ENGLISH

[English Language \(A Level\)](#)
[English Literature \(A Level\)](#)

HUMANITIES

[Geography \(A Level\)](#)
[History \(A Level\)](#)
[Politics \(A Level\)](#)
[Philosophy & Ethics \(A level\)](#)

MATHEMATICS

[Mathematics \(A Level\)](#)
[Further Mathematics \(A Level\)](#)

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

[Computer Science \(A Level\)](#)
[Media Studies \(A Level\)](#)
[Media - Digital Film & Video Production \(BTEC Level 3\)](#)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

[French \(A Level\)](#)
[Spanish \(A Level\)](#)

PERFORMING ARTS

[Drama & Theatre \(A Level\)](#)
[Music \(A Level\)](#)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

[Physical Education \(A Level\)](#)

SCIENCE

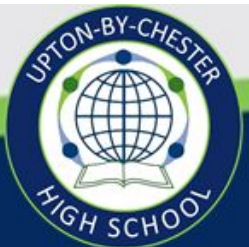
[Applied Science \(BTEC Level 3\)](#)
[Biology \(A Level\)](#)
[Chemistry \(A Level\)](#)
[Physics \(A Level\)](#)

SOCIAL SCIENCE

[Psychology \(A Level\)](#)
[Sociology \(A Level\)](#)

EPQ

[Extended Project Qualification](#)



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Design Technology - Fashion & Textiles

BTEC National Extended Certificate Level 3 (Pearson)



What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in Textiles, Design & Technology or creative subject at GCSE

What you will learn:

By studying this course learners will explore technical skills relating to areas such as costume, garments, interior design, textiles, accessories and wearable products. The key areas explored include;

- Manipulation, e.g. form, shape, structure, ergonomics and anthropometrics.
- Construction, e.g. flat pattern cutting, construction, modelling, making, sewing, fitting, styling.
- Fabric manipulation and creation, e.g. making, sewing, weaving, embroidery, embellishment, printing, fusing, connecting, cutting, folding, moulding, sampling, 3D printing, finish.
- Materials, e.g. protective, performance enhancing, woven, printed, constructed, recycled, reactive, functional, decorative, sustainable, aesthetic qualities.

Topics Studied:

Unit 1 - Visual Recording and Communication

Learners will investigate, experiment and explore a range of visual recording materials and methods to express and communicate ideas through fashion and textiles.

Unit 2 - Critical and Contextual Studies

Learners develop skills in contextual research and visual analysis in order to critically analyse the work of others and improve own practice.

Unit 3 - The Creative Process

Learners explore and experiment with the stages of the creative process to develop ideas and produce outcomes.

Unit 15 or Unit 14

Unit 15 Fashion Materials, techniques and Processes

Learners are introduced to the fundamental materials, techniques and processes used in fashion.

Unit 14: Textile Materials, Techniques and Processes

Learners are introduced to the fundamental materials, techniques and processes used in textiles for Interior settings.

"I love studying Fashion & Textiles as it allows me to express myself through my designs and creations. It is an extremely fun subject which all my peers and I enjoy and look forward to. The course is very interesting and gives you the ability to explore lots of different styles and themes in fashion and create garments based off of them. It is also beneficial as you get to use both research and practical skills in lessons."

Freya Year 13



Where this could lead you:

- Sales & Retail
- Tailoring & bespoke textiles
- Manufacturing
- Sports & Leisure
- Medical
- Construction
- Fashion & Apparel
- Theatre & Media
- Education
- Armed Forces
- Interiors Design
- Digital Design
- Digital Media

COURSES



Design & Technology - Product Design

A Level (Eduqas)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 6 in Design and Technology at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in Maths
- If you have not taken GCSE Design and Technology, you will be required to complete a number of tasks over the summer break to close any gaps in your knowledge

What you will learn:

It offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. It is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. The specification encourages you to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

Topics Studied:

- Designing and innovation
- Materials and components
- Processes
- Industrial and commercial practice
- Product analysis and systems
- Human responsibility
- Public interaction – marketing and research

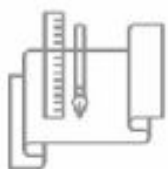
"I have really enjoyed the Product Design course as it has allowed me to show my creativity in a more practical subject, as well as learning new theory subjects from GCSE that have been very interesting. The course offers a lot of freedom through the NEA and the equipment and technology available in the department has helped me learn new skills that I can progress onto my university degree and towards engineering jobs. I have learnt a lot from the A level as the teaching is more personal, it has helped me develop my skills with new equipment and materials, much better than at GCSE level".

Simon, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Product design & development
- Architecture
- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- Industrial Design
- Product Design
- Creative Media
- Manufacturing
- Construction Industry

COURSES



Fine Art

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 4 in Art at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will explore a range of media, techniques and processes which build upon the skills developed at GCSE. Independent learning is developed as you begin to explore your creativity in an increasingly personal way. You will look at the work of other artists, craftspeople and designers in order to understand contemporary and historical art in context to inform your own practice. Workshops and gallery visits support your learning as you begin to become independent, creative learners. You will apply this knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts, reviewing, developing and refining your ideas as you progress.

Topics Studied:

- Foundation Portfolio of work (Year 12)
- Personal Investigation + Written Assignment (Year 13)
- NEA coursework component worth 60% of overall grade
- Externally set exam (Year 13)

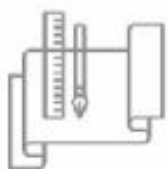
“A Level Art allows you to explore new styles and media such as acrylic painting, ink and bleach and graphite. I enjoy the encouragement to be creative and try new things and feel the course covers a wide range of possibilities. It differs from other subjects in the sense that it changes your thought process and challenges your way of thinking and the process in which you work, which is beneficial to your enthusiasm to work”.

Olivia, Year 12

Where this could lead you:

- Advertising
- Architecture
- Art Therapist
- Illustration & Commercial Art
- Fashion Design
- Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Artist
- Interior Design
- Make-up Artist
- Product & Textile Design
- Set Designer
- Teacher

COURSES



Graphic Communication

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 4 in Art at GCSE

What you will learn:

Graphic communication offers you the opportunity to develop your understanding of meaning, function, style, scale, colour and content in relation to graphic communication. You will develop an awareness of your intended audience, and teaches you how to respond to an issue, concept or idea, working to a brief or answering a need. You will also develop your appreciation of the relationship of form and function and, where applicable, the constraints of working to a brief. You will learn how to use both traditional and digital media and present your work both through a sketchbook and a website. Workshops, trips and gallery visits will support your development.

Topics Studied:

- Foundation Portfolio of work (Year 12)
- Personal Investigation + Written Assignment (Year 13)
- NEA coursework component worth 60% of overall grade
- Externally set exam (Year 13)

'A Level Graphic Communication is a brand new A Level this year. You will have opportunity to continue to explore, and refine the skills you have developed at GCSE. We look forward to helping you continue your journey through A Level, whether that takes you into a Graphic Design course/career or supports your journey in another direction. '

Miss French

Where this could lead you:

- Illustration
- Photography
- Animation
- Desktop publishing
- Graphic design
- Drafting
- Art direction
- Industrial design
- UX design
- Web development
- Teacher

COURSES



Photography

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- No minimum academic entry requirement for this course
- No requirement to have studied GCSE Art or Photography
- Own DSLR Camera

What you will learn:

You will explore a range of techniques and digital processes. You will broaden your knowledge of the technical processes of photography and photographers and respond expressively. You will learn how to use your DSLR using the Auto and Manual functions. You will look at the work of other Photographers, artists, craftspeople and designers in order to understand contemporary and historical art/photography in context to inform your own practice. Online tutorials, videos, workshops and gallery visits support your learning as you begin to become independent, creative learners. You will apply this knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts, reviewing, developing and refining your ideas as you progress. This course is suitable for learners who are new to this subject as well as learners who have previously taken GCSE photography.

Topics Studied:

- Year 12 - Foundation Portfolio
- Year 12 - Mock exam
- Year 13 - Personal Investigation & Written Assignment. (NEA coursework component worth 60% of overall grade)
- Year 13 - Externally set exam

"I have always liked Photography but taking the subject itself, especially at A Level, I have enjoyed it much more. This being because I have learnt so much more under the guidance of my teachers and the work I have done. Doing things like Photoshop, editing and researching artists has been interesting and fun. Although I did a lot of this at GCSE, I have expanded my knowledge massively at A Level. There is quite a bit of writing involved but I have found it's improved my writing skills and now I enjoy writing about Photography. I would recommend doing Photography A Level".

Freya, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Advertising
- Art Director
- Broadcasting
- Digital Design
- Digital Media
- Fashion
- Film and Media
- Illustrator
- Marketing and PR
- Photography
- Photojournalism
- Teacher
- Video Editor

Business

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in Business at GCSE (if studied)
- Minimum Grade 5 in English and Mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

The A Level Business course stimulates and encourages your interest in how business works. It fosters an understanding of business operations in a variety of contexts and helps you develop a range of relevant generic skills and ways of thinking. You will learn about the specific functional areas of business and the theories that managers in charge of those functions need to know to be effective. This will be coupled with general management that all managers should know and a study of the external environment that managers need to cope with.

Topics Studied:

- **Theme One** - Marketing and People
- **Theme Two** - Managing Business Activities
- **Theme Three** - Business Decisions and Strategy
- **Theme Four** - Global Business

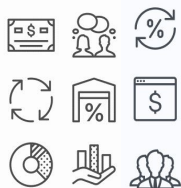
“Business is one of the most relevant subjects that is currently offered. It allows students to really engage with real life events and how it impacts on various stakeholders”

Heidi, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Business Adviser
- Logistics and Distribution
- Business Analyst
- Marketing and Advertising
- Project Manager
- Human Resources Management
- Risk Management
- Finance and Accounting
- Insurance and Investment
- Planning & Resources
- Auditing

COURSES



Business Diploma

OCR Cambridge Technical Ext. Certificate

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 4 in Business GCSE (if studied)
- Minimum Grade 4 in English and Mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

This is a vocational qualification therefore it is based upon real businesses, rather than being academic and theoretical. There will be some classroom teaching and exams but there is a heavy emphasis on research by learners and coursework rather than purely exams as is A level. This course develops your core skills and understanding of the requirements of the business sector. You will gain hands-on experience and have the opportunity to focus on specific topics such as human resources, marketing, accounting and business planning.

This is a single award and worth the equivalent of one A Level.

Topics Studied:

- The Business Environment
- Working in Business
- Business Decisions
- Customers and Communication
- Marketing and Market Research

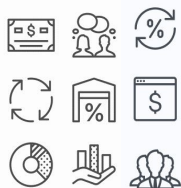
“We have designed refreshing and exciting content that’s up to date, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable for the needs of your students. To do this, we’ve consulted with universities, employers and industry specialists to make sure your students will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.”

OCR, 2021

Where this could lead you:

- Business Adviser
- Logistics and Distribution
- Supply Chain
- Business Analyst
- Marketing and Advertising
- Project Manager
- Human Resources Management
- Risk Management
- Finance and Accounting
- Insurance and Investment
- Planning & Resources

COURSES



Economics

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in Mathematics **and** English at GCSE

What you will learn:

Economics is about choice and the impact our choices have on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals to the structures created by governments and firms. Economic decisions and activities impact on many different areas of society and on our own everyday lives – interest rate changes, personal taxation, unemployment and consumer behaviour, to name but a few. By studying economics, you will become more aware of how political and economic decisions affect you as an individual and as part of the global economy. Universities and employers regard economics as a numerate discipline. It has the reputation of being a demanding subject, and therefore a qualification in it is a valuable asset. A Level Economics links subjects in the arts, science and mathematics areas.

Topics Studied:

- The Economic Problem
- Consumer Behaviour in Decision Making
- Solutions to Market failure
- Business Economics
- The National and International Economy
- Globalisation
- Development Economics
- Financial Markets and the Labour Market

"Although not usually a numbers person, with the continuous support from teaching staff and my fellow students really helped and I found a new interest and passion for economics. I am glad I persevered with the course as the knowledge and skills I gained from studying economics provided me with the foundation to understand the world around me. I have been able to apply this to my current studies of Sports Business Management MSC".

Georgia, Former Learner

Where this could lead you:

- Stockbroker
- Consultancy
- Banking And Finance
- Journalism
- Law
- Business Management
- Accountancy
- Politics
- Planning
- Sustainable Development
- Investment

COURSES



English Language

A Level (OCR)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 6 in English Language & Literature at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will learn about the different dimensions of language in all its forms: vocabulary, meanings, structure, pragmatics and grammar. You will also discover how power, gender, technology and the passing of time affect language-use. There are opportunities for you to design and conduct your own research, based on data that you have collected and analysis of the linguistic aspects.

You will be able to deconstruct written, spoken and multimodal texts from real life examples, alongside consciously shaping your own use of language to suit a variety of media and audiences.

Topics Studied:

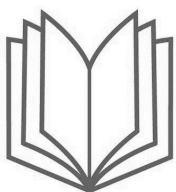
- Language frameworks
- Issues and debates connected to the study of English Language
- Comparison of spoken and written texts
- Child language acquisition
- Language evolution & change and the effect of different contexts on language (power, gender and technology) and their representation in media texts.

“English language as a subject has been the best out of my three A levels by far. You may think it's merely analysing texts and reading but I can assure you, it is most definitely not. You probably don't know this, but we learn about Child Language Acquisition, this is the way children develop communication skills and this is by far the most interesting topic of Y13. You'll also be pleased to know that we learn about how everyone communicates through social media, that's right we talk about Snapchat! But on a more serious note, English Language is a great subject which opens a wide array of options at University.”

Tamin, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Publishing, Editing and Copywriter
- Law
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Linguists, Translating & Interpreting
- Teaching & Lecturer
- Government
- Writer & Presenter
- Lexicography
- Marketing & Advertising
- Journalism & Media
- Forensics
- Public Relations



English Literature

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in English Literature at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will immerse yourself in some of the most famous authors' works, analysing and critiquing them from your own individual point of view. You will develop the skills to be able to articulate your argument and analysis of prose, poetry, plays and short stories and, in the process, will develop a lifelong appreciation of fiction in all of its forms. You will study literary genres, such as: tragedy genre ('Othello', 'Death of a Salesman' and a selection of Keats' poetry), as well as political and social protest genre ('The Handmaid's Tale', 'The Kite Runner' and Blake's 'Songs of Innocence and Experience'). There is also a coursework (NEA) component on prose and poetry texts of your own choice, involving the application of concepts from literary theory, such as Marxism and feminism.

Topics Studied:

- Poetry
- Prose
- Drama
- Texts from different historical periods
- The tragedy genre ('Othello', 'Death of a Salesman' and Keats' poetry)
- The political & social protest genre ('The Handmaid's Tale', 'The Kite Runner' and Blake's poetry)
- Unseen texts
- Literary theory and the coursework texts.

"A Level English Literature is the perfect subject for anyone wanting to improve their essay and argumentative writing skills and expand their cultural and social awareness, while also developing their love for literature. English Literature has given me a range of transferable skills that have helped with all my other A Levels and given me the opportunity to apply for a variety of degree courses. The subject is not only about reading books, but we also explore the politics, history and society in which they were written. English Literature is a fascinating subject and I would recommend it to everyone."

Morgan - Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Publishing, Editing and Copywriter
- Law
- Teaching & Lecturer
- Academia
- Writer & Presenter
- Media
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Web content Manager
- Public Relations

COURSES



Geography

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in geography at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in English and Mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

This A Level course will enable students to be inspired by their geographical understanding, to engage critically with real world issues and places, and to apply their geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. Students will grow as independent thinkers and as informed and engaged citizens, who understand the role and importance of geography as one of the key disciplines relevant to understanding the world's changing peoples, places and environments. A Level Geography is an exciting course and includes 4 days of fieldwork across the two-year course to enhance fieldwork skills and develop analytical and independent study.

Topics Studied:

- Tectonic processes and hazards
- Glaciated landscapes and change
- Water and Carbon Cycles
- Regenerating Places
- Globalisation
- Superpowers
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.
- Independent Investigation learners will have the opportunity to analyse one topic in more detail representing 20% of their final grade.

“Studying Geography at A Level has shown me the diversity of the subject. Events which influence our everyday lives such as climate change and globalisation are explored enabling an understanding between the physical environment and human population”.

Ella, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Planning
- Environmental Management
- Surveyor
- Conservation
- Travel & Tourism
- Teaching
- Cartographer
- Geographical information Systems
- Politics
- Demographer
- Sustainability



History

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in History at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in English at GCSE

What you will learn:

History is a wide ranging and valued A-Level course. The course will develop your skills in analysis and interpretation, as well as an appreciation of change over time. You will consider the impact of leadership in both the 16th and 20th centuries, through the study of the Tudor monarchs and Russia under Lenin and Stalin. You will also be able to choose your own direction with regard to the coursework question on Civil Rights in the USA, which promotes independent research and was commended by Universities for its ability to prepare students for further studies.

Topics Studied:

- Soviet content included:
- Dissent and revolution
- Bolshevik consolidation
- Soviet economy and society
- Stalinism including politics and control
- The Great Patriotic War
- Tudor content includes:
- Government, Foreign Policy and Society across a range of monarchs.

“Studying History allows you to enhance your understanding of the world, and aids in both personal and academic development. Additionally, the skills obtained from successfully studying History, are ones that are vital in many other aspects of academic progression; analytical focus, critical thinking and writing, as well as the ability to communicate complex ideas effectively. I have greatly enjoyed my A-Level experience of History so far, and I am certain that this satisfaction will continue over the rest of my time at Sixth Form”.

Anna, former year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Law
- Politics
- Archivist
- Business Consultant
- Journalism
- Researcher
- Historical writing
- Preservation
- Teaching
- Analyst

COURSES



Politics

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in English at GCSE

What you will learn:

Politics equips learners with the skills to analyse, evaluate and debate. The course covers how and why people take part in politics, as well as how political systems work, for example the UK Parliament and US Congress. We will also be studying ideologies and their impact on politics. The course necessarily covers topical issues.

This qualification reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving political environment in the UK and around the world. You will study UK politics and UK government, which will give you an in depth knowledge and understanding of politics. You will develop this knowledge and understanding via three core political ideas.

Topics Studied:

- Theme 1: UK government and politics, democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media, the constitution, parliament, prime minister and the executive, relations between branches.
- Theme 2: Political ideas such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism.
- Theme 3: US government and politics, US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, US democracy and participation.

“When choosing my A-Levels, one thing I was certain of was that I wanted to take politics. Even after only a few months, I feel like I have a much more extensive understanding of UK politics than before, as well as having improved my analytical writing skills. I have been given a space to ask any questions I might have surrounding the subject and the opportunity to debate conflicting views in both conversational and formal debate situations. Not only is politics an interesting A-Level, but it is also important. Politics affects us all and it is reassuring to know that I will be entering the adult world with the ability to make informed decisions”.

Sophie, former year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Journalism
- Law
- Politics
- Philosophy
- Sociology
- Business development
- Marketing
- Detective
- Diplomatic service
- Forensic accountant
- Human resources



Religious studies – Philosophy & Ethics

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in English and/or Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE

What you will learn:

There are three areas to the course, Ethics, Philosophy and New Testament. You will learn how to construct philosophical arguments, how ethical decisions are made and the impact of the New Testament then and now.

Topics Studied:

- Philosophy
- Problem of evil and suffering,
- Existence of God
- Philosophical language, religion and science
- Land life after death
- Environmental ethics
- Equality & sexual ethics
- Meta ethics
- Ethical theory
- War and conflict
- Medical ethics
- Religion and morality. New testament, person of Jesus, world of Palestine, the messianic secret

“You do not have to be religious to take philosophy and Ethics. I love being able to develop my views and learn about other people. A level Philosophy and Ethics will give me a good understanding of how to respect other people's beliefs and need The course explores all beliefs including Humanism and Atheism. Due to the broad nature of the subject it gives an opportunity to many career paths”.

George - Year 13

Where this could lead you:

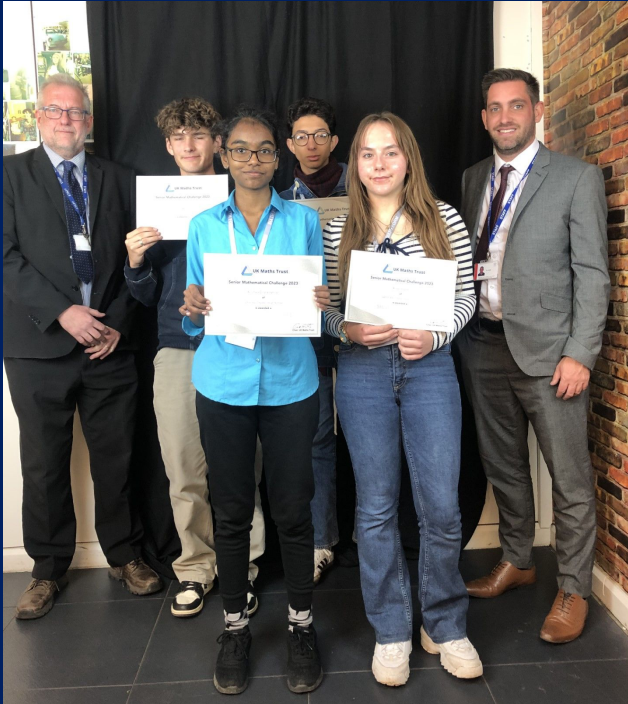
- Philosophy
- Theology
- Social Policy
- International Development
- Law
- Human Resources
- Teaching
- Social Work
- Politics
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Psychotherapy
- Health Service

COURSES



Enrichment at KS5

Here at Upton-by-Chester High School we really value the role enrichment opportunities have on our learners progression and development. We provide a range of enrichment activities on a weekly basis via our 'Engage @ Upton' offering, alongside bespoke educational visits, guest speakers delivering regular seminars, sporting opportunities, academic competitions amongst many other enriching opportunities for our learners.



Some of our many outstanding maths learner's who certificated in a recent UKMT national competition alongside Mr Biard, Head of Maths, and Mr Jones, Head of KS5 Maths.



Here are our Leadership Team with one of our guest speakers during a recent Year 13 seminar.



Year 13 Digital Film and Video learners attending a workshop by alumni Malcolm Oldfield, a BBC cameraman for over 30 years.



Our 6th Form football team winning the Cheshire Cup, just one of our many sporting successes.

Year 13 learners on an educational visit to Chester Zoo.



Learners on their successful Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Snowdonia.



A hugely popular week within our Sixth Form is 'Sixth Form Charity Week'. Our learners lead on this themselves to raise money for different charities.

Above you can see a photo taken from the Yr 9 dodgeball area which was on 'pyjama day' and, below, the annual staff v Sixth Form football game. This year we raised over £4,000 for the British Liver Trust.



Mathematics

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

A Level Mathematics covers pure mathematics (2/3 of content) as well as mechanics and statistics (1/6 of content each). The aim of the course is to enable you to study mathematical theories and concepts and develop your skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and application to modelling and problem solving. Through the study of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and statistics you will tackle a broad range of problems that will enhance your numerical, algebraic and trigonometric knowledge.

Topics Studied:

- Number and Algebra (Calculus)
- Trigonometry
- Graph work
- Geometry, Differentiation and Integration.
- Statistics - different methods of analysing data
- Mechanics - applying forces, motions and tension in particles/objects.

"I am going to study Chemical Engineering at Newcastle University when I leave Upton by Chester Sixth Form. I believe our school offers great study facilities and the quality of teaching, subject choice and student satisfaction are excellent. Mathematics has given me a really in depth knowledge and understanding ready for University"

Sam, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Statistics & Data Analysis
- Engineering
- Actuarial Science
- Finance & Investment
- Computer Science
- Teaching & Lecturing
- Sound Engineers
- Astronomer
- Civil Service
- Architecture
- Surveyor
- Game Designer

COURSES



Further Mathematics

A Level (Edexcel)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 8 in Mathematics at GCSE
- Learners must study A Level Mathematics alongside this course

What you will learn:

A Level Further Mathematics broadens and deepens your knowledge and understanding of Mathematics. You will learn how to use mathematical language to construct proofs in Pure Mathematics and use mathematical modelling to develop excellent problem solving skills in Statistics. The course develops additional aspects of mathematics beyond those met in Mathematics A-Level, including further pure mathematics and further mechanics. The course is intellectually challenging and develops the ability to think logically and in the abstract. This course is recommended for those who intend to study mathematics or a related degree at university.

Topics Studied:

- Pure Mathematics includes learning about complex numbers, algebra, differential equations, vectors and polar coordinates.
- Applied Mathematics includes modules of further statistics – Poisson distributions, chi-squared tests
- Further mechanics includes elastic collision, momentum, and impulse.

“As a further Maths student of almost 2 years now, I feel that taking this course was the best decision I’ve made. Post Sixth form I would like to do a master’s degree and go into a career in Aerospace Engineering, I believe that Further Maths will help me achieve this goal by giving me a more developed understanding of the world of maths through the various interesting topics and giving me a head start at university.”

Leo, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Aerospace
- Statistics & Data Analysis
- Engineering
- Actuarial Science
- Finance & Investment
- Computer Science
- Teaching & Lecturing
- Sound Engineers
- Astronomer
- Civil Service
- Artificial Intelligence
- Surveyor
- Game Designer

COURSES



French

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in French at GCSE

What you will learn:

This course covers a wide variety of topics across culture, current affairs and global issues and gives learners the opportunity to develop their command of the foreign language, so that they are able to manipulate complex ideas and structures. Individual speaking sessions with a foreign language assistant are included in the course and learners attain a good level of fluency. Studying a language at this level produces learners who are good communicators and listeners and equips them to become effective global citizens fit for the working world. Assessment comprises a speaking exam and two written papers which include reading, listening, writing and translation components.

Topics Studied:

- The changing nature of family
- Cyber-society
- The place of charity work
- Heritage
- Contemporary French music and cinema
- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised in society
- Treatment of criminals
- Political engagement of young people, strikes and politics and immigration

"I think A level French prepares us for a living environment in France. We learn how to hold broader and more natural conversations, including social issues".

Lucy, Year 12

Where this could lead you:

- Medicine
- Linguists
- Lecturing
- Teaching
- Interpreting
- Translating
- Journalism
- Diplomatic services
- Marketing
- Business
- Publishing
- Military

COURSES



Spanish

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in Spanish at GCSE

What you will learn:

This course covers a wide variety of topics across culture, current affairs and global issues and gives learners the opportunity to develop their command of the foreign language, so that they are able to manipulate complex ideas and structures. Individual speaking sessions with a foreign language assistant are included in the course and learners attain a good level of fluency. Studying a language at this level produces learners who are good communicators and listeners and equips them to become effective global citizens fit for the working world. Assessment comprises a speaking exam and two written papers which include reading, listening, writing and translation components.

Topics Studied:

- The changing nature of family
- Cyber-society
- Equality of the sexes
- The influence of famous people
- Regional identity and heritage
- Immigration, racism, young people today, monarchy, dictatorship and popular movements

"I enjoy learning about different Hispanic cultures and the range of skills covered. There is a great range of topics, some them about current life, but also about the history of Spanish speaking countries".

Katie, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Medicine
- Linguists
- Lecturing
- Teaching
- Interpreting
- Translating
- Journalism
- Diplomatic services
- Marketing
- Business
- Publishing
- Military



Computer Science

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in computer science at GCSE or demonstrate sufficient evidence of programming skills
- Minimum Grade 5 in mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

With computing there is a clear distinction between this subject and ICT. The course promotes abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking. The specification is designed for learners who want to expand their knowledge of computers and possibly go on to use computing in a career. The course looks at both theory and practical exercises, with the opportunity to learn a programming language and demonstrate this in a practical task along with examined topics.

Topics Studied:

- Programming
- Algorithms
- Theory of Computation
- Data Representation
- Computer Systems
- Processor Architecture
- Networks and Databases
- Big Data
- Impacts of Computing and Functional Programming

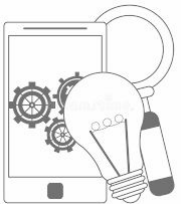
"The A level course here is definitely a great experience. The workload of course is more and the difficulty is increased however the teachers are always there to support you when you get stuck and the programming aspect is a new challenge. I Would recommend the course."

Riley, Year 12

Where this could lead you:

- Game Designer
- Data Analyst
- Cyber Security
- Systems Analyst
- IT Consultant
- Forensic Computer Analyst
- Web Designer/Developer
- Information Systems Manager
- IT Trainer
- Programmer
- Network Engineer
- Nanotechnology

COURSES



Media Studies

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in 5 subject areas at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in English Language at GCSE
- Not a requirement to have studied GCSE Media Studies

What you will learn:

You will study a variety of set texts across nine media platforms. You will develop your understanding of media key concepts including media language, representations, audience & industry.

This academic study of the media industries is focused around essay writing and critical thought. You will apply a range of theories to your analysis leading to judgements and conclusions of the validity of the theoretical approach. Theories include; postmodernism, feminist theory, genre, regulation, fandom, media effects, narrative and semiotics.

This course is assessed via 70% examination and 30% practical production covering a range of media platforms including print, broadcast and online media.

Topics Studied:

- Advertising & Marketing
- Music Video
- Newspapers
- Radio
- Film
- Magazines
- Television
- Online & Gaming.
- Practical Production (NEA 30 %)



“Studying A level Media after thoroughly enjoying it at GCSE level was a very good decision for me. It’s an enjoyable, engaging subject, applicable to students’ personal lives and interests. It has taught me about contemporary contexts and relevant topics, such as; television, magazines, film, radio and music. Additionally, the course includes both practical and written work, allowing for variation in the types of work we have to produce. It is apparent that the teachers are enthusiastic about the content that they teach and care about helping the students to understand and excel in the subject - I would highly recommend taking this subject”.

Daisy, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Advertising
- Journalism
- Media & communications
- Marketing & PR
- Digital marketing
- Broadcasting
- Social media manager
- Editorial assistant
- Event manager
- Television producer
- Market researcher

Media Studies – Digital Film & Video Production

BTEC National Level 3 (Pearson)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 4 in 5 subjects at GCSE
- Not required to have studied Media Studies at GCSE

What you will learn:

This is a predominantly practical course in which you will film and edit video productions. You will respond to industry style briefs and complete research, pre-productions, final edited media texts and evaluations. You will complete assignments to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of narrative, genre, mise-en-scene and semiotics. You will bring your imagination and creativity to new projects covering a range of genre across film and television. You will have access to video cameras and Premiere Pro editing software.

Topics Studied:

- Digital Media Skills (responding to an industry style brief)
- Film Production
- Storyboarding
- Single Camera Techniques
- Film Editing

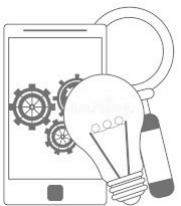
"BTEC Film allows you to work on a number of different film projects and stretch your creativity. You learn lots of new filming and editing skills using industry standard software. Being able to learn through practical tasks and research instead of essay based analysis is a different way of learning which I really enjoy. I would highly recommend this course to anyone looking for a career in the creative industries"

Luke, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Producer/ Editor/ Director
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Digital Marketer
- Social media manager
- Event manager
- Market researcher
- Media & communications

COURSES



Drama & Theatre

A Level (Eduqas)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 4 in Drama at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 4 in English at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre. Through both theory and performance you develop an understanding and appreciation of how the social, cultural and historical contexts of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre. You will experience a range of opportunities to create theatre, both published text based and devised work. This course allows you build a greater understanding and experience of collaborative relationships between various roles within theatre develop the creativity and independence to become effective theatre makers.

Topics Studied:

- Component 1: Theatre Workshop 20% of A-Level.
- Component 2: Text in Action 40% of A-Level.
- Component 3: Text in Performance 40% of A-Level.
- Learners study a range of Theatre Practitioners and Theatre Companies.
- Learners explore Pre 1956 plays and post 1956 plays as part of the course.
- Learners watch a wide range of Live Theatre productions.

"A Level Drama allowed me to develop as a writer and thinker, both creatively and critically. This course has provided the opportunity to do everything from writing scripts to considering how you will bring your performance to life and performing on stage. I have grown not only as a performer, learning in more detail about characterisation through voice and physicality. Live theatre reviews have not only allowed me to watch a wide range of theatre, some of which I would never have had the opportunity to watch, but they have developed my critical thinking and writing skills which has greatly helped me to improve in my other subjects. A Level Drama has enabled me to grow in confidence, develop vital teamwork and communication skills".

Lucy, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Performer
- Stage Managers
- Director/Producer
- Writer
- Education
- Broadcasting and Presenting
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Law
- Politics
- Journalism
- Creative Media

COURSES



Music

A Level (OCR)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 6 in Music at GCSE
- ABRSM Grade 6

What you will learn:

The course covers the 3 main elements of music - Performing, Composing and Analysing music. You will work as a soloist and as part of an ensemble for the performing component during the first year of the course , then as a soloist for the second year. You will be expected to compose 2 pieces of music during your first year, one relating to an area of study and then 2 different pieces for your second year. The course allows you to gain a broad knowledge of a variety of genres of music, with a heavy focus on Western Classical music. It is a fantastic start to an academic understanding of the music world, through practical performance along with gaining compositional skills.

Topics Studied:

- Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
- Pop music Music for media
- Music for theatre Jazz
- Contemporary and traditional music Art music since 1910
- Western Classical music
- Baroque Solo Concerto
- The Operas of Mozart
- The piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg

“The course is so very varied and you learn about so many aspects of music - I particularly enjoyed learning about both Film music composers as well as the piano pieces of Chopin. The performance aspect of the course gave me so much confidence in my abilities as I had the opportunity to showcase my playing skills with my clarinet as a soloist, and my Bass clarinet as an ensemble performer. I really like that the course is 40% performance, as this is my favourite part of being a musician. I feel that the course is so inclusive and that it gave me such a good grounding to study music at university”.

Beckie, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Composer
- Professional Musician/Performer
- Music teacher
- Broadcasting
- Creative Media
- Sound Engineer/Technician
- Music Publicist
- Tour/Artist Manager
- Agent
- Producer

COURSES



Physical Education

A Level (OCR)

What you need:

- Minimum grade 6, or equivalent, in GCSE PE
- Minimum grade 5 in a Science, or 5-4 in Combined Science.

What you will learn:

The course enables learners to gain an in-depth understanding of; physical activity and sporting performance, how the body deals with the sporting environment, the role that technology plays in sport, how sport has developed and its position now within society.

Learners will develop the ability to apply theoretical content to practical performance, demonstrating a synoptic understanding of the subject. Analysis of performance will be a key element of learning, this will be displayed in learner's assessment of 1 practical activity and in their Evaluation and Analysis of Performance Improvement plan (completed in the second year).

Topics Studied:

- Applied anatomy
- Exercise physiology
- Sport biomechanics
- The role of technology in sport
- Skill acquisition
- Sport psychology
- The sociology of sport
- Contemporary issues in sport
- Non Examined Assessment where their performance, or coaching, is graded in one sport.

“PE develops for a vast knowledge from a variety of topics, from anatomy and physiology, to the psychology of sport, to the commercialisation of sport and the use of drugs by athletes. Open discussions (in lessons) allows for a more informative and enjoyable learning environment”

Peter, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Physiotherapist
- Sport therapist
- Sport psychologist
- PE teacher
- Personal trainer
- Coach
- Sports development and science
- Researcher
- Leisure manager
- Sport media
- Clinical biomechanist
- Dietician

COURSES



Applied Science

BTEC national - Level 3 (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in Science at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in Mathematics at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in English Language at GCSE

What you will learn:

This course allows learners the opportunity to learn and understand the core principles and practical applications that underpin Applied Science. The course is designed to support progress into higher education/and or to pursue a career in the applied science sector. The course provides opportunities during the teaching and learning phase to give learners practice in developing employability and transferable skills, such as; cognitive and problem-solving, critical thinking, approach non-routine problems applying expert and creative solutions, use systems and technology. The course also provides opportunity to develop interpersonal skills, such as; communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating, self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development, self-presentation.

Topics Studied:

- Principles and Applications of Science
- Periodicity and properties of elements
- Structure and functions of cells and tissues
- Waves in Communication
- Laboratory equipment and its calibration
- Calorimetry to study cooling curves
- Chromatographic techniques
- Personal Development of Scientific Skills for Laboratory work

“With a track record built over 30 years of learner success, BTEC Nationals are widely recognised by industry and higher education as the signature vocational qualification. They provide progression to the workplace either directly or via study at a higher level. 62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications. What’s more, well over 100,000 BTEC students apply to UK universities every year and their BTEC Nationals are accepted by over 150 UK universities and higher education institutes for relevant degree programmes either on their own or in combination with A Levels.”

YouGov, 2020



Where this could lead you:

- Engineer
- Nursing
- Forensic Science
- Sports science
- Biomedical Science
- Allied Medical
- Veterinary Nursing
- Medical Technician
- Construction
- Higher education



Biology

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 7 in Biology or Combined Science at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in English at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will develop an understanding of key concepts such as the biochemistry of organic molecules, structure of cells, organs and systems and interactions between organisms and their environment. You will learn to apply your knowledge to a range of contexts and develop your practical skills. You will also complete a series of 12 Required Practical's which will contribute to the Practical Endorsement.

Topics Studied:

- Biological Molecules
- Cell Division, Differentiation and Classification
- Biological Exchanges
- DNA and Genetic Diversity
- Energy Transfers and Nutrient Cycles
- Control and coordination
- Inheritance and Gene technology.

"I chose Biology as it has set the foundations of what I want to pursue in the future. Wanting to specialise into Pharmacology means that I need Biology for the understanding of body systems like metabolic functions and homeostasis. I enjoy Biology as it has a mixture of problem-solving and application skills and a multitude of different topics like the kidneys and the endocrine system."

Ben, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Medicine and Pharmacy
- Veterinary science
- Dentistry
- Sports Science
- Biochemistry
- Biotechnology & Microbiology
- Biophysics
- Conservation
- Bioengineering
- Nanotechnology
- Higher Education

COURSES



Chemistry

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 7 in Chemistry or Combined Science at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

Physical Chemistry studies the maths behind topics you will be familiar with – things like rates of reaction, equilibrium and energy changes. We study atomic structure in a bit more detail, along with structure and bonding, that you are familiar with from your GCSE course.

In Inorganic Chemistry you study sections of the periodic table, such as group 2, 7 and the transition Metals. Organic Chemistry, is an extension of the Fuels topic you have covered at GCSE. We look in more detail at these carbon based molecules, which are not only crucial to Fuels and making plastics, but also to designing medicines and materials. This section considers some parts of analytical chemistry.

Topics Studied:

- Atomic Structure & Bonding
- Amount of substance
- Equilibrium
- Electrode Potentials
- Redox
- Energetics & Kinetics
- Transition Metals
- Periodicity
- Organic chemistry including alkanes, alkenes, aromatic chemistry, carbonyl chemistry, amines, polymers and biochemistry

“Every Chemistry lesson brings a new and interesting challenge, the practical's are a massive step up from GCSE. They are really interesting and have helped develop my understanding further, it feels a lot more involved.”

Edward, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Forensic Science
- Medicine and Pharmacy
- Environmental Consultancy
- Research and Development
- Clinical Science
- Biochemistry
- Geochemistry
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Toxicologist
- Higher education

COURSES



Physics

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 7 in combined Science or physics at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE

What you will learn:

This course builds on many of the ideas taught at GCSE but also introduces a range of new and exciting concepts. In Year 12 students will be introduced to the world of Particle physics and Quantum Phenomena, Forces and Mechanics. Learners in Year 13 will be introduced to Gravitational and Electric Fields and they will also further their understanding of Nuclear Physics.

Physics is mathematical in its content and the A Level course requires learners to enhance and develop the skills needed in GCSE Science. Many of the topics studied at GCSE are revisited but given a more mathematical structure and greater depth.

Practical work features heavily in lessons and by studying this course, learners will also develop their investigative and problem solving skills.

Topics Studied:

- Particles and Radiation
- EM and Quantum Waves
- Mechanics and Materials
- Electricity
- Further Mechanics
- Thermal Fields
- Nuclear Physics
- Option Module choice - Turning Points

“Physics has enabled me to research and learn about principles and theorems that explain the unthinkable in our universe. I have used scientific equipment and apply my theoretical knowledge to real world situations, allowing me to visualise the framework on which the equations are based upon. I will be hopefully be continuing my exploration of Physics through studying Aeronautical Engineering. I chose this path as my teacher inspired me through teaching about commercial space travel and future possibilities.”

Charlie, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Engineer
- Medicine & Clinical Science
- Geophysics
- Aeronautics
- Space technologies
- Nano & AI Technology
- Communications
- Optics
- Global Phenomenon
- Finance & Investment
- Meteorology
- Higher Education

COURSES



Psychology

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in English at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 5 in Mathematics at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 4 in Science at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will learn to develop a depth of understanding of theories, explanations and research in psychology. To develop application skills so you can use the material learned to explain behaviours of examples and case studies. To develop evaluation skills to think critically using psychological evidence and skills to analyse explanations of behaviour and the quality of research

Topics Studied:

- Approaches in Psychology
- Research Methods used by psychologists
- Memory
- Social Influence
- Psychopathology
- Attachment
- Issues and Debates
- Biopsychology
- Relationships
- Forensic Psychology
- Schizophrenia

"I engaged with the subject immediately and have developed analytical and interpretation skills as well as understanding how to research the human mind. I have chosen to study Psychology at University. I've especially enjoyed research methods, psychopathology, social influence and biopsychology. I have felt supported in my progress, have used the psychology clinics when I needed to and have developed into a confident, independent student. I have developed my writing skills and have gained confidence from my positive results and feedback in assessments and exams".

Jess, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Psychology
- Criminology
- Forensics
- Behavioural Sciences
- Law
- Media
- Human Resources
- Social Care
- Public Sector
- Health Care
- Politics

COURSES



Sociology

A Level (AQA)

What you need:

- Minimum Grade 5 in English at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 4 in Mathematics at GCSE
- Minimum Grade 4 in Science at GCSE

What you will learn:

You will develop a depth of understanding about contemporary society, social change and the institutions within a social structure. To develop an ability to apply sociological explanations and theories to contemporary sociological evidence and data. To analyse change and structure in contemporary society as well as evaluate the sociological explanations and research which attempt to explain it.

Topics Studied:

- Sociological Theories
- Sociological Methods
- Sociology of Education
- Families and Households
- Media
- Crime and Deviance

"I have developed my critical approach to material including data and theoretical explanations. It has given me a vocabulary to describe and evaluate the social world, exposed me to philosophical ideas such as Weberianism and Marxism which I have been able to transfer to other subjects. I enjoy the debating nature of the subject and assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each argument in an academic way. Sociology has developed my understanding of injustice and inequality in society and different solutions to each issue. I particularly enjoyed the investigations of the different types of feminisms".

Morgan, Year 13

Where this could lead you:

- Sociology
- Social Policy
- Criminology
- Law
- Human Resources
- Education and Training
- Marketing and Media
- Social care
- Public Sector
- Government
- Advertising
- Media

COURSES



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

(AQA)

What you need:

- Available to all Sixth Form learners

What you will learn:

Learners take responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project. Learners will:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Undertaking an EPQ can also deliver other benefits for students and schools, such as:

- improved A Level performance for students taking EPQ
- boosting student recruitment by making your curriculum more attractive
- increasing student motivation by allowing them to study topics of personal interest
- enabling students to apply their new skills to other areas of study.

EPQ in some cases can lower university offers.

Topics Studied:

The EPQ allows learners to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

“EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your students' abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It can be taken as an extension of other Level 3 qualifications or vocational qualifications. It's worth half an A-level (28 UCAS points). It's recognised by universities and employers. Many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.”

AQA 2020

Why EPQ? EPQ supports application to universities alongside development of key skills which support learning and are attractive to employers.

Grade	UCAS points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

