



Learning to shape the future



Sixth Form Prospectus



Welcome to Upton High Sixth Form



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 virtual Open Evening and welcome you to any event we can, to support your choice of Sixth Form.

With best wishes

Mr L. Cummins
Headteacher



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. 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 the option to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to enhance future university applications and develop independent learning skills. We also 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 hope you find our prospectus interesting and informative and gives you the required information that you require for joining our outstanding Sixth Form. 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 Lewis

Why choose Upton High Sixth Form?

Nathan Farrington

ENGLISH LITERATURE, HISTORY & POLITICS



The environment is one where hard work is always encouraged whilst students are given a range of locations they can use for socialising periods. I believe that these elements help extract the best out of students' potential, and make school an effective area for studying a multitude of subjects. I have also built strong

relationships with fellow students and am confident that whether you have studied at Upton before or not, this is easily obtainable. Another feature that convinced me Upton was the greatest choice was the teaching quality available across the school. This was best demonstrated over lockdown where teachers remained engaged in my progress across the curriculum, meaning I never felt isolated or confused by a new concept. Since returning to school, the dedication has continued with teachers ensuring I am confident and familiar with the various topics in the spectrum. Whilst the staff are invaluable in the transition from GCSE to A-Level, they have also provided assistance in every stage of the University application process. I've found their help in this extremely useful and means applying to university is a less daunting prospect than it would be otherwise."

Sam James

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, MATHS



After attending the school since year seven, I knew I wanted to continue to the Sixth Form and I am very happy that I made this decision, as I feel like I am in an environment where I can progress and develop all of the skills necessary for later life. I think that the main advantage of our sixth form is the high standard of teaching, as

teachers are constantly enthusiastic and motivate all students to do their very best. Despite the difficult nature of my A-Level subjects, teachers continue to make lessons engaging and interesting and it helps a lot that they are incredibly knowledgeable in their subjects. After I decided that I wanted to go to university, members of staff were extremely useful in helping me with my UCAS application and the process of applying to university. I was given a lot of advice and guidance when writing my personal statement and choosing a university and it definitely made the process more manageable and less stressful. The sixth-form has a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, and is an environment of sociability as well as an accessible study space. I have always felt very supported in school and I have had the opportunity to get involved with numerous other extra-curricular activities and projects."

Olivia Hickson

ENGLISH LITERATURE, HISTORY & MEDIA STUDIES



"Having studied at Upton High for the entirety of my secondary education, I knew the Sixth Form was the perfect place for me to achieve the best grades possible at Advanced Level. The teachers at Upton Sixth Form are incredibly inspiring, offering exceptional advice and support both in relation to my studies and

University preparation. I am confident they have given me the tools I need to reach my full academic potential. Despite the evident step-up in difficulty from GCSE to A-Level, my teachers made the transition seamless, whilst still encouraging my fellow students and I to challenge ourselves and engage with high-level subject matter. In my opinion, the small-to-medium class sizes at Upton are ideal; we are each given considerable contact time and have the ability to hold debates and class discussions with ease. We are also a close-knit community and the Upton students are friendly and welcoming to any, and all newcomers, as well as one another. The Sixth Form provides an invaluable support network for all students, with form tutors, teachers and those in leadership positions ensuring we have access to all the assistance (whether that be academic, social, or personal), that we require.

I have been involved in numerous sporting, volunteering and enrichment activities which were useful for my University application. I have valued the opportunity to attend Educational visits abroad, compete in inter-school debate competitions and complete the Extended Project Qualification. Overall, my experience at Upton has enabled me to progress in my academic studies but has also helped me develop as a young adult."

Ethan Parry

BIOLOGY, ECONOMICS AND PE



"Initially I chose Business instead of Biology and when I made the decision to change subjects both my Head of Year and my new Biology teacher, were very accommodating and helped me to catch up on all the work I'd missed out on by running after school sessions for me and taking time to help me during free periods.

When deciding which subjects to take for A-level I didn't know which to pick as there were so many choices; however, the teachers for each subject I was interested in were very happy to talk to me and give their opinion on what subjects they thought would suit me best. Now being in year 13 I have to start looking at my future career and university choices which I have found very daunting. However, the support of the sixth form staff and school careers advisor have helped me come to a decision about my future."

Layla Booth

CHEMISTRY, HISTORY AND POLITICS



"I have studied at Upton since Year 7, so when it came to choosing a Sixth Form, Upton was the obvious choice. The transition to Sixth Form from high school was easier than I had initially thought, due to the great support network provided by the staff. Whenever I have needed help understanding concepts, teachers

have always been easily contactable and supplied a plethora of useful resources. There are a wide range of subjects available to study, catering to everyone's interests. All teachers have extensive knowledge in their subject areas and lessons are always interesting and interactive. Throughout my time at the Sixth Form, there have been many opportunities to enhance my learning by taking part in schemes such as Mental Health First Aid training and becoming a peer mentor, which I found really valuable and definitely helped with my UCAS application to university. Throughout the university application process, teachers have always been supportive and given helpful advice, making this daunting decision much easier and less stressful.

I have really enjoyed my time at Sixth Form and it has given me the tools and confidence to allow me to reach my full potential."

Nyasha Johns

COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGLISH & PSYCHOLOGY



"Moving to the area I chose Upton-By-Chester High School due to recommendations based on reputation and the 'Outstanding' rating from OFSTED.

From the moment I moved to Upton I was taken aback by the positive, supportive and caring environment from everyone,

knowing that I had made the right decision to complete my A Level studies here.

My teachers have great subject knowledge and challenge me to reach my full potential.

All teachers are approachable and willing to spend time with you offering efficient explanations to further your understanding.

Furthermore, there are many valuable opportunities for self-development within the 6th Form from leadership to mentoring. "

"Sixth Form provision is outstanding."

(OFSTED 2015)



The Sixth Form Curriculum

Learners study 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 24 A level courses. Outstanding lessons are delivered by experienced A level teachers.

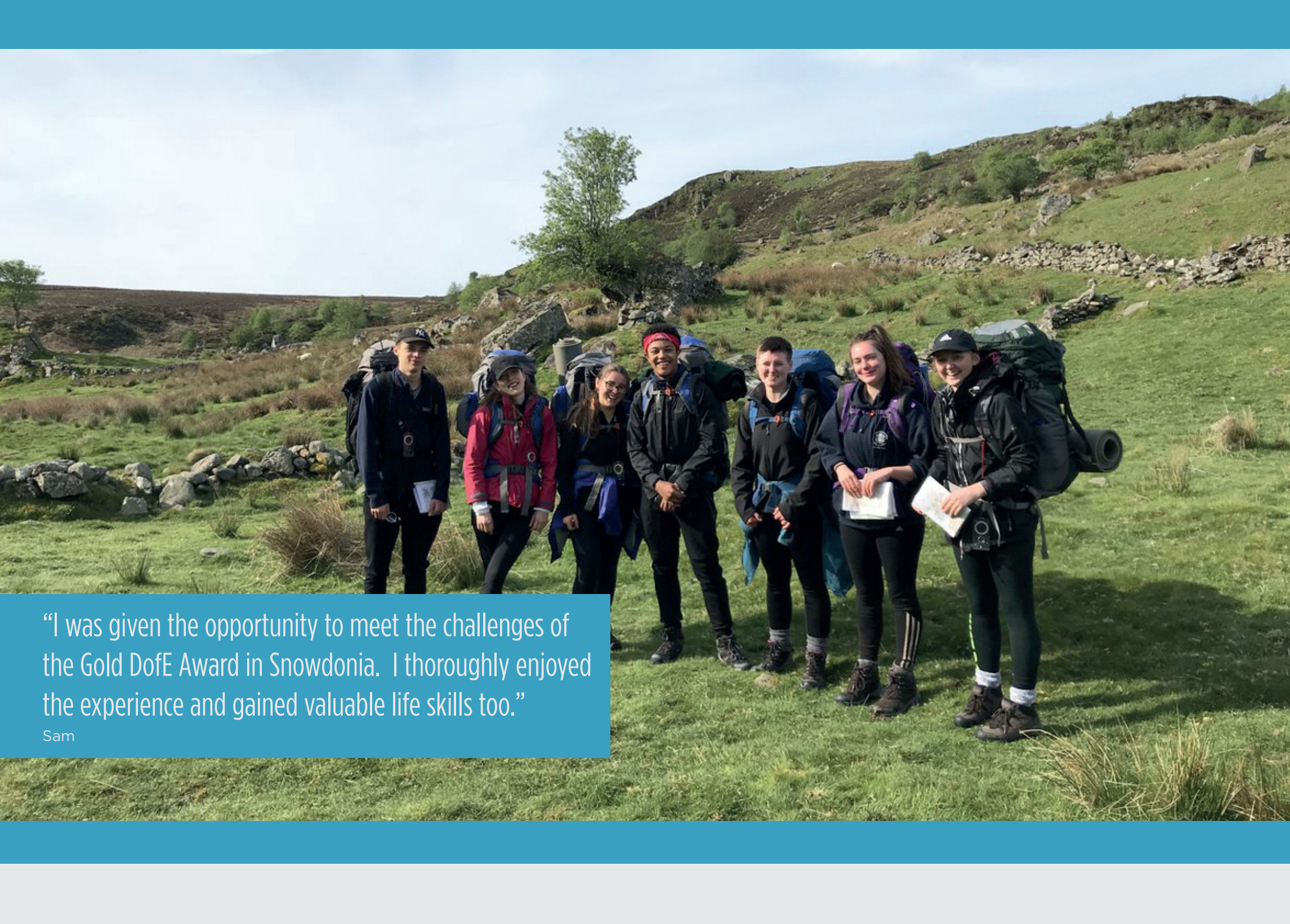
The minimum requirement to enter the Sixth Form is five good GCSE passes, including English and maths. However, all subjects have different entry requirements and learners are advised to refer to

those specific subject requirements detailed in the Sixth Form prospectus. 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 the learner's teachers, we consider that studying at this level would not be appropriate.

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

(OFSTED 2015)





“I was given the opportunity to meet the challenges of the Gold DofE Award in Snowdonia. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained valuable life skills too.”

Sam

Enrichment Opportunities

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
- Nuffield Bursary
- Peer Mentoring
- Educational visits, international travel and cultural exchanges
- Performing Arts activities: Drama, Dance and Music
- Debating Society
- Eco-Schools Action Team

“Students develop leadership skills through democratic and international enrichment activities.”

(OFSTED 2015)



Course Guide

Art (AQA)

Within art there are two possible routes: fine art or photography. In both subjects we build upon what you have achieved in your GCSE qualification and provide you with further opportunities to experiment with a wide variety of processes, materials, skills and techniques. There will be trips to galleries and students will keep a gallery book of their own visits and inspirations. You will respond expressively and analytically and be encouraged to identify and explore your own content through practical and theoretical study.

Fine Art: There will be a foundation year, followed by coursework: component 1 (60%) and an externally set exam: component 2 (40%). This course is ideal for learners who have an interest or passion for art as well as those interested in following a career which requires an art and design qualification. **Entry requirements:** GCSE grade 4

Photography: You will broaden your knowledge of the technical processes of photography and photographers and respond expressively. This course is suitable for learners who are new to this subject as well as students who have previously taken GCSE photography. **Entry requirements:** Own camera required

Biology (AQA)

This course allows learners to gain an understanding of essential biological principles and the contributions of science to modern society. It provides an excellent foundation for students interested in careers in medicine, biomedical and health sciences and veterinary medicine. **Entry requirements:** GCSE grade 7 in combined science or biology and GCSE grade 6 in mathematics

Business Studies (OCR)

Business Studies is a relevant subject for anybody considering a managerial career in either the private or public sectors. The course looks at both internal and

external factors at play in business decision making and develops a learner's analytical and evaluative responses through the use of case studies and data. Given globalization, business is playing an even greater role in the life of everybody on the planet and so it is ever more vital to gain an understanding of the issues covered by this course.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in business studies if taken and GCSE grade 5 in English and maths

Chemistry (AQA)

A-level Chemistry is a rigorous, challenging and ultimately rewarding course that develops learners' scientific skills and knowledge. The traditional chemistry course has been updated to include a range of contemporary issues and exciting experiments. Learners studying chemistry have a raft of transferable skills which opens up a wide range of career opportunities such as forensic science, medicine, biochemistry, dentistry, nursing or pharmacy. It will equip learners for a career in industry such as engineering or in scientific research.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 7 in combined science or chemistry and grade 6 in mathematics

Computer Science (AQA)

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.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in computer science or demonstrate sufficient evidence of programming skills and grade 5 in mathematics

Design & Technology: Product Design or Fashion & Textiles (Eduqas)

Within this course learners are able to study product design or fashion and textiles. Both enable you to develop innovative and creative skills through the creation of high quality products. Both balance contemporary technologies, materials and processes alongside established practices. There is an emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Assessment is by two exams (50%) and a portfolio project (50%).

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 6 in design and technology

Drama and Theatre (Eduqas)

The A Level Drama and Theatre course allows learners to take a practical and academic exploration of Theatre. During this course you explore the world of drama and learn to analyse and devise imaginative, engaging performance. Learners will have the opportunity to study and apply a variety of styles and genres, both classic and contemporary. The course combines theoretical and practical elements. Learners will be assessed in both performance and written work. 60% of the course is based on acting or design. Theatre visits are organised and are an integral aspect of the course. If you enjoy watching theatre, performance is your passion and are willing to try out ideas in a workshop environment then you will have a fantastic time on this course.

Entry requirements: GCSE Drama and English Grade 4

Economics (Edexcel)

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.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in mathematics and GCSE grade 5 in English

English Language (OCR)

This course teaches you about how language works and how to create your own texts. You will find out about how power, gender and language technology affect language. You will also discover how we learn to speak and how language has evolved over time.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in English language

English Literature (AQA B)

This course helps you to understand more about how writers create stories. You will explore and analyse a wide range of narratives, including: the tragedy genre, Shakespeare, political and social protest literature, a modern novel, poetry and also texts chosen by you as a coursework option.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in English literature

MFL French (AQA)

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

national are included and learners attain a good level of fluency. Studying a language at this level produces students 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 and listening components.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in French

Geography (Edexcel)

A level Geography allows learners to explore our world, looking at how and why it is changing. Learners will study the Carbon and Water Cycles, glacial landscapes and change, tectonic processes and hazards. The Human Geography units studied include Globalisation, Regenerating Places, Superpowers and Migration, Identity and Sovereignty. In the Independent Investigation learners will have the opportunity to analyse one topic in more detail representing 20% of their final A2 grade. A Level Geography is an exciting course and includes 4 days of fieldwork across the two-year course.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in Geography

History (AQA)

History is a wide ranging and valued A-Level course. It develops learners' skills in analysis and interpretation as well as an appreciation of change over time. We 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.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in history and GCSE grade 5 in English

Mathematics (Edexcel)

The mathematics course covers pure mathematics (2/3 of

content) as well as mechanics and statistics (1/6 of content each). The course helps develop logical thinking skills and teaches mathematical techniques to support studies in other subjects, such as the sciences.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 7 in mathematics

Further Mathematics (Edexcel)

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.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 8 in mathematics. Students must also study A-Level mathematics

Media Studies (AQA)

This linear course comprises two examinations which test learners' understanding of a range of media contexts and debates. Learners extend their analytical skills with application of media theory and academic study. Learners demonstrate their imagination, creativity and technical ability by producing a number of authentic media texts across different media platforms. The final piece of coursework counts as 30% of the A Level.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in media if taken. GCSE grade 5 in English language if media hasn't been studied at GCSE

Music (AQA)

A Level music follows the AQA course and is comprised of 3 components; appraising music, performance and composition. During the course learners will develop listening skills, analysis, contextual understanding of music, alongside a composition and musical performance.

Entry requirements: GCSE Music Grade 6 or ABRSM/Trinity Grade 6 or above Practical or Grade 5 Theory

Course Guide continued

Physical Education (OCR)

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. There are eight areas of study: applied anatomy, exercise physiology, biomechanical movement, the role of technology, skill acquisition, sport psychology, sport and society and contemporary issues in sport. Assessment is by exam and learners' practical performance is also assessed.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in PE and GCSE grade 4 in science

Physics (AQA)

This course builds on many of the ideas taught at GCSE but also introduces a range of new and exciting concepts, such as particle physics and quantum phenomena. Physics is mathematical in its content and the A-Level course requires a step up from the skills needed in GCSE Science. Many of the topics that we study at GCSE are revisited but given a more mathematical structure. Practical work features heavily in lessons and by studying this course, learners will also develop their investigative and problem solving skills.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 7 in combined science or physics and grade 7 in mathematics

Politics (Edexcel)

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.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in English language

Psychology (AQA)

Psychology can be defined as the scientific study of mind

and behaviour. Learners study topics which relate to their everyday experience and develop the ability to understand human behaviour from a range of different perspectives which they apply to different circumstances. Topics include memory, attachment, social influence, biopsychology, schizophrenia, relationships and forensic psychology. This helps them to become knowledgeable, critical thinkers.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in English and science and GCSE grade 4 in mathematics

Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics (Edexcel)

Learners will consider philosophical issues and questions: the nature and influence of religious experience, problems of evil and suffering, philosophical language, works of scholars and influences of developments in religious belief. In addition there will be a study of ethical theories: application of ethical theories to issues of importance, ethical language, deontology, virtue ethics, medical ethics and beginning and end of life issues. The social, historical and religious context of the New Testament is studied, including historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in RS if taken or GCSE grade 5 in English

Sociology (AQA)

Sociology is the study of society and social change. Learners study topics which relate to people, social groups and institutions in society. They develop an understanding of structural and interpersonal forces operating in society, and have the opportunity to explore reasons for continuity and change from a range of different perspectives. Topics include families and households, education, media and crime and deviance. This involves looking at class, gender and ethnicity. This helps learners to develop an understanding of people and communities on a local, national and global level.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in English, GCSE grade 4 in mathematics and science

MFL Spanish (AQA)

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 national are included and students 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 and listening components.

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 in Spanish

Ambitious Applicants Programme

For students who aspire to attain places at Oxford and Cambridge universities and for those interested in courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary studies.

GCSE Resits

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

The school reserves the right to withdraw a subject if it is not viable to run it.

Beyond The Curriculum

Extended Project Qualification (AQA)

A research project aimed at dedicated learners who wish to enhance their portfolio of qualifications. Highly regarded by top universities, the EPQ enables students to demonstrate their ability to work independently in a style expected at university level.

Entry requirements: Available to all Sixth Form learners

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 non-cognitive 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.

“Information and guidance for higher education and careers options is of high quality”.

(Ofsted 2015)

Transition into the Sixth Form

Support for learners progressing into Upton High Sixth Form:

- An Open Evening
- Guidance meetings with the Sixth Form Tutors
- A Taster Day for external applicants held in June
- Early academic review to ensure learners have settled into their Sixth Form studies
- Lower Sixth team building and induction programme
- University visit to build student aspirations and consider post 18 pathways

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

Aspire to be all you can be

Lucy McHugh

**Now studying History & Politics at
Warwick University**



A Levels: History, Politics and English Language

My time at Upton's Sixth Form was an experience that has set me up for life after high school and beyond. All of my teachers were wonderfully involved with both my academic and personal development, and possessed a genuine love for their subjects that really fuelled my passion and drive to

achieve. The members of staff, from form tutors to the Sixth Form Team, are extremely knowledgeable and have plenty of past experience to really support the transition into Year 12, and later to whichever Post-18 pathway you may choose. This shined through the most during my university applications process, where the high levels of support and encouragement enabled me to gain a place at a university where I feel I can truly reach my full potential. The wide range of extra-curricular activities I was able to participate in really allowed me to explore areas of interest that I may have previously never considered, and enriched my study in a positive way.

Lewis Wilkinson

Now studying Maths at Cambridge University



A Levels: Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Sixth Form and will never forget how, throughout my time at Upton, I have been shaped as an individual. The advice given about higher education was fantastic. Whether it be regarding: university;

apprenticeships; college or careers,

expert recommendations were given to guide you down whichever path you chose. Attention to detail during the UCAS process was second to none, and I am to this day extremely grateful for the effort made by all staff to ensure every student has a solid, competitive application. The infectious passion of very knowledgeable subject teachers ultimately inspired me to pursue a degree in maths/physics, which I am currently undertaking at the University of Cambridge. The enthusiasm of teachers showed as they always ensured students fully understood topics, even if this meant talking around the subject to link together different concepts and ideas. This knowledge of a subject as a whole (not just what was required on the syllabus) was really helpful in making sense of a variety of difficult concepts, and it has left me a well-rounded student which is proving very useful now that I have started my degree. I will never forget my time at Upton-by-Chester Sixth Form!

“There are great facilities within the Sixth Form, for example, the common room, café and excellent study areas.”

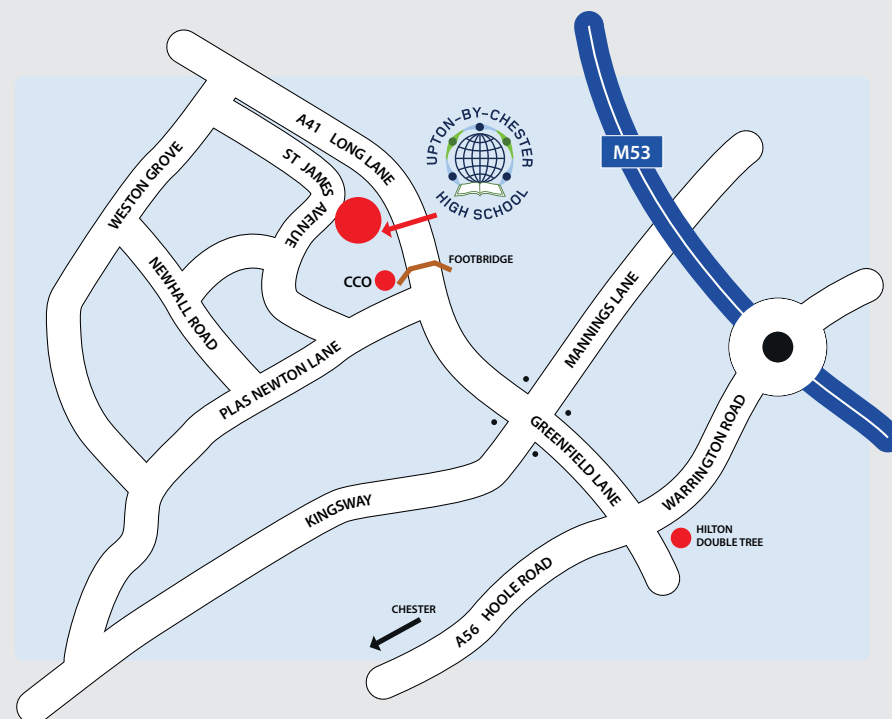
Heather
Psychology, Religious Studies,
French, English Language



How to find us

Public and contract bus routes to our school from Chester City centre, Mickle Trafford, Mollington, Saughall, Guilden Sutton, Blacon, Little Sutton, Great Sutton & Ellesmere Port.

Trains from the Ellesmere Port area serve Hooton, Capenhurst and the Bache in Upton.





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