

Ponteland High School

Sixth Form Course Options



Ponteland
High School

Our aim is to build a school
where all of our students
are happy, feel safe and
achieve exceptionally well.

For enrolment in September 2026



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Where to get advice

When you are considering post 16 studies you need to ensure you have access to the right advice. In school you will have the following opportunities to ensure you have the correct information, advice and guidance before you select your post GCSE pathway:

- Y11 next steps interview
- Careers guidance
- Tutor sessions
- Post 16 options event
- Assemblies
- Lunchtime drop-ins
- Parents evening appointments

You can also make an appointment with a member of the sixth form team:

- Julie Hall (Head of Sixth Form / Assistant Head teacher)
- Paula Davison (Deputy Head of Sixth Form)
- Annie Karatzenis (Deputy Head of Sixth Form)

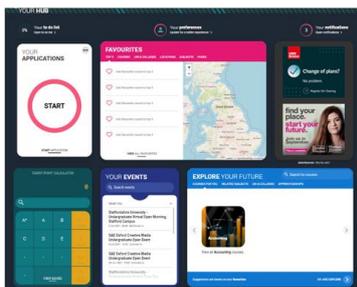
Our advice will be impartial and intended to help you make the most of your next steps.

Don't forget that your parents, older siblings, and other connections you may have could also give you information to help you make the right decisions.

Do Your Research

When making decisions about what to choose for your post 16 courses, you may also want to find out more about what you would like to do as a future career or university degree, as they might have certain requirements, which you will need to consider. You can find out more about higher education, apprenticeships, and careers by visiting the **UCAS HUB**, or logging in to your **UNIFROG** account.

This [link](#) from **The Student Room** website can give you some general advice about which careers/undergraduate courses require specific A Levels/equivalents.



Our post 16 offer

If you choose to enrol for sixth form at Ponteland High School you will be required to study the following:

- **3 x A level courses or equivalent (CTEC/BTEC)**
- **EPQ or Core Maths**

It may be possible for some very high attaining students to study **4 A levels**, but this will be in exceptional circumstances, and will mostly be students who would like to study both **Maths** and **Further Maths** for A level.

Alongside these studies your timetable will also include:

- **Tutorial sessions**
- **Volunteering**
- **Supervised study hours**
- **Enrichment**

A levels or Equivalents? (CTEC/AAQ)

We offer a wide range of post 16 courses to suit your interests and prepare you for your next steps. This includes AAQ Medical Science, AAQ IT, CTEC Business, and CTEC Sport Studies. These equivalent qualifications are a two year course at the same Level 3 standard as A level, and will be accepted by universities, colleges, and apprenticeships. They often suit students who work best completing coursework throughout the course, rather than in end of course examinations.



Post 16 Course List and Entry Requirements

To enter sixth form you will need:

- 5 x grades 4 or above at GCSE including Maths and at least one of English Literature or Language
- To meet the grade requirements of each chosen course as stated below

COURSE	Exam Board	Subject Specific Entry Requirements
Fine Art A Level	AQA	Grade 4 in Art
Biology A Level	Edexcel	Grade 6 in Biology or Grades 6-6 in Combined Science Grade 5 in Mathematics
Business CTEC	OCR	Grade 4 in English Language or Literature Grade 4 in Mathematics Grade 4 or above in GCSE Business (if taken)
Business Studies A Level	Edexcel	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature Grade 5 in Mathematics Grade 5 or above in GCSE Business (if taken)
Chemistry A Level	Edexcel	Grade 6 in Chemistry or Grades 6-6 in Combined Science Grade 5 in Mathematics
Core Maths (instead of EPQ)	AQA	Grade 5 or 6 in Mathematics (students who achieve a grade 7 in higher are advised to take either A Level Mathematics or complete an EPQ)
Drama and Theatre A Level	Edexcel	Grade 5 in drama or Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature if Drama has not been studied
DT: Product Design A Level	AQA	Grade 5 in Mathematics or Grade 5-5 in Combined Science or a Grade 5 in any Separate Science, and Grade 5 in a Design Technology GCSE if studied
Economics A Level	Edexcel	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature Grade 5 in Mathematics Grade 5 or above in GCSE Business (if taken)
English Language A Level	OCR	Grade 6 in English Language or Literature
English Literature A Level	AQA	Grade 6 in English Language or Literature
French A Level	AQA	Grade 6 in French
Further Mathematics A Level	OCR	Grade 8 in Mathematics
Geography A Level	Edexcel	Grade 6 in Geography Grade 5 English Language or Literature
History A Level	AQA	Grade 6 in History Grade 5 English Language or Literature
Medical Science BTEC	Edexcel	Grade 5 in Biology or Grade 5-4 in Combined Science

Post 16 Course Guide

IT AAQ	OCR	Grade 4 in English Language or Literature Grade 4 in Mathematics Level 2 Pass or above in Vocational Award in IT (if taken) Grade 4 or above in Computer Science (If taken)
Mathematics A Level	OCR	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Media Studies A Level	WJEC	Grade 5 in Media Studies or Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Music A Level	Edexcel	Grade 5 in Music GCSE or ABRSM Grade 5+ on any musical instrument
Physics	Edexcel	Grade 6 in Chemistry or Grades 6-6 in Combined Science Grade 5 in Mathematics
Psychology	AQA	Grade 5 in English Language Grade 5 in Mathematics Grade 5-5 in Combined Science or a Grade 5 in any Separate Science
Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics A Level	OCR	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Spanish A Level	AQA	Grade 6 in Spanish
Sports Studies CTEC	OCR	Grade 4 in English Language or Literature Grade 4 in Mathematics Grade 4 in Sports Studies GCSE, or Merit in Sports CNAT if studied

EPQ Extended Project Qualification Level 3	AQA	No prior requirement Taken by all students
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We advise you to attend our post 16 course options event to speak to teachers of these courses, to see whether they would be a good fit for you.

You can also speak with your subject teachers, either in school or at parents' evening.

Our careers advisor Mrs Alison Bowring can also offer guidance on your choice of courses/providers post 16.



Post 16 Course Guide

Post 16 Course Guide

Art (Fine Art)

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus:	Fine Art A Level 7202
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs K Murphy
Entry Requirements:	Grade 4 in Art

Who is this course suitable for?

People who enjoy:

- Exploring, experimenting and developing ideas
- Learning new techniques and exploring a wide range of materials
- Using their imagination and following a creative journey of investigation
- Researching the work of artists and craftspeople, making connections, and using this knowledge to enhance their own work.

Specifically, this course is suitable for:

- Architecture, fashion, and many of the design fields such as – fine art, graphic, product, landscape, theatre, computer games, costume, textile and jewellery, museum and gallery curation, education [both subject specific and primary], photography, advertising, animation.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Following A level Fine Art - A wide number of students go on to study the Art foundation diploma in Art and Design at Newcastle college or take a direct route to University. Over the last few years students have gone on to study Fashion communication, Interior design, Menswear fashion, Media and Events Management. We also have an ex-student who has worked with Armani in Milan!

Students also go on to study in fields that are less likely to be directly linked to art but for which studying Fine Art has given them a real creative edge.

A level Fine Art has also supported previous students who have been offered places on more traditional academic courses at Durham, York, Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge

Post 16 Course Guide

Course Details

Year 12 and 13 is predominantly spent building a portfolio of personal investigations, through sketchbooks, presentation boards and final outcomes.

In year 13 students will complete an extended essay to support their personal investigations.

In year 13 students will complete a 10-week prep period and a 15-hour exam responding to an externally set assignment

2 years of A level studies culminate in a fantastic final exhibition, celebrating students' success.

Assessment

- GCSE students will be familiar with the A01- A04 assessment criteria and AQA approach which is very similar to A Level assessment.
- There is continuity between 'A' Level and GCSE briefs, allowing students to build on their current technical and creative skills.
- Continual verbal and written feedback for portfolio work.
- Each unit is marked and returned to students to offer them the chance of modification before final assessment.

Methods of Final Assessment

There is no formal assessment in year 12 - this year is purely portfolio building, personal investigation, gaining confidence in a range of techniques and developing your creative practice.

60% personal investigation (portfolio)

40% externally set assignment (preparation and 15 hr exam)

All work is internally assessed and externally moderated by a visiting examiner/moderator



Post 16 Course Guide

Biology

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Syllabus:	Biology B
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs Yates
Entry Requirements:	Combined Science Grade 6/6 or 6 in Biology Grade 5 Maths Grade 5 English

Who is this course suitable for?

- Do you want to explore biology in more depth than GCSE?
- Do you want to learn about up-to-date, contemporary issues and research in biological science?
- Are you interested in how biology affects our society?
- Do you enjoy practical work?

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

A career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, or any other biology-related area

Course Details

The First Year:

- Biological molecules
- Cells and viruses
- Classification
- Exchange and transport
- Ecosystems

The Second Year:

- Energy for biological processes
- Microbiology and pathogens
- Modern Genetics
- Origins of genetic variation
- Control systems

Post 16 Course Guide

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- End-of-topic tests
- Practical experiments
- Oral questioning and class discussion
- Homework
- Examination practice
- Informal lesson-based assessment (various approaches)

Methods of Final Assessment

Three written examinations. The first two papers are 1 hour 45 minutes and the final exam is 2 hours 30 minutes.

Papers 1 and 2 contribute 30% each and paper 3 contributes 40% of the A level

Fieldwork is compulsory. We complete a **5 day residential** in the Lake District **during year 12.**



Post 16 Course Guide

Business

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	EDEXCEL/PEARSON
Syllabus:	Code: 9BS0
Teacher in Charge:	Mr A Sutherland
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 English Language Grade 5 Maths

Who is this course suitable for?

- Students who are interested in business issues, enterprise and the economic environment.
- GCSE business studies is NOT required.
- Those interested in the business world
- Students who can analyse actual situations and make decisions based on evidence.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

The majority of the UK population work for businesses. Many others start up their own business. This is why business remains one of the largest adult subjects at University. Therefore an A-level in Business helps provide a strong base for many future employment opportunities.

Course Details

Over the two years you will cover the following themes:

- Marketing and people (human resources)
- Managing business activities (finance, resource management and external influences)
- Business decisions and strategy (decision making techniques, managing change, growth, assessing competitiveness, objectives and strategy)
- Global business

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Oral checks on understanding
- Peer and self-assessment
- Exam practice
- End of section progress exams
- Written work, assessed by teachers, peers and individuals to develop understanding of assessment levels

Post 16 Course Guide

Methods of Final Assessment

- Paper 1: Marketing, people and global business 2 hrs (35% of A Level)
- Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy 2 hrs (35% of A Level)
- Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment 2 hrs (30% of A Level)

Post 16 Course Guide

Business CTEC (Extended Certificate)

Level: CTEC Level 3 single award (Equivalent to ONE A level grade A*-E)

Examination Board:
OCR

Syllabus: Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business

Teacher in Charge: Mr A Sutherland

Entry Requirements: Business Grade 4
English Language grade 4

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who:

- prefer a practical, work-related course
- prefer to learn by completing business projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and activities
- enjoy focussing on particular subject areas and develop a range of specialist skills and knowledge
- are interested in Business
- are well organised
- prefer coursework and are able to stick to deadlines
- are independent learners

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

The majority of the UK population work for businesses. Many others start up their own business. This is why business remains one of the largest adult subjects at University. Therefore a CTEC in Business helps provide a strong base for many future employment opportunities.

Course Details

Over the two years students will complete a total of 5 units (core and specialist):

The core units are:

- Unit 1 - The Business Environment
- Unit 2 – Working in Business
- Unit 4 – Customers and Communication

Specialist units will be chosen from an exciting range spanning marketing, human resources, project/event management and finance.

This qualification forms part of the 2016 reformed General Applied category of post 16 qualifications.

Post 16 Course Guide

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Verbal and written feedback on portfolio work
- Peer/self -assessment
- Access to your project marks via the school network
- An individual project file containing all your portfolio work to allow you to track your progress

Methods of Final Assessment

Coursework (50%)

Three of the five units are internally assessed and graded by teachers then verified by the exam board. Grades awarded are Distinction, Merit or Pass.

Exam (50%)

Units 1 and 2 are examined.



Post 16 Course Guide

Chemistry

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Syllabus:	A Level Chemistry 9CHO
Teacher in Charge:	Mr N Tuck
Entry Requirements:	Combined Science Grade 6/6 or 6 in Chemistry Grade 6 Maths Grade 5 English

Who is this course suitable for?

- Students who enjoy chemistry, and want to learn about Chemistry in the world around us
- Students who enjoy problem solving

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

A career in science, medicine, engineering, veterinary, dentistry, teaching, accountancy or many others. In fact, chemistry can help almost any career.

Course Details

Year 1

1. Atomic structure and the Periodic Table
2. Chemical bonding and structure
3. Redox reactions
4. Inorganic Chemistry and Periodic Table
5. Formulae, equations, and amounts of substance
6. Organic Chemistry
7. Modern analytical techniques
8. Chemical energetics
9. Reaction Kinetics
10. Chemical Equilibrium

Post 16 Course Guide

Year 2

1. Equilibrium II
2. Acid-base Equilibria
3. Energetics II
4. Redox II
5. Transition metals
6. Kinetics II
7. Organic Chemistry II
8. Organic chemistry III
9. Modern analytical techniques II

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Self-assessed questions
- Topic tests
- Oral questioning
- Homework
- Examination practice

Methods of Final Assessment

Paper 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry 1hr 45min - 90 marks (30%)

Paper 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry 1hr 45min - 90 marks (30%)

Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Chemistry 2hr 30min 120 marks (40%)

Science Practical Endorsement - no grade awarded for this component

Post 16 Course Guide

Drama and Theatre

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	EDEXCEL
Syllabus:	Drama and Theatre
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs E Lee
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 in Drama or if not studied Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature

Who is this course suitable for?

This course has a strong academic content for people who:

- Have a genuine interest in drama and the theatre
- Enjoy a collaborative approach to learning
- Enjoy a creative, practical subject with a strong production element

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

The A level opens many avenues to many careers not just Performing Arts. Past students have gone on to study in Nursing, Accountancy, Film and Television, Events Management and Law to name a few.

Course Details

- Component 1 - Devising
- Component 2 – Text in performance
- Component 3 – Theatre makers in practice

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Workshops
- Performances
- Presentations
- Discussions
- Academic research

Post 16 Course Guide

Methods of Final Assessment

- Component 1 – Devising – Assessed performance and written portfolio of process
- Component 2 – Text in performance – performance of a monologue
- Component 3 – Theatre makers in practice – 2 hr 30 min exam (40% of final grade)

Post 16 Course Guide

Economics

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	EDEXCEL/PEARSON
:	Code: 9ECO
Syllabus:	Mr A Sutherland
Teacher in Charge:	Grade 5 English Language
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 Maths

Who is this course suitable for?

- Students who are interested in looking more deeply into the world around them, how and why it functions the way it does.
- Those interested in how choices are made by people, businesses and Governments and the impact of those choices on others.
- Students who want a perspective on some of the most pressing and challenging problems we face today.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Economics provides a solid grounding for careers in economics, business and finance. Due to its strong theoretical and analytical base Economics is highly desirable to universities and employers alike.

Course Details

You will learn about the following areas of Micro and Macro Economics:

- Markets and market failure.
- The UK economy – performance and policy.
- Business behaviour and the labour market.
- A global perspective (international economics, poverty and inequality, emerging and developing economies, the financial sector, role of the state)

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Oral checks on understanding.
- Peer and Self-Assessment
- Exam practice
- End of section progress exams
- Written work, assessed by teachers, peers and individuals to develop understanding of assessment levels.

Post 16 Course Guide

Methods of Final Assessment

- Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour 2 hrs (35% of A Level)
- Paper 2: The national and global economy 2 hrs (35% of A Level)
- Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics 2 hrs (30% of A Level)



Post 16 Course Guide

English Language

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	OCR
Syllabus:	English Language
Teacher in Charge:	Miss R Clarke and Mrs C Heath
Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 English Literature or Grade 6 English Language

Who is this course suitable for?

- students who are interested in the way people use language
- students who are interested in the difference between what we write and say, and what we mean
- students who are interested in how technology has changed our language use
- students who are interested in the way that children learn to acquire language

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Careers linked to English Language skills include:

- Journalism
- Copywriting
- PR
- Marketing
- Education
- Broadcasting
- Writing
- Law

Course Details

Component 1 – Exploring Language

Section A – Understanding Language Features in Context

Section B – Writing about a Topical Language Issue

Section C – Comparing and Contrasting Texts

Component 2 – Dimensions of Linguistic Variation

Section A- Child Language Acquisition

Section B- Language in the Media

Section C – Language Change

Component 3

In addition, learners will complete a piece of Independent Language Research in the form of written coursework which accounts for 20% of the final grade. Students will be given guidance in selecting their topic. Assessment will involve a written response (2500 words) and an academic poster.

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Essays, past paper practice, individual and group presentations (all components)
- Practise writing for different purposes and audiences using appropriate voice (1A)
- Drafts of coursework submitted at various stages at A Level in year 2

Methods of Final Assessment

- **Two** written examinations - worth 80% of your A Level
- **One** coursework essay of 2500 words - worth 20% of your A Level

Post 16 Course Guide

English Literature

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus:	English Literature A
Teacher in Charge:	Miss R Clarke
Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 English Literature or Grade 6 English Language

Who is this course suitable for?

- students who enjoy considering literature and the issues that are found within it
- students who have a love of English literature in all its forms: poetry, prose and drama
- students who enjoy reading widely and critically

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

- Journalism
- Copywriting
- PR
- Marketing
- Education
- Broadcasting
- Writing
- Law

Course Details

The course will require you to develop an overview of different literary movements from the end of the 16th century onwards.

Paper 1: (40% of overall mark)

Students study three texts for the exam:

One Shakespeare play from:

Othello, The Taming of the Shrew, Measure for Measure, The Winter's Tale

One Prose text from:

Persuasion, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, The Awakening, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, The Great Gatsby, A Room with a View, Rebecca, Atonement.

AQA Anthology of Love Poetry through the Ages

Post 16 Course Guide

Paper 2: (40%)

Students study three texts for the exam:

Poetry from:

Feminine Gospels, Skirrid Hill, Birthday Letters, Ariel, Seamus Heaney New Selected Poems.

Prose from:

The Handmaid's Tale, Waterland, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, The God of Small Things, The Help, The Color Purple, Oranges are not the Only Fruit, Revolutionary Road.

Drama from:

Translations, All My Sons, Our Country's Good, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Top Girls, A Streetcar Named Desire..

Coursework element: (20%)

One extended comparative essay on two texts of your choice (cannot be any named text from lists over). At least one of these texts must be pre-1900

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Essays, past paper practice, individual and group presentations
- Coursework: you will be assessed on your drafts of work at various stages. (You will choose your own task, giving much more freedom than previously found at KS4)

Methods of Final Assessment

- **Two** written examinations - worth 80% of your A Level
- **One** coursework essay of 2500 words - worth 20% of your A Level

Post 16 Course Guide

French

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus:	7651 and 7652
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs S Tuck
Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 French (Higher papers) Grade 5 English Language

Who is this course suitable for?

French A Level is best suited for those students who are:

- highly motivated and committed to language learning
- able to deal with more complex grammatical structures
- interested in the language and the culture of the country
- interested in current and political affairs
- willing to participate in classroom discussions and to express opinions on a wide range of topics both in written and oral work

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Almost 300 of Britain's top employers including Boots, HSBC and Arsenal FC believe an additional language boosts employability. Employers rank foreign language skills 2nd to IT and 72% of businesses value foreign language skills among their employees (Source: CILT, CBI)

Course Details

Areas covered include:

- Social issues and trends
- Artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary texts
- Film

Post 16 Course Guide

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- regular vocabulary and grammar tests
- essays in the foreign language
- listening and responding to what is heard
- regular written, grammar, listening and reading homework
- practice speaking assessments in small groups or individually with the teacher

Methods of Final Assessment

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------|
| ● Paper 1 | Listening, Reading, Translation | 50 % |
| ● Paper 2 | Writing | 20% |
| ● Paper 3 | Speaking | 30% |

Post 16 Course Guide

Geography

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	EDEXCEL
Syllabus:	Edexcel A Level Geography
Teacher in Charge:	Mr P Ross



Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

- **Unit 2 - Human Geography covers:**
 - Globalisation, Shaping Places, Superpowers
 - Global Development and Connections
- **Unit 3 – Synoptic Unit**
 - The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas.
- **Unit 4 – Independent Investigation**
 - The student defines a question or issue for investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification
 - The student’s investigation will incorporate fieldwork data (collected individually or as part of a group) and own research and/or secondary data. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

Fieldwork is a **compulsory** part of Geography. We complete a **3-day residential** in the Lake District **during year 12.**

Post 16 Course Guide

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Group and individual presentations
- Essays
- Structured questions
- Tests
- Research Assignments
- Independent Investigation

Methods of Final Assessment

- Unit 1 - Physical Geography (2 hr 15 min; 30% of A Level)
- Unit 2 - Human Geography (2 hr 15min; 30% of A Level)
- Unit 3 - Contemporary Geographical Issues (2 hr 15min; 20% of total A level)
- Unit 4 – Independent Investigation (20% of total A level)



Post 16 Course Guide

History

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus:	7041 and 7042
Teacher in Charge:	Mr D Bartlett
Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 History Grade 5 English Language or Literature

Who is this course suitable for?

Anyone who has:

- An interest in people and what they have done in the past
- A desire to become an independent thinker, to be open-minded, well organised, good at
- problem solving and to be able to pick out the important from the trivial – in other words to develop the skills which employers and universities are looking for in students applying for a vast range of courses and jobs.

Course Details

Year 12

Component One - Breadth Study

1C The Tudors: England, 1485–1603. Part one: consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485–1547

- Henry VII, 1485–1509
- Henry VIII, 1509–1547

Component Two - Depth Study

2O Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918–1945 Part one: the Weimar Republic, 1918–1933

- The Establishment and early years of Weimar, 1918–1924
- The 'Golden Age' of the Weimar Republic, 1924–1928
- The Collapse of Democracy, 1928–1933

Year 13

Part two: England: turmoil and triumph, 1547–1603

- Instability and consolidation: 'the Mid-Tudor Crisis', 1547–1563
- The triumph of Elizabeth, 1563–1603

Part two: Nazi Germany, 1933–1945

- The Nazi Dictatorship, 1933–1939
- The Racial State, 1933–1941
- The impact of War, 1939–1945

Post 16 Course Guide

Component Three - Historical Investigation - Civil Rights in the USA

A personal study based on a topic of student's choice. However, Civil Rights in the USA will be the recommended topic. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years. It must not duplicate the content of options chosen for Components One and Two.

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Student presentations
- Summary tests
- Practice questions and practice papers
- Mock exams

Methods of Final Assessment

Paper 1 Breadth Study

Assessed written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 40%

Paper 2 Depth Study

Assessed written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 40%

Component 3 Historical Investigation - Civil Rights in the USA

A personal study based on a topic of student's choice (Recommended choice - Civil Rights in the USA).

Assessed 3,500 – 4,500 words 20%

Post 16 Course Guide

IT AAQ (Level 3 qualification)

Level:	Level 3 (Equivalent to ONE A level grade A*-E)
Examination Board:	OCR
Syllabus:	H119 610/3997/4
Teacher in Charge:	Mr K Chaudhry
Entry Requirements:	Grade 4 in English Language or Literature Grade 4 in Mathematics Level 2 Pass in Vocational Award in IT (if taken) Grade 4 or above in Computer Science (If taken)

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who:

- have effective ICT skills
- enjoy research tasks
- are interested in ICT and how it is used in the 'real' world
- are self-motivated, good at meeting deadlines and enjoy working on coursework
- prefer practical, project-based learning

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

In addition to the many careers in IT, the AAQ course develops the key skills and qualities desired by employers to succeed across many careers and university courses.

Course Details

Over the two years students will complete a total of 5 units (core and specialist):

The core units are:

- Unit 1 (F200) - Fundamentals of Data Analytics
- Unit 2 (F201) - Big Data and Machine Learning
- Unit 3 (F202) - Spreadsheet Data Modelling

Two additional specialist units will be chosen from a range of optional units.

This qualification is the new OCR Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics which incorporates new topics such as AI, Big Data, Analytics, Modelling, Database Design and Digital Marketing including Social Media.

Post 16 Course Guide

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Verbal and written feedback on portfolio work
- Peer/self -assessment
- Access to your project marks via the school network
- An individual project file containing all your portfolio work to allow you to track your progress

Methods of Final Assessment

Exam (40%)

Two core units are examined. Grades awarded are Distinction, Merit or Pass.

Coursework (60%)

Three of the five units are NEA projects set by the exam board each year and internally assessed and graded by teachers then verified by the exam board. Grades awarded are Distinction, Merit or Pass.

The qualification as a whole is graded Distinction* (A*), Distinction (A), Merit (C) and Pass (E). Distinction* grades are not available for individual units.

Mathematics



Course Details

The specification includes topics from all three mathematical disciplines: Pure, Mechanics and Statistics. Students will need to acquire a specialist calculator and a dedicated textbook which will be available to purchase from school at the start of the course.

Assessment

Independent study is an important part of successful study in maths and the differentiated textbook provides both support and extension material. End of topic tests are set at regular intervals and there are practice tests to help with consolidation. The topic tests are completed in class under exam conditions and will help you to monitor your progress.

Post 16 Course Guide

Methods of Final Assessment

All assessment is exam paper based. The AS exam at the end of year 12 consists of 2 x 1½ hour papers. Paper 1 covers some of the Pure maths and all of the Mechanics, Paper 2 covers the remainder of the Pure maths plus all of the Statistics. The papers have equal weighting.

The exam at the end of year 13 consists of 3 x 2-hour papers.

- Paper 1 Pure Maths and Mechanics
- Paper 2 Pure content includes Statistics
- Paper 3 Pure content and a comprehension task.

The papers are approximately equally weighted.

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Further Mathematics

Level:	A Level
Exam Board:	OCR (MEI)
Syllabus:	H635/645
Teacher in Charge:	Mr J Suffolk
Entry Requirements:	Grade 8 Maths

Who is this course suitable for?

Further maths is for students who really enjoy their mathematics. You will like seeing the links between different topics within mathematics and you will want to know why those links exist. Further maths will prove an important part of your qualifications if you intend to embark on a maths related degree. Further mathematics is also regarded as a facilitating subject by many universities. If you choose Further maths, you must also select maths.

Course Details

You will study Pure mathematics, Mechanics, Statistics and aspects of maths you have yet to encounter. You will use your mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems within a variety of contexts and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general.

Assessment

Independent study is an important part of successful study in Further maths and the differentiated textbook provides both support and extension material. End of topic tests are set at regular intervals and there are practice tests to help with learning. The topic tests are completed in class under exam conditions and will help you to monitor your progress throughout the course.

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Methods of Final Assessment

AS Further maths (end of year 12) 3 x 1hr15 hour exams

- a mandatory Pure maths section
- two other options of Statistics and Mechanics

The 3 papers will have equal weighting.

A level Further Maths

- 2 hr 40 Pure Maths paper 50%
- 3 x 1hr15 exams based on courses followed throughout the 2 yr course.



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Media Studies

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	WJEC
Syllabus:	GCE
Teacher in Charge:	Ms A BurrIDGE
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 Media and Grade 5 English Language or Grade 5 English Language for those who did not take GCSE Media

Who is this course suitable for?

- Those with a genuine interest in the world of the media, the texts it produces and the institutions which produce them
- Those who enjoy the deconstruction and close examination of TV, films, radio, newspapers, magazines and e-media products
- Those who enjoy the practical production of their own media texts and the evaluation of what they have produced

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

A career in Film, TV, Radio, Social Media, Newspapers, Magazines, Advertising, PR, Marketing, Events Management, Computer Games, Graphic Design, Web Design etc

Course Details

Component 1 – Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Advertising and marketing, Film, Music video, Newspapers, Radio, Video games

Component 2 – Media Forms and Products in Depth

Television, Magazines, Online media

Component 3 – Cross-Media Production

Choice of: Television, Advertising and marketing: film, Advertising and marketing: music, Magazines, Online media

Component 1: This component assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. Students will be assessed on their use of relevant theories or theoretical approaches and relevant subject-specific terminology in this examination.

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences

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Component 2: Students are required to study three media forms in depth, exploring all areas of the theoretical framework - media language, representation, media industries, and audiences - in relation to audio-visual, print and online set products.

The forms to be studied in depth are: television magazines blogs and websites.

Section A: Television in the Global Age

Section B: Magazines – Mainstream and Alternative Media

Section C: Media in the Online Age

Component 3: Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, audiences, media industries and the digitally convergent nature of the media in an individual production for an intended audience. The production must be based on two media forms and completed in response to a choice of set briefs.

Methods of Final Assessment

Paper 1	Media Products, Industries and Audiences	2 hours	35%
Paper 2	Media Forms and Products in Depth	2 hr 30	35%
Non-exam	Cross-Media Production		30%

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Medical Science BTEC (AAQ)

Level:	Level 3 Extended Certificate (A level equivalent)
Examination Board:	Pearson
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs Yates (Miss McAllister 2024/5)
Entry Requirements:	Combined Science Grade 5/4 or 5 in Biology Grade 5 Maths

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is a perfect choice for students looking for a career where they can make a difference to the health and lives of others. This might include nursing, midwifery, sport sciences or health and social care. You will gain a broad understanding of biological principles including cells, tissues, biological molecules, genetics, immunology and practical microbiology as well as diseases, diagnostic techniques and treatments.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

A career in medical related professions or sports related professions.

Course Details

The First Year:

- Principles of Human Physiology, Anatomy & Pathology (exam at the end of Y12)
- Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (coursework throughout Y12)

The Second Year:

- Health Issues & Scientific Reporting (exam in January of Yr13)
- Human Reproduction and Fertility (coursework throughout Y13)

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- End-of-topic tests
- Practical experiments
- Oral questioning and class discussion
- Homework
- Examination practice
- Informal lesson-based assessment (various approaches)

Methods of Final Assessment

The course is assessed through coursework submissions (42%) and external examinations (58%)

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Music

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	EDEXCEL
Syllabus:	9MU0
Teacher in Charge:	Mr P Rosier
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 in Music or Grade 5+ on any musical instrument

Who is this course suitable for?

- For students who enjoy composing and performing music and want to further improve their skills
- For students who enjoy listening to a wide range of music and want the skills needed for a deeper understanding.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

The study of Music at university or Music College and then a career in music performance, music technology, education, music therapy, media or research. It is also useful for anyone who is looking at a career in the theatre or dramatic arts. For anyone who is an advanced instrumentalist or singer it can be of great benefit in helping create a better understanding of music and its performance conventions. Many people who go on to study other subjects find that the music that they did at school provides a good stepping stone into a variety of amateur opportunities of listening and performing.

Course Details

- Component 1 – 1 performance (30%)
- Component 2 – 2 compositions (30%)
- Component 3 – Appraisal (40%) – 6 Areas of study with 3 sets of work in each: vocal music; instrumental music; music for film; popular music and jazz; fusions; new directions

Assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed externally

Component 3 is assessed by written work, listening exercises and listening tests

Methods of Final Assessment

- Component 1 is assessed by submitting recording 30%
- Component 2 is assessed by submitting recordings and scores 30%
- Component 3 is assessed by a 2 hour examination 40%

Post 16 Course Guide

Philosophy and Ethics (RS)

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	OCR
Syllabus:	H573
Teacher in Charge:	Miss C Naylor
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

What do we believe and why do we believe it? Who are we and why are we here? What ought we do and why should we do it?

Philosophy and Ethics encourages critical and systematic inquiry into fundamental questions of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, the meaning of life, and the nature of reality, knowledge and society.

Who is this course suitable for?

- Those who enjoy formulating logical arguments and engaging in debates.
- Those with a genuine interest in human ethics and morality.
- Those who can cope with complex philosophical thought and ethical dilemmas.
- Those with good written communication skills.
- Those with a questioning approach to life and to their studies.
- People who can accept that there are not always 'right' answers or just one answer.
- People who enjoy thinking for themselves and problem solving.
- Those who are looking to usefully prepare for university.
- Those who are looking for a career within law, journalism, government, education and many more.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Philosophy and Ethics is a relevant qualification for many jobs and is recognised by Russell Group Universities: Law, Government, Journalism, Public services, Social work, Education and many more.

Course Details

- Paper 1 **Philosophy** looks at where knowledge comes from, whether or not we have a soul and how we can meaningfully talk about things we cannot prove and much more.
- Paper 2 **Ethics** examines ethical language and thought, debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience and free will, the application of ethical theory, the influence of ethical thought on modern issues and much more.
- Paper 3 **Developments in Christian thought** considers whether Christianity has resulted in sexism and stereotyped gender roles, whether we require religion in society today, looking at the views from liberation theology and Marxism, the afterlife and much more.

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Assessment

Methods of Final Assessment

- **Paper 1** 2hr written paper 33.3%
- **Paper 2** 2 hr written paper 33.3%
- **Paper 3** 2 hr written paper 33.3%



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Physics

Level: A Level

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Teacher in Charge: Mr J Clayson

Entry Requirements:

- Higher tier in Combined Science Grade 6-6 or 6 in Physics
- Grade 6 in Maths

Who is this course suitable for?

Physics is the science which helps us to understand everything around us, from the tiniest particles through to the infinite universe. Physicists are problem solvers who, when presented with a puzzle, use the skills that they have practised to solve a huge variety of problems, from building more efficient solar panels to solve the world's energy crisis, to the latest mobile devices that use up some of that energy.

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Physics opens doors to some of the most exciting, cutting-edge, rewarding jobs in the world. From cancer treatment to tackling climate change, gaming to robotics and artificial intelligence. And it's not only science and technology. Your physics skills and ways of thinking will be highly respected in other, often well-paid, industries – like finance and law.

Course Details

You will study a wide range of Physics topics:

Year 12

- Working like a Physicist
- Mechanics
- Materials
- Waves & Quantum
- Electricity

Year 13

- Further Mechanics
- Thermodynamics
- Electrical Fields
- Gravitational Fields
- Space
- Particle Physics
- Nuclear Physics
- Oscillations

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Assessment

Students demonstrate their understanding of the topics covered in class through the following activities:

- Work through problems in class independently, in groups and with the teacher.
- Termly Assessments and end of topic tests with feedback on strengths and weaknesses.
- Homework questions and worked solutions - feedback to check progress
- Isaac Physics website for online quizzes
- Past paper exam questions and mark schemes - available on Google Drive

Methods of Final Assessment

- Paper 1 (30% - 1hr 45m) Year 12 topics
- Paper 2 (30% - 1hr 45m) Year 13 topics
- Paper 3 (40% - 2hr 30m) All topics + practical skills written paper
- Practical Endorsement (non-exam assessment)

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Psychology

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA (Specification A)
Teacher in Charge:	Mr M Driver
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 in English Language Grade 5 in Maths Grade 5 in Combined Science (or in a Separate Science)

Who is this course suitable for?

- Those with a genuine interest in human behaviour
- Students who can cope with a lot of content, including biological concepts.
- Those with excellent written communication skills.
- Those who are comfortable with maths, particularly data analysis and statistics
- Those who enjoy approaching problems scientifically
- People who can accept that there are not always 'right' answers

As this subject is not offered at GCSE, it is particularly important that students research their choice thoroughly to ensure they are making an informed decision.

Course Details

- Social Influence; Memory; Attachment & Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology & Research Methods
- Issues & Debates in Psychology: Gender, Schizophrenia and Addiction

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Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- Class question and answer sessions, team quizzes, discussion and debate.
- 'Scaffolded' essay writing
- Self and peer assessment exercises
- Regular past paper tests
- Formal homework essays and plans
- Mock modular tests for each unit

Final Assessment

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| ● Paper 1 | 2hr exam | 33.3% |
| ● Paper 2 | 2hr exam | 33.3% |
| ● Paper 3 | 2 hr exam | 33.3% |

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Spanish

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs S Tuck
Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 Spanish (Higher papers)

Who is this course suitable for?

Spanish A Level is best suited for those students who are:

- highly motivated and committed to language learning
- able to deal with more complex grammatical structures
- interested in the language and the culture of the country
- interested in current and political affairs
- willing to participate in classroom discussions and to express opinions on a wide range of topics both in written and oral work

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

Almost 300 of Britain's top employers including Boots, HSBC and Arsenal FC believe an additional language boosts employability. Employers rank foreign language skills 2nd to IT and 72% of businesses value foreign language skills among their employees (Source: CILT, CBI)

Course Details

Areas covered include:

- Social issues and trends
- Artistic culture
- Grammar
- Literary texts
- Film

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Assessment

Throughout this course you will have:

- regular vocabulary and grammar tests
- essays in the foreign language
- listening and responding to what is heard
- regular written, grammar, listening and reading homework
- practice speaking assessments in small groups or individually with the teacher

Methods of Final Assessment

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------|
| ● Paper 1 | Listening, Reading, Translation | 50 % |
| ● Paper 2 | Writing | 20% |
| ● Paper 3 | Speaking | 30% |

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Sport and Physical Activity CTEC Level 3

Level:	Level 3 Extended Certificate (360 GLH)
Examination Board:	OCR
Syllabus:	Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity
Teacher in Charge:	Mr P Dunn
Entry Requirements:	5 grades 9-4 Grade 4 in GCSE Sports Studies, or Merit in CNAT (if studied)

Who is this course suitable for?

- Those who have an interest in sport, leadership and physical activity and prefer a practical, vocational work-related qualification
- Prefer to learn by developing a range of skills that are developed in practical scenarios which include developing leadership skills and organising and delivering events
- Enjoy focussing on particular subject areas and develop a range of specialist skills and knowledge
- Keen to develop employability skills that will prepare you for life after sixth form
- Are organised, hard-working and keen to develop their employability skills

What could a vocational qualification in this subject lead to?

University to study a sports degree, a career in sports coaching or development, physiotherapy, teaching, Leisure and facility management, sports journalism and event management

Course Details

Over the two years students will complete an Extended Certificate (360GLH) which includes 5 modules of learning including two externally assessed modules (* indicates mandatory units)

Unit 1: Body Systems and the effects of physical activity* (External Assessment - Exam)

Unit 2: Sports Coaching and Leadership*

Unit 3: Sports Organisation and Development (External Assessment – Exam)

Unit 8: Organising of Sports Events

Unit 17: Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation

Assessment

Throughout the qualification students will be assessed by:

- External Assessments (Unit 1 & Unit 3)
- Internal assessments including written coursework, presentations and producing evidence
- Demonstrating leadership/coaching skills
- Planning and organising events
- Delivering lessons, coaching sessions and events to younger people

Methods of Final Assessment

Each module is worth between 60-90 guided learning hours and within in each module learners can achieve a pass, merit or distinction which equates to tariff points linked to the overall grade

Unit 1: Body Systems and the effects of physical activity*	90 GLH	D = 27pts	M = 24 pts	P = 21 pts
Unit 2: Sports Coaching and Leadership*	90 GLH	D = 27pts	M = 24 pts	P = 21 pts
Unit 3: Sports Organisation and Development	60 GLH	D = 24pts	M = 21 pts	P = 18 pts
Unit 8: Organising of Sports Events	60 GLH	D = 24pts	M = 21 pts	P = 18 pts
Unit 17: Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation	60 GLH	D = 24pts	M = 21 pts	P = 18 pts



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3D Product Design (DT)

Level:	A Level
Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus:	7552
Teacher in Charge:	Mrs C Light
Entry Requirements:	Grade 5 in a Design Technology GCSE if studied Grade 5 in Maths

Who is this course suitable for?

The course will appeal to those students who enjoy:

- Designing and creating something new and innovative
- Analysing existing products as case studies, observing strengths and weaknesses, in order to improve one's own design
- Problem solving and researching possible solutions throughout the design and make process
- Manipulating and investigating materials and their properties
- Using computer software to create industry standard 3D visuals
- Using computers with traditional manufacturing skills, to make a quality product
- Working to deadlines and working on several projects at the same time
- Researching the history and development of design and designers
- Learning about materials, properties and processes

What could an A level in this subject lead to?

A career in Design for Industry, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Transport Design, Product Design, Apprenticeships, Marketing and Branding, Art and Art History.

Course Details

Paper 1 Core technical and designing principles

- Materials and Applications.
- Design communication
- Digital design and manufacture
- Efficient use of materials
- Health and Safety
- Feasibility Studies
- Design for manufacturing, maintenance and repair.
- Protecting Intellectual property
- Enterprise and Marketing
- Design Theory
- Technology and cultural changes and their impact on design.
- Design processes.
- Critical Analysis and evaluation.
- Selecting appropriate specialist tools, techniques and processes.
- Accuracy in design and manufacture.
- Responsible design.
- Project management
- Design for manufacture
- National and international standards

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Paper 2 Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles.

- The characteristics and working properties of materials
- Performance characteristics of materials.
- The use of adhesives and fixings
- Surface finished and coatings
- Forming, redistributions and addition processes
- Industrial and commercial practice.
- Modern manufacturing systems.

Non-exam Assessment (NEA) *Controlled Assessment*

A substantial design and make task where the practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge are presented. This is a portfolio and manufactured prototype taking 45 hours, 50% of the final A level. The context of the task will be set by AQA and allow students to select from a list issued to schools.

Assessment

- Interim verbal and written feedback on skills projects throughout Yr 12.
- End of topic tests and quizzes for papers 1 and 2 though out the course.
- Practice questions and mark schemes, exam analysis produced.
- Verbal Feedback and RAG feedback on NEA, prior to final assessment.
- Tutorials and mentoring using targets every half term.
- Summer examination in Year 12 and Mock examination in Year 13.

Methods of Final Assessment

- Paper 1 25%
 - Paper 2 25%
 - NEA (coursework) 50%
- (Assessed by teacher and external moderator, with deadline in spring of Y13)

Other Qualifications

Students will either choose to study an EPQ or Core Maths.

The course details are outlined here:

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification Level 3)

Level: Level 3, one year course (AS Level equivalent)

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus: Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

Teacher in Charge: Mrs J Hall

Entry Requirements: Any sixth form student can complete an EPQ

Who is this course suitable for?

All students in Y12. Almost all students will be taking this subject over the course of Y12. It is viewed favourably by universities as it shows students have already gained the relevant study skills for undergraduate study. The UCAS tariff points count as half an A level.

What could a qualification in this subject lead to?

It is highly regarded by all university courses and is useful to showcase a particular interest a student has that might be linked to their subject area, or any other area of interest to the student. This course develops research skills, time management, report writing and presentation capabilities.

Course Details

You are assigned a supervisor at the start of the year that you might meet once a fortnight at first, and look at how to research your possible topics that you might study. You will become a member of Newcastle University Library and visit there to see how research can be carried out.

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have regular meetings with your supervisor who will steer your research and project and make suggestions about what you might investigate or analyse.

Methods of Final Assessment

A written report of 5000 words and a presentation about their project. The final element used in the assessment is an online log called Project Q which is completed throughout the course.

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Core Maths

Level: Certificate Level 3 (AS equivalent)

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus: Mathematical Studies

Teacher in Charge: Mr J Suffolk

Entry Requirements: Maths GCSE grade 5 or 6

Who is this course suitable for?

Any student in Y12 who feels they need to further their understanding of maths for a future career or course, but who did not achieve the grades necessary for A level Maths. This will suit students who are studying courses with some mathematical input such as Psychology, Geography, Economics. Students will study this course over two years, and will study this instead of an EPQ, **along with their 3 other A levels (or equivalents).**

What could a qualification in this subject lead to?

A deepened understanding of mathematical processes and concepts.

Course Details

- Analysis of data
- Maths for personal finance
- Estimation
- Critical analysis of given data and models
- Some optional content

Assessment

Throughout this course you will have regular end of topic assessments and homework assessments, along with mock exams, and access to practice papers.

Methods of Final Assessment

2 x 1hr30 exam papers at the end of Y13

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