

WIMBLEDON COLLEGE SIXTH FORM



Wimbledon College Course Guide 2025

A Guide for Students and Parents

Welcome to Wimbledon College Sixth Form

This is an exciting time to be choosing Sixth Form courses. In this booklet, we will give you information about the range of courses which reflect the shared academic and vocational provision of the Wimbledon College. For each course there will be details of the examination board used by that subject, a brief course outline, details of the knowledge and skills that you will be developing as a student and an overview of how you will be assessed and examined.

Choosing the right course

Advanced Level

All of our A Levels are two-year courses. They are examined in Year 13 at the end of the two-year course and graded from A*-E. Progression into Year 13 is dependent on achieving at least a grade D in Year 12 internal end of year exams.

Vocational Courses

These courses run over two years. They are graded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass. They are recognised by over 120 Universities and give students access to varied and exciting HE courses. Some courses are offered as a Single Award, equivalent to one A Level, and others as a Double Award, equivalent to two A Levels.

One Year L2 Pathway

Students with the grades relevant to be on this one-year pathway will study English Literature, English Language and Mathematics as part of their 'core' studies. These subjects are of paramount importance in gaining access to apprenticeships, the world of work and also onto Level 3 courses. In addition, students will study new courses in Citizenship and Business Enterprise.

Course guide – list of courses on offer

Level 3

Vocational courses

Applied Science BTEC Extended Certificate (Single Award)
Applied Science BTEC Diploma (Double Award)
Business BTEC Extended Certificate (Single Award)
Business BTEC Diploma (Double Award)
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Single Award)
Sport BTEC Extended Certificate (Single Award)
Sport BTEC Diploma (Double Award)

Advanced Level

Art and Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Economics
English Literature
Film Studies
Geography
History
Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Music

Photography

PE (Physical Education)

Physics

Politics

Psychology

Religious Studies

Sociology

Spanish

Additional Level 3 courses

Core Mathematics Extended Project Qualification

One Year Pathway

GCSE

Mathematics English Language English Literature Citizenship Studies

Vocational Courses

Business (Enterprise)

Courses at the Ursuline High School

Students at Wimbledon College are placed first and foremost at courses at Wimbledon College. However, the following courses are distinct to the Ursuline High School and can be selected if entry requirements are met: French A Level, English Language A Level, Drama and Theatre Studies A Level.

T Levels are also on offer at the Ursuline High School. Students should be aware that they would be registered and enrolled as a student at the Ursuline High School to study these courses.

We expect to offer all the courses above, but staffing constraints or student choices may mean that we are unable to offer some courses.

To help you choose the right course, you should talk to your tutor, Head of Year or Head of Sixth Form. The College also has a specialist careers advisor. Your present teachers have a very good idea of your abilities and the courses which will suit you. If you are new to the Sixth Form you will be able to access advice after applying. Remember that final decisions about which subjects or courses can be followed are made in August in the light of examination results and career aspirations. When choosing courses you should consider:

WHICH SUBJECTS I LIKE BEST AND ENJOY?

- Which courses do I need to do to qualify for the university, college courses or apprenticeships I want to do and for my future career?
- Does the package of courses look sensible and keep doors open for future progression?
- What do my GCSE grades tell me about my strengths and abilities and for which courses am I qualified?

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Vocational courses follow a broad programme of study which keeps students' options open for employment, further training or further and higher education. The main difference between A Levels and Vocational courses is the structure of the programme and the methods of assessment.

- Students enjoy the variety, flexibility and independence which vocational courses offer, as each course is made up of units which are gained separately.
- Students work on their own and as part of a team, do short projects and longer assignments, and many gain experience in the workplace.
- Students take more responsibility for their own learning. Vocational courses give them opportunities to decide what to do and how to go about it.
- Students' work is assessed by coursework and tests as they go along, giving them targets at which to aim.
- Students on Vocational courses are very often better prepared for university–style independent learning than students on non-vocational courses.
- Many students will choose to study both Vocational and non-Vocational courses together, thus increasing their skill set and keeping many options open for progression onto Level 3 courses, or into university or apprenticeships.



Level 3 Courses

Applied Science BTEC

BTEC Diploma or Extended Certificate.

Examination Board: Pearson

Why choose this course: During the course students will develop skills and knowledge of: Fundamentals of Science, Working in the Science Industry, Scientific Practical Techniques, Biochemistry and Biochemical, Electrical Circuits and their Applications.

Course Fundamentals:

 The BTEC Nationals in Applied Science gives learners the opportunity to acquire technical and employability skills, knowledge and understanding which are transferable and will enable individuals to meet changing circumstances, whether these arise from a shift in their own status or employment, or general changes in applied science practice, provision or environment

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course is completed over two years. Students can either work towards achieving BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A level) or a BTEC Level 3 Diploma (equivalent to 2 A levels).

Each unit within the qualification has specified assessment and grading criteria, which are to be used for grading purposes. A summative unit grade can be awarded at pass, merit or distinction.

Internally Assessed Units (54%)

External Assessment (46%)

Unit 1 – 3 x 40 minute exams (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), 90 marks

Unit 3 – Supervised practical assessment (3 hours) followed by a written assessment (1.5 hours), 60 marks

Unit 5 – (Diploma only) – 3 x 50 minute exams (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), 120 marks

Art and Design

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: The Art and Design course is an exciting and creative course that ensures the practical skill development of drawing, painting, photography, textiles, sculpture and design. The course provides students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms.

Course Fundamentals:

- Students gain experience of working with a range of relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources.
- Students explore how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts developing a working vocabulary and specialist terminology.
- Students develop an appreciation of how images and artefacts relate to the time and place in which they were made and to their social and cultural contexts.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT:

This A level consists of 2 components. Component 1 – Personal Portfolio is worth 60% of the overall grade. The Externally Set assignment is worth 40% of the overall grade.

The Personal Portfolio incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study. Personal Portfolio skills are developed starting at the beginning of Year 12 and lead in to the Personal Portfolio project starting in Summer B and continuing to the end of Autumn B of the second year. Students have to work in at least two disciplines. Graphics, sculpture, Textiles, Fine Art are examples of the disciplines students can choose from.

The Externally Set assignment incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and a 15–hour period of sustained focus. The externally set assignment title is released on 1st February culminating in the 15-hour exam (sustained focus) in April.

The students' work is both internally assessed throughout the year and externally assessed at the end of the year.

Art and Design – Photography

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A-Level

Why choose this course: The

Photography course provides students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms. Students are introduced to a variety of experiences employing a range of appropriate media, processes and techniques and, as the course progresses, build upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in Year 12 with greater depth of study in Year 13.

Course Fundamentals:

- Students are given opportunity to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of Photography.
- Students develop an ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea or work to a brief or answer a need in Photography.
- Students gain an appreciation of viewpoint, composition, depth of field and movement as well as time-based photographic techniques.
- Students develop an understanding of the appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work and techniques related to the developing and printing of photographic images, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

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EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

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Component 1: The Personal Portfolio comprises a portfolio of development

Level 3 Courses

work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. Students' skills are developed throughout Year 12 and lead to a personal study in which pupils develop their contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 word essay before developing practical work in response.

Component 2: The Externally Set
Assignment requires pupils to respond
to an externally set theme with suggested
starting points. It incorporates two major
elements: preparatory studies and a
15–hour period of sustained focus. The
externally set assignment title is released
on 1st February culminating in the 15hour exam (sustained focus) in May.

Students' work is both internally assessed throughout the two years, and externally assessed at the end of the Year 13.

Biology

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel - A Level

Why choose this course: Biology is a fascinating science - a dynamic and living subject. Arguably one of the fastest growing areas of science - new discoveries in Biology are pushing the boundaries of what we previously thought possible. Biology is not without its controversies - students of Biology need to ask important questions about when life begins and how we use the power of science.

- The course aims to introduce students to the fundamental principles of Biology - including life processes (respiration and photosynthesis), cell biology, genetics and ecology.
- The course covers three A level modules: Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics, Physiology, Evolution and Ecology, Practical Principles in Biology.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The A level is taught over two years, with 3 examined modules and a coursework element.

Business

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: The course aims for pupils to develop an interest and enthusiasm for the study of business through gaining a holistic understanding of how businesses operate. For pupils to develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants and that in doing so there is a need to be aware of ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals.

Course Fundamentals:

- Meeting Customer Needs
- Marketing Mix and Strategy
- Entrepreneurs and leaders
- · Financial Planning
- Reserve Management
- Business Objectives and Strategy
- Business Growth
- Assessing Competitiveness
- Globalisation/Expansion
- Global Marketing
- The Market
- Business Growth
- Managing People
- Raising Finance
- Managing finance
- External Influences
- Influences on Business Decisions
- Decision Making Techniques
- Managing Change
- Global Markets and Business
- Global Industries and Companies

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

At A Level 3 Units are required to be covered and a 2 hour written examination for each unit sat.

Paper 1 = 2 hours 35% of qualification

Paper 2 = 2 hours 35% of qualification

Paper 3 = 2 hours 30% of qualification

Business BTEC

BTEC Extended Certificate and Diploma Examination Board: Pearson

Why choose this course? We offer students the flexibility to take either the Extended Certificate which is equivalent to one A Level or the Diploma which is equivalent to two A Levels. The qualifications prepare students for the fast-paced and constantly evolving world of business, ensuring they acquire the commercial knowledge and skills they need to work in business or establish their own enterprise. In addition the skills built during the course allow students to effectively progress to higher education if this is the route they wish to pursue.

Course Fundamentals

All students will complete the following units:

Unit 1: Exploring Business

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance

Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection

In addition pupils completing the Diploma will also complete the units below:

Unit 4: Managing an Event

Unit 5: International Business

Unit 6: Principles of Management

Unit 9: Team Building in Business

ASSESSMENT/EXAMINATIONS

Of the eight units above six are mandatory and two are optional. Three of the six mandatory units will be assessed externally. Units 2 (Developing a Marketing Campaign), 3 (Personal and Business Finance) and unit 6 (Principles of Marketing) are all externally assessed. This will mean that both unit 2 and 6 will be assessed through a set task whilst unit 3 will be an external exam.

Chemistry

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: The course introduces and extends the ideas and

implications of modern chemistry, through experimental work. A wide range of experiments are undertaken by the student which support the teaching of key concepts. The course develops the key skills of data handling and analysis, thinking creatively, planning, problem solving, and the linking of ideas.

Course Fundamentals:

- The relationship between chemical bonding, structure, and the physical and chemical properties of substances.
- How energy transfers and changes to the order of the system, entropy, can be used determine the feasibility of reactions.
- The application of chemical principles to industrial chemistry and environmental chemistry.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course has several modules - leading to a full A Level at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 mins, 90 marks, 30%

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 mins, 90 marks, 30%

Paper 3: 2 hours 30 mins, 120 marks, 40%

Students' practical skills will be assessed through the Science Practical Endorsement. It will not contribute to the overall grade for the qualification, but the result will be recorded on the students' A Level certificate.

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR – A Level

Why choose this course: The new linear A level focuses on programming and emphasises the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. The course also has a focus on Maths, though much of this will be embedded in the course. Students will solve problems and design systems and software and will apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems.

Course fundamentals:

- Components of a computer and their uses
- Types of software and the methodologies used to develop them

- How data is exchanged between systems
- How data is represented and stored in different structures and the use of different algorithms
- Laws surrounding the use and ethical issues that can arise from the use of computers
- What is meant by computational thinking
- How computers are used to solve problems and programs can be written to solve them
- The use of algorithms to describe problems and standard algorithms

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The A level is taught as 3 modules.

- Computer systems: an externally marked paper worth 40% with a 2hr 30 mins exam
- Algorithms and programming: an externally marked paper worth 40% with a 2hr 30 mins exam
- 3. Programming project: internally assesses, externally moderated project worth 20%

Economics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: The Economics A Level aims to give an insight into key issues in the news and the decisions that are made by individuals, businesses and governments on a daily basis. Studying this course means you will be able to understand the forces driving things like the price of oil, why businesses behave like they do, the impact of exchange rates and the level of unemployment in an economy.

It is an academic subject that is well respected as it involves using several skills including numerical, analytical and literacy skills, in order to evaluate situations and decisions.

Course Fundamentals:

Economics Edexcel A-Level offers an in-depth exploration of key economic principles and theories. You'll delve into microeconomics and macroeconomics, examining how individual behaviours

and national policies influence economic outcomes. The course covers a variety of fundamental topics, including:

Microeconomic Principles: Study consumer and producer behaviour, market structures, and how prices are determined.

Market Failure and Government Intervention: Understand instances where markets do not efficiently allocate resources and the ways governments can address these issues.

Macroeconomic Concepts: Explore national income, inflation, unemployment, economic growth, and the role of government in managing economies.

Global Economics: Investigate international trade, exchange rates, and the interconnectedness of economies on a global scale.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

There are three two hour written examinations at the end of the A Level course. Paper 1 will focus on

Markets and Business Behaviour (35%), Paper 2 will focus on the National and Global Economy (35%) whilst Paper 3 will focus on combing Microeconomic and Macroeconomic issues (30%).

Assessment tasks include multiple-choice questions, data-response questions, and essay-style questions that require the application of economic theories and concepts to real-world scenarios.

English Literature

Examination Board: OCR – A Level

Why choose this course: The course aims to develop and improve your ability to understand and analyse literature across all three main forms: prose, poetry and drama. This will help you to gain a thorough understanding of the depth and width of the literary canon. We will specialise in studying Gothic literature, examining its roots in the Romantic era and charting its development right up to the present day. Shakespeare, Milton and Webster will also be on the menu. Studying English Literature will see you develop a thorough knowledge of the set texts, and combine this with the ability to present a reasoned and coherent line of

thought. The ability to compare different writers' styles and approaches is a key objective, along with an enthusiasm for literature and wider reading. Alongside the curriculum, there will also be lunchtime clubs and twilight sessions to help you develop your interest more widely.

Course Fundamentals:

- Pupils will enhance their skills on close prose analysis
- Pupils will develop a consideration of how language and structure are manipulated for effect.
- Pupils will gain an insight into the role of context in shaping great literature.
- Pupils will compare texts across genres and time periods.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course is taught in modules and is assessed through a mixture of Non-Examined Assessments (coursework) and Examined Assessments.

Component 1 – Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry, Pre-1900. (40% of A Level). *Hamlet*; *The Duchess of Malfi*; *Paradise Lost* Examination 2 hours 30 mins.

Component 2 – Comparative and contextual study. (40% of A Level) Examination 2 hours 30 mins.

Gothic Literature; The Picture of Dorian Gray; The Bloody Chamber

Component 3 – Non-examined Assessment on Literature, Post-1900. (20%). The Vanishing Half and selected poetry

Film Studies

Examination Board: WJEC – A Level

Why choose this course: A level Film Studies introduces learners to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate.

You will study mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present as well as more recent global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range of film represented in those films is extended by the study of silent film and significant film movements (such as European avant-garde and

new wave cinemas in Europe and Asia) so that learners can gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future.

Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience.

Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting. This is intended to enable learners to create high quality film and screenplay work as well as provide an informed filmmaker's perspective on their own study of film.

Course fundamentals:

A level Film Studies aims to enable learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- a diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the silent era,
- experimental film and short film
- the significance of film and film practice in national, global and historical contexts
- film and its key contexts (including social, cultural, political, historical and technological contexts)
- how films generate meanings and responses
- film as an aesthetic medium
- the different ways in which spectators respond to film.
- It also aims to enable learners to: apply critical approaches to film and apply knowledge and understanding of film through either filmmaking or screenwriting.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed as follows:

Component 1 – American and British Film, 2.5hr exam(35%)

Component 2 – Varieties of film, 2.5hr exam (35%)

Component 3 – Production (short film or screenplay) coursework (30%)

Extended Project Qualification

Examination Board: Edexcel

Why choose this course: The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is equivalent to an AS Level qualification, with the possibility of attaining an A* grade. The EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product.

We encourage creativity and curiosity. A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme, but should look beyond the specification. Students will learn taught skills such as how to choose a topic and phrase a title; how to select, evaluate and reference research sources; how to structure an argument, as well as project-management skills.

A finished EPQ product may take the form of a:

- research based written report (5,000 words)
- production* (e.g. charity event, fashion show or sports event etc.)
- an artefact* (e.g. piece of art, a computer game or realised design)

*A written report must accompany these options.

Course Fundamentals:

- EPQ is an additional qualification choice, taught in just 2 periods a week; students are expected to do the majority of their project outside lesson times.
- Students may choose to do a project on a topic of their choice.
- The EPQ can link to any subject, future career choices, or hobbies / interests.
- Promotes strong essay writing, investigative, research and management skills.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT:

As well as the finished product, students must also record their project process in their Production Log and give a formal presentation about their project an audience. All aspects are assessed and grades A*-E awarded by the centre

supervisor and coordinator; projects are then moderated by the examination board.

Geography

Examination Board: AQA – A Level

Why choose this course: Geography is often regarded as a bridge between the arts and the sciences; it aims to develop an understanding of the variable nature of the earth's physical landscape and the complex nature of our own relationships and interactions with the environment. The course aims to investigate both Human and Physical Geography in greater depth. Topics include: Water and Carbon Cycles, Coastal systems, Hazards, Global systems and Governance, Changing Places and Population. Students will be engaged through the most up to date topical material as well as by attending field trips to carry out and learn techniques of geographical investigations.

Course Fundamentals:

- Students develop an enjoyment of both Human and Physical Geography
- Students gain an interest in the world around them and an appreciation of our planet
- Students further develop their high level of written communication skills.
- Students become proficient in analysing and interpreting graphical data

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

PAPER 1 Physical – 2.5 hour exam: 120 marks. 40% of A Level

- section a) Water and Carbon Cycles
- section b) Coastal Systems and landscapes
- section c) Hazards
- Field trip summer of year 12

PAPER 2 Human - 2.5 hour exam: 120 marks. 40% of A Level

- section a) Global systems and global governance
- section b) Changing places
- section c) Contemporary urban environments

PAPER 3 (no exam)

 Geography Fieldwork investigation: 60 marks. 20% of A Level (3 000 – 4 000 words)

History

Examination Board: Edexcel A Level

Why choose this course: The aim of the History A Level course is to ensure that students will develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject. The papers chosen on the History A Level are linked by the common theme of a search for rights, freedoms and greater equality during the twentieth century. Students study America where the quest for political, social and economic advancement looked mainly to reform existing structures. In India, this quest led to more radical outcomes, bringing an end to imperial rule in India. The British paper explores the development of the British empire and the part played in this by the Royal Navy and merchant marine to transform Britain. Studying multiple countries allows students to develop a greater understanding of both similarities and differences in the search for greater rights, freedoms and equality in the twentieth century world.

- Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, 1917–96
- Paper 2: India, c1914–48: the road to Indian Independence
- Paper 3: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914
- Paper 4: The Success of the American New Deal - Coursework

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through coursework and external examination.

Unit 1: (30 %) Examination: 2 hours 15 min

Unit 2 (20 %) Examination: 1 hour 30 min

Unit 3 (30 %) Examination: 2 hours 15 min

Unit 4 (20%) Coursework assignment

Mathematics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: For the suitable candidate, Mathematics is a valuable A Level qualification which has become increasing desirable in recent years as a support subject in areas such as Science, Geography, Economics and Business Studies. The whole of the linear course content is compulsory without any options for choice. Two-thirds of the course content is pure mathematics and one-third content is applied mathematics. The applied mathematics content consists of half statistics and half mechanics.

The pure mathematics content includes algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, calculus, vectors and proofs. The statistics content includes statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing. The mechanics content includes kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments.

Course Fundamentals:

- A strong skill set of algebraic manipulation is essential to the development of skills from GCSE to A Level
- Applied content makes use of mathematical techniques within contextualised problem solving situations.
- Mechanics includes the study of motion, force, momentum and kinematics
- Statistics includes the study of probability, statistical diagrams, correlation and measures of average. The Edexcel pre-released large data set (LDS) containing real data is used during the course to enable students to become familiar with it as some of the exam questions are based on the LDS.
- Use of ICT is an integral part of the course, particularly in the statistics content
- Real-life modelling is an integral part of the course

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

A-Level Mathematics is examined in three papers of equal weighting at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 – 2 hours – 100 marks – Pure mathematics synoptic paper assessing all A level content

Paper 2 – 2 hours – 100 marks – Pure mathematics synoptic paper assessing all A level content

Paper 3 – 2 hours –100 marks – statistics and mechanics content from both years split into two sections. Section A: Statistics (50 marks); Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)

A calculator is allowed in all three exam papers.

All examinations for the A-Level Mathematics qualification have to be taken at the end of the two year course.

Mathematics – Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: Why choose this course: This course is ideal for students who have a passion in Mathematics and who thrive on challenge. Students develop the skills to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts beyond A Level Mathematics.

Course Fundamentals:

- The course is designed so that students aim for an A Level in Mathematics in their first year and then study the Further Maths modules in year two, which build on prior knowledge and understanding.
- Students should already have a natural aptitude for solving problems and a great enjoyment of the subject. Problem solving is a key component of the course.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

All papers 1hr 30 mins

Paper 1 – Core Pure Mathematics 1

Paper 2 – Core Pure Mathematics 2

Paper 3 – Further Maths Option 1 - One from: Further Pure 1, Further Statistics 1, Further Mechanics 1, Decision Maths 1

Paper 4 – Further Maths Option 2 - One from: Further Pure 2, Further Statistics 2, Further Mechanics 2, Decision Maths 1

Core Mathematics

Examination Board: AQA Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) – 2A: Statistical Techniques.

Why choose this course: Core Maths is for students who are not taking A level Maths but wish to continue developing their mathematical skills. Students will increase their confidence in using mathematics, to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.

Core Maths will build on the knowledge gained at GCSE, but also learn some new topics, such as Personal Finance (Tax, National Insurance, mortgages and Student Loans). Studying Core Maths helps to develop skills that will support the quantitative aspects of other courses such as Psychology, Economics, Geography and Biology. These skills include exploring and analysing data, constructing and interpreting graphs, and working with calculations and formulae.

Core Maths attracts the same UCAS tariff points as an AS Level:

Α	В	С	D	E
20	16	12	10	6

Universities have been known to give improved offers to students that apply having achieved a Grade A or B in Core Maths.

Course Fundamentals:

Core Maths builds upon and strengthens existing skills developed during the GCSE Maths course. There is a sharp focus on problem-solving, using and applying mathematics to solve problems relevant to students' everyday lives. This includes financial applications of mathematics such as tax, national insurance and mortgages as well as Fermi estimations.

- Core Maths is a one-year course
- Solve real-life problems with a sharp focus on problem solving.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

AQA release different Preliminary Material available in advance every year. A clean copy of Preliminary Material is provided in the exam.

Students opting for a Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths (Mathematical Studies) will be examined on two units at the end of their studies (2 x 90 minute papers).

Paper 1 – 90 minutes – 60 marks – Assesses compulsory content on: 3.1 Analysis of data, 3.2 Maths for Personal Finance and 3.3 Estimation.

Paper 2A – 90 minutes – 60 marks – Draw on the mathematical content of paper 1 and assess the understanding and application of mathematical modelling in the solution of problems related to the use of statistical techniques. It will assess 3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models, 3.5 The Normal Distribution, 3.6 Probabilities and Estimation and 3.7 Correlation and Regression.

There is no coursework element.

A calculator is allowed in both exam papers. A formulae sheet is provided for both exams and Statistical tables are available for Paper 2A.

All examinations for the Level 3 qualification have to be taken at the end of the one year course.

Modern Languages:

Spanish

Examination Board: AQA – A Level

Why choose this course: Modern Languages are highly regarded by universities and studying a language at A Level offers the opportunity to not only continue with languages in further education, but also to integrate it as a part of many degrees, thus adding an additional life skill to your CV. The emphasis in new syllabuses is on contemporary issues, current affairs and communication skills, the ability to discuss and debate contemporary and often controversial society issues in the target language. The course provides many opportunities to attend conferences and cultural events throughout the year.

Course Fundamentals:

- A seven-week module focusing on consolidating and deepening students' knowledge and understanding of the grammar.
- Practice and experience of the

language as well as the culture are gained through the weekly use of authentic topical material, e.g. traditional /current songs, newspaper headlines, magazine articles, radio and TV programmes, now accessible via the internet. Students also have the opportunity and are encouraged to borrow DVDs and watch films on a regular basis.

- Students will study topics related to aspects of, culture, politics and literature of the countries where the language is spoken and students are expected to extend their studies at home using various forms of media; homework, prep work and independent learning sessions are all used to help the students acquire key further education study skills as well as to ensure that they experience and enjoy the language outside the classroom.
- In teaching and learning the target language predominates once the grammar module has been done, and answers in English are kept to a minimum so students feel fully immersed. Some of the opportunities to attend conferences and cultural events, via the KS5 society include: students organising events / screening of films and seminar at BFI and the target language institutes (French, Goethe, Cervantes).

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The assessment consists of three papers. Paper 1 is the Listening, Reading and Writing assessment (2h30mins and 50% of the A-Level); Paper 2 is the Writing assessment (2 hours and 20% of A-Level) and Paper 3 is the Speaking assessment (21-23 minutes, including 5 minutes preparation time and 30% of the A-Level).

Music

Music Examination Board: OCR – A Level

Why choose this course: This course continues the format of study from the GCSE Music course and, as such, is divided between performing music, composing music and appraising. You will learn to perform, compose and analyse different styles of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness, and the ability to

make music that responds to a range of different briefs. All styles of music can be submitted for the performing and composing elements. You will need to be able to follow conventional notation and be able to use notation software.

Course Fundamentals:

- performing music (25-35%)
- composing music (25-35%)
- listening to, and appraising music (40%)

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

You will prepare a recital at least ten minutes in length in which you will perform at least three pieces. You can sing or play an instrument and this can be as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble. The style of music performed is chosen by you but must be agreed by your teachers. The composing element requires the submission of two compositions at least one of which has to be based on a brief set by OCR. You should use conventional notation although it is possible to record your composition using a DAW such as Logic Pro. Both compositions should be at least 2 minutes long.

For the listening and appraising assessment you will take a single exam of 2 hours 30 minutes. There will be compulsory components of listening and analysis that are linked to the instrumental music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven and the popular song from 1920 to 1960. The musicological component requires you to write two extended essays on questions about any two of Baroque-era sacred music, Romantic-era programme music, 20th century experimental music and 20th century instrumental jazz.

Performing Arts Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Examination Board: OCR

Why choose this course: This is a practical, versatile, highly regarded and extremely fun Performing Arts course. It includes all aspects of theatre (acting, movement, technical production skills like lighting and sound) and industry knowledge.

It equips you with a huge range of skills and knowledge that you need in the world of work, whatever you choose to do next. For example, presentation and confidence, body language and expression, how to articulate yourself and how to work within a team to create a project or production.

Course Fundamentals:

- Practical lessons and workshops with industry professionals to learn more about all the career paths in the industry
- Building a wide repertoire of experience and skills in performance and production (acting, lighting, sound, set design, puppetry/masks, promotional material)
- Fieldwork (trips and visits) to theatres, venues, museums and studio spaces to see the industry in action
- This course perfectly pairs with other Arts courses for its creativity, or with Business for promotional tools, or with Psychology or Sociology for its focus on the human context.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course has several units.

Unit 1 – Promoting yourself and your skills for future employment: a to-camera pitch, a show reel of your skill, and a portfolio application outlining your ideas to meet a performance brief. You can complete this as a performer, designer or producer.

Unit 2 –Applied Theatre in the real world: create a project for a piece of community theatre, learn budgeting skills, health and safety certification, and lead workshop activities.

After Units 1 and 2 (the first year) you are eligible for a one year Certificate (equivalent to one A-S level). If you continue for the second year with the next units, you will receive the Extended Certificate (equivalent to one A-level).

Unit 3 – Performance for a brief. Pick two contrasting performance pieces for presentation and write up notes on them.

Unit 4 – Prepare a production piece of a play for performance to an audience, and learn performance skills from different areas and types of theatre. Visit and watch two productions of the same play.

Unit 6 – Improvisation skills: Learn how to improvise like a professional, research into this type of theatre and attend workshops for improvisation.

Physical Education

Examination Board: OCR – A Level H555

Why choose this course: Physical Education examines both the practical aspects of Physical Education (15%), evaluation of performance (15%) and also the theoretical aspects such as Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics, Acquiring Movement Skills, Sports Psychology and Socio-cultural/Contemporary Issues (70%). Students have the chance to coach or perform in a practical area of Physical Education.

Course Fundamentals:

- Paper 1
 (90 marks 30% of total A level 2 hour exam) on applied anatomy & physiology, exercise physiology and biomechanics.
- Paper 2
 (60 marks 20% of total A level 1 hour exam) on skill acquisition and sports psychology.
- Paper 3
 (60 marks 20% of total A level 1 hour exam) on Sport and society & contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.
- Students evaluate and analyse performance in a chosen sport- EAPI (15%). They are only assessed in one sporting activity over the 2 years which is 15% of the total grade.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

3 written exams

Physiological factors effecting performance – 90 marks 2-hour written paper

Psychological factors effecting performance – 60 marks 1-hour written paper

Socio-cultural issues – 60 marks 1 hour written paper

Practical exam – 60 marks practical performance & an Evaluation/Analysis of Performance.

Physics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: The course aims to introduce the laws, theories and models of modern physics and explore their practical applications. Students are encouraged to reinforce their knowledge through extensive practical work.

Course Fundamentals:

- Mechanics
- Materials
- Waves
- Electricity
- Light
- · Thermal Energy
- Nuclear Decay
- Oscillations
- Astrophysics and Cosmology
- Further Mechanics
- Electric and Magnetic Fields
- Particle Physics

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 – Advanced Physics I Exam 1hr 45 30%

Unit 2 – Advanced Physics 11 Exam 1hr 45 30%

General and Practical principles

Exam 2hr 30 40%

Practical endorsement

Politics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: Students will gain knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom and globally. The changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes will also be studied. Students will develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements

Course Fundamentals:

Unit 1 – Political Participation & Core Political Ideas in the UK. Students will study: Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media and Conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Unit 2: – UK Government and Political Ideas. Students will study:

The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches and one idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Unit 3 – American Politics. Students will study:

The US constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US supreme court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics
- develop knowledge and an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups
- develop the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

There are 3 externally assessed examinations, all sat at the end of Year 13

Units 1 and 2 are studied in Year 12 and Unit 3 is studied in year 13

Unit 1 – UK Politics (33.5%) Examination: 2 hours

Unit 2 – UK Government (33.5%) Examination: 2 hours **Unit 3** – Comparative Politics (33.5%) Examination: 2 hours

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA – A Level

Why choose this course: The qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to the main Psychological theories and research. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Course Fundamentals

- Students will cover the four main theories in the foundation of Psychology: Cognitive, Developmental, Biological and Psychopathology.
- Students develop an insight into the importance of Research Methods in Psychology
- Students apply theories and research to real life situations.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The A Level consists of eleven modules, which are incorporated into three 2-hour examinations.

3 Units:

Paper 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology - Social Influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. (2 hours, 33.3%)

Paper 2 - Psychology in context - Approaches, biopsychology and research methods. (2 hours, 33.3%)

Paper 3 - Issues and options in psychology - Issues and debates, stress, relationships and aggression. (2 hours, 33.3%)

Religious Studies

Examination Board: OCR – A Level

Why choose this course: The Religious Studies A level course gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about:

- Why are we here?
- How should we act when faced with moral dilemmas in our society?
- Does God exist?
- How are key religious beliefs challenged in the 21st century?

Course Fundamentals:

Religious Studies involves some major academic disciplines such as Theology, Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. Consequently you will study some of the following themes:

- Theology the nature of God; Christology; Revelation and debates about interpreting the bible; some analysis of biblical texts; religious belief in contemporary pluralist and secular society; religion and Feminist debates; exploring the writing of key scholars.
- Moral Philosophy the major ethical theories, such as Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics; ethical theories from religious perspective, such as Natural Law and Situation Ethics; application of ethical theories to issues in Medical Ethics, Sexual Ethics and Business Ethics; what do we mean by Free Will, Conscience, Right, Wrong.
- Philosophy of Religion possible arguments for/against the existence of God; the 'problem of suffering'; analysis of Religious Experience and Miracles; the challenge to religious belief of science and sociology; analysis of religious language.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

In common with all the new A level qualifications the full A level qualification is the result of a two-year course. It is assessed externally in summer of Year 13. Exams will be a set of three 2-hour exams.

AO1: Knowledge & Understanding Weighting 40%

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief.

 AO2: Analysis, Evaluation & Application Weighting 60%

Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA – A Level

Why choose this course: Studying Sociology at A-Level offers a fascinating journey into understanding the complex dynamics of human societies and the intricate interactions that shape our world. This course is designed to foster critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deeper awareness of social issues. Students will study the mechanisms underlying social behaviour, societal structures, and the varying impact of these on different social groups.

Course Fundamentals:

The course covers the following topics:

Families and Households: Investigate changing family dynamics, marriage, divorce, and the role of family in society.

Education: Analyse educational systems, inequalities, and their impact on social mobility.

Crime and Deviance: Examine criminal behaviour, social control, and the justice system's role in maintaining order.

Beliefs in Society: Explore religion, ideology, and their influence on societies.

Research Methods: Develop skills to design and conduct sociological research, enabling critical evaluation of information.

The course involves a significant degree of reading and essay writing.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

Students will sit three 2-hour papers at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods covers education, focusing on theories, factors affecting achievement, and the role of education in society. It also includes research methods.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families and Households, Beliefs in Society) covers families, households, and beliefs in society, exploring family structures, changing norms, and the impact of religion and ideology on individuals and societies.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods addresses crime, deviance, social control, and theories surrounding criminal behaviour. It also includes

research methods relevant to these topics.

Sport BTEC

BTEC Diploma or Extended Certificate.

Examination Board: Pearson

Why choose this course: The BTEC Level 3 in Sport, which is equivalent to two GCE A Levels, gives the students an understanding of the careers and job opportunities in the sports industries. The course builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in GCSE PE and the course content addresses anatomy and physiology, fitness training and programming for health, sport and wellbeing and professional development in the sports industry. Students have the flexibility to either study a diploma (equivalent to 2 A Levels) or an extended certificate (equivalent to 1 A level). The course is a good pathway to university or industry for a wide range of sport courses or professions.

Course Fundamentals:

- 1. Anatomy and Physiology
- 2. Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- 3. Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- 4. Sports Leadership
- 7. Practical Sports Performance
- 22. Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry
- 23. Skill Acquisition in Sport
- 5. Application of Fitness Testing
- 8. Coaching for Performance

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The course compromises 9 units of which 3 are externally assessed and 6 are internally assessed through coursework.

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology (examined)

Unit 22: Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry (examined)

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (externally assessed via a case study under controlled conditions) The other units are assessed through coursework.

Subjects taught at Ursuline High School

Drama & Theatre Studies

Taught at Ursuline High School

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: This is an academic subject, recognised by the universities, designed to attract students with an interest in the theatre, TV and theatre production. The course covers theatrical practitioners, past and present, theatre history and the study of set plays, and the development of a critical analytical approach towards contemporary theatre.

Course Fundamentals:

- Students will be prepared to be actively engaged in theatre performance work.
- The course is delivered through a practical and analytical approach to theatre.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

Component 1 - Coursework: Devising a live theatre performance (40% of the qualification, 80 marks). There are two parts to the assessment: a typed or recorded/verbal portfolio or a combination of both and the performance.

Component 2 - Coursework: Text in Performance (20% of the qualification, 60 marks). A group performance realisation of one key extract from a performance text and a monologue or duologue performance from one key extract from a different performance text.

Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice Written examination (2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of the qualification, 80 marks).

Section A: Evaluating a live theatre evaluation.

- Section B: As a class, practically explore a complete performance text, focusing on how this can be realised for performance. Students answer two extended response questions based on an unseen extract from the performance text they have studied.
- Section C: Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.

English Language

Taught at Ursuline High School

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – A Level

Why choose this course: This course covers language variation: how 21st century language varies according to identity and use, and how language has changed over time from 1550 to the present day. Students study how children between the ages of 0 and 8 learn to speak and write. Later in the course they submit a creative writing folder choosing between fiction or journalism genres, together with a reflective commentary. Finally they select a specialist language topic such as English dialects or language and power, and conduct their own linguistic investigation in preparation for examination.

Course Fundamentals:

- Extend GCSE skills, comparing how writers convey identity considering different genres, purposes and audiences
- Learn specific linguistic terminology to identify, label, sort and analyse language
- Link to History, Geography and foreign languages by understanding how English has developed over time
- Cross-over with Psychology and Sociology in the research, data gathering and experimental nature of a real language investigation, as well as the psycho-social reasons for using specific types of language.
- Develop their own creative writing.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

Three examinations on:

Language Variation – 2 hour 15 mins examination (35%);

Child Language – 1 hour (20%); Investigating Language (pre-release) 1 hour 45 mins (25%).

A 'Crafting Language' coursework folder is also submitted consisting of two pieces of original writing plus an analytical, reflective commentary (20%).

Modern Languages:

French

Examination Board: AQA – A Level

Why choose this course: Modern Languages are highly regarded by universities and studying a language at A Level offers the opportunity to not only continue with languages in further education, but also to integrate it as a part of many degrees, thus adding an additional life skill to your CV. The emphasis in new syllabuses is on contemporary issues, current affairs and communication skills, the ability to discuss and debate contemporary and often controversial society issues in the target language. The course provides many opportunities to attend conferences and cultural events throughout the year.

Course Fundamentals:

- A seven-week module focusing on consolidating and deepening students' knowledge and understanding of the grammar.
- Practice and experience of the language as well as the culture are gained through the weekly use of authentic topical material, e.g. traditional /current songs, newspaper headlines, magazine articles, radio and TV programmes, now accessible via the internet. Students also have the opportunity and are encouraged to borrow DVDs and watch films on a regular basis.
- Students will study topics related to aspects of, culture, politics and literature of the countries where the language is spoken and students are expected to extend their studies at home using various forms of

- media; homework, prep work and independent learning sessions are all used to help the students acquire key further education study skills as well as to ensure that they experience and enjoy the language outside the classroom.
- In teaching and learning the target language predominates once the grammar module has been done, and answers in English are kept to a minimum so students feel fully immersed. Some of the opportunities to attend conferences and cultural events, via the KS5 society include: students organising events / screening of films and seminar at BFI and the target language institutes (French, Goethe, Cervantes).

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The assessment consists of three papers. Paper 1 is the Listening, Reading and Writing assessment (2h30mins and 50% of the A-Level); Paper 2 is the Writing assessment (2 hours and 20% of A-Level) and Paper 3 is the Speaking assessment (21-23 minutes, including 5 minutes preparation time and 30% of the A-Level).

Level 2 Courses

English GCSE

Examination Board & Specification: AQA – GCSE in English Language & English Literature.

Why choose this course: On the Language side of the course you will have the opportunity to look at returned exam papers and identify key question and skills sets that caused you difficulty.

Course Fundamentals

- Reading and understanding texts in fiction and non-fiction from the nineteenth century to the present day.
- 2. Creative Writing developing and structuring effective stories
- Writing for particular purposes letters, persuasive articles and other non-fiction texts

In addition, you will have the opportunity to develop your oral and presentational skills as well as developing and consolidating your overall writing, comprehension and analytical skills as required in

the exams.

On the English Literature side of the subject, you will return again to your Literature set texts: Shakespeare; 19th Century Novel; 20th Century Play; Conflict Poetry; Unseen Poetry.

Course Fundamentals:

- Writing with accuracy, variety and control.
- Understanding of exam technique, timings and success criteria.
- Building language analysis skills and applying these to literature texts
- Developing the ability to respond to poetry in discussion and in an unseen synoptic written paper.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT -

The two courses consist of written examinations and spoken assessments.

Citizenship Studies GCSE

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – GCSE

Why choose this course: The course aims to develop your understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the UK and to look at how democracy, and the legal system influence the lives of all of us.

Course Fundamentals:

- Through debate, discussion and action you will:
- Consider identity and democratic values
- Think about who runs the country and how they spend your money
- Discuss how fair the legal system is and as citizens in the UK explore how democracy and the legal system influences the lives of all of us.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

Living together in the UK, Democracy at work in the UK, Law and justice

Assessed in Paper 1 1hr 45min, 80 marks 50% of the GCSE

Power and influence, Taking citizenship action

Assessed in Paper 2 1hr 45min, 80 marks 50% of the GCSE

Mathematics GCSE

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel – GCSE

Why choose this course: This course is designed for students who have not attained at least a grade 4 at GCSE. The course aims to develop the skills that students learnt in their original two-year GCSE course covering number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, statistics and probability.

Course Fundamentals:

- Students develop stronger numeracy skills in calculating real life applications of number, shape, space and measure.
- Students understanding of algebraic concepts and calculations of probability are developed through problem solving questions.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher

Foundation tier: Grades 5 to 1

Higher tier: Grades 9 to 4

The qualification consists of three equallyweighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.

Each paper is 90 minutes long. Each paper has 80 marks.

The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine-grade scale from 9 to 1 using the total mark across all papers where 9 is the highest grade.

Business (Enterprise)

Examination Board: OCR Cambridge Technical

Why choose this course: The OCR Cambridge Technical is a level two course (equivalent to GCSE level) which covers a range of topics within Business. It will give you both the practical and applied knowledge in Business which will assist you in whatever future pathway you choose. It consists of six units spanning the breadth of business topics including finance, marketing and organisational structure. If students work hard it is possible to obtain an extended certificate which is the equivalent of two GCSEs. There is a range of assessment styles within the course including presentations, mock interviews and written reports.

Course Fundamentals:

This course will help you to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically throughout your studies. It will also give you a full range of transferable skills including Verbal Communication/Presentation, Research, Problem Solving, Analytical Skills, Digital Presentation Planning and Creative Thinking.

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

This course comprises of six units of equal weighting all of which are coursework based and externally moderated.

