

1878



SHEFFIELD GIRLS'

SIXTH FORM

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Sixth Form Options

September 2022 Entry

[#ModernSince1878](#)



Sixth Form is the pinnacle of your school education; it is an exciting time when you get to focus on the subjects you love and explore them at a more advanced level.

A-Level study provides the opportunity to be challenged in your thinking and encourages you to develop your knowledge and independent study skills beyond the parameters of the course specifications, which is crucial for success at undergraduate level. These two years also prepare you for life beyond school, whether this is university or the world of work.

In the Sixth Form at Sheffield Girls', you will be taught by inspirational teachers who are experts in their subject fields, innovative in their approaches and ensure our students achieve consistently the best examination results in South Yorkshire.

Beyond the classroom, our co-curricular and enrichment programmes are second to none and are designed to develop confidence, resilience and adaptability, as well as providing opportunities for you to lead, mentor and make a difference both inside and outside school.

As in the rest of the school, our outstanding pastoral care and academic support means you can access the assistance you need during these crucial two years. The careers support we offer at Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form is unparalleled and ensures each girl receives the very best individualised advice and guidance.

The Sixth Form community is a friendly and supportive one, with relationships between staff and students built on mutual respect. In our dedicated Sixth Form Centre, you will have the autonomy to manage your own time, form new friendships and enjoy greater freedom.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form at Sheffield Girls' – a place where every girl is encouraged to find her voice and empowered to take her place in the world.

Mrs Nina Gunson
Head

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What is our Sixth Form offer?

The curriculum at Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form aims to provide opportunities for all students to gain a deep understanding of their subjects and to achieve their full academic and personal potential.

Our curriculum is:

Broad – so that it provides each student with a wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills, fostering educational development and encouraging independent learning.

Balanced – so that each area of the curriculum is allowed sufficient time for in depth learning.

Flexible and differentiated – so that what is taught and how it is taught is matched to the learning needs of each individual, fully developing their abilities and aptitudes.

What are your options?

Three A-Levels plus EPQ is our standard curriculum offer and we

have a broad enrichment programme to support this. We can also tailor the timetable to meet individual needs.

This means that weekly, you will have:

- 5 hours per week for each A-Level
- 1 hour per week for EPQ
- 1 hour per week for Enrichment
- 0.5 hours per week for Tutorial

Tutorial Time

All students take part in small group and 1:1 support meetings with their Tutor to review progress, set targets and receive support for the UCAS process.



Pastoral Support and Wellbeing

The pastoral care of our students is of paramount importance; the wellbeing of our Sixth Formers is at the heart of all that we do. Our pastoral support structure in the Sixth Form is designed to suit the specific needs of this crucial stage of education.

Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form ensures that all students are emotionally supported, making progress, achieving targets and engaging with Sixth Form life. The Pastoral Team of Form Tutors, Heads of Year 12 and 13, and Head of Pastoral Care endeavour to know our girls as individuals. Students also have access to the School Nurse and School Counsellor.

Healthy and Active Lifestyles

Good health and happiness are a priority in Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form. Girls have full access to our excellent facilities, including the state-of-the-art Fitness Suite. Students are encouraged to play a full part in the co-curricular programme in order to become more well-rounded, confident and sociable young adults who are ready for the transition to university.



The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

One thing that sets us apart from many Sheffield Sixth Forms, is the opportunity to work on an EPQ.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is undertaken in Year 12 and aims to link A-Levels with the skills pupils need at university, encouraging them to study independently and produce their own research investigation. This qualification is highly valued by universities. A high grade EPQ can be worth up to 50% of the UCAS points value of an A-Level.

There are three main routes for the EPQ: a research project of 5,000 words; creation of an artefact, which can be anything ranging from a short story, a fashion item, a film, a piece of artwork, robots or websites, together with a 1,000 word report, and the third route is to complete a group project.

Given that most students choose to do three A-Level subjects, the EPQ is an opportunity to broaden academic interests or pursue

artistic or musical interests from earlier stages in school life. Most importantly, the EPQ gives pupils the chance to study something they feel really passionate about, with flexibility and freedom.

Our EPQ programme:

- Promotes intellectual curiosity and allows students to undertake an independent piece of research
- Gives students the opportunity to complete an in-depth piece of work based on a topic of their choice
- Provides a great opportunity to explore professional networks and meet people outside of the usual school environment
- Is a great opportunity to develop confidence and familiarity with the independent methods of study which will be relied upon at university and beyond



Alexandra Lam
Class of 2021

'My EPQ topic was on herbicidal warfare and international crime during the Vietnam War, which I chose because I had visited the country when I was younger and wanted to further my interest in global history and politics. Doing the project massively developed my organisational skills, as well as the ability to write academically

using references and analysing sources. The EPQ has contributed hugely to my academic life, and the disciplinary skills I learnt through it have reflected in my A-Level studies. It enabled me to plan, meet deadlines, research independently, as well as approach academics in the field. I was able to talk about the EPQ in my UCAS application, and it was highly valuable as part of the 'super-curricular' aspect of my personal statement. Through researching a topic I was interested about, the Extended Project helped me narrow down my course choices to apply for History and International Relations at university.'



Jessica Nolan
Class of 2021

'For my EPQ I chose to build a model of a home climbing wall. I really enjoyed this as I was able to unleash my creativity and I had complete freedom over what I wanted to do. Doing an artefact meant my EPQ was very hands on, and I learnt lots of new skills to do with construction and engineering. Researching my project improved developing my research skills and I had to be critical with the sources I chose. I felt the essay improved my writing skills and this will help me a lot throughout university.'

Expert Careers Guidance and UCAS Support

All students receive expert careers guidance from our full-time Head of Careers, Mrs Metcalfe-Murgatroyd.

Sheffield Girls' has been awarded the nationally recognised Career Mark Gold Award for excellence in Careers Education. The guidance on offer ensures that the majority of our students secure their first choice at university.

The Sixth Form Careers programme includes a UCAS conference, personal statement and interview workshops, aptitude test preparation and Oxbridge/Russell Group guidance. All girls have a personal appointment with the Head, Mrs Gunson to go through

their applications and UCAS reference.

Additional support is available for those students interested in pursuing alternative career routes after school such as professional training programmes and apprenticeships.

Our twice weekly 'Careers Couch' sessions provide an opportunity for girls from any Year group to meet with our Head of Careers to discuss any ideas, problems or questions they might have about their future.



The GDST Alumnae Network

As a member of the Girls' Days School Trust, all Sheffield Girls' Sixth Formers have automatic access to the GDST Alumnae Network.

This is a large network of over 70,000 former GDST students, a unique and invaluable group of professionals who provide our girls with a competitive advantage when seeking expert advice, work-experience placements and employment opportunities both in this country and abroad.

GDST Life provides the gateway to this opportunity.

The online platform is available for students from the moment they join our Sixth Form, giving them the opportunity to connect with others across the GDST family of schools. And for our alumnae, it opens the door to a host of new networking opportunities, unrivalled personal and professional connections, mentoring support, events, news and resources, groups and societies, and much, much more – for life.

Advice and mentoring at your fingertips with Runway

Runway is a bespoke app that connects our girls to the GDST alumnae network. Our Sixth Form students can contact former students to ask for personalised advice on their EPQ, work experience and university destinations.



Above Right: Suzanne Liversidge, Global Managing Partner, Kennedy's, and Sheffield Girls alumna, talks to Sixth Form pupils about careers in Law and building professional networks.



'Our mission is to connect each girl with someone in the network'.

Cheryl Giovannoni,
GDST CEO

Forging Futures Programme

University Admissions Tutors and workplace Recruitment Managers increasingly look for personal qualities and transferable skills gained from wider experiences, in addition to a pupil's academic successes.

They want to see rounded individuals, Sixth Formers who have gathered experience in different areas in order to develop a broad range of skills and attributes.

Sheffield Girls' Forging Futures Programme, is designed to support Sixth Form students to fully develop their talents and interests and be able to demonstrate a

broad range of interests and achievements in the increasingly competitive market for university places and job opportunities. It is also a great opportunity for you to focus your attention on something other than your A-Level studies.



Tutorials: Skills for Life

• Personal support

Our students have a dedicated personal tutor throughout Year 12 and 13 who will offer individual; personalised support and guidance on academic progress, university admissions and pastoral issues.

Tutors hold individual guidance sessions every half term during which targets are set and / or reviewed.

• Academic mentoring

Our students can access additional academic mentoring if this is deemed necessary.

SMART targets are set and 1:1 support is provided to review the approach to learning to ensure success at Key Stage 5.

• Tutorial sessions – Year 12

Sessions focus on key themes and topics, for example:

- A-Level Mindset
- VESPA and complete ALIS aptitude
- Financial Literacy
- Lectures and workshops – aligned to a variety of career routes
- Alumnae talks
- Life at university
- Sexual and relationship health
- UCAS / Employability Conference – full day off timetable

• Tutorial sessions – Year 13

In Year 13 your form time tutorials are weekly – with all sessions in the first half term focussed on UCAS and other post-18 application processes.

Further sessions then include:

- Supervised independent study
- Interview skills
- Safety at university – South Yorkshire Police
- Student finance – Sheffield Hallam University
- E-safety at university
- UCAS next steps, results day and Clearing
- Maximising employability



Enrichment: Skills for Success

Our Year 12 students follow an option choice from the list below for the academic year, from September to May half term. It is sometimes possible to opt for more than one activity if timetabling allows. Each option consists of a one hour tutorial / activity per week and there is no expectation to complete homework or further study beyond this.

Activities include:

- Photography
- Model UN
- Peer educators in PSHE
- Sport, Fitness and Leadership
- Driving and survival skills
- Marketing
- Young Enterprise



The Sixth Form Co-curricular Programme

Academic achievement is only part of what makes our girls stand out; they also possess great character, confidence, creativity and humanity.

We know that, in order to 'future-proof' girls for success in the ever-changing world of work, they will need to be able to demonstrate these qualities, as well as the ability to collaborate with others, deal with challenge, negotiate and motivate.

These valuable attributes are developed through participation in co-curricular activities, competitions and challenges, as well as leadership opportunities, community partnership projects and fundraising.

We strive to offer a flexible and open-ended co-curricular programme; we embrace student-

led initiatives and are keen to introduce new activities in response to girls' interests and requests.

There are clubs and societies covering a vast range of areas including engineering, finance, music, performing arts, sports, social issues and many more, which provide the opportunity for girls to participate, perform, compete and lead.

The curriculum and co-curricular programme are complemented by a range of residential trips in the UK and overseas.



Service to the School and Community

We believe that our school community has a responsibility to change the world we live in for the better. This outward-looking approach is reflected in the varied opportunities for Service both inside school and in the wider community.

School Leadership Opportunities

We expect our Sixth Form students to lead and set an example to their peers and younger pupils. In doing so they help to create a fun, vibrant and diversified school community.

Sixth Form students take on leadership roles as Prefects, and House, Sports and Subject Captains. They also have the opportunity to work as classroom assistants, mentors and club leaders in our Infant and Junior School during their free periods, all of which develop their communication, leadership and interpersonal skills.

Community Projects

We are proud of the wide-ranging Community Service initiatives to get involved in, in Sixth Form. These include the SHINE programme and Cool to be Clever – both of which are nationally recognised outreach initiatives to raise attainment and aspiration amongst pupils from Sheffield-based state primary schools. All Sixth Form students also complete at least 20 hours of voluntary work within the local community during the academic year, and most undertake more than this.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

An integral part of our co-curricular provision, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers the chance to participate in expeditions in the UK and further afield, as well as ample opportunity to undertake Service activities in the local community.

Joining Sheffield Girls' in the Sixth Form



Ella Ducker, Head Girl
Class of 2022

Ella joined Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form in 2020 after previously studying at Forge Valley School.

In September 2021 she became Head Girl, alongside fellow student Ashwini Garnetti.

'Since joining Sheffield Girls', I have really enjoyed meeting the other girls and brilliant team of staff.

I was incredibly nervous about starting a new school, yet these nerves quickly vanished as everyone was so welcoming and supportive, and I soon felt part of the community. I have already grown in confidence, something I can unequivocally attribute to the school's ethos.

What stood out to me about Sheffield Girls' is how the teachers really get to know their students and are passionate about their subjects, which makes lessons truly engaging. The amazing team of staff are full of valuable advice and always

willing to go the extra mile to support you both in your studies and pastorally. There's such a wide variety of clubs and opportunities to get involved in. For instance, I have joined Model United Nations, where I will get the chance to attend a mock UN Conference and debate key issues in competition with other schools across the country.

Many of my friends have enjoyed taking up photography, debating, helping in the junior school and playing in sports teams, for fun or competitively. I really do look forward to coming to school each day and feel extremely lucky to be here.'



Business
EDEXCEL

Subjects Offered at A-Level (2 year course)

On the following pages you can learn more about the curriculum, entry requirements, study modes, and assessment methods for each of our A-Level courses. There is also information about related career routes and extra-curricular activities.

Biology	Economics	Geography	Physics
Business	English Language	Geology	Politics
Chemistry	English Literature	History	Psychology
Classical Civilisation	Fine Art	Latin	Religious Studies
Computer Science	French	Mathematics	Sociology
Drama and Theatre	Further Mathematics	Music	Spanish
	German	Physical Education	

What will I be studying?

In the first year of the course you will build your knowledge of core business concepts and will apply them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. In the second year of the course you will take a much more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

What does this subject involve?

You will investigate a range of local, national and international businesses and will need to analyse issues which are important to them and make recommendations on business strategy.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- Data and number skills
- Presenting arguments and making judgments and justified recommendations on the basis of the available evidence
- Recognising the nature of problems and providing solutions
- An active interest in current affairs and the business world

What about future prospects and careers?

Business offers a very diverse range of disciplines that might be studied at university such as Business and Administration, Business, European Business Studies, Accounting and Finance, Marketing and HR.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

The department offers a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities including:

- Curriculum trips in the UK and abroad
- Young Enterprise
- ICEAW BASE Accounting Competition





Classical Civilisation

OCR

What will I be studying?

The history, society, mythology, culture and literature of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

What does this subject involve?

Investigate the Greek and Roman worlds and sample several of the sub-disciplines of Classics and Classical Civilisation. The breadth of Classical Civilisation permits students to investigate literature, history, art history and archaeology within the same subject and gives them a wide range of skills which can be applied within and beyond many higher education courses; this quality also ensures that it is an excellent complement to the study of other arts subjects, including English Literature and History.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- An interest in the ancient world
- The ability to interpret and assess evidence
- The ability to structure and organise your ideas

What about future prospects and careers?

This course can lead to a wide-range of future prospects. As well as Classics, recent students have gone on to study subjects as diverse as Law, Modern Languages, Archaeology, Anthropology, English and History of Art.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

There is no requirement to have studied Latin or Classical Civilisation at GCSE as a precursor to choosing Classical Civilisation for A-Level. For all topics you will be studying ancient sources, but you will be reading them in English translation.

Additional information

The Classics Department has its own extensive library in addition to the many classical works to be found in the School Library. The Department has a collection of the *Omnibus* magazine, aimed at those studying classical subjects in the Sixth Form.

There are trips to Manchester for lectures, the British Museum in London and Pompeii.



Drama & Theatre

EDEXCEL

What will I be studying?

You will extend your ability to create drama and study plays, playwrights and live theatre productions.

What does this subject involve?

You will take part in theatre productions, and also be required to write about the interpretation of plays and live theatre from the point of view of the actor, director and audience member. You will develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in equal measure
- Acting and/or theatre design skills
- A creative instinct for communicating your views through drama
- Good writing skills in order to express your ideas clearly in essay form

What about future prospects and careers?

This course can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts in Higher Education, although students have gone on to study a range of subjects including Law, Biology, History and English Literature. It can also lead to a career in the performing arts industries.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

It is useful to have taken Drama at GCSE level but not essential.

Additional information

You will need to participate in theatre visits and involvement in co-curricular drama productions will greatly benefit your studies.





Economics

OCR

What will I be studying?

Microeconomic theory of how markets allocate resources and why markets sometimes fail to allocate resources efficiently. Also how the macroeconomy functions at a global and national level and the limitations of government policy including conflicts it presents.

What does this subject involve?

A detailed understanding of Economic theory enabling students to develop reasoned solutions to complex economic problems. A scientific approach is required in Economics in particular when handling data to identify key trends in economic variables.

What skills or qualities will I need?

Students are encouraged to acquire a range of important and transferable skills:

- Data and number skills
- Presenting arguments and making judgments and justified recommendations on the basis of the available evidence
- Challenging your own assumptions using evidence
- Political awareness and an active interest in current affairs

What about future prospects and careers?

Economics graduates are employed in a range of posts in law, communications, banking, insurance, education, manufacturing, transport, investment and retailing industries, as well as in government agencies and consulting.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

The department offers a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities including:

- Annual Economics Lectures in London
- Royal Economic Society essay writing competition
- IFS Student Investor Challenge



English Language

AQA

What will I be studying?

The way language operates in society, the way we use it and the way people interact. You will also explore textual varieties and how to analyse texts through concepts such as audience, purpose, genre, representation and mode. In addition, you will study the language of children and how language has diversified and changed over time.

What does this subject involve?

Careful analysis and evaluation of written and spoken language. You will develop your skills to argue a case logically, investigate a topic in an objective and rigorous way and express your ideas in writing clearly and concisely.

You will have the opportunity to complete Non-Examination Assessment consisting of both creative writing and in depth investigation into a language topic of your choice.

What skills or qualities will I need?

You will need to be:

- Creative
- Interested in the way language works
- Analytical
- Able to write clearly, accurately and in detail

What about future prospects and careers?

Journalism/writing, broadcasting, speech and language therapy, working with children. As language is all around us, it will be useful for almost anything!

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Yes.

Additional information

You will have the opportunity to attend day schools run by Principal and Senior Examiners and attend workshops led by language experts.





English Literature

AQA

What will I be studying?

A stimulating selection of modern and classic Prose, Poetry and Drama, grouped together by genre, such as Tragedy and Crime Fiction. In addition, students are also examined via coursework and end of course assessment.

What does this subject involve?

Extensive and intensive discussion and debate arising from the study of Literature across the ages, sharing ideas in small groups, with opportunities for in depth independent study as well as with teacher guidance.

What skills or qualities will I need?

A passion for reading is essential, coupled with the ability to argue and analyse. Also, a sensitive appreciation of language and how it works, which will extend to understanding of how writers craft their texts. Finally, the ability to present a coherent argument, in discussion and writing.

What about future prospects and careers?

An A-Level in English Literature is useful in almost any career e.g. law, journalism, writing, broadcasting, teaching and research. Also, many universities value the intellectual rigour of this subject when selecting candidates.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Yes.

Additional information

Studying English Literature at A-Level will be enhanced by Enrichment activities such as theatre visits and creative writing workshops.



Fine Art

AQA

What will I be studying?

Our Fine Art course provides the opportunity to develop technical skills, inventiveness and critical awareness.

What does this subject involve?

Emphasis is placed on drawing as a means of recording and communicating ideas and students are encouraged to explore a variety of media areas: painting, printmaking, mixed media and lens based media.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- An enjoyment and interest in drawing and painting
- Interest in developing the following media areas: painting, printmaking, mixed media, photography
- Enjoyment at looking at and researching work of artists and designers

What about future prospects and careers?

The combination of practical work and theory produces an A-Level which is respected by universities. Coursework forms the basis for a portfolio for all art and design related courses. Previous students have gone on to study courses including Fine Art, graphic design, architecture and landscape design, interior design, jewellery design, conservation, fashion and art history.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Yes but there are occasional exceptions.

Additional information

- Curriculum gallery trips and optional study tours abroad
- Artist in residence/community projects
- Occasional opportunity for involvement in design for creative arts and theatre productions





Geography

AQA

What will I be studying?

During the A-Level course the main physical Geography topics covered are coastal systems and landscapes, hazards (volcanic, seismic and storms) and water and carbon cycles. While the main human Geography topics covered are global systems and governance (globalisation), changing places and contemporary urban environments.

There is natural progression from GCSE to A-Level. Contemporary Geography is a subject which engages with the relationships of human populations with each other over space and time and their relationship with the environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.

What does this subject involve?

Overall you need the ability to think 'outside the box' and develop the skill of bringing in knowledge from a range of subjects and applying it to a particular issue or topic. The course is assessed by two examinations in physical and human Geography which accounts for 80% as well as an individual Geographical investigation based on data collected in the field which accounts for 20%.

What skills or qualities will I need?

Students will need to develop a variety of skills which are very relevant to today's world of work:

- Investigative and enquiry skills
- Decision making skills
- Cartographic skills
- Graphical skills
- Statistical skills
- ICT skills

What about future prospects and careers?

The skills you use in your Geographical studies make you of potential interest to a wide range of employers. Statistics show that compared with other subjects, Geographers are among the most employable.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

There will be two residential field trips to North Yorkshire and London to develop your fieldwork skills and to collect data for the Geographical Fieldwork investigation. There will also be local fieldwork carried out during the course.



History

AQA

What will I be studying?

The History course involves a breadth study of Tudor England between 1485 and 1603, including Henry VIII and his break with Rome, 'Bloody' Mary I and the 'Golden Age' of Elizabeth I. You will also undertake a depth study of Russia between 1917 and 1953, looking at the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the rule of Stalin. Alongside the two taught courses, there is also coursework on the Arab-Israeli conflict 1895 to 2015.

What does this subject involve?

There will be lots of discussion of key points. You will write short analyses of primary evidence and historians' views as well as essays.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- An interest in the subject
- An inquiring and lively mind
- An enjoyment of discussion and debate
- An ability to express yourself well in discussion and on paper

What about future prospects and careers?

History A-Level is useful for careers in accountancy, law, banking and finance, business, civil service, human resources, management, journalism, medicine, politics, television and radio.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

You do not need to have studied History at GCSE but we would recommend a good GCSE grade in an essay writing subject.

Additional information

A-Level students complete two examinations (Tudor England and Russia) at the end of the course and one coursework task (Arab-Israeli Conflict).



Languages (French, German and Spanish) AQA

What will I be studying?

You will develop your abilities in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language for the purposes of practical, everyday communication and you will broaden your knowledge of the cultures of the countries studied. An example of the topics you could expect to study throughout the two years are related to the cultures of the countries where the language is spoken, including literature, cinema, history and popular culture.

What does this subject involve?

Language courses emphasise a practical, hands-on approach to language-learning and we use a wide range of teaching materials including interactive resources, authentic materials, newspaper articles, internet, videos and audio recordings. Students meet weekly with one of our foreign language assistants. Access to an ICT room is available for one lesson per week for self-access listening practice. Students will also have to complete a short presentation based on independent research.

What skills or qualities will I need?

Students should:

- Have at least a Grade 7 GCSE in the language
- Have a minimum of a Grade 5 in English Language GCSE
- Be hard-working and well-motivated

- Enjoy meeting challenges
- Be prepared to spend some time each week learning new vocabulary and grammar
- Have an interest in communication
- Have an interest in learning more about the country being studied

What about future prospects and careers?

Language courses equip students with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment. One or more languages may be studied with any other combination of subjects. Universities now offer a wide range of courses in which the study of a modern language is combined with, for example, law, business and management studies, information and media studies, sciences and engineering, economics, to name but a few.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Yes.

Additional information

The school offers an exchange programme to a school in Palma, a homestay in Montpellier and a Berlin trip*. Students also have the opportunity to attend language days, foreign language films and plays. There is also the opportunity to help out with language classes in the junior school.



Latin OCR

What will I be studying?

The language and literature of the ancient Romans – you will also learn about their society, history and culture.

What does this subject involve?

A study of the way the language works, but also what ancient authors wrote, what messages they wanted to put across, and how they expressed themselves.

What skills or qualities will I need?

You will develop the ability to:

- Assimilate and recall knowledge accurately
- Analyse language
- Select relevant information to structure your ideas and present them clearly

What about future prospects and careers?

Previous students have gone on to study Classics, but also medicine, law, natural sciences, modern languages and history. The benefits of Classics are widely appreciated by employers.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Yes.

Additional information

- Trips to London or Manchester for lectures on the texts
- Opportunity to work with students in the Junior School at lunchtime Classics Club



*Overseas and UK trips are subject to Covid-related restrictions



Music

AQA

What will I be studying?

- Western Classical Tradition 1650–1910. Music for Theatre. Art Music since 1910
- Practical aspects of performance and communicating as a musician
- Developing musical ideas and devices through composition
- How sounds are organised and the musical elements

What does this subject involve?

Performing (in an ensemble and as a soloist), compositional techniques, aural skills, and listening and appraising skills, which include the study of various musical genres and the analysis of set works.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- At least Grade 6 (instrument or voice)
- At least Grade 5 theory of music
- A willingness to keep improving as a performer
- A healthy curiosity about how music works and how it has been communicated to people over the years

- An interest and enjoyment in listening to and making music

What about future prospects and careers?

Those who continue their music studies to a higher level pursue careers such as: arts administration, media, performance, teaching, studio and orchestral management, music therapy, publishing, and recording.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

It is preferable that you have studied music at GCSE.

Additional information

Because the A-Level classes are relatively small, we are able to attend several 'extras' – e.g. Performance master classes, concerts etc. We have a wide range of musical groups to join and Chamber Music coaching is also available. We offer many performance opportunities including Concerto slots with the School Orchestra and the Senior String group. We also run a thriving Sixth Form

Choir jointly with Birkdale School and we run a bi-annual trip to Cologne. Pianists from Piano Club compete in local competitions and we currently run 22 co-curricular music clubs during the week.



Physical Education

AQA

What will I be studying?

- Physiological and Psychological factors which improve performance
- Exercise physiology and biomechanical movement
- Socio-Cultural and Historical effects on participation and performance
- The analysis and improvement of performance through physical performance and coaching
- The role of technology in physical activity and sport

What does this subject involve?

- On-going performance and/or coaching in sports with participation in school sports clubs/teams or external clubs
- 30% practical assessment on the above
- Two written exams – two hour papers

What skills or qualities will I need?

- Scientific understanding
- Ability to express applications of concepts in writing
- A good general knowledge of a range of sports
- An interest in current sporting issues
- Ability to or desire to learn how to perform or coach at a high level

What about future prospects and careers?

An A-Level in Physical Education is useful for sports related careers including teaching, coaching, sports development, recreation management, equipment design and manufacturing.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

It is advisable but not essential.

Additional information

Students are expected to remain or become fully involved in extra-curricular school sport. Practical performers will represent the school in their chosen sport and involve themselves in coaching at some of the sports clubs.





Politics EDEXCEL

What will I be studying?

The first year of the course is focused upon British Politics looking at a range of topics such as political parties, the role of the Prime Minister and protection of human rights. The second year of the course deals with political ideologies, such as socialism and feminism and American Politics.

What does this subject involve?

There will be lots of discussion of key points. Short answer work and essays.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- An interest in the subject
- An enquiring and lively mind
- An enjoyment of discussion and debate
- An ability to express yourself well in discussion and on paper
- An openness to new ideas and other people's views

What about future prospects and careers?

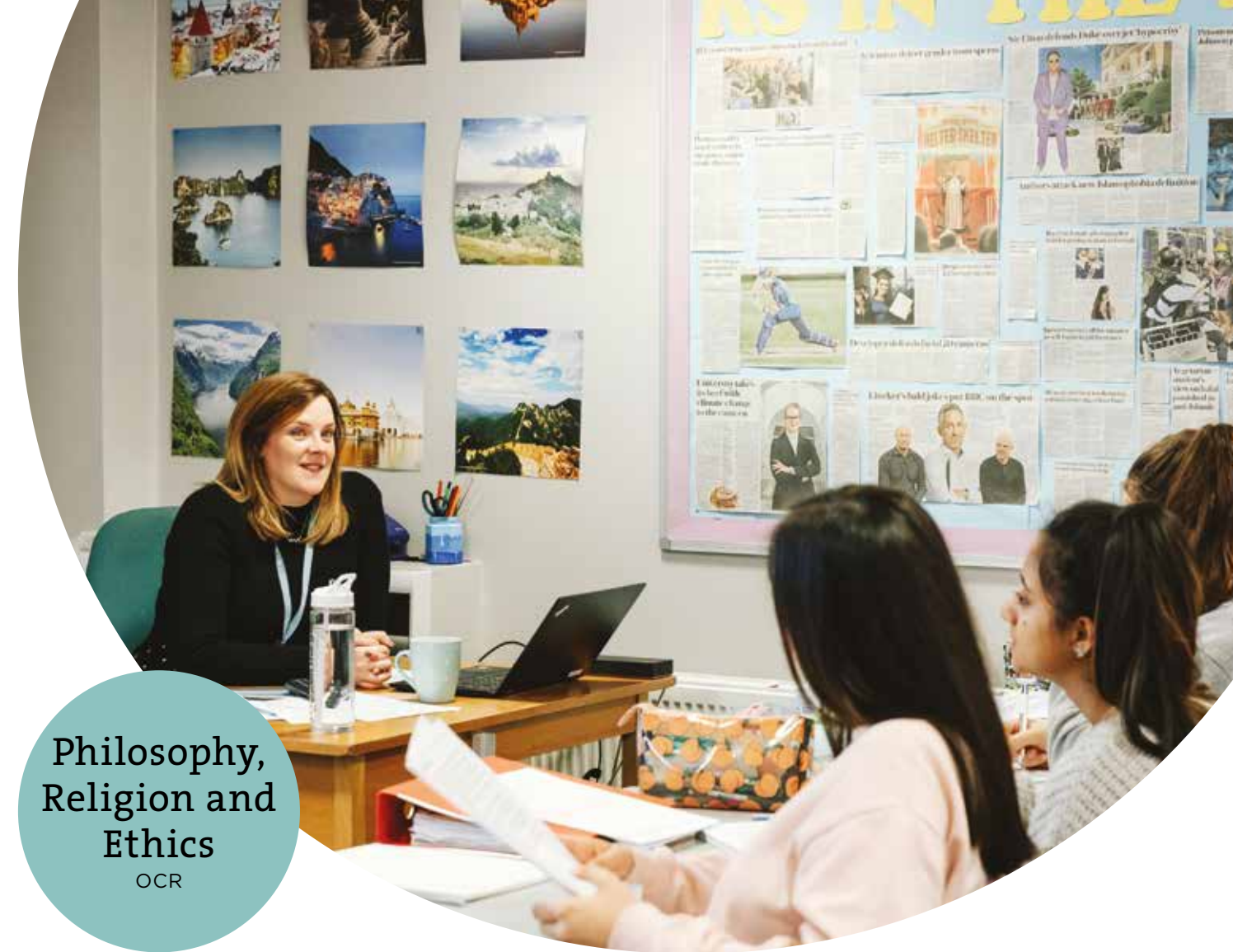
A Politics A-Level is useful for careers in accountancy, law, banking and finance, business, civil service, human resources, management, journalism, medicine, politics, television and radio.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

An annual visit to the Houses of Parliament is organised.



Philosophy, Religion and Ethics OCR

What will I be studying?

The course is split into three sections:

- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics
- Religious Thought

In Philosophy you will look at Greek and Judeo-Christian influences on western thought. This includes the classic arguments for God's existence, as well as the challenges to religion from science, evil and psychology. In Ethics you will look at ethical issues such as euthanasia and environmental and business ethics. These are studied in relation to ethical systems and human influences such as conscience and free will. In Religious Thought you will look at how religious beliefs values and teachings have developed and how these beliefs have been influenced by the changing nature of society.

What does this subject involve?

Discussion, debate, essay writing, philosophical and ethical analysis and evaluation.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- An open mind
- Good written skills
- Good communication skills

What about future prospects and careers?

Religious Studies is a well respected academic A-Level for university entrance.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

This is not essential but studying GCSE will give you a good basis of knowledge and skills to build on at A-Level.

Additional information

We take part in Zoom lectures as a group as well as attending occasional live lectures. We watch ethical films as a group which stimulates further debate.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths at Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form

Nationally, the overall proportion of girls doing STEM subjects drops off at A-Level, with lower numbers of females being entered for all STEM subjects. At Sheffield Girls' Sixth Form, we are proud to buck this trend; 79% of Year 12 and Year 13 girls study at least one STEM subject. Indeed, many girls opt for two or more STEM subjects.

Academic study is complemented by opportunities outside the classroom to be involved in projects such as the Engineering Education Scheme, a six-month long problem based project, undertaken with the aid of an industry mentor.

Studying a combination of sciences or a science with other subjects can give your A-Level studies a broad base. Sciences are a requirement for medical and engineering professions but they have also been chosen by students who pursued careers

in many different fields such as architecture, accountancy, law, history, psychology, management studies, English and journalism.

Science at A-Level helps you to develop skills in problem-solving, analysis, research, team work and implementing ideas to name a few. They are invaluable in the technological world in which we live.

Biology AQA

What will I be studying?

A total of eight core topics are taught across two years, all of which will be examined at the end of the second year. The topics will also involve a number of practical skills which are assessed throughout the course during lessons and on a three day residential field course at the end of the first year.

There are four topics studied in Year 12:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

There are a further four topics in Year 13:

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Practical work is an integral part of the course and students attend a residential field course at the end of Year 12.

What skills or qualities will I need?

To get the most from this course you will need:

- An interest in current advances in the subject such as gene cloning technology
- To apply knowledge and understanding of biological principles

- To explain biological principles
- To analyse and interpret data
- To present scientific arguments
- To evaluate ethical, moral and social issues
- To carry out investigative activities including appropriate risk management
- To evaluate methodology, evidence and data
- To consider the role of the scientific community in validating evidence and in resolving conflicting evidence
- To consider the contributions that scientists make to decision-making and the formulation of policy
- To recognise the need for regulation of scientific enquiry and how this can be achieved

What about future prospects and careers?

A-Level Biology students have gone on to study the following related degree courses: natural sciences, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, physiology, biomedical science, genetics, marine biology, equine studies and others. Some students go on to study an unrelated discipline such as law; the range of generic skills developed in Biology makes this a feasible option.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Everyone studies Biology as part of GCSE Science.

Additional information

The course usually includes lectures from visiting university lecturers and visits to university departments.





Chemistry

AQA

What will I be studying?

Some work from GCSE in more depth and some new topics:

- Atomic structure
- Bonding
- Periodicity
- Reaction kinetics
- Equilibria
- Organic chemistry

What does the subject involve?

Chemistry is a practically based subject. In the new specification practical work is carried out throughout the course and tested in a written examination. You will receive a pass or fail grade for your practical work separate to your main grade.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- To be able to think logically
- To have some basic mathematical skills
- To work individually and as part of a team
- To enjoy hands-on practical work
- To have an enquiring mind
- To want to know the answers to important questions about the world around us

What about future prospects and careers?

Many scientific and medical careers require a qualification in Chemistry. Employers in non-scientific areas regard the skills of problem solving, logical thinking and application of scientific method gained during a Chemistry course very highly indeed. Chemistry therefore fits in well with any combination of subjects at A-Level.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Dual award students have an adequate knowledge and separate science students have the advantage of having studied the subject to a greater extent.

Additional information

Each year we enter students with much success in a number of local and national competitions including the Chemistry Olympiad and Royal Society of Chemistry Young Analyst Competition. We run a trip to Ecton Copper Mine in Derbyshire during Year 12 to look at the reactions of metal complexes. We have various links with the Chemistry Department at the University of Sheffield and take students there when the opportunity allows.



Physics

OCR

What will I be studying?

The specification introduces new topics as well as building on previous studies in Physics, providing a smooth transition from GCSE. Students develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of Physics, how Physics links to other sciences and how it underpins important technologies.

The units in year 1 consist of:

- Foundations of Physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons

The units in year 2 consist of:

- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Astrophysics and cosmology
- Particles and medial physics

What skills or qualities will I need?

- Adaptable
- Can work in a team or independently and enjoy practical work
- Have an enquiring mind and enjoy conceptual ideas

- Mathematically competent to GCSE level and good at problem solving

What about future prospects and careers?

Physics is the fast-track to the biggest choice of jobs and the widest range of opportunities. The study of Physics teaches you to approach tasks with thoroughness and versatility. Physics students are always much in demand in further education and in employment because of their adaptability and problem-solving skills. The options are infinite but include communications, engineering, health and medicine, veterinary science, industry or commerce, research, architecture.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

Dual award students have an adequate knowledge and separate science students have the advantage of having studied

the subject to a greater extent. We strongly recommend students take Mathematics at either AS or A-Level.

Additional information

A varied programme of events, including links to universities and trips to research establishments, in the UK and abroad.





Mathematics & Further Mathematics

EDEXCEL

What will I be studying?

The A-Level is comprised of two Pure papers and one Applied paper. The Pure papers include topics such as coordinate geometry, calculus, trigonometry and sequences. The Applied paper is divided equally between Statistics (averages, probability, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing) and Mechanics (motion and forces).

What does this subject involve?

You will master mathematical techniques and understand why they work. You will also develop a deeper understanding of the connections between topics, as you solve mathematical problems, both abstract and in context.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- GCSE Mathematics Grade 8 or 9
- A genuine interest in the subject
- The ability to work independently
- A logical, analytical mind
- Determination and resilience

What about future prospects and careers?

A qualification in Mathematics opens many doors. As well as the obvious links with financial, science and engineering related careers, many employers look favourably upon candidates who have studied Mathematics to A-Level standard.

Throughout your studies you will develop a range of transferable skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, reasoning and effective communication of complex ideas. The breadth of applications is immense. Mathematics underpins most of science, technology and engineering and is also important in areas as diverse as business, law, nutrition, sports science and psychology. There are many opportunities to use mathematics to make a difference in society, for example through the analysis involved in medical research, developing new technology, modelling epidemics or in the study of patterns of criminal activity to identify trends.

Further Mathematics

This is available as an additional A-Level for those interested in extending their knowledge and skills to a higher level. It is particularly useful to those looking to study Mathematics, Engineering or the physical sciences at university. This option is usually chosen as one of four A-Levels.



Geology

EDUQAS

What will I be studying?

Geology is the science of how our planet the Earth works and builds on what you have already learnt about the Earth in your GCSE science lessons. There are aspects of Physics as we study why some volcanoes erupt explosively but others produce rivers of fire. Chemistry in terms of how natural geological processes lead to the formation of resources such as oil and gold. Biology as we look at how life has evolved and changed during the last four thousand million years.

What does this subject involve?

Geologists are problem solvers, they use science to understand how our planet has behaved in the past and then use this knowledge to help us prepare for the future. A geologists laboratory is the entire planet so we will be conducting our investigations both in the classroom and outside during field work.

Field Trips to: Peak District, Pembrokeshire, Yorkshire Dales, and an optional trip to Iceland in October 2022 to study volcanically active area of the Earths crust.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- Enjoy working outside the classroom
- The ability to solve problems and think in three dimensions
- An interest in discovering the science behind how our planet behaves

- An interest in how living things on the Earth have changed in the past and how the climate will change in the future
- An enquiring mind

What about future prospects and careers?

Geologists are very much in demand, particularly in the metals prospecting and climate change resilience industries. If you want to travel with your work and enjoy a challenge this could be for you. Last year Geology graduates from Imperial College had an average salary of £76,000 six months after graduating. Everything you consume has either been grown on a farm or dug out of the ground. If it has come from the ground then it will be a geologist that found the resource.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

Every year a number of girls go on to study geology at University.

Girls have gone on to study Medicine from this course and it is regarded as a science A-Level by the Russell group universities.



Computer Science

AQA

What will I be studying?

You will learn how to create new computer programs that solve real world problems. The course will enable you to gain practical programming skills, develop your understanding of a range of technologies and related topics including networks, databases and 'big data'.

What does this subject involve?

Topics covered include:

- Programming
- Data representation
- Algorithms
- Computer systems
- Consequences of using computing
- Communication and networking
- Databases
- Big data

This is a practical based subject and you will complete projects to develop your skills. You can choose either a problem to solve, an area of personal interest to investigate or select a topic to prepare you for further study at university.

What skills or qualities will I need?

- Enthusiasm for problem solving
- Logical thinking

- Attention to detail
- Mathematically competent to GCSE level
- Patience and perseverance

What about future prospects and careers?

Computer Science is a useful A-Level qualification for a wide range of degree courses including Engineering, Economics, Physics, Maths, Medicine, Psychology and Sociology. It is highly valued by employers in just about every industry sector. All industries and workplaces are being transformed by digital technology and so employers will require people with skills in computer science to help them adapt to the 21st century world.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No. The course builds upon skills developed in GCSE Computer Science, but is also open to students with no previous programming experience. It is recommended that students who have not previously studied Computer Science read up on what the course includes and have an idea about how simple computer programs work. Reading lists and recommended online tutorials can be provided upon request.

Additional information

Extra-curricular activities include visiting speakers from related industries, trips to computer science seminars and supporting the robotics club.



Psychology

AQA

What will I be studying?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. It looks at a variety of explanations that have been developed to try to explain why individuals behave in different ways to the same situation. Psychology develops an understanding of these behaviours whilst exploring the various treatments available to help improve the individual's quality of life. Students will also explore the topic of Social Influence which investigates historical events such as the Holocaust and the suffragette movement. Why did people obey Hitler's order and how did the suffragettes win the right to vote? Other areas of Psychology include Memory, Attachment, Biopsychology and Schizophrenia.

What does this subject involve?

- Three examination papers at the end of the two years of the same weighting
- Analysis and evaluation of key concepts and approaches within Psychology
- Application of theories to unfamiliar real life concepts
- Independent research skills

What skills or qualities will I need?

- An interest in human behaviour
- The ability to apply theory to real life contexts
- The ability to analyse and evaluate key theories
- Willingness to take part in group discussion and presentations

What about future prospects and careers?

Studying Psychology develops a range of transferable skills that are highly sought after, both at university and many careers paths in the future. These skills include; academic writing and presentation skills, critical and analytical thinking, communication and interpersonal skills, leadership and teamwork skills, a knowledge of and experience with basic techniques of statistical analysis and also an understanding of others. The career opportunities available are vast and include jobs in the field of medicine, law, sport, education, social care work, counselling and advertisement.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

Opportunity to assist with or run Psychology Club. Opportunity to go on educational trips to London and attend revision seminars.



Sociology

AQA

What will I be studying?

Sociology offers students the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods. We examine various aspects of life in contemporary Britain, past and present. We examine the education system, family life, the media, and crime and deviance. Sociology is particularly concerned with the study of social life, offering different explanations and evidence for what affects our social behaviour. Students will be encouraged to understand the significance of a person's actions and the rules that impact on individuals and how society interacts with each other.

What does this subject involve?

- Three examinations all having equal weight
- Student participation in discussion and analysis, independent learning and research, reading of numerous sources and note taking
- Regular essay and other examination question practice and evaluation
- Attendance to weekly clinics to support understanding and develop skills
- Lively debates and examination of the world around them

What skills or qualities will I need?

- Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

- A willingness to contribute and often lead class discussion
- The ability to work independently and in a group
- The ability to critically evaluate sociological theories and historical context
- Good organisational skills; the ability to plan ahead and meet deadlines

What about future prospects and careers?

Handling evidence, constructing and presenting sophisticated arguments are excellent skills for any University and professional career. Sociology is a long established subject with strong links to other social sciences and careers such as a law, journalism, medicine, education, public administration or architecture.

Do I need to have studied this for GCSE?

No.

Additional information

Monitoring current affairs and information relating to international affairs, politics, law and order and sociological matters of interest will be useful.

Through links with the Sociology Department at the University of Sheffield our students will be able to access seminars and lectures as well as debate issues with undergraduates to deepen their knowledge and understanding. Within the first year, students will attend a workshop and tour of the Houses of Parliament.



Our 2021 Year 13 Leavers celebrating their A-Level exam success with Mrs Gunson.

A-Level Results 2020-2021

Subjects	Year	% A*	% A	% B	% C	% D/E	% A*/A	% A*-B
Art	2020	44	11	33	11	-	56	89
	2021	60	20	-	20	-	80	80
Biology	2020	22	26	26	16	10	48	74
	2021	51	26	9	11	3	77	86
Business	2020	15	31	43	43	8	46	89
	2021	50	17	17	17	-	67	84
Chemistry	2020	22	30	26	15	6	52	78
	2021	38	44	9	3	6	82	91
Chinese	2021	100	-	-	-	-	100	100
Class Civilisation	2020	-	67	33	-	-	67	100
	2021	50	50	-	-	-	100	100
Computer Science	2020	-	-	-	-	100	-	-
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drama	2020	33	33		33		67	67
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economics	2020	27	27	27	9	9	55	82
	2021	33	33	33	-	-	66	100
English Language	2020	40	20	30	10	-	60	90
	2021	80	-	-	20	-	80	80
English Literature	2020	42	42	8	8	-	84	92
	2021	89	-	11	-	-	89	100
French	2020	40	20	20	20	-	60	80
	2021	33	33	33	-	-	67	100
Geography	2020	14	57	-	29	-	71	71
	2021	83	17	-	-	-	100	100
Geology	2020	50	50	-	-	-	100	100
	2021	67	33	-	-	-	100	100

Subjects	Year	% A*	% A	% B	% C	% D/E	% A*/A	% A*-B
German	2020	-	-	100	-	-	-	100
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Politics	2020	14	29	14	43		43	57
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
History	2020	25	25	25	8	17	50	75
	2021	67	17	-	17	-	84	84
Latin	2020	33	33	-	33	-	67	67
	2021	50	50	-	-	-	100	100
Maths	2020	19	26	39	10	6	45	84
	2021	40	48	8	4	-	88	96
Further Maths	2020	60	20	20	-	-	80	100
	2021	75	-	25	-	-	75	100
Music	2020	-	50	50	-	-	50	100
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PE	2020	25	50	25	-	-	75	100
	2021	33	33	-	33	-	66	66
Physics	2020	18	45	18	-	18	64	82
	2021	45	27	18	-	9	72	91
Psychology	2020	7	34	37	17	5	41	78
	2021	16	42	21	5	16	58	79
Religious Studies	2020	17	33	33	-	17	50	84
	2021	75	25	-	-	-	100	100
Sociology	2020	8	15	31	23	23	23	54
	2021	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
Spanish	2020	33	44	11	11	-	77	88
	2021	33	44	22	-	-	77	100

Year 13 Leaving Destinations

University	Programme of study
Anglia Ruskin University	Medicine
Cardiff University	Physiotherapy
Durham University	English Literature
Durham University	Geography
Durham University	Biological Sciences
Durham University	Law
Ernst & Young	Apprenticeship
Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Imperial College London	Physics with a Year Abroad
King's College London, University of London	Dentistry
King's College London, University of London	Mathematics with Management & Finance
King's College London, University of London	Dentistry
King's College London, University of London	Pharmacology
Liverpool John Moores University	Zoology with Foundation Year
London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London	Accounting & Finance
Loughborough University	Psychology with Criminology
Newcastle University	Biomedical Sciences (Integrated Masters)
Newcastle University	Business Accounting and Finance – Flying Start Degree Programme with PwC
Newcastle University	Business Management
Northumbria University, Newcastle	Psychology
Northumbria University, Newcastle	Business and Management Foundation Year
Nottingham Trent University	Law with Criminology
St George's, University of London	Medicine (5 year)
The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences
The University of Edinburgh	French and Spanish
UCL (University College London)	Arts and Sciences with Study Abroad
UCL (University College London)	Engineering (Biochemical)
UCL (University College London)	Chemistry
University of Birmingham	Biochemistry
University of Bristol	Marketing

University	Programme of study
University of Bristol	Law
University of Bristol	Engineering Mathematics
University of Cambridge	Law
University of Cambridge	Medicine
University of Exeter	Law
University of Hull	Earth Science (with Study Abroad)
University of Leeds	Law
University of Liverpool	Medicine
University of Liverpool	Medicine
University of Liverpool	Medicine
University of Liverpool	Medicine
University of Liverpool	Criminology
University of Liverpool	Business Management with a Year in Industry
University of Liverpool	Medicine
University of Liverpool	Chemistry with a Year in Industry
University of Manchester	Dentistry (BDS first-year entry)
University of Nottingham	Medicine
University of Nottingham	Veterinary Medicine
University of Nottingham	English with Creative Writing
University of Oxford	Medicine
University of Oxford	Medicine
University of Plymouth	Biomedical Science
University of Sheffield	Medicine (Phase One)
University of Sheffield	Medicine (Phase One)
University of St Andrews	Management
University of Sunderland	Medicine
University of Warwick	Modern Languages with Linguistics
University of York	Biomedical Sciences
University of York	Midwifery
Skyborne Airline Academy	Pilot training programme



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SIXTH FORM

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