Subject Specific Information
September 2023 Entry

OPEN THE DOOR TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR CHOICE

November 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

May we first offer a very warm welcome to Didsbury Sixth Form.

Choosing where to continue your studies, post-16, can be a daunting decision for some. It is really important that you take the time to familiarise yourself with different contexts; both in how they 'feel' but also what their educational offer is. For this, it is only fair that we are transparent about what Didsbury Sixth Form offers.

We are an academic Sixth From within a state comprehensive 11-18 school. We offer a very structured learning environment and we expect you, our students, to meet our high expectations in terms of appearance and attitude to study. It is our belief that all students should strive to be the very best they can be, and our aim is to help students access the best university courses and higher-level apprenticeships. Our students will have high academic aspirations of themselves and we will support them in their journey to bringing those aspirations to fruition.

With strong academic study being a large part of our DNA, we only offer A Level courses. Further information on all of the courses that we offer can be found in the following pages. This of course introduces the next big decision to make when going into post-16 education: subject choice.

Subjects should, first and foremost, be ones you are interested in and be able to achieve well in. A Level study requires a lot of work beyond the classroom and this always comes more easily where a natural interest exists. Your subject grades will decide which university you go to and you will need high grades to access the best and most competitive courses. The same applies to the best degree apprenticeships.

Please use this document in conjunction with our prospectus to gain a better understanding to what it is to be a Didsbury Sixth Form scholar. If you do have any further queries then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

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September 2023 Entry

Didsbury Sixth Form Entry September 2023

A Level subject information

Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama and Theatre
Economics
English Language
English Literature
Geography
History
Mathematics
Mathematics (Further)
Media Studies
Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish)
Philosophy
Physical Education
Physics
Politics
Psychology

Level 3 Certificate

Mathematics (Core)

Entry Requirements

We are an academic Sixth Form and as such offer a wide range of A Level subjects.

We welcome applications from all Year 11 students who meet the minimum entry requirements of Grade 6 or better in Mathematics and English Language, together with a further 4 GCSE subjects at Grade 6 or better.

Some of these subjects can be chosen without any additional entry requirement, whilst others will require you to reach a particular GCSE grade.

Further subject information can be found in this booklet.

ELITE
Pathway

The ELITE Pathway

Enabling Laurus Individuals To Excel

The ELITE Pathway provides the guidance for aspirational athletes to achieve their academic potential and sporting dreams, as well as helping students to develop a holistic understanding of how to balance the demands of elite sport.

Some of you may be thinking of applying to be part of the Laurus Trust Elite Pathway programme. To be considered, you will need to meet stringent criteria: you must be playing or participating at a national or international level, and so dedicating a significant number of hours every week in training in your sport.

You must also have ambitions to play your sport at a professional level or have the potential to be an international player or on an Olympic or Paralympic pathway.

If this applies to you, then you will need to make a separate application for the Elite Pathway as well as for Sixth Form.

If you are accepted onto the Elite Pathway, the entry requirements for Mathematics and English are different to those listed for general entry into Sixth Form: we will accept a Grade 5 in Mathematics or English Language, or both, provided you have achieved the additional subject specific entry criteria which remain unchanged.

Art and Design

Course title Advanced GCE in Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 in GCSE Art and Design

Course overview	Assessment overview
Year 12 – Coursework Portfolio In Year 12 students will explore fundamental aspects of Art and Design in preparation for Year 13 such as: • Developing ways of working – workshop style activities to develop skills and understanding of techniques • Engaging with the works of artists and developing links (practical and critical) to their own work • Exploring independent directions within work • 5 hour practical exam (internally marked)	
Year 12/13 Component 1: Personal Investigation For this unit you are required to use personal starting point(s) to produce a major project that shows you working through a range of art and design experiences. You will include a personal study, related to your coursework theme of between 1000 and 3000 words.	**Component 1: Personal Investigation** (Assessment in June Year 13) 60% of A Level Out of 96 marks
Year 13: Component 2: Externally Set Assignment From an early release paper you will choose one starting point. During the initial planning and preparation stage you will demonstrate the ability to record, plan and develop ideas and complete a final response under controlled conditions in 15 hours.	**Component 2: Externally Set Assignment** (Assessment in June Year 13) Preparation Period from Feb + 15 hours supervised time 40% of A Level Out of 96 Marks

Future progression

Art combines well with other creative A Level subjects, and is an essential requirement for Art and Design courses at Art Colleges and Universities. There are many opportunities in our design conscious world for careers using skills you will develop.

Many students who wish to continue their Art and Design education complete a year-long Foundation Diploma. This gives you the opportunity to explore a range of different disciplines such as painting, sculpture, graphics, animation and fashion before deciding on the most suitable degree course to develop your skills even further. Alternatively, some students

decide to go straight onto a creative degree following the development of a portfolio of work demonstrating their best skills and ideas. There are numerous Art and Design degrees on offer, and during your A Level course we will ensure that you find out what is out there through Open Days, visits from ex-students, a UCAS Design your Future fair and through personal experience.

The competition for places on the best degree courses is fierce. You will submit a personal statement and an online portfolio prior to the offer of an interview. To give yourself the best chance of success you need to demonstrate that you are forward thinking, passionate, committed and highly skilled.

Potential careers

Within a £100billion sector there are many creative employment prospects. Here are a few:

- Acting
- Advertising and Marketing
- Architecture
- Graphic/Fashion Design
- Art/Crafts
- Film
- TV/Radio/Broadcast production
- Photography & Video
- Publishing
- Journalism
- Museums/Libraries/Art Curation
- Writing
- Theatre
- Music

How to succeed in Art and Design

You will:

- have excellent and refined artistic skills and a commitment to developing these skills further
- have an ability to research, refine and engage with creative work to develop a project independently and thoroughly
- have a genuine interest in current exhibitions and artist practice
- be able to develop ideas and connect with current practice.

Biology

Course title Advanced GCE in Biology

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science. In addition, due to the content of the new GCSE specifications, we recommend that pupils have taken separate sciences at GCSE.

Course overview	Assessment overview
Core content: 1.Biological Molecules 2.Cells 3.Organisms exchange substances with their environment 4.Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms 5.Energy transfers in and between organisms (A Level only) 6.Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment (A Level only) 7.Genetics, populations, evolution and external environments (A Level only) 8.The control of gene expression (A Level only)	A Level assessment outline Paper 1 (35% of A Level) One 2 hour exam Content from Topics 1 - 4 is assessed This paper will include both short and long answer questions and extended response questions. Paper 2 (35% of A Level) One 2 hour exam Content from Topics 5 - 8 is assessed This paper will include both short and long answer questions and comprehension questions. Paper 3 (30% of A Level) One 2 hour exam Content from Topics 1 - 8 is assessed This paper will include structured questions, critical analysis of experimental data and one essay from a choice of two titles. All three exams to be taken in June in Year 13 Practical endorsement Twelve compulsory assessed practicals to be completed over the course of two years.

Future progression

All the leading universities offer BSc Biology or similar. The leading universities will require A Level qualifications of A*AA to ABB for access to most Biological Science degrees. Each university has its own specific entry requirement. Often an accompanying Science A Level is preferred.

Potential careers

A degree in Biology can lead to careers in ecology, forensic science, genetic engineering, marine biology, medicine, pharmaceuticals, physiotherapy, research and development, and much more. Some of these jobs may require you to gain further skills or do further study to enter and/or progress.

How to succeed in Biology

You will need:

- to have a great enthusiasm to learn and study Biology and a determination to succeed
- a strong interest in the living world and its complexities
- to face challenges in your studies with resilience and resourcefulness
- to be confident in your ability to face the different aspects of assessment, including practical and investigative skills, short answer questions, comprehension and continuous prose answers
- excellent practical, analytical and thinking skills.

Chemistry

Course title Advanced GCE in Chemistry

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science and a minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. In addition, due to the content of the new GCSE specifications, we recommend that pupils have taken separate sciences at GCSE.

Course overview	Assessment overview
At A Level, the specification develops the concepts of Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. **Physical Chemistry:** kinetic and equilibria principles are further developed and are now treated quantitatively, which includes applying complex equations. **Inorganic Chemistry:** periodicity is looked at in greater detail and the transition metals and their reactions form a large part of the content. **Organic Chemistry:** nomenclature, isomerism and complex mechanisms are looked at in detail.	**Paper 1:** (35% of A Level; 105 marks) 2 hour written exam on Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Practical Skills **Paper 2:** (35% of A Level; 105 marks) 2 hour written exam on Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Practical Skills **Paper 3:** (30% of A Level; 90 marks) 2 hour written exam on any content and any Practical Skills. 30 marks of multiple-choice questions All 3 exams to be taken in June of Year 13 **Practical Skills Endorsement** A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A Level. This will be assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.

Future progression

Most universities have BSc Chemistry (F100) courses. Most of the leading universities require A Level Chemistry Grade A, but this changes year on year, and entry requirements for leading universities range from A*AA to ABB. In addition to A Level Chemistry, most universities require Mathematics A Level and/or a second Science subject.

Potential careers

A degree in Chemistry can lead to careers in analytical chemistry, chemical engineering, forensic science, medicine, the military, pharmaceuticals, research and development, space exploration, textiles, polymers and much more.

How to succeed in Chemistry

You will need:

- a great enthusiasm to learn and study Chemistry
- a determination to succeed
- to be extremely resilient and resourceful when your studies become very challenging
- a very good understanding of mathematics
- strong practical, analytical and thinking skills.

Computer Science

Course title Advanced GCE in Computer Science

Exam board OCR

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 Mathematics. We do not require you to have a GCSE in Computer Science but it would be beneficial for this course.

Course overview	Assessment overview
Computer Systems: • The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices • Software and software development • Exchanging data • Data types, data structures and algorithms • Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues **Algorithms and Programming** • Elements of computational thinking • Problem solving and programming • Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms **Programming Project** • Analysis of the problem • Design of the solution • Developing the solution • Testing the solution • Evaluation of the solution	**Computer systems (01):** 140 marks 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper 40% of total A Level **Algorithms and programming (02):** 140 marks 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper 40% of total A Level **Programming project (03):** 70 marks Non-exam assessment 20% of total A Level

Future progression

Computer Science is offered at most leading universities. They will require a minimum of AAA or AAB for access to most degrees, usually with at least one other facilitating subject. Each university will have very specific entry requirements and it is worth checking these before choices are made. Computer Science can be combined in joint honours degrees with a range of other subjects including Mathematics, Physics and Engineering.

Potential careers

“Graduates from the School of Computing have excellent job prospects. With the continuing application of computer technologies, rapid growth of hardware and software technologies, their allied industries, and widespread application, the demand for graduates is set to continue for the foreseeable future. Recent graduate destinations include: Barclays, BT Group – Openreach, CSC, EMIS, Ernst & Young, Fujitsu, Goodrich ISR Systems, Imagination Technologies, Microsoft and PepsiCo” (Source: Leeds University)

How to succeed in Computer Science

You will:

- be able to persevere with difficult problems and concepts
- have a genuine interest in software development and how computers work
- be willing to read extensively around the subject from a variety of sources
- have a genuine desire to learn programming languages and create programs
- be comfortable with all aspects of the assessment. They require problem solving and logical thinking skills as well as extended writing and the willingness to work hard to master complex computing language and concepts.

Drama and Theatre

Course title Advanced GCE in Drama and Theatre

Exam board Edexcel

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 6 in GCSE Drama. If you have not studied GCSE Drama, you will need to be able to prove a performance level that is appropriate for A Level.

Course overview	Assessment overview
The course is designed for students who enjoy exploring plays practically as well as understanding the context of when and why they were written. Students will learn about Drama and Theatre studies from numerous aspects; as directors, designers and performers. The course is made up of three components. **Component One** consists of the study of one complete performance text and one theatre practitioner. Students will use this as a starting point to devise their own original performance in a group. **Component Two** requires students to study two contrasting texts from a performer's perspective. Students will then perform a monologue/duologue from one key extract from the first text and a group performance from one key extract from the second text. **Component Three** consists of a written examination lasting 2 hours 30 minutes. This takes the form of 4 questions split between three sections; a live theatre review, a response to one text from the point of view as a performer and designer and a response to a further text from a director's perspective, using a practitioner's influence.	**Component One: Devising (9DR0/01)** – coursework and practical performance. 80 marks available – 40% of the course. Component one comprises of a portfolio (3000 words) and a devised performance. This component is internally assessed and externally moderated. **Component Two: Text in Performance (9DR0/02)** – practical performance. 60 marks available – 20% of the course. Component two is the practical examination and is assessed by a visiting examiner. **Component Three: Theatre Makers in Practice (9DR0/03)** – written examination. 80 marks available – 40% of the course. Component three is a written examination and therefore externally assessed.

Future progression

Progression to the further study of drama falls mainly into 2 pathways post-18: a traditional university-based drama degree or a drama school based professional training course, many of which are to degree level. Drama Schools admit students on the basis of an audition process and the main focus of admission is the potential for training, and therefore future employment in the industry.

Potential careers

Direct links to Drama: Acting, directing, stage management, arts administration, drama teaching, drama therapy, production assisting, presenting, stage design. Other careers: Law, social work, journalism, marketing, administration, HR, architecture, teaching.

How to succeed in Drama and Theatre

A continued interest in drama through extra-curricular involvement in drama societies, productions etc. is desirable. An active interest in watching theatre, reading play texts and researching practitioners and playwrights is recommended. A strong work ethic, ability to self-motivate, work within a team and voice your own directorial ideas are essential.

Economics

Course title Advanced GCE in Economics

Exam board Eduqas

Subject specific entry criteria You do not need to have studied Economics at GCSE to study the subject at A Level. However, you will need to have achieved a Grade 7 in English or Mathematics.

Course overview	Assessment overview
You will study: • Economic methodology and the economic problem • Individual economic decision making • Price determination in a competitive market • Production, costs and revenue • Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly • The labour market • The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality • The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets • The measurement of macroeconomic performance • How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts • Economic performance • Financial markets, regulation and monetary policy • Fiscal policy and supply-side policies • The international economy	**Paper 1 Economic Principles** Written exam: 90 minutes (30% of A Level) Section A – compulsory multiple-choice questions Section B – compulsory structured questions To assess all of the A level content **Paper 2 Exploring Economic Behaviour** Written exam: 150 minutes (30% of A Level) Compulsory data response questions covering all of the A level content **Paper 3 Evaluating Economic Models and Policies** Written exam: 150 minutes (40% of A Level) Section A – Microeconomics Section B – Macroeconomics Section C – Trade and Development One essay from a choice of two in each section To assess all of the A level content

Future Progression

Economics courses at top universities are competitive and will have typical offers of AAA. Many Russell Group universities will require you to have studied Mathematics at A Level, although Manchester, Nottingham and Birmingham Universities do not. Degrees in Economics are very highly regarded by employers, and graduates in the subject often top the list of those achieving the highest salaries.

Having an A Level in Economics is also an excellent starting point for those considering a Degree Apprenticeship as the subject provides an excellent grounding in the commercial awareness that is needed for work in many corporate settings.

Potential careers

Economics develops a very wide set of skills, knowledge and understanding. Those who can discuss economic, business and political issues are at an advantage in any workplace. Some Economics students will follow a traditional route and go into finance, accounting and professional services fields, or into the broad array of opportunities within financial services. Perhaps less expected is the importance of Economics within sectors such as healthcare, where the challenge of scarce resources and many competing needs is particularly notable. Additionally, work in any role within a business, from a start-up to a multinational conglomerate, is made easier by a secure underpinning in Economics.

How to succeed in Economics

You will need:

- to be able to make sense of data, reading from a table, graph or similar, question what the data tells us, and how reliable it is
- to have empathy: if you can't put yourself in someone else's position you will have no idea how they might react to changes in either the micro or macro economy
- to question and understand bias and be able to follow an argument through a logical chain of reasoning
- to be a confident communicator, as effectively arguing your position so that others understand, is essential.

You do not need to be an exceptional mathematician to take Economics at A Level, nor do you need to continue with Mathematics to A Level if you don't want to. There is almost no Mathematics in Economics A Level.

However, as already mentioned, if you want to continue with Economics at university please be aware that a very large number of courses at universities will ask for Mathematics A Level.

Economics does involve essay writing, but essays are very different to those in History or English. In Economics, essays will identify and outline a theory and then consider the extent to which the real outcomes follow the expected outcome, from the theory described. You need to be concise and accurate in your writing style, rather than creative or particularly wordy.

English Language

Course title: Advanced GCE in English Language

Exam board: AQA

Subject specific entry criteria: Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Course overview	Assessment overview
Course content **Unit 1: Language, the Individual and Society** Representation and Meaning: For this unit, students will develop their understanding of how language works and how text producers (of spoken and written texts) manipulate language to create meanings and representations. Language Development: For this unit, students will develop a strong theoretical and linguistic understanding of how children learn language by exploring real data from children at different stages of development.	**Assessment** Unit 1 Examination in June in Year 13. One exam, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes. Section A contains three compulsory questions based on Textual Variations and Representations requiring analysis and comparison of unseen data. Section B focuses on Children's Language Development with a choice of two questions using unseen data. 40% of A Level
Unit 2: Language Diversity and Change The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore language diversity and change over time focusing on the following key topics of study: • Language Change • Language and Gender • Language Variation (Accent, Dialect and Social Groups' usage) • Language and Ethnicity • Language and Occupation • World Englishes. In this unit, students will also develop discursive, analytical and creative writing skills when writing about language.	Unit 2 Examination in June in Year 13. One exam, lasting 2 hours 30 minutes. Section A contains a choice of two essay questions on Language Diversity and Change. Section B contains two compulsory questions based on Language Discourses, including a directed writing response. 40% of A Level
Unit 3: Language in Action The emphasis in this unit is to allow students to explore and analyse language data independently, as well as develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise. Students will write a language investigation focusing on an individual interest in an area of language study. Past investigations have covered diverse topics, such as regional dialect; the language of the media; gendered talk and children's language use. Students will also write one piece of original writing and accompanying commentary based on either: The Power of Persuasion, The Power of Storytelling or The Power of Information.	Unit 3 Non-exam assessment. Two sections: a language investigation and a piece of original writing supported by a commentary. 20% of A Level

Future progression

This English Language qualification will provide students with an opportunity to study language extensively. It will support students who wish to study languages at A Level and is an ideal option for students who wish to balance out their sixth form portfolio with a subject that provides contrast with Science and Mathematics subjects. The independent study required will provide the firm foundations of a skill that is essential for success at university. Similarly, the ability to demonstrate excellent communication skills, highlighted by both universities and employers as an increasingly sought-after quality, will be enhanced enormously by this qualification.

Potential careers

Study of English Language A Level means that students will become exceptional communicators; therefore, this subject relates to and complements creative and scientific subjects alike.

Some subject specific careers that the study of English Language A Level can lead to are:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Editing
- Publishing
- Digital Copywriting and Print Media
- Writing
- Lexicography
- Journalism
- Web Content Management
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Social Media Management

How to succeed in English Language

You will:

- have a genuine interest in communication and language
- be a keen reader of fiction and non-fiction texts
- have a genuine desire to investigate the way in which a variety of written and spoken texts are shaped by, and in turn shape, culture/society
- be a creative writer
- be prepared to work independently and complete research assignments
- have a critical eye and be able to identify and respond to other writer's viewpoints
- be working at a Grade 6 or above in your GCSE in this subject.

English Literature

Course title Advanced GCE in English Literature (Specification B)

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language

Course overview	Assessment overview
Unit 1: Literary Genres The aim of this unit is to introduce candidates to aspects of the genre of Tragedy. Texts have been selected and grouped together to enable students to understand the roots of the literary genre as well as how the genre has developed. Students study three texts: Shakespeare's play 'Othello', Miller's play 'Death of a Salesman' and a selection of the poetry of Keats.	**Unit 1 Examination in June in Year 13.** One closed book exam, lasting two hours and thirty minutes. The paper is in three sections and students answer one question in each section. All three texts will be covered. 40% of A Level.
Unit 2: Texts and Genres This unit introduces candidates to the more modern genre of crime writing and texts wherein a transgressive act is the driving narrative force. This genre, which is heavily influenced by culture and society, is continually evolving and allows students to analyse and interpret more modern texts as well as older texts in new and interesting ways. Students study a broad range of transgressive fiction to deepen their appreciation of genre nuances, as well as three set texts: one post-2000 prose text (Kate Atkinson's 'When Will There Be Good News'), Coleridge's narrative poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', and Agatha Christie's novel, 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.	**Unit 2 Examination in June in Year 13.** One open book exam, lasting three hours. The paper is in three sections and candidates answer one question from each section. This includes the study of an unseen extract. All three texts will be covered. 40% of total A level.
Unit 3: Theory and Independence This unit is designed to allow students to read widely and develop their skills as critical, crafted writers of extended essays. Students are guided in the choice of their own academically-challenging texts and coached in the understanding that the contemporary study of Literature needs to be informed by the fact that different theoretical and critical methods can be applied to the subject. Students write about two different literary texts (one poetry text and one prose) through their choice of critical perspectives such as Marxism, Feminism, Post-Colonialism and Eco-criticism.	**Unit 3 Non-exam assessment written across Years 12 and 13. Submitted in May of Year 13.** Minimum of two texts for study linking to an aspect of the Critical Anthology. A portfolio of two written essays (one may be re-creative). 20% of A level.

Future progression and potential careers

- Recognised by top universities as a highly facilitating subject with competitive and transferable skills
- Recognised by top companies (for example in Google's 'Project Oxygen' and 'Project Aristotle' which list top employability and promotion qualities) as developing the creativity, criticality, empathy, and interpretative and critical thinking skills deemed vital in the modern workplace

- Skills are directly relevant and transferable to the study of degree-level Law, History, Politics, Languages, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Classics, Education, Linguistics, English Literature
- Skills learnt in the study of Literature are also highly useful for any subject wherein the ability to argue critically, evaluate with discernment and critique the written word hold merit
- As the ability to read extensively and develop independent study skills is so fundamental to many university degrees, achievement in this A Level can provide a sound basis for most courses and a wide range of careers, with common career paths taking English Literature students into lucrative and enriching careers in law, journalism, publishing, advertising, education, and media.

How to succeed in English Literature

You will:

- have a genuine interest in English Literature beyond your set texts
- be willing to form and express personal opinions on a text and support those opinions with rigorous textual reference and justification, and be prepared to work independently, analyse in detail and produce work that is thoughtful, critical and astute
- be willing to seek out research and enrichment beyond the classroom
- be a keen reader, capable of independently completing reading tasks to deadlines
- be ready and willing to accept the challenge of evaluative writing and be open to feedback to improve yourself as a critical writer.

Geography

Course title Advanced GCE in Geography

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 in GCSE Geography

Course overview	Assessment overview
Physical geography • Water and carbon cycles • Glacial systems and landscapes • Hazards **Human geography** • Global systems and global governance • Changing places • Population and the environment **Geographical fieldwork investigation** • 3,000 - 4,000-word investigation on a topic of choice linked to the course	**Physical geography** 120 marks (40% of total A Level) 2 hours 30 minutes written paper **Human geography** 120 marks (40% of total A Level) 2 hours 30 minutes written paper **Geographical fieldwork investigation** 60 marks (20% of total A Level)

Future progression

All Russell Group universities offer a pure Geography degree or one combined with other subjects. Minimum entry grades are AAB, but other universities may differ.

Potential careers

Possible careers linked to having a Geography degree include:
Town planner**,** cartographer**,** GIS specialist**,** climatologist, hydrologist, meteorologist, sustainability planner, surveyor, teacher, marketing and many more.

How to succeed in Geography

You will:

- have a genuine interest in all aspects of geography-related issues
- be willing to read around the subject through a variety of sources
- keep up to date with current affairs
- be resilient and resourceful
- have good thinking skills and mathematical understanding.

History

Course title Advanced GCE in History

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 in GCSE History

Course overview	Assessment overview
Component 1: Breadth Study **Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964** This option allows students to address the following key questions: • How was Russia governed and how did political authority change and develop? • Why did opposition develop and how effective was it? • How and with what results did the economy develop and change? • What was the extent of social and cultural change? • How important were ideas and ideology? • How important was the role of individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?	**Unit 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)
Component 2: Depth Study **The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-1997** This option provides for the study in depth of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.	**Unit 2: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-1997** Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)
Component 3: Historical investigation (non-exam assessment) In particular, this personal study encourages students to: • ask relevant and significant questions about the past and undertake research • develop as independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers • acquire an understanding of the nature of historical study • organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding in a piece of sustained writing. This personal study will be chosen by the student and should take the form of a question in the context of c.100 years. Questions could be based on topics including *The Age of the Crusades* or *Witchcraft c. 1560-1660* or other options.	**Unit 3: NEA** 3000-3500 words marked by teachers and moderated by AQA (20% of A Level)

Future progression
History can be studied at university in its own right, as well as in combination with other subjects such as Languages, Politics or Economics. There are also a range of related degrees such as International Relations or American Studies.

Potential careers
The majority of students who take History degrees do not enter a field connected to History. Those who do can be teachers, archaeologists, archivists or professional historians. Others enter a wide range of professions including the law, marketing, journalism, the armed forces, and management roles to name just a few. In fact, many of the skills you develop make it an ideal training for almost any profession. It is a highly regarded subject.

How to succeed in History
You will need a genuine interest in the subject and a passion for debate and argument. You should be prepared to work hard and to read and write extensively.

Mathematics

Course title Advanced GCE in Mathematics (H240)

Exam board OCR

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Course overview	**Assessment overview**	
Pure topics include: • Mathematical proof • Algebra and functions • Coordinate geometry • Sequences and series • Trigonometry • Exponentials and logarithms • Calculus • Numerical methods	Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (01) 100 marks 2 hour written paper	$33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of total A Level
Statistics topics include: • Statistical sampling • Data presentation • Data interpretation • Probability • Statistical distributions • Statistical hypothesis testing	Paper 2: Pure & Statistics (02) 100 marks 2 hour written paper	$33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of total A Level
Mechanics topics include: • Quantities and units • Kinematics • Forces and Newton's laws • Moments • Vectors	Paper 3: Pure & Mechanics (03) 100 marks 2 hour written paper	$33\frac{1}{3}\%$ of total A Level

Future progression

The emphasis on deductive reasoning and problem solving makes mathematics an excellent facilitator. The course provides a firm foundation in pure mathematics, whilst the mechanics will help those wishing to pursue natural sciences, engineering, etc. and the statistics assists the further study of medicine, the social sciences, psychology, etc. The intellectual rigour of Mathematics A Level means that as well as being a requirement for mathematical sciences it is highly desirable in other areas as it highlights the candidate's overall intellectual ability.

Potential careers

Mathematics allows entry to a huge range of careers in areas including: Engineering, Science, Research, Computing, Cryptology, Accountancy, Finance and Consultancy.

How to succeed in Mathematics

This is a very demanding course and, although some candidates might have found their progression through GCSE uncomplicated, A Level requires intensive study and reiteration of skills throughout the course. It is recognised as an extremely intensive study programme and requires a lot of self-resilience. Enthusiasm and seeing Maths as a priority is essential.

Mathematics (Further)

Course title Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics (H245)

Exam board OCR

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics

<table>
<tr><th>Course overview</th><th colspan="2">Assessment overview</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Pure Core topics include:
Complex Numbers
Matrices
Proof by Induction
Roots of Polynomials
Vectors
Differential Equations
Polar Equations
Hyperbolic Functions
Further Integration</td><td>Paper 1:
Pure Core 1 (Y540)
75 marks

1 hour 30 minutes written paper</td><td>25%
of total
A Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>Paper 2:
Pure Core 2 (Y541)
75 marks

1 hour 30 minutes written paper</td><td>25%
of total
A Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mechanics topics include:
Work, Energy and Power
Dimensional Analysis
Collisions
Elasticity
Circular Motion</td><td>Paper 3:
Mechanics (Y543)
75 marks

1 hour 30 minutes written paper</td><td>25%
of total
A Level</td></tr>
<tr><td>Additional Pure Mathematics topics include:
Group Theory
Number Theory
Recurrence Relations
Surfaces & Partial Differentiation
Further Vectors</td><td>Paper 4:
Additional Pure (Y545)
75 marks

1 hour 30 minutes written paper</td><td>25%
of total
A Level</td></tr>
</table>

Future progression

Further Mathematics students are demonstrating commitment to their studies, as well as learning content that is hugely beneficial for any mathematically rich degree. A number of elite universities require a Further Mathematics qualification to study a mathematical degree whilst others may reduce their grade requirements for Further Mathematics students.

Potential careers

Mathematics allows entry to a huge range of careers in areas including: Engineering, Science, Research, Computing, Cryptology, Accountancy, Finance and Consultancy.

How to succeed in Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics is one of the most demanding A Level courses, requiring intensive study and reiteration of skills throughout the syllabus. Algebraic fluency is essential to succeed and must be coupled with the ability to process very abstract concepts and problems. It is recognised as one of the more intensive study programmes and requires a lot of self-resilience and independence. A flair and passion for Maths is essential to succeed.

Media Studies

Course title Advanced GCE in Media Studies

Exam board Eduqas

Subject specific entry criteria There are no specific grade requirements for Media Studies

Course overview	Assessment overview
Over the two years, you will explore a range of contemporary and historical media products across a range of media platforms. They include texts from: • Advertising and Marketing • Newspapers • Magazines • Computer games • TV drama • Blogs and online content • Music videos • Radio • Film You will study a range of theorists and be expected to explore and challenge ideas about these texts from a critical point of view. Throughout the course you will develop technical skill in the use of camera, lighting and editing equipment and in the use of Photoshop software to create a range of products. This will help to prepare you for the NEA coursework. **Cross media production** Students will be expected to produce a cross media production for their NEA. A new brief is set by the examination board each year, but in previous years, students have created a film campaign including a website, posters and DVD cover designs.	**Component 1 written exam** **Media Products, Industries and Audiences** **2 hours 15 minutes** **90 marks** **35% of qualification** **Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation** This section assesses media language and representation in relation to **two** of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers. **Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences** This section assesses **two** of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts. **Component 2 written exam** **Media Forms and Products in Depth** **2 hours 30 minutes** **90 marks** **35% of qualification** **Section A – Television in the Global Age** **Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media** **Section C – Media in the Online Age** **Component 3: Cross-Media Production** **Non exam assessment (NEA)** **60 marks** **30% of qualification** Based on a new production brief set by the exam board each year, you will be asked to research, plan and produce a cross media production. Briefs can include TV, Music promotion, Magazine production, Film marketing or website production. It must conform to a genre outlined by the exam board and fulfil the required industry and audience requirements.

Future progression

Studying A Level Media Studies will develop your critical analysis skills. This complements a range of degree and further education paths. The content of the course will develop some of the transferable skills that you may need to study Communication, Media Production, Film Studies, Sociology, Art and Design, Business, Advertising, Marketing, English Literature and others.

Potential careers

A qualification in Media Studies does not limit you to traditional media careers like journalism and TV production. Whilst these are still exciting paths, most businesses require a media presence. As one of the fastest growing industries, new media careers are developing all the time. You could work in marketing, PR, social media, computer game design, radio, podcasting, advertising, TV, film, journalism, corporate video production and many more.

How to succeed in Media

You will need a critical, analytical mind. We want to see you develop your questioning skills as you question the purpose and impact of the media on the world around us.
Having a creative approach and technical flair will also benefit any students who take up the course.

Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish)

Course title Advanced GCE in French / Spanish

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 in the chosen language

Course overview	Assessment overview
Below is a selection of the topics and subtopics that we study, specific to the countries where the language is spoken. **1 Aspects of society** Modern and traditional values / Cyberspace/ Equal Rights / Voluntary Work / Youth Culture **2 Artistic culture** Music /Regional identity / Cultural heritage/ Cinema / Art and Architecture **3 Aspects of society** Immigration / Ethnicity / Racism / Integration / Diversity **4 Aspects of political life** Young people and politics / Monarchies and dictatorships / Re-unification / Popular movements / Demonstrations **Literary texts and films** Additionally, at least one literary text and one film in the target language will be studied in detail, and linked where appropriate to the themes. **Texts**; French; Delphine de Vigan, No et Moi Spanish; Lorca *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* **Films;** Au revoir les enfants (French) El laberinto del fauno (Spanish) **Grammar** Students will develop a thorough grammatical knowledge of the language enabling them to express themselves fluently in spoken and written language.	This A Level is taught over two years with 3 final examinations taken between April – June of the second year of the course. **Paper 1** Listening Reading and Writing (summary and translation into target language) 2 hours 30 minutes 50% of overall mark **Paper 2** Writing (2 essays on works studied) 2 hours 20% of overall mark **Paper 3** Speaking (presentation and discussion of an individual research project of choice + topic discussion based on a stimulus card) 16-18 minutes (plus 5 minutes preparation time) 30%

Future progression

Languages are offered at all the leading universities. Students who study languages can do so as part of a traditional language degree, or you can take a language combined with subjects as diverse as History, English, Law or Marketing. A language degree will allow you

to experience living or working abroad (most language degrees include a year abroad as part of the course). The ability to speak another language will also increase your opportunities to work and travel abroad at any stage in the future.

Potential careers

A degree in Modern Languages can open up a variety of career opportunities as language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally. Career progression for language graduates includes professions such as finance, marketing, advertising, banking, teaching, translating and many other industries requiring language skills and cultural awareness.

How to succeed in Modern Foreign Languages

You will:

- have a genuine desire to develop your foreign language skills
- have an interest in the culture, literature, society and history of your chosen language
- be dedicated and willing to do lots of practice to improve skills such as speaking and writing
- be prepared to carry out independent study in order to reinforce knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Philosophy

Course title Advanced GCE in Philosophy

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Minimum Grade 6 in a relevant Humanities subject at GCSE (ideally Religious Studies or History)

Course overview	Assessment overview
Paper 1: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy: What is knowledge? Realism, Idealism, Innatism, Normative Ethical Theories, Applied Ethics and Meta-Ethics In **Epistemology** you will look at what knowledge is and where knowledge comes from. We will explore whether knowledge is able to be formed only from perception or whether reason can also be a source of knowledge. We will also look at one of the most influential philosophers of all time (Descartes) and whether there is a limit to knowledge by applying his scepticism. In the **Moral Philosophy** section, we will delve into ideas about what makes an action right or wrong, focussing on normative ethical theories such as Utilitarianism and Virtue Ethics and Deontology. The area of moral philosophy also explores applied ethics, looking at matters such as stealing, eating animals and telling lies. Such topics can all lead into theory on moral realism and the existence of our own morals.	**Paper 1:** Epistemology and Moral Philosophy 3 hours 100 marks 50% of A Level Section A: 5 questions on Epistemology Section B: 5 questions on Moral Philosophy
Paper 2: The Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of Mind: The nature of God and arguments relating to the existence of God, Religious Language, What do we mean by mind, Dualist and Physicalist theories and Functionalism In **The Metaphysics of God** we will look into the nature of God and how that can allow us to question or prove the existence of a higher being. This includes the famous ontological, cosmological and teleological arguments as well as exploring the biggest problem for believers; The Problem of Evil. We will also look into religious language and the issues around verification and falsification. **The Metaphysics of Mind** looks at whether minds exist and are not identical to bodies, or whether there are some properties of the mind that are not reducible to physical properties. In short, we ask the question What is the mind? And where could it be situated?	**Paper 2:** The Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of Mind 3 hours 100 marks 50% of A Level Section A: 5 questions on the metaphysics of God Section B: 5 questions on the metaphysics of mind

Future progression

Philosophy is one of the most versatile A Levels you can undertake. Philosophy is perfectly suited to wider study at university in the fields of Law, Politics, Economics, History, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Business and/or Management Degrees as well as the study of Theology, Classics and Criminology. Philosophy contains the logic and reason that can be applied to many pathways, as well as a purely Philosophical route.

Potential careers

Philosophy can provide a lead into virtually any career; the logical thinking and reasoning you use is applicable in many potential future pathways. More specifically it can apply to all roles within the Legal Sector with the possibility of conversion courses as well as roles in Politics and Economics. Other options are Publishing, Public Relations, Ministry, Journalism, Business and Management as well as fundraising and non-profit work. It also opens doors to roles in Advertising, the Civil Service and Social Work; and that is just to name a few.

How to succeed in Philosophy

- Be organised, read around the subject and seek out/ read the work of a variety of different philosophers
- Write essays with good critical analysis of arguments and formulate logical responses
- Engage in the wider world through the news and other sources in order to apply current issues to the theory.

Physical Education

Course title Advanced GCE in Physical Education

Exam board OCR

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 in Physical Education at GCSE

Course overview	Assessment overview
H555/01 - **Physiological factors affecting performance** This unit includes topics such as applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology and biomechanics. **H555/02 - Psychological factors affecting performance** This unit includes skill acquisition, sports psychology, sport and society and contemporary issues. **H555/03 - Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport** This component focuses on the sociological and contemporary issues that influence and affect physical activity and sport for both the audience and the performer and how sport affects society. **H555/05 – Practical performances** This unit allows students to perform or coach one activity. **H555/06 – Evaluating and analysing performance for improvement** This component draws upon the knowledge, understanding and skills a learner has learnt throughout the course and enables them to analyse and evaluate a peer's performance in one activity.	**Paper 01:** Physiological factors affecting performance (30%) – 2-hour paper **Paper 02:** Psychological factors affecting performance (20%) – 1-hour paper **Paper 03:** Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (20%) – 1-hour paper **Non-exam assessment (NEA):** Practical performance (15%). **Non-exam assessment (NEA):** EAPI (15%)

Future progression

Typical University offers are AAA, AAB or ABB for Sports Science related degrees depending on the University. Degrees in this area are varied, for example, Leeds Beckett University offers – Physical Activity, Exercise and Health; whereas the University of Birmingham offers Sport, PE & Coaching Science. Many universities also offer a placement year as part of their course e.g. University of Bath. Currently the leading sports universities in the country are, Loughborough and Birmingham Universities who particularly cater for students who are looking to combine top level sports performance with a full time sports degree course. Offers vary between universities and often for students who have National Representative Honours, so it is worth checking these before choices are made with the individual universities.

Potential careers

An A Level in Physical Education is a stepping stone to a career in the sports and leisure industries, Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine, coaching and teaching.

How to succeed in Physical Education

- You will be working at Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physical Education. In addition to a proven record of attendance at extra-curricular clubs whilst in KS3 and 4, it is imperative that students are playing/participating in a club/team outside of school in their main sport
- You will be prepared to read around the subject; being aware of current issues both nationally and internationally (e.g. Impact of Olympic Games in Great Britain, concerns over lack of funding at grass roots level)
- Instead of performing you can be assessed in coaching. If you wish to do this, it must be done in conjunction with an NGB qualification and at a local sports club/team as stipulated by the exam board.

Physics

Course title Advanced GCE in Physics

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grade 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science and a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. In addition, due to the content of the new GCSE specifications, we recommend that pupils have taken separate sciences at GCSE. Due to the similarities between subjects and future progression, students wishing to take A Level Physics must also take A Level Mathematics

Course overview	Assessment overview
1 Measurements and their errors While practical skills are continuously assessed throughout the course, the first topic of learning is the basics of measurements and how to conduct investigations. **2 Particles and radiation** We start the new A Level content at the cutting edge of scientific research with Particle Physics. This introduces students to the fundamental properties and nature of matter, radiation and quantum phenomena, as well as explaining what neutrinos, quarks and Higgs bosons are. **3 Waves** This section extends GCSE studies on waves and optics by developing in-depth knowledge of the characteristics, properties and applications of waves, including refraction, diffraction, superposition and interference. **4 Mechanics and materials** This unit introduces vectors and develops knowledge and understanding of forces and energy. Materials are studied in terms of their bulk properties and tensile strength. **5 Electricity** The study of electricity builds on previous GCSE studies, and leads students to a deeper understanding of current electrical technologies. **6 Further mechanics and thermal physics** This section studies momentum and introduces circular and oscillatory motion. Also the thermal properties of materials and the properties and nature of gases are studied in depth. **7 Fields and their consequences** This unit applies previous learning to gravitational, electric and magnetic fields, together with basic electromagnetic induction. Electric fields lead into capacitors and how quickly they charge and discharge through a resistor. Magnetic fields lead into the generation and transmission of alternating current.	**Paper 1 (2 hours 85 marks 34% of A Level)** Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion) Questions: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content **Paper 2 (2 hours 85 marks 34% of A Level)** Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8 Questions: 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content **Paper 3 (2 hours 80 marks 32% of A Level)** Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: Astrophysics Questions: 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic

8 Nuclear physics This section looks at the characteristics of the nucleus, the properties of unstable nuclei and how energy is obtained from the nucleus. **9 Astrophysics** The final part of the course offers an opportunity to study an optional topic to gain deeper understanding and awareness of a selected branch of physics. The option module is likely to be Astrophysics, (focussing on stars and galaxies) but this may change based on the interests of the students.	

Future progression

Entry requirements for a Physics degree are from A*A*A – ABC depending on the institution. Both Physics and Mathematics are a necessity.

Potential careers

A Physics degree is a great foundation for most careers - it shows that you are numerate, can use a computer, and have been taught to think through and to solve problems logically. Many graduates continue to research physics in some way, other graduates use their degree in a non-degree specific field and many can be found in banking, scientific journalism, patent law, medical imaging etc. This is due to the fact that a Physics degree is a varied degree and can be applied to many careers due to the problem solving skills you develop. With further study, it is certainly possible to get into engineering as well.

How to succeed in Physics

You will:

- take a keen interest in Physics
- realise that effort is required to succeed
- enjoy and be good at Mathematics
- have strong practical, analytical and thinking skills.

Politics

Course title Advanced GCE in Politics

Exam board Edexcel (9PLO 1/2/3B)

Subject specific entry criteria You do not need to have studied Politics or Citizenship at GCSE to study the subject at A Level. However, you will need to have achieved a Grade 7 in English Language or History.

Course overview	Assessment overview
Politics is the study of power and decision making. In this course we will analyse what makes Prime Ministers, protest movements and political parties powerful. We will debate the important issues of today including climate change, poverty and human rights. In addition, we will consider the political ideas that have shaped our world. **Component 1: UK Politics:** focuses on how ordinary people can influence the UK political system through elections, referendums, political parties, pressure groups and the media. It also includes a study of socialism, liberalism and conservatism. **Component 2: UK Government:** focuses on the decision makers in UK politics. This includes Prime Ministers, Parliament, the Constitution and the legal system. It also includes a study of Ecologism, the ideology of the environmental movement. **Component 3: Global politics:** focused on global political institutions like the UN and IMF. It gives us a chance to study conflict in the Middle East, global inequality, economic development and climate change.	Students are assessed on: ● AO1: knowledge of political institutions, events and concepts ● AO2: ability to compare and contrast and analyse political knowledge ● AO3 confidence coming to and justifying viewpoints about political debates Students will sit 3 exams at the end of year 13 each worth a third of their final grade: ● Component 1: 120-minute exam ● Component 2: 120-minute exam ● Component 3: 120-minute exam

Future progression

Politics helps students to better understand the world around them. This can provide invaluable knowledge for careers in law, business or economics. Equally, it gives students a great baseline of knowledge that can help to identify the career or vocation you wish to pursue. It can be studied as a degree at university and also directly relates to courses like international relations and history.

Potential careers

Politics is a fantastic subject for demonstrating to employers an ability to handle and interpret a high volume of information and come to clear conclusions. This is a valuable skill in many private sector careers such as law, finance or business. Equally, the knowledge gained in the course is useful for careers in the Civil Service, public relations and charities.

How to succeed in politics

The key to success in politics is an interest in the world around you. Students who enjoy watching, reading and talking about the news are usually very successful in politics. It is an essay-based subject so students need to be keen to work on improving their essay writing skills. Finally, students need to have strong opinions or be interested in debating others opinions and coming to clear conclusions.

Psychology

Course title Advanced GCE in Psychology

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria Minimum Grade 6 in a Separate Science GCSE or Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science

Course overview	Assessment overview
Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology In **Social Psychology** you will learn the processes that cause humans to conform and obey, including researching some of the most influential psychological studies of all time. In **Cognitive Psychology** you will learn about how your memory works, how accurate eyewitness testimonies are and strategies to improve your memory. In the **Developmental Psychology** topic, you will learn about how we develop emotional attachments to others as a child, as well as what happens if we are unable to make these attachments. In **Psychopathology** you will study what is mental illness/madness and the different psychological perspective views on the issue. You will also explore what causes mental illnesses including OCD and depression.	**Paper 1:** Introductory Topics in Psychology 2 hours 96 marks 33.3% of A Level Multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions for each of the 4 topic sections
Paper 2: Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research In **Approaches to Psychology** you will learn about the different famous theoretical approaches to studying behaviour including, Psychodynamic, Cognitive and Behavioural approaches. In **Biopsychology** you will study the effect of stress on the body, brain damage and the different areas of the brain that control behaviour, bodily rhythms and how to study the brain. In **Research Methods** you learn how to carry out psychological investigations.	**Paper 2:** Psychology in Context Written exam 2 hours 96 marks 33.3% of A Level Multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions for each of the 3 topic sections
Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology In this paper we will explore some of the key issues and debates in Psychology including; nature or nurture; free will versus determinism. Other optional topics that will be explored include aggression, schizophrenia, cognition and development.	**Paper 3:** Issues and Options in Psychology Written exam 2 hours 96 marks 33% of full A Level Multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions for each of the 3 topic sections

Future progression

A Level Psychology is an excellent stepping stone for studying Psychology/ Sociology/ Criminology at university. It is useful for health-care related subjects such as Medicine, Nursing, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Education. Psychology contains a useful mix of both essay writing and logical experimental skills.

Potential careers

Psychology: Clinical, Sport, Health, Educational, Forensic. Other, any career needing statistical analysis (Accountancy) or a focus on human interaction e.g. Human resources, Marketing, Business Management to name a few.

How to succeed in Psychology

- Be organised, read around the subject and seek out current research in Psychology via the BPS research Digest
- Write focussed essays.

Core Mathematics

Course title Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (1350)

Exam board AQA

Subject specific entry criteria No additional entry requirements

Course overview	Assessment overview
Paper 1 Analysis of data Maths for personal finance Estimation	**Paper 1 (50% of qualification)** One written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks Preliminary material provided in advance All questions compulsory
Paper 2 Critical analysis of given data and models The normal distribution Probabilities and estimation Correlation and regression	**Paper 2** One written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks Preliminary material provided in advance All questions compulsory **Both papers are taken in May/June in Year 12**

Future progression

Core Mathematics has been designed to help students to develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. This is valuable preparation for the quantitative skills needed for many degree courses, particularly subjects such as psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences, and natural science courses that do not require AS/A Level Mathematics.

Potential careers

Employers from all different sectors are also firmly behind the Core Mathematics qualification. Many roles in today's workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills; Core Mathematics will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

To succeed in Core Maths

You will need:

- a resilient attitude
- effective problem-solving skills
- an ability to see mathematical problems within real life contexts
- an awareness of current affairs
- an ability to present information to others
- to be confident working within a team.

Entry Requirements for entry in September 2023

Please note that the minimum entry requirements for Didsbury Sixth Form are 6 GCSEs at Grade 6, including English Language and Mathematics. In addition, some subjects have specific entry requirements.

Art and Design	Grade 7 in GCSE Art and Design
Biology	Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or Grade 7-7 in Combined Science. In addition, due to the content of the new GCSE specifications, we recommend that students have taken separate sciences at GCSE.
Chemistry	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7-7 in Combined Science and a minimum of Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. In addition, due to the content of the new GCSE specifications, we recommend that students have taken separate sciences at GCSE.
Computer Science	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. GCSE Computer Science is not required but would be beneficial for this course.
Drama and Theatre	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama. Students who have not studied GCSE Drama will need to be able to prove a performance level that is appropriate for A Level.
Economics	Grade 7 in GCSE English or Mathematics. GCSE Economics is not required.
English Language	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and English Literature
Geography	Grade 7 in GCSE Geography
History	Grade 7 in GCSE History
Mathematics	Minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Mathematics (Further)	Minimum Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Media Studies	No additional entry requirements

Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish)	Grade 7 GCSE in the chosen language
Philosophy	Grade 6 in a relevant Humanities subject at GCSE (ideally Religious Studies or History)
Physical Education	Grade 7 in GCSE Physical Education
Physics	Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grade 7-7 in Combined Science and a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics. In addition, due to the content of the new GCSE specifications, we recommend that students have taken separate sciences at GCSE. Due to the similarities between subjects and future progression, students wishing to take A Level Physics must also take A Level Mathematics.
Politics	Grade 7 in GCSE English Language or History. GCSE Politics or Citizenship is not required.
Psychology	Grade 6 in a Separate Science GCSE or Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science
Mathematics (Core) Level 3 Certificate	No additional entry requirements