



Sixth Form Helsby Prospectus

Valuing Young Voices to Foster Future Achievements



Over 30 A-Level and Level 3 courses available at Sixth Form Helsby

My Network meetings ensure I am aware of the opportunities that will help build my future plans



Students at Sixth Form Helsby make successful transitions to further education, apprenticeships or employment.
Ofsted July 2023

Almost half of all students achieved a grade A* - B!

Valuing Young Voices to Foster Future Achievements

Choosing the right place to study is an important decision for any young person. We hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of the wide range of academic and enrichment opportunities available at Sixth Form Helsby, as well as the varied programme of leadership activities available to all our students.

Although this prospectus helps to explain the courses, facilities and opportunities available at Sixth Form Helsby, it cannot communicate the foundation on which our Sixth Form is built, this is experienced as you study with us. All procedures at Sixth Form Helsby have been planned to give you the opportunity to talk about your learning, your interests, your physical and mental health, your career pathways and most importantly the person you want to be in the world around you. This helps you make the right decisions as you develop into a young professional.

At Sixth Form Helsby you will have a specially chosen Progress Mentor who will help you find the right career focused Network. Our innovative Network structure will ensure you get targeted career and pastoral support, and will give you the opportunity to learn and socialise with like-minded people. The 1:1 support meetings with your Progress Mentor enable you to develop important strategies which ensure you remain socially and mentally healthy as well academically successful.

We are happy to answer any further questions and are looking forward to welcoming you to Sixth Form Helsby.

Meet the Sixth Form Team



Mrs Cross, Director of Sixth Form

vcross@helsbyhigh.org

Mrs Victoria Cross is the Director of Sixth Form Helsby. Having spent a number of years leading the Expressive Arts team, Mrs Cross brings with her a wealth of Sixth Form teaching experience. Sixth Formers under her care have succeeded in their academic studies and thrived through their extra-curricular experiences. This has ensured these students have had important enrichment opportunities, work experiences and their chosen higher education placements.

Mrs Cross has a clear vision to hone and develop this already successful Sixth Form based around fostering the inherent skills needed to ensure young people are resilient and proactive and are prepared for higher education and the world of work. Mrs Cross and the Sixth Form Team ensure every aspect of their work values the voices of young people in order to be successful at Sixth Form Helsby and prepare them well for their future achievements.

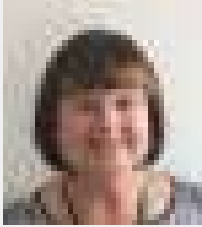


Mrs Robinson, Deputy Director of Sixth Form

jrobinson@helsbyhigh.org

Mrs Robinson is the Deputy Director of Sixth Form and has been a member of the Sixth Form team for many years. She has a wealth of pastoral experience and plays an integral role in ensuring students manage both socially and academically on a day to day basis. Mrs Robinson supports all students with the demands of both Year 12 and Year 13 and works with our Progress Mentors to ensure the delivery of our support programme. Mrs Robinson's expertise means that she can support students with all aspects of UCAS and apprenticeship applications ensuring students are well prepared for their next stages of study or work.

Mrs Robinson is also an experienced Sixth Form teacher and has delivered courses in both PE and Applied Science where students have thrived under her guidance.



Mrs Cook, Sixth Form Administrator acook@helsbyhigh.org

Mrs Cook joined Helsby Sixth Form after spending 35 years in banking with roles in Operational Management, Customer Services, Project Management and Service Improvement. She organises the Sixth Form events, communication with students and parents, and supports the students and Sixth Form team with the efficient day to day running of the Sixth Form. Mrs Cook considers it a real privilege to work with the students, “no two days are the same” and it is such a pleasure to see them all develop and progress during their time with us.



Mrs Houghton, Sixth Form Study Room Supervisor and Attendance khoughton@helsbyhigh.org

Mrs Houghton is our Sixth Form Study room supervisor, she ensures all our students get their attendance marks and informs students about their attendance data; a figure that is formulated at the end of each term and is shared with universities and employers. Mrs Houghton will also support students to plan and manage their workload when they are using the study room.



Ms Phillips, Sixth Form learning Mentor rphilips@helsbyhigh.org

Ms Philips is our designated Learning Mentor. She works with our students who have additional needs and specific ways of working. Ms Philips works closely with the SEND department to ensure our students get the support and guidance they need to achieve as highly as possible whilst staying happy and well in the process.



Sixth form facilities

Our e-café is open for all day exclusively for Sixth Form students, and provides a welcoming place to socialise or work. A range of hot beverages and food is served all day.

Our dedicated study room E6 offers a calm working environment for Sixth Form students to complete independent study tasks during their study periods.



The study room is well equipped with a suite of networked computers and photocopier and scanner. There are work spaces without computers to facilitate more paper based study.

Miss Ide is available throughout each day to support students in this study room used exclusively by our Sixth Form.

Our E6 study room is used by Sixth Form students in both their study periods and in other non-contact lessons.

Leadership Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to apply for a range of leadership roles at Sixth Form Helsby. This allows them to 'make their mark' on their Sixth Form whilst developing important skills. Leadership is a difficult skill to master and our students are supported to make important contributions to their Sixth Form and feel proud of their achievements in these roles. Last year over 40% of students applied for a leadership role in Year 12 alone and many secured one of these positions, proving that our students have drive and ambition. We would like to introduce our 5 current Head Students below...



Sixth Form Leadership Team



Ethan Wright



Hannah Duffy



Florence Davies



Gracie Pye

"Empowering those around you to be heard and valued makes the difference between a leader who simply instructs and one who inspires."

Adena Friedman



Olivia Lowe

Our Students Aim High



Sixth Form
Helsby students
are developing
their voices and
paving their way
to success...

"I'm studying A-Level Maths, French and Psychology. I am aiming to achieve A,A,A in my A-Levels, and I'm planning to study Maths at University".

Lily Nicholson, Y13



Sixth Form
Helsby students
are developing
their voices and
paving their way
to success...

"I'm studying A-Level Art & Design, English Literature and Sociology. I am aiming to achieve A, A, A* in my A-Levels, and I'm planning to study Animation/Graphic Design at University".

Abigail Akister, Y13



Sixth Form
Helsby students
are developing
their voices and
paving their way
to success...

"I'm studying A-Level English Language, Psychology, Art & Design and EPQ. I am aiming to achieve B, A, A*, A in my A-Levels, and I'm planning to study Criminal Psychology at University".

Ella Atkin, Y13



Sixth Form
Helsby students
are developing
their voices and
paving their way
to success...

"I'm studying A-Level Biology, Chemistry, French and History. I am aiming to achieve 4 A*'s in my A-Levels, and I'm planning to study Medicine at University".

Emily Anderson, Y13

Oxbridge Support at Sixth Form Helsby

Helsby students have a track record of success in gaining places at Oxbridge

We offer individualised support and guidance as well as providing a range of events for Year 12 and Year 13 students. We have often taken potential applicants to conferences such as the Oxbridge Conference at Aintree racecourse, where they are able to find out more about the universities, and talk with students and staff. Students have also met a Cambridge admissions tutor (and former Helsby Sixth Form student) to find out more about the interview process, and had the chance to learn from former Helsby students currently studying at Oxford. The Sixth Form team provide one-to-one support with each student to ensure that they are well prepared for the rigorous application and interview process.



Enrichment opportunities

We offer students a broad range of enrichment opportunities which take place on Wednesday afternoon each week. This helps to ensure that students leave us not only with excellent academic results, but also as well-rounded young people equipped with the skills to succeed in an ever-changing world. These sessions support attendance calculations and are a powerful addition to UCAS or Apprenticeship applications. Students choose the enrichment opportunity which suits them and fits with their interests and may be able to experience a range of enrichments throughout the year, depending on the length of the enrichment course opted for.



The enrichment courses give students the chance to work with different members of our Sixth Form student cohort, and therefore provide further important social networking opportunities. On each subject page, you will also find an outline of the enrichment activities offered by specific subject areas as an 'extra' to our Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme. These enrichment activities are tailored towards deepening the understanding of that particular subject area.

We also offer students the chance to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award which is designed to challenge young people to attain standards of achievement and endeavour in a wide variety of active opportunities. The opportunity to spend 4 weeks abroad with Camps international is another way students can learn some of the core skills of life, which include team building, resilience, confidence, community spirit and how to grasp and learn from adventure.



Award Winning Careers Information, Guidance and Work Experience at Sixth Form Helsby

We are proud to be the winner of Cheshire and Warrington 'School of the Year' at the annual Pledge Careers Awards. The Pledge is an organisation which bridges the gap between schools and employers.

We are delighted to receive this award which not only demonstrates our school's commitment to informing our students about future pathways and raising career aspirations, but also recognises the quality of the provision we provide.

At Sixth Form Helsby all students receive comprehensive guidance and advice. During Network meetings, off timetable sessions, 1;1 career guidance meetings and our 'breakfast with business' sessions, students learn about all the academic and vocational pathways available to them. Our Sixth Form, and careers specialist team support students to consider the best pathway for their chosen career area and individual situation.

Students have access to one-to-one appointments with our independent careers advisor and have key one-to-one sessions with their Progress Mentors to disseminate this information. We work with students to provide impartial advice exploring a range of educational training options, including apprenticeships and other vocational pathways. The Sixth Form team run a range of mock interview sessions with all students in preparation for realising their chosen pathways.

Students will have the opportunity to attend key events and visits which will help solidify their career interests and give them further important information about their chosen pathways.

Our innovative work experience programme also gives every one of our students the chance to work on an industry specific project with one of our partner employers. In the past our employers have been so impressed with the projects completed by our students that they have used them in their business development plans.



Events that we run include...

UCAS convention: All Year 12 students attend the UCAS convention in Manchester where a huge variety of university and apprenticeship providers are available to provide information on the opportunities they offer.

Going Further Sessions: A wide variety of outside agencies including employers from a range of sectors, apprenticeship providers and educational establishments run taster workshops for the students.

Next Steps Day: The Sixth Form team run sessions to guide students through both apprenticeship and university application processes including workshops on personal statement writing.

Personal support with applications: Throughout the process of applying to university, for an apprenticeship or for jobs, students are supported by our experienced and dedicated team. Students work with their Progress Mentors and subject teachers to ensure that their personal statements and application letters are of the very highest quality.

Work Experience: During December of Year 12 all students will embark on a week long 'blended approach' work experience, working on real life projects with businesses such as Sony Gaming, NHS, Lane End Construction, and Community Windpower.

Futures Week: At the end of Year 12 all students embark on an National Citizens Service (NCS) course. This helps to build employability skills such as public speaking, and also enables students to receive a certificate in first aid.



The Sixth Form leadership team meet each student individually to send off their applications and to support them as they move on to their destination of choice. We have strong links with many external providers and employers, enabling us to give students up to date advice. Students also have access to our onsite expert careers advisor.

Boost your profile

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Are you looking to gain extra UCAS points, or perhaps learn university level research skills and gain an advantage ahead of university applications and interviews? Then perhaps you should consider studying for the Extended Project qualification.



This is a qualification done independently during Year 12 and Year 13, with support from the Sixth Form team and carries 50% of the UCAS points of a full A-level. You will learn how to research effectively, plan and carry out a 5000 word project and all on a topic which you select yourself. Past topic titles include...

- Will every car be electric by 2050?
- Does the UK have the fairest voting system?
- Can genetics explain the sleeping patterns of lions and cats?

Universities are looking for students with the skills to complete a successful project and will sometimes lower their standard entry offer to students with an A grade in the EPQ.

Pastoral Support at Sixth Form Helsby

Pastoral support and academic success go hand-in-hand. At Sixth Form Helsby we are extremely proud of the excellent pastoral care we provide for our students.

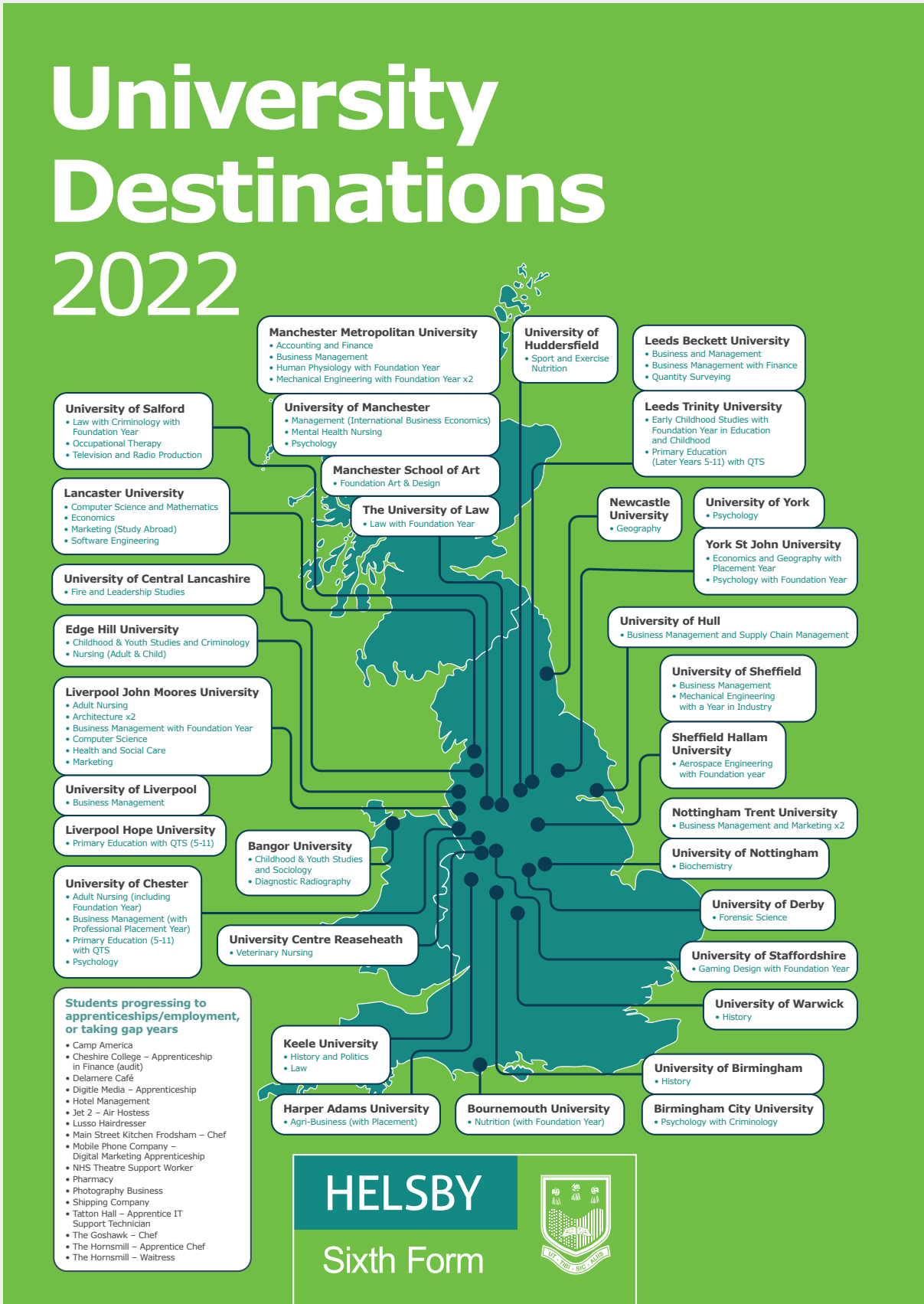


Students are allocated a Progress Mentor who helps to guide and support them through the two years of Sixth Form study. In the first few weeks of Year 12 students spend time with their Progress Mentor in morning briefings, here they are supported to make a successful transition from year 11 and find out everything they need to know about their part in the day to day running of the Sixth Form. When students feel happy and settled these meetings reduce to one morning briefing a week as they are in Year 13. At these weekly morning briefings important notices are shared for the following week. The agendas for these morning briefings are sent out by the Sixth Form team.

All students also meet their Progress Mentor at university style 1:1 Progress and Well-being meetings. At these meetings they will discuss every aspect of work, study and health influencing their success and happiness while studying with us. They will work through a carefully created Mentor Programme which facilitates important conversations surrounding such topics as part-time work, study skills and maintaining good physical and mental health. The Mentor Programme works in conjunction with the Sixth Form yearly calendar and topics are discussed as they become important in the pattern of the year, for instance we look at managing part-time work in the lead up to Christmas and explore strategies for sleep management and managing exam stress in the lead up to their pre-public examinations. This ensures our students are supported to be the best students they can be.

Student destinations

We are proud of the wide range of destinations taken up by our Year 13 students, either studying at university, taking up quality apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships or to the world of work. We are looking forward to publishing our student destinations for 2023 soon.



Applied Science BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in English Language, Grade 4 in Mathematics,
Grade 4-4 in Combined Science

In studying Applied Science, you will acquire a broad understanding of the core biology, chemistry and physics concepts that are needed by scientists and technicians working in science and science-related organisations.

You will carry out your own research and demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate equipment, procedures and techniques.



Course Content

Unit 1 – Principles and Applications of Science

This unit covers some of the key science concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. The topic areas include: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.

Unit 2 – Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

You will be introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, calibration, chromatography, calorimetry and laboratory safety, which are relevant to the chemical and life science industries.

Unit 3 – Science Investigation Skills

Students will cover the stages involved and the skills needed in planning a scientific investigation: how to record, interpret, draw scientific conclusions and evaluate.

Unit 4 – Optional unit from:

Physiology of Human Body Systems; Human Regulation and Reproduction; Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways; Genetics and Genetic Engineering; Diseases and Infections; Applications of Inorganic Chemistry; Applications of Organic Chemistry; Electrical Circuits and their Application; Astronomy and Space Science

What do students think...

“ I am doing Applied Science to help me progress to do Midwifery at University. The teachers are supportive and encouraging. ”

Maisie

“ Applied Science was the right course for me. The content of the course will help me to progress to do engineering in the future ”

Ollie

“ The content is really engaging and you get to apply your knowledge in practical work ”

Chloe

Typical Class Sizes

4 - 6 students



Who could be teaching me?

The Science department have a wealth of subject knowledge and experience at Post-16 level.

Mr Shipley (BTEC in Applied Science Leader)

A chemistry expert with 20 years of experience of teaching Post-16 students Chemistry and Physics.

Mrs Robinson

Over 15 years of experience of teaching Biology with post-16 anatomy and physiology and have examined with various exam boards for 12 years at GCSE.

Miss D Collier

Background in Mechanical Engineering and expert in Physics and Maths.

Mr D Sykes

Background in biology specialising in microbiology with six years of teaching experience.

How is the course examined?

Unit 1 – external assessment (90 marks, 2 hours)
Written examination set and marked externally

Unit 2 – internal assessment (90 marks)
There are four summative assignments set for this unit.

Unit 3 – external assessment (120 marks)
A task completed under supervised conditions, set and marked externally. Part A is a scenario and practical investigation undertaken in a single session of 3 hours. Part B is a set task that is undertaken in a single session of 1.5 hours

Unit 4 – internal assessment (60 marks)
There are four summative assignments set for this unit.

Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P), Near Pass (N) and Unclassified (U). All units contribute proportionately to the overall qualification grade.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students may have the opportunity to visit local scientific places of work and guest speakers may also come into the classroom to talk about the use of science in the real world.

Assignments are delivered using a vocational scenario and therefore students are able to see links with the world outside the classroom.

Where can Applied Science lead?

Students can use the Applied Science qualification along with other qualifications to progress to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in applied science, e.g. engineering, sport psychology, nursing, sport and exercise science, environmental science.

Students will develop the transferable and higher order skills for example, planning investigations, collecting, analysing, and presenting data and communicating results which support some of the skills learners need to progress to higher education, employment, self-employment or training.

Fine Art A-level

Exam Board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in Art and Design

Do you want to be introduced to exciting new experiences and create high quality artwork in an innovative, dynamic department?

Then Fine Art is the subject for you. You will explore and develop new skills and processes in a variety of materials, and have the opportunity to expand your own ideas and creative pathways. Art and Artists, and the world around you will inspire your work.



Course Content

Unit 1 – Coursework

Part 1 – Personal thematic enquiry

A theme is set by the individual student exploring an aspect of Art of his or her own choice. Each student will develop their own starting point in both written and visual form. They will develop this using a variety of materials and processes.

Part 2 – Personal study

Students will compose a piece of research work that explores the conceptual, historical, political or social links between their own work and the work of other artists. 4000 words.

Unit 2 – Controlled Assignment

The board set a paper that explores a theme, giving various interpretations leading to artists and processes. The students make a personal response using materials of their choice.

Typical Class Sizes

12-18 students

What do students think...

“ I chose to study Fine Art because I love experimenting with materials and new ideas. The Art department at Helsby is excellent. The staff are very friendly and are always there to help when you need support or guidance. ”

Emma H

“ I love having the freedom to do my own work as well as having the support from the staff. ”

Aimee O

“ Amazing department! There is a large range of equipment available so you can be really creative. The teachers are always willing to help. ”

Kandi D

“ The Art department is very supportive and help to inspire creativity and positive work ethics. The staff always encourage you to do your best. ”

Alex



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs. S Ray (Department Leader) – expert in A-Level Fine Art, Ceramics and Art History

Mr. D Wilson – Expert in A-Level Fine Art, Photography and Sculpture

Miss H Adams - Expert in A-Level Fine Art and Photography

Mrs. J Mallinson - Expert in A-Level Fine Art and Textiles

Miss N Garside - Expert in Fine Art and Textiles

How is the course examined?

Fine Art is one of the few subjects that remain to be coursework based.

At A-Level, the coursework components are worth 60%, and the controlled assignment is worth 40% of the overall mark. The controlled assignment for A Level is 15hrs, which is set over a series of sessions.

Both the coursework and controlled assignment are marked against the four assessment objectives, and the weighting for coursework and exam is applied.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

- Lunchtime Art clubs
- Studio Practice (3.05 – 5.00pm chosen sessions)
- Workshops and exam catch up sessions (selected weekends 10 – 4pm)
- Gallery trips to Manchester and Liverpool
- Art/Photography and Biology trip to Anglesey
- ‘Young Artists in Tuscany’ – county run Gifted and Talented trip

Where can Art lead?

Art students seek jobs in a variety of fields such as...

Advertising, Film and Television, Theatre set design, Gaming, Fine Art, Graphic design, Illustration, Interior design, Fashion design, Freelance Photography, Publication design, Web design, and the visual arts including Architecture.

Biology A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in Biology or at least one 6 in Combined Science, Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics

Do you want to learn about the battle between bacteria and our bodies?

Do you want to understand the science behind paternity tests on Jeremy Kyle? Would you like to know why you see stars when you rub your eyes? Then Biology is the subject for you.



Course Content

Year 12 will cover...

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

Year 13 will cover...

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

Typical Class Sizes

With class sizes typically around 12 students, staff get the opportunity to get to know students, and as a result offer a much more personalised in class experience. We can also provide tailored support to really support learning.

What do students think...

“ Studying Biology at A-level after thoroughly enjoying the subject at GCSE has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. The lessons are always engaging and interesting and I feel that my skills in the subject area are constantly developing. ”

Emily

“ I like learning about Biology as it allows me to appreciate a deeper insight into many aspects of the human body and environments around us that are generally overlooked. Additionally, I love being able to understand and write about the complex concept of Biology as a whole ”

Ellie

“ I am really enjoying A-level Biology and how there are more opportunities to do practical work. The smaller class size also means you get more support. ”

Isabel



Who could be teaching me?

Mr Strowbridge (Subject Leader) – Over 15 years' experience teaching A-Level Biology, has examined for a number of Exam boards at GCSE and A-Level.

Mr Jankowski – 20 years' experience in teaching A-Level Biology, and a passion for outdoor education and fieldwork.

Dr R Parkes - Degree in Zoology, Ph.D in behavioural physiology. 10 years' experience teaching A-level Biology.

Mrs S Warburton – Has taught A level Biology for over 20 years, has a specialism in areas of molecular Biology and Biotechnology.

How is the course examined?

3 Terminal papers

Paper 1 – Primarily Year 12 work. 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A-Level.

Paper 2 – Primarily Year 13 work. 2 hours, 91 marks, 35% of A-Level.

Paper 3 – Contains content from Y12 & 13, and application of practical skills gained in Years 12 and 13. An essay is also part of the examination. 2 hours, 78 marks, 30% of A-Level.

12 Required practicals – Do not contribute to final grade.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

We run an annual Biology trip to Anglesey where students get to monitor environmental conditions, and how they affect the distribution of organisms. Students also get first hand experience of a variety of fieldwork techniques.

We run an after school session where practising scientists come into the school and discuss their work with the students.

Where can Biology lead?

Students with an A-level in Biology typically go on to work in a diverse variety of fields.

As well as expected careers such as Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Veterinary science; Biology also allows for careers in the Environment (eg: Marine Biology), Technology (Genetics), Sports (Physiotherapy) and Forensics.

Business A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics

Do you want to pursue Business or Management at degree level, or are you interested in a commercial career? Then Business is the subject for you.

You will learn to make decisions using both qualitative and quantitative methods and evaluate the most appropriate strategies for each business you study. A Level Business will give you a comprehensive understanding of the skills required in today's rapidly changing business world.



Course Content

Year 12:

- Introduction to business
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance, operational performance, financial performance and human resource performance

Year 13:

- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Strategic Change

Typical Class Sizes

A Level Business is a popular subject and typically we have class sizes of 8-14 students.

This provides a lively environment whilst still enabling individual support.

What do students think...

“ Business is a fantastic subject for many career options and it opens lots of doors. The teachers are also always on hand to give support

Katie

“ Business lessons are always interesting and it helps you understand what is going on in the world. The teachers are really supportive and I feel confident I will achieve high grades”

Craig

“ Teachers are extremely supportive. Business is a really versatile subject and helps you keep your options open for Uni

Amy



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs E Dougherty (Subject Leader) – Expert in Finance and Economics. Over 15 years' teaching experience with previous commercial experience. Currently a Senior examiner for AQA and OCR A level Economics.

Mrs N Turner – Expert in Marketing and Human Resources. Over 12 years' teaching experience. Previous commercial experience. Currently an AQA A Level Business Senior examiner.

Miss N Kavanagh - Expert in Human Resource Management.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1

Combination of multiple choice questions, short answer and essay questions

Paper 2

A variety of case study questions

Paper 3

Questions based on one large case study.

Three 2 hour examinations.
Each contributes to 1/3 of the qualification.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

A Level Business students will be given the opportunity to experience local and national businesses (eg: HeatTrace and JCB) first hand to expand their business knowledge.

All students are invited to attend the trip to London where we visit The London Institute of Bank and Finance, The Bank of England and The Houses of Parliament

Where can Business Studies lead?

The vast majority of our students study a Business related degree at university or take a higher or degree level Business apprenticeship.

Past students have gained apprenticeships with companies such as JCB, Airbus, KPMG, PWC, EY and the government

BTEC Business Extended Certificate

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in English Language, Grade 4 in Mathematics

Do you want to set up your own business and be a successful entrepreneur like Alan Sugar or Levi Roots?

Would you like to go to work for a large business like Amazon or M&S? Do you find examinations challenging and would rather work hard in lesson time to complete coursework?

Then BTEC Business is the subject for you.



Course Content

You will develop your skill, knowledge and understanding of a wide range of business functions whilst at the same time learning how to organise, present your work and manage your time, developing key skills needed for our changing workplace.

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Recruitment and Selection

Typical Class Sizes

BTEC Business classes are usually around 8 - 14 students, smaller than A Level classes to enable individual feedback and support.

What do students think...

“ The coursework is a good option because you can work hard to make sure you do well. The subject is fun and I really like the teachers ”

Abbie

“ The course suits my abilities really well. The learning environment is relaxed but we all know that we have deadlines to meet. I feel that I learn a lot of new things every lesson. I know I am making progress ”

Alex

“ It is a really interesting subject because you learn information about real businesses that will definitely help you in the future ”

Chloe



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop - Departmental Leader for Business, Economics & Computing. Leads the department and has over 25 years experience of teaching Business, Economics, Computing and ICT to A-Level standard. An A-Level Examiner and BTEC Moderator. Particularly enjoys delivering the qualitative skills.

Mrs E Dougherty – Expert in Finance and Economics. Previous commercial experience. Over 15 years’ teaching experience. Currently an OCR A Level Economics examiner.

Mrs N Turner – Expert in Marketing and Human Resources. Previous commercial experience. Over 12 years’ teaching experience. Currently an AQA A Level Business Senior examiner.

Miss N Kavanagh - Expert in Human Resource Management.

How is the course examined?

Unit 1

Exploring Business

Internally set and assessed coursework

Unit 2

Developing a Marketing Campaign

Externally set and assessed coursework*

Unit 3

Personal and Business Finance

External examination*

Unit 8

Recruitment and Selection

Internally set and assessed coursework

*Students are able to re-sit each of their externally assessed units twice.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

BTEC Business students will base each of their coursework units on local and national businesses. Their recruitment and selection unit involves an in-depth recruitment day in a local business.

In addition, during our residential trip to London they can visit the Houses of Parliament, Bank of England and Supreme Court.

Where can BTEC Business lead?

The vast majority of our students study a Business related degree at university or take a higher or degree level Business apprenticeship.

Past students have gained apprenticeships with companies such as JCB, Airbus, KPMG, PWC, EY and the government

Chemistry A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in Chemistry or at least one 6 in Combined Science, Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics

Do you want to learn about the relevance of Chemistry to everyday life and immerse yourself in a practical subject? Then Chemistry is the subject for you.

There is an emphasis on the relevance of Chemistry to everyday life and practical work includes; analysis by titration, making soap, nylon, food flavourings, making aspirin and an anti-coagulant drug; and explaining why different materials behave in certain ways; as well as designing experiments to investigate Kinetics and Thermodynamics.



Course Content

The three main strands are Physical, Inorganic & Organic Chemistry

Year 1 includes... Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle, periodicity, Group 2 & Group 7 elements, an introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis. (six core practical tasks to be assessed in the examinations)

Year 2 includes... Thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibria, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, period 3 elements, transition metals, aqueous solutions, optical isomerism, carbonyls, carboxylic acids, aromatic chemistry, amines, amino acids, proteins and DNA and polymers, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography.

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes are 10-15 students, which allows for practical work to be carried out individually rather than in pairs or groups; this allows individual support by the teacher in lessons. Smaller class sizes enable a positive environment where students feel comfortable enough to ask questions and make progress at a pace appropriate for them.

Practical Skills

The theoretical aspects of the course allow you to study chemical ideas and concepts in more depth from GCSE.

These ideas and concepts are supplemented by a large number of practical activities which develop a wide range of practical skills.

What do students think...

“ The small class sizes mean that we get more support and individualised feedback that helps us to grow and improve. Also, the teachers are very enthusiastic and engaging, which is really motivating. ”

Emily

“ The teachers are very passionate about the subject, making lessons really interesting, as well as enjoyable. The small class sizes also allow more support from teachers. ”

Millie



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs E Dawson (Subject Leader) – BSc(Hons) Applied Chemistry. Extensive experience in the Chemical Industry and 15 years A level teaching experience with a particular interest in Organic Chemistry for pharmaceuticals and dyes.

Mr T Shipley – BSc(Hons) Chemistry. 26 years A level teaching experience with a particular interest in the chemical engineering aspects of Chemistry & has run the Engineering & Education Scheme for the last 12 years.

Ms W Dannan (Science Lead) – BSc (Hons) Biological Science. Experience in AQA A level examination and five year experience of teaching A level chemistry with particular interest in chemical analysis techniques.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1 - 2hr written exam, 35%

Assesses relevant Physical chemistry topics, inorganic chemistry and relevant practical skills. 105 marks of long and short answer questions.

Paper 2 - 2hr written exam, 35%

Assesses relevant Physical chemistry topics, organic chemistry and relevant practical skills. 105 marks of long and short answer questions.

Paper 3 - 2hr written exam, 30%

40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis. 20 marks of questions testing across the specification. 30 marks of questions on multiple choice questions.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Enrichment and extra-curricular activities include...

- Chemistry in Action Seminars
- Merseyside Young Analysts Competition
- Chemistry Olympiad

Where can Chemistry lead?

Students with an A-level in Chemistry typically go on to study medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and engineering; as well as chemistry and natural sciences.

Environmental science, materials science and geology have also been popular choices. Some students have gone onto apprenticeship schemes such as engineering, business management or accountancy.

Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology

Exam board: WJEC

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in English Language

Do you want to find out why people commit crime?
Then Criminology is the subject for you.

You will investigate the causes of crime; the impact crime has on society and examine why people turn to crime.

You will also explore the criminal justice system and how effective it is in dealing with crime in the 21st Century.



Course Content

Topics studied include...

- **Changing Awareness of Crime** – why some crimes are reported, and others aren't and the media's role in understanding crime
- **Criminological Theories** – why people commit crime
- **Crime Scene to Courtroom** – examine cases to review the justice of verdicts.
- **Crime and Punishment** – Is social control effective?

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes typically range from 10-20 which allows for small group work as well as enabling teachers to work closely with students on an individual basis.

What do students think...

“Criminology is the most interesting subject with the best teachers”

Alex

“It links clearly to what I want to do as a career in criminal psychology”

Abbi

“Very interesting and goes well with various sciences and useful for jobs in forensics”

Madoc



Who could be teaching me?

Mr C Wheeler (Subject Leader)

An expert in A Level Sociology with a focus on Crime and Deviance

Mr J Callaghan

An expert in Criminology with numerous years experience of teaching A Level with a focus on Geography & Crime

Miss S Corlett

Criminology graduate with an expert knowledge of true crime cases

Mrs N Barrett

Expert in Psychology with a focus on understanding why people deviate or become criminal

How is the course examined?

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime

Internal Assessment
25% of final grade

Unit 2 Criminological Theories

Written Exam: 1hr 30
25% of final grade

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

Internal Assessment
25% of final grade

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment

Written Exam: 1 hr 30
25% of final grade

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students can take part in a workshop with Cheshire Youth Crime commission to strengthen their understanding of the police system.

Where can Criminology lead?

Students with a Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology typically go on to study Criminology, Social Policy, Social work, sociology at University.

This can lead to, for example, a career path in the Police, Social work, probation officer and mental health nursing.

Computer Science A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in Computer Science and Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics.

Do you want to study an exciting, relevant subject in one of the country's most needed career areas? Then A Level Computer Science is the subject for you.

You will further develop your programming skills from GCSE Computer Science by learning new topics and creating your own programmed solution to a problem.



Course Content

Practical programming includes...

Fundamentals of programming; Fundamentals of data structures; Fundamentals of algorithms; Theory of computation and Systematic approach to problem solving.

Computer theory includes...

Fundamentals of data representation; Fundamentals of computer systems; Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture; Consequences of uses of computing; Fundamentals of communication and networking; Fundamentals of databases; Big Data; Fundamentals of functional programming

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes for Computer Science are usually between 5 and 10 students, meaning more time can be given to each student in the lesson.

What do students think...

“The A' Level Computer Science course is great. It creates immense challenge and rewards you eminently, developing the knowledge to solve deep, multidimensional problems.

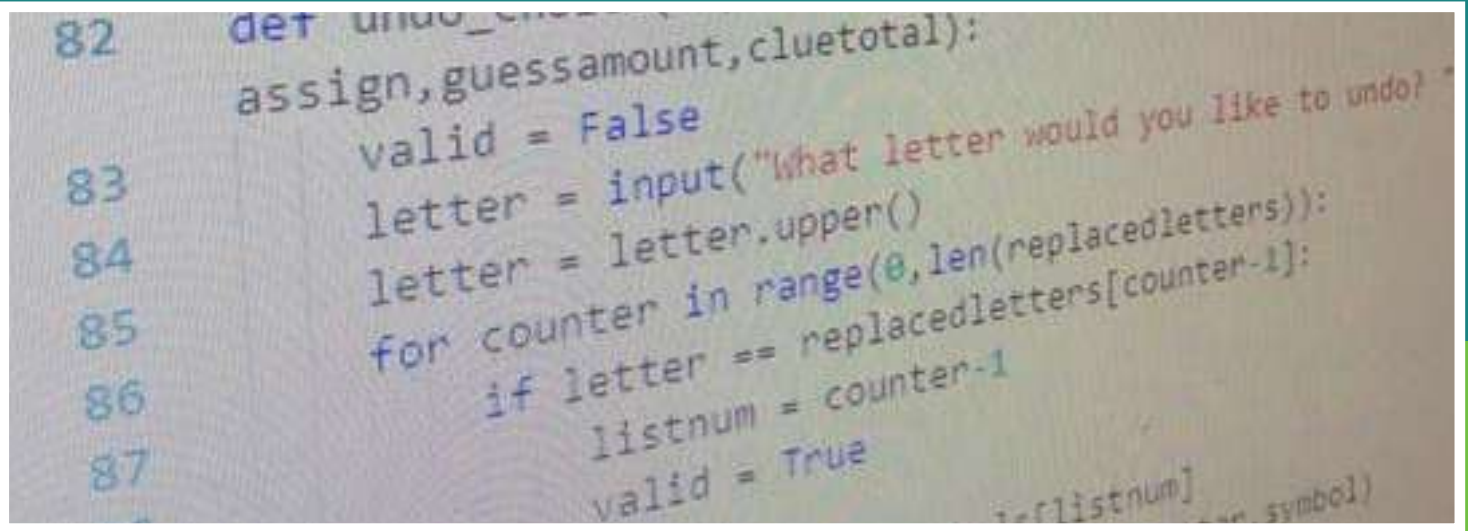
Lewis

“The teaching is varied and the staff are always willing to support you. You will improve your programming knowledge and as there is a coursework element, this helps alleviate the pressure on the final exams. Also, as one of the exams is conducted online, this adds further variety.

Sam

“I have enjoyed the satisfaction of successfully writing a functioning program from the ground up. The course has helped me to think logically about programming and to be able to test and debug a program to meet user requirements

Michael



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop (Department Leader) – expert in A-level IT and Computer Science, significant teaching experience teaching vocational IT.

Mr Davies (Subject Leader) - expert in A level and BTCE IT, Computer Science and Business Studies, significant experience of teaching at A-level standard.

Mr Griffin – significant experience in industry creating systems for Cadburys, specialises in programming and databases.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1

Practical Programming (40%)

2 hour 30 minutes On-Screen Exam

Paper 2

Computer Theory (40%)

2 hour 30 minutes Written Exam

Coursework (20%)

Non-exam assessment

the computing

practical project

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

The Computing Department has links to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Manchester.

Students have the opportunity to take part in the Computer Science Discovery Days and create their own animation for the UK Computer Science Animation Competition.

Where can Computer Science lead?

Students typically go on to study/work in the following areas:

- software engineer
- website development
- game development
- project management
- testing
- cyber security analyst
- IT consultant
- Network engineer

Design & Technology: Product Design A-Level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in English and Mathematics, ideally having studied GCSE Design & Technology

Do you want to find out more about materials and manufacturing? Are you interested in the design of products? Do you want to develop your practical skills and problem solving? Do you want to work in a creative industry?

Then A-Level Product Design is the subject for you.



Course Content

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning in to practice by producing prototypes of your choice.

You will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes range from 5 to 12.

Smaller class sizes allow for more 1:1 tuition and more opportunities to therefore push yourself regarding your skills and expertise.

Smaller class sizes mean more time to spend on the production side as there are fewer queues for equipment and machinery!

What do students think...

“ Product Design is a lesson I look forward to because you can put all your ideas into possibilities and the machinery difference really helps having the choice to design whatever you want makes all lessons interesting as you're in control. The teachers are always helpful and give great 'outside the box ideas to develop your own.

Thomas

“ Product Design lets you be creative, and the staff are passionate about the subject

Jack

“ It makes you think about products in a different way”

Leron



Who could be teaching me?

Mr A Kelly - Has 14 years' experience of teaching a range of technology subjects including construction, engineering and product design. Has a background in architectural technology, is solution-focused, creative and resourceful.

Mrs K Owen - Has 10 years' experience in industry working in architecture, publishing and graphic design along with over 10 years teaching experience in all fields of Technology.

Miss M Beardmore - Has a number of years' experience in education and is passionate about the potential of creative subjects to transform lives. She is a specialist in design, resistant materials and aesthetics.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

There are opportunities to work independently in the workshops, during free study periods.

Technician support is available both in and out of lessons.

We have a full suite of facilities including; computers, plotters, laser cutter, CNC and manual centre lathes, welding, casting and forming equipment, plus the usual drills and sanders.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1: Technical Principles

Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes. 120 marks, 30% of A-level. Questions are a mixture of short answer and extended response.

Paper 2: Designing and making principles

Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes. 80 marks, 20% of A-level. Questions are a mixture of short answer and extended response questions. Section A: Product Analysis (30 marks, up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s)). Section B: Commercial manufacture (50 marks, mixture of short and extended response questions).

Non-exam assessment (NEA): Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. Substantial design and make project. 100 marks 50% of A-level. Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Where can Product Design lead?

Students with an A-Level Product Design typically go on to study university degrees in Construction, Architecture, Product Design, Fashion, Engineering. Or Apprenticeships in Engineering sectors (mechanical, automotive etc)

Performing Arts BTEC

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in English Language. 4 in Drama GCSE or Level 2 Pass in BTEC Performing Arts

Do you want to pursue the Performing Arts in further education? Do you want to work in one of the diverse career pathways in theatre? BTEC Performing Arts gives students the opportunity to develop an appreciation of theatrical theory and performance skills.

This intellectually stimulating course is tailored to those who need an understanding of how theory informs practice and how this develops the skills of the performer.



Course Content

Performing Arts BTEC

Unit 1- Investigating practitioners work- Exam (external)

Unit 2- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance- Scripted work and coursework (internal)

Unit 3- Group Performance Workshop- Devising (external)

Unit 28- Variety performance- Final showcase (internal)

Typical Class Sizes

A Level group sizes vary widely ranging from 18 to 5 actors. The diversity of group sizes influences the areas of study chosen for the group, meaning that teachers are able to tailor the course to suit the amount of students taking the course and the inherent skills they possess.

Our students achieve highly because we can change what we teach to suit them.

What do students think...

“ We do the craziest lessons for the profoundest of social and political reasons. The course helps me to learn the importance of theatre to a developing society ”

Olly

“ Performing Arts lets me explore a whole world of theatre and acting from Naturalism with Stanislavsky to the unique methods of Forced Entertainment ”

Olivia

“ The Drama Studio is our safe space to learn and develop our skills as actors. We create quality theatre whilst learning about the theories and methodologies of others. ”

Emelia

“ Drama A-Level is about becoming an intelligent actor who can make meaningful decisions about how to craft for the stage. ”

Lucy



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs C Ratcliffe (Subject Leader)

Trained at Chester University: BA Hons in Drama and Theatre Studies. Specialism in Musical Theatre and singing for performance. Passionate about inclusion in Performing Arts; exposing pupils to a wide range of experiences across all cultures, styles and periods.

Mrs V Cross

Specialist Leader in Education for Drama and Initial Teacher Training; Teacher of Drama as therapy at Young Offenders Institute (Huntercombe YOI) resulting in a published paper in Drama magazine; Theatre In Education actor with Cragrats touring schools in London with didactic theatre.

Mr D Tolley

Trained at Middlesex University, London (BA (Hons) Dance Studies) then at Liverpool Hope gaining a PGCE in Performing Arts. Has performed at The Hammersmith Lyric Theatre, The Place in London and for Opera de Bauge in France. Experienced practitioner in movement and physical theatre with a love for all things Brecht and Frantic Assembly.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

- Trip to see professional theatre
- Whole School Musical
- Whole school original script
- Drama Showcase
- West end theatre trip
- Directing experience for Art Festival
- National Theatre project with the opportunity to perform on one of our local professional stages e.g. The Lowry Manchester.

How is the course examined?

Performing Arts BTEC

Unit 1 and 3 are externally marked by examiners. Unit 1 is a written examination and unit 3 is a performance with 4 milestone essays

Unit 2 and 28 are internally marked and moderated by the exam board. They are made up of coursework and practical performances.

Where can Performing Arts lead?

- Degree level study of Drama or/and theatre
- Further education in Drama therapy
- Further education in Community theatre
- Stage management
- Producer, director or casting director for theatre companies
- Teaching
- Actor in theatre in education companies

Economics A-level

Exam board: OCR

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics

Do you want to understand the world that you live in as a citizen, consumer, employee, entrepreneur? Then Economics is the subject for you.

You will become an independent learner, critical thinker and decision maker—key tools for our changing working environment. Statistically those students who study Economics at university command a higher starting salary and are more likely to make it into the ‘elite’ graduate jobs such as management consultancy.



Course Content

Micro Economics

- Scarcity and Choice
- How Competitive Markets Work
- Competition and Power
- Labour Market
- Market failure and Government Intervention

Macro Economics

- Economic policy objectives and indicators of macroeconomic performance
- Aggregate demand and supply
- The application of Policy instruments
- The Global Context
- The Financial Sector

Typical Class Sizes

A Level Economics is a popular subject with class sizes usually between 8 – 14 students.

This enables lively discussion as well as the opportunity for individual support.

What do students think...

“ Economics not only interests me but challenges me. I enjoy lessons so much that you could say there was a shift to the right of the demand curve for learning (do you get it?) ”

Tom

“ I really enjoy Economics, it's interesting, challenging and fun. It is definitely one of the favourite subjects I've ever done. The teachers are so friendly and make me feel very welcome into a brilliant learning environment ”

Alfie

“ After school revision sessions and the revision weekend in Y13 means that you never feel overwhelmed even when the work gets hard. ”

Rosie



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop (Departmental Leader for Business, Economics & Computing)

Leads the department and has over 25 years experience of teaching Business, Economics, Computing and ICT to A-Level standard. An A-Level Examiner and BTEC Moderator. Particularly enjoys delivering the labour market and the global context.

Mrs E Dougherty

Expert in Industrial Economics. Over 15 years' teaching experience. Previous commercial experience. Senior examiner for AQA and OCR A level Economics.

Mrs N Turner

Expert in Marketing and Human Resources as well as International Business. Significant previous commercial experience. Currently an AQA A-Level Examiner and also delivers Financial Studies.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1

Microeconomics

Examined by case study questions and essays

Paper 2

Macroeconomics

Examined by case study questions and essays

Paper 3

Synoptic Paper

Examined via Multiple Choice Questions and a large case study analysis

Three 2 hour examinations.

Each contributes to 1/3 of the qualification.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students are encouraged to take part national competitions such as the Student Investor Challenge, Budget Challenge, IEA essay writing competitions.

All students are invited to attend a residential trip to London where we visit the Bank of England, Institute of Economic Affairs and Houses of Parliament.

Where can Economics lead?

The vast majority of our students study an Economics or Business related degree at university.

Alternatively, some students continue to Law or International Relations degrees.

Many past students have then gone on to careers in Banking and Finance, Marketing and Business Analytics - gaining degree level apprenticeships with companies such as KPMG, PWC, EY and the government

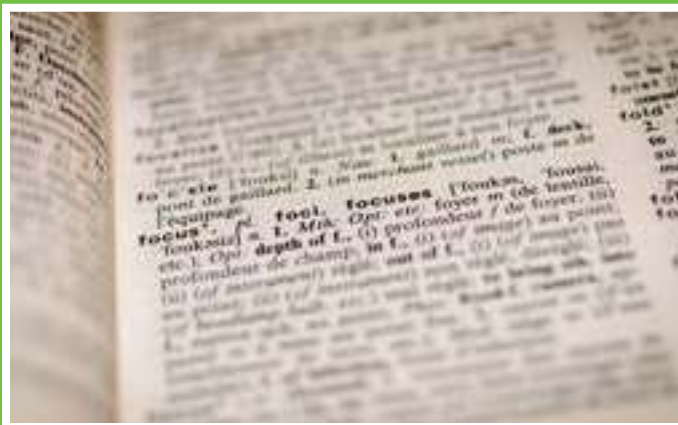
English Language A-level

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in English Language

It is said that language constructs the world. It is the meaning that people take from language that allows them to interpret and understand all aspects of life. Do you want to learn more about the language you use every day? Would you like to explore a range of points from child language, through to ideas of power and the construction of identity? Would you like to do that, in an environment that encourages discussion and debate?

Then English Language is the subject for you.



Course Content

Language Variation: Exploring how language varies depending on location, function and audience. How language choices creates and moulds personal identities. How language varies from 1550, to the present day

Child Language: Exploring spoken language acquisition and how children learn to write between the ages of 0 – 8

Investigating Language: Students will select from five topic areas (gender, global English, power, journalism and region variation) and develop their research and investigation skills, apply their knowledge of language levels and key language concepts.

Non-examination Assessment (NEA): Crafting language: Students will research and demonstrate their skills as creative writers within a selected genre, crafting texts for different audiences and/or purposes and reflect on their research and writing in an accompanying commentary.

Typical Class Sizes

10-15. This class size allows for exciting group discussions, whilst also allowing teachers to give more focused support of individual students.

What do students think...

“ I’ve really enjoyed this course. It’s allowed me to think differently about how we develop language and then communicate and use language every day

“ I see the world differently now I’ve studied English. It’s really made me think about how language is so important to all aspects of our lives”

“ I had never thought about how much language allows us to be seen as people. It’s very deep when you think about how much how identity is linked to how we understand and use language in the world around us



Who could be teaching me?

A range of our well qualified and experienced teachers, within the English Department, could be teaching you for this course. A number of our teachers work as examiners and/or have experiences and interests in and around this exciting subject.

All members of the English Department have a passion for teaching and a love of English.

Mrs C Taylor (Department Leader)
Dr M Matthews (Deputy Department Leader)
Ms R McGuirk (Deputy Department Leader)
Mrs J Middlemiss (Assistant Department Leader)
Miss A Barlow
Miss K Edwards
Mrs K Foulder
Miss L Harrison
Miss E Hughes
Mr D Mellor
Miss L Middleton
Miss E Parker

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

There are external visits that will take place, which offer a range of experiences to students within this subject. There are a variety of enrichment activities that feature as part of the school's enrichment programme.

These include debating groups, creative writing clubs and competitions, as well as trips.

How is the course examined?

Language Variation:

Written examination, lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.
60 marks available. 35% of the A Level

Child Language:

Written examination, lasting 1 hour.
45 marks available. 20% of the A Level

Investigating Language:

Written examination, lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.
45 marks available. 25% of the A Level

Crafting Language:

Students produce two assignments: 50 marks available: Assignment 1 is 30 marks
Assignment 2 is 20 marks
20% of the A Level

Where can English Language lead?

Students with an A-level in English Language typically go on to a wide range of professions. Some of these include: speech therapy, law, advertising and marketing, public relations, journalism, teaching, charity administration and human resources.

The English Language A Level is valued by a wide range of employers and universities, therefore giving students a wide range of opportunities. English Language can be a subject for further study (post A level), but also act as a wonderful underpinning for other subjects and opportunities. It is said that language constructs the world. English Language A level can help you construct a pathway to your future.

English Literature A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language

Do you want to explore a wide range of issues and debates that work in and around the human experience? Do you want to think critically about the world in which you live, through discussing characters and situations centered in literary texts?

Would you like the chance to work independently on a focused area of literature that you choose? Would you like to develop both your creative and analytical writing, in an environment that is both passionate and supportive?

Then English Literature is the subject for you.



Course Content

Aspects of Tragedy:

A study of the genre of tragedy, with a focus on three set texts: 'Othello', 'Death of a Salesman' and the poetry of Keats

Elements of Crime Writing:

A study of the crime writing genre, with a focus on three set texts: 'Atonement', 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' and the study of a poetry anthology

Independent Study of Literature (NEA):

The study of two texts, one prose and one poem. Students have free choice of texts and the study's focus

Typical Class Sizes

5-10. This class size allows for group discussions and more focused teacher support of students.

What do students think...

“ Every lesson is thoroughly engaging, with the teachers and students equally passionate about the texts that we are discussing. Lessons become something to look forward to, as you develop confidence and freedom in your analytical and evaluative skills ”

Freya

“ I really enjoy the debates we have in class and hearing other people's views on the texts ”

“ I've really enjoyed working on my NEA – it's been a highlight of the course ”

“ I like the range of things we study. There's lots to enjoy ”



Who could be teaching me?

A range of our well qualified and experienced teachers, within the English Department, could be teaching you for this course. A number of our teachers work as examiners and/or have experiences and interests in and around literature. All members of the English Department have a love of literature and the ideas and concepts it holds.

Mrs C Taylor (Department Leader)
Dr M Matthews (Deputy Department Leader)
Ms R McGuirk (Deputy Department Leader)
Mrs J Middlemiss (Assistant Department Leader)
Miss A Barlow
Miss K Edwards
Mrs K Foulder
Miss L Harrison
Miss E Hughes
Mr D Mellor
Miss L Middleton
Miss E Parker

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

There are a variety of enrichment activities that feature as part of the school's enrichment programme, from debating groups to creative writing clubs and competitions.

There are external literature based visits that offer a range of experiences to students within this subject. These include theatre visits, writing workshops and more.

How is the course examined?

Aspects of Tragedy:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (closed book), 75 marks, 40% of A-level

Elements of Crime Writing:

Examination will include an unseen passage. Written exam: 3 hours (open book), 75 marks, 40% of A-level

Independent Study:

Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the critical anthology (set by AQA). One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary. 50 marks, 20% of A-level, assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA

Where can English Literature lead?

Students with an A-level in English Literature typically go on to work in a wide range of professions including, which can include the following.

Speech therapy, law, advertising and marketing, public relations, journalism, teaching, charity administration, human resources.

The English Literature A Level is valued by a wide range of employers and universities and therefore gives students a wide range of opportunities for the future. It can be a subject for study beyond A level, but also can act as a wonderful underpinning to other subjects post 18.

French A-level

Exam board: WJEC

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French

Do you want to be able to speak more fluently and learn about French culture and history?

Then French is the subject for you. You will improve your grammar and spoken language, whilst learning about being a young person in French speaking society, the French speaking world and other aspects of French culture and history. You'll also study a film and a novel.



Course Content

Component One Speaking: The independent research and one of the four topics below.

Component Two: Listening, Reading and Translation, covering the four topics below.

Component Three: Critical and analytical response in writing: One essay each on your film and your novel.

Topics...

- Being a young person in French speaking Society
- The French speaking world
- Diversity and difference
- France 1940-1950: The Occupation and the post war years

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes in French are small, between 3-8 students. Your teachers know your strengths & weaknesses and can tailor their lessons to exactly what you need. You get numerous opportunities for verbal & written feedback, whilst working in a friendly dynamic environment.

What do students think...

“ I think that foreign language skills can help to give you more opportunities and meet interesting people. I've taken part in French exchanges and thoroughly enjoyed them, and I just love experiencing other cultures. To help us practice speaking French, myself and a couple of friends from my A level class organised our own trip to Brussels which was fantastic!

”



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs Crammond (Subject Leader) - Specialist in A Level Grammar and translation with many years experience teaching at this level.

Mrs Lewis - Specialist in study of film and diversity in the French speaking world.

Miss Shute - Particular specialism in spoken language and guiding the Independent Research Project.

Mrs K Farrell - Specialist in translation, with previous experience as a professional translator.

How is the course examined?

Unit 1 - Speaking (30%)

The independent research project and one of the following: Being a young person in French speaking Society; The French speaking world; Diversity and difference; France 1940-1950

Unit 2: Listening, Reading and Translation (50%)

Being a young person in French speaking Society; The French speaking world; Diversity and difference; France 1940-1950

Unit 3: Critical and Analytical Response in Writing Consisting of Film and Novel (20%)

Film and novel - one short 400+ word essay in French on each.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

We offer a number of trips to universities in the region as well as opportunities to get involved in lessons and clubs for students lower down the school.

Students often choose to take part in a European work experience programme, in France, organised by an external provider.

Where can French lead?

Students with an A-level French typically go on to a whole range of things.

Many of our students move on to a degree in French, but previous students have continued to use their French in combination with sciences, politics, history and geography.

Further Maths A-level

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 7 in Mathematics (You will also need to be studying A Level Mathematics)

For someone who enjoys mathematics, Further Mathematics provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

You will be introduced to topics such as Matrices and Complex Numbers which are vital to STEM based degrees. Those taking further mathematics relish the challenge and depth of topics covered extending and deepening their knowledge beyond standard A Level Mathematics.



Course Content

You will study topics such as...

Core

Complex Numbers; Algebra and Series; Volumes of Revolution; Matrices; Vectors; Integration; Differentiation; Differential Equations

Statistics

Discrete Random Variables; Probability Distributions; Hypothesis Testing; Association Testing

Mechanics

Forces and Energy; Momentum and Collisions

Typical Class Sizes

5 students. The small class size leads to deeper understanding and a more personal learning experience.

What do students think...

“

We have small supportive classes with great teachers

”

Lily

“

Further Maths is my favourite subject. The content, although challenging, is very rewarding when solving the more difficult questions. The classes are smaller and we have the best teachers!

”

Tyler

“

Further Maths is my favourite subject. I like it because the classes are much smaller which makes it easier to understand the harder topics

”

Marco



Who could be teaching me?

The Maths department has a wealth of subject knowledge and experience at A-level teaching. As well as encouraging new teachers to A-level we are privileged to have an A-level exam marker amongst our staff.

Those new to teaching A level are committed to providing an excellent education for our A level students and have taken on university based courses to enhance their teaching.

- Mrs N Ramage
- Mrs N Newsham
- Mrs A Hartland
- Miss L Roughsedge

How is the course examined?

Paper 1 – 1.5hr exam, 75 marks, 25%

Core 1 - Pure

Paper 2 - 1.5hr exam, 75 marks, 25%

Core 2 - Pure

Paper 3 - 1.5hr exam, 75 marks, 25%

Statistics 1

Paper 4 - 1.5hr exam, 75 marks, 25%

Mechanics 1

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

The Maths departments offers the following optional challenges for students to become involved with...

- Team Maths Challenge
- Senior Maths Challenge

Where can Further Maths lead?

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, or Mathematics, you will benefit greatly from taking Further Mathematics, at least to AS level. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward.

Those students taking Mathematics further have a huge variety of careers available to them.

Geography A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Geography and Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics

Do you want to learn about the world around you, make sense of the natural forces and human processes that shape our everyday lives and provide a glimpse into our shared futures? Then A level Geography is the subject for you.

A Level Geography is a 'facilitating subject' and one of the choices most likely to secure you a place at a top university.



Course Content

A-level Geography is a combination of physical and social sciences, data skills and real world applications, makes geography a highly relevant subject to study and the perfect companion to any other humanities, arts or science subjects.

Component 1: Physical geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: Hazards

Component 2: Human geography

A: Global systems and global governance Section

B: Changing places Section

C: Contemporary urban environments

Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

What do students think...

“My experience of studying Geography at Helsby has been overwhelmingly positive, the small class sizes, shared amongst three teachers has meant we've had lots of contact time and support for both classwork and coursework.”

The tutor system that the department uses has been very helpful and I always feel supported and confident in my studies”.

Alfie

Typical Class Sizes

A typical class size in A level Geography is between 10-15 students. Small class sizes enable students to receive personalised learning and one-to-one support; this is especially valuable when students are completing their fieldwork investigation.



Who could be teaching me?

Mr Mellors (Subject Leader) Specializing in Human Geography; lead teacher of Changing Places and Global Systems and Global Governance.

Miss Smith Specializing in Physical Geography. Lead teacher of Coastal Systems/Landscapes and Hazards.

Mr Howe Lead teacher of Water and Carbon Cycles and Contemporary Urban Environments.

How is the course examined?

Component 1 - Physical geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
120 marks, 40% of A-level

Component 2 - Human geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
120 marks, 40% of A-level

Component 3 - Geography fieldwork investigation

3,000 – 4,000 words
60 marks, 20% of A-level
Marked by teachers, moderated by AQA

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

The Geography department regularly run expeditions to Iceland.

Where can Geography lead?

Students may go on to read Geography or Geography related subjects at university. Increasing numbers of students are now studying degrees in Sustainable Development, Environmental Management and Geographical Information Systems.

Geography is a broad based subject which provides lots of opportunities for future progression, including teaching, law, cartography, computing, environmental management and tourism- the list is endless.

German A-level

Exam board: WJEC

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in German

Do you want to be able to speak more fluently and learn about German culture and history? Then German is the subject for you.

Your knowledge of German grammar will improve quickly and your spoken language will become more fluent. You'll do this whilst learning about being a young person in German speaking society, the German speaking world and other aspects of German culture and history.



Course Content

Component One Speaking: The independent research and one of the four topics below.

Component Two: Listening, Reading and Translation, covering the four topics below.

Component Three: Critical and analytical response in writing: One essay each on your film and your novel.

Topics...

- Being a young person in German speaking Society
- The German speaking world
- Diversity and difference
- The Making of Modern Germany: 1989 onwards

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes in German are small, between 3-6 students. Your teachers know your strengths & weaknesses and can tailor their lessons to exactly what you need. You get numerous opportunities for verbal & written feedback, whilst working in a friendly dynamic environment.

What do students think...

“ Doing German at Sixth Form has been really engaging for me. I enjoyed studying our book ('Ich fühl mich so 50/50') and film ('Goodbye Lenin!'), which made me really interested in our topic about the differences between East and West Germany after they were divided. The lessons are really fun since the class size is small, so the environment is always friendly and inclusive. ”

Year 13 student





Who could be teaching me?

Miss Shute (Subject Leader)
Specialist in translation studies .

Mrs Lewis
Specialist in film study and German grammar teaching.

Mr Duffell
Literature specialist with a particular interest in German culture.

Miss Stone
Expertise on German history and spoken language.

How is the course examined?

Unit 1 - Speaking (30%)

The independent research project and one of the following: Being a young person in German speaking Society; The German speaking world; Diversity and difference; The Making of Modern Germany: 1989 onwards

Unit 2: Listening, Reading and Translation (50%)

Being a young person in German speaking Society; The German speaking world; Diversity and difference; The Making of Modern Germany: 1989 onwards

Unit 3: Critical and Analytical Response in Writing Consisting of Film and Novel (20%)

Film and novel - one short 400+ word essay in German on each

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

We offer a number of trips to universities in the region as well as opportunities to get involved in lessons and clubs for students lower down the school.

Students often choose to take part in a European work experience programme, in Germany, organised by an external provider.

Where can German lead?

Students with an A-level German typically go on to a whole range of things.

Many of our students move on to a degree in German, but previous students have continued to use their German in combination with sciences, politics, history and geography.

Health & Social Care – Cambridge Technicals Level 3

Exam board: RSA

Entry requirements: Extended Certificate (single award), Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 44 in Science, Diploma (double award), Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 55 in Science

Do you want to develop the professional and personal skills needed to work with people who require care or support in the health, social care or child care sectors? Then Health and Social Care is the subject for you.

You will develop the skills needed to give person centred care and support and to build positive relationships with people who use health, social care and child care services.



Course Content

The Extended Certificate is the 'single award'. The Diploma is the 'double award' which some students choose to do in addition, as an extension to the single award. All students undertake the following units to achieve the Extended Certificate:

- Unit 1: Building Positive Relationships
- Unit 2: Equality, Diversity and Rights
- Unit 3: Health, Safety & Security
- Unit 4: Anatomy & Physiology
- Unit 5: Infection Control
- Unit 10: Nutrition for Health

In addition to the above units, those students completing the Diploma course also study:

- Unit 6: Personalisation and a person-centred approach
- Unit 7: Safeguarding
- Unit 8: Creativity and activity for children and young people
- Unit 13: Sexual Health, Reproduction and Early Stages Development
- Unit 14: The impact of long-term physiological conditions
- Unit 15: Promoting health and well-being

Typical Class Sizes

Our students really benefit from class sizes typically being no more than 15. This means they get to know the teachers and each other well in a supportive and caring learning environment. This enables students to participate confidently in class discussions and debates.

What do students think...

“ The units we cover are really useful for the different careers some of us on the course want to go into, and the teachers are always linking our learning to those careers, making it relevant for all of us. ”

Chloe

“ The teachers give you lots of support and feedback on your ongoing coursework, so you know exactly how to improve your work. ”

Ruby

“ I really like the fact that the exams for this course are not all at the end of Year 13. You complete each unit as you go along, so you don't have to revise more than one unit at a time. ”

Katie

“ A lot of the units are assessed through coursework, it's not all reliant on the exams which is really good. ”

Lucy



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs N Eastwood

Has over 20 years teaching experience and is Faculty Leader for Technology which incorporates the subject of Health & Social Care, Food & Nutrition and Design Technology. She has a particular interest and experience in the areas of nutrition, health and pastoral care. Mrs Eastwood likes a good debate and is creative and organised!

Mrs S Gilbert

Is a qualified medical writer and experienced teacher of both Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care. She has worked as a Health and Social Care Examiner for OCR for several years and is very enthusiastic about the subject. Naturally having a caring nature she is always ready to support students with their independent learning.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students of Health and Social attend a work placement in a health, social care or early years' care setting where they demonstrate their communication skills in one-to-one and group interactions.

This experience has proved invaluable when completing personal statements for University or apprenticeship applications. The Health and Social Care students help to organise and deliver the Senior Citizens' Festive Party at Helsby. Students are encouraged to maintain links with work placements.

How is the course examined?

The assessments are a combination of internally assessed portfolio work and external exams. Each unit is assessed individually and graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. In the extended certificate there are 3 internally assessed portfolio units and 3 externally examined units.

Of the additional 6 units studied for the diploma, 4 are internally assessed portfolio units and 2 are externally examined units.

Where can Health & Social Care lead?

Students with Level 3 in Health and Social Care typically go on to university to study:

Nursing; Primary school teaching; Midwifery
Ambulance Service/paramedics; Child Care (nursery/pre-school); NHS careers i.e. theatre nurse, radiography, occupational therapy or find an apprenticeship in the care sector.

Some students have used the experience of working and communicating with people to work in the travel industry.

History A-level

Exam board: OCR

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in History or English Language, History GCSE is useful, but not essential

Do you want to develop as an historian and gain a highly valued qualification?

Then History is the subject for you.

You will witness the dark side of the Tudors, be inspired by Martin Luther King and gain an insight into Russia's long tradition of strong leaders.



Course Content

British Period Study & Enquiry

The Early Tudors, including Henry VII and Henry VIII

Non British Period Study

Russia from 1894 – 1941 including Lenin, the Revolution and Stalin

Thematic Study & Historical Interpretations

Civil Rights in the USA

Topic Based Essay

Independent coursework unit based on the development of the USA

Typical Class Sizes

Classes have approximately 10-15 students. We provide tailored feedback, particularly when working on the Topic Based coursework essay. Students have one to one guidance before starting their independent essay, with specialised support in locating resources and managing research skills.

What do students think...

“ The resources provided by the department are really helpful for learning how to structure essays and keep up to date with notes. ”

Lucy & Emily

“ It's been really interesting learning about British monarchs and also being able to understand the background to Russia. ”

Charlie



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs J Lowe (Subject Leader) (Russia & Early Tudors)

Mrs Lowe has 20 years' experience of teaching and leading A-Level history and has also worked as an examiner for the Tudors course.

Miss L Barnes - (Russia and the Topic Based Essay)

Miss Barnes has been a GCSE examiner and has over 20 years' teaching experience.

Miss H Taylor – (Early Tudors and Civil Rights)

Miss Taylor is a highly qualified member of the team with a particular interest in The Early Tudors.

How is the course examined?

British Period Study & Enquiry

Examined
25% of A-level

Non British Period Study

Examined
15% of A-level

Thematic Study & Historical Interpretations

Examined
40% of A-level

Topic Based Essay

Coursework 20% of A-level

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Visits vary from year to year but in the last three years have included:

- Civil Rights tour of Harlem as part of a History & Politics visit to New York and Washington
- Visit to Hampton Court Palace
- Attendance at talks given by historians, including Dr David Starkey and Dan Snow
- Attendance at student conferences in Manchester

Where can History lead?

Students with an A-level in History typically go on to study History with a range of complementary subjects including:

- PPE (Oxbridge)
- Politics
- Law
- Ancient History & Archaeology

Past Helsby students are now working in Law, teaching, academia and the Civil Service.

Information Technology BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language

Do you want to learn about how businesses use social media to help promote goods and services and be able to create a social media campaign of your own? Do you want to be able to use database and spreadsheet software to an advanced level?

Then IT is the subject for you. You will learn a wide variety of skills useful for university or when you take up employment.



Course Content

Unit 1 - Information Technology Systems – You will study the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

Unit 2 - Creating Systems to Manage Information – You will study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

Unit 3 - Using Social Media in Business - You explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services and also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Unit 5 - Data Modelling (Spreadsheets) – You will study how data modelling can be used to solve problems as well as designing and implementing a data model to meet client requirements.

Typical Class Sizes

Depending on the number of students choosing IT, class sizes differ from approximately 5-15 students. Students learn faster and perform very well in our small classes as teachers can offer more support.

What do students think...

“ The support given by Mr Davies has been exceptional and with the continued growth of the tech industry, I.T. is a very important subject to have. I particularly enjoyed the practical elements of the course like making the database and spreadsheet. ”

Duncan

“ I like doing BTECs because you always know where you are up to with your work and you have more than one chance to improve in your exam or assignment. With traditional A levels you only have one chance. I think that you get a lot more support and if you are prepared to put the work in, you can get higher grades than you would expect to get. ”

Hannah

“ The course allows me to work independently whilst at the same time, knowing that support is always at hand. ”

Matthew

CampaignID	CampaignDate	CampaignName	TargetToSell	CampaignM	DurationDay
1	01/01/2019	New Year New Beach	£1,000.00	2	5
2	14/02/2019	Beach My Valentine	£200.00	2	1
3	01/03/2019	March Towards A Clean	£150.00	3	1
4	01/04/2019	April Fools Fund Raiser	£500.00	5	2
5	04/05/2019	May The Beaches Be Wit	£100.00	4	1
6	10/06/2019	Summer Fund Raiser	£100.00	6	1
7	10/06/2019	Summer Fund Raiser	£1,000.00	7	5
8	11/07/2019	July Get Together On Yo	£0.00	0	0

Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop (Department Leader) – expert in A-level IT and Computer Science, significant teaching experience teaching vocational IT, Computing and Economics to A-Level.

Mr Davies (Subject Leader) - expert in A level and BTEC IT, Computer Science and Business Studies, significant experience of teaching at A-level standard.

Mr Griffin – significant experience in industry creating systems for Cadburys, specialises in programming and databases.

How is the course examined?

Unit 1

Information Technology Systems
Year 13, Written Exam -2 hours, 33%

Unit 2

Creating Systems to Manage Information
Year 12, Practical Exam - 10 hours, 25%

Unit 3

Using Social Media in Business
Year 12, Coursework, 25%

Unit 5

Data Modelling
Year 13, Coursework, 17%

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students have the opportunity to visit local businesses and guest speakers have also come into the classroom to talk about the use of IT in the real world.

Each unit is delivered using a vocational scenario and therefore students are able to see a clear link with the work being covered and the real world.

Where can BTEC IT lead?

Students with a BTEC in IT have used the qualification in a variety of ways.

Many students have moved on to follow an IT qualification at university - discretely or in combination with another subject.

Other students have taken an apprenticeship within the IT field whether that be with a large multinational company or a smaller, often local, company.

Maths A-level

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 7 in Mathematics (Grade 6 will be considered)

Do you want to solve problems, develop logical and analytical thinking as well as be challenged?

Then Mathematics is the subject for you.

Not only will maths develop your problem solving skills it will deepen your knowledge to enable you to tackle scientific, mechanical and abstract problems.



Course Content

You will study topics such as...

Pure mathematics

Proof, Algebra and functions; Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane; Sequences and series; Trigonometry; Exponentials and logarithms; Differentiation; Integration; Vectors; Numerical methods.

Statistics

Statistical sampling; Data presentation and interpretation; Probability; Statistical distributions; Statistical hypothesis testing.

Mechanics

Quantities and units in mechanics; Kinematics; Forces and Newton's laws; Moments.

Typical Class Sizes

Typically 10-20 students

The class size allows discussions and ideas to flow in a relaxed atmosphere where learning and understanding is key.

What do students think...

“ The teachers are enthusiastic about the subject and are happy to provide help outside of lesson time. – Heather ”

“ Maths is very interesting, the teachers are all amazing and always there to help – Lily ”

“ Maths is very challenging and as a result feels very rewarding – Declan ”

“ Maths is a great subject that opens options to many things – Lily ”

“ The teachers are always available out of lesson times if you need any extra support – Millie ”

“ Maths opens doors for lots of potential career paths as it covers a wide range of areas which can be applied to many different fields. It is also a common requirement for university courses in areas like engineering and accounting – Toby ”

“ A level maths is good as it opens doors for lots of high paying careers – Clem ”



Who could be teaching me?

The Maths department has a wealth of subject knowledge and experience at A level teaching. As well as encouraging new teachers to A level we are privileged to have an A level exam marker amongst our staff. Those new to teaching A level are committed to providing an excellent education for our A level students and have taken on university based courses to enhance their teaching.

- Mr T Probert
- Mrs N Ramage
- Mrs N Newsham
- Mrs A Hartland
- Mrs R Little
- Miss F Williams
- Miss L Smith
- Mrs L Wasson
- Miss L Roughsedge
- Mrs A Hughes
- Miss D Whitby

How is the course examined?

Paper 1

2hr paper, Pure 1
AS pure content at AL standard
100 marks, 33.33%

Paper 2

2hr paper, Pure 2
The remaining pure content builds on and incorporates the AS content
100 marks, 33.33%

Paper 3

2hr paper, Applied
Section A - Statistics, Section B - Mechanics
100 marks, 33.33%

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students have the opportunity to take part in a national Senior Maths Challenge with the support of the Maths department here at Helsby Sixth form.

Where can Maths lead?

A Level Mathematics provides endless opportunities into a multitude of future career paths and complements most subjects.

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/ Economics, or Mathematics, A level Mathematics will be a great starting point.

Media Studies A-level

Exam board: Eduqas (the English branch of WJEC)

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in English Language

Do you want to learn about how media industries work, how stereotypes, representations and meanings are created, and how audiences are positioned to respond? Then Media Studies A Level is the subject for you.

You will develop a cultural competence, appetite for language, sensitivity to imagery, and improve your critical thinking and understanding of the Arts as a whole.



Course Content

Component One: Media Products, Industries and Audiences. Includes the study of a wide range of diverse texts, from different time periods and cultural contexts, such as: advertising, film marketing, music videos, newspapers and computer games.

Component Two: Media Forms & Products In Depth. Includes in depth studies of TV programmes such as 'Black Mirror' and the French TV show 'Les Revenants', magazines (Vogue and The Big Issue) and online influencers/texts such as Zoe Sugg (Zoella) and Attitude.

Component Three: Students individually complete two separate, but linked, creative production pieces, choosing from a brief of four different options, set by the exam board. One production piece will be print based, and the other audio/audio-visual or web based. Popular briefs that students have chosen in the past include film/music marketing or the launching of a new magazine.

Typical Class Sizes

Typical class sizes range from 10-20, meaning there is plenty of opportunity for discussion and debate and to hear different points of view. Although students submit individual controlled assessment, they can appear in one another's productions, and support one another where necessary.

What do students think...

“ I didn't know what to expect taking Media as a new subject at A Level, but I was surprisingly pleased. The amount of fun I have had in lessons has been endless. I thought I was enthusiastic, but no, the Media teachers have an extreme amount of enthusiasm and willingness, which never seems to end
Alexie, Y13

“ I am so glad I carried on with Media Studies at A Level. There is literally never a dull moment in class and I learn something new every lesson. Studying Media has made me question the world we live in and really opened my eyes to messaging and manipulation.
Olivia, Year 13

“ Whenever I struggled to understand the work, my Media teachers have always been there to help motivate, reassure and encourage me
Hannah, Y13



Who could be teaching me?

A range of our well-qualified and experienced teachers, within the English and Media department, could be teaching you for this course. A number of our teachers work as examiners and/or have experiences and interests in and around this exciting subject.

Ms R McGuirk (Media Studies Subject Leader)
Dr M Matthews (Deputy Department Leader)
Miss L Harrison
Mrs C Taylor (English Department Leader)
Mr D Mellor
Miss K Edwards
Mrs J Middlemiss (English Department Assistant Leader)
Miss E Hughes
Mrs K Foulder
Miss A Barlow
Miss E Parker
Miss L Middleton

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

- The opportunity to participate in various local, regional and national competitions. Helsby students have recently received awards from The Bank of England, Cheshire Police and United Utilities for their media productions. Various opportunities to hear expert speakers in the industry.
- Well established Upper School Film Club.
- Educational and highly enjoyable trips to various museums and film festivals.

How is the course examined?

Component One

Media Products, Industries and Audiences

2 hours 15 minutes written examination 90 marks, 35%

Component Two

Media Forms & Products In Depth

2 hours 30 minutes written examination 90 marks, 35%

Component Three

Non-Examination Assessment Individual Production 60 marks, 30%

Where can Media Studies lead?

Students with an A-level in Media Studies typically go on to study at university...

- Media Studies
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Communication Studies
- Film Studies

or to find work in these industries.

Photography A-level

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: We accept students with no prior experience of Photography. We require students who are enquiring and imaginative, and have a passion for digital media

Do you want to be introduced to exciting new experiences and create high quality photographs in an innovative, dynamic department? Then Photography is the subject for you.

You will discover and develop new skills and processes exploring a range of photographic techniques. This may include images created by digital and chemical means as well as digital filmmaking.



Course Content

Unit 1 – Coursework: A theme is set by the individual student that explores an aspect of Photography. Each student will develop their own starting point in both written and visual form. They will develop this using a variety of processes, culminating in a series of photographic images.

Part 2 – Personal study: Students will compose a piece of research work that explores the conceptual, historical, political or social links between their own work and the work of other artists/Photographers 4000 words.

Unit 2 - Controlled Assignment:
The exam board set a paper that explores a theme, giving various interpretations leading to artists, photographers and processes. The students make a personal response using photographic processes.

Typical Class Sizes

Typically 6 - 10 students per class

What do students think...

“ Photography is a great way to express yourself and to develop a range of skills. It is a wonderful way of expressing emotion. ”

Zach R

“ I enjoy the creative freedom you have in Photography. ”

Jess E

“ The staff are always willing to help and support us. Photography has given me the freedom to create my own work. ”

Leah U

“ Studying Photography at ALevel has allowed me to further develop my skills gained in GCSE. Photography has helped me to become independent and confident. ”

Megan P



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs S Ray (Subject Leader)

Expert in A-Level Fine Art, Ceramics and Art History.

Mr D Wilson

Expert in A-Level Photography, Fine Art and Sculpture.

Miss H Adams

Expert in A-Level Photography and Fine Art.

How is the course examined?

Photography is one of the few subjects that remain to be coursework based.

At A-Level, the coursework components are worth 60%, and the controlled assignment is worth 40% of the overall mark.

The controlled assignment for A-level is 15hrs, which is set over a series of sessions. In both courses, both the coursework and controlled assignment are marked against the four assessment objectives, and the weighting for coursework and exam is applied.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

- Lunchtime clubs
- Studio Practice (3.05 – 5.00pm chosen sessions)
- Workshops and exam catch up sessions (selected weekends 10 – 4pm)
- Gallery trips to Manchester and Liverpool
- Art/Photography and Biology trip to Anglesey
- ‘Young Artists in Tuscany’ – county run Gifted and Talented trip

Where can Photography lead?

Photography students seek jobs in a variety of fields such as.....

Freelance Photography, Journalism, Fashion Photography, Fine Art Photography, Cinematography, Advertising, Studio Photography, Travel Photography, Corporate Photography

Physics A-level

Exam board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in Physics or at least one 6 in Combined Science, Grade 5 in both English Language

Do you want to find out how Nuclear Fusion can solve global energy issues, how gravitational fields are shaping the Universe or why heavier objects don't fall faster? Then Physics is the subject for you.

Preparing you for almost any career, because we teach students how to analyze complex problems that can be applied in any technical field.



Course Content

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes are typically 10-15 students.

This size of group allows all students to hands on experience in practical activities and more one-to-one support from the teachers.

What do students think...

“ Physics has challenged me to develop my research, problem solving and analytical skills and broaden my horizons whilst learning about the Universe and how things work. ”

“ I chose to study A-level Physics at Helsby because of the small class sizes and the vast amount of one-to-one support you receive from your teachers. Studying physics is exciting and challenging! ”





Who could be teaching me?

Dr A Pritchard-Roberts is an expert in teaching A-Level Physics with extensive teaching experience, in addition to 4 years of academic research experience. Dr Pritchard-Roberts has a Masters degree in Physics and a PhD in Nuclear Physics.

Miss D Collier specialises in the Mechanics and Electronics topics, graduating university with a 1st Class Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She was selected as an Institute of Physics Scholar in 2021 and outside of school, she has a passion for Formula 1 and is a double bronze World Champion athlete!

How is the course examined?

Papers 1 & 2

What's assessed?

Paper 1: Sections 1 to 5, 6.1 (Periodic motion)

Paper 2: Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8, Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1

Assessed by:

Written exam: 2 hours, 85 marks, 34% of A-level

Questions:

60 marks of short and long answer questions, 25 multiple choice questions on content

Paper 3

What's assessed?

Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis, Section B: 9 Astrophysics

Assessed by:

Written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks, 32% of A-level

Questions:

45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. 35 marks of short and long answer questions on: 9 Astrophysics

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

The Physics Department offer a trip for Year 12 Physics students to Geneva in Switzerland. The three day residential includes a visit to CERN, the World's most powerful particle accelerator and a tour around the historic Palais des Nations (United Nations).

A-Level students are encouraged to get involved with various other activities including the CREST Award, the national Physics Olympiad competition and supporting our younger scientists in the lower school. These offers provide our students with independence, project management, responsibility and leadership experience, vital skills for their next stage whether that be University or other.

Where can Physics lead?

There are thousands of exciting and rewarding physics-related careers to choose from, including;

- To infinity and beyond (Space Engineering)
- Predicting the impact of climate change (Astrophysicist)
- Inspiring the next generation (Teacher)
- Ensuring cyber security (Cyber Engineering)
- Medical physics and digital healthcare (Biophysicist)
- The path to fusion power (Nuclear Engineering)
- Helping robots navigate the world (Mechanical Engineering)
- Managing financial risk with physics (Finance & Law)

Politics A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in English Language or a Humanities subject

Do you want to keep ahead of the news, and learn how the laws that affect you are made? Then Politics is the subject for you.

You will find out what goes on behind the scenes in Parliament, why Americans voted for Trump and what Brexit means for UK law.



Course Content

Paper 1 :Government & Politics of the UK including Political Parties, pressure groups and protest movements, voting behaviour and the judicial system

Paper 2 : Government & Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics including the role of the Republican and Democrat Parties, the Supreme Court and Civil Rights.

Paper 3: Political Ideas – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Anarchism – the key ideas which have shaped our politics.

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes are usually between 10-12 students.

All students receive individualised feedback when needed and class size allows for full participation in discussion and debate.

What do students think...

“ We both wanted to learn about current affairs so that we had a better understanding of important events taking place on the news. ”

Katie and Emily

“ This subject really helps you with real world experience and gives you an understanding of current affairs. ”

James

“ I enjoy watching the news and understanding it more and forming my own opinions about politics. ”

Abi





Who could be teaching me?

Mrs J Lowe (subject leader) - has over 20 years' teaching experience, including the teaching of A Level Politics

Miss L Barnes – has a degree in History & Politics, with a specialism in Political Ideas. She has over 20 years' teaching experience.

How is the course examined?

3 papers

All are examined and are of equal value

Each exam lasts two hours and consists of short knowledge questions and longer essays.



Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Politics students participate in a huge range of extra-curricular activities including:

Running assemblies during Parliament Week and the Youth Parliament Elections; Weekly Debate Club and regular Model UN meetings; Visit to Parliament, including Q and A with our local MP; Attendance at a range of conferences – previous visits have included the European Youth Conference in Paris.

Where can Politics lead?

Recent A Level Politics students at Helsby High School are currently:

- Working as an intern for an MP
- Advising MPs in the Cabinet Office
- Working at Her Majesty's Treasury
- Managing an educational charity after interning for a member of the US Congress in Washington DC
- Studying and working as part of a fully funded apprenticeship for local government

Psychology A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in English Language, Grade 5 in Mathematics, Grade 5 in Science

Do you want to learn about why people act the way they do? Then Psychology is the subject for you.

You will study aspects of human behaviour and understand how psychologists investigate psychological phenomenon.



Course Content

Topics studied include...

- Introductory topics in psychology including attachment, social influence, memory and psychopathology
- Psychology in context including approaches in psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods
- Issues including relationships, schizophrenia and addiction

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes typically range from 10-15 which allows for small group work as well as enabling teachers to work closely with students on an individual basis.

What do students think...

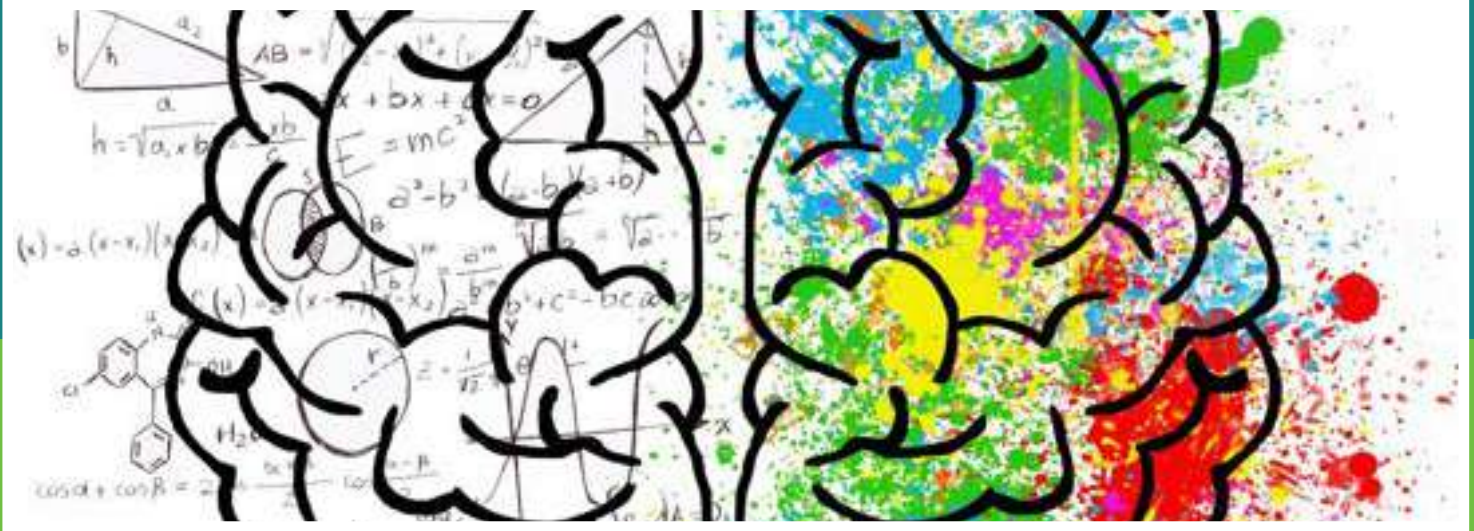
“ Psychology has inspired me - it's helped me to decide what I want to do at uni (Speech and Language Therapy) ”

Megan

“ I picked Psychology because it interested me. I can't wait to do addiction. ”

Hannah





Who could be teaching me?

Mrs N Barrett

Expert in Cognitive Psychology and Research Methods with numerous years experience of teaching A Level Psychology.

Miss N Ryan

Expert in Occupational Psychology with a focus on Social Psychology

How is the course examined?

Paper 1

Introductory topics in Psychology

2 hour exam

33% of A Level

Paper 2

Psychology in Context

2 hour exam

33% of A Level

Paper 3

Issues and Debates

2 hour exam

33% of A level

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Psychology students are all given the opportunity to attend a trip to Chester Zoo where students are able to carry out observations on animals in order to have experience of undertaking psychological research.

Whilst at the zoo, students also attend a specialist workshop about animal behaviour.

Where can Psychology lead?

Students with an A Level in Psychology typically go on to study a social science related course at University

e.g. Mental Health nursing, psychology, sociology, criminology, counselling and Psychotherapy and Neuroscience

Sociology A-level

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in English Language

Do you want to find out why society is like it is today?
Then Sociology is the subject for you.

You will gain an insight into social and cultural issues such as the role of education and families, why certain groups tend to become criminals and how the role of religion is changing in society.



Course Content

Topics studied include...

- Education and methods in context
- Research methods
- Families and households
- Crime and deviance
- Beliefs in society
- Theory and methods

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes typically range from 10-15 which allows for small group work as well as enabling teachers to work closely with students on an individual basis.

What do students think...

“ Sociology is amazing as it gives you an understanding of society and will help with my future studies in Digital Marketing ”

Year 13 Student

“ It has given me the opportunity to become a member of the Youth Crime Commission ”

Year 13 Student

“ Teachers are supportive and always happy to help ”

Year 13 Student



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs P Joyce

Expert in A Level Sociology with a particular focus on Families and Households, Crime and Deviance and Theory with numerous years' experience of teaching A Level Sociology.

Mr M Lawless

Expert in A Level Sociology with a particular focus in methodology, family, politics, and crime with numerous years experience of teaching A Level. Examiner for AQA A Level Sociology.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1

2 hour exam. 33% of A Level

- Education
- Methods in context
- Theory & Methods

Paper 2

2 hour exam. 33% of A Level

- Families & Households
- Beliefs in Society

Paper 3

2 hour exam. 33% of A level

- Crime & Deviance
- Theory & Methods

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students can take part in a workshop with Cheshire Youth Crime commission to strengthen their understanding of the police system.

Where can Sociology lead?

Students with an A Level in Sociology typically go on to careers in social work, nursing or medicine as well as being useful in a number of other careers such as marketing, PR, journalism, law or teaching.

Many go on to study degrees in subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, English, Law and Teaching

Sport - Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate

Exam board: RSA

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in PE (when taken), Grade 4 in English, Mathematics and Science. The subject can be taken without having previously studied GCSE PE

Do you want to have the opportunity, through applied learning, to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the sport and physical activity sector? Then the Level 3 Certificate/ Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity is the subject for you.

You will gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study which attracts UCAS points which students can use when applying to university.



Course Content

Mandatory Units

- Unit 1 Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- Unit 2 Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Unit 3 Sports organisation and development

Optional Units May Include

- Nutrition and diet for sport and exercise
- Sports injuries and rehabilitation
- Practical skills in sport and physical activity
- Sport and Exercise Psychology

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes are generally under 10, which allows students to have more individual attention and support, the opportunity to address areas of development and provide bespoke study programmes.

What do students think...

“ The teachers challenge me to achieve my potential whilst at the same time providing me with the support I need in the areas I find most difficult ”

Year 13 Student

“ The practical element of the course is what is most enjoyable. Everything can be applied to the real world. ”

Year 13 Student



Who could be teaching me?

Mr P Park (Subject Leader) – expert in body systems, sports coaching, organisation and development, exercise psychology, practical skills in sport and physical activity. Over 15 years' experience teaching KS5 Physical Education courses

Miss R Clarke – expert in teaching sport and exercise psychology, sports nutrition, injuries and rehabilitation. Over 15 years' experience teaching KS5 Physical Education courses.

Miss N Weaver - expert in teaching sports coaching and exercise psychology. Highly qualified recently qualified teacher with an honours degree in PE and Sports Science from the University of Birmingham.

Mrs N Witcher - Expert in teaching sports coaching and activity leadership. Extensive experience teaching KS5 vocational courses.

How is the course examined?

The Certificate is studied in Year 12 and Extended Certificate in Year 13.

Year 12

- Unit 1 Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity (Exam) - 25%
- Unit 2 Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership (NEA) - 25%

Year 13

- Unit 3 Sports Organisation and Development (Exam) - 16.66%
- Unit 17 Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation (NEA) - 16.66%
- Unit 19 Sport and Exercise Psychology (NEA) - 16.66%

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Opportunities exist for both participation and leadership in sports such as:

- Football
- Basketball
- Netball
- Cross-country
- Athletics
- Ski-ing
- Water-sports
- Fitness

Where can Sport lead?

Students with a Level 3 in Sport and Physical Activity typically go on to further study in Further Education or Higher Education in sport and physical activity or sport-related apprenticeships

How to apply? Frequently asked questions

Standard entry requirements

Our standard entry requirement is five grade 4s, however as you will have seen, each subject does have specific entry requirements too. In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to join us if you have just missed the grades needed. Entry to the Sixth Form in that case is at the discretion of the Director of Sixth Form.

When do I apply?

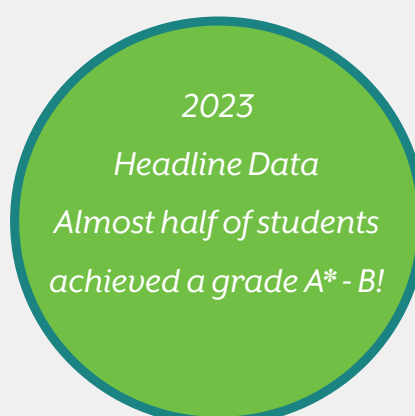
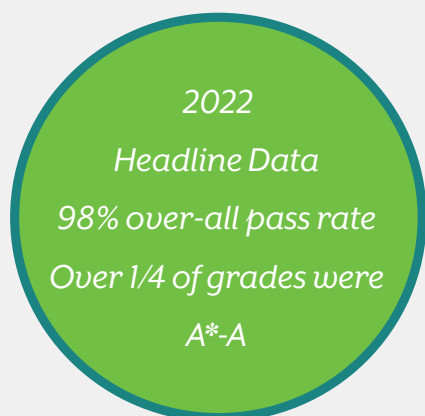
We welcome applications from all students in Year 11, both at Helsby and from other providers. The application window to join us in September 2023 opens in January – application forms will be available on our website.

How many subjects do I study?

We expect the majority of students to opt for three subjects in the Sixth Form. However we recognise that in certain circumstances, it may be appropriate for students to take a fourth subject, and we offer this opportunity to all students achieving an average GCSE points score of 6.5 or higher.

What if I don't pass English or Maths?

Students joining us who have not achieved a grade 4 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE Maths will re-sit that subject during the Sixth Form. A pass at Grade 4 in both subjects is a minimum expectation of most universities and apprenticeship providers. You will be supported by the Maths and English departments with your re-sit examinations.



What happens after I've applied?

All applicants will be invited to a personal interview, where we will discuss course options and a personalised programme of leadership and enrichment. We will make offers to students in the Spring Term, which will be conditional on them achieving the entry requirements for each course. We will notify students in the Spring Term if a course is unlikely to run in September. This would only be the case if we have particularly low numbers of students interested in that course.

I have some further questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact us at 6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org if you would like more information about any aspect of Helsby Sixth Form, and we look forward to welcoming you here in September. **Good luck!**



Sixth Form Helsby Results 2023

In 2023 our Year 13 students met their challenging targets and made fantastic progress. For nearly half of all grades to be at Grade B or above is an excellent achievement, especially for a state school Sixth Form. The students fully deserve this success and nearly all students were able to move on from our Sixth Form to their first choice of destination.

In recent years Sixth Form Helsby has consistently been one of the highest-performing Sixth Forms in the area and this high level of performance has continued in 2023, with students achieving impressively across the full range of over 30 A-Level and Vocational Qualification courses on offer. Amongst many very impressive individual performances were Freya P, Ben S, Gemma S and Laura W, who achieved A*/A grades across all of their Sixth Form courses. Freya is going to Durham University to study English Literature, Ben and Gemma are going on to study Business courses at the University of Bath and the University of Huddersfield respectively and Laura will be going on to an Accountancy Degree-Level Apprenticeship in Chester.

We look forward to

welcoming you into our Sixth Form

Students at Sixth Form
Helsby have access to a range
of qualifications that suit their
needs
Ofsted July 2023

Be supported
both academically
and pastorally

Receive award
winning careers
guidance

2023
Headline Data
Almost half of all
students achieved grade
A* - B!



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