Sixth Form
HELSBY

Achieving Success
Valuing Others

2027

Valuing Young Voices, Fostering Future Achievements

Ofsted
Good
Provider

In 2026, 94% of students went on to study at their first-choice university, well above the 79% national average.



In 2026, over 40% of students achieved an A/A or equivalent in one or more subjects*

www.helsbyhigh.org.uk/sixthform

Why Study With Us?

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. 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 lead your 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 also work closely with the NHS to provide mental health support for our students. Beth from our NHS Mental Health Support Team comes into Sixth Form each Monday to meet with students delivering free cognitive behavioural therapies to support students with a range of needs such as Sleep Hygiene, Exam Stress, Anxiety and Low mood, amongst others.

Meet the Sixth Form Team



Mrs Cross, Director of Sixth Form **vcross@helsbyhigh.org**

Mrs Victoria Cross is an experienced leader and brings her knowledge of both her pastoral care and academic rigour to the role of Director of Sixth Form Helsby. Sixth Formers under her care have succeeded in their academic studies and thrived due to the breadth of their extra-curricular experiences. Mrs Cross has developed our successful Sixth Form, 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, helping them be successful at Sixth Form and preparing them for their future careers.



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 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 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.





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.

Mrs Houghton 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.

We would like to introduce our current Head Students...





Hi my name is Emily and I study Biology Chemistry and geography. I am extremely grateful to be one of the head students at Sixth Form Helsby.

I applied for this role because I wanted to inspire Sixth formers to aim high and achieve their goals both academic and personal. I also wanted to develop my personal skills in communication and leadership to be used for future success



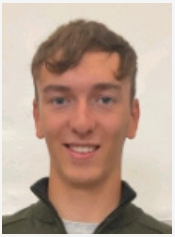
Hi, my name is Sophie , and I am studying preforming arts, Art and English Literature. I applied for the role of Head Student because I wanted to work closely with the school council and develop our school's community. This role gives me the opportunity to hear the voices of younger students as well as my peers and make a difference. I have already learnt a lot within my role as head student, and I hope to continue helping others and allow their voices to be heard.



Hi, I'm Sophie, and I am studying English Language, Performing Arts and Double Health and Social Care. I am one of the Head Students here at Helsby High Sixth Form. I applied for this role as I am passionate about making a positive difference to the school community through the role of head student and being an individual my peers can seek support from. I intend to utilise my role to encourage sixth form and lower school to participate in extra curriculars which develop their skills, confidence and allow them to find new passions.



Hi, my name is Ava. I study English Literature, Psychology, and Art. I'm proud to be one of the Head Students here at Sixth Form Helsby. I applied for this role because it seemed like the perfect opportunity to step outside my comfort zone, represent the voices of my peers, and develop valuable skills like leadership, public speaking, and communication, which will hopefully better prepare me for life after Sixth Form. Continuing forward in this role, I'm looking forward to organising and planning Sixth Form socials, to foster a positive, outgoing Sixth Form environment, as well as recognising and promoting our progress and achievements through social media.



Hi, my name is James, and I am part of the head student team here at Helsby. I am studying Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Maths. I applied to be a head student as I enjoy helping and representing the school at open days and other events. I also felt it would improve my confidence and communication skills as well as being a great opportunity to improve my CV. As a head student I hope to help students gain a clearer picture of what their next steps may be and provide opportunities to help with this.



Hi, my name is Holly, and I am studying English Literature, History and Sports Studies. I applied for the role of Deputy Head Student because I wanted to challenge myself, build my confidence, and make a positive contribution to the Sixth Form community. I saw it as a great opportunity to develop my leadership and communication skills while representing the views of my fellow students. As Deputy Head Student, I hope to support others, help organise school events, and encourage students to get involved in Sixth Form life, creating a welcoming and positive environment for everyone.



Hi, my name is Teigan, and I study English Language, Media studies, and Performing Arts at Helsby High Sixth Form. I'm delighted to be a part of the Head Student Team, as a Deputy Head Student. I applied for this role as I wanted to be a voice to the students of Helsby and be an enthusiastic representative of our sixth form. I see it as a great way to learn new skills and collaborate with our sixth form community. I intend to be a positive role model for younger pupils and support students by sharing advice on how to manage A-Levels. I'm very excited to continue my role in year 13.

Oxbridge Support at Sixth Form Helsby



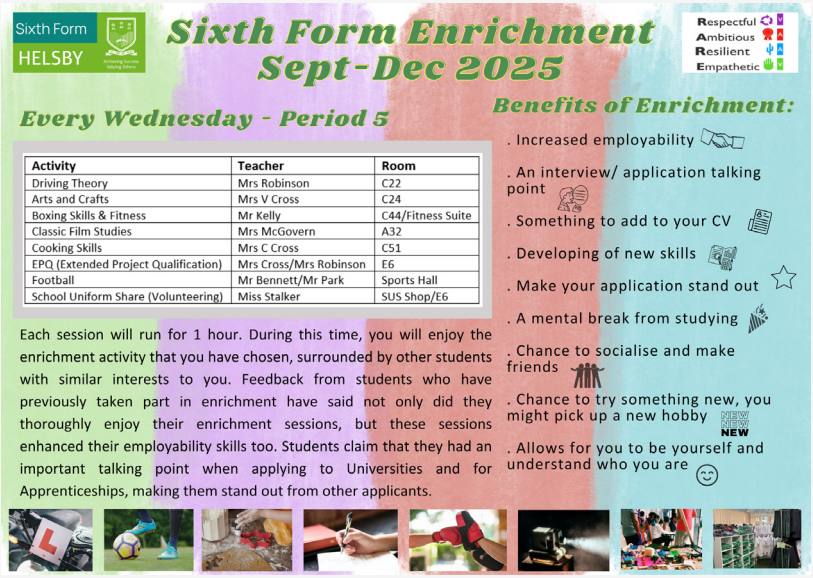
Helsby students have a track record of success in gaining places at Oxbridge. We work with other Sixth Forms as part of the Target One project, which helps to support those students aspiring to apply, or who are applying to Oxbridge. This coaching course develops the academic skills of those who show an aptitude and ability suited to the expectations of these auspicious universities. We also have access to OxNet Admissions Talks which offer invaluable information for Year 12 students who want to find out more about the application process and entrance requirements.

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. We also offer the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award and the chance to work abroad for 4 weeks with Camps International.

DofE GOLD

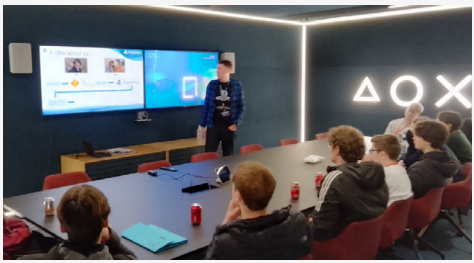
CAMPS international
ETHICAL JOURNEYS WITH IMPACT



Award Winning Careers Information, Guidance and Experiences of the Workplace 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.





In what ways do we develop careers?

1. Our network-support focuses students on where their subject choices could take them.
2. Trips, visits and visitors allow students to experience and learn about university life, apprenticeship opportunities, and gap year ventures.
3. Breakfast meetings allow students to meet industry professionals in the fields they aspire to be part of.
4. Experience of the Workplace week.
5. Future Planning and Recruitment Ready days prepare students for the next steps in their careers and include a mock application and interview process conducted by visiting industry professionals.
6. 1:1 independent careers advisor meetings



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.

Recruitment Ready and Future Planning Days: The Sixth Form team run sessions to guide students through both apprenticeship and university application processes including workshops on personal statement writing. All students will also apply for a 'mock job' in their desired field and complete a 'mock interview' with an industry specialist who will visit our Sixth Form to conduct the interviews.



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.



The businesses we work with...



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.

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.

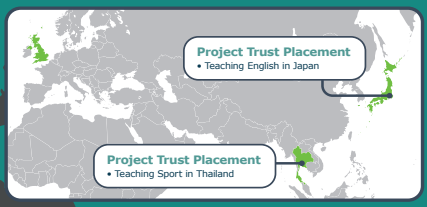




Students are allocated a Progress Mentor who helps to guide and support them through the two years of Sixth Form study. In the first few weeks of Year 12 students spend time with their Progress Mentor in morning briefings, here they are supported to make a successful transition from year 11 and find 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.

Year 13 Destinations 2025



University of Leeds
• Ancient History and History

Manchester Metropolitan University
• Criminology

Leeds Arts University
• Games Art

UCFB Manchester
• Football Coaching and Management with Foundation Year

Leeds Beckett University
• Applied Sport Studies in Tennis
• Filmmaking

Lancaster University
• Fashion Business Management
• History and International Relations
• Physical Geography

University of York
• Mathematics with a Year Abroad

York St John University
• Law

University of Lancashire
• Photography

University of Liverpool
• Mathematics

Liverpool Hope University
• Accounting and Finance
• Childhood and Youth and Early Childhood
• Graphic Design
• Psychology

Edge Hill University
• Business Management x2
• Nursing (Mental Health)

Liverpool John Moores University
• Environmental Sciences
• International Relations and Politics
• Mechanical Engineering

Bangor University
• Primary Education Leading to Qualified Teaching Status

Aberystwyth University
• Marine and Freshwater Biology

University of Chester
• Business Management with Professional Placement Year
• Geography
• Photography
• Primary Education (5-11) with QTS x2
• Psychology x2

University of Salford
• Journalism: Broadcast

University of Staffordshire
• Software Development

University of Bristol
• Philosophy and French

Birmingham City University
• Digital Film Production

Students progressing to apprenticeships or employment

- Airbus UK – Engineering Apprenticeship
- Barclays Bank – Degree Apprenticeship in Retail and Business Banking Finance
- Beechwood Farm Nursery – Level 3 Apprenticeship in Early Years Teaching/ Childcare
- Broad Oak Pub Company – Front of House
- Cheshire Police – Police Constable
- Kiddicove Day Nursery – Early Years Practitioner
- Mercedes Benz – Apprenticeship
- RSK – Apprenticeship
- The Bird in Hand, Guilden Sutton – Commis Chef/Waiting Staff Supervisor
- TTE – Apprenticeship
- Vue Cinema
- Gap Year

University of Sheffield
• Theoretical Physics

Sheffield Hallam University
• Accounting and Finance
• Primary Education (5-11) with QTS

University of Lincoln
• Film Production (2026 entry)

Nottingham Trent University
• Law

University of Leicester
• Criminology
• General Engineering with Industry

University of Hertfordshire
• Midwifery

London Metropolitan University
• Fashion Marketing and Business Management

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Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Exam Board: Edexcel.

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 Biology - This unit covers some of the key science concepts in biology. The topic areas include the structure and function of cells and tissues; the structure and function of biological molecules; cellular transport and enzyme activity

Unit 2 Principles and Applications of Chemistry - This unit covers some of the key science concepts in chemistry. The topic areas include atomic and electronic structure; bonding and structure; periodicity; physical chemistry; organic chemistry.

Unit 3 Principles and Applications of Physics - This unit covers some of the key science concepts in physics. The topic areas include understanding waves and optical fibres; forces in transportation and Newton's laws of motion; electrical circuits and the transfer of energy

Unit 4 Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques - This unit builds on some of the key concepts in units 1, 2 and 3. Students will be introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, including chromatography, colorimetry and laboratory safety, which are relevant to the scientific laboratory environments.

Unit 5 Science Investigation Skills - In this unit students will undertake a literature search and review to produce an investigative project proposal. Students will then be required to produce a plan for an investigative project based on a proposal and then safely undertake the project, collecting, analysing and presenting the results. Finally, students should present the conclusions from the project using correct scientific principles.

Unit 6 Contemporary issues in Science - In this unit, students will explore contemporary science issues and their impact on the world we live in. It will develop the students' skills of analysis and interpretation across a broad range of scientific issues while exploring how they are reported in the media and in publications.

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"

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 T Shipley
A chemistry expert with 25 years of experience of teaching Post-16 students Chemistry and Physics.

Mrs J Robinson
Over 20 years of experience of teaching Biology with post-16 Anatomy and Physiology and have examined with various exams boards for 15 years at GCSE.

Mr D Sykes
Background in Biology specialising in Microbiology with 8 years of teaching experience.

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.

How is the course examined?

Unit 1 (60 Guided Learning Hours) The unit will be assessed through one examination of 50 marks lasting 1 hour which assessed externally (mandatory unit).

Unit 2 (60 Guided Learning Hours) The unit will be assessed through one examination of 50 marks lasting 1 hour which assessed externally (mandatory unit).

Unit 3 (60 Guided Learning Hours) The unit will be assessed through one examination of 50 marks lasting 1 hour which assessed externally (mandatory unit).

Unit 4 (90 Guided Learning Hours) The unit is an internally assessed assignment and builds on the knowledge gained in the principles and application units (1, 2 and 3) in each of the respective science areas (mandatory unit).

Unit 5 (90 Guided Learning Hours) The unit is an internally assessed assignment (optional unit).

Unit 6 (90 Guided Learning Hours) The unit is an internally assessed assignment (optional unit).

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

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

Fine Art A-level

Exam Board: Pearson. Entry requirements: Students must have studied Art at GCSE level

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.

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



Who could be teaching me?

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

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)

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.

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

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.

What do students think...

"'Studying Biology has expanded my knowledge by building on the GCSE topics. My favourite topics covered so far have been Immunology and the nervous system. I would really recommend studying Biology.' - Erin"

"'Biology at A' Level has helped me further my knowledge from GCSE with the addition of new topics. Biology is very enjoyable, and lessons are engaging. I would definitely recommend it if you enjoyed it at GCSE.' – Ruby"

"'Biology is an interesting and engaging subject, each lesson builds on previous knowledge which positively impacts learning. Biology A level covers an array of fascinating topics from plants to animals and all the processes inbetween with practical work embedded to help cement the knowledge.' - Emily"

"'I really enjoy studying Biology at A-level. All the lessons are engaging and everything we learn is always interesting. I have also enjoyed the many practical's and field trips.' - James"





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.

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.

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.

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.



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...

"A Level Business challenges me to think strategically and write detailed essays on topics like business strategy and internationalisation. The trips to JCB and Alton Towers, along with talks from the Bank of England and Bank of America, have made the course really engaging and insightful. The support from the teachers has been invaluable in helping me aim for the top grade."

Jack

"The extra revision sessions and ongoing support from teachers have really helped me feel confident and prepared for my exams. They explain tricky topics clearly and provide useful feedback on my essays, which has made a big difference to my progress."

Emma



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop – Departmental Leader for Business, Economics & Computing
Mrs Lindop leads the department with over 25 years of teaching experience across Business and Economics. She is also an A Level Examiner and leading BTEC Moderator. She has a particular passion for delivering topics such as finance, quantitative skills, and globalisation. Under her leadership, the department is recognised for its high standards and consistent student achievement.

Mrs N Turner - Mrs Turner brings over 20 years of teaching experience, alongside previous corporate leadership roles with global brands. An expert in Financial Markets, the Economic Environment, and international strategy, she brings a wealth of real-world insight to her teaching. As a Lead Examiner for Business, she ensures students are well prepared for the demands of the course and have the exam skills to achieve their potential and higher.

Miss N Kavanagh - With over 6 years of teaching experience and a background in HR Management, Miss Kavanagh specialises in Human Resource Management and leads Enterprise teaching at Helsby. Her engaging lessons cover key topics such as business culture and managing change, equipping students with strong business acumen and transferable skills valued by universities and employers.

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.

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.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

A Level Business students benefit from unique enrichment activities including talks from experts at the Bank of England, Institute of Banking & Finance and Bank of America. Practical experiences include marketing projects at Alton Towers, work experience with a national brand, and visits to JCB to explore modern manufacturing. These opportunities give students real-world insights and skills to support their academic achievement as well as their future careers.

BTEC Business Extended Certificate

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel.

Are you interested in how successful businesses such as Amazon, Apple, Nike or Tesco operate? Do you enjoy working on real-world business scenarios and developing practical skills that employers value?

BTEC Business is an exciting and engaging qualification that provides students with a practical understanding of how businesses operate in today's dynamic and competitive environment. The course combines academic study with real-world business applications, allowing students to explore key areas such as marketing, finance, recruitment, and business strategy.



Course Content

The BTEC Business Extended Certificate provides students with a practical and engaging understanding of how businesses operate and succeed. Through real-world investigations, case studies, research, controlled assessments and examinations, students develop valuable business knowledge alongside analytical, financial and employability skills.

In Year 12, students explore different types of businesses, their aims, structures and stakeholders, while developing an understanding of personal and business finance, including budgeting, financial planning and business performance.

In Year 13, students learn how businesses research markets and develop successful marketing campaigns, before exploring recruitment and selection, workforce planning and employee retention. Students gain practical experience through recruitment activities and creating professional application documents.

Throughout the course, students build confidence, independence, commercial awareness and transferable skills, gaining a qualification valued by universities and employers.

What do students think...

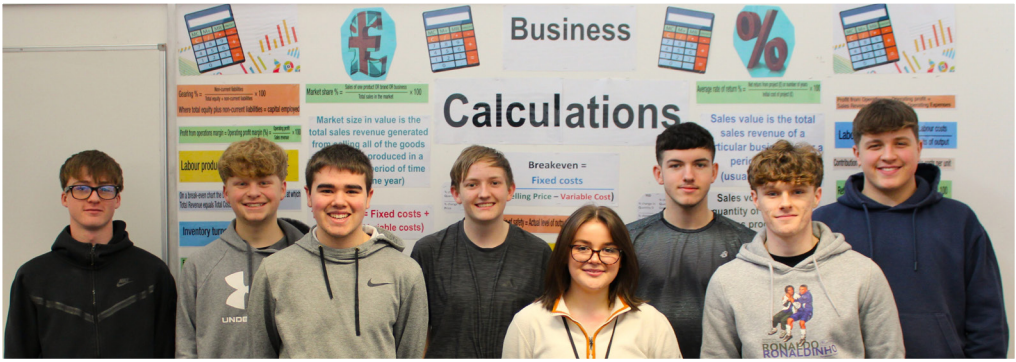
"I have learned so much about how businesses operate day-to-day. The combination of exams and practical experiences, such as the recruitment day, have given me a more informed view of the business world. I really think this will help me in my future career." Josh

"Learning how to communicate with customers professionally has really boosted my confidence. The unit showed me how important good service is in any business, and I have even used some of the techniques during my part-time job!" Amelia

"One of the most useful parts of the course has been learning how businesses use financial information to make decisions. Understanding profit and loss accounts, cash flow, payable days and other business calculations has given me valuable skills that I know will help me in the future." Jack

Typical Class Sizes

Typical class sizes are between 8–14 students, allowing teachers to provide regular individual feedback.



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop - Departmental Leader for Business, Economics & Computing. Mrs Lindop leads the department and brings over 25 years of teaching experience across Business and Economics. She is passionate about helping students achieve their full potential and develop the skills needed for future success.

Mrs N Turner - Mrs Turner brings over 20 years of teaching experience, alongside previous corporate leadership roles with global brands. An expert in Financial Markets, the Economic Environment and Marketing, she brings a wealth of real-world business insight to her teaching.

Miss N Kavanagh - With over 6 years of teaching experience, Miss Kavanagh specialises in Human Resource Management and leads the delivery of Enterprise at Helsby. Her lessons provide students with practical, engaging and relevant business experiences.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

OCR Business students benefit from a wide range of exciting enrichment activities designed to enhance their skills and employability. They take part in a one-day assessment with a leading recruitment firm, giving them invaluable insight into the job application process. Students work on a real-world marketing project at Alton Towers, applying their creativity and business knowledge in a dynamic environment.

How is the course assessed?

The qualification is assessed through a combination of examinations and controlled assessment coursework.

Year 12

- Unit 1: Exploring Business – Controlled Assessment
- Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance – Examination

Year 13

- Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign – Examination
- Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process – Controlled Assessment

This balanced approach allows students to demonstrate their knowledge through both practical assignments and formal examinations.

Where can BTEC Business lead?

BTEC Business opens the door to a wide range of exciting HE opportunities such as Business Management, Marketing, Finance, Human Resource Management, Accounting, Economics and International Business.

The qualification is also highly valued by employers and provides an excellent foundation for higher and degree apprenticeships at places such as Airbus, Bentley Motors, EY, JCB, KPMG, PwC, RSK and various government departments.

Chemistry A-level

Exam board: AQA.

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.



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, electrochemical cells and more.

Typical Class Sizes

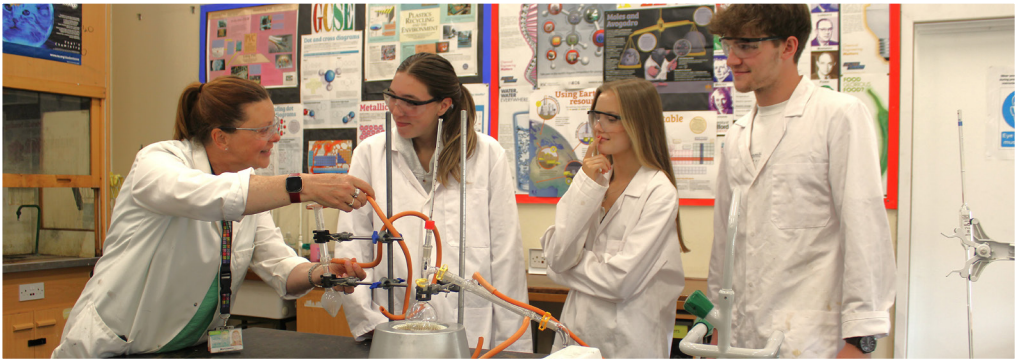
Class sizes are 10-15 students, which allows for practical work to be carried out individually rather than in pairs or groups; this allows individual support by the teacher in lessons. Smaller class sizes enable a positive environment where students feel comfortable.

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

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



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs E Dawson – 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

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

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,

Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology

Exam board: WJEC.

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 is it 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 medias 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** – Discover how the criminal justice system in England and Wales works, from policing and the courts to prisons and rehabilitation.

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...

"I like how criminology has controlled assessments because I like working independently and doing research" Logan Yr 12

"I picked criminology because I just thought it would be interesting - the research and looking at real cases has been really interesting" Summer Yr 12





Who could be teaching me?

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

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

Mrs P Joyce
Department Leader and expert in A Level Sociology and Criminology with numerous years of experience of teaching A Level Social Sciences.

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

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Year 12 Social Science students are invited to take part in an enriching residential trip to London, offering a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of law, history, and society through immersive, real-world experiences. Highlights include:

- Royal Courts of Justice
- Key cultural and historial sites
- Guided Jack the Ripper tour - combining history, mystery and critical analysis

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.

A Level Computer Science

Exam board: AQA.

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

Typical Class Sizes

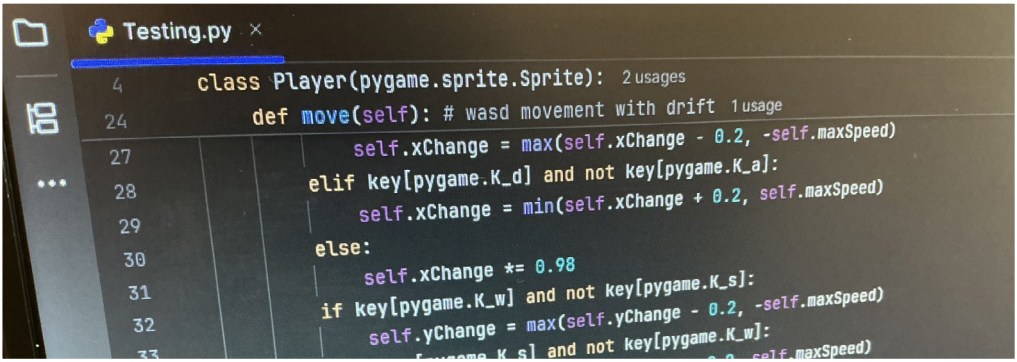
Class sizes for Computer Science are usually between 5 and 10 students, meaning more time can be given to each student in the lesson.

What do students think...

"The A level Computer Science course is very well adapted to support the learning of many people. I have enjoyed developing my decision-making skills and critical thinking while also being given the support I have needed in lessons to understand the course." Eve

"I really enjoy the A-level computer science course as it helps build problem solving and critical thinking skills whilst also having fun and engaging lessons." James

"A-level Computer Science is a course that allows students to develop skills that can aid them past the Computer Science curriculum such as problem solving and critical thinking. The coursework aspect helps students hone their computing creativity, as well as deepening their understanding of the subject content." Eloisa



Who could be teaching me?

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. Expert in A Level Computer Science and vocational IT.

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
he 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 amination for the UK Computer Science Animation Competition.

Where can Computer Science lead?

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

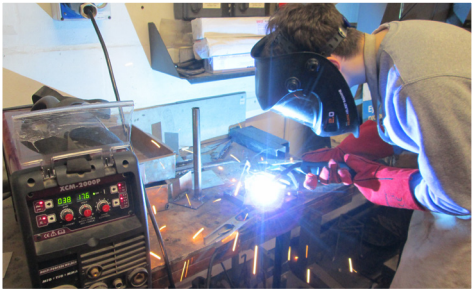
- software engineer
- website development
- game development
- project management

Design and Technology: Product Design

Exam board: AQA

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

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.

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



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.

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).

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.

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)

Economics A-level

Exam board: Edexcel.

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

Typical Class Sizes

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

This enables lively discussion.

What do students think...

"Studying Economics has completely changed how I see the world. I now understand the real reasons behind economic changes like inflation, interest rates, and government policy. It has made the news actually make sense! - Ellie"

"Economics has been a brilliant subject for opening up fantastic opportunities. We have had talks from professionals at the Bank of England and Bank of America and this means I am really confident about my future and the different paths I can take. - Matthew"

"The teaching is outstanding, we are constantly pushed to aim high and supported every step of the way.- Alex"



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs K Lindop - Mrs Lindop brings over 25 years of teaching experience across Business, Economics, Computing, and ICT at A Level. As an A Level Examiner and senior BTEC Moderator, she combines subject expertise with a strong understanding of assessment standards.

Mrs N Turner - With over 20 years of teaching experience, she brings both academic expertise and real-world insight to the classroom. Her professional background includes director-level roles with global brands, alongside specialist knowledge in Financial Markets, the Economic Environment, and International Business.

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 in prestigious national competitions developing critical thinking and research skills that are highly valued by top universities and employers. Enrichment also includes visits to leading firms such as JCB, exploring innovation and efficiency, and a national brewery, investigating supply chains in action. Talks from Bank of England representatives on monetary policy offer direct insight into economic decision-making at the highest level.

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.

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?

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,

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



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, Dr M Matthews, Mrs R McGovern, Mrs J Middlemiss, Miss A Barlow, Miss K Edwards, Mrs K Foulder, Miss L Harrison, Miss L Middleton.

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

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.

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 higher education opportunities.

English Literature A-level

Exam board: AQA.

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?

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):

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"

"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 supporting students' ability to express themselves with clarity and creativity.

Mrs C Taylor, Dr M Matthews, Mrs R McGovern, Mrs J Middlemiss, Miss A Barlow, Miss K Edwards, Mrs K Foulder, Miss L Harrison, Miss L Middleton

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.

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.

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.

French A-level

Exam board: Eduquas.

Subject to viable numbers

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

Being a young person in French-speaking society.

Understanding the French-speaking world.

Diversity and difference.

France 1940-1950: The Occupation and 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.

What do students think...

"I think that foreign language skills can help you to have more job and university opportunities. I have found the language course really interesting as it has given me a better understanding of the world around us. The small class sizes are very good and enable us to have one to one support with the teachers, and the teachers are very knowledgeable of their subject. I have enjoyed the French assistant sessions every week and I am looking forward to the Paris trip this year."





Who could be teaching me?

All of the MFL department enjoy teaching A level French, each having a MFL degree and experience of living and working in France.

You would have two teachers from : Mrs L Crammond, Mr I Duffell, Mrs K Farrell, Mrs C Garratt, Mrs K Snowden and Mrs R Tessier-Lemoyne.

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 (2 essays one on a book and one on a film studied during the course)

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Liverpool university day course, Edinburgh university interpreter online course, Paris visit in Y12/Y13, as well as opportunities to get involved in lessons and clubs for students lower down the school.

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, maths and geography.

Further Maths A-level

Exam board: Edexcel.

You will need to be studying A Level Mathmatics

Subject to viable numbers

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.



Course Content

You will study topics such as...

Core: Complex Numbers; Algebra and Series; Volumes of Revolution; Matrices; Vectors; Integration; Differentiation; Differential Equations; Methods in Calculus; Hyperbolic functions and Polar Coordinates.

Statistics: Discrete Random Variables; Probability Distributions; Hypothesis Testing; Chi-squared tests and probability generating functions.

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. 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
- 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 career opportunities.

Geography A-level

Exam board: AQA.

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

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.

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

Miss Smith Specialising in Physical Geography. Lead teacher of Hazards.

Miss Gawne Specialising in Physical Geography. Lead teacher for Coastal systems and landforms.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

The Geography department regularly run expeditions to Iceland.

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

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 and environmental health.

German A-level

Exam board: AQA.

Subject to viable numbers

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

Aspects of German-speaking society: Families, Technology, Youth culture: Fashion, Music, TV & Film

Artistic Culture in the German-speaking world: Festivals and Traditions, Art and Architecture, Berlin cultural life – then and now

Multiculturalism in German-speaking world: Immigration, Integration, Racism

Aspects of Political Life in German-speaking world: Germany and the European Union, Politics and Youth, German re-unification and its consequences

Film and Literature: Goodbye Lenin (film), Der Vorleser (the Reader – book)

Typical Class Sizes

Class sizes in German are small, between 2-4 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.

What do students think...

"I decided to study German A level because I really enjoy the logical nature of the language, it's like a puzzle which suits my mathematical brain! The variety of topics allows me to explore a diverse range of themes which interest me, from Art and Architecture through to Politics and History. I am interested in working in Finance and would love the opportunity to work with one of the leading German banks."





Who could be teaching me?

Miss Snowden has a keen interest in German film and culture, which she explored extensively during her own A-Level studies and degree. Having lived in Bavaria, she enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for the German-speaking world with students. She particularly enjoys teaching the A-Level film and literary text and helping students develop their analytical writing skills.

Mrs Garratt has spent time working with German businesses, including living in Berlin. As such, she has a passion for daily German life and culture as well as a particular interest in Berlin's history and German reunification. She enjoys preparing students for the speaking card discussions and interpreting complex German texts.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1
Listening, Reading and Writing (50%)

Paper 2
Writing – film and literary text (20%)

Paper 3
Speaking – Individual Research Project and Speaking card. (30%)

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Potential visits to Cologne or Munich

Goethe Institut

Manchester events

Film or book study days

Where can German lead?

German is highly sought after by UK employers and can significantly boost your employability. It is particularly valuable for careers in Engineering, Finance, IT, International Business, Pharmaceutical Industry, Healthcare and Logistics, giving you an edge in salary and access to international job markets.

In addition, a good number of our students choose to focus their post A level studies on language and linguistics; developing high-level translation and interpreting skills and training as translators, teachers and linguistic experts.

Health & Social Care – Cambridge Advanced National

Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ)

Exam board: Cambridge OCR.

Do you care about other people? Do you enjoy helping others? Do you want to develop the professional and personal skills needed to work with people? Do you want to gain a better understanding about a vast array of careers within the many health and social care organisations, from carer to surgeon? Do you want to develop key knowledge vital to all roles, within the health and social care sector? Then this subject is for you!



Course Content

The AAQ Advanced Cambridge National Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A-Level and incorporates the following units:

- Principles of health and social care
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Person-centred approach to care
- Supporting people with mental health conditions
- Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health
- Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles

Typical Class Sizes

Our students really benefit from class sizes being between 6 and 8. This means they get to know the teachers and each other really well in a supportive and caring learning environments. 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."

"I really like the fact that the exams 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."

"Health & Social Care has got a wide range of topics that are very interesting and can benefit you in the future if you want to go into healthcare."

"It's interesting and I feel like it's widened my view on the world."



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs N Eastwood - Has over 25 years teaching experience and is Faculty Leader for Design & Technology, Food & Nutrition and Health & Social Care. Being a food specialist, she has a particular interest in the area of nutrition and its impact on physical health and well-being.

Mrs S Gilbert - Has 20 years Health and Social Care teaching experience. Being a subject specialist, she has a particular interest in the amazing anatomy and physiology of the human body and the impact that a wide range of diseases and conditions has on it.

Both teachers like to help students understand how the topics in the course are applied in real life and work situations.

How is the course examined?

The assessments are a combination of:

2 externally assessed units where students sit written exam papers set and marked by the exam board.

4 non-exam assessment units where students complete assignments which are set by the exam board, undertaken at Sixth Form, marked internally by the teacher and then moderated externally by the exam board.

This course has a unitised approach to assessment with each unit being assessed individually and graded as a pass, merit or distinction, which are converted into points.

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Students of Health and Social Care are encouraged to engage with experience in a Health and social care or early Years' setting.

This experience has proved invaluable when completing personal statements or University or Apprenticeship applications.

External speakers from organisations such as the NHS and Dementia friends support students and give valuable insight into the field of Health & Social Care.

Where can Health & Social Care lead?

Students with a Level 3 qualification in H&SC typically go on to university or degree apprenticeships. Types of courses students may progress to:

- BSc Nursing (Adult/Child/Learning disabilities/Mental health)
- BSc Midwifery
- BSc Health and Social Care
- BSc Health Sciences (human physiology)
- BSc Paramedic Science
- BSc Public Health and Wellbeing
- BA Social Work

History A-level

Exam board: OCR.

You will explore a wide range of topics across three different countries and three different centuries. You will develop deep understanding of political, economic, social and cultural history and will master the craft of academic persuasive writing.

You will engage with primary sources and historian's interpretations.



Course Content

The Early Tudors 1485-1558
The reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. Political and religious change and international relations.

Russia 1894-1941
The reign of Nicholas II; the Revolutions of 1917; Lenin and Civil War; Stalin's dictatorship.

Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992
The struggle for equality for African-Americans, Native-Americans, Workers and Women.

Topic Based Essay (Coursework)
Independent research enquiry based around key events in the USA, 1789-1865.

Typical Class Sizes

Classes have approximately 10-15 students. You will have one-to-one support and guidance, particularly in relation to the coursework essay, with specialised support in locating resources and developing 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 & Civil Rights in the USA.

Miss L Barnes - Russia & Civil Rights in the USA

Mrs H Barnett - Early Tudors and Topic Based Essay

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

London Visit in Year 12:

- Hampton Court Palace
- Houses of Parliament
- Imperial War Museum
- Supreme Court
- Hamilton musical

Sixth Form History Group

- Teacher led seminars
- Student led projects
- Leadership the lower school History Society

How is the course examined?

British Period Study (Early Tudors)
Examined 25% of A-level

Non British Period Study (Russia)
Examined 15% of A-level

Thematic Study (Civil Rights in the USA)
Examined 40% of A-level

NEA: Topic Based Essay (USA) Coursework
20% of the A-Level

Where can History lead?

Students go on to study a range of subjects at degree level including History, Politics, Law, Ancient History and Archaeology.

They go on to pursue a wide range of careers from heritage and conservation to law and business leadership.

Information Technology: Data Analytics (Level 3) Cambridge National Extended Certificate

Exam board: OCR.

This course is designed for students who want to gain solid knowledge and practical in-demand skills in IT and data analytics. The course covers a range of units most of which are completed on the computer and include the use of spreadsheets, data visualisation, data and digital marketing as well as big data.

You will learn a wide variety of skills useful for university or when you take up employment.



Course Content

F200: Fundamentals of Data Analytics
In this unit, you'll explore how data is gathered, stored, analysed, and presented.

F201: Big Data & Machine Learning
This unit covers the challenges of managing big data and introduces data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML).

F202: Spreadsheet Data Modelling
In this unit, you'll learn how to work with clients to identify data needs and solve problems.

F204: Data and the Internet of Everything (IoE)
In this unit you will learn about the IoE and how it can be used in different sectors of life.

F206: Data & Digital Marketing
This unit introduces the basics of digital marketing and how to create targeted campaigns using data.

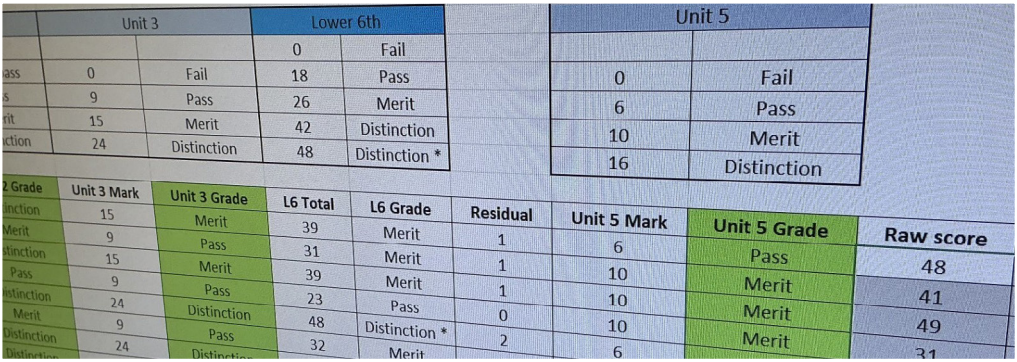
Typical Class Sizes

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...

"I like the OCR IT course because you always know where you are up to with your work. There are 5 modules so there is a variety of topics. Also 60% of the course is NEA so it's better for me as I don't like exams." John

"The support offered by the teachers is great. As the course is modular, you get grades as you go along which count towards the overall final grade. It feels like you are not wasting any time because it all counts." Sarah



Unit 3		Lower 6th	
		0	Fail
0	Fail	18	Pass
9	Pass	26	Merit
15	Merit	42	Distinction
24	Distinction	48	Distinction *

Unit 5	
0	Fail
6	Pass
10	Merit
16	Distinction

2 Grade	Unit 3 Mark	Unit 3 Grade	L6 Total	L6 Grade	Residual	Unit 5 Mark	Unit 5 Grade	Raw score
inction	15	Merit	39	Merit	1	6	Pass	48
Merit	9	Pass	31	Merit	1	10	Merit	41
stinction	15	Merit	39	Merit	1	10	Merit	49
Pass	9	Pass	23	Pass	0	10	Merit	31
istinction	24	Distinction	48	Distinction *	2	6		
Merit	9	Pass	32	Merit				
Distinction	24	Distinction						

Who could be teaching me?

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

Mr Griffin – significant experience in industry creating systems for Cadburys, specialises in programming and databases. Expert in A Level Computer Science and vocational IT.

How is the course examined?

This course contains 40% exam based assessment, leaving 60% on coursework (NEA)

F200: Fundamentals of Data Analytics
External written exam completed in the June of Year 12 - 1 hour 15 minutes covering 60 marks – 20% of the total course.
F201: Big Data & Machine Learning
External written exam completed in the June of Year 13 - 1 hour 30 minutes covering 60 marks – 20% of the total course.
F202: Spreadsheet Data Modelling (NEA) – 20% of the total course.
F205: Data and the Internet of Everything (NEA) – 20% of the total course.
F206: Data & Digital Marketing (NEA) – 20% of the total course.

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 Information Technology: Data Analytics lead?

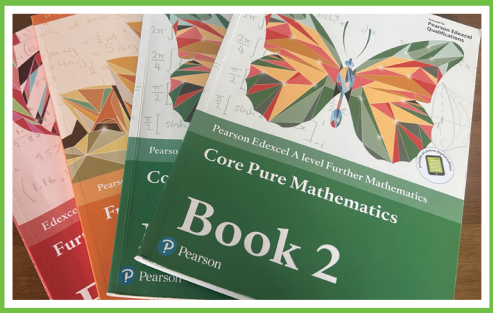
Students with a qualification in IT: Data analytics have used the qualification in a variety of ways. Many students have moved on to follow an IT qualification at university - discretely or in combination with another subject. Other students have taken an apprenticeship within the IT field whether that be with a large multinational company or a smaller, often local, company.

Maths A-level

Exam board: Edexcel.

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...

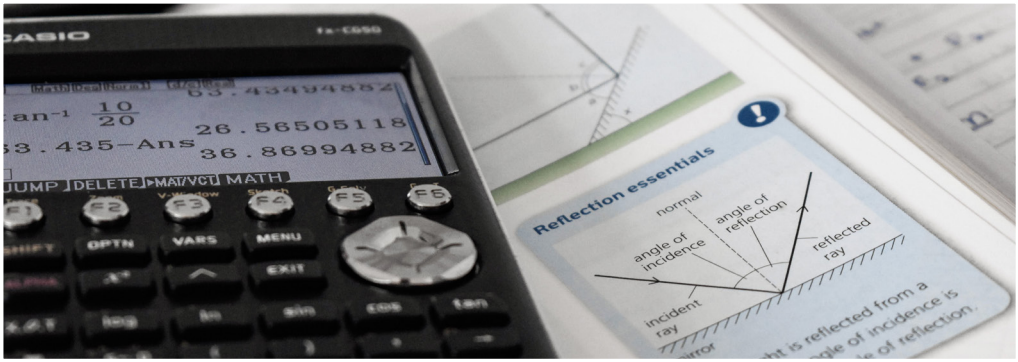
"The teachers are enthusiastic about the subject and are happy to provide help outside of lesson time. – Heather"

"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"

"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"



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, 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

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).

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.

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.

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



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
Mrs C Taylor
Mrs J Middlemiss
Miss A Barlow
Miss K Edwards
Mrs K Foulder
Miss L Harrison
Miss L Middleton

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

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.

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.

Performing Arts BTEC

Exam board: Edexcel.

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

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.

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"

> "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"

> "Performing Arts 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.

Mr D Tolley
Drama and dance specialist with over 10 years experience working with a range of students and disciplines. Mr Tolley is still performing in local theatres.

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

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

Photography A-level

Exam board: Edexcel.

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.



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.

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."

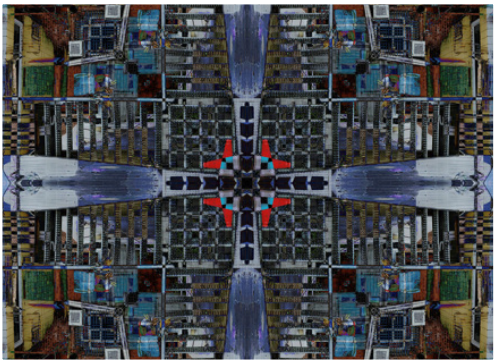
Zach R

"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





Who could be teaching me?

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

Mrs S Ray (Subject Leader)
Expert in A-Level Fine Art, Ceramics and Art History.

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

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

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.

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

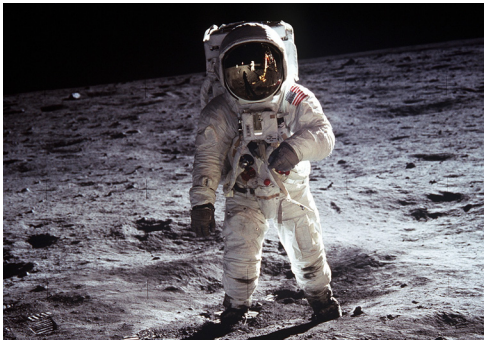
What do students think...

"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!"

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.





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-Jones 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

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.

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

Politics A-level

Exam board: AQA.

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. You will learn to apply political theory to topical events, evaluating opinions and debate.



Course Content

Paper 1: Elections, 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, Civil Rights, Elections and the power of the President.

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 5-10 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"





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?

Paper 1: UK Politics - 2hrs

Paper 2: US and Comparative Politics - 2hrs

Paper 3: Political Ideas - 2hrs



Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

London Visit in Year 12:

Hampton Court Palace
Houses of Parliament
Imperial War Museum
Supreme Court
Hamilton musical

Engagement with podcasts, news broadcasts and wider reading.

Where can Politics lead?

Previous A Level Politics students at Sixth Form Helsby have gone onto a variety of careers including

- Working as an intern for an MP
- Civil Service
- Managing an educational charity
- Law
- Journalism

Psychology A-level

Exam board: AQA.

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

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"

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.





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

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Year 12 Social Science students are invited to take part in an enriching residential trip to London, offering a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of law, history, and society through immersive, real-world experiences. Highlights include:

- Royal Courts of Justice
- Key cultural and historial sites
- Guided Jack the Ripper tour - combining history, mystery and critical analysis

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

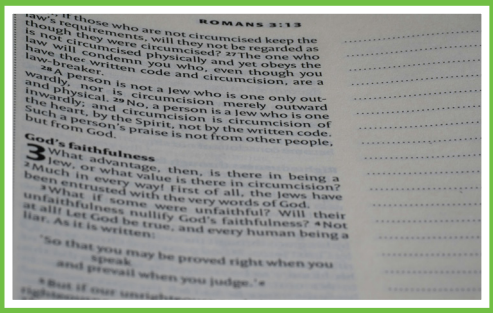
Religious Studies/Philosophy of Religion A Level

Exam board: OCR.

Subject to viable numbers

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

Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences (Plato, Aristotle)
- Soul, mind and body
- Arguments for the existence of God (Cosmological, Teleological, Ontological)
- Problem of evil
- Religious experience
- Religious language

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories (Natural Law, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics)
- Application of ethical theories (e.g., euthanasia, business ethics)
- Ethical language and meta-ethics
- Conscience
- Sexual ethics

Developments in Christian Thought

- Human nature
- Death and afterlife
- Knowledge of God
- Jesus Christ
- Christian moral principles and practices
- Liberation theology
- Gender and society/theology
- Religious pluralism

What do students think...

> "I chose RS because I liked ethics, but I didn't realise how relevant it would be to everything—law, politics, even science. The class size is great—everyone's involved, and the teacher really gets to know how we think."

> "Studying RS has completely changed how I think. We look at big questions from different angles, and I've learned to build strong arguments."

Typical Class Sizes

Small classes of 4–8 students offer a highly supportive and focused learning environment. Each student benefits from more individual attention, greater opportunity to contribute in discussions, and tailored feedback to develop critical thinking and essay-writing skills. The close-knit setting also builds confidence and encourages deeper engagement with complex ideas.



Who could be teaching me?

Mrs P Joyce
Expert in Moral Philosophy and Christianity with 17 years' experience of teaching A Level Religious Studies.

Miss N Ryan
Expert in Philosophy of Religion and Christianity with 3 years' experience of teaching A Level Religious Studies.

How is the course examined?

Paper 1
Philosophy of Religion.
2 hour exam, 33% of A Level
Complete 3 essays from a choice of 4

Paper 2
Ethics.
2 hour exam, 33% of A Level
Complete 3 essays from a choice of 4

Paper 3
Issues and Debates.
2 hour exam
33% of final grade

Subject Specific Enrichment Activities

Year 12 Social Science students are invited to take part in an enriching residential trip to London, offering a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of law, history, and society through immersive, real-world experiences. Highlights include:

- Royal Courts of Justice
- Key cultural and historial sites
- Guided Jack the Ripper tour - combining history, mystery and critical analysis

Where can Sociology lead?

Students with A Level Religious Studies can go on to study a wide range of subjects at university. Many pursue degrees in Philosophy, Law, Politics, History, Sociology, Psychology, Education, Anthropology, or English Literature. The subject's focus on critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and understanding diverse worldviews makes it excellent preparation for humanities and social science courses, as well as careers in teaching, journalism, law, business, health care and public service to name just a few.

Sociology A-level

Exam board: AQA.

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...

"I really like sociology because it fits well with my other subjects particularly History. As well as this the teachers are supportive with revision, career guidance and handling exams. The range of topics allows me to explore aspects of society I wouldn't of thought about." Lily Yr 12

"I have enjoyed the fun classes, and I like how it explains things in society with very supportive teachers. It is a very down-to-earth subject which can be a breath of fresh air" Ben Yr 12

"I find it interesting how much of it applies to our own lives and the patterns we can see in society. The teachers are friendly and supportive and I find the topics interesting and different compared to other subjects." Flo Yr 12



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

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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 and Physical Activity - Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate

Exam board: RSA.

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

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.

Mr J Price - Expert in teaching sports coaching and activity leadership. In charge of the school's Sports Ambassador programme.

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%

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 training

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

When do I apply?

We welcome applications from all students in Year 11, both at Helsby and from other schools. The application window to join us in September 2027 opens in December – application forms will be available on our website. The application form will give details of our entry requirements.

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 their time at 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?

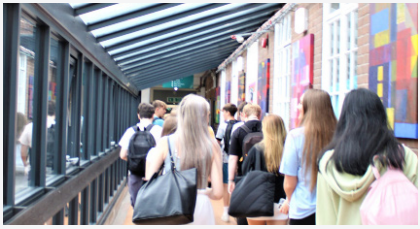
All applicants will be invited to a personal interview, where we will discuss course options and a personalised programme of leadership and enrichment. We will make conditional offers to students in the Spring Term. We will notify students if a course is unlikely to run in September. This would only 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 sixthformadmin@helsbyhigh.org if you would like more information about any aspect of Sixth Form Helsby, and we look forward to welcoming you here in September.





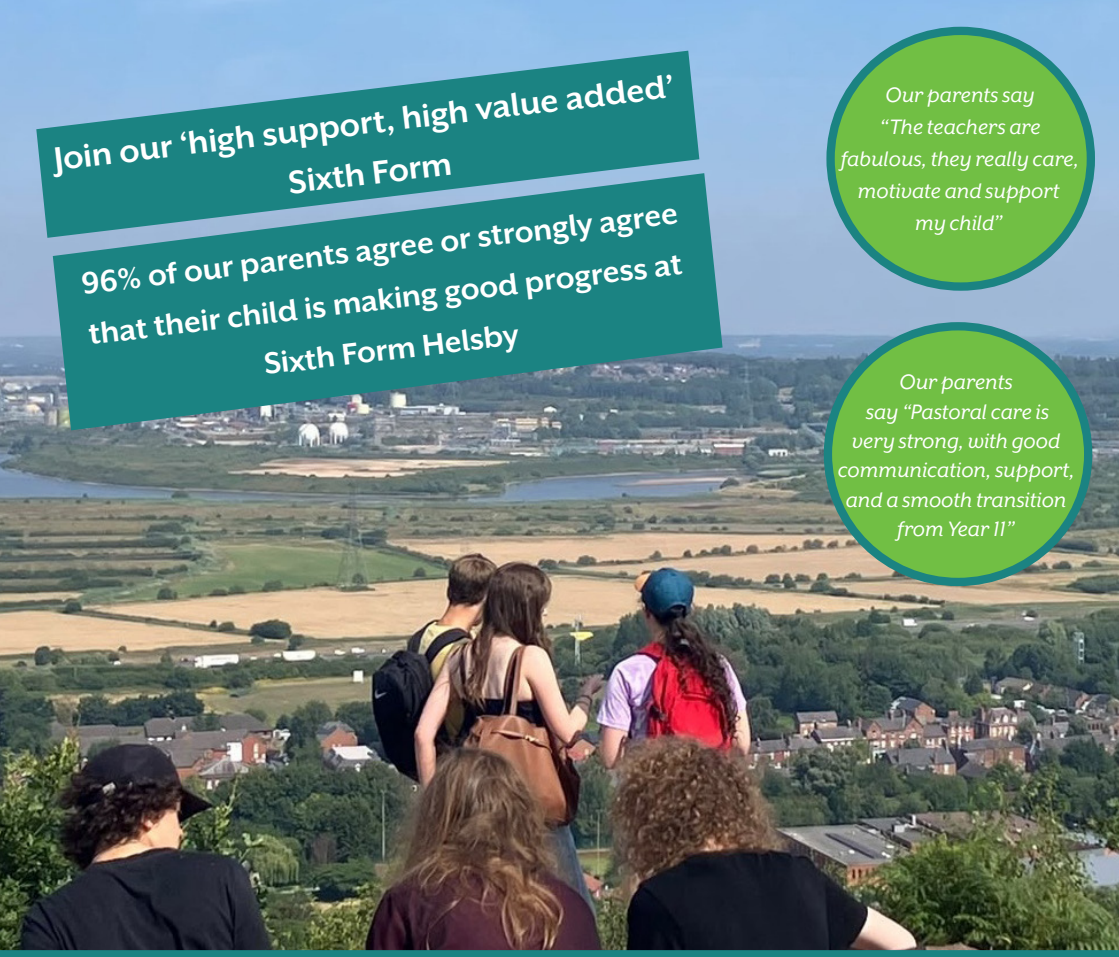




Sixth Form Helsby Results 2026

Once again, the results achieved by Sixth Form Helsby's students in 2026 were exceptionally strong, with top A*/A (or equivalent) grades making up well over a fifth of all grades, and with over 40% of the cohort achieving a top grade (A*/A or equivalent) in at least one of their subjects.

Our 2026 cohort achieved well across all 27 of the A-Level and vocational qualifications we have on offer. These grades have enabled 94% of our applicants to go on to study at their first-choice university, well above the 79% national average. Other students secured impressive apprenticeship placements and employment both locally and nationally.



Our parents say: "We love Sixth Form Helsby and we are thrilled with the staff support and progress our child is making. Staff know my child well, thank you to all staff and leaders"

Sixth Form HELSBY

Achieving Success Valuing Others

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Owned by Jack Watson, former Helsby High Sixth Form student