

Arthur Mellows Village College

Sixth Form Prospectus

2024/2026

"Delivering learning for life within an aspirational culture"



Graded "Outstanding" consecutively by Ofsted
November 2009 and December 2014

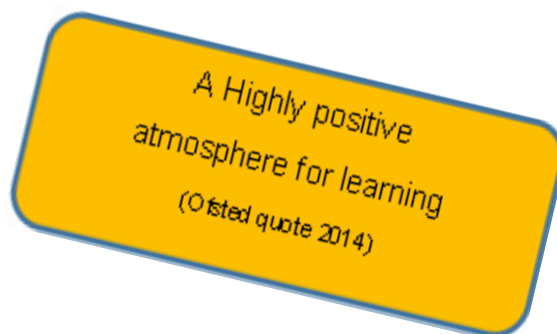
Head of College: J Gilligan
Arthur Mellows Village College is part of the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with company number 7333133, exempt from using the word 'Limited'.
Registered office: Helpston Road, Glington, Peterborough, PE6 7JX



Contents

Introduction

Welcome from Head of College	4
Welcome Head of Sixth Form	5
Introduction	6
Curriculum and Entry Requirements	7
Key Elements	8-9



A Level Curriculum

Art - Fine	11	French	24
Art -Textiles	12	Geography	25
Biology	13	History	26
Business Studies	14	Mathematics	27
Chemistry	15	Mathematics – Further	28
Classic Civilisations	16	Physical Education	29
Computer Science	17	Physics	30
Drama and Theatre	18	Politics	31
Economics	19	Product Design	32
English Language	20	Psychology	33
English Literature	21	Religious Studies – Philosophy and Ethics	34
English Combined	22	Sociology	35
Film Studies	23	Spanish	36

Vocational Curriculum

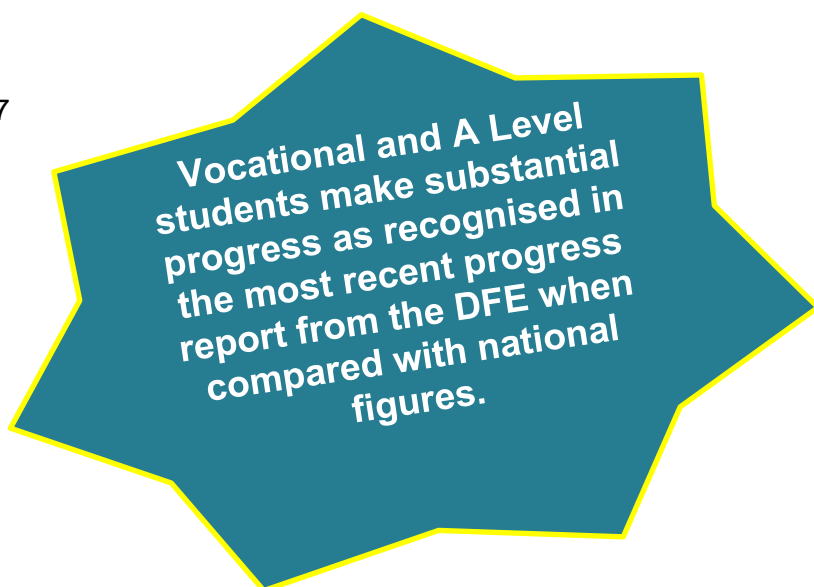
Applied Science	38	Health and Social Care	43
Business	39	IT (Introductory Diploma in IT)	44
Digital Media	40	Music Performance	45
Engineering	41	Sport	46
Food Science and Nutrition	42	Travel and Tourism	47

Enrichment Curriculum

British Sign Language	49	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	53
Combined Cadet Force (CCF)	50	Level 3 Sports Leadership Award	54
Creative Writing	51	Managing My Money	55
Duke of Edinburgh Award	52	Mentoring	56

How to Apply

How to Apply	57
--------------	----



Welcome from the Head of College



I am delighted that you are considering joining the Sixth Form at Arthur Mellows Village College.

We pride ourselves on being a high performing comprehensive school, rated outstanding by Ofsted. We pursue high standards and offer excellent educational opportunities through the high quality of our teachers, our curriculum and our resources.

Now is the time to consider the options available to you at Post 16 and we believe that Arthur Mellows Village College can provide the appropriate learning environment for you to reach your full potential. We appreciate you are currently busy studying for your GCSE examinations, but it is important that you take time to select suitable courses. This prospectus will provide you with the appropriate information for study in the Sixth Form.

We have considered our subject courses carefully in order to provide a curriculum that will meet the needs of all students, taking into account differing interests, skills and passions. We aim to ensure each student can access their particular selection of subject choices by offering a range of traditional and vocational subjects. It is essential to choose subjects that motivate and inspire you, along with

matching your longer term goals. Support in this is readily available at the College and we pride ourselves in the information, advice and guidance we provide.

We are the lead school in the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust, which enables us to provide increased educational opportunities in a wider capacity.

Our priority is always to develop the full potential of all our students, whatever their ability.

Arthur Mellows Village College welcomes students from other schools and colleges. This prospectus and information is produced to help make an informed judgement as to the suitability of Arthur Mellows for your Post 16 studies. I hope you will take the opportunity to join us and become part of the range of activities and diverse nature of work that takes place here at Arthur Mellows.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form.

John Gilligan
Head of College



The Sixth Form Leadership Team: L to R:

Mrs Price, Mrs Barnsley, Miss Stark, Miss Adams, Mrs Collister (back), Mrs Clennett (front), Mrs Cox, Miss Sheen

“Students work hard in lessons and make rapid progress across many subjects” (Ofsted 2014)

Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form

Hello and welcome prospective students, parents and carers.

At Arthur Mellows Village College, we pride ourselves on nurturing within an aspirational culture, supporting you every step of the way. We offer a thorough mentoring and support system which is founded on the idea of having a growth mind-set; one that empowers students and allows them to take ownership of their destiny. We believe that it is not what you come into the Sixth Form with but what you take with you when you leave, that matters - academic success and pathways for the future.

Our curriculum has been tailored to meet the needs of today's learners and encompasses a wide range of subject specialisms and

qualifications to enable students to follow both an academic and vocational route. Success at our Sixth Form is not just about academic success but about students' wider selves, therefore, alongside our subjects we offer a range of opportunities to enrich their education ensuring they are equipped with skills and knowledge to go into adulthood. We see each student as an individual and ask them to challenge themselves to become successful adults. Our dedicated team supports students every step of the way, from the interview process, to tutor time, to examination results.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

MRS CLENNETT

Head of Sixth Form/Assistant Headteacher



Introduction

Sixth Form life at Arthur Mellows is more than just the subjects you study – we will provide you with a diverse range of opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular.

Our curriculum is driven by our students and we continually endeavour to introduce courses that not only meet their needs but equip them to be highly competitive when leaving the College.

We have a thorough Induction Process that ensures the smooth transition for current students and those being welcomed from other schools and colleges. We recognise the differing nature of students, the importance of a variety of learning styles and the opportunity for individual support and guidance.

We have high expectations of our Sixth Form students and in return you will receive exceptional outcomes. A positive attitude, self-motivation and the ability to be an active learner will lead to outstanding exam results and future opportunities. Attendance, meeting deadlines and good study habits will ensure excellent learning experiences. We expect you to be a role model that younger students look up to – creating an environment of aspirational and confident students.

Curriculum

Part of your decision to join us will be based on our curriculum and we have a wide range of courses available in various subjects. Our curriculum blocks have been created to meet these requirements, taking into account popular subjects and course combinations that allow students to access career routes or university courses.

At Arthur Mellows we offer two pathways: A Levels and a Vocational route. Vocational courses (BTEC and OCR Nationals / Technicals) are Level 3 qualifications which are recognised by both employers and most universities.

Information about our A Level and Vocational courses is included in this prospectus. Subject leaders are available for discussion during our Sixth Form Open Evening and they will outline which options are available in each subject. Final courses are always subject to minimum numbers and may not run if not viable.

Entry Requirements

- ▶ **A LEVEL:** Students who wish to study A Level courses will need 7 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including Maths, English Language and a minimum of 4 Grade 6 or above.
- ▶ **VOCATIONAL:** Students who wish to study Vocational courses will need 5 GCSEs at 4 or above including Maths and English Language.
- ▶ A recommendation from your current school, as suitability for successful Sixth Form study in three subjects of your choice, from the range offered by the College.
- ▶ Meet the entry requirements specified to each Sixth Form course.



Key Elements

Enrichment

All students have an enrichment option within their timetable. This enables students to gain specialist skills beyond their subjects in areas they are passionate about. We have a Leadership Programme for all Year 12 students whereby students gain valuable work experience voluntarily to both contribute to their community and develop skills. Our Year 13 students take part in the Buddy Programme mentoring Year 7 students during their transition to secondary school life. Students can be part of the Young Enterprise Team in which we have achieved regional success, winning two awards in 2022. At Arthur Mellows, we pride ourselves in being the most prolific local school in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Arts department provide fantastic opportunities for Sixth Form students and our whole school productions and music performances are always a resounding success, fully equipped with professional lighting and sound.

Silent Study

All Sixth Form students have timetabled lessons of silent study where they work in designated rooms which are supervised by staff. All subjects set specific work to be completed outside of lesson, whether it is desk or IT based. This enhances students' understanding of their curriculum and has a positive impact upon their independence as a learner.

Professional Development

Students have Professional Development sessions within their timetable which educate them on a range of things including safe driving, post Sixth Form options, and physical and mental health.

Pastoral Support

We pride ourselves on having an excellent team who work together to support our Sixth Form students; Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Heads of Sixth Form, Pastoral Assistants, Silent Study Supervisors and Professional Tutors. All trained members of the team can offer the best possible information, advice and guidance to our students in terms of academia, future prospects and wellbeing. Students also have access to the whole school support systems such as careers advice and counselling.

Sixth Form Committee

The Sixth Form Committee is led by our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team; Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies and Assistants. Our team is then made up of many committees who lead on areas and initiatives they are most passionate about. This includes Social, Charity, Politics, Diversity and Culture to name some. Sixth Form students are also important members of the Student Council where issues raised, by either students or staff, are addressed. The committee plays an important role in maintaining the Sixth Form's designated environment within school.

Charity Events

The main thrust of Sixth Form fund raising is overseen by two elected Charity Representatives on the Sixth Form Committee. Fundraising takes place throughout the entire academic year, with thousands of pounds being raised for various worthwhile causes. National Charities such as Children in Need and Cancer Research UK benefit on an annual basis, whilst funds and awareness are also raised for local organisations

Social Events

There are regular social events run by the Sixth Form Committee. One of the highlights of the year is undoubtedly the Sixth Form Prom, providing students and staff with an opportunity to relax and celebrate their achievements. We also arrange days out for Sixth Form students.

Facilities

Arthur Mellows boasts a range of facilities for Sixth Form students. Teaching spaces are of a high standard and each subject area has access to state of the art, specialist equipment that enhance post 16 studies. The bespoke facilities provided for our Sixth Form include:

- Three Sixth Form only ICT suites
 - Sixth Form Study and Reference Room
 - Sixth Form Coffee Lounge
 - A new Sixth Form Centre with a large social space, a refectory and dining area as well as a large outdoor seating space and Serenity Garden
- Students also have special access to areas in specific departments, for example the Sixth Form Art Room.

Key Elements (Continued)

Trips, Visits and Visitors

Throughout the year there are a number of trips arranged for Sixth Form students, previously these have included New York, Iceland and China. Some of the trips are subject specific but others are open to 'non specialists'. We also run an annual Sixth Form ski trip. In addition, we bring a wide range of visitors into school to talk and work with our students. Our visitors support with a range of specialist information including awareness of employment and / or apprenticeship opportunities, and health advice.

Sport

A range of indoor and outdoor sports are available through extra-curricular clubs. There is an interschool fixture list in a variety of sports in which Arthur Mellows holds a high level of success. We hold a Sixth Form Team Building Day, along with regular sporting events against other Year Groups and staff teams. We have a state of the art fitness suite that students can access. The PE department has been awarded the Platinum Sportsmark for many years due to the provision offered and student engagement in sport. Our Sixth Form students are also given the opportunity to study for the Higher Sports Leader Award as their enrichment option which enables students to develop leadership skills within a sporting context as they support the provision offered by the College to local primary schools.

A Level Curriculum

Fine Art

Why should I study Art?

If you love images and objects that are not only visually stunning but able to make you think about or question the world around you, then this is the subject for you. Fine Art not only focuses on developing a high level of technical ability but forces you to examine the world and your surroundings. It teaches you to understand the past and comment on the present in a creative and individual manner and gives you the tools to think like a philosopher with the technical skill of a master craftsman.

If you love to create and have something to say, then choose Fine Art.

What will I do during the course?

Firstly, you will develop skills in a wide variety of media and learn to push your technical abilities to a higher level. You will then start to examine the work of Artists from a range of historical and contemporary sources and use these to inform your work. However, the main focus is on creativity and understanding visual language in order to create pieces of Art that truly stand out and demonstrate individuality and skill.

How will I be assessed?

Year 12 is assessed on your work completed during the year along with a mock exam project at the end of the course.

Year 13 is 60% coursework and 40% examination.

Where can it lead?

Most students who decide to continue go on to do a one year foundation course. Once this is completed there are numerous degree courses available including Decorative Arts, Fine Arts, Set design, Special effects, Textiles and Computer Generated Design. Art is also an important subject if you wish to study Architecture.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Fine Art should ideally have studied Art at GCSE and gained a Grade 6 or above and a portfolio of previous work. An additional pass at Grade 5 in English would also be preferable.



Art Textiles

Why should I study Art Textiles?

Art Textiles is a creative and challenging course focused on creating visually expressive work through the medium of Textiles. The course will give you a high level of experience and skill in using a wide variety of media and processes whilst developing your experimental and creative abilities in order to produce work that is individual and exciting.

If you are interested in creating work related to fabric design, soft sculpture, Artwork or homeware and are willing to push your ideas and creativity to the next level then this is the course for you.

What will I do during the course?

During the course you will work on project based practical coursework where you will be taught how to create pieces of Textiles using a wide variety of processes.

The most important part of the course is the development of high level technical skill and creative thinking alongside a contextual understanding of both contemporary and historical Artists and designers.

How will I be assessed?

Year 12 is assessed on work completed during the course and an end of year mock exam project.

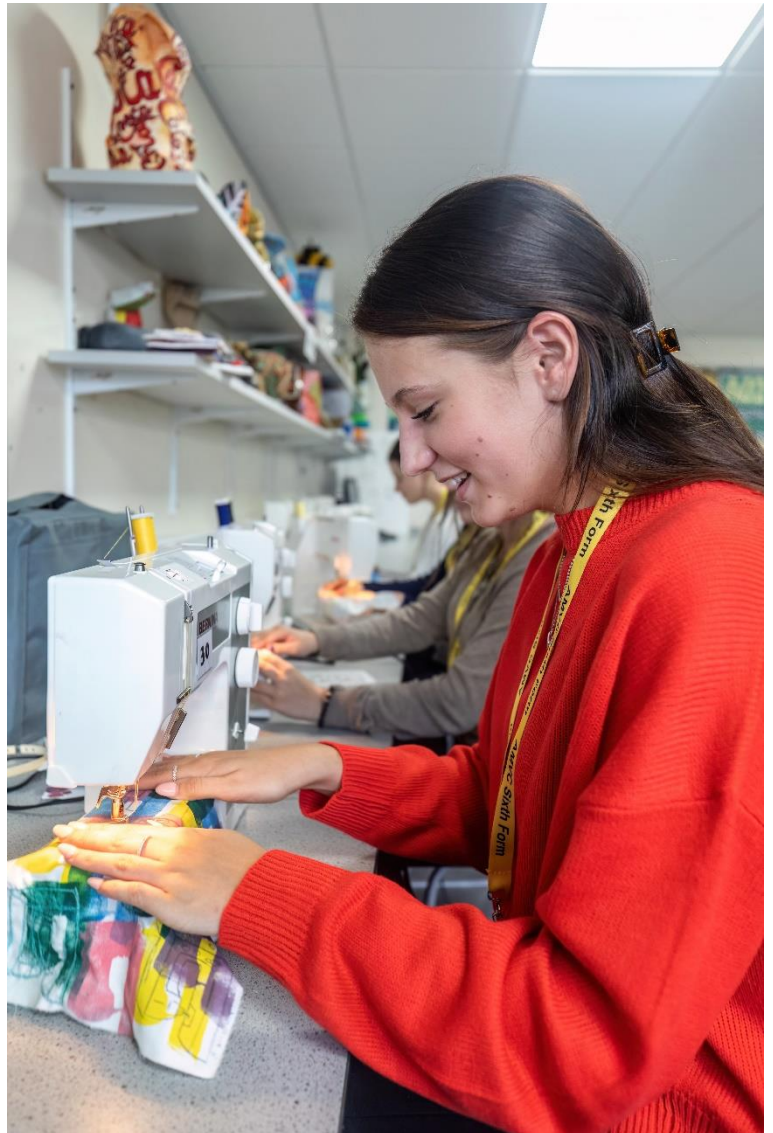
Year 13 is 60% coursework and 40% examination.

Where can it lead?

Most students who decide to continue go on to do a one year foundation course. Once this is completed there are numerous degree courses available including Decorative Arts, Fine Arts, Textiles, Fashion, Interior Design and Costume making.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Art Textiles should ideally have studied Art/Textiles at GCSE and gained a Grade 6 or above. An additional pass at Grade 5 in English would also be preferable.



Biology



Why should I study Biology?

If you are looking to discover more about the natural world, how our bodies work and the inner workings of the cell then A Level in Biology is the obvious choice. Studying Biology draws on your Chemistry, Physics and Maths knowledge to help you understand the life processes of single-celled organisms and complex ecosystems. A Biology A Level qualification will demonstrate your ability to recall facts, analyse data, manipulate laboratory equipment and apply your knowledge in order to discuss the problems faced by society today and in the future.

What will I be doing during the course?

You will cover a wide range of topics including cell structure, biochemistry, animal and plant physiology, ecology, health and disease and genetics. You will learn to plan and carry out scientific investigations, collecting accurate results and analyse data using graphical and statistical methods.

There are six modules:

- **Module 1** - Development of practical skills. Although coursework is no longer part of the course, 12 practical tasks will be completed and assessed via the Practical Endorsement and written exams.
- **Module 2** – Foundations in Biology; covering concepts such as cell structure, biochemistry and cell division.
- **Module 3** – Exchange and Transport; covering the lungs and transport systems in animals and plants.
- **Module 4** – Biodiversity, evolution and disease.
- **Module 5** – Communication, homeostasis and energy; covering the nervous and hormonal systems, photosynthesis, excretion and respiration.
- **Module 6** – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 2 mock exams at the end of Year 12 which do not count towards your final A Level grade. At the end of Year 13 there will be 3 exams:

- Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 and is worth 37% of the final A Level grade.
- Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 and is worth 37% of the final A Level grade.
- Paper 3 assesses content from all Modules and is worth 26% of the final A Level grade.

There is also the 'Practical endorsement in Biology' which is reported as a Pass separately to the A Level qualification.

Where can it lead?

A good Grade in Biology A Level is a requirement for university courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and other medically related degrees. A Level Biology also provides a useful background to a wide variety of Higher Education courses.

You could go on to study: medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, pharmacology, pharmacy, chiropody, psychology, forensic science, archaeology, marine biology, biological science, ecology, sports studies, biochemistry, accountancy or even teacher training.

Biology is a science which fits in well with other A Level Sciences but can also be studied with other subjects such as Geography, Physical Education and Maths. In the past some students have successfully combined Arts subjects with a Biology course. Please check with the Biology staff when you are considering possible A Level combinations.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You must pass GCSE Trilogy (Combined) Science at an overall Grade of 7-7 or above, or Biology in the Single Award Science GCSE at Grade 7 or above, plus at least one other Grade 7 from a Single Science subject. We may consider 7-6 at the teacher's discretion, based on performance, effort in classwork and homework. You must have GCSE Maths at Grade 6, or above to cope with this course.

Business Studies

Why should I study A Level Business?

A Level Business will help you to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of business to successfully follow a programme of study that enables progression to both Higher Education and employment within business. It will develop the key skills of Communication, Numeracy and Information and Communication Technology that are highly valued by employers and Higher Education.

This course will appeal to those who have a keen interest in business, how it operates and for those who want to find out more through using ICT, research and problem-solving methods. The course will suit students who are interested in analysing business challenges and developing solutions to them

What will I do during the course?

Theme 1: Marketing and People

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy

Theme 4: Global Business

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed via a mixture of a case study, data response, short answer and extended response type questions, over three written exam papers. Each paper is two hours long. Students follow the Edexcel course.

Where can it lead?

It can lead to a future in business either via university or after Sixth Form. The vast majority of careers are in business. Business Studies will provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills for careers in Human Resource Management, Operations Management, Marketing or Accounting and Finance.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Business will have gained a Grade 5 or above in English and a Grade 6 or above in Maths. If BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise has been studied students should have achieved a Merit or better or if GCSE Business Studies has been studied a Grade 6 or better.

If 'Business' has not been studied previously, academic ability will be based on candidate's overall qualifications and profile.



Chemistry

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is a challenging and stimulating subject. It has played a major role in improving living standards and is one of the most successful industries in the UK. In most cases, Chemistry is an essential subject for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and some Biological Sciences.

If you enjoy finding out what happens when substances react and why, if you have an enquiring mind and enjoy solving problems, if you enjoy practical work and want to improve your skills and accuracy then an A Level in Chemistry could be what you are looking for. From the moment you are born and throughout your life you are surrounded by Chemistry, in the air you breathe, the food you eat and the clothes you wear.



What will I do during the course?

You will cover a wide range of topics including the Periodic table, organic and physical chemistry, transition elements and analysis. You will learn to plan and carry out scientific investigations, collecting accurate results, analysing and evaluating the data using graphical methods.

There are six modules:

- **Module 1** - Development of practical skills, undertaking 12 practical tasks which will be completed and assessed via the written exams.
- **Module 2** – Foundations of Chemistry; covering concepts such as atoms, compounds, molecules, equations, amount of substance, acid-base reactions, bonding and structure.
- **Module 3** – Periodic table and energy; covering Group 2 and 7, quantitative analysis, enthalpy changes, rates of reaction and equilibrium.
- **Module 4** – Core organic chemistry; covering hydrocarbons, alcohols, haloalkanes, synthesis and analytical techniques.
- **Module 5** – Physical chemistry and transition elements; covering equilibria, rates of reaction, pH, buffers, transition elements, redox and electrode potentials.
- **Module 6** – Organic chemistry and analysis; covering organic and nitrogen compounds, polymers, chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR).

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 2 mock exams at the end of Year 12 which do not count towards your final A Level grade. At the end Year 13 there will be 3 exams:

- Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 and is worth 37% of the final A Level grade.
- Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 and is worth 37% of the final A Level grade.
- Paper 3 assesses content from all Modules and is worth 26% of the final A Level grade.

There is also a 'Practical endorsement in Chemistry' which is reported as a Pass or Fail separately to the A Level qualification. Many universities require a Pass in this element as a condition of their offer.

Where can it lead?

Training in Chemistry gives you the skills needed for a wide range of careers: medicine, pharmacy, engineering, materials science, forensic science, biotechnology, journalism, food industry and brewing are just a few of the career opportunities.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You must pass GCSE Trilogy (Combined) Science at an overall Grade of 7-7 or above, or Chemistry in the Single Award Science GCSE at Grade 7 or above, plus at least one other Grade 7 from a Single Science subject. We may consider 7-6 at the teacher's discretion, based on performance, effort in classwork and homework. You must have GCSE Maths at Grade 6 or above to cope with this course.

Classic Civilisations

Why should I study Classic Civilisations?

A mixture of literature, history and drama is the exciting study of classical civilisations. Students have the opportunity to study elements of the literature, visual/material culture and thoughts of the classical world while acquiring an understanding of their social historical and cultural contexts. The course is designed to feed the natural curiosity surrounding the wonders of the ancient world and creating links to the wider world. Scintillating topics include the study of Homer's *Illiad* or *Odyssey* but also the world of Greek mythology, religion and culture.

What will I do during the course?

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
The World of the Hero This is a compulsory component consisting of an in-depth study of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of Homer's <i>Illiad</i> or <i>Odyssey</i> • and Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> This component is solely focused on the study of literature in translation.	The World of the Hero H408/11 100 marks 2 hours 30 minutes Written paper	40% of total A Level
Component Group 2: Culture and the Arts Learners must study one component in this component group, chosen from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek Theatre (H408/21) • Imperial Image (H408/22) • Invention of the Barbarian (H408/23) • Greek Art (H408/24) Components in this group involve the study of visual and material culture. In all except Greek Art this is combined with the study of literature in translation.	Culture and the Arts H408/21, H408/22, H408/23, H408/24 75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes Written paper	30% of total A Level
Component Group 3: Beliefs and Ideas Learners must study one component in this component group, chosen from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek Religion (H408/31) • Love and Relationships (H408/32) • Politics of the Late Republic (H408/33) • Democracy and the Athenians (H408/34) Components in this group involve of an area of classical thought, in combination with either the study of literature in translation or visual/material culture.	Beliefs and Ideas H408/31, H408/32, H408/33, H408/34 75 marks 1 hour 45 minutes Written paper	30% of total A Level

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed through 3 written exams, all of which require extended writing for a significant period of time. Formative assessments will include presentations, essays and knowledge tests.

Where can it lead?

The study of A Level Classical Civilisation can often lead to the university-level study of Classics, Drama, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Politics. Though this is not where it ends. The A Level opens up doors in the world of film and TV correspondence. Critical analysis and evaluative skills are valued by all walks of employment an study and the A Level is situated perfectly at this intersection.

What qualifications do I need to start?

In order to study classical civilisations you will need at least a Grade 6 at GCSE English Literature or Language. One of the challenges presented in Classical Civilisations is the demanding language and intricate ideas presented in culture and play. A good analytical mind will be needed to fully embrace this study.



Computer Science



Why should I study Computer Science?

You are living in the Digital Age! Computer programmes have all but infiltrated every aspect of our lives. Computer scientists theorise, design, develop, and apply the software and hardware for the programmes we use day in day out – sounds pretty important to us. Therefore, programming can be a life changing experience as it changes the way that you think about the world around you. It will make you a more accomplished problem solver and much more resilient in life. A Computer Science A Level is

regarded well by institutions and employers. This is why graduate employers in banks and management consultancies recruit heavily from university Computing departments, so it could lead onto an exciting career path that isn't necessarily Computer Science based. The possibilities are endless!

What will I do during the course?

The Computer Science course will, above all else, be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. Component 1 introduces learners to the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), the exchange of data and will also look at software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. Component 2 relates principally to problem solving skills needed by learners to apply the knowledge and understanding encountered in Component 1. This will include elements of computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. This practical experience will include the use of Raspberry Pis, experimenting with aspects of physical programming such as LEDs and sensors. In preparation for completing your programming project, you will develop skills creating video games using a game engine,

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through two exams and a piece of coursework. The exams will be sat at the end of the two year course.

- Unit 1 Computer Systems (exam) – 40% of final A Level grade
- Unit 2 Algorithms and Programming (exam) – 40% of final A Level grade
- Unit 3 Programming Project (coursework) – 20% of final A Level grade

The coursework element requires students to undertake a programming assignment in which they design, create and test a project as they would be expected to do in industry.

Where can it lead?

Computer Science at A level is valued by universities, employers and apprenticeship providers since it requires the development of analytical thinking and problem solving skills. This course also lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Computer Science, Engineering, Physics or related subjects in higher education.

Due to Computer Science's diverse nature it can lead to many different areas including, Computer games developer, IT technician, Network Engineer, Police Computer specialist, Cryptography, Computer Forensics, Website Designer and a variety of other exciting career paths.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students will need to have at least a Grade 6 GCSE in Computer Science or Maths.

Drama and Theatre

Why should I study Drama?

Drama and Theatre is a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. You will explore the structural elements of theatre from the page to the stage. In order to be successful and enjoy this subject, you need to have keen interest in the history of drama, study of practitioners, theatrical forms and conventions that make theatre such a compelling and exciting subject.

You must be able to analyse and critically deconstruct the work studied, created and witnessed. It is expected that a good level of English Literature / Language are achieved due to the critical evaluation required within the written work.

What will I do during the course?

Lessons are a healthy combination of practical learning supported by the academic theory needed to understand the work being studied. Learning takes place through the following: practical workshops, research, a written portfolio (social/cultural/historical/political), rehearsals, seeing live theatre and exploration of texts. These methods increase understanding of the subject and provide you with more detail and substance to your work.

1: Practitioners in Practice (40%)

Learners research and practically explore practitioner and a section of text. This is assessed in the form of a devised performance and portfolio.

2: Exploring and Performing Texts (20%)

Learners will explore one performance text. This is assessed in the form of a performance which is externally assessed.

3: Analysing Performance (20%)

2 hours 15 minutes written exam.

Learners will study two texts which focus on a particular theme. In the examination they will answer questions about how they would practically communicate the themes in the texts.

4: Deconstructing Texts for Performance (20%)

1 hour 45 minutes written exam.

Learners will interpret and explore practically a performance text considering how to create, develop and direct a performance for an audience

Where can it lead?

When students study Drama and Theatre at A Level it invests the individual with invaluable skills in articulating thoughts, exploring ideas, sharpening communication skills and providing the ability to work within a group situation both in practical and academic setting. Additionally, students develop their ability to structure longer pieces of writing and use sources to support writing, which is an important skill in preparation for any post 18 study. All of these transferable skills can be used in all subjects and in all careers.

'Drama is life with the dull bits cut out' – Alfred Hitchcock

What qualifications do I need to start?

This exciting but demanding course requires great commitment and thinking skills and above all a passion for Drama and Theatre in all its aspects – reading, directing, designing and acting. Teamwork is vital. Drama and Theatre is one of the only A Level subjects where your final result depends on the work of others - and vice versa. The entry requirements are a Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama.



Economics

Why should I study Economics?

In A Level Economics you will look at the fundamental factors which affect our economy and lives, such as market forces, the business cycle, government economic policies, international trade and the distribution of income and wealth in our society. This course will suit students with a keen interest in world economics and politics, and who are willing to read and research.

What will I do during the course?

The specification is split into 2 main areas microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics addresses issues such as: 'Why are house prices so high?' 'Can pollution effectively be controlled?' and 'Should governments interfere with markets?' The macroeconomic issues covered include: 'Why does the Government have an inflation rate target and how does it affect us?' 'What happens to the economy if people decide to spend more?' and 'How are we affected by the Chinese and Indian economies?'

Students will also be expected to acquire competence in quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content and be familiar with the various types of statistical data which are commonly used by economists.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the second year there are 3 written papers to complete. Each paper is 2 hours long and counts for 33% of the marks for that year. There is a mix of short answer questions and a choice of questions where you can give a longer more detailed answer. Students follow the AQA course.



Where can it lead?

Economics is a versatile subject that can help you in a number of careers. Not only could you find yourself working for big corporations, banks or the government but your qualification in economics could also be valuable in a career like marketing, law, journalism or teaching.

Students who take Economics also often study Law, Mathematics, Geography, History, Politics and Languages.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Economics will have gained a Grade 5 or above in English and a Grade 6 or above in Maths. If GCSE Economics has been studied a Grade 6 or better is required.

English Language

Why should I study English Language?

To appreciate how amazing and influential it is when you really think about it. We use it and are judged by our use of it every day, but do you really understand how it works and how you can use it and adapt it to your advantage?

You will learn about how language in both spoken and written forms is influenced by the contexts of power, gender and technology and understand the manipulative power of the spoken and written word.

You will also have the chance to be a writer and argue key issues about language, such as how it could be derogatory or how it is being destroyed by technology. You will also dissect the hidden meanings behind language and learn how those meanings are constructed to achieve different purposes. If you enjoy analysing conversations and texts from rap to recipes this is the choice for you.

What will I be doing on the course?

You will enjoy the opportunity to experiment with coursework in Year 13 and select your own area of interest to unpick data in order to appreciate the impact of the language around us. This could include exploring political speeches, the language of the suffragettes or even the use of taboo in teenage conversation! Year 13 also includes learning about how children learn to speak and to what extent language has evolved and changed from Shakespeare to Ed Sheeran! You will explore the fundamental structures and functions of writing and speech to appreciate how language operates in different social contexts. There will be theory lessons, discussions, research and heated debates but also assignments involving presentations.

How will I be assessed?

A Level: assessed by two exam components 80% and non-exam assessment 20%.

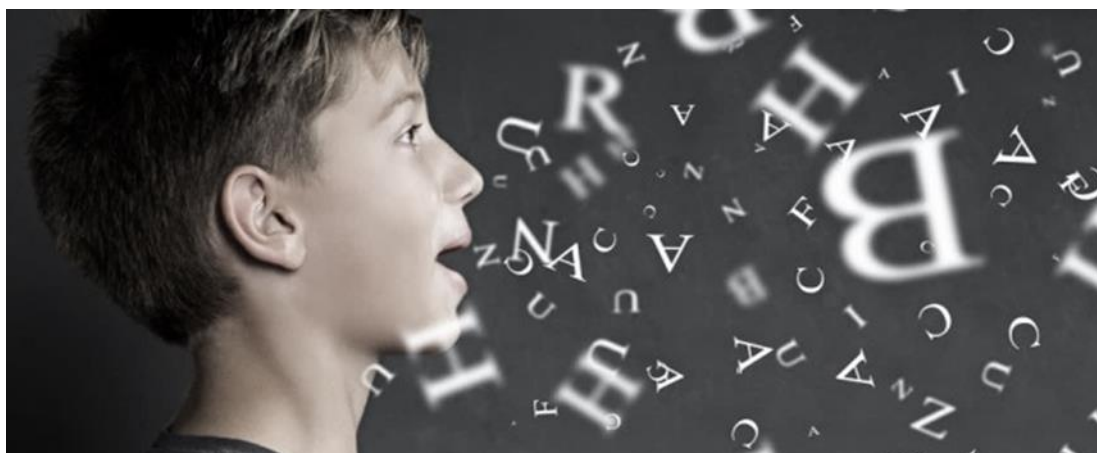
Where can it lead?

Students of English Language will find their skills valuable in almost any management post. It is especially valuable for a career in Law, Teaching Politics, Medicine and is invaluable for any profession that is concerned with people and communication such as Journalism or Public Relations. The course particularly complements Psychology, Sociology and History.

Language has been a popular choice for Sixth Form students who want a broad linguistic experience which will assist them in all walks of life. It enables you to understand the power and influence gained by choosing the right word for the right occasion. It is useful in all career choices. Language is all around you from your bus ticket home to your emails to work colleagues: learn how to use it to your advantage!

What qualifications do I need?

Students will need to have at least a Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature.



English Literature

Why should I study English Literature?

As a facilitating subject, English Literature A Level is highly valued and respected by universities and employers. During the course, students will develop analytical, evaluative and reasoning skills as they learn how to construct impressive lines of argument in essay responses.

Essentially, literature is the exploration of the human condition through celebrated literary works; an opportunity to delve into the thoughts, ideas and passions of the human mind; exploring the contradictory wonders and frailties, heroism and flaws, that go with it.

A love of literature, and a passion for reading, is essential; the course uses literary texts to inspire debate and explore texts and their cultural significance. Alongside an appreciation of the literary merits of a particular work, students will also develop an understanding of a wide range of historical periods as they interrogate a text against its societal context. Students are expected to think critically about texts and ask questions, making judgements and defending their opinions with robust argument. How far do you agree that everything is dark, deadly and cheerless at the end of *King Lear*? Does Agatha Christie present King's Abbot as a society that is only motivated by greed? To what extent is the Mariner a victim in the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'?

What will I do during the course?

Throughout the A Level, you will read a number of texts covering poetry, prose and drama; these will range from Shakespeare to modern writers. Some of the examinations are 'closed book' and rely on a confident understanding of the text and awareness of the context in which the texts are written and received.



How will I be assessed?

A Level: assessed by two exam components (80%) and a non-examined component (20%) to be assessed in the summer of the final year.

Where can it lead?

Students of English Literature find their knowledge and skills useful in courses and careers where ideas, analysis and communication skills are vital. Regarded as one of the 'facilitating subjects', English Literature is very well thought of by higher education institutions. It will enhance opportunities in almost any area of commerce, industry or social services.

Of the three English qualifications on offer at this level, this is the qualification which most encourages open-minded, rigorous and independent thought and debate. In a sense, the Literature course is the most established and natural step towards English at university, given that most degree courses are Literature based. English Literature is also favoured very highly by the top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students will need to have at least a Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature

English – Combined (Language and Literature)

Why should I study English Language and Literature?

Language or Literature? A tricky choice! Perhaps you want to study further texts but are slightly put off by the volume of reading in Literature? Maybe you have an interest in English in the world around you but also want to stay rooted somehow in the familiar realms of plays, novels and analysing and creating non-fiction texts. English Language and Literature gives you the skills to study and appreciate literary classics, taking into account the cultural and historical contexts present in the texts. Studying A Level English Language and Literature will hone your skills in communication, interpretation and analysis. You will use your creativity to explore all kinds of spoken, written and multimodal texts and the relationships between them, as well as exploring authorial voice. At the same time, your own writing will develop as you create your own original fiction and non-fiction works, drawing on other authors and novels for inspiration, on themes that resonate with your own personal interests.

What will I be doing on the course?

One of the most exciting aspects of this course is that it will open an entirely new area of study to you. Linguistics is the study of how language works both in speech and writing. You will learn how to apply the information and skills gained in your own creative pieces and critical analysis. You will also study a selection of drama, alongside literary prose and with a range of non-literary texts including such as: screenplays; podcast; blogs; interviews; reviews and travelogues to name a few.

How will I be assessed?

This subject includes two A Level examinations at the end of the second year. There will also be a coursework element which is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Where can it lead?

Combined has been a popular choice for Sixth Form students which will assist them in all walks of life. It enables you to understand the power and influence gained by choosing the right word for the right occasion but also allows you to develop your knowledge of the literary canon.

It is useful in all career choices, but especially those that have language at their core, such as journalism, teaching and law.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students will need to have at least Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature at GCSE.



Film Studies

Why should I study Film Studies?

This course is an ideal course for students who want to explore how and why films are made. A Level film focuses on the analysis and deconstruction of film over a wide historical timeframe. It allows you to engage with films from early silent cinema to 1930s Hollywood films to contemporary and experimental cinema. It is for those who love film and want to know more about production, narrative and style.

What will I do during the course?

During the course you will study 12 different films as well as producing your own short film. You will study films from set categories: American, British, Independent, Global, Documentary, Experimental and Silent Film. These are analysed in a number of different frameworks including: film form, meaning and response, context, spectatorship, narrative, ideology, authorship, critical debates and theoretical debates. Film studies requires you to develop an inquisitive mind and consider the deeper social, political and economic contexts of those films.



Throughout the course you will also explore a wide range of influential film directors such as Hitchcock, Del Toro and Tarantino. Film Studies also takes in the forefathers of cinema by evaluating the impact of key pioneers on the film industry including The Lumiere Brothers, DW Griffiths, Charlie Chaplin and Sergei Eisenstein. In essence you will live and breathe the cinema with opportunities to develop your own film-making skills in the coursework component.

How will I be assessed?

Film Studies will introduce you to a wide range of film-making processes so that you develop through discussion, analysis and debate, a wide range of technical skills for both constructing and deconstructing film. This will give you the ability to develop your own creative skills as you explore these film-making techniques from different times and places. The coursework element allows you to experiment with a variety of film-making technology and film-editing software to develop your creative skills.

Across the course we will study films under these headings:

Hollywood 1930-1990	British Film since 1995	Documentary Film	Experimental Film
American Film since 2005	Global Film	Silent Cinema	Short Film

The exam is weighted with 70% written examination (2 papers each worth 35%) and 30% Non-exam assessment.

Where can it lead?

Many students who study Film Studies will go on to study or work in the Media Industry. This could include broadcasting, journalism, programme researcher, camera operator, media production and media coordinator.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Film Studies should ideally have gained a Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature. Although students do not need to have studied Media at GCSE level, an interest in Media and Film is encouraged.

French

Why should I study Modern Languages?

94% of the world's population does not speak English as their first language. 75% do not speak English at all. We live in a multi-lingual world and UK companies are now realising that they need foreign languages to compete when trading internationally.

Your ability to talk freely in a language other than English will also enhance the enjoyment you get from travelling and make it easier for you to pick up a second or even a third foreign language. If you have an enquiring mind, a retentive memory and a real desire to communicate, languages are for you.



Why should I study Modern Languages?

94% of the world's population does not speak English as their first language. 75% do not speak English at all. We live in a multi-lingual world and UK companies are now realising that they need foreign languages to compete when trading internationally.

Your ability to talk freely in a language other than English will also enhance the enjoyment you get from travelling and make it easier for you to pick up a second or even a third foreign language. If you have an enquiring mind, a retentive memory and a real desire to communicate, languages are for you.

What will I do during the course?

The aim of the A Level course is to develop a range of practical skills which will help you communicate in the written and spoken language for a variety of purposes. Time is spent fostering an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries where the language is spoken. The course offers enjoyment, intellectual stimulation and challenge. social, commercial and political background of the countries where the language is spoken. The course offers enjoyment, intellectual stimulation and challenge.

How will I be assessed?

During the A Level course your listening, reading, speaking, writing and translation skills will be assessed.

Where can it lead?

Language skills are highly prized in the job market, not only for their practical applications but also as a proof that you have a good level of intellectual ability. According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8% to 20% depending on how central languages are to the role. If you have an A Level in a Modern Foreign Language employers value the key skills developed by language learners, these include communication skills, team work, interpersonal skills, presentation techniques, organisational skills and good learning strategies.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students choosing to study French A Level will be expected to have studied GCSE French and gained at least a Grade 6 in the higher tiered papers. Modern Foreign Languages is a traditional academic subject and studying at A Level requires students to apply themselves and have a strong work ethic.

Geography

Why should I study Geography?

"Geography is a subject that holds the key to the future", Michael Palin.

Do you know why it rains? Why volcanoes erupt? How our energy needs are changing or what globally we are doing to ensure the planet survives for the next generation? How are we managing cities of over 10 million people in the developed and less developed parts of the world?

Studying Geography will raise your awareness of current issues over the use of resources and the environmental impact of our globally growing population. The world around us is changing, and the A Level course will allow you to appreciate the current physical and human processes and issues. The course will also help make you a better, more rounded person.

What will I do during the course?

You will be involved in a mixture of group work, discussions, presentations and the use of ICT and GIS (Geographical Information Systems).

Across the different units you will study a mixture of physical, environmental and human Geography. There is a wide breadth of topics to study, from Tectonic Processes to Superpower Geographies and from Energy and Water Insecurity to Globalisation.

You will also have the opportunity to participate in a residential field trip to South Wales.

How will I be assessed?

The Geography course is now linear, which means you will be assessed after two years of studying. You will be assessed through a mixture of external examinations (80% of A Level) and coursework (20% of A Level)

Where can it lead?

Geographers learn many transferable skills that will make you suitable for a wide range of opportunities, both in Further Education and the work place. The subject gives you a grounding in many other areas, such as Science, Maths, ICT, and Business to name just a few! It also makes you highly employable. Research by the Russell Group representing the top 20 UK universities found that Geography was amongst the list of preferred A Level subjects on their entry requirements.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You need to have studied GCSE Geography and to have achieved a Grade 6 or above.

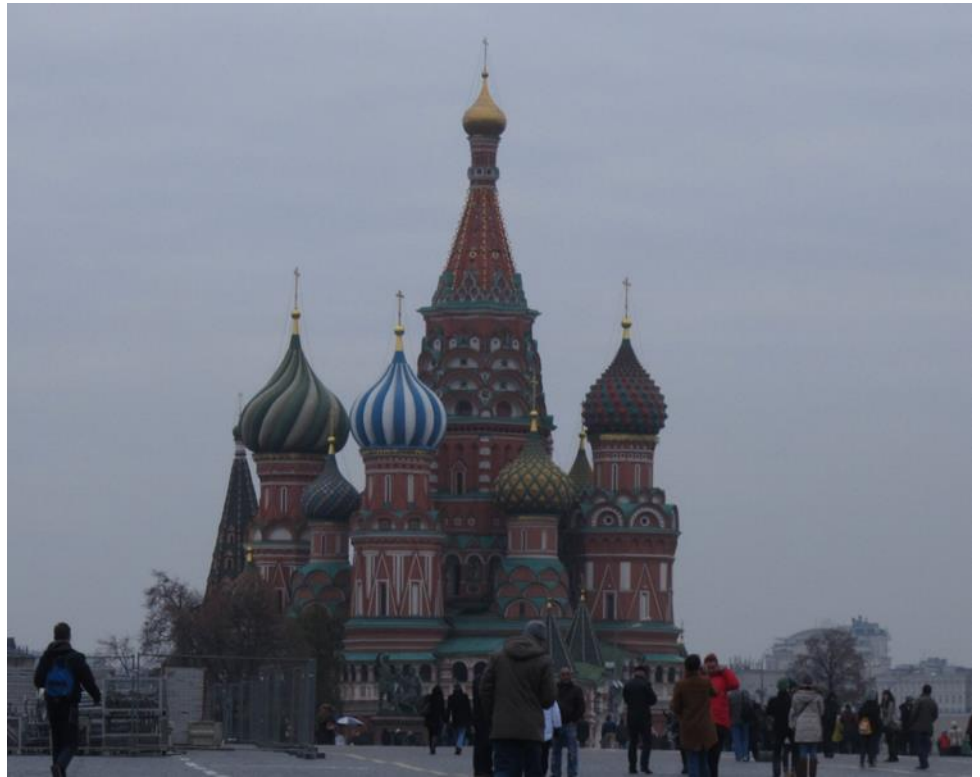


History

Why should I study History?

History helps to build a clear understanding and appreciation of today's complex world. In order to understand our place in the world we need to know where we come from and this means knowing about history. You will seek out the evidence, sort out the facts from the fiction, analyse what you have discovered, before arriving at a true understanding of what really happened. It is about understanding people and it develops a high level of communication.

The topics that we investigate will help our students to understand the issues surrounding: The formation of the modern British political system, American culture and society as well as modern international relations. History is a subject that brings together a wide range of skills and reading of complex visual and textual sources. This makes History a challenging but highly respected subject by universities and employers alike.



What will I do during the course?

- The Early Stuarts, the Origins of the Civil War, the execution of Charles I and the Interregnum 1603-1660.
- The USA in the 19th Century: Westward Expansion and Civil War 1803-1890.
- Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964
- Topic based essay on the Cold War (coursework)

How will I be assessed?

- The Early Stuarts, the Origins of the Civil War, the execution of Charles I and the Interregnum. Worth 25% of total A Level, One 1 ½ hour exam.
- The USA in the 19th Century: Westward Expansion and Civil War 1803-1890. Worth 15% of total A Level. One 1 hour exam.
- Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964. Worth 40% of total A Level. One 2 1/2 hour exam.
- Topic based essay on the Cold War (coursework). Worth 20% of total A Level. One 3,000-4,000 piece essay. Non-examined unit.

Where can it lead?

History is a subject that is well recognised by employers and universities. History develops important skills such as: analysis of information, communication of complex ideas and empathetic understanding of other people's motives.

History students often go on to work as: Lawyers, Journalists, Accountants, Economics, Business Managers, Politicians, Teachers, Military Leaders as well as successful business leaders to name but a few careers.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You need to have studied GCSE History and to have achieved a Grade 6 or above. Students achieving a Grade 5 will be considered at the discretion of the Head of History

Mathematics

Why should I study Mathematics?

The main reason for studying Mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. Students like the challenge, the clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction.

Mathematics is an intriguing subject to study on its own. However, it is a fundamental basis for all Science based subjects and as such is a much sought after qualification. Mathematics allows students to use their imagination, logical thought and intuitiveness to investigate and solve problems using different skills.

Mathematics A Level is well regarded by both institutions and employers and is recognised by the very top Universities for its challenging content and is therefore an excellent qualification to obtain.

What will I do during the course?

The course builds on the algebraic knowledge developed throughout GCSE Mathematics, whilst introducing new pure mathematics content such as calculus. You will also develop your knowledge of the applied areas of mathematics such as statistics and mechanics. You will also develop your knowledge of how to use technology effectively, especially graphical calculators, to support your mathematical knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

Mathematics is assessed solely through examinations.

At the end of the second year there are 3 written papers to complete. Each paper is 2 hours long and counts for 33% of the A level grade. Two of the papers assess pure content and the third paper assesses a combination of statistics and mechanics.

Where can it lead?

Mathematics at A Level allows students to move on to study many degree courses. For students wishing to study Mathematics and Physics at University the completion of AS/A2 Further Mathematics is recommended.

Owing to its diverse nature from mathematical proof to mathematical modelling its value is recognised by careers in many areas including Computing, Accountancy, Economics, Business, Banking, Air Traffic Control, Retail Management, Architecture, Surveying, Cartography, Psychology, and, of course, Teaching to name but a few.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You need to have studied all of the higher tier of GCSE Mathematics and need to have achieved a Grade 7 or better.

If Edexcel Awards or Level 2 Further Maths qualification have been completed at GCSE, these results will be taken into account.



Mathematics - Further

Why should I study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is designed to broaden and deepen the mathematical knowledge and skills developed when studying A Level Mathematics. It is studied alongside A Level Mathematics and provides a stimulating experience for those who enjoy the subject. The course will develop your knowledge of applied and pure topics of A Level Mathematics to a higher level.

What will I do during the course?

The course builds upon the techniques in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus developed from the pure content of the A Level course. Students will also develop knowledge of applied areas of mathematics such as, statistics and decision. You will also develop your knowledge of how to use technology, especially graphical calculators, effectively to support your mathematical knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

Further Mathematics is assessed solely through examinations. At the end of the second year there will be four examination papers, each worth a quarter of the A level grade. Two of the papers will assess the pure content with the remaining examinations assessing the applied content.

Where can it lead?

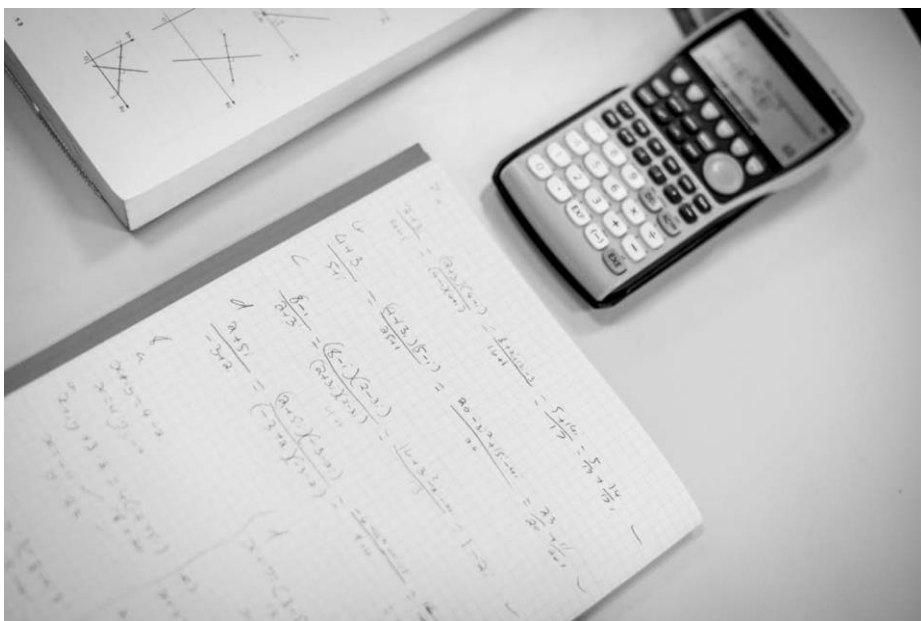
Further Mathematics at A Level allows students to move on to study many degree courses. However, its study is recommended for anybody wishing to proceed towards degree courses such as Mathematics and Physics.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You need to have studied all of the higher tier of GCSE Mathematics. Due to the more advanced nature of the Further Mathematics course students will have gained a Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics.

If you complete a Further Maths qualification as part of your GCSE curriculum, the results will be taken into account.

Please note, you must study A Level Mathematics to be permitted to study A Level Further Maths.



Physical Education

Why should I study Physical Education?

This course leads to a variety of career options; it has many different elements to it and now has a practical base. If you enjoy your sport and want to develop your knowledge and understanding of the subject, this is the one for you.

What will I do during the course?

Students who choose to study Physical Education at A Level will cover the following topics: Anatomy and Physiology, Skill Acquisition and Sports and Society Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics, Sport Psychology and Sport and Society and Technology in sport.

How will I be assessed?

Physical Education runs as a linear course with students sitting all of their exams and submitting coursework at the end of the course.

A Level consists of paper 1 and paper 2 taken at the end of the 2 year course.

Paper 1 is a 2 hour exam worth 35% of the A Level. Topics include:

- A - Anatomy and Physiology
- B - Skill Acquisition
- C - Sport and Society

Paper 2 is a 2 hour exam which will contribute to a further 35% of the A Level. Topics include:

- A - Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics.
- B - Sport Psychology
- C - Sport and Society and Technology in Sport.

Practical Assessment

This is 15% Practical Assessment in one sport which needs to have clear video evidence to support it and 15% coursework based on the practical element.

Where can it lead?

A Level Physical Education explores many areas in sport and is seen as a very useful insight into the many different careers there are in sport today. These range from fitness instructors to physiotherapists and sports scientists, to coaches and teachers. Many careers such as the Forces, Police or Nursing see knowledge of sport and fitness as invaluable. Sports Nutrition is a growing industry and there are many opportunities in this area of further study. There are many university courses that either continue sport science, nutrition, technology, coaching or development of the sports industry, the list is endless. Even if none of these are your chosen path the knowledge you have gained of looking after your body the right way is going to be useful to you throughout your whole life.



What qualifications do I need to start?

As the course has Science content of how the body works, a Grade 6 or above is essential in Science, 5 or above in English and Distinction or 6 in GCSE PE. It is not necessary to have previously studied PE to follow this course at A Level.

A Level PE is suitable for students who have a genuine interest in physical activities and who want to learn how and why the body and mind work together to improve physical performance. As the course is divided between practical skills and the theory of sport it is open to a wide audience. Continuing to play your sport outside school is essential aspect of the course.

Physics



Why study Physics?

If you have an enquiring mind, enjoy a challenge, and like solving problems, then you should consider studying Physics. From the smallest part of the human body to the great clusters of galaxies, Physics helps us understand how our world works. The applications, like the career opportunities, are infinite.

What will I do during the course?

The course aims to develop essential knowledge and understanding of the subject, its applications and skills. It aims to show the link between theory and experiment and how Mathematics can be used to explain physical principles.

The A Level Physics course consists of 12 modules:

- Unit 1 - Mechanics
- Unit 2 - Electrical circuits
- Unit 3 - Materials
- Unit 4 - Waves and the particle nature of light.
- Unit 5 - Further mechanics
- Unit 6 - Electric and magnetic fields
- Unit 7 - Particle physics
- Unit 8 - Thermodynamics
- Unit 9 - Space
- Unit 10 - Nuclear Radiation
- Unit 11 - Gravitational Fields
- Unit 12 - Oscillations

Practical work is an essential component of the course. The Science Department is well resourced with equipment and the emphasis is on individual work. There are a number of set practical activities which will be included in each section of the course. These must be completed to achieve the qualification. You will be expected to apply your understanding of Physics principles to the design of experiments, realistic interpretation of results and evaluation of the methods used. You will also be encouraged to develop your IT skills and to show initiative and self-reliance in your studies.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 12 you will sit 2 mock exams which do not count towards your final A Level grade. All official assessments will take place at the end of Year 13. The assessment consists of 3 exam papers: Papers 1 and 2 are one hour 45 minutes long and will assess all 12 units from the course. Each of these papers contributes 30% to the total assessment.

The third paper lasts for 2 hours and 30 minutes. It may draw on any of the topics in the specification and will include synoptic questions that may draw on 2 or more different topics. The paper will also include questions that assess conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods that will draw on students' experiences of the core practical's. This paper contributes 40% to the total A Level grade.

There is a further science practical endorsement for A Level Physics. This qualification will assess students on their use of relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. These skills will be assessed through 12 identified practical activities within each qualification. This assessment outcomes will be reported separately on students' certificates as either 'pass' or 'fail'. To achieve a pass, students must demonstrate that they are competent in all of the practical skills listed in the subject content requirements for physics.

Where can it lead?

Employers today actively seek out people who can prove their ability to think logically, understand complex ideas and apply them to the real world. Whether you want to pursue a career in Science, Medicine, Sport, Industry, Business, Education or the Media, Physics can help give you the edge.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You must pass GCSE Trilogy (Combined) Science at an overall Grade of 7-7 or above, or Physics in the Single Award Science GCSE at Grade 7 or above, plus at least one other Grade 7 from a Single Science subject. We may consider 7-6 at the teacher's discretion, based on performance, effort in classwork and homework. You must have GCSE Maths at Grade 6, or above to cope with this course. You are strongly recommended to take A Level Maths.

Politics

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics, doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."
– attributed to Pericles, 5th century BC.

Why study A Level Politics?

Recent months have seen unprecedented events in the political arena both in the UK and abroad. This course will allow you to see beyond the belief that we have no real say in the running of our country. It is aimed at raising awareness of the current, and historical political landscape and will help you to understand that engagement in the political process is vital. It will help you to understand that through the use of the pressure points built into the system, every individual really does have the opportunity to change the world.

Politics, at its heart, is about understanding people and why we behave in the way that we do.

This course will allow you to study the political systems in both the UK and the US, whilst completing in depth studies around core political ideologies.

What will I do during the course?

Paper 1: UK Politics

Paper 2: UK Government

Paper 3: Comparative Politics

UK Politics

Section A: Political Participation

You will study what it means to be a democracy, the political parties, and analyse the electoral system and voter behaviour.

Section B: Core Political Ideas

You will study Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism.

UK Government

Section A: UK Government

You will study the constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive, relationships between the branches.

Section B: Non- core Political Ideas

You will study one of the following:
Anarchism, Ecologism, Feminism, Multiculturalism, Nationalism.



Comparative Politics

You will study the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US Presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

How will I be assessed?

- 3 papers, each worth 84 marks
- Due to the nature of the course, all questions are essay based. The questions range from 12 marks, to 30 marks. Each paper holds the same weight (84 marks)

Where can it lead?

Politics is a well-respected subject, recognised by employers and universities alike. The course develops important skills such as: analysis and evaluation of information, effective communication of complex ideas, team work, forming and sustaining ideas and arguments. Political students can go on to work in a number of roles including Politics, Education, Law, Accountancy, International organisations, the list is endless!

What qualifications do I need to start?

Ideally, you will need to have achieved a Grade 6 in English Language. Complimentary GCSE subjects such as History, and R.E will be beneficial. Students achieving a Grade 5 in English will still be considered at the discretion of the subject leader.

Product Design

Why should I study Product Design?

Studying Product Design at A Level develops students' knowledge, understanding and skill for designing for the future. Product Design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted to the skills required to design and make high quality products. Products that are fit for purpose, satisfy wants and needs, enhance our day-to-day lives and most importantly, give students the opportunity to demonstrate their design ability.

What will I do during the course?

This qualification emphasises two key factors, designing and making. All modern designers have to consider numerous issues when designing new products. New products need to provide solutions rather than add to the existing problems. Students will explore original ideas that question and challenge what could be.

Good design is vital to our world, it is important, therefore, that we enthuse future designers with a passion for designing their futures.

How will I be assessed?

The course is split evenly between 50% coursework and 50% examination.

The coursework is a design and make project, based on a developed brief, it will assess the ability to identify, investigate and outline unique design possibilities. Students will analyse and evaluate design decisions, including prototypes to establish quality end products that could be taken into the commercial world.

The examination includes a mix of structured and extended questions assessing students' knowledge and understanding of technical, designing and making principles. Along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in the design world.

Where can it lead?

The subject develops a number of key skills including:

Planning for tasks and carrying out experiments; development of creativity and innovative practice; exploring new practical skills and developing subject knowledge; problem solving; working with others.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students will need to have a Grade 6 at GCSE in one of the following Design and Technology subjects: Product Design or Engineering. Some consideration will be given to students who obtain a Grade 5 and may be accepted on a probationary period after discussion with the Head of Department.



Psychology

Why should I study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. If you are interested in finding out why people behave the way they do or how the brain works then Psychology could be for you. Psychology is a popular subject that has links with many other subjects such as Biology, Sociology and Media whilst building on skills gained at GCSE in subjects such as Mathematics, English and, in particular, Science. The most exciting aspect of Psychology is that it is about you! It relates to almost every aspect of life from romance to rugby so even if you have not finalised your career plan just yet, it will fill you with knowledge about the world, the characteristics and capabilities of humans, and perhaps tell you something about how you 'tick'!



What will I be doing on the course?

You will have the opportunity to discuss, write about and test a range of concepts and theories about behaviour on topics such as memory and abnormality. You will be involved in debates on hot topics such as the value of drug treatments for abnormal behaviour; understand which parts of the brain are responsible for specific behaviours; and you could carry out experiments to test the memory of your friends. From writing to role playing, testing to talking about, such a varied and interesting science based subject offers endless activity possibilities.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by examination only. The A Level qualification is examined by three, two hour exams at the end of Year 13. These questions aim to test your understanding as well as your ability to apply the concepts and theories of Psychology. There is a strong scientific basis to Psychology with some essays to assess understanding.

Where can it lead?

Psychology A Level is often the first step towards a career in Psychology in areas such as education, health, forensics, industry and sport. Students often go on to complete undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in varying fields of Psychology en route to becoming a Chartered Psychologist. Others use their Psychology qualifications to enhance their skills in other professions such as teaching, advertising or public relations. For further information about careers in Psychology go to: www.bps.org.uk

Psychology is also useful in many other careers because it develops a number of transferable skills which are useful in many jobs and professions such as problem solving, critical analysis, decision making, statistics and IT skills.

What qualifications do I need?

English Language GCSE Grade 9 to 6 and Science (Biology) GCSE Grade 6 or above are essential. This is a popular, yet challenging, science based subject, so priority will be given to students with GCSE Science 9 to 7 Grades.

Religious Studies - Philosophy and Ethics

Why should I study Philosophy and Ethics?

The issues associated with Philosophy and Ethics are all around us today. There is no escaping the relevance of topics such as sexual ethics, the environment and peace and conflict. This is an exciting, popular and interesting A Level due to its relevance to today's society, as well as being a highly regarded academic subject.

The course provides opportunities for students to develop important skills such as analysis, evaluation, communication problem solving and independent learning. It gives students the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about life: why are we here, how should we behave and what happens to us when we die?

What will I do during the course?

In Year 12 and Year 13 students will complete three units on Philosophy, Ethics and Hinduism.

In Year 12 students study ethical theories such as Natural Law and Situation Ethics. They then apply the theories to topics such as abortion and euthanasia. Students also study Hinduism focusing on religious views of life, which focus on some key areas of controversy that shape modern views of the world, such as the caste system. In Philosophy students consider topics such as the problem of evil and suffering and the existence of God.

In Year 13 students study ethical language, virtue and medical ethics. Within Hinduism, students consider social/historical developments, works of scholars (for example Sankara) as well as religion and society. In Christian philosophy students will study influences of developments in religious belief, works of scholars and religious language.



How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 13 you will sit one exam for each of the three sections of the course.

Where can it lead?

If you plan to go to university then this course is good preparation for a number of courses, obviously Philosophy and Ethics, but it also has direct links to Sociology, History, Psychology, Environmental Science, English, Media Studies, Law, Medicine, Education and Business to name a few.

Alternatively, if you are interested in a career in child care, nursing, social work, the media, the Armed Forces, the Police or retail then Philosophy and Ethics is a much valued subject because of its relevance to the world in which we live. Philosophy and Ethics is about people and how we live and is an invaluable subject whatever your future plans.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Grade 9 to 6 in RE GCSE Short course or full course and a Grade 9 to 6 in English is desirable too.

Sociology

Why should I study Sociology?

Sociology involves the study of society and the influences it has in shaping us as individuals. By studying Sociology you will better understand the world you live in whilst advancing your academic skills.

Sociology is the study of people in social groups. You will become more socially aware and will start to see society in a whole new light as you learn about culture, identity, social class, gender and ethnicity.

At A Level we examine how we learn certain values and ways of behaving, and how our membership of social groups gives meaning to our lives and shapes our identities.

You will acquire knowledge and critical understanding: of contemporary social processes and structures; appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate; understand sociological methods; reflect on your own experience of the social world in which you live; develop skills which enhance your ability to participate more effectively in adult life. If you are interested in human behaviour, then this subject will interest you.

What will I do during the course?

You will study Families and Households, Education and Sociological Methods, Crime and Deviance and Beliefs in Society. You will build up a broad knowledge around these topics, whilst also developing the ability to critically evaluate different perspectives relating to society, covering issues such as social control and the impact of social structure on the individual.

How will I be assessed?

You will be internally assessed throughout the course, particularly at the end of each topic, to check your understanding. This will be mostly in the form of essays, but may also be in the form of quizzes or a presentation to the rest of the group. The A Level qualification is examined by three, two hour examinations at the end of Year 13. Each exam is equally weighted.

Where can it lead?

A number of students have gone on to study Criminology and Sociology at university. Sociology is particularly useful for those interested in joining the “expressive” professions, such as social work, the Police, journalism, the Law and teaching.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You need to be able to write essays and so at least a Grade 6 in English Language is required. Apart from this, the potential for hard work, dedication and an interest in current affairs and debating issues is a big advantage.



Spanish

Why should I study Spanish?

Spanish A Level can lead to a wide array of exciting options for the future including working abroad, with multi-national companies, in numerous fields. We live in a multilingual world and UK companies are now realising that they need foreign languages to compete when trading internationally.

University Courses and Career Prospects

Spanish can be studied on its own or be combined with a very wide range of subjects including other languages from scratch or as joint honors. In addition to this you can also study: linguistics, Hispanic studies, International relations, business, economics, management, influencer. Languages improve your skills and career in any role in any sector such as law, teaching, translation, diplomacy, broadcast journalist logistics and finance.

Your ability to talk freely in a language other than English will also enhance the enjoyment you get from travelling and make it easier for you to pick up a second or even a third foreign language. If you have an inquiring mind, a retentive memory and a real desire to communicate, languages are for you.

What will I do during the course?

The aim of the A Level course is to develop a range of practical skills which will help you communicate in the written and spoken language for a variety of purposes. Time is spent fostering an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries where the language is spoken. The course offers enjoyment, intellectual stimulation and challenge.

How will I be assessed?

During the A Level course your listening, reading, speaking, writing and translation skills will be assessed.

Where can it lead?

Language skills are highly prized in the job market, not only for their practical applications but also as a proof that you have a good level of intellectual ability. According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8% to 20% depending on how central languages are to the role. If you have an A Level in a Modern Foreign Language employers value the key skills developed by language learners, these include communication skills, team work, interpersonal skills, presentation techniques, organisational skills and good learning strategies.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students choosing to study Spanish at A Level will be expected to have studied Spanish at GCSE and gained at least a Grade 6 in the higher tiered papers. Modern Foreign Languages is a traditional academic subject and studying at A Level requires students to apply themselves and have a strong work ethic.



VOCATIONAL CURRICULUM

Applied Science

Why should I study Applied Science?

BTEC National Extended Certificate or BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Applied Science offers a more practical and vocational approach that can be lacking in more traditional routes, by applying learning to real-life situations. This will suit students who prefer a practical, hands-on approach which will provide an opportunity for independent research into science.

Students will undertake a number of units for which they will present evidence, based on actual work and studies. They offer a wider range of assessments including assignments, tasks and written exam. This balanced approach means students can showcase for future employers how they apply their learning to relevant, everyday workplace challenges. It will develop the key skills of Communication, Numeracy and use of Information and Communication Technology that are highly valued by employers and Higher Education.

What will I do during the course?

Students will study four units over 2 years for the Extended Certificate or six units over 2 years for the Foundation Diploma. These will be made up of the following units (those with an asterisk * are the extra units for the Foundation Diploma)

- Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science
- Unit 2: Practical Scientific Techniques
- Unit 3: Science Investigation skills
- Unit 4: Laboratory Techniques and their Applications*
- Unit 9: Human Regulation and Reproduction*
- Unit 10: Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways



How will I be assessed?

Progress will be assessed throughout the course, allowing students to gauge their own performance on a continuing basis, just like in a real workplace.

Students will take an exam for units 1 and 3 in May of Year 12 and January of Year 13, respectively. For units 2, 4, 9 and 10 students will write three or four assignments for each unit which will be assessed by their Science teachers and moderated by the exam board, the deadlines for these are spread out throughout the course.

Where can it lead?

It can lead to a future in science, either via University, or after Sixth Form, depending on the other subject(s) taken and individual institutional requirements. On completion, you can study a range of medically related degree courses, such as Genetics, Nutrition, Applied Biology, Pharmacology, Biomedical or Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Radiology, and Chiropractic. Where appropriate, students may opt to do Higher National Diploma courses or consider employment in the Medical sector such as a hospital or pharmaceutical laboratory.

This course is not normally a route into highly competitive areas such as Medicine, Dentistry or Physiotherapy.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Applied Science will need to satisfy the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form. Students will also need to have gained two Science GCSEs at Grade 5 or better. We may also consider a Grade 5-4 in Combined Science at the teachers' discretion, based on performance, effort in classwork and homework. Students will also need to have a Grade 5, or above, in Maths.

Business

Why should I study BTEC Business?

BTEC Business will help you to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of business to successfully follow a programme of study that enables progression to both Higher Education and employment within business. It will develop the key skills of Communication, Numeracy and Information and Communication Technology that are highly valued by employers and Higher Education.

This course will appeal to those who are interested in business organisations, the markets they serve and how to deal with customers. The course will suit students who prefer a practical, hands-on approach which will provide an opportunity for independent research into real business.

BTEC Business provides students with an insight into how to add value, control costs, boost profits, make sales and be successful in the world of business.

There are 3 possible courses of study:

Extended Certificate – 1 A Level equivalent
(Part 1)

Foundation Diploma – 1 ½ A Level equivalent
(Part 1 and Part 2)

Diploma – 2 A Level equivalent
(Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3)

What will I do during the course?

Students studying the Extended Certificate (1 A Level equivalent) will study the following units:

Unit 1: Exploring Business
Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance
Unit 27: Work Experience in Business (students are expected to find and complete 40 hours of work experience during the summer of Year 12)

Students studying the Foundation Diploma (1 ½ A Level equivalent) will study the units above plus:

Unit 8: The Recruitment and Selection Process
Unit 4: Managing an Event

Students studying the Diploma (2 A Level equivalent) will study all the units above plus:

Unit 5: International Business
Unit 6: Principles of Management

How will I be assessed?

Units 2, 3 and 6 are all externally assessed through either a set assessed task or a formal examination. All other units are assignments written and assessed by teachers internally.

Where can it lead?

It can lead to a future in business either via university or an apprenticeship. Many careers are in business. BTEC Business will provide you with the knowledge and skills for careers in Human Resource Management, Operations Management, Marketing or Accounting and Finance.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Business will need to satisfy the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form. If students have studied Business or Enterprise at Level 2, they must have achieved at least a Pass or Grade 5. Enthusiasm for the subject and a good work ethic are also vital for success.



Digital Media - Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

Why should I study Media Studies as a vocational course?

The creative media industries are one of the biggest employers in the UK and this course is designed to prepare students for the world of work, though it is equivalent to an A Level in terms of UCAS points. It is a relatively new course but is highly regarded by employers and universities and is very student-centred in its approach, with more focus on practical skills and far less emphasis on academic theory than the A Level course. We have run Media Studies as a post-16 course for over 3 decades and consistently achieve excellent results and have been nationally recognised in the Good Schools Guide for having achieved outstanding results, most recently in 2015. However, this exciting vocational course is ideally suited to students who have taken the Creative iMedia course at Key Stage 4 but is designed to be very accessible to newcomers to the subject, especially to students who are knowledgeable about film, music and TV.

What will I do during the course?

Media Studies involves the analysis of the images and texts that we experience via different media such as: films, social media, advertising, TV, magazines, newspapers and websites.

The course is based around a series of linked client briefs, ranging from pitching an idea for a film, writing a script for the film, whilst there are opportunities for students to complete units based on their longer-term aspirations which might include free-choice units on animation, designing videogame game characters, photography or special effects. Each unit involves the study of existing texts and the planning and construction of real media products. We also look at media theory to provide an academic foundation for student learning.

For high ability students intending to study media at university, there may be the opportunity to take additional units and achieve a higher award, the Foundation Diploma, which counts as 1½ A Levels, which also includes units on special effects and short film.

How will I be assessed?

The course is split between two exams taken in Year 12 and 4 practical units to be started in Year 12 and completed by the end of Year 13. The exams cover pre-production skills like planning, scripting, time management and storyboarding, as well as looking at media audiences and products in contemporary culture, based on case studies into film, video games, and other media forms.

Where can it lead?

Media Studies is a wonderful link subject between a wide range of option choices leading to a vast array of long-term career options. The days when Media Studies was not taken seriously by universities are long gone. Our students have gone on to pursue successful careers in such diverse careers as law and advertising, as well as being the more obvious option for those wishing to pursue work in the media world itself.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Because of the practical nature of the course, we have enjoyed great success with students of all abilities, not just those with obvious academic potential. We have a number of students who excel because of their skill in using digital technologies, though they may have found more traditional academic skills like essay-writing quite challenging. We also accept students who have not taken the subject previously – enthusiasm and a willingness to learn new skills are more important to academic success on this exciting course; however, students will need to satisfy the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form.



Engineering

Why should I study BTEC Engineering?

This qualification has been designed as a full-time course that supports progression to an apprenticeship in engineering. If taken as part of a programme of study that includes other BTEC Nationals or A Levels, it supports progression to Higher Education.

What will I do during the course?

Students study a range of units over 2 years:

Mandatory course units are:

UNIT 1: Engineering Principles - Learners apply mathematical and physical science principles to solve electrical, electronic and mechanical-based engineering problems.

Assessment: 2 hour formal exam.

UNIT 2: Delivery of Engineering Processes

Safely as a Team - Learners explore how processes are undertaken by teams to create engineered products or to deliver engineering services safely. They then work as a team to manufacture their own product or deliver a service.

Assessment: Coursework (internally assessed)

UNIT 3: Engineering Product Design and

Manufacture - Learners will explore engineering product design and manufacturing processes and will complete activities that consider function, sustainability, materials, form and other factors.

Assessment: Supervised Assessment (externally assessed)

UNIT 4: Applied Commercial and Quality Principles in Engineering

- Learners explore commercial engineering, for example key business activities and cost control, quality systems and value management, which engineering organisations use to create value.

There will be a further three internally assessed specialist units Including:

- Unit 10 - Computer Aided Design
- Unit 41 – Manufacturing and Secondary Machining Processes
- Unit 44 – Fabrication Manufacturing Processes

How will I be assessed?

A range of different assessment methods are used across the course. Some units are externally assessed through the use of a formal exam or a supervised assessment. Other units are assessed internally by your teacher, through the completion of written and practical assignments.

The quality of the course is audited annually by the exam board to ensure that national standards are maintained.

Where can it lead?

This qualification can lead to further study or progression into employment through apprenticeship. Studied in combination with A Level Physics and Maths, this qualification would help students follow an academic route to Engineering at Degree level.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Engineering will need to satisfy the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form. If students have studied Engineering at Level 2, they must have achieved at least a Merit. Students must also have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE Physics, Maths and any other Design and Technology subject that they are studying. Students must have an interest in Engineering and enthusiasm for the subject, alongside a good work ethic which is vital for success.



Food Science and Nutrition – Level 3 Applied Diploma

Why should I study the Applied Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

If you are interested in studying for a career within Food Technology, such as new product development, food management marketing or manufacturing, or similarly, if you have a real passion for cooking and may be interested in future careers in catering, nutrition and dietetics, food consulting or even teaching, then this course is for you. Students are encouraged to become independent in research, skilful and creative in practical and experimental work and develop confidence and skills that are invaluable in both higher education and employment.

What will I do during the course?

The course is split into 4 units as below and will involve regular practical food lessons.

WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition			
Unit Number	Unit Title	Structure	Assessment
1	Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups	Mandatory	Internal and External
2	Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat	Mandatory	External
3	Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems	Optional	Internal
4	Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition	Optional	Internal

How will I be assessed?

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria	Marks	%
LO2 Understand properties of nutrients	AC2.1 Explain how nutrients are structured	14-22	15-25%
	AC2.2 Classify nutrients in foods		
	AC2.3 Assess the impact of food production methods on nutritional value		
LO3 Understand the relationship between nutrients and the human body	AC3.1 Describe functions of nutrients in the human body	22-31	25-35%
	AC3.2 Explain characteristics of unsatisfactory nutritional intake		
	AC3.3 Analyse nutritional needs of specific groups		
	AC3.4 Assess how different situations affect nutritional needs		
LO4 Be able to plan nutritional requirements	AC4.1 Evaluate fitness for purpose of diets	22-31	25-35%
	AC4.2 Calculate nutritional requirements for given individuals		
TOTAL		90	100%



Where can it lead?

Food Technology is an ideal subject for those students wishing to pursue a career in the food industry, catering or teaching Food. It is important to stress the level of theory especially food science which is heavily chemistry based. Food is a highly competitive and challenging industry offering a wealth of employment opportunities. A qualification in Food science provides a valuable pathway to Higher Education for those who wish to study the subject at this level.

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition
- BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology



What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to do Food Science and Nutrition should have studied Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE and gained a Grade 5 or above. Students must also have achieved a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Combined Science/Biology.

Health and Social Care

Why should I study Health and Social Care?

This subject is designed for people who think they might like to work in a Health or Social Care setting. If you are interested in studying for a career in primary school teaching, nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, radiography, physiotherapy, social work, nursery nursing, health education/promotion, psychology or caring for the elderly or disabled, or any other roles in health, social care or education, then this is the course for you!

Health and Social Care will help you to develop your understanding of health and social care issues. It will introduce you to some of the skills and knowledge that you need to work in health and caring professions. Throughout this course, you will develop the ability to apply your knowledge, understanding and skills to a range of health and social issues, thus preparing for further study and training.

The NHS is one of the largest employers in Europe and there are many vacancies and career opportunities in a variety of areas. For a full insight of the opportunities available go to www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk

What will I be doing?

For the Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate, you will be studying three units in Year 12:

- Building positive relationships in Health and Social Care (Coursework)
- Equality, diversity and rights in Health and Social Care (Exam)
- Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care (Exam)

In Year 13:

- Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care (Exam)
- Nutrition for Health (Coursework)
- Sexual health, reproduction and early development stages (Coursework)



Health and Social Care Foundation Diploma is an additional course that can be studied. This course requires three extra units, they cover:

- Infection control (Coursework)
- Safeguarding (Exam)
- The impact of long-term physiological conditions (Coursework)

This is in addition to the Extended Certificate and makes the total course equivalent to 1.5 A Levels.

How will I be assessed?

The course contains exams and assignments.

Where can it lead?

You can study Health and Social Care as a subject at university however it is also useful for employment in the NHS. This course offers a broad education as a foundation for the courses and careers outlined. Students are encouraged to become independent in research and skilful in presenting findings. Students will develop confidence and skills that are invaluable in both higher education and employment. In recent years students have gone on to work as paramedics, dieticians, midwifery and nursing.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students must matriculate with the Arthur Mellows requirement for entry into Sixth Form.

IT – Cambridge Technical Level 3 Introductory Diploma in IT

Why should I study Level 3 Technicals in IT?

The Introductory diploma in IT course gives you the opportunity to develop your skills in a selection of different areas by using appropriate IT tools, capturing and handling data, making decisions, working independently, presenting, and communicating information.

This course is relevant to anyone using IT in his or her everyday life, as well as those planning a career in the industry. The course is designed to encourage students to select and use IT appropriately, enabling them to independently produce high-quality outcomes.

As well as developing problem solving, communication and project management skills the course also encourages students to reflect critically on their own and others' use of IT.

What will I do during the course?

The course is broken down into three coursework units where you will need to carry out practical 'hands on' tasks using a range of up-to-date software packages including Adobe. Additionally, there are two mandatory exams that you will study for. One in Year 12 and finally one in Year 13.

Where can it lead?

The Introductory Diploma in IT course qualifies for the same UCAS points as any other subject and could lead you on to study for a degree or other further education courses in a variety of subjects. It could also lead to further work-based training within IT related employment.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You must have a least 4 GCSEs at Grade 9 to 4, one of which would preferably be a level 2 qualification in IT.



Music Performance

Why should I study Music Performance BTEC?

The BTEC Extended Certificate (equivalent to one A Level) in Music will build and develop the necessary practical skills and understanding to begin a successful professional career in music or move on to further studies.

The course is aimed at students who love music. You will develop your skills in performance, both in a band, and as a soloist. You will be required to improve your performance skills quickly, alongside the study of music theory that supports the different musical areas of the course. You will learn about how the music industry works in a way that will prepare you for a possible career in it.

Where possible, we choose units that support the skills and interests of those on the course. Some examples of units are: composing music, solo music performance, working and developing as a musical ensemble and working as a session musician.

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of 4 units spread over the two-year course. Each unit is based on a series of assignments, which are assessed internally, and some units are assessed externally.

These units involve:

- A study of the Music industry and the roles and links within it.
- Working as a musical ensemble; looking how to develop as a band musician, developing your own skills and giving regular public performances
- Practical music theory and harmony; developing your understanding of key musical concepts through a practical medium
- Developing as a musician individually; looking at how to perform in different styles (optional)
- Composing music (optional)

What qualifications do I need to start?

Students wishing to study Music will need to satisfy the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form. You will ideally have studied music at Key Stage 4, however if you have the skills and passion needed the course can be completed without a Key Stage 4 qualification. This may be demonstrated through a brief audition. If you have previously never used Logic, you may need to spend extra time at the start of the course learning the key skills. It is **essential** that you play a musical instrument (this can include your voice) to a high standard at the start of the course and have some performance experience.



You need to be a team player, being prepared to compromise within a musical group. Much of this course is group based. You also need to be highly organised and self-motivated, as the development aspects are self-driven. We use technology in all aspects of the course, and you need to be willing to use and adapt how you work frequently.

This course is a good foundation for further education in music and is an excellent companion course for media.

Sport

Why should I study Vocational Sport?

This course is respected by employers and Universities alike and provides learning opportunities that will allow students to gain a range of skills that support progression into the next stage of education or into many different avenues of employment. Students will develop throughout the course transferable interpersonal skills, including working with others, problem solving and independent study. Research methods and analytical reasoning are also important skills that are developed throughout the course. They will gain a broad understanding of the many aspects of the sports industry as a whole and will be able to apply their knowledge in work related contexts.

What will I do during the course?

National Foundation Diploma and Extended Certificate students will study the following mandatory topics:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Practical Sports Performance

We have plenty of flexibility in selecting optional units and we can meet the needs and interests and career aspirations of the group.

- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Psychology
- Coaching for Performance
- Sports Event Organisation
- Sports Leadership

How will I be assessed?

Anatomy and Physiology will be assessed through a one hour 30 minute examination. Fitness Testing will be a synoptic assessment, students' work will be assessed externally through case studies, marked off site.

All other units will be taught and assessed internally and assessed using a variety of ways, presentations, reports, etc.

Where can it lead?

Sport is a very vibrant industry in today's world with many career options. Every year Sport and the active leisure sector outperforms the rest of the UK economy, particularly with the impetus the London 2012 has given us. Vocational Sport can help prepare you for many different paths such as Physiotherapy, Journalism, Sport Coaching or Management to name but a few as Sport and Exercise scientists continue to be a growing presence in the world of sport. Whether you choose to continue onto further study at university or seek employment after the Sixth Form this course will have given you an insight into the rigours of the modern sport. You will develop many work based skills including team work, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines and presenting information effectively, all essential for the modern day work place.

What qualifications do I need?

Students wishing to study a National Foundation Diploma in Sports will need to satisfy the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form. If students have studied Sports and Exercise at Level 2 or GCSE PE they must have achieved at least a Merit or a Grade 5. Enthusiasm for the subject and sport as a whole, along with a good work ethic are also vital for success.



Travel and Tourism

Why should I study Tourism?

The Tourism industry is dynamic, wide ranging and fast growing. We investigate popular and emerging tourism destinations from across the globe and the different organisations which are involved in developing, marketing, and preserving these destinations. We ask how different sectors in the tourism industry respond to crises like pandemics and climate change, and how they use technology to develop sustainably.

You will develop employability skills such as:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Planning and organisation
- Creativity and innovation

The vocational course combines academic study of the tourism industry with business skills. It is a valuable qualification in its own right and also an excellent stepping stone to a career in tourism or the wider business world.

What will I do during the course?

Year 12

Unit 1 *The World of Travel and Tourism* (1.5hr exam)

The Travel and Tourism industry in the UK is growing and is of major importance to the economy. You will develop the skills needed to examine, interpret and analyse a variety of statistics that measure the importance of tourism to the UK. You will also examine the structure of the industry and how tourism will develop in the future.

Unit 9 *Visitor attractions* (coursework)

You will learn about events, as well as built and natural attractions, analysing their commercial success, appeal, funding, use of technology and response to visitor needs.

Year 13

Unit 2 *Global Destinations* (3hr exam)

You will investigate the appeal of global destinations to different types of tourists, factors which affect a destination's popularity, and evaluate how travel itineraries meet customer needs. Pre-release materials are provided two weeks before the supervised assessment period, giving you time to carry out research.

Unit 3 *Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism* (coursework)

You will develop marketing skills through evaluating effective customer communication and examining the aims and objective of tourism organisations and destinations. You will use market intelligence to plan and produce a promotional campaign for a new travel and tourism product or service.



How will I be assessed?

The BTEC National level 3 extended certificate in Travel and Tourism is equivalent to one A Level. The qualification weighting is 58% external assessment and 42% coursework.

Where can it lead?

The qualification will give you transferable knowledge, understanding and broad skills such as communicating and presenting ideas. A university course linked to Travel, Tourism or Business; or jobs that require good research, analytical, customer service or management skills.

What qualifications do I need to start?

A vocational qualification in Business Studies or Travel and Tourism would be beneficial or a Geography GCSE at Grades 9 to 4. Students must also have satisfied the entry requirements to Arthur Mellows Sixth Form.



ENRICHMENT



British Sign Language (BSL)

Why should I study British Sign Language?

The BSL Enrichment was brand new to the school in September 2023, it is an independent course comprising of online modules. The course itself is designed for students wanting to learn British Sign Language and is flexible so that you can fit it in around your studies across Year 12.

The resources and teaching are led by The British Sign Language Association online and set you up to have the Level One Certificate in British Sign language. You learn things such as finger spelling, the alphabet, awareness and how to have conversations.

We are also looking to run Sign Language charity events during the year to raise awareness, reduce the barriers that some people face and raise much needed funds for the charities who support them. These events started 2022-2023 including our Wear it Purple Day, a student-led charity event raising funds for Sense.

Why should I do this?

You will learn a new language that can be used in everyday life, it is also a great skill to have for future opportunities in employment or at university. If you are looking to go into teaching or healthcare, this could be the thing that sets you apart from the rest! (You can also use sign language as your skill for Duke of Edinburgh.)



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Why should I join the Combined Cadet Force?

If you want to aim higher, feel more confident and get a head start on your future, join the Army Cadets. If you're up for a challenge, you'll go further with the Army Cadets.

Becoming an Army Cadet has heaps of benefits. The most obvious being that you get to take part in a lot of exciting and challenging activities such as fieldcraft, adventure training, first aid and shooting, to name but a few. As you complete the Army Proficiency Certificate (APC), syllabus, you will learn leadership skills, discipline, improve your self-confidence, as well as a wide range of transferable skills such as: the ability to command tasks; make decisions under pressure and work as an effective team player as well as independently. These skills will equip you for life and add an extra string to your bow at times when competition for university places and employment is fierce.

Additionally, all cadets over 16 also have access to apply to attend extra Adventure Training Courses where they can gain additional qualifications.

What qualifications do I need?

None! The cadets is open to both new and existing cadets, you will just start at different points in the syllabus. There is a cost to joining cadets, £30 per term (Autumn, Spring, Summer). This includes all the uniform, with the exception of the boots which can be purchased for £25, these would be yours to keep. The cost of weekend camps are kept to a minimum, usually around £20.00 per camp.

What will I do during the course?

On a Tuesday you would come to school in your army uniform, ready for parade straight after school. During this time you work through the APC training syllabus, which includes: Adventure Training, Drill and Turnout, Expeditions, Fieldcraft, First Aid, Navigation, Military Knowledge, Skill at Arms, Communication Systems and more. In addition to the after school parades, there will be a number of training weekend camps, as well as a week long summer camp, where we will go and test the skills you have learnt on an army base.

Where can it lead?

You have control of how much you get out of joining CCF. You can simply work through the cadet syllabus, or you can choose to attend additional courses, competitions and adventurous training run by the MOD. These include, but are not limited to; Combat Cadet competition, Senior Cadet Instructor Course, Master Cadet, Beginner/Intermediate Ski Courses, Kayaking Instructor Course and so much more.



Creative Writing



Course background

Do you enjoy English? Creative writing? Do you think that you have the potential to write and engage an audience? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then Creative Writing is the Enrichment opportunity for you.

What does it entail?

Over the course of the year we will be looking at various styles of writing ranging across both non-fiction and fiction. We will look at script writing, poetry, short stories, descriptive writing, articles and reviews. Exploring key skills and components of different writing styles whilst pushing your own creative boundaries by finding and developing a strong writing voice. At the end of the year we will look for you to share your portfolio of work by inviting parents / guardians to see the amazing talent that you have.

Excellent for UCAS applications as well as experience for CV building, this enrichment is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your skills and explore your contribution to wider Sixth Form life.

Duke of Edinburgh (Gold Award)

Course background

Participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in Sixth Form offers you excellent opportunities to discover new interests and talents which you may not otherwise have the opportunity to explore. It is a tool to develop essential skills for life and work and most employers and universities also recognise this achievement as it shows a high level of commitment and dedication.

What does it entail?

Whilst in Year 12, we can offer you the opportunity to sign you up for the Gold Award. This involves 5 sections (skills, physical, volunteering, expedition and residential) for varying lengths of time. It allows you to undertake your practice expedition at the end of Year 12 and the qualifying expedition after exams in Year 13. For the qualifying expedition we undertake a trip to the Lake District for 5 days to walk around the beautiful Cumbrian mountains and lakes.

The Award enables you to grow as an individual and realise that you can do new things, complete challenges as well as learning about commitment and being a team player.



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Why should I study EPQ?

Have you ever thought to yourself 'I wish we could learn about . . . '? Or yearned to carry out a scientific experiment? Direct your own film? Investigate a topic close to your heart? The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will enable you to do exactly that. You decide on the topic for your project, and we teach you the skills that enable you to pursue it.

There are many benefits associated with EPQ. It could be used to support your personal goals for higher education and/or career development, you might use it to add depth or breadth to an examination subject you are working on, or to draw connections between different subjects. Additionally, the qualification aims to provide you with good preparation for a number of the skills sought by both employers and higher education, for example: independent learning skills, problem solving, project planning, research skills and presentation skills.

What will I do during the course?

EPQ comprises of 3 key requirements:

1. Create a 5000 word dissertation (long essay) OR an artefact (creation) with a 1000 word report on a subject of your choice
2. Record your progress using a 'Production Log'
3. Present your findings (either formally - in front of a small audience, or informally - by creating exhibition materials to show at a school event)

Throughout the year lessons will involve learning a range of project management skills to support your project development. You will also be assigned a mentor to guide you and promote your skills

Where can it lead?

- Dr Geoff Parks, director of admissions at Cambridge University, said: "The potential benefits of extended projects are enormous. Cambridge is one of many universities which support extended projects as good preparation for degree-level study."
- "We welcome applications from students offering the Extended Project alongside A Levels. We value the research skills and independent learning that the Extended Project is designed to develop." Newcastle University
- "The University welcomes the introduction of the extended project qualification. Some of our departments may include the extended project as part of an offer, particularly where it has relevance to their subject". University of Bath

In addition, careers in project management might be inspired by completion of this qualification, and the new skills you develop are highly sought by employers in all areas of industry.

What qualifications do I need to start?

Preferably Grade 5 or above in English. However, students who can demonstrate they possess the appropriate independent learning skills plus Grade 6 in four other subjects at GCSE will be considered.



Level 3 Qualification in Sports Leadership

Why should I study?

The Leadership Skills Foundation is the Awarding Organisation who provides this nationally recognised qualification which is accredited by the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The qualification equips people with the skills and motivation to create and run sporting activities. It teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork. It is a fun and practical qualification with no entrance requirements or final examinations to sit. Assessment is continual, based on your observed leadership skills and completion of all units and additional criteria below.

This course is practical and fun yet offers you the chance to gain a nationally recognised award which sets you apart and demonstrates you can take responsibility and show initiative. It will develop your leadership skills and increase your confidence in leadership situations.

What will I do during the course?

This is predominantly a practical course with written evidence required for each unit. You will learn how to devise and plan sports sessions. You will 'practice' these leadership skills amongst the group and within the school and wider community. You will organise fitness sessions and tournaments and lead a variety of sports sessions for Primary pupils visiting the school. You will work specifically with 3 of the following groups: Children, older people, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, women and girls or any other relevant group within your community.

How will I be assessed?

There is no final exam. You will be continually assessed throughout the course, based on your leadership attributes, planning, organisation and interaction with the youngsters you work with. You must complete a detailed Learner Evidence Record demonstrating written evidence of each unit of work.

Where can it lead?

This course is an ideal step on the leadership ladder. Many of the leadership skills gained are universal so they can be used within any aspect of daily life-not just sporting. The skills learnt are transferable, such as organisation, communication, problem-solving and working as part of a team.

The qualification is worth **16 UCAS points** and is valued within the workplace and at university. Many candidates go on to gain a Sports specific national governing body coaching award and continue to coach within specific sports. Some go on to work within the sports and leisure or coaching industry.

What qualifications do I need to start?

You do not need any prior qualifications. It is helpful if you have completed your Level 1 in Junior Sports Leadership but is by no means essential (this is offered in Years 10 and 11 at AMVC). You do not need to be 'sporty' - you simply need enthusiasm and a desire to develop your leadership skills in a practical situation. You must be prepared to work outside of school hours within the school/community to gain the volunteering hours required, as well as complete the evidence folder.



<https://leadershipskillsfoundation.org/>

Managing My Money for Young Adults

Course Information

Managing your money really is a true skill for life. This free Open University course will give you the confidence and tools to be in control whether you are:

- Still studying at school or college
- Starting work or an apprenticeship
- Going to university

This course has been awarded the Young Money Financial Education Quality Mark.

- On successful completion, you are awarded an Open University Digital badge to download and share and this badge has recognised status with employers
- You gain the skills and tools to take control and avoid money worries in future
- You can use this course for your Duke of Edinburgh Award skills development
- You get free online tools to help you budget easily and effectively
- You get a free Statement of Participation to go with your other achievements
- You can talk about this independent learning in job interviews and on your university statement

Course Learning Outcomes

After studying this course, you will be able to:

- Budget effectively, take into account changes such as getting older and leaving the family home
- Understand how to choose and manage bank and savings accounts
- Understand how to finance further and higher education studies
- Borrow sensibly and manage debts effectively
- Plan ahead to make life's goals financially achievable



You will study eight straight-forward online sessions of 1-2 hours each with:

- Plenty of **step-by-step animations and practical tips** to help you straight away
- **Real-life case studies** featuring current school students and university students who reflect on their experiences living away from home for the first time
- Useful **videos** from money experts

There are also **short quizzes** to help you remember what you have studied.

You will learn how to make your money work harder and go further online and at your own pace. At any time, you can save your work and return to the course.

Useful websites / reading materials

- <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Mentoring

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to be a role model? Are you passionate about helping others?

If the answers to the questions are YES, then we want you for our mentoring programme!

What would it involve?

You will be matched with a pupil from Years 7-10 depending on your skills and for 1 lesson a week you will meet with them and provide support.

You will receive specialist training beforehand on how to support students and ideas for each session with pupils.

It's fun and there are no entry requirements, just the desire to want to support others and a positive attitude. There is no final examination to sit at the end of the year.

What will you get out of this?

The skills you will learn throughout the process will support you with your aspirations for higher education and/or career development. You can include your experience in your personal statement or your CV.

The mentoring sessions will provide you with a wide range of skills from listening to using empathetic language to being more organised.

What do students already involved think about it?

- 'I really love my subject and wanted to help others who were struggling'
- 'It's very different from what I normally do at school'
- 'I have found it really useful to have someone to talk to about school'
- 'My mentor really listens to me'



How to apply

To apply to Arthur Mellows Village College students must use the online application form at:
www.arthurmellows.org

This will register your interest in a place in our Sixth Form and show us your preferred subject choices.

If there is any aspect of our Sixth Form that you would like to discuss or if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.







Arthur Mellows Village College
Helpston Road, Glinton, Peterborough, PE6 7JX
Tel: 01733 252235
Office@arthurmellows.org
WWW.arthurmellows.org