Tytherington
SIXTH FORM

Course Information

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Possible Study Programme & Entry Requirements

Students at Tytherington Sixth Form follow a two-year programme of study incorporating three or four A Levels. We ask all students to apply for 3 subjects. A small number of students may choose to study 4 subjects and would be expected to achieve predominantly grades 8/9 at GCSE to do so.

Through a supported application process, applicants can be assured that they will be supported in choosing a suitable study programme.

In order to ensure that students enrol on courses that they will be able to complete and in which they will gain success, we set the following minimum entry requirements. Applicants are expected to achieve a minimum of five grades at GCSE 9-5. In addition, students are expected to meet the subject specific entry requirements listed below and in the course information booklet accessed via our website.

Students who achieve below grade 4 in English and Mathematics will have to re-sit the examination in Year 12. Students who achieve grade 4 will be given the opportunity to re-sit the examination in Year 12 in order to achieve a grade 5.

Entry Criteria

Below is the list of entry criteria for each course.
More detail on each course can be found on p8 - p43 of this booklet.

A Level Art & Design	Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken.
A Level Biology	Grade 6 in Biology Separate Science GCSE or grades 6-6 in Trilogy Science GCSE. Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.
BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business	5 grade 4s at GCSE including English. Grade 5 in GCSE Business, if taken.
A Level Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry Separate Science or grades 6-6 in Trilogy Science GCSE. Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.
A Level Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science, and Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics, and the student must complete the A Level CS Transition Task in full before GCSE results day. *If the student does not take GCSE Computer Science, a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics required and the A Level Transition Task, and a GCSE Booster Transition task that will fill your knowledge gaps.*
A Level Drama & Theatre	Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken. Grade 5 in GCSE English.
A Level Economics	Grade 5 in GCSE Business, if taken. Grade 5 in GCSE English Language. Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.
A Level English Language	High Grade 5 at GCSE – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.
A Level English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature. Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.
A Level French	High Grade 5 at GCSE, achieved on higher papers – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.

A Level Geography	Grade 5 in Geography GCSE. Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.
A Level German	High Grade 5 at GCSE, achieved on higher papers – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.
AAQ Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care	4 grade 4s at GCSE including Grade 5 in either English or Science.
A Level History	High Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken – your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries. Grade 5 in GCSE English.
A Level Mathematics	Grade 7 at GCSE and successful completion of Transition task prior to starting the course.
A/AS Level Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics.
A Level Music	High Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries. Grade 5 Instrumental/Voice (ABRSM or similar).
A Level Music Technology	Grade 5 in GCSE Music or demonstrable interest in the subject with evidence of prior work completed.
A Level Physical Education	Grade 5 achieved within the GCSE theory (examination) element, if taken. *Regular participation in one team/individual sport is essential. The ability to play this sport to a high standard is desirable.*
A Level Physics	Grade 6 in Physics Separate Science GCSE, or grades 6-6 in Trilogy Science GCSE. Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

A Level Politics	5 GCSE Grade 5s including English Language and Mathematics.
A Level Psychology	Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken. Grade 5 in one GCSE Science and Grade 5 in GCSE English.
A Level Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE English. Grade 5 in another essay based subject (History, Geography, Psychology or Religious Studies).
A Level Spanish	High Grade 5 at GCSE, achieved on higher papers – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.
A Level Textile Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Art or Textile Design, if taken.
Academic Enrichment:	
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	5 GCSE grades at 9-5 including English. *This is an additional option alongside the 3 A level or equivalent programme of study which will be open to students from term 2 in Year 12.*

NB. All courses are subject to demand. Parents and students will be kept informed of any changes. All applications will be considered at individual student level.

A Level
Art & Design

A level Art and Design engages students in both practical and written creative studies. The course content requires individual exploration and development of each student's:

- Personal ideas through contextual research and analysis.
- Ability to record their ideas in a visual way.
- Experimentation with appropriate media, materials, technique and processes.
- Ability to present a personal and meaningful response.

There is a predominant focus on drawing, which will be the basis for building a portfolio of work that is both personal and informed. Opportunities exist for students to attended a gallery visit. Teachers provide extended skills workshops and one-to-one tuition as part of the course.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design, if taken.
Students who have not taken GCSE Art and Design may also apply.

Assessment:

*60% coursework portfolio.
40% examination.
*These are to include completion of formal written documents that explain your ideas, practical work and progress.

Complementary Courses:

Art and Design complements all A Level courses.

Specification:

Eduqas A Level Art and Design (Fine Art).

Progression:

Progression from Art and Design A Level can be extremely varied, although a significant number of students progress onto a one-year Art Foundation course.
This is an ideal course for those who wish to gain further specialist knowledge and skills in preparation for Art and Design-based university courses. Each year we also have students taking routes into architecture, marketing, advertising and design-based courses such as Graphics and Fashion.

A Level
Biology

Biology is a stimulating and challenging study of a rapidly developing subject which is highly relevant in today's world. Biological matters are constantly in the news with exciting discoveries in genetics and biotechnology. More sinister, global, ecological issues are also ever-present with biologists holding some of the possible long-term strategies that could minimize catastrophic change. A well-informed citizen should be able to understand the principles behind such issues and evaluate the information on offer.

The Year 12 course aims to develop knowledge and understanding of the essential core concepts of biological molecules, cells, transport systems and DNA. The Year 13 course moves from the core concepts into an understanding of the nervous system, homeostasis, global energy transfer via photosynthesis and respiration, evolution and the frontiers of genetic technology. All students' learning will be supported by practical work. This will develop an understanding of key protocols and the scientific method as well as the ability to report findings.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in Biology Separate Science GCSE, or grades 6-6 in Trilogy Science GCSE.
Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Assessment:

100% examination.

Complementary Courses:

Biology particularly complements studies in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Health and Social Care and Physical Education.

Specification:

AQA A Level Biology.

Progression:

A level Biology is a highly regarded qualification as it develops a wide range of skills. It can give you access to an ever-expanding variety of Biology-related courses leading to careers in Biotechnology, Microbiology, Food Science, Environmental Science, Agriculture, Pharmaceuticals, drug research, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Biophysics, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Sport Science and Genetics.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and will be studied alongside 2 additional A Level (or equivalent) subjects. The Extended Certificate in Business is an ideal course for those who wish to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the business sector.

There is a high percentage of internally assessed coursework, which may appeal to students who prefer a more continuous approach to assessment. The external assessments may be in the form of a written examination, but may also be a set task which is completed during a defined window.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Business, if taken. 5 grade 4s at GCSE including English.

Assessment:
58% External assessment
42% Coursework

Complementary Courses:
BTEC Business works well across a range of subject combinations. Business particularly complements studies in English, Economics, Maths, Politics and Social Sciences.

Specification:
Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business.

Progression:
An Extended Certificate in Business can lead to a variety of university and career options in the fields of Business and Finance, especially when combined with other specific A Level / BTEC courses (see complementary courses).

A Level Chemistry

Chemistry and chemists hold a key role in society, from the large petrochemical industry to the wider world of medicine. A Level Chemistry allows students to open doors to a number of industries and experiences.

This A Level provides students with analytical skills, both practical and theoretical, across organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. Students will build on prior knowledge of atomic structure and bonding, while learning new aspects of Chemistry such as mathematical-based equilibria and an introduction to organic mechanisms and reactions. In Year 13 students will build on these areas and expand their learning into structural and chemical analysis.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in Chemistry Separate Science GCSE, or grades 6-6 in Trilogy Science GCSE.
Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Assessment:
100% examination.

Complementary Courses:
Chemistry particularly complements studies in Biology, Physics and Mathematics.

Specification:
AQA A Level Chemistry.

Progression:
Chemistry A Level is a highly regarded qualification. It develops students' ability to think logically, to solve problems and to apply knowledge to new situations.
Chemistry is an essential requirement for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Chemical Engineering, Forensics, Pharmacy and Biochemistry.

A Level
Computer Science

Designed for students who have already studied GCSE Computer Science, this course expands on the concepts covered and enables students to further develop their programming skills in an environment that encourages creative thinking and logical problem-solving.

Access to a laptop (Mac, Windows, or Linux) which the student can bring into school on a daily basis is strongly recommended. This laptop is what the student will use to complete their coursework. Students will be at a serious disadvantage if they do not have a laptop which they can use for this.

Note: a Chromebook is not sufficient for this, the machine must run either Mac OS, Windows, or Linux.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science, and Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics, and the student must complete the A Level CS Transition Task in full before GCSE results day (see link below).

The A Level Transition Task: https://tinyurl.com/ALevelCSTransitionTask

*If the student does not take GCSE Computer Science, a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics required and the A Level Transition Task, and a GCSE Booster Transition task that will fill your knowledge gaps. Please email: **RSinger@Tytheringtonschool.co.uk** for more info on this as we will need to arrange an in person meeting.*

Assessment:

80% External assessment
20% Coursework

Complementary Courses:

A level Computer Science particularly complements studies in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Latin/French/Spanish/German.
(Learning a language really helps students with the etymological and syntactical aspects of Computer Science).

Specification:

OCR A level Computer Science

Progression:

The course has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. A Level Computer Science will develop key business and personal skills, in addition to advanced software capability and a theoretical understanding of computer programming. These skills are required in a wide range of employment sectors.

A Level
Drama & Theatre

Through the study of a range of texts, theatre makers and live theatre, candidates will develop an understanding of how to interpret text for performance and analyse and evaluate performance alongside developing their acting and performance skills. Students will devise an original performance piece applying the ideas of a recognised theatre maker; they will perform three key extracts from three differing performance texts.

In the written examination students evaluate a live piece of theatre, answer a question based on their practical exploration and study of a complete text, and explain their interpretation of another complete performance text. Candidates will explore all work from the perspective of performer, director and designer.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above at GCSE, if taken. Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Assessment:

Drama and Theatre consists of two coursework components and one externally examined paper.
40% Devising
20% Text in Performance
40% Theatre Makers in Practice (externally examined)

Complementary Courses:

A Level Drama and Theatre particularly complements studies in English Literature, History and Psychology.

Specification:

Edexcel A level Drama and Theatre

Progression:

Through the practical exploration of performance texts, students will develop a range of skills. Students will be able to articulate how they would perform in certain roles, design for certain scenes and interpret a text for performance. They will also gain transferable skills including collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend and refine work.

Many students who study Drama and Theatre go on to work in the Performing Arts industries, the Media and Education.

A Level Economics

Economics is ideal for students who have an interest in the wider world. It is a subject that is concerned with the study of consumers, business and government examining current relevant economic and social issues from both a macro and micro perspective.

Economics is highly regarded as a strong academic subject by both employers and universities. It combines well with a number of other subjects, developing both knowledge and skills relevant for careers in Economics, Business and Finance amongst others.

The A level course covers the key areas of consumers, markets and business behaviour on a micro level as well as taking a broader, study of the UK Economy, its performance and policies along with a global perspective.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Business, if taken. Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Assessment:

100% Examination.

Complementary Courses:

A Level Economics fits well into a variety of subject combinations but particularly compliments studies in Politics, History, Geography and Maths.

Specification:

Edexcel A Level Economics (A).

Progression:

Economics will develop a range of transferrable knowledge and skills relevant for a range of careers. Economics links well to careers in Business, Finance, Law, and Accountancy amongst others.

A Level English Language

Why Study A Level English Language?

In a world increasingly shaped by AI, where technology is transforming jobs, communication and even our sense of reality, the ability to understand communication and communicate clearly, creatively and authentically has never been more important.

A Level English Language is a fascinating and highly relevant course for anyone interested in how people communicate and how language shapes the world around us.

The course goes beyond GCSE, giving you the opportunity to explore language change, regional and social variation, spoken language, child language development, language and identity and how language influences us and is influenced by context and audience. You will investigate real examples of language in use, including spoken language, and develop an understanding of how and why English continues to evolve.

You will develop highly transferable skills, including close analysis, critical thinking, research, problem-solving, independent learning and confident communication. You will learn how to use evidence effectively, construct a line of argument and adapt your writing for different audiences and purposes.

Entry Requirements:

High Grade 5 at GCSE – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.

Assessment:

80% examination
20% coursework

Complementary Courses:

English Language connects naturally with subjects including Psychology, Sociology, History, Politics, Media and Law, making it an excellent choice for students who enjoy exploring ideas from different perspectives.

Specification:

AQA A Level English Language

Progression:

The skills and knowledge gained can support further study in English, Linguistics, Journalism, Media, Communications, Education, Law and many other subjects. They are also valued in careers such as teaching, journalism, publishing, marketing, advertising, law, public relations and the media.

A Level
English Literature

English Literature is a highly regarded A level. Universities and employers view it as a versatile qualification which shows that a student can think deeply, communicate clearly, and write with flair and accuracy. It is a course that will be useful to all students, but will be most enjoyable to those who like reading and expressing their views in writing and in discussion.

Students study an interesting mixture of modern literature and texts from the English literary heritage. In Year 12, students will study a 20th century prose text, a collection of postmodern poetry and a 19th century prose text. In Year 13 students will predominantly study 'Modern Times – Literature from 1945 to the present day' and a Shakespeare play. In Year 13 students also write a sustained comparative essay on two texts of their choice for the non-examined assessment component of the course.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 at GCSE in English Literature. Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Assessment:
80% examination
20% coursework

Complementary Courses:
English Literature blends particularly well with History, Modern Foreign Languages, Drama, Politics, Art and Computer Science.

Specification:
AQA (A) English Literature

Progression:
English Literature is an excellent route into many interesting careers including journalism, broadcasting, marketing, public relations, human resources, the creative industries, teaching and law. English Literature is valued by further educational institutions and opens doors to many professions.

A Level
French

A Level French is an ideal course for those who wish to enhance their job prospects both in the UK and abroad in the increasing internationalism of the 21st Century.

A Modern Languages A Level aims to encourage maximum use of the foreign language in all four skill areas. In addition to the allocated lessons, in which students develop a range of practical skills to enable them to understand and communicate in the written and spoken language, they also work individually with a foreign language assistant to develop confidence and fluency in preparation for the oral examination. The course will foster an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries in which the language is spoken. Wider reading will be greatly encouraged as a means of gaining maximum exposure to the foreign language and enhancing cultural awareness and understanding in preparation for study at degree level.

Entry Requirements:
High Grade 5 at GCSE, achieved on higher papers – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.

Assessment:
Paper 1: 40% Listening, reading and translation into English
Paper 2: 30% Writing and translation into French
Paper 3: 30% Speaking

Complementary Courses:
Modern Languages courses can easily be combined with any other subject for careers in Business, Finance, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Media, Sales, Science, Travel and Tourism, Teaching or the Civil Service.

Specification:
Edexcel A level French

Progression:
Whether continuing on to university or entering the world of work, Modern Languages will equip students with highly transferable skills. As nations become ever more dependent upon one another to supply goods and services, solve political disputes and ensure international security, more and more businesses work closely with companies in other countries. They need many different kinds of workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures.

A Level Geography

Geography A Level will inspire students to engage critically with real world issues and places, and to apply their geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them.

The course will allow students to develop an understanding of human and physical processes such as tectonic hazards and globalisation on a range of different scales. Students will be able to analyse the interactions between people and the environment, appreciating how these underpin some of the key issues facing the world today. Fieldwork forms an important part of the course and is used as a tool in the understanding of the natural environment. In the process students become skilled at planning, undertaking and evaluating their own research.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in Geography GCSE.
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Assessment:

80% examination.
20% independent investigation.
Fieldwork: Pupils will need to conduct a compulsory four day field trip (currently to Snowdonia) to collect data for their Non Examined Assessment (NEA), which will be written up independently throughout Year 12 and into Year 13.

Complementary Courses:

Geography A Level combines well with the full range of A Level subjects.

Specification:

AQA A Level Geography.

Progression:

Geography allows students to develop highly transferable skills. Students will grow as independent and reflective thinkers, able to articulate opinions, suggest relevant new ideas and provide evidenced arguments in a range of situations.
The understanding and skills that come from the study of Geography are highly valued by universities and employers.

A Level German

A Level German is an ideal course for those who wish to enhance their job prospects both in the UK and abroad in the increasing internationalism of the 21st Century.

A Modern Languages A Level aims to encourage maximum use of the foreign language in all four skill areas. In addition to the allocated lessons, in which students develop a range of practical skills to enable them to understand and communicate in the written and spoken language, they also work individually with a foreign language assistant to develop confidence and fluency in preparation for the oral examination. The course will foster an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries in which the language is spoken. Wider reading will be greatly encouraged as a means of gaining maximum exposure to the foreign language and enhancing cultural awareness and understanding in preparation for study at degree level.

Entry Requirements:

High Grade 5 at GCSE, achieved on higher papers – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.

Assessment:

Paper 1: 40% Listening, reading and translation into English
Paper 2: 30% Writing and translation into German
Paper 3: 30% Speaking

Complementary Courses:

Modern Languages courses can easily be combined with any other subject for careers in Business, Finance, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Media, Sales, Science, Travel and Tourism, Teaching or the Civil Service.

Specification:

Edexcel A level German

Progression:

Whether continuing on to university or entering the world of work, Modern Languages will equip students with highly transferable skills. As nations become ever more dependent upon one another to supply goods and services, solve political disputes and ensure international security, more and more businesses work closely with companies in other countries. They need many different kinds of workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures.

AAQ Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and is an ideal course for those who wish to pursue a career in the Health Care or Social Care sectors. There are more than 300 distinct career paths in this sector, which is a major employer, employing almost four million people across the UK. There is a high percentage of internally assessed coursework, which may appeal to students who prefer a more continuous approach to assessment. There will be one external exam during both Year 12 and Year 13. They will complete course work units in both Year 12 and Year 13.

Entry Requirements:
4 grade 4s at GCSE including Grade 5 in either English or Science.

Assessment:
Assessments consists of 50% coursework and 50% exam.
There is an 1 external exam in year 12 and 1 in year 13. There are 2 NEAs per year. Exam resits are permitted.

Complementary Courses:
Health and Social Care particularly complements studies in Psychology, Sociology, Biology, English Language, Physical Education and Geography.

Specification:
OCR AAQ Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care.

Progression:
An Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care can lead to a variety of university, Apprenticeship, employment and career options in the Health Care and Social Care sectors, especially when combined with specific A Level courses.

Examples of pathways this course supports are progression to the following degree courses;
BSc Nursing (Adult/Child/Learning disabilities/Mental health),
BSc Midwifery, BA Social Work, Occupational Therapy, BSc Health and social care, BSc Healthcare and Health Science, BSc Health Sciences, BSc Paramedic Science, BSc Public Health and Wellbeing etc.

A Level History

History at A Level is an interesting and challenging subject which is well regarded academically by employers and universities. Former students have pursued a wide range of different courses and careers. History goes well with other Arts and Social Science subjects such as Politics, English and Geography.

The History A Level gives students the opportunity to explore very different historical periods and themes. The examined units are Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855-1964 and Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906–1957, and students also complete an NEA on Tudor rebellions. This combination has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals and groups in history, and the nature of change over time. The course will help students to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Entry Requirements:
High Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.
Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Assessment:
80% examination.
20% coursework.

Complementary Courses:
History particularly complements studies in English Language, English Literature and Politics.

Specification:
AQA A Level History

Progression:
History will equip students with highly transferable skills. Students will be able to understand and assess ideas and arguments, construct cogent and focused arguments and support their claims with well-selected evidence.

With a qualification in History, you can go on to work in a great variety of careers in law, business and administration, the civil service, the armed forces, journalism and the media, teaching and the custodial arts.

A Level Mathematics

We believe that students should learn an approach to Mathematics that will equip them to use it in the adult world and be able to communicate what they are doing to those around them.

This course encourages students to develop their understanding of Mathematics in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment, extend their range of skills and techniques and use them in difficult unstructured situations, and develop an understanding of coherence, progression and connections.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 7 at GCSE and successful completion of Transition task prior to starting the course.

Assessment:

All components are assessed by examinations taken at the end of the course.
A Level Mathematics:
Three 2 hour papers

Complementary Courses:

Mathematics A level particularly complements studies in Science (especially Physics), Psychology, Business and Geography.

Specification:

OCR (MEI)

Progression:

Mathematics will develop a student's ability to reason logically. Students will find that many of the mathematical skills encountered will assist them when modelling 'real life' situations. Many students go on to study Mathematics, Physics and Engineering.

A/AS Level Further Mathematics

We believe that students should learn an approach to Mathematics that will equip them to use it in the adult world and be able to communicate what they are doing to those around them.

This course encourages students to develop their understanding of Mathematics in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment, extend their range of skills and techniques and use them in difficult unstructured situations, and develop an understanding of coherence, progression and connections.

Further Mathematics will be taught concurrently with A Level Mathematics. If students are considering a degree in Mathematics or related subjects (eg. Physics, Engineering or Computer Science) they will find that an increasing number of universities welcome knowledge beyond A Level Mathematics. They would therefore be wise to consider Further Mathematics at A or AS Level should they wish to pursue a Mathematics-based career.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 8 in Mathematics GCSE.

Assessment:

All components are assessed by examinations taken at the end of the course.
A Level Further Mathematics:
Three papers (a mandatory 2 hours 40 min paper, one major option 2¼ hour paper and one minor option 1¼ hour paper)

Complementary Courses:

Further Mathematics particularly complements studies in Science (especially Physics), Computer Science, Psychology, Business and Geography.

Specification:

OCR (MEI)

Progression:

Mathematics will develop a student's ability to reason logically. Students will find that many of the mathematical skills encountered will assist them when modelling 'real life' situations. Many students go on to study Mathematics, Physics and Engineering.

A Level Music

Music A level enables students to develop their musical skills in the three key areas of performance, appraising and composition.

The A Level aims to provide students with a good understanding of theoretical and historical aspects of music, as well as the opportunity to apply this through developing a live performance repertoire and compositions. The examination will involve aural testing, applying musical knowledge and essay writing. In both Years 12 and 13 students will explore music from a wide range of genres and from different eras through listening and score analysis.

Musical performances give students the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to play pieces from a range of styles with accuracy and expression. Performance can be solo and/or ensemble. Composition will apply knowledge gained from all areas of the course to create interesting and stimulating music in a recognised style.

Entry Requirements:
High Grade 5 at GCSE, if taken – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.
Plus, Grade 5 Instrumental/Voice (ABRSM or similar).

Assessment:

40% Written Examination
35% Performance/Composition
25% Performance/Composition

Complementary Courses:

Music A level complements studies in Music Technology.

Specification:

Eduqas A Level Music.

Progression:

Music A Level will help students to develop a critical ear though listening as well as performance and creative skills. This will lead to the ability to analyse, deconstruct and construct music of any genre. Performance opportunities allow for collaboration between musicians and the opportunity to develop working relationships with others while regular private practice will help develop a strong sense of independence. The knowledge and skills students gain will be particularly useful for careers in live performance, songwriting and teaching, both classroom-based and peripatetic.

A Level
Music Technology

Music Technology has become an integral part of the popular music and media industry. Understanding and using technology effectively and tastefully is a fundamental feature of this specification. This course will give you the scope to develop your individual strengths in a supportive environment while you explore new areas and skills.

The course looks at creating, producing and manipulating music and sound through sequencing, arranging, listening and recording. It also develops knowledge and understanding of how recording processes have changed.

Teaching and learning in Music Technology operates in a variety of styles. Some aspects of the course are teacher-led whereas others require candidates to research and work independently whilst the teacher acts as a mentor to guide work. There is a good balance between academic and creative input.

Entry Requirements:

Students will require a grade 5 in GCSE Music or will be able to demonstrate a strong interest in the subject area with evidence of prior work completed. The ability to play an instrument and read music is desirable but not compulsory as long as a student is willing to commit additional time to outside study in order to catch up.

Assessment:

Component 1: 20% Recording
Component 2: 20% Composition
Component 3: 25% Listening and Analysing
Component 4: 35% Producing and Analysing

Complementary Courses:

Music Technology complements studies in Music, Physics, Maths and Computer Science.

Specification:

Edexcel A Level Music Technology.

Progression:

Music Technology will provide students with the ability to critically analyse work and carry out individual study methodically, both of which are highly transferable skills.
Potential careers include those in: Broadcasting, the Recording Industry, Media, Publishing, Arts Administration, Composing and Arranging, Sound Engineering, Teaching and Performing.

A Level
Physical Education

This course provides breadth and balance, giving students the chance to study a wide array of theoretical areas that underpin physical education and sport. In choosing this course, students will develop knowledge which will equip them for undergraduate study in areas of Physiology, Biomechanics, Psychology and Sociology.

Students will also be able to gain credit for their practical sports ability through their performance in a wide range of individual or team sports.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 achieved within the GCSE theory (examination) element, if taken. Regular participation in one team/individual sport is essential. The ability to play this sport to a high standard is desirable.

Assessment:

70% Written examination.
20% Practical performance in one sport or activity.
10% Written analysis of performance.

Complementary Courses:

Courses such as Psychology and Biology particularly complement A Level PE.

Specification:

AQA GCE A Level Physical Education.

Progression:

The diverse nature of Physical Education makes it an excellent choice for students considering a wide range of higher education courses.
In previous years students have gone on to study Medicine, Law and Physiotherapy.

A Level Physics

Physics plays a key part in the future and success of society; it reveals to us how the world works and interacts together. Physics A level will take students along a path to create real change through the study of a number of areas such as innovation, design, medicine and engineering.

In Year 12 students will develop a deep knowledge and understanding of Physics at particle level, how materials can be used in engineering and the nature of electricity. They will also look at some of the fundamental experiments that underpin our understanding of light and mechanical motion.

In Year 13 students will look at interactions on macro and microscopic levels through fields and investigate the motion of objects through further mechanics. Students will also have the opportunity to choose an optional module including astrophysics or medical physics. All students' learning will be supported by practical activities and research to enable them to continue their studies of Physics at degree level, if they choose to do so.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in Physics Separate Science GCSE, or grades 6-6 in Trilogy Science GCSE.
Grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Assessment:

100% examination.

Complementary Courses:

Physics particularly complements studies in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computer Science and Languages.

Specification:

AQA A Level Physics.

Progression:

Physics is a highly regarded A level course. It equips students with highly transferable skills much sought after in the wider world. The course will develop analytical and problem-solving skills. Physics A level is extremely useful for careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Engineering, Banking, Pharmacy and Research.

A Level Politics

Politics is an ideal course for those with a keen interest in the world around them, a desire to engage in informed debate and an openness about their own and others' views.

The A Level course aims to provide students with a general introduction to the political and governmental processes of the UK and USA and core political principles such as conservatism and socialism. In Year 12 students will be looking at issues such as the extent to which the UK has a democratic system, how the ideologies of the main political parties differ and whether it is time for there to be a written UK constitution. In Year 13 students compare and contrast UK systems with those of the USA, considering the impact of race and a presidential system on the workings of politics.

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSE Grade 5s including English Language and Mathematics.
Although prior study of Politics is not required, students are expected to have an interest in current affairs.

Assessment:

100% examination.

Complementary Courses:

Politics particularly complements studies in History, English Language, Economics and English Literature.

Specification:

Edexcel A Level Politics

Progression:

Politics will equip students with highly transferable skills. Students will be able to understand and assess ideas and arguments, construct cogent and focused arguments and support their claims with well-selected evidence.
The knowledge and skills gained will be particularly useful for careers in law or journalism.

A Level Psychology

Through the study of psychological theories, concepts and research, candidates will develop an understanding of the principles and perspectives governing the subject.

Year 12 students will be looking at Cognitive and Developmental Psychology, Biopsychology, Individual Differences and Social Psychology plus Research Methods, giving candidates a broad base of understanding in the subject. In Year 13 there is the opportunity for candidates to further develop their knowledge and understanding of some of the core areas from Year 12. In addition, Year 13 students will look at the units of Topical Issues and Debates as well as three additional units, chosen from a list of options.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Psychology, if taken.
Grade 5 in one Science GCSE.
Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Assessment:

100% examination.

Complementary Courses:

A Level Psychology particularly complements studies in English, Sociology, Biology, PE and Health and Social Care.

Specification:

AQA A level Psychology

Progression:

Students of Psychology develop the ability to apply psychology to cultural, social and contemporary issues and use a range of research methods to investigate psychological issues. Students will develop the ability to understand theories, interpret research evidence, formulate and develop arguments and form effective evaluation. The knowledge and skills you will gain will be particularly useful for careers working with people. Many students who study Psychology go on to work in sport, business, health, psychology and education.

A Level Sociology

Sociology is the study of society. We look at how society is organised through institutions like the family, education, media and peers and how these affect individuals within society. Sociology also considers many contemporary social concerns like crime, inequalities in terms of class, gender, ethnicity and age, and current issues such as identity.

In Year 12, students will be looking at sociological theory, families and households, education and research methods. In Year 13, students continue developing their theoretical knowledge of Sociology, as well as studying crime and deviance, along with media.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature, plus a grade 5 in another essay based subject (History, Geography, Psychology, Religious Studies).

NB: A grade 5 in English Language would be most beneficial due to the essay demands of the subject.

Assessment:

100% examination.

Complementary Courses:

A Level Sociology particularly complements studies in Psychology, English, Government and Politics, History and Health and Social Care.

Specification:

AQA A Level Sociology

Progression:

Students in Sociology learn how to evaluate sociological explanations, develop their ability to analyse social issues, and apply knowledge of research methods to new situations to assess the uses and limitations of research methods. Students will also develop the ability to produce extended written responses to often complex issues. Many students have moved on to study sociology and/ or criminology at University and most have commented on the usefulness of a social science background in a variety of other subjects like law, anthropology, journalism, nursing, teaching, policing, criminology etc.

A Level Spanish

A Level Spanish is an ideal course for those who wish to enhance their job prospects both in the UK and abroad in the increasing internationalism of the 21st Century.

A Modern Languages A Level aims to encourage maximum use of the foreign language in all four skill areas. In addition to the allocated lessons, in which students develop a range of practical skills to enable them to understand and communicate in the written and spoken language, they also work individually with teachers outside of lesson time to develop confidence and fluency in preparation for the oral examination. The course will foster an awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries in which the language is spoken. Wider reading will be greatly encouraged as a means of gaining maximum exposure to the foreign language and enhancing cultural awareness and understanding in preparation for study at degree level.

Entry Requirements:

High Grade 5 at GCSE, achieved on higher papers – Your mark will be reviewed and compared with grade boundaries.

Assessment:

Paper 1: 40% Listening, reading and translation into English
Paper 2: 30% Writing and translation into Spanish
Paper 3: 30% Speaking

Complementary Courses:

Modern Languages courses can easily be combined with any other subject for careers in Business, Finance, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Media, Sales, Science, Travel and Tourism, Teaching or the Civil Service.

Specification:

Edexcel A level Spanish

Progression:

Whether continuing on to university or entering the world of work, Modern Languages will equip students with highly transferable skills. As nations become ever more dependent upon one another to supply goods and services, solve political disputes and ensure international security, more and more businesses work closely with companies in other countries. They need many different kinds of workers who can communicate in different languages and understand other cultures.

A Level Textile Design

A Level Textile Design engages students in both practical and written creative studies. The course content allows individual explorations and development of each student's:

- Personal ideas through contextual research and analysis
- Ability to record their ideas in a visual way
- Experimentation with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- Ability to present a personal and meaningful response

There is a strong focus on drawing, material manipulation and surface pattern design. These aspects will be the foundations of a well-rounded Textile Design portfolio. Opportunities exist for students to attended a gallery visit. Teachers provide extended skills workshops and one-to-one tuition as part of the course.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in a GCSE Art or Textile Design, if taken.
Students who have not taken GCSE Art and Design may also apply.

Assessment:

*60% coursework portfolio.
40% examination.
*These are to include completion of formal written documents that explain your ideas, practical work and progress.

Complementary Courses:

Textile Design complements all A Level courses.

Specification:

Eduqas A Level Art and Design (Textile Design)

Progression:

Progression from Textile Design A Level can be extremely varied, although a significant number of students progress onto a one-year Art Foundation course.
This is an ideal course for those who wish to gain further specialist knowledge and skills in preparation for design-based university courses. Each year we also have students taking career routes into Fashion Design or Communication, Interior Design, Buying and Merchandising, Journalism and Fine Art.

Academic Enrichment

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Year 12 students who are coping well with the demands of their A Level / BTEC studies will be given the opportunity to embark on the EPQ - the Extended Project Qualification. This is a stand-alone qualification, equivalent to half an A Level, which is graded A* - E and worth up to 28 UCAS points.

Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can develop or extend from one or more of their subjects, or can choose something personal and unrelated to their studies. Students then research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

Delivery of the EPQ will involve some teaching of the necessary skills and all students will be allocated an EPQ Supervisor who will support and monitor their progress in fortnightly meetings, and who will assess their project. Primarily though, the EPQ requires extended independent work by the student.

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSE grades at 9-5 including English and Mathematics.
Only students coping very well with the demands of their A Level / BTEC programme will be encouraged to embark on the EPQ.

Assessment:

The EPQ assesses a whole learning process, and in this respect, is very different from coursework. Students will either produce a project that is a written report (of 5000 words) or an artefact (with an accompanying 1000-word report), and all students will need to deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience. Students will be assessed on these and their production log which records their progress throughout the project.

Complementary Courses:

The EPQ works well alongside all subjects.

Specification:

AQA EPQ

Progression:

Although the EPQ is not essential for a successful UCAS application, many universities view the EPQ favourably given that the level of research it requires prepares students very well for undergraduate study.

Tytherington
SIXTH FORM

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