BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

SIXTH FORM


Psychology

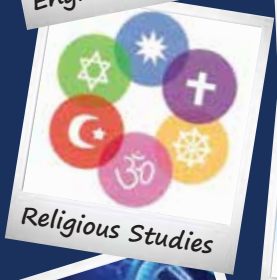

English Language


English Literature


Drama & Theatre Studies


Economics


Geography


Religious Studies


Government & Politics


Physics


EPQ


Biology


Modern Foreign Languages

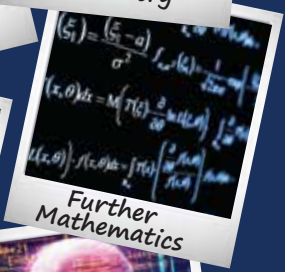

Art & Design

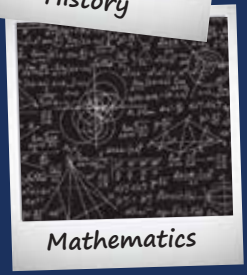

Chemistry


History


Music


Business


Further Mathematics


Mathematics


Computer Science

A LEVEL

SUBJECT OPTIONS

Art & Design

AQA A Level Art & Design

Our Art A Level course is devised to give all students the opportunity to further explore, expand, develop and refine skills in the following disciplines:

* Painting
* Drawing
* Ceramics
* Sculpture
* Digital New Media
* Printmaking
* Textiles

The course consists of two components:

Component 1- Personal Investigation
This enables students to pursue a line of enquiry through a higher level of skill taught through specalist workshops during Year 12. The students then embark on their chosen Personal Investigation pathway.

Component 2- Externally Set Task
This is a selective external question where students will undertake an in-depth thematic response as set by the examination board.

Through extensive subject knowledge and experience, each student is nurtured and guided, with the advantage of personalised individual tutorials, within their preferred specialism and supported through portfolio reviews for university applications.

'Studying Art & Design has allowed me to express and develop my originality through countless ideas and experiments'

Year 13 Student

Biology

AQA A Level Biology

Biology A Level is taught on a linear basis, with practical work at the heart of the curriculum. Throughout the course of study, there are 12 required practicals on which students are assessed; these allow students to demonstrate the skills required by universities and be awarded the practical endorsement. Throughout the course all students will take part in many more exercises so they can develop a sound understanding of both the techniques and theories behind experiments. In the Summer of Year 13, students sit 3 exams, which cover the entire 2 years of the course:

Paper 1- mixed length questions on all material covered in Y12.

Paper 2 - mixed length questions on all material covered in Y13.

Paper 3 - practical questions on material covered in Y12 &13, with a synoptic essay.

Students attend a residential field trip, practical DNA workshop and participate in the Royal Society of Biology Olympiads. There are also internal and external lectures to widen their understanding.
The A Level Biology examinations place a great deal of emphasis on applying knowledge in unfamiliar contexts; this requires agile thinking from the students.

To develop this skill, emphasis is placed on giving students the responsibility for their own learning. In Biology, this entails making use of a wide variety of learning techniques both within and outside the classroom to provide a strong base of knowledge which students can then apply to different contextual exercises. In their own time, this might involve students making use of multiple resources provided for them to make notes on a particular part of the specification; a skill which will support future university studies. Following on from this, the topic would be discussed in class and then a range of audio, visual and kinaesthetic learning activities would be used, such as practical investigations, making videos describing processes, producing presentations regarding a medical application of a technique or addressing experimental data in a new light. This is invaluable given the emphasis both universities and examiners place on applying biological knowledge rather than just recalling facts.

Business

AQA A Level Business

A Level Business will encourage you to work independently and in small groups to develop an enquiring mind and the ability to analyse and evaluate a whole range of business problems, making effective use of business knowledge, experience and case study examples. Students will study the interrelated nature of business using models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. We follow the AQA A Level Business specification which looks at all types of business operation eg, large/ small, UK focused/ global, service/ manufacturing and how such differences impact decision making.

Studies include the four main functional areas of business: Marketing, Accounts, Human Resources & Operations Management, excellent preparation for the world of work and undergraduate study. Students will then build upon their knowledge of the functional areas in the second year as we concentrate on a more strategic approach to business decision making at corporate level.

Subject content:

* What is business?
* Managers, leadership and decision making
* Decision making to improve marketing performance
* Decision making to improve operational performance
* Decision making to improve financial performance
* Decision making to improve human resources performance
* Analysing the strategic position of a business
* Choosing the strategic direction
* Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
* Managing strategic change

'A Level Business has taught me so much already! The classes are so much fun and the areas we study are so informative.'

Year 12 Student

Students do not need to have studied GCSE Business Studies to opt for A Level Business

Chemistry

AQA A Level Chemistry

A Level Chemistry broadens students' horizons and studying this course will give a better understanding of chemicals and how they influence our lives every day. For example, students will learn how to synthesise organic chemicals which is relevant in the pharmaceutical world. The chemistry content of the A level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills set out in the GCSE Science course.

The A Level course covers the full range of Organic, Inorganic and Physical aspects of Chemistry. Students will have opportunities to develop a combination of independent and co-operative strategies in their learning and practical tasks, as well as their enquiry and problem-solving skills.

At the end of Year 13 students will take three examinations. All examinations assess knowledge of both the theory and practical content over the duration of the two year course.
Paper 1: this includes questions on inorganic and physical chemistry and consists of both short and long answer questions

Paper 2: this includes questions on organic and physical chemistry and consists of both short and long answer questions

Paper 3: this covers all content, and consists of both short and long answer questions, as well as multiple choice questions

In addition, students will perform many experiments to develop their skills and enhance their learning. They will also keep a practical handbook and gain a practical competency mark alongside the A Level qualification.

Chemistry is an excellent basis for progression to a science degree programme. It provides a wide range of career opportunities, including: Medical Science, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacology and Research. There are also an increasing number of Higher and Degree Apprenticeship opportunities in sectors such as Chemical Engineering.

Computer Science

AQA A Computer Science

A Level Computer Science allows students the opportunity to develop their programming skills using C# so that they can write programs to solve complex problems.
Students start off by gaining further experience of procedural-oriented programming, but developing programs that have a graphical user interface instead of a command line one and learn about other aspects of programming such as communicating with database servers using SQL. Students then move on to object-oriented programming in C# and finally they get a taste of the functional programming paradigm using Haskell and assembly language programming using the ARM instruction set.

In Year 13 students work on a substantial project of their choice, either developing a program to solve a problem or investigating an aspect of computer science. Most students produce their projects using C# but it is also possible to use other languages such as ASP or PHP for web page programming or to develop applications for mobile devices.

Students also study the fundamentals of computing devices, the logic gate circuits that enable computing devices to perform operations, the structure and role of the processor, the low-level language of the machine, and how it is used to program the hardware directly. Topics such as networking and the storage and processing of the vast amounts of data that are now generated all of the time (Big Data) are also covered.

At A-Level there are two exam papers that each last two and a half hours. One of these is a practical programming exam and the other is a traditional paper-based exam. A single piece of coursework also needs to be produced. Each exam paper is worth 40% of the final marks for the course and the coursework project is worth 20% of them.

Students do not need to have studied GCSE Computer Science to opt for A Level Computer Science but students who have no prior experience of programming will need to do some additional work in this area in Year 12.

Drama & Theatre

AQA A Level Drama & Theatre

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies allows pupils to develop confidence, team- building, communication and other life skills. It is a subject where students have creative and interpretative freedom. Students are given the opportunity to experience a variety of live theatre throughout the course and enhance their analytical skills.

The subject content for A Level Drama & Theatre Studies is divided into three components;

Component 1- Drama and Theatre
Drama and Theatre assesses the knowledge and understanding of drama through the study of two set texts.
Previously studied texts include Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* and Lorca's *Yerma*.

Component 2- Creating Original Drama
Creating Original Drama allows the students to use the skills they have developed at GCSE to devise their own work based upon a contemporary theme which is of particular interest to their group. Student may contribute in this examination as a performer, a designer or a director.

Component 3- Making Theatre
Making Theatre is a practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 & 3) each taken from a different play. Extract 3 is performed as a final assessed piece where students may again contribute as a performer, a designer or a director. A reflective report analysing and evaluating the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts is also part of the assessment.

Economics

AQA A Level Economics

Economics is an exciting and relevant discipline which equips students with many transferable skills through the completion of interesting and varied tasks both in and out of the classroom.

Economics enables students to develop an analytical approach to problem solving which helps in understanding a wide range of issues, as diverse factors which determine the price of an iPhone to the causes and consequences of structural unemployment in the UK. Economics is the discipline that opens our eyes to the workings of the world in which we live and in which our students will eventually work.

In Microeconomics, you will use models such as demand and supply to explain how markets work and why they might fail, analysing possible government policies which attempt to correct such market failures. Other key models relate to wage determination and causes of inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. Traditional economic theory generally assumes that economic agents act rationally but there is a growing belief that this is not necessarily the case; the alternative view is covered by a new and exciting branch of economics; 'Behavioural Economics', which our students will also get a chance to study.

In Macroeconomics, students look at the developments in the UK's economic performance over the past fifteen years and compare this with other European and Global economies. Furthermore, they will learn how to analyse and evaluate macroeconomic policies that aim to solve macroeconomic problems such as inflation, unemployment and recession- issues you will hear mentioned daily in the news!

Both microeconomics and macroeconomics require an interest in current affairs (get that BBC news app downloaded now!).

There is no prerequisite to studying A Level Economics, however students will need to be competent at Mathematics

English Language

AQA A Level English Language

English Language takes an almost scientific approach to the study of how language is used in the world around us. As part of the course, students study a range of linguistic theories and conduct detailed stylistic and linguistic analyses on texts from Old English through to the language of Snapchat and Instagram. Students also have the chance to investigate an aspect of language that is of interest to themselves, and to develop their creative writing skills in a text of their choice.

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society
Students will look at the variety of ways in which topic, themes and ideas are represented in language. They will develop detailed analytical skills, exploring the ways in which a text's audience, purpose and genre shapes the ways in which language is used. The development of children's language from birth to 11 years old is also explored. Looking at real life examples, students explore how babies achieve the extraordinary feat of becoming fluent speakers, readers and writers.

Paper 2: Language diversity and change
This part of the course allows students to gain insight into language diversity and change over time. They have the chance to investigate how different people use language, considering the ways in which language is affected by geographical and social factors. We explore attitudes towards different accents and dialects, whether gender shapes our communications styles, and the distinctive features of different social groups' use of language. The Language Change unit also allows the study of how the English language has been shaped over time; gaining insight into the history of many of the words we use in everyday speech and exploring the factors that continue to change our language even today.

Non-exam assessment: Language in action
For the coursework element of the qualification, students conduct thier own research project into an area of their choice. Students have the opportunity to work creatively, writing a text aimed at a target audience of their choice.

English Literature

Edexcel A Level English Literature

English Literature allows students to cover a wide range of topics and skills which equips them thoroughly for the independent and analytical level of study required in Further Education.

Paper 1: Drama

Students analyse two great dramatic works both linked by the theme of tragedy; 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'Othello will develop students' understanding of the tragic genre, as well as exploring the creative possibilities of theatre and analysing the influence of contextual factors on the plays. Students explore key themes such as musculinity, femininity, love and relationships, and analyse the language used by writers to convey the characters' tragic fates..

Paper 2: Prose

'Women and Society' is the theme of the texts studied; 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini and 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte. Students explore the representation of women in both texts and consider the expectations and pressures that shape their lives. The comparision of the two texts also offers an excellent opportunity to evaluate the influence of their hugely differeing contents.

Paper 3: Poetry

This component offers an insight into the huge variety within the poetic genre. Initially students study contemporary poetry, all written since the year 2000, and explore themes including gender, travel, technology and relationships, and discuss how such issues affect modern lives find their voices in poetry. Students will then study some of the greatest poets of Victorian Britain, exploring the artistry in their use of language, form and structure, and the ways in which they represented their rapidly changing world in verse.

'My favourite part of studying English is the anthology of Victorian poetry. The poems are fascinating and so is the insight they give us about a time of both extensive change and fixed morals.'

Year 13 Student

EPQ

AQA Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification is a Level 3 qualification (AS Level) available to all Year 12 students.

The EPQ provides students with the opportunity to research their own area of academic interest, which they write up as a research project, with the help of a supervisor and a series of focused research skills lessons.

There are a number of benefits to completing an EPQ:

* It carries UCAS points and is the only AS level qualification to have A* as a grade.

* It will allow students to develop an area of academic interest outside the constraints of their A Level subjects.

* It will allow students to develop research and writing skills which are very close to those used in universities.

* It gives them the chance to experience one-to-one teaching and seminar teaching.

'The biggest benefit of the EPQ for me was practice for university. I feel a lot more confident going to university having written an essay in an academic style and based on my own research and ideas.'

Year 13 Student

Geography

AQA A Level Geography

There has never been a better or more important time to study A Level Geography. Dealing with vital issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, social issues and natural hazards, A Level Geography is one of the most relevant subjects you could choose to study.

Students enjoy the scope of the material they cover in Geography, the insights it can provide into the world around us and the highly contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

The A Level Geography course is often split into human and physical geography even though geography is a very fluid subject with some of the issues overlapping. Human topics such as urbanisation and globalisation are very good for generating debate and allowing students to apply their knowledge to a worldwide context. Physical geography looks at topics such as natural hazards and look at how hazards occur, what can be done to predict them and the management that is in place if one occurs.

To study A Level Geography, you need to have an enquiring and open mind. Geography is a study of the world around us and you need to be aware of issues worldwide, not just in the UK. You need to be able to debate issues such as migration and to think about them from political and social perspectives as well. Your opinion is important, but you also need to think about debates from someone else's point of view. Reading newspapers and articles to keep your subject knowledge up to date is vital and in lessons you will learn about the stories behind the headlines.

'Geography has elements of Maths, Science and Humanities, so our classes are always made up of a wide variety of students with different interests, making our debates on current issues really interesting. The highlight of Year 12 was the four day residential fieldtrip to the Yorkshire coast, where we learnt a lot of Geography, practised skills for our NEA and had lots of fun!'

Year 13 Student

Government & Politics

Edexcel Government & Politics

Government and Politics at A Level gives students a thorough grounding in the details of the British and American political systems as well as the main political ideologies such as Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism.

The course is structured into three main areas of study;

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas
Students will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. Students focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government.

UK Government and Non- Core Political Ideas
This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of UK government, as it enables students to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made. Students will explore the following key themes: the relative powers of the different branches of UK government; the extent to which the constitution has changed in recent years; the desirability of further change; and the current location of power within the UK political system.

Comparative Politics (Government and Politics of the USA)
As a world power, understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics. Students will explore the US Constitution and the arguments surrounding US democracy. In learning about the key institutions of government in the USA and analysing the manner in which they achieve this power and exercise it over their citizens, students will judge ultimately whether 'liberty and justice for all' has been achieved in the USA.

History

AQA A Level History

History A Level gives students the opportunity to gain an understanding of historical concepts and a coherent knowledge of the past. They acquire the ability to communicate, argue and reach balanced conclusions as well as developing techniques of critical thinking.

We inspire students to engage critically with the past and historians' interpretations of events through attendance at lectures, conferences and historical visits.

The methods of investigation, study and research in History are very useful training for a variety of careers including Law, Journalism, Accountancy, Publishing, Management, Teaching and Medicine.

The subject content for A Level History is divided into three components;

Component 1: Breadth Study: Consolidation of the Tudor dynasty: England 1485-1603

Component 2: Depth Study: Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-45

Component 3: History Investigation: a personal study based on either Russia under the tsars and communist rulers, or Britain and Ireland 1801-1921.

'Whether you love the scandal of the Tudors, or have an interest in the fascinating change from democracy to dictatorship of 1930s Germany, learning about History is both exciting and important. I would recommend the A Level History course to anyone!'

Year 13 Student

Mathematics

Edexcel A Level Mathematics

A Level Mathematics is a rigorous and challenging course, which builds upon the topics studied at GCSE. It is a versatile qualification, well respected by universities and employers alike, which helps to improve both logical thinking and analytical skills, allowing students to develop resilience whilst thinking strategically and creatively; skills hugely relevant to all higher education courses and careers.

Following the course's linear specification, students sit exams in pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics at the end of the two-year course.

Pure Mathematics
Building on the material studied at GCSE, this area of mathematics allows the students to further their understanding of topics such as calculus, trigonometry, sequences and series, algebra and functions and coordinate geometry.

Statistics
Students will learn to make predictions about future events by collecting and analysing data, making use of statistical information and techniques. A thorough understanding of probability and risk is important in careers like insurance, medicine, engineering and the sciences.

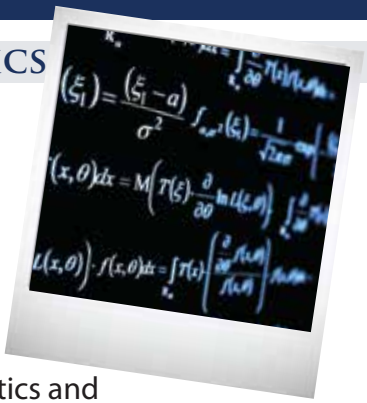
Mechanics
Modelling and analysing the physical world around us, including the study of forces and motion. Mechanics is particular useful to students studying physics and engineering.

'Maths A Level consists of logical learning which helps a lot with my other A Level subjects. It is extremely satisfying when you manage to workout the correct answer to a complicated and multi-faceted question!'

Year 13 Student

Further Mathematics

Edexcel A Level Further Mathematics



A Level Further Mathematics is designed to broaden and deepen a student's mathematical knowledge and skills developed when studying A Level Maths. Studying Further Mathematics consolidates and reinforces your standard A Level Mathematics work, helping you to achieve your best possible grades in both qualifications. The subject provides a stimulating experience for those who enjoy mathematics and wish to study it in more depth and widen their exposure to new concepts.

The course is designed to develop and extend their mathematical knowledge and skills. These include the skill of working with numerical information, as well as the ability to think logically and independently, consider accuracy, model situations mathematically, analyse results and reflect on findings.

Further Mathematics introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward.

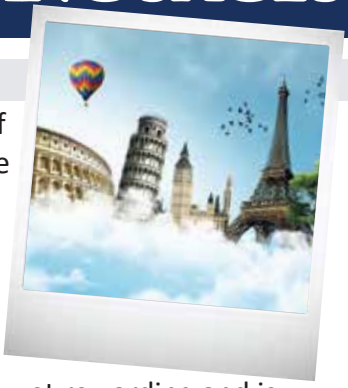
As well as learning new areas of pure mathematics you will study further applications in optional areas such as mechanics, statistics or decision mathematics.

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics.

'It's been an excellent experience studying Further Mathematics and learning more advanced calculus and trigonometry has also made my regular Maths stronger!'

Year 12 Student

Modern Foreign Languages



AQA A Level Languages

Our best linguists often choose to continue their study of French, German or Spanish beyond GCSE to A Level. Here they are taught in small, specialised groups where we build on the foundations laid at Key Stages 3 and 4 in order to progress to A Level standard. We make greater use of video resources and encourage independent learning and research in the target language into areas of interest. Studying a language to A Level is challenging, yet rewarding and is excellent preparation for Further Education and employment as it improves communication skills and adds an extra dimension to students' knowledge, understanding and cultural awareness.

In each language, the assessments are based on the following areas of study;

* Aspects of French/German/Spanish-speaking society: current trends and issues
* Artistic culture in the French/German/Spanish-speaking world
* Aspects of political life in the French/German/Spanish-speaking world
* One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
* Individual research project

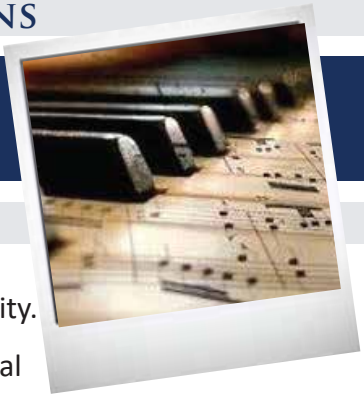
Students have the opportunity to take part in our well-established exchange programmes with the Deutzer Gymnasium, Cologne. Our German exchange is one of the oldest in the country, having been set up by Doktor Meyer in the mid 1950s and is something of which we are very proud. We also have strong links with Angouleme, France and Madrid, Spain. The exchanges give unique opportunities to students to immerse themselves in the language and culture and allow them to experience life in France, Spain or Germany.

All students have weekly one to one sessions with our language assistants and are exposed to authentic cultural resources.

'The opportunity to take part in an international exchange is invaluable! It provides a great chance to apply your language skills in a practical context and interact with native speakers.'

Year 13 Student

Music



EDUQAS A Level Music

A Level Music is exciting and rewarding, unique in its combination of academic study and creative opportunity.

A Level Music will develop and extend students' musical performance as well as knowledge of music theory.

Composition, performance and the history of music are encompassed by the A Level specification, which develops depth of knowledge, skills in independent study and considerable musical ability.

Communication through music is enhanced by every aspect of the A Level course. Musical knowledge and skills are developed to enable students to become more confident and accomplished composers and performers of music.

Students will engage with the work of past masters and learn about the development of musical genres across the ages. However, there is great scope for personal creative development which embraces modern technologies and unique interpretative compositions and performances. There is an opportunity to apply music technology to the creation and performance of musical pieces.

Music is a challenging, creative subject which extends students levels of accomplishment and inspires them to become confident composers and performers.

A Level Music is a highly regarded subject, either alongside other creative courses or in demonstrating a broader range of skills next to Science, Maths or other non-creative subjects.

Whilst Music can be a useful subject for Arts and Media courses at university, the most obvious degree pathway is going on to a degree in Music, which can lead to a range of exciting career options, including becoming a professional musician, a sound technician, a music therapist, a teacher, or a private tutor. Jobs that are less directly related a Music degree, but where a Music degree could be very valuable include arts administration, and work in radio, theatre and events management.

Physics

AQA A Level Physics

Studying A Level Physics doesn't restrict your options, it expands them. As well as being needed for many careers in Science and Engineering the skills and knowledge that you can develop by studying Physics keeps the door open to doing just about everything else!

A Level Physics gives the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop hypotheses to describe the physical universe. You will learn about everything from kinematics to cosmology and many recent developments in fascinating topics, such as particle physics. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject - it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

You will already be familiar with many of the topics that you will study, including forces, waves, radioactivity, electricity and magnetism. At A Level, you'll look at these areas in more detail and find out how they are interconnected. You will also learn how to apply maths to real world problems and explore new areas such as particle physics and medical physics.

Perhaps more importantly, you will develop skills that can be transferred to just about any other area of work, from setting up a business to saving the planet. Even if you don't go on to become a physicist, learning to think like one will help you get to the root of any problem and draw connections that aren't obvious to others. Physics won't give you all the answers, but it will teach you how to ask the right questions!

There is no coursework or controlled assessment in A Level Physics but students will cover 12 required practicals over the two year course which can be tested in the external examinations. Additionally, students may be awarded a pass or fail for their practical competency.

Psychology

AQA A Level Psychology

Psychology is the systematic study of behaviour and experience. The actions thoughts and feelings of human beings are challening and fascinating areas of study.

The Psychology A Level course assumes students have no prior knowledge of the subject. An interest in people, a willingness to work hard, to contribute and to learn are essential requirements.

There are four major goals of psychology;

* To describe human thought and behaviour.
* To explain why human behaviours occur.
* To predict how, why and when human behaviours will occur again in the future.
* To modify and improve behaviours to better the lives of individuals and society as a whole.

The A Level specification has been designed to provide an introduction to the nature of psychology as a science. It incorporates practical work to develop understanding of research methods and a range of contemporary topics, in addition to traditional areas of study. Skills which students will have already developed; writing accurately, data analysis and IT skills will be used and extended during the A Level Psychology course.

Course Structure; topics students will cover;

Year 12; Memory, Attachment, Social Influence, Appraches in Psychology, Psychopathology (abnormality) and Research Methods.

Year 13; Issues and debates in psychology, Schizophrenia, Relationships, Aggresion and Statistical Analysis.

Religious Studies

OCR A Level Religious Studies

An A Level in Religious Studies provides a coherent and thought provoking programme for students which is designed to develop a greater understanding of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion.

Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

The A Level course aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

The course is structured into three main components:

Philosophy of religion
This component includes the study of ancient philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body and arguments about the existence or non-existence of God. It also explores ideas about the nature of God and issues in religious language.

Religion and ethics
Students will explore normative ethical theories, the application of ethical theory, ethical language and thought and debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience.

Developments in religious thought
Topics covered in this component include; religious beliefs, sources of religious wisdom and authority, practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition, significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought.

Students do not need to have studied GCSE Religious Studies to elect for this A Level

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