



GIGGLESWICK  
SCHOOL

# Sixth Form Curriculum

## Joining the Sixth Form at Giggleswick

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The transition from a broad base of GCSE subjects to a selected number of subjects in Sixth Form is an exciting time for every student. Finally, after years of study, students are given the opportunity to focus in on the subjects where they are passionate to develop their understanding, and to explore their interests in greater depth. The range of A Levels and BTECs at Giggleswick offers each student the opportunity to enjoy a pathway of discovery and academic rigour which will develop and hone the skills they require for university and life beyond.

Beyond the classroom, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities: clubs, societies, educational trips and visiting speakers to allow them to look in more depth at aspects of their subjects that are not taught within the curriculum, and to ensure that they discuss the challenges and issues of modern society. We are constantly looking to develop curiosity, academic ambition, and a lifelong love of learning. Throughout, there is a focus on helping students to develop their ability to study independently. This is achieved in a carefully structured framework which provides each student with the support they need to succeed.

The Sixth Form is an opportunity for students to start to lead the School. They are encouraged to be active not only in class, but in the wide range of extracurricular activities. We are looking to cultivate well-rounded and interesting pupils, who will be confident yet humble in their approach to dealing with the challenges that they will face in the future. They will have the opportunity to influence the school in a positive way - leadership and high standards in work ethic and behaviour are expected.

**Sam Hart, Headmaster**





# Preparing for life beyond school

Our sixth form curriculum prepares our students for a complex and rapidly changing world. We recognise that the skills required to take an active role in life beyond school are learned both in and beyond the classroom. To get the very best from the two years we therefore expect our students to embrace opportunities well beyond their chosen subjects.

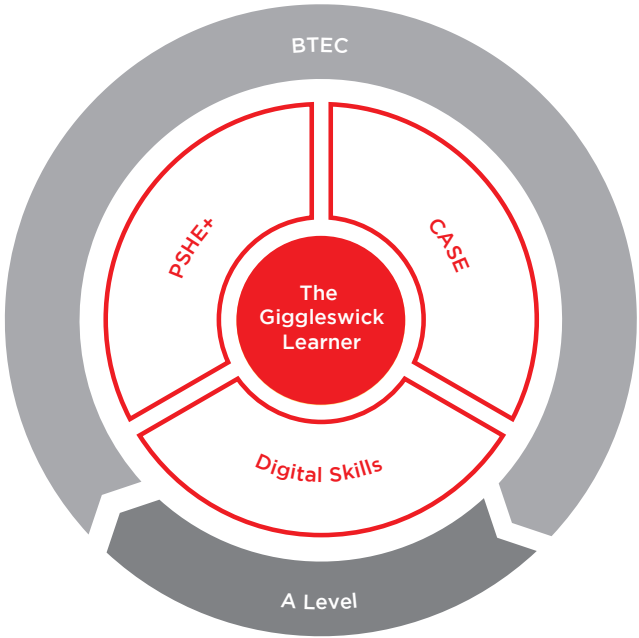
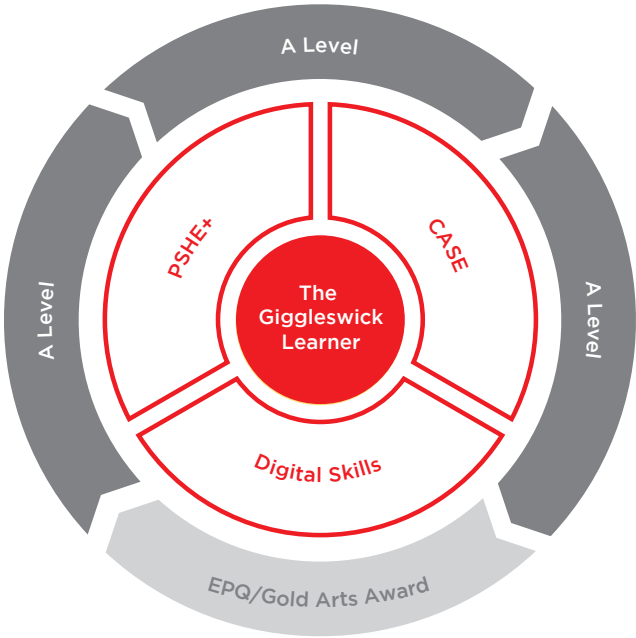
We provide a rich and engaging programme of co-curricular opportunities that has been developed from what universities and employers view as important qualities for achieving success. Into this we have also placed what parents and students have told us are important for them in developing assured, independently minded individuals who are ready to take on the exciting opportunities beyond school.

All sixth form students will therefore take part in the curriculum that breaks into four key areas. Together these make up what we have called the Giggleswick Diploma:

- Academic Curriculum
- Future Ready Digital Skills
- EPQ / Gold Arts Award
- CASE Programme
- CASE Programme
- PSHE Programme



Giggleswick Sixth Form Programmes:  
A level and BTEC



## The Academic Curriculum

A levels provide the core academic input for our sixth formers. We offer a range of subjects taught by subject specialists in small groups. A levels generally require a greater degree of independent learning than GCSEs and are more academically demanding. We expect the majority of those choosing A levels to achieve A\*-C in their final examinations.

Students take three A levels and an EPQ\* or Arts Award\* alongside our academic enrichment programme.

We also recognise that there are many routes to achieving your ultimate ambition and this might mean a BTEC course is better suited. This tends to be for people who prefer a more guided learning experience and ongoing assessment throughout the course. If you are considering going on to university, you will normally be advised to take a suitable A level alongside your BTEC.

\*It is possible to study a fourth A level (normally Further Mathematics) in place of an EPQ, or Arts Award

## The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

The EPQ is a great opportunity for students to develop some of their own independent research and enquiry skills. Such skills are important for study at university and many universities will see this as evidence of both your academic engagement and potential to adapt to learning in their environment. We therefore encourage all our A level students to take an EPQ. It doesn't have to be in written essay style but can be presented in a creative form such as an artefact, a film, or a composition.

## The Gold Arts Award

Some students may prefer to take the Gold Arts Award rather than the EPQ. It is an arts-based qualification equivalent to a Level 3 qualification and is worth 16 UCAS points. Students will develop their own arts practice, leadership experience, and understanding of the arts industry.

## Digital Future Ready Skills

Technology advances indicate that many of today's school children will work in jobs that do not yet exist, most of which are likely to have an increased premium on digital skills.

We offer an enhanced 6th form provision with courses and certification in: The Digital Media Academy - Access to self-study courses including Computer Science, AI, Creative Design, Game Development, Digital Storytelling and Entrepreneurship. And Microsoft Office Specialist Skills - the benefits of Microsoft Office to business productivity are so important that all computer-based professionals today are very familiar with Office. Students study for certification in two or more of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## CASE Programme

CASE stands for Creative, Active, Service and Enrichment. We believe that each of these is an important part of a person's wellbeing and help to build skills that can support them in later life. We expect every student to take part in opportunities to: Be creative, through our creative and performing arts programme; Be active, through sports and outdoor pursuits; Offer service, this could be through taking part in local community support programmes, it can include taking





## Whatever the aspiration, our sixth form experience will ensure a springboard to success.

part in the CCF or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, or working on projects in support of the school; Enrich their development, through clubs and societies in school, external participation, holiday courses etc.

There is a wealth of opportunities both within and outside school which demonstrate a student's commitment to their chosen subjects or the subject they wish to pursue at university.

In school, students may join academic clubs such as the Model United Nations, Young Enterprise, All Talk debating club, Apprenticeship Club, Astronomy Group, and clubs for medics, lawyers, and Oxbridge candidates. These clubs allow students to demonstrate their genuine interest in the subject, and to develop some key transferable employability skills such as communication, teamwork, creativity and problem-solving.

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) have been very popular with our students. They are offered by universities for free and give insight into a huge number of courses ranging from the medical profession, psychology, and forensics through to business fundamentals, languages, global awareness, and programming skills. Courses range from three to six weeks with one to three hours per week of commitment. We also encourage students to take part in HeadStart courses and any university taster courses that can be

undertaken in holiday time that will emphasise their interest in a subject. Competitions are another way to engage with the Super-Curriculum. The Young Analyst Chemistry competition, UKMT Maths Challenge, the National Cipher Challenge, RSA Economics Essay Competition and the Write on Art Essay Competition are a few examples that students have engaged with. There are also subject specific trips that are offered in the sixth form. For English and Drama, we run the London Theatre visit in term one, there are numerous visits to art galleries, and the Languages Department organises exchanges to France, Germany, and Spain as well as cultural visits.

The Giggleswick Diploma captures pupils' participation and progress across the whole Academic and CASE curriculum.

### PSHE – Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

All students follow the PSHE+ programme, a weekly timetabled lesson, complemented by the lecture programme and tutorials. It covers 3 broad strands: Health & Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World. Content includes physical and mental health, sex and relationships education and practical, financial and careers guidance that helps students develop their personal effectiveness and prepares them for life beyond school.

# Leavers' Destinations 2024



**KU Leuven, Belgium**  
Philosophy and Liberal Arts with German



**University of Hong Kong**  
Pharmacy



**Coventry University**  
Automotive and Transport Design

**Oxford Brookes University**  
Geography & Business Management

**Derby University**  
Marketing

**Queen Marys London**  
Biomedical Science

**Durham University**  
Accounting & Finance  
Maths  
Sport & Exercise Science  
Psychological and Behavioural Science  
History

**Royal Northern College of Music**  
Popular Music

**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
Liberal Arts

**University of Exeter**  
Languages  
Maths with Finance  
Biochemistry  
Finance & Investment  
Banking

**Salford University**  
Music Management & Creative Enterprise  
Creative Music Technology  
Popular Music & Recording

**Lancaster University**  
Architecture  
Sport & Exercise Science

**University for the Creative Arts**  
Architecture

**Newcastle University**  
Agriculture  
Engineering  
Combined Honours

**University of Sussex**  
Computer Science

**Wrexham University**  
Sports Injury Rehabilitation

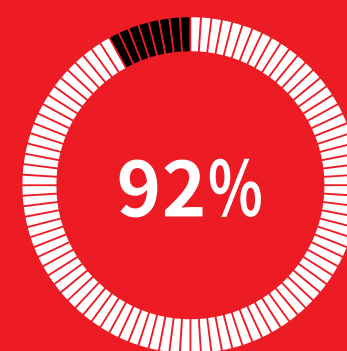
**Northumbria University**  
Graphic Design

## Apprenticeships

- **Jaguar Land Rover**
- **Ministry of Justice**
- **BAE**
- **Police**

# 89% A\*-C

A Level & BTEC Grades



**Attended their first choice university**



**GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL**





### Higher Education & UCAS

All students are allocated a sixth form tutor who works alongside them to explore opportunities post-school, and to support successful applications for whatever route a student chooses to take. The range of options supported post 18 includes:

- All universities in the UK and many international choices
- Conservatoires
- Arts Foundation courses
- School Leaver Programme
- Apprenticeships across a full range of programmes from post 16 to degree level
- Gap years

Students undertake aptitude testing in February of their lower sixth year to help inform their potential course and university choices. Students also use the UCAS and unfrog search engines to refine their course searches. Students receive guidance on personal statement writing from external speakers, and personalised talks relating to specific phases of the application process.

Our support is also available post results when we recognise that preferences and decisions can often be further influenced by the experience of completing school.

### Careers and Apprenticeships

We recognise that students today have an increasingly wide range of opportunities available to them post 18. This includes diverse choices of courses and also places to work and study. Our extensive programme of careers and higher education guidance aims to match the student to the right opportunity for their needs and abilities - preparing them for future careers. This includes a lecture programme, tutorials, visits to and from universities and future employers, work placements, as well as opportunities to meet with recent Old Giggleswickians to talk about their experiences in the world of work and study.

For students interested in an apprenticeship, we run an apprenticeship club for all upper sixth students in which we examine the initial application through to assessment centres, interview techniques and presentation skills. Our focus is on supporting pupils with a diverse range of apprenticeships often leading to degree qualifications.

### Sixth form Lectures

All sixth form students take part in a weekly lecture programme to encourage a broad range of discussion and debate, covering topics such as Ecology and Conservation from Martin Schnauss, Working in Accountancy (degree route vs. apprenticeship route) from RSM, Learning to Succeed by Amy McGowan (Northumbria University), and the Process of Applying to Medicine by Anirvan Banerjee, Director of the North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme.

# The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

### What is it?

The EPQ allows a student to research an area of interest away from their A level studies. This can be an area of personal or academic interest and may help them to research an area related to a future career. The topics studied are highly varied.

The EPQ is an independent project that is completed by the student with the active support of a teacher as a supervisor. At Giggleswick, the formal course runs from November in Year 12 to November in Year 13. The students will therefore be completing their EPQ away from any formal examination period and in time to make reference to it in their personal statement in a UCAS application.

### How is it supported?

The students are taught key skills for completing their projects. These include research skills, academic writing, time management, planning an EPQ and refining a project.

The students use an online management programme called Project Q to manage their EPQ.

Each student is allocated a supervisor who will give them advice on their projects on a weekly basis. Typically each supervisor oversees four or five students. In addition, the school librarian is expert in helping students to research their projects from books, academic journals and from the internet.

### Is it timetabled?

Yes, it is timetabled and currently it is compulsory for all Year 12 students unless they are completing a BTEC course or if they are studying Further Maths.

### How is it assessed?

The project is assessed in a number of ways. Firstly, the students complete a production log as they complete the project – this includes advice from their supervisor. The students write up their research as an essay. Some students produce an artefact (such as a film, piece of artwork or computer programme) and they therefore write a shorter essay. Lastly, all students will give a presentation of their project.

### Is it graded?

The EPQ is graded in a similar fashion to A2 exams with grades A to E being passes. These grades also convert to UCAS points:

A* - 28	C - 16
A - 24	D - 12
B - 20	E - 8

In the past, the EPQ has helped our students to gain entry to courses and has been a useful point for discussion at interview.

### Some recent projects:

- What are the positives and dangers of palm oil production?
- Is Crispr the new innovation in cancer treatment?
- How can I make an artefact installation or sculpture to educate people about fast fashion and its influence on ocean pollution?
- What were the political reasons for decision making in the Falkland's War?
- How can management strategies, such as dietary manipulation and soil management, reduce greenhouse gases in UK agriculture?
- How has innovation influenced electric vehicle design?



# Your journey through Sixth form

## Entry Requirements

### A levels

The standard entry requirement to Giggleswick Sixth form is a minimum Level 6 average at GCSE/IGCSE. Individual courses, such as Science and Maths, will stipulate a minimum requirement. This information is given under the subject heading. Where GCSE/IGCSE criteria are narrowly missed, we will consider individual cases on merit and may offer a degree of flexibility.

### BTECs

If you do not meet or are not expected to meet the Level 6 grade average, we offer a combination of a BTEC Level 3 Diploma plus an A level. You will need a minimum of four Level 5 Grades at GCSE although, if you are considering doing a BTEC alongside an A level, you will need to meet the subject requirement for the A level course.

### International students

For international students, or those who have not taken GCSE/IGCSE, offers are made based on an interview in person or by Skype, on school reports and on English and Maths tests.

## Academic Tutors

Head of Sixth Form, Anne Coward, leads an experienced tutor team which spans all subject areas. We try to match you with a tutor who teaches one of your chosen A level/BTEC courses. Your tutor will stay with you through your sixth form journey, meeting you every week and guiding you through the UCAS process. They will use MyFutureChoice to connect you with the career and study paths which best match your strengths and help to decide the best university/apprenticeship path.

They will help you complete your UCAS form or apprenticeship application, your personal statement and will write your UCAS reference for the Head of Sixth form to sign off. If you do require specific help during your application, your tutor will arrange any meetings with the Head of Sixth form you may need and will accompany you so that they can continue to support you through the rest of the process.

The positive relationships our sixth form tutors have with their tutees is a real strength of the sixth form. It comes as no surprise that year on year the vast majority of Year 13 students achieve a place at their first or second choice university. This is due to the high levels of professionalism and knowledge in the sixth form team.



## Year 11

**November**  
Sixth Form  
Information  
Evening

**January**  
Year 11 Trial  
Exams

**February**  
Scholarship  
Assessments

**April**  
Deadline for  
submitting  
subject choices

## Year 12

**January-July**  
Introduction to  
UCAS

**October-December**  
Independent  
Study Skills

**September**  
Sixth Form  
Induction Week

**May/June**  
GCSE Exams

## Year 13

**February**  
Aptitude Testing

**June**  
End of Year  
Exams

**October**  
UCAS Completion  
Deadline

**April**  
Confirm firm and  
insurance university  
offers in UCAS

**February**  
Student Finance  
Information

**January**  
Year 13 Trial  
Exams

**May**  
'University  
Survival Kit'  
course

**June**  
Exams and  
Leavers' Ball



**August**  
Publication of results



## A typical day

8.20 AM	<b>Registration</b>
08.40 AM	<b>Lesson 1</b>
09.40 AM	<b>Lesson 2</b>
10.40 AM	<b>BREAK</b>
11.05 AM	<b>Lesson 3</b>
12.05 PM	<b>Lesson 4</b>
01.00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>
01.45 PM	<b>Lesson 5</b>
02.45 PM	<b>Lesson 6</b>
03.40 PM	<b>BREAK</b>
04.00 PM	<b>CASE Activities</b>
05.20 PM	<b>Day pupils go home</b>
05.10 PM	<b>First Prep</b>
06.00 PM	<b>TEA</b>
07.00 PM	<b>Second Prep</b>
08.00 PM	<b>Evening Activities</b>

## Choosing your subjects

Choosing A level and BTEC subjects can create anxiety, so here are some tips on how to make your choices

- Think about your current GCSE subjects. Which ones do you enjoy the most? What is involved in the subjects you enjoy – which skills are you using and are these your strong skills?

- Look at your MyFutureChoice report – which skills were strengths for you and did you have weaker areas?

- Read the subject descriptions in the booklet very carefully and see if there is a match between your strong skill areas and the areas that will be tested in a potential subject.

- Speak to friends in the Sixth form about their experience of studying particular subjects and find out what it entails. Ask which bits of the course are much harder/easier than expected and what the assessment is like.

- Don't be afraid to go and ask Subject Leads questions about the courses. They will be very happy to offer you useful advice.

- Research what the required A levels/BTECs are for any university courses in which you are definitely interested. If you are sure you want to study Medicine, for example, then Biology and Chemistry are a must if you want a competitive application, but you have a wide choice for

your third A level. We have had successful applicants in the past who have combined Biology and Chemistry with History, a Language, Drama or English Literature to give them a good blend of subjects.

- If you really are unsure about what to do, consider a blend of subjects that will cover a wide range of skills to keep as many paths as possible open in the future. Literate, articulate people who can communicate well and have good logical reasoning are highly employable.

- Very few 16-year-olds know exactly what they want to do in the future, so you are not alone. Focus on transferable skills as these are invaluable. There are very few university courses/apprenticeships that are completely closed to you if you don't choose a particular combination of subjects. People of your age will have many different jobs in the future, so think about building employability skills which can be used in any sphere.

- Don't follow the crowd. It is very easy to be swayed by what others think. Remember that it is you who is going to do the course and the assessments, and ensure that it is your decision.





# 3D Design

**Examination board: Eduqas**

## Course Requirement:

**GCSE Design not essential  
Grade 6 in a related GCSE  
is desirable**

## SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

The components require learners to develop the skills to:

- Record experiences and observations in a variety of ways
- Explore relevant resources; analyse, discuss and evaluate
- Use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking and inform own work
- Generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques
- Apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; review and modify work
- Plan and develop ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluations
- Organise and communicate ideas, solutions and responses and present them in a range of forms.

## HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

### Coursework (60%)

'Personal Investigation', which consists of two integrated constituent parts:

- A major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio
- An extended written element of 1000 words

### Externally set assignment (40%)

- 'Preparatory Study Period'. The investigation will take the form of critical, practical and theoretical preparatory work
- A 15-hour period of sustained focus work (the resolution of the preparatory work)

## Am I suited to the course?

Design offers an extensive opportunity to develop capability in both 2D and 3D across a varied range of project work, through written analysis, sketching and drawing, and the extensive use of ICT and digital media to enhance modelling and presentation. Candidates will explore a range of materials, practical workshop processes and media, to realise designed outcomes. Making activities take many forms, ranging from experimental models and prototypes, to a final marketable product.

## Where will this course lead me?

The 3D Design course aims to develop creative and independent designers. The course enables students to critically explore the man-made world through designing and creating innovative products. If you wish to pursue a career in design or a related field, we would expect you to be offered a place at your first choice university. The course allows you to specialise in the second year and focus on a field of your choice, from engineering to architecture, as well as the spectrum of art, design and manufacturing based courses. Many of our students also embark on applied science and marketing degrees.

## How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

We encourage you to be independent, ambitious and adventurous, all of which really help you to flourish at university and beyond. You will visit a local manufacturing and design business to further appreciate real world designing and making in an industrial context. Lower sixth students also take part in the department's annual trip to London for the Royal College of Art postgraduate show, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Design Museum. We regularly invite former students back to talk to sixth formers about their university study and careers.



# Art

**Examination board: AQA**

## Course Requirement:

**Grade 5 in GCSE Art**

## SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Figure drawing  
Landscape drawing and painting  
Printmaking

- Lino and intaglio
- Collagraph
- Silk screening
- Silk screen mono printing
- Digital manipulation

Ceramics

3D sculpture

## HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

### Coursework (60%)

- A coursework component is submitted along with a 1000 to 1500 word essay on the artists and ideas which have influenced your project. Recording using sketch books and a portfolio of work is key to this development

### Examination (40%)

- The exam unit sees students respond to a theme or title set by the exam board, over several weeks, in which they prepare for a final piece showing 15 hours of total work. This can be work encompassing printmaking, painting, sculpture, ceramics or for textiles any appropriate textile and embroidery methods

## Am I suited to the course?

The course will suit anyone with a keen interest in creativity. If you enjoyed art at GCSE you will relish the A level course. It is a very flexible course and can be adapted to suit a student's individual strengths. Successful students are self-motivated and willing to explore and experiment with materials, ideas and processes.

## Where will this course lead me?

The A level qualification is highly regarded by all universities, whether students are applying for Art College or any other academic degree. The qualification in Fine Art or Textiles forms the basis for an enormous range of career opportunities and university degree subjects, including: architecture, fashion, fine art, textiles, graphics, interior design, photography, film, product design, advertising, television, illustration, animation, furniture design, web design, gaming design, teaching, curating, jewellery, costume design, ceramics and many more.

## How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

There are trips to galleries and visits from professional artists, crafts people, university staff and alumni who have pursued a range of courses and careers. The art school is open in the evenings for students to continue pursuing their studies and there is the opportunity to draw from the life model. Creativity requires students to question and analyse how an idea can develop and improve through practical experimentation and analytical refinement. This will certainly challenge your ability to be self-critical. The course requires self-discipline, motivation and energy.

Art students who achieve the top grades are highly independent learners, which is an invaluable skill for any university student and employment. We also relish taking part in Art History based research and competitions, and have entered and won prizes in the National 'Write On Art' competition; a new 'Spoke' House based competition. In addition to our weekly life drawing class, there is a weekly ceramics session run by our resident artist.





# Biology

**Examination board: AQA**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Biology, may consider Grade 6**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Energy transfers in and between organisms

Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

The control of gene expression

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam, 2 hours

## **Am I suited to the course?**

The course will build on concepts and skills that you have developed in your GCSE studies. If you are keen to increase your knowledge, develop your scientific skills and apply your understanding, then Biology is for you. Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject and the specification provide many opportunities to widen your practical skills. Challenging and rewarding, A level Biology will also hone your Mathematics and essay writing, promote both independence and team work, and will equip you with many transferable skills.

## **Where will this course lead me?**

In recent years students have gone on to study Biology related degrees such as Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Biological Sciences, Dentistry and Anthropology. Other students go on to study for different careers where the skills base and scientific approach developed in Biology are real assets. A level Biology is highly regarded for entry to university and its study will help develop the independence and resilience essential for your future success.

## **How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You will certainly be stretched and challenged by the subject content and the practical and mathematical skills you will need to develop. If you are passionate about your Biology, then there will be opportunities to take your studies further, through field studies, work with PBA Ecology, advice from visiting speakers and other professionals and support for EPQs and MOOCs.



# Business

**Examination board: Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 5 in GCSE English**  
**Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics**  
**Wider reading about the world of business**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Marketing and people

- Meeting customer needs
- The market
- Marketing strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurship

Managing business activities

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Operations management
- External influences on business

Business decisions and strategy

- Objectives and strategy
- Competitive nature of business
- Managing change

Global business

- Globalisation
- Global marketing
- Global industry
- Industry investigation

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam, 2 hours

## **Am I suited to the course?**

A level Business is suitable for students who want to gain an understanding of the functions of organisations both small and large. Students gain a holistic understanding of business through considering how a new idea is developed, understanding how an organisation is managed, how its performance is analysed, and how it competes nationally and internationally. A good Business student is able to analyse numerical and qualitative data to make judgement on the scenario.

## **Where will this course lead me?**

Business provides you with a host of transferable skills including processing data, planning and how to account for a range of perspectives on a problem. This course combines well with a language, mathematics, or with other humanities A levels. It can lead to a wide range of university courses and business-related career pathways including professional options such as accountancy, marketing or events management.

## **How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You can take part in the OG funded Giggleswick Entrepreneurship Experience which involves managing and developing a real business that endures over years. You can also undertake a Business EPQ exploring a controversial business idea or even create a business plan for a charity event. We also offer the opportunity to take part in the John Locke Essay Prize.





# Chemistry

Examination board: **AQA**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or**  
**Additional Science**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics**

## SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

### Physical Chemistry

- Atomic structure, structure and bonding, energetics, kinetics and rate equations, amount of substance, equilibria, acids and bases, redox chemistry and thermodynamics

### Inorganic Chemistry

- Periodicity, group 2 metals, group 7 (the Halogens), period 3 chemistry, transition metals and their ions

### Organic Chemistry

- An introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins, DNA, organic synthesis and NMR spectroscopy

## HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

### Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam, 2 hours

### Am I suited to the course?

You will need good mathematical skills, 7 or above, and a secure grasp of the topics covered at GCSE. You will also have a desire to look more deeply into materials and their properties and will enjoy problem solving, numeracy, communication, creativity and data analysis, as well as undertaking practical experiments.

### Where will this course lead me?

On a practical level, Chemistry is vital if you are considering studying Medicine or Veterinary Medicine, and is useful in most other scientific pursuits post A level. A qualification in Chemistry opens doors to a wide range of careers both inside and outside the lab, from scientific research to finance or public relations.

### How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

We have links with several local universities, for example, the University of Bradford have brought their 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' so that students can see complex chemical analysis being performed at first hand. You will also visit, for example, the University of Lancaster to attend practical activities such as analysing aspirin. You can participate in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and Chemistry Olympiad - an ideal way to demonstrate higher level knowledge. We also enter the Royal Society of Chemistry's School's Analyst competition where practical, analytical and theory is tested. Taking an EPQ in Chemistry offers a rewarding and challenging route for those wishing to investigate aspects of Chemistry further.



# Computer Science

Examination board: **Cambridge International**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 Mathematics**  
**Interest in Computer Science or**  
**Coding**

## SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

### Year 1

- Information representation, Communication, Hardware, Processor fundamentals, System software, Security, privacy and data integrity, Ethics and ownership, Databases, Algorithm design and problem-solving, Data types and structures, Programming, Software development

### Year 2

- Data representation, Communication and internet technologies, Hardware and virtual machines, System software, Security, Artificial intelligence, Computational thinking and problem-solving, Further programming

## HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

### Examination (100%)

- Paper one (25%): Theory Fundamentals, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper two (25%): Fundamental Problem-solving and Programming Skills, written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three (25%): Advanced Theory, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper four (25%): Advanced Theory, practical, 2 hours 30 minutes

### Am I suited to the course?

A person suited to study computer science typically exhibits a combination of intellectual curiosity, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

### Where will this course lead me?

Computer scientists are in demand and their salaries reflects this. Recent graduates in professional roles earn large salaries on average. Career Opportunities:

Video Game Developer  
Computer Programmer  
Data Manager  
Artificial Intelligence Developer  
Hardware Engineer  
Software Developer  
Systems Manager  
Web Developer  
Network Administrator  
Security Analyst  
Ethical Hacker  
Machine Learning Engineer

You can study Computer Science and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

### How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

An A level Computer Science student can stretch themselves by engaging in various activities and challenges that go beyond the standard curriculum. Here are some ways to do that:

1. Learn advanced programming languages
2. Contribute to open source projects
3. Build personal projects
4. Participate in competitions
5. Explore emerging technologies
6. Seek internships or work experience





# Economics

**Examination board: Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 in GCSE English**  
**Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics**  
**Wider reading about contemporary Economic Issues**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Introduction to markets and market failure

- Nature of economics
- How markets work
- Market failure
- Government intervention

The UK economy - performance and policies

- Measures of economic performance
- Aggregate demand and supply
- National income
- Economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

Business behaviour and the labour market

- Business growth and objectives
- Revenues, costs and profits
- Market structures
- Labour market
- Government intervention

A global perspective

- International economics
- Poverty and inequality
- Developing economies
- The financial sector
- Role of the state

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (35%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (30%): written exam, 2 hours

**Am I suited to the course?**

The course sits well alongside all A levels, particularly History and Politics. You should be interested in how the world economy works and what influences income, wealth and well-being. If you like to argue your case and compare theory with reality, then this is a good course for you.

**Where will this course lead me?**

Many topical global issues are analysed and discussed throughout the course, encouraging students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. A number of students go on to university to study economics or business courses and the A level provides an excellent platform for business, banking and accountancy. An Economics A level may even exempt you from some professional banking examinations.

**How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You can take part in the OG funded Giggleswick Entrepreneurship Experience which involves managing and developing a real business that endures over years. This provides a practical opportunity to explore how markets work and to test economic theory in the real world. A wide range of reading material is available in the school library. You can also participate in the Young Economist essay competition or complete an EPQ. Both provide an excellent platform to research local, national and global issues such as climate catastrophe, the morals of taxation, and affordable housing. We also offer the opportunity to take part in the Royal Economics Society Essay Prize and the John Locke Essay Prize.



# English Literature

**Examination board: OCR**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 GCSE profile**  
**Grade 6 in GCSE English**  
**Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

- One Shakespeare play and the close study of a poet
- Drama and Prose: the study of two 20th century texts
- Shakespeare: drama and poetry
- Two novels from a selected topic area, which include: American Literature 1880 – 1940, The Gothic, Women in Literature, Dystopia

Independent study

- Free choice which involves close reading of a section of text and a comparison of two texts

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Examination (80%)

- Paper one (40%): written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes
- Paper two (40%): written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

Coursework (20%)

- Close reading or re-creative writing with commentary
- Comparative essay

**Am I suited to the course?**

If you enjoy reading books which challenge you, you like exploring texts and language, you are interested in crafting well-structured analytical written responses, and you are keen to participate in lively debate, then English Literature could be the right course for you.

**Where will this course lead me?**

The skills mastered through A level English are highly transferable and can lead to a wide range of higher education courses and future careers. For example, you will be able to read, analyse and evaluate texts, structure and present an argument, justify your ideas, and debate new concepts.

**How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You will be able to extend your understanding of the relationship between culture and society, through reading a range of literature from your own and other cultures. You will be expected to discuss the views of critics and other commentators, which will challenge your own views. You will visit theatres, join in backstage talks and participate in workshops as well as seeing productions as varied as Shakespeare at the Globe to West End musicals. You can join debating groups, the book group, and participate in poetry readings.





# Geography

**Examination board: Cambridge International**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 GCSE Geography**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

### Core Physical Geography

- Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology
- Atmosphere and weather
- Rocks and weathering

### Core Human Geography

- Population
- Migration
- Settlement dynamics

### Advanced Physical Geography Options

- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments

### Advanced Human Geography Options

- Global interdependence
- Economic transition

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

### Examination in Year 12

- Paper one
- Paper two

### Examination in Year 13

- Paper three
- Paper four

All papers are 90-minute written examinations

### **Am I suited to the course?**

Geography is a subject which aims to grapple with the most pressing challenges of our time. You will get straight to the heart of intriguing geographical questions. Will the global food supply keep up with population growth? Can natural hazards be managed successfully in a changing world? Can sustainable living be achieved as more humans choose to live in global cities? Is income inequality between and within countries inevitable? If you are interested in exploring the interconnections underlying these fascinating and important questions, then Geography A Level is for you. As a department, we are hugely passionate about investigating geographical theory in the ‘real world’, so fieldwork is of primary importance. There are well-integrated opportunities to explore all aspects of the A Level in the local area and further afield.

### **Where will this course lead me?**

Geographers are valued in many lines of work and experience some of the highest levels of graduate employment. The expertise provided by geographers in the following fields is much sought after: emergency planning, ecology, business, geophysics, GIS (geographical information systems), town planning, politics and diplomacy, international aid and development, meteorology, and sustainability consultancy. Studying the subject will fine tune your ability to analyse complex data sets and synthesise information, making you highly employable.

### **How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

Michael Palin was right to say, ‘Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future’. But you will quickly find that there are no straightforward answers. Geography is an intellectually rigorous discipline situated at the complex and challenging intersections between our dynamic physical world and the rapidly changing human sphere. You will learn to think clearly, form evidence-based opinions on a wide range of topics, design robust research methods, apply reliable statistical techniques and write rich, synoptic essays.



# History

**Examination board: AQA**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 GCSE History**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

### Breadth study

- The Tudors: England, 1485-1603

### Depth study

- Italy and Fascism, c1900-1945

### Historical investigation

- Students design their own question which must span 100 years of US history

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

### Examination (80%)

- Paper one (40%): written exam 2 hours 30 minutes
- Paper two (40%): written exam 2 hours 30 minutes

### Coursework (20%)

- Historical investigation 4500 words

### **Am I suited to the course?**

The course is varied, engaging and provides the necessary elements for students to develop their written and verbal skills. If you are interested in discussing and debating, then this course is for you.

You will study The Tudors, a period in world history which assesses issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence. Topics include Henry VII’s Government, Henry VIII’s Break with Rome, Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. You will assess how aspects of the past have been differently interpreted.

You will study Italy and Fascism 1900-1945, learning about the reasons for the crisis of Liberal Italy, Mussolini’s rise to power, Dictatorship, Italian Society and foreign policy.

For their US History course work, students are encouraged to focus on topics from the Black Civil Rights, the Economy, the changing nature of Foreign Policy across the 20th century and the treatment of Native Americans.

### **Where will this course lead me?**

A highly respected academic subject, it creates an excellent foundation for careers in a wide variety of areas, such business, law, journalism, medicine, marketing, politics, teaching and many more. Former students have gone on to study history, archaeology, philosophy, modern foreign languages, film, marketing and fine art at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

### **How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You will develop multidisciplinary and transferable skills which will enhance both your studies and your wider life, developing research and analysis skills. There are regular trips abroad and in the UK. Visiting historians regularly speak at our Cavendish Society.





# Languages - French, German, Spanish

Examination board: **AQA**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE**

**SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Social issues and trends

Political and artistic culture

Grammar

Literary texts and films

**HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Examination (70%)

- Listening, reading and writing (50%): written exam 2 hours 30 minutes
- Writing (20%): written exam 2 hours

Speaking (30%)

- Oral exam, 21-23 minutes

**Am I suited to the course?**

If you are interested in languages, communication and learning about other cultures through literature, film, history and current affairs, then this is the course for you. If you want to research articles in a foreign language, take part in foreign exchanges with our partner schools, watch European films, go to foreign plays, or learn the art of translation, essay-writing and discussion in a foreign language, then you will enjoy this course.

**Where will this course lead me?**

You will obtain the necessary linguistic and cultural knowledge as well as crucial problem-solving and analytical skills to gain a place at a top ranked university to read Languages or a joint honours combination including a language. Many students opt to try a new language at university. It is worth remembering that employers value languages, and bilingual employees often attract larger salaries than their monolingual peers.

**How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You will have weekly lessons with our native speaker assistants which will provide you with a fantastic opportunity to develop high level conversation skills. Many students have benefited from doing work experience or extra study abroad through institutions such as UK-German Connection.



# Latin

Examination board: **OCR**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Latin**  
**International students: At least 3 years' previous study**

**SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

You will build on the grammar and syntax studied at GCSE and will be introduced to a greater range of vocabulary.

You will study original set texts in Latin in depth and some additional literature in translation.

**HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Examination (100%)

- Paper One: Unseen translation
- Paper Two: Comprehension/ Unseen translation
- Paper Three: Prose set texts
- Paper Four: Verse set texts

**Am I suited to the course?**

If you have enjoyed Latin at GCSE and have an interest in the classical world, then this course will build upon and develop your language skills along with your appreciation of Latin literature. It works well with any combination of subjects, including mathematics and the sciences. Students appreciate the logic and clarity of Latin.

**Where will this course lead me?**

Latin is a highly regarded qualification. The study of Latin leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of our own civilisation and heritage and is still highly relevant to the world today. You can study Latin (and Greek) at university, either on their own or with a combination of other subjects. Classicists enjoy a vast range of careers including legal work and computer programming. Employers value the attention to detail and strong analytical and evaluation skills that are fostered by the study of these languages.

**How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

We encourage you to read beyond the examination specification and develop your own interests. The study of classical languages is well supported by universities and other organisations and there are a number of essay competitions, study days and summer schools which our students have attended and hugely benefitted from.





# Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement:  
Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics

### SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

- Pure mathematics
- Statistics
- Mechanics

### HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

- Examination (100%)
- Paper one (33.3%): written exam 2 hours
  - Paper two (33.3%): written exam 2 hours
  - Paper three (33.3%): written exam 2 hours

### Am I suited to the course?

If you enjoyed the challenges of the higher tier GCSE Mathematics and solving problems, then you are ideally suited to the A level Mathematics course. This course will build upon your previous knowledge and develop your analytical and problem-solving skills, allowing you to develop your mathematical fluency. Throughout the course you will explore a multitude of mathematical topics such as methods of proof, 3D geometry, series and sequences, modelling pulleys and statistical analysis of data.

### Where will the course take me?

An A level in Mathematics demonstrates excellent analytical and problem-solving skills to future employers and is highly regarded by universities. A level Mathematics provides an excellent base for further study in areas such as mathematics, engineering, computing, economics, architecture, and science-based degrees. Studying A level Mathematics also allows students to master the mathematical components of other degrees, such as Psychology and Business, with ease.

### How can I stretch myself through doing this course?

The nature of the A level means that you will always be learning new concepts and techniques. Every area of mathematics that is studied will contain content that builds upon what you have learned previously. This will give you a mastery of the material and will allow you to tackle increasingly challenging problems. Outside the classroom, we enter teams into the National Cipher Challenge, the UK Mathematics Challenge and the UK Maths Olympiad. Within the CASE programme, we offer a range of activities to supplement interests such as: Investment, UKMT preparation, and Puzzle Club. We also support students preparing for pre-university tests such as Oxford MAT tests and Cambridge STEP.



# Further Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement:  
Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics

### SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

- Core Pure Mathematics
- Further Mechanics
- Decision

### HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

- Examination (100%) all written exams are 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper one (25%): Core pure Mathematics 1
  - Paper two (25%): Core Pure Mathematics 2
  - Paper three (25%): Further Mechanics 1
  - Paper four (25%): Decision Mathematics 1

### Am I suited to the course?

Further Mathematics is suited for those with a passion for abstract thinking and problem solving. Within the course, you will meet challenges which will require you to combine your prior GCSE knowledge with complex processes in order to find a solution. You will study areas of Pure, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics, allowing you to develop your logical thinking and learn to interpret models of real-life mechanics.

### Where will the course take me?

Further Mathematics can be an excellent addition to any university application, it can be seen as an advantage to any science-based degree, as well as actuarial science and mathematics programmes. By taking Further Mathematics, students will be prepared for the challenges of heavily mathematical university courses such as Physics and Mathematics degrees which will delve into further abstract concepts such as modelling with equations of ellipses and equations with solutions in the complex plane.

### How can I stretch myself through doing this course?

As a further mathematician, you will find the A level course will stretch your prior knowledge and develop the flexible thinking you require. Competitions such as the UKMT Challenge and Olympiad will complement your logical thinking and encourage you to think outside the box. You will also likely enjoy the team challenges run by UKMT as this will introduce you to other mathematical thinkers and methods of solving abstract problems. In addition to this, you will find Oxford MAT and Cambridge STEP tests a more than adequate challenge which will require you to use the techniques and knowledge taught in the course to think outside the box entirely.





# Music

Examination board: **EDUQAS (WJEC)**

**Course Requirement:**  
**GCSE Music desirable but not essential**  
**It is crucial that you have an appropriate level of Music Theory knowledge**  
**Study of a musical instrument (including voice) to approximately Grade 5**

**SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

The Western Classical Tradition  
(Development of the Symphony  
1750-1900)

Musical Theatre/Pop & Rock/Jazz

Into the Twentieth Century  
(Impressionism, Expressionism, Neo-  
Classicism)

**HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

- Performance (25-35%)
- Option A (35%): total duration of performances, 10-12 minutes
  - Option B (25%): total duration of performances, 6-8 minutes
- Composition (25-35%)
- Option A (35%): total duration of compositions, 8-10 minutes
  - Option B (25%): total duration of compositions, 4-6 minutes
- Appraising (40%)
- Written examination 2 hours 15 minutes

**Am I suited to the course?**

You must have a passion for music, and a willingness and curiosity to embrace all musical genres. If you love performing, composing, and listening to music, then A level Music is the course for you. Take the next exciting step in your musical journey and open up your mind and soul to new experiences.

**Where will this course lead me?**

There are endless opportunities for you to have an exciting career within the world of music including performing in an ensemble or as a session musician, production, journalism, arts management, festival organiser, recording, composing, conducting, artist management, teaching and lecturing.

**How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You will develop your listening and analytical skills, essay writing, keyboard technique and score reading. You will learn valuable performance skills which will help you gain confidence and take your playing/singing to the next level. You will explore a variety of approaches to musical composition and will discover how to use Sibelius to successfully realise your ideas. You will be given the support you need to establish and direct your own musical ensembles, and be encouraged to seek out opportunities to perform or compose on a national level.



# Music Technology

Examination board: **Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**GCSE Music desirable but not essential**  
**An appropriate level of musical and IT skills required**  
**Keen interest in popular music and technology, without the emphasis on music theory or performance**  
**Science skills preferred but not essential**

**SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes

Principles of sound and audio technology

The development of recording and production technology from 1920 to the present day

**HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

- Recording (20%)
- Capture, edit, process and mix a 3 minute audio recording
- Technology-based composition (20%)
- Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition
- Listening and analysing (25%)
- Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes
- Producing and analysing (35%)
- Written/practical examination 2 hours 15 minutes

**Am I suited to the course?**

You must have a passion for music and using computer software programmes to create and manipulate music. You will need the ability to work independently and to a deadline.

**Where will this course lead me?**

There is a wide range of degree courses on offer in Higher Education with a range of specialisms in many career options in the music industry in production, studio engineering, live sound engineering, media sound design and production, music journalism, arts administration, recording and editing, composition and many more.

**How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

As well as developing critical musical knowledge through listening and creative tasks, you will also study principles of physics in relation to sound in both musical and non-musical settings. You will gain IT skills as you progress through the course as these are essential and integral to success in this subject.



# Physics

Examination board: **AQA**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or**  
**Combined Science**  
**Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics**

## SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Measurements and their errors

Particles and radiation

Waves

Mechanics and materials

Electricity

Further mechanics and thermal physics

Fields and their consequences

Nuclear physics

## HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

100% examination

- Paper 1 (34%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 2 (34%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 3 (32%): written examination 2 hours

## Am I suited to the course?

Studying Physics will enable you to understand the governing laws that apply to the world around you. If you are inquisitive, observant and questioning, with strong mathematical skills, then you will enjoy and thrive with A-Level Physics. The course is a fascinating mixture of practical, theoretical and calculational work, allowing you to understand and make incredibly precise predictions about almost every aspect and phenomenon in the natural world.

## Where will this course lead me?

In addition to the traditional courses in Sciences and Engineering, an A Level in Physics can open many doors. In recent years students have used Physics in studies as diverse as Data Science, Medicine, Archaeology, Finance, Architecture, Music, Aviation. A distinct advantage for many university courses, Physics will always help you stand out from the crowd.

## How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

A-Level Physics is the route to a deep understanding of the fundamental laws of nature. Through this course you will ask, and use models and evidence to answer, some of the biggest questions about our universe. You will study universal concepts that apply from the smallest atoms to the largest galaxies. Understanding the physical world has challenged some of the greatest minds in history. Lessons will take you beyond the core content of the specification; and will look for opportunities to explore content associated with your university aspirations. Going beyond the lessons we will find opportunities for individual extension, for example in engineering and robotics or astronomy.



# Politics

Examination board: **Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 7 GCSE in History, English**  
**Literature or English Language**

## SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

UK politics and core political ideas

- Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media
- Conservatism, liberalism, socialism

UK Government and non-core political ideas

- The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches
- Anarchism

Global politics

- Sovereignty and globalisation, global governance, human rights and the environment, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories

## HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (33.3%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper two (33.3%): written exam, 2 hours
- Paper three: (33.3%): written exam, 2 hours

## Am I suited to the course?

If you want to gain an understanding of the world in which we live, then this course is for you. In the first year, you will explore the nature of politics in the UK and look at the various ways people engage in the political process. You will research different political institutions in the UK, giving presentations, engaging in debate, and evaluating election material. It is useful to be interested in current affairs, researching and watching political debates, but you don't need formal prior knowledge of the UK political system.

The second year looks at Global Politics, addressing issues such as global terrorism, poverty, economic instability, weapons proliferation, failing states and environmental degradation. These challenges require global cooperation if they are to be resolved. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of key political concepts, learn to analyse and evaluate areas of global politics and use key terminology to compare contemporary global issues. You will study the nature of political ideology examining Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Anarchism across both years.

## Where will this course lead me?

Each year several of our students continue to study Politics at university, having the option to read UK or International Politics. Some choosing to combine Politics with other subjects such as Languages, Economics, RE or Geography. A Politics degree can lead to careers in Parliament, BBC, Local Government, management consultancy, research, and the Civil Service. It provides the written and verbal skills necessary to succeed at both university and in the changing world of work.

## How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will develop an understanding of local, regional, international, and global dimensions of political activity. Giving you the chance to explore political issues that affect us all. You will have the opportunity to take part in Model United Nations conferences so that you can debate key political issues alongside other students studying Politics. You will also have the opportunity to visit Westminster, Holyrood and, in an election year, organise hustings in school.





# Psychology

Examination board: **AQA**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 in Biology**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

### Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology

### Psychology in context

- Approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods

### Issues and options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Relationships.

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

### Examination (100%)

- Paper 1 (33.3%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 2 (33.3%): written examination 2 hours
- Paper 3 (33.3%): written examination 2 hours

### Am I suited to the course?

You don't need any prior knowledge of Psychology in order to start the A level course, but you do need a solid complement of GCSEs with mostly grade 6 as you may well find Psychology very demanding, especially the research methods component of the course. The requirement to write essays, in which you present argument for and against an issue, means that you should also have a good grasp of the English language. As Psychology is a science, a GCSE in Science (especially Biology) would be advisable, and you do need to be comfortable with numbers. Most important, though, is that you have a genuine curiosity about the way humans think and behave.

An A level Psychology course complements a range of other A levels, including the sciences (e.g. Biology) and the social sciences.

### Where will this course lead me?

A Level Psychology is regarded by Universities as a challenging subject where students develop skills which are readily transferable to other disciplines and since it is considered a Science A Level, will allow access to many Science based courses including Medicine at some Universities. It is also ideal for Law, Business, Physiotherapy, Sports, Education and all health-related courses.



# Religious Studies

Examination board: **EDUQAS**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 GCSE profile**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

### Component 1: Study of Christianity

Religious figures and sacred texts  
Religious concepts and religious life  
Significant social and historical developments in religious thought  
Religious practices and religious identity

### Component 2: Philosophy of Religion

Arguments for the existence of God  
Challenges to religious belief  
Religious experience  
Religious language

### Component 3: Religion and Ethics

Ethical thought  
Deontological ethics  
Teleological ethics  
Determinism and free will

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

### 100% examination

- Paper 1 (33.3%): Christianity
- Paper 2 (33.3%): Philosophy
- Paper 3 (33.3%): Ethics

### Am I suited to the course?

This course will appeal to you if you have an inquisitive mind and enjoy problem solving or if you want to engage more critically with how religion influences society and ask questions such as is there a God? Throughout the course you will engage in critical analysis of theological, philosophical, and ethical theories and concepts. An interest in ideas, beliefs and how they inform personal choice is beneficial. If you enjoy debating and discussing questions about truth, belief, ethics, and society then this course is for you.

### Where will this course lead me?

Religious Studies is the gateway to many undergraduate degrees and provides a good foundation for subjects such as anthropology, ethics, philosophy, sociology, theology and more. Religious study is useful if you are interested in politics (PPE), the civil service, the armed forces, medicine, international business, the media.

### How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

At Giggleswick we have a thriving department and so can offer access to our annual Paley Lecture, Debating Society, Model United Nations and other school activities that complement the course. In addition, when possible, the RS department runs an annual trip to Europe, in January 2020 we went to Rome. You can support your learning by listening to podcasts, webinars, student conferences and guest speakers to add value where appropriate..





# Theatre Studies

**Examination board: Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Grade 6 GCSE profile**  
**Drama GCSE desirable**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Devising  
Theatre makers in practice  
Text in performance  
Theatre makers in practice

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

Performance (40%)

- A devised piece and a portfolio about the process

Written exam (40%)

- 2 set texts Equus & Woyzeck plus a live review

Performance (20%)

- Group performance

### **Am I suited to the course?**

The course demands practical, academic and artistic skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, either in a performing or production role. You need to have a keen interest in the history of drama, key practitioners and theatrical conventions, all of which make theatre such a compelling and exciting subject. You must be able to analyse and critically deconstruct texts and performance. English Literature is often studied as a complementary subject as it enhances the critical evaluation required within the written work.

### **Where will this course lead me?**

It will give you the ability to articulate thoughts, explore ideas, sharpen your communication skills and enhance your ability to work in group scenarios both practically and academically. These are fundamental life skills highly valued by universities and employers, and Theatre Studies can be used in an A level combination for entry to many different degree courses. You may go on to study drama at university or drama school, and progress to working in theatre, television, film and video.

### **How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

We can provide you with opportunities to experience dynamic new theatre, and work alongside theatre professionals. Thanks to the Richard Whiteley Theatre programme, you can watch shows on your doorstep, take part in post-show discussions and engage in practical workshops with directors and actors. You can be trained in sound and lighting, costume and set design as well as performance. You will also visit Leeds, Manchester and London to see the very best theatre on offer in the UK.



# BTEC Level 3 Diploma Business

**Examination board: Pearson Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Minimum 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Year 12

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign\*
- Personal and Business Finance\*
- Investigating Customer Service

Year 13

- Principles of Management \*
- Manage an Event
- International Business
- Recruitment and Selection Process

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

\*Assessed by examinations held in January Year 12, May Year 12 and January Year 13

All other units are assessed through a variety of tasks such as reports and presentations – these must be supported by independent research and evidence.

### **Am I suited to the course?**

You will have a keen interest in business and what makes organisations work. You will need to be well organised and keen to undertake independent learning. Most units of the BTEC course require research into different aspects of business which is then analysed and presented in professional reports. You will have to meet regular assignment deadlines and prepare for three external assessments.

### **Where will this course lead me?**

You can combine your BTEC Level 3 Diploma with one A level subject. This will give you the opportunity to apply for university or complete a degree apprenticeship. You may choose to go straight into the world of work where employers value BTECs highly as the ongoing assessment creates a need to be well organised and develop good time management. The BTEC is certainly a good pathway to an apprenticeship as well as a foundation to many university courses related to business management.

BTEC Level 3 Business Diploma is equivalent to two A levels.

### **How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?**

You can take part in the OG funded Giggleswick Entrepreneurship Experience which involves managing and developing a real business that endures over years. Many assignments are open ended and you can research and explore issues that you find interesting. You can even use your own work experience in a part-time job to help with assignment tasks.





# BTEC Level 3 Diploma Sport

**Examination board: Pearson Edexcel**

**Course Requirement:**  
**Minimum 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above**

## **SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW**

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Compulsory units

- Anatomy and physiology
- Fitness training and programming
- Professional development in the sports industry
- Sports leadership
- Sports event organisation
- Sports injury management
- Work experience and active leisure
- Skill acquisition in sport

## **HOW IS IT ASSESSED?**

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There are 9 units of which 3 are external examinations. The remaining 6 units are internally assessed.

### **Am I suited to the course?**

You should have a passion for all sports and the drive to improve your knowledge further. As the course is varied in terms of the theoretical side, you should also have an interest in science as well as all aspects of current sporting affairs. You need to be well-organised in terms of independent learning and able to meet deadlines

### **Where will this course lead me?**

You can progress to a Higher Education degree in Sports Science or Sports Studies, which in turn could lead to a PGCE in Teaching. Alternative courses are leisure/recreation management, sports coaching/development or specific vocational training in fitness. Employment within the leisure industry is another option.

Opportunities are not limited to sports and fitness, we have pupils who went on to study a range of subjects at Newcastle University, Durham University and Bath University - including one student who went on to study Criminology at Bath.







**GIGGLESWICK**  
SCHOOL

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The contents of this publication are correct at the time of printing.  
However changes may be made in due course for educational or other reasons.