GIGGLESWICK
SCHOOL

Sixth Form Curriculum

2026 - 2027

Why Giggleswick Sixth Form?
Your Future Starts Now

This is your time - and at Giggleswick, we'll help you make it count. Whether your sights are set on Oxbridge, a top international university, or a competitive degree apprenticeship with companies like Jaguar Land Rover, Rolls Royce or BAE Systems, our Sixth Form is built to get you there. With small classes, expert mentoring and tailored academic support, you will be known, challenged and encouraged to thrive. But we go further than exams. From leadership development to industry talks, interview prep and mentoring, we equip you with the confidence and skills to succeed in the real world. And when it comes to university and career guidance, you will be in the best hands. Mrs Coward, Head of Sixth Form & Careers, is a board member of UCAS and she leads a process trusted by families year after year. Add to that our brand-new Sixth Form Centre - your space to study, cook, socialise and grow - and you have the perfect environment to shape your future, your way.

Beyond the classroom, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities: clubs, societies and educational trips. Visiting speakers 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 pupils to develop their ability to study independently. This is achieved in a carefully structured framework which provides each pupil with the support they need to succeed.

The Sixth Form is also an opportunity for pupils to start to lead the School. They are encouraged to be active not only in class, but in the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer.

We look to cultivate well-rounded, interesting pupils, who will be confident yet humble in their approach to dealing with the challenges they will face in the future. They will have the opportunity to influence the school in a positive way - high standards of leadership, 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.

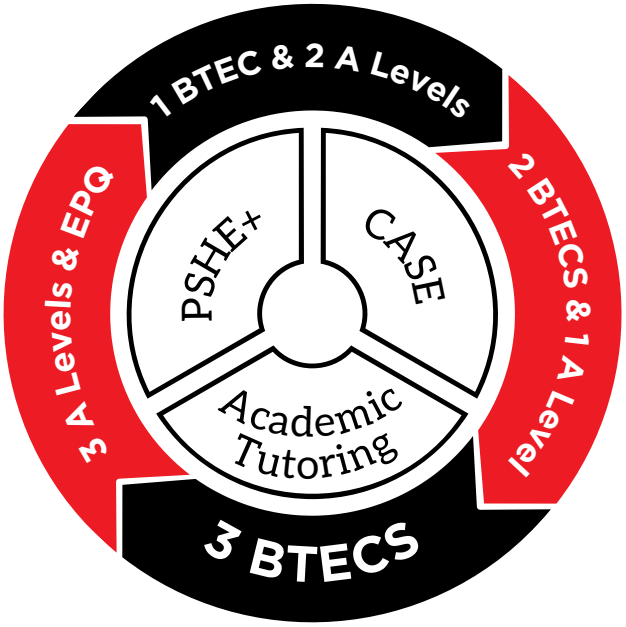
Into this we have also placed what parents and students have told us are important for them in developing assured, independently minded individuals who are ready to take on the exciting opportunities beyond school.

All sixth form students will therefore take part in the curriculum that breaks into five key areas:

- Academic Curriculum - A level & BTEC options
- EPQ / Gold Arts Award
- CASE (Co-curricular) Programme
- Future Ready Digital Skills
- PSHE Programme



Giggleswick Sixth Form Programme
A Level and BTEC Options



The Academic Curriculum - A Level and BTEC

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.

**It may be 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.

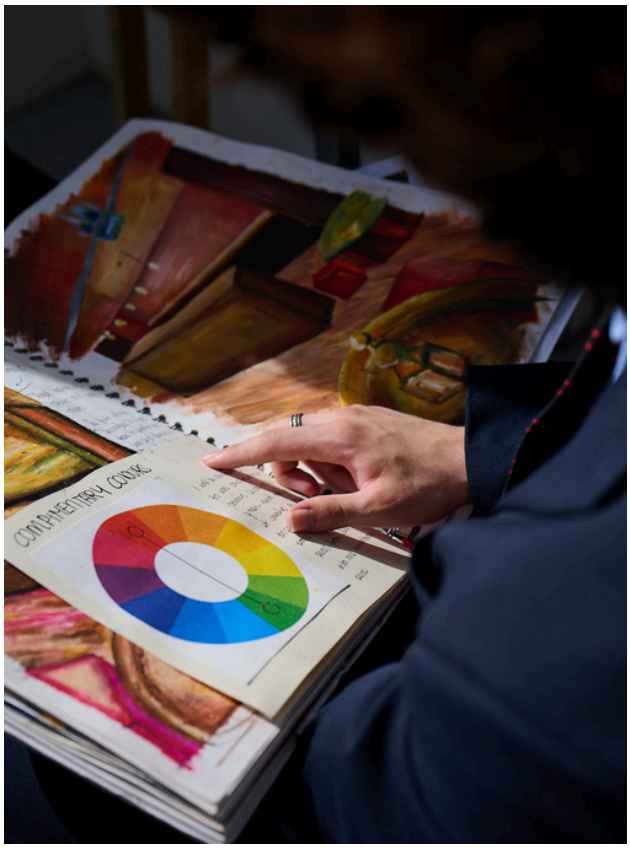
CASE Co-Curricular Programme

CASE stands for Creative, Active, Service and Enrichment. We believe that each of these is an important part of a person's wellbeing and helps 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 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.





"There's a willingness to step beyond 'traditional' routes and take a more modern approach to next steps, with BTECs on offer and many pupils snaffling prestigious degree apprenticeships."

MUDDY STILETTOS

Technical Literacy Skills

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.

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.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What is it?

The EPQ allows a pupil 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 pupil 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 pupils 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?

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

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

Each pupil is allocated a supervisor who will give them advice on their projects on a weekly basis. Each supervisor oversees four or five pupils. 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 pupils 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, pupils 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 pupils produce an artefact (such as a film, piece of artwork or computer programme) and they therefore write a shorter essay. Lastly, all pupils 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:

- How could 'Origami Architecture' be used to increase the sense of wellbeing in public spaces/buildings?
- What has been the legacy of the 2012 Olympics?
- How does humour in children's literature demonstrate their development of moral understanding and values?
- Should the UK Judicial system continue to use Juries within criminal trials?
- How can I design and build a Mountain Bike track for pupils of mixed ages and abilities at my school?
- How can I design a museum that would include artefacts and installations to educate viewers on Armenian History.
- How have different types of Veterinary scanning technology improved treatment for animals?

Tailored Higher Education & Careers Support



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 use the UCAS and Unifrog search engines to refine their course searches and 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.

Leavers' Destinations 2026

Durham University
Anthropology and Sociology
Finance
Finance with Study Abroad

Lancaster University
Business and Management
Electronic and Electrical Engineering
History and International Relations (Study Abroad)
Human Geography

Leeds Beckett University
Project Management

Liverpool John Moores University
Media Production

Loughborough University
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Newcastle University
Medicine and Surgery
Sustainable Land and Business Management

Northumbria University
Psychology
Sport, Exercise and Nutrition

Sheffield Hallam University
Business Management and Marketing

Swansea University
Ancient History

The University of Edinburgh
Philosophy and Theology
Psychology and Business

Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Architecture

University of Chester
Acting

University of Exeter
Mathematics

University of Hull
Politics and International Relations

University of Leeds
Geography
Materials Science

University of Liverpool
Film Studies

University of Manchester
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

University of Nottingham
Architecture

University of Oxford
Theology and Religion

University of Southampton
Law

University of Warwick
Law and Sociology
Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies

University of York
Accounting, Business Finance and Management
Chemistry
Law
Philosophy/Politics

INTO THE WORLD OF WORK
International Talent Partnerships (ITP)
Recruitment Consultant

A Level & BTEC Grades

44% A*-A

67% A*-B

91% A*-C

MATHS & FURTHER MATHS
ACHIEVED A* OR A

83%

82% achieved a place at their first choice university

69% received an offer from a Russell Group university

Your Journey through Sixth Form



Entry Requirements

A levels

The standard entry requirement for 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 BTEC Level 3's and A levels. You will need a minimum of four Level 4 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 GCSEs/iGCSEs, offers are made based on school reports, English and Maths tests and an interview in person or online.

Head of Sixth Form & Academic Tutors

Head of Sixth Form, Anne Coward is also a teacher of History and Politics and has a role on the UCAS Advisory Board. She leads an experienced tutor team which spans all subject areas, and 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 Unifrog 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

September
Sixth Form Information Evening

December/January
Year 11 Trial Exams

Scholarship Application DDL

February
Sixth Form Scholarship Assessments

March
Deadline for submitting subject choices

Year 12

May/June
GCSE Exams

September
Sixth Form Induction Week

October-December
Independent Study Skills/Unifrog

January-July
Introduction to UCAS and Open Days

Year 13

February
Personal Statements

June
End of Year Exams

September
Conservatoire deadline

UCAS Completion deadline

October
Oxbridge, Medicine & Dentistry deadline

Degree Apprenticeships
deadlines vary by organisation

December/January
Year 13 Trial Exams

February
Student Finance Information

April
Confirm university offers and accommodation in UCAS

May
'University Survival Kit' course

June
Exams and Leavers' Ball

August
Publication of results

We support you every step of the way

A typical day

8.20am	Registration
08.40am	Lesson 1
09.40am	Lesson 2
10.40 am	BREAK
11.05am	Lesson 3
12.05pm	Lesson 4
01.00pm	LUNCH
01.45pm	Lesson 5
02.45pm	Lesson 6
3.40pm	BREAK
4.00pm	CASE Activities
5.05pm	Day pupils go home
5.10pm	First Prep
6.00pm	TEA
7.00pm	Second Prep
8.00pm	Evening Activities

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 Unifrog report
Which skills were strengths for you, and did you have weaker areas?

Read the subject descriptions very carefully
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
Ask 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 ask Subject Leads questions
They will be very happy to offer you useful advice on their courses.

Research what you need
What A levels/BTECs are required for the university courses which you are interested in. For example, if you are sure you want to study Medicine, 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.

Keep your options open
If you are really 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.

Focus on transferable skills
Very few 16-year-olds know exactly what they want to do in the future, so you are not alone. Transferable skills 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
Textiles methods such as free machine embroidery, felt making, weaving, batik, trapping and sealing, surface manipulation

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Coursework (60%)
- The coursework component is made up of practical work accompanied by a 1000 to 3000 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. The Art A level allows you to follow specification either Fine Art, Textile Art or both.

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; and Girton College Museum competition to write about their Museum pieces. 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 or Combined Sciences, 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 provides many opportunities to widen your practical skills. Challenging and rewarding, A level Biology will also hone your Mathematics and essay writing, promote both independent 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?

The course sits well alongside all A levels, particularly History and Politics, Computer Science, Mathematics and Languages. You should be interested in how the world economy works and what influences income, wealth and wellbeing. 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?

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 Combined 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: OCR (Cambridge OCR)

Course Requirement:
Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Interest in Computer Science or Coding

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Year 1
- Core A Level foundations: processor structure and types; input, output and storage; systems software; applications and translators; software development; programming paradigms; compression, encryption and hashing; databases; networks and web technologies.
Programming develops alongside theory, including computational thinking, problem decomposition, functions/procedures and object-oriented techniques.

Year 2
- Full A Level development and synoptic preparation: data types and structures; Boolean algebra; legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues; computational methods; recursion; algorithm design, efficiency and Big O notation; standard searching, sorting, graph and path-finding algorithms. Students complete the Programming Project (NEA), applying analysis, design, iterative development, testing and evaluation.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Full A Level: 80% exams + 20% NEA

- Component 01: Computer systems (40%) 140 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes, written paper. No calculators.

- Component 02: Algorithms and programming (40%) 140 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes, written paper. No calculators.

- Component 03/04: Programming project (20%) 70 marks, non-exam assessment. Students analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a programmed solution.

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 include:

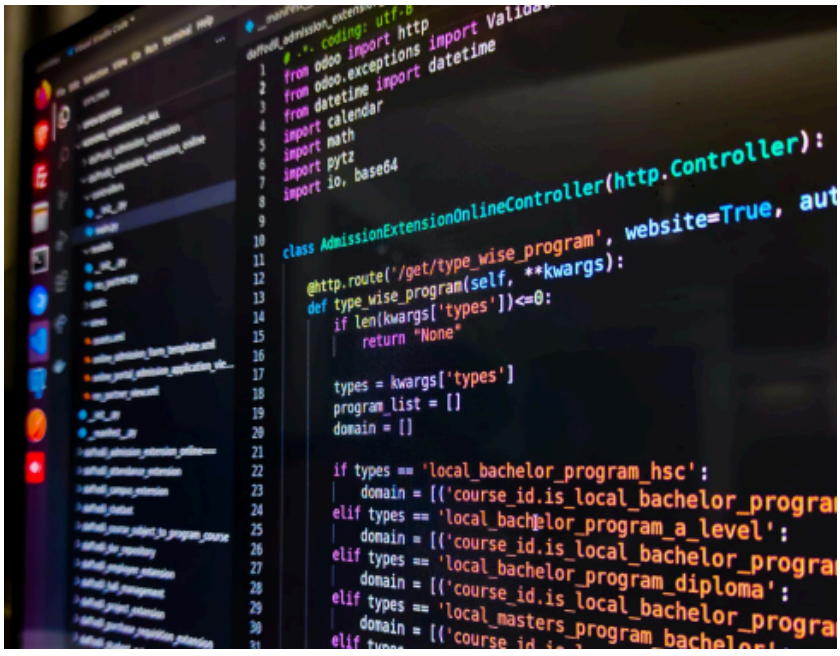
Video Game Developer	Computer Programmer
Data Manager	Artificial Intelligence Developer
Hardware Engineer	Software Developer
Systems Manager	Web Developer
Network Administrator	Security Analyst
Ethical Hacker	Machine Learning Engineer

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?

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.



Geography

Examination board: Cambridge International

Course Requirement:
Grade 6 GCSE Geography

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Core Physical Geography
- Hydrology, river processes and hazards
- Atmospheric processes and global climate change
- Earth processes and mass movements

Core Human Geography
- Population and migration
- Water resources and management
- Urban areas and management

Global Environments Options
- Coastal environments
- Hazardous environments

Global Themes Options
- Trade, aid and tourism
- Disease and geography

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 6 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 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.



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 this course lead 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 subject?

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

- Further Statistics

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 Statistics 1

- Paper four (25%): Further Mechanics 1

Am I suited to the course?

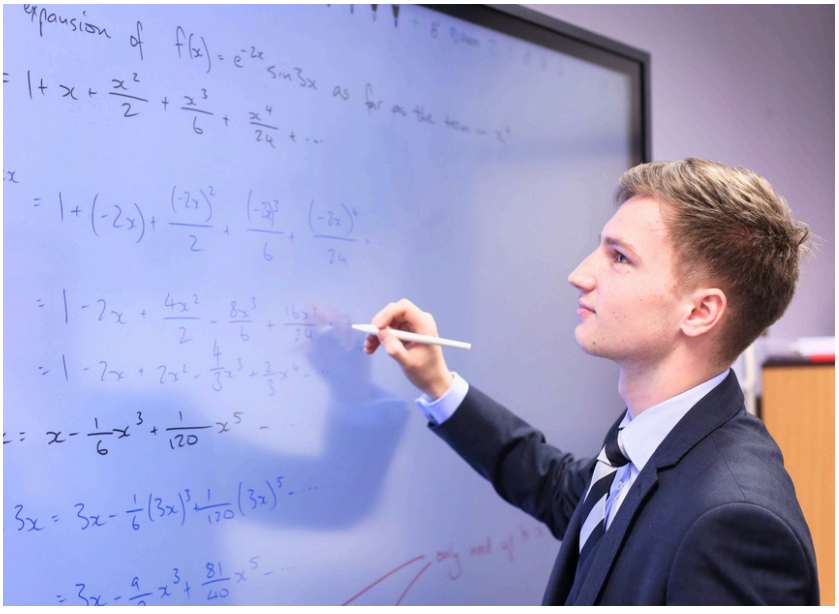
Further Mathematics is suited for those with a passion for abstract thinking and problem solving. Within the course, you will meet challenges which will require you to combine your prior GCSE knowledge with complex processes in order to find a solution. You will study areas of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics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

Where will this course lead 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 subject?

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: Edexcel

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 areas of study

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Performance (30%)
- A public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital.

- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of eight minutes.

Composition (30%)
- Two compositions, one to a brief and one either free composition or also to a brief.

- Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of six minutes.

Appraising (40%)
- Written examination 2 hours 10 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 not essential

- Strong interest in popular music and music technology, with no emphasis on traditional music theory or performance.
- Creative approach to music - composition is part of the course.
- Passion for music technology - especially in areas like production, sound design and live sound.
- Competent IT and problem-solving skills - comfortable using computers and open to learning new software.
Creative, hands-on learner -practical work, experimenting with sound, and project-based tasks.
- Self-motivated, organised, able to work independently, meet deadlines, and respond well to feedback.

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

A range of modules and topics over 2 years including:

- Studio recording and production techniques
- Live sound setup and engineering
- Digital audio workstation (DAW) use composition and creative audio manipulation
- Understanding audio principles and sound technology
- The evolution of music production technologies from early recordings to modern digital systems

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

We will follow the A Level or BTEC curriculum depending on the cohort of pupils.

Modular and ongoing, offering pupils the chance to build skills over time with some externally assessed content; responding to a set brief to demonstrate technical and creative knowledge in a controlled task.

Am I suited to the course?

This course is ideal for pupils who enjoy hands-on learning, are passionate about music production, and are motivated by practical challenges. You should enjoy working with technology, collaborating on creative projects, and applying your skills in real-world scenarios. Prior instrumental or performance experience is welcome but not necessary.

Where will this course lead me?

Advanced Level Music Technology is recognised by universities, colleges, and employers. It opens doors to a wide range of higher education options and careers, including:

- Music production
- Studio and live sound engineering
- Film, TV and gaming audio
- Media and content creation
- Event production
- Sound design, music education, and more

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You'll develop creative, technical, and analytical skills through real-world tasks. You'll explore both the artistic and scientific sides of sound, gain experience with industry-standard tools, and build a portfolio of work.

The best way to truly develop your skills is to fully embrace the subject—by taking initiative, creating your own projects, and exploring music technology beyond the classroom. The structure encourages independence, project management, and reflective learning—skills highly valued in the music industry and beyond.



Physics

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement:
Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Combined Sciences
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?

Examination (100%)
- 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?

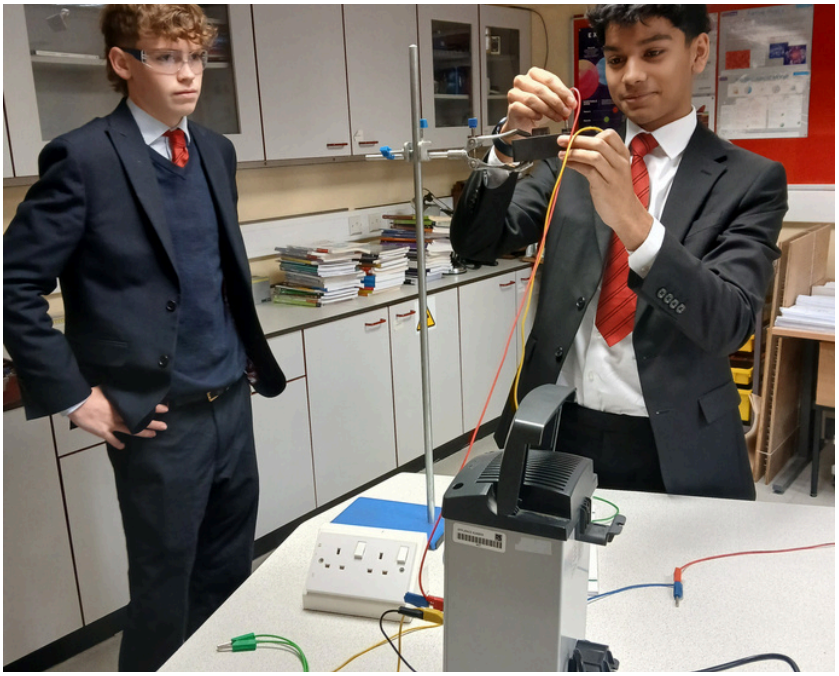
Studying Physics will enable you to understand the governing laws that apply to the world around you. If you are inquisitive, observant and questioning, with strong mathematical skills, then you will enjoy and thrive with A-Level Physics. The course is a fascinating mixture of practical, theoretical 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 GCSE in Biology

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Introductory topics in Psychology
Psychology in context
Issues and options 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 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?

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.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

There are plenty of opportunities to go beyond the classroom by engaging with wider reading, such as research articles, podcasts, and books that explore debates about human behaviour. Applying psychological ideas to current issues, from mental health to social influence, helps you think critically about the world around you. Many students also enjoy designing their own small-scale research projects, which develop analytical, organisational, and statistical skills. By questioning theories, evaluating evidence, and forming your own arguments, you'll sharpen your independent thinking – a key strength both for university study and future careers.

Pupils also have the opportunity to take part in live psychological studies when they become available, gaining first-hand insight into how research is conducted. As part of our CASE activities, we even offer a Juggling Club – a fun but powerful mechanism of cognitive enrichment shown to increase grey matter in the brain, while improving concentration, coordination, and persistence. These enrichment opportunities bring psychology to life and help you experience the subject in action.

Religious Studies

Examination board: EDUQAS

Course Requirement:
Grade 6 GCSE profile

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Component 1: Study 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?

Examination (100%)

- Paper one (33.3%): Christianity

- Paper two (33.3%): Philosophy

- Paper three (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, belief's 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. You can support your learning by listening to podcasts, webinars, student conferences and guest speakers to add value where appropriate..



AAQ Extended Certificate in Applied Science (formerly BTEC)

Examination board: OCR

Course Requirement:
GCSE Science subjects at Grade 4 or above
GCSE Maths and English at Grade 4 or above

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Fundamentals of Science: (Exam)
-Section A (Biology)
-Section B (Chemistry)
-Section C (Physics)
-Section D (Practicals)

Science in Society (Exam)
- Topic Area 1 What scientists do
- Topic Area 2 Handling scientific data
- Topic Area 3 Scientific developments
- Topic Area 4 Communicating science

Analytical Chemistry (assignment)

Environmental Studies (assignment) OR
Forensic Biology (assignment)

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Examination (100%)
-Two written exams, January/June sittings
- Students may resit each exam twice
Coursework (NEA):
- Three internally assessed units

Am I suited to the course?

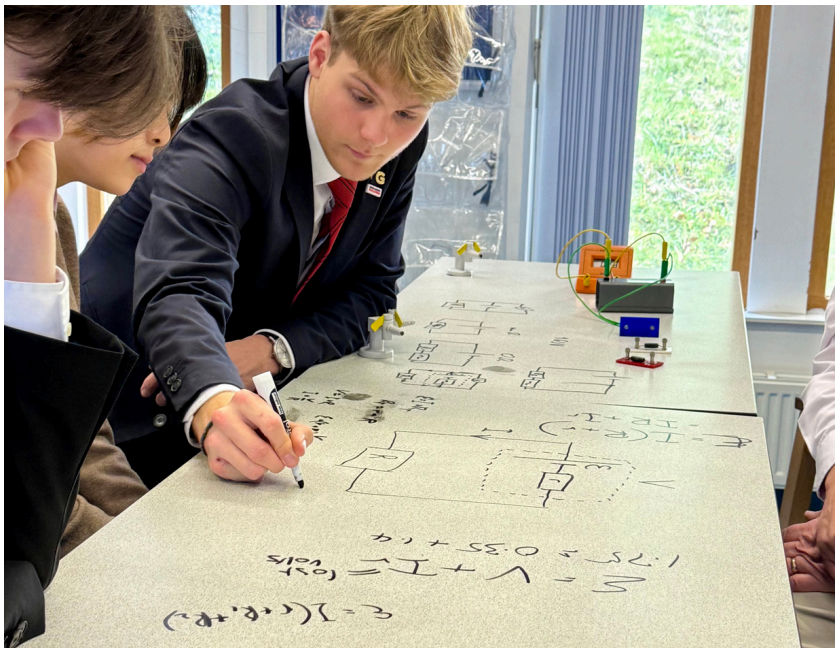
You should have a genuine interest in understanding how science works in the real world and the enthusiasm to explore it further through both theory and hands on investigation. The course blends classroom learning with practical laboratory work, so you will need to enjoy applying scientific ideas to real scenarios and be ready to think critically and solve problems. Being organised, motivated, and able to work independently will help you meet deadlines and get the most out of your studies.

Where will this course lead me?

You can progress to a wide range of science related degrees, including Biological Sciences, Life Sciences, Allied Health fields and Forensic Science. These pathways can open doors to careers in healthcare, research, laboratory science, environmental work, and many applied scientific sectors. Students often go on to higher education feeling well-prepared thanks to the strong practical and analytical foundation this course provides.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You'll have opportunities to extend yourself through specialised NEA units, each designed to deepen your practical and investigative skills. Whether you're analysing data, conducting independent scientific research, or developing your scientific communication, the course encourages you to grow in confidence and skill. Units such as Science in Society help you engage with wider scientific issues, building your awareness of how science shapes the world.



BTEC 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?

Examination (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 Extended Certificate in Business

Examination board: Edexcel

Course Requirement:
Minimum 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

- Exploring Business

- Developing a Marketing Campaign*

- Business Finance*

- Recruitment and Selection

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

***Assessed by examinations held in January in Year 12 and 13.**

All other units are assessed through a variety of assignments including 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 two external assessments.

Where will this course lead me?

You can combine this qualification with two more single BTECs or a mixture with A Level. 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.

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Business is equivalent to one A Level.

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 Extended Certificate in Sport

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Requirement:
Minimum 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Units covered

- Anatomy and physiology
- Fitness training and programming
- Professional development in the sports industry
- Sports leadership
- Further units can be studied

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

There are 4 units of which 2 are external examinations.

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.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

Through the Sports Leaders Award which gives the opportunity to gain experience in coaching younger pupils to develop their individual skills, whilst developing communication and leadership for each pupil. This may lead to opportunities within the community to coach and support local teams.



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However changes may be made in due course for educational or other reasons.