



# The Becket Sixth

## School Prospectus

**“Outstanding Sixth Form”**  
Ofsted 2022





# The Becket Community



Our primary aim is to enable our students to fulfil their academic potential.

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Becket Sixth. At The Becket, we have a clear purpose that is fundamental in everything we do: 'Work hard, be loving, and do the right thing.'

The Becket School is forward looking, while embracing traditional values; we aim to provide for each student an outstanding Catholic education, which will prepare your child academically and socially for their future.

The Becket Sixth is a disciplined but caring and tolerant community in which staff and students work together. Well motivated students are welcomed and share a common aim with teachers: that of ensuring that these years are well spent and have a successful outcome.

For many students the Sixth Form represents two short but very special years of their lives. It is a crucial time which can place considerable pressures on the student; it can also be a time to discover the true satisfaction of learning, a time to make new friends and to find new interests and pursuits. Our primary aim is to enable our students to fulfil their academic potential.



Mr Paul Greig  
The Becket School  
Headteacher

Whilst we emphasise the importance of academic achievement, we see this as just one aspect of Sixth Form life.

For these reasons it is essential that the place of your choice should be one which holds out the best prospect for your academic success, but also one in which you will feel sufficiently happy and 'at home' to be able to work steadily towards your personal goals.

The Becket Sixth is ideal for any flourishing student who wants to excel in their A-Level Studies.

You will have full support from a wide variety of staff members to reach your full potential. This, combined with a desire to achieve, will guarantee you excel at The Becket Sixth.

Stephen, Becket Sixth Student



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# Academic Achievement



The Becket Sixth Leadership Team will always strive to support every student to be the best they can.

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**Studying at The Becket Sixth allows students to unlock their academic potential in a secure environment.**

Staff continually challenge students to push themselves to reach those higher grades they are capable of.

There is a strong emphasis on independent learning as a key aspect at this stage of their education. Our Post 16 facilities allow students to work independently in their study periods in a calm studious atmosphere.

Alongside A-Level qualifications students have the opportunity to follow enrichment courses.

**Tutorial programme.**

To support the academic progress of our students we also have a tutorial programme. In Year 13 each student will have opportunities to meet with their tutor and discuss progress. There is also a planned programme to support with study skills, careers education, health & well-being and Post 18 choices.

**Supercurricular programme.**

At The Becket Sixth we push our students to learn outside of the exam specification. In Year 12 we have 'Becket Reads' where all students self direct their study each day and read high quality texts that push their learning further. To support this all students have access to The Becket Sixth supercurricular website, Becket Sixth canon of books and the Unifrog platform.

The academic record of The Becket Sixth has made me confident in my studies, because I know I will get the necessary support in order to achieve my ambitions.

The teachers support you so you can reach your full potential. Teachers treat students equally, as adults, which helps to build great relationships.

Cara, Becket Sixth Student



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Staff continually challenge students to push themselves to reach those higher grades they are capable of.

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# The Curriculum



The purposeful ethos and the excellent facilities promote an independent approach to learning.

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## What subjects can I study?

The curriculum is well matched to the needs and aspirations of our students. We offer over twenty recognised A-Level subjects, including those most valued by the established universities.

Most students study 3 A-levels, excluding our Further Maths students who may study 4. All our A-levels are linear, meaning students will study their A-levels over 2 years and sit exams at the end of Year 13.

## Entry Requirements

- A minimum of 6 GCSE's , 2 at Grade 6 and 4 at Grade 5. Each subject has its own grade requirement that can be found at the bottom of each subject page.
- Meeting the grade requirement does not automatically guarantee a place.

## A-Level subjects

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Art and Design            | • History               |
| • Biology                   | • Mathematics           |
| • Business                  | • Mathematics (Further) |
| • Chemistry                 | • Media                 |
| • Computer Science          | • Music                 |
| • Drama and Theatre Studies | • Physical Education    |
| • Product Design            | • Physics               |
| • Economics                 | • Politics              |
| • English Language          | • Psychology            |
| • English Literature        | • Religious Studies     |
| • French                    | • Sociology             |
| • Geography                 |                         |
| • German                    |                         |

## Additional Qualifications

- Core Maths
- EPQ
- Speaking in public (LAMDA)
- Sports Leadership

## How is progress monitored?

Progress is closely monitored and well-focused support is provided to help our students obtain results of which they can be proud.

Students sit internal assessments throughout Sixth Form. All students sit mock exams at the end of the summer term in Year 12 and additional mock exams after Christmas in Year 13. In both years students receive two progress reports which provide information on target grades, predicted grades and attitude to learning.

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I chose to study at The Becket Sixth because every year the academic record is outstanding and I knew that I would get the support I needed to make every success.

I have witnessed the efforts that teachers go to in order to ensure success at A-Level for the students.

Ed, Becket Sixth Student





## Course details

### A-Level units:

- (60% of A-Level):

#### Non-exam Assessment

This component is in two parts:

(i) A practical project in which you are expected to develop a personal investigation based on a theme, idea, or issue related to Art and Design which will result in a finished piece.

(ii) A Personal Study of approximately 2000 words which is linked to and supports your chosen focus of study.

- Component 4 (40% of A-Level):

#### Externally Set Assignment

You will be given a choice of themes set by the exam board, from which you will choose just one. You will need to demonstrate in-depth knowledge and a high level of technical skills and creativity when producing your personal and original outcome.

This component includes 15 hours of controlled assessment in which you produce a final outcome.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Art

# Art

### Why study Art?

Art and Design is both a form of communication and a means of expression of ideas and feelings. It forms a language which complements those of the literary, mathematical, scientific and factually based subjects.

Art and Design, through the opportunities it provides for personal expression, encourages imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical and problem solving abilities. Study of the subject will lead to a fuller understanding of art and design and will widen cultural horizons and understanding.

The A-Level is a demanding course and students need to be well organised and motivated to work with initiative and independence.

### The course is suitable for:

- Students who wish to undertake further studies in art, craft and design at a higher level.
- Students who are looking to take up careers for which an art background is relevant; e.g. publishing, architecture, advertising, museum and gallery work.
- Students who have an interest and aptitude for the subject but who do not intend to pursue it beyond A-Level.

### Outside activities

We organise a gallery or stately home visit in the Autumn Term. It is also possible that additional visits will be arranged to appropriate exhibitions at local galleries. Students are encouraged to make independent visits to galleries and exhibitions, particularly locally and also in connection with the development of the personal investigation.

### Careers and higher education

The range of Art and Design degree courses is extensive, covering the four main areas of fine art: textile, fashion design, graphic design, and three dimensional design, each of which subdivides into numerous more specialist areas of study. Students who wish to pursue a career in art and design, or who wish to develop their interest further, would apply for entry to a Foundation Course after completing GCSE to A-Level Art. Entry is dependent on an interview and a folder of work completed during the A-Level course.

# Product Design

### Why study Design & Technology?

A-Level Design and Technology is essentially a practical course in which students will have the opportunity to continue to develop both their design and making skills previously gained at GCSE. The course will be of interest to anyone wishing to pursue a career in the field of product design, engineering and architecture, but it may equally be considered by students wishing to keep their options open by simply selecting wide ranging A-Levels which will provide them with a sound basis for university entrance.

### Beyond the classroom

In addition to the usual classroom and workshop activities the department will, occasionally, arrange for students to visit industry to see how some industrial processes are carried out. Last year we took the students to the Jaguar Land Rover factory in Solihull along with market research trips suited to the students' design brief needs.

### Careers and higher education

Design and Technology is an excellent A-Level for anyone considering a career in the field of design. Coupled with A-Levels in Mathematics and/or Physics it is an ideal combination for those design courses with a bias towards engineering such as industrial design, civil engineering or automotive design. Coupled with an A-Level in Art and Design it will equip students for the more aesthetically biased courses such as consumer product design, graphic and packaging design.

There is of course a national shortage of engineers and designers. Students considering this option as a career would find this course essential.

Design is intelligence  
made visible.

Product Design Teacher



## The Product Study

### A-Level units:

- Coursework (50% of A-Level):

#### The Major

#### Design Project

The Major Design Project is intended to occupy approximately 45 hours of contact time but students should be aware that this will need to be supplemented by a considerable amount of private study calling for a high degree of self-discipline, organisation and motivation.

Projects undertaken in the past have included: design workstation; VW wardrobe; Ferrari showroom seating; high street fashion storage and display; cycle repair stand; outdoor furniture; rocking horse for children with cerebral palsy; hi-fi speakers; portable easel. The Major Project is internally assessed and then moderated.

- (50% of A-Level):

#### Written Exam

### Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Design & Technology



## Course details

### A-Level units:

- **Unit 1 (40% of A-Level):  
Practitioners in Practice**

In the opening unit, students explore the impact of two exciting theatre practitioners through a series of practical workshops forming a research report based on the outcomes. This will influence on their next work as they translate the newly acquired knowledge in a practical sense, to the creation of a piece of devised theatre, lasting up to 30 minutes, on a topic of their choice, taking ownership of both the style and structure of the work. Students are encouraged to be innovative and imaginative with their practical approaches and are assessed on their performance as an actor and the impact of their theatre on the audience. Alongside this, students also document their progress and process in the form of an innovative and creative portfolio.

- **Unit 2 (20% of A-Level):  
Exploring and Performing**

An exciting unit which is largely practically based, exploring the translation of a play from the page to the stage. The selection of the play is made with the students on the course, along with the choice of style and structure of the production itself. Students are assessed externally by an Examiner on their practical performance lasting up to 45 minutes, together with a short document that details the approach they have taken to forming the character and intended impact they want to have on the audience.

- **Unit 3 (40% of A-Level):  
Written Exam**

This unit is subdivided into two papers each carrying an equal weighting of 20%.

### Analysing Performance

In preparation for this written exam, emphasis is placed on practical exploration of two exciting plays, allowing students specific and unique insight into the possibilities of staging and character portrayal. Students explore the creative possibilities of staging, Othello and Love of the Nightingale from the perspective of Heroes and Villains. By being immersed as Actors and Directors in a range of theatrical elements, students bring alive these texts in the rehearsal space with real vigour and energy, gaining appreciation of how techniques can combine to communicate meaning. In Section B of the exam, students will analyse one of the amazing pieces of live theatre we have seen during the course. They deconstruct theatrical elements employed by Actors, Directors and other creatives, summarising the effect this had on audience members to communicate meaning.

### Deconstructing Texts for Performance

A similar practical approach is taken to preparation for this exam, which is based on one set text entitled, The Visit. Students explore possibilities for translating the text from the page to the stage as Actors, Directors and Designers. In Section A of the exam, students are required to annotate a section of the text from the perspective of a director, providing insight as to how they would bring this alive for the audience. In Section B, students provide a holistic explanation as to how they would stage a production of the entire play, making reference to a wide range of theatrical elements and how they would employ them specifically to impact the audience with their creative intentions.

**Entry Requirement**  
Grade 5 in Drama

# Drama

## Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama is an exciting, energising and challenging subject which enriches you on a personal and academic level. To watch and be part of live performances, to go through something together as a group, learning about them, laughing and helping them over good and bad times and sharing intense moments of happiness and nervousness, is how we might describe the most precious moments of our lives and yet this is precisely the things you go through putting on a play or being part of a course of drama.

It is useful to have taken GCSE Drama but not essential. You may have a plethora of other experiences of drama and theatre which will act as great preparation for studying at this level. The course will further develop your ability to reflect on professional theatre, and how to fuse the influence of playwrights and practitioners into your work.

Knowledge and understanding are enhanced by practical and theoretical components in research and performance.

Drama is a subject that by its nature requires candidates to consider individual, moral, ethical, social, and cultural issues. In this sense, you will be learning about the world of the play being studied and also the wider society in which that performance sits.

We have chosen texts and stimulus material that provide a broad range of cultures, genre and period; whilst extending opportunities to experiment imaginatively with form and style. There is an emphasis on practical exploration in all areas of the course. This direct engagement will inform your written work and hone your ability to create exciting theatre.



# Music

## Why study Music?

Studying at this level will enable you to develop further the skills learned at GCSE or BTEC. The music industry is thriving, and the skills you learn in A-Level Music could help you join this industry, as well as many other industries not directly linked to music.

In recent years music students have been very successful in gaining places in conservatories as well as universities. A-Level Music shows employers that you have persevered at developing a skill over a long term, a good trait to possess in the world of work.

There is a wide choice of music for students to study, discover and be inspired by: music for media, music for theatre, western classical tradition and pop music.

## What skills do you need?

It is preferable for students to have taken GCSE or BTEC Music before studying Music A-Level and have achieved a grade 5 or above.

However, if you play an instrument well (at least to grade 5 standard), are a fluent reader of notation and have a good grounding in music theory, then you may be able to take Music at this level. You should ask the Director of Music for advice.



## Course details

### A-Level units:

- **Unit 1 (40% of A-Level):  
Appraising Music**

Exam paper includes listening and written questions using excerpts of music and studying a range of set pieces.

- Section A – listening (60 marks)
- Section B – analysis (30 marks)
- Section C – contextual understanding (30 marks)

- **Unit 2 (35% of A-Level):  
Performance**

- **Unit 3 (25% of A-Level):  
Composition**

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in Music



## Course details

### Year 1

- **Unit 1 (35% of AS-Level):**  
Physiological Factors Affecting Performance
- **Unit 2 (35% of AS-Level):**  
Psychological and Socio-Cultural Themes in Physical Education
- **Unit 3 (30% of AS-Level):**  
Performance in Physical Education  
Performance; evaluating and planning for the improvement of performance. Candidates are assessed in one activity as a performer or coach selected from an approved list of activities.

### Year 2

- **Unit 1 (30% of A-Level):**  
Physiological Factors Affecting Performance
- **Unit 2 (20% of A-Level):**  
Psychological Factors Affecting Performance
- **Unit 3 (20% of A-Level):**  
Socio-cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport
- **Unit 4 (30% of A-Level):**  
Performance in Physical Education  
Practical skills - performance; evaluation, appreciation and the improvement of performance. Candidates are assessed in either performing or coaching one activity from the approved list.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in PE

# Physical Education

## Why study Physical Education?

Everyone has taken part in school PE lessons and a lot of people play in the school teams. Many people get a great deal of pleasure from physical activity and sport, many also go on to make the 'sporting experience' a part of their lives.

If you are you one of those people why not have your skills and ability recognised formally? Have you ever wondered how your body can do all the amazing things it does in sport? Where did sport come from? Why do we play sport?

Physical Education examinations are one of the biggest growth areas in education at the present time. The popularity of the courses can be seen by the increasing numbers entering this field. The PE A-Level course offers a broad range of topics through which you can develop your understanding and expertise in this unique area of experience.

Doing this course can lead into the sport and leisure industry which is a growing field where employment opportunities are expanding as are higher education places.

## Outside activities

During the course there will be an opportunity to attend a PE A-Level conference, where authors and examiners give lectures on up to the minute developments in the field of study and advice on how to get an A grade!

The course is relevant to the sport you play. It improves your training and performance.

Henry, Becket Sixth Student



# Computer Science

## Why study Computer Science?

The A-Level Computer Science course is designed to appeal to students who are simply curious about the inner workings and applications of computers, as well as to those students who wish to pursue a career in computing.

The emphasis of the course is on the inner workings of a computer and the application of computers to solve realistic problems.

The course aims to develop an understanding of the main principles of solving problems using computers.

## Who should take this course?

- Do you enjoy solving puzzles and problems?
- Do you have the patience to work at a problem until you can solve it?
- Do you like maths?
- Do you use your computer at home for more than just surfing the net?

If so, then this may be the course for you! This computing course is designed to provide a progression route to higher education and further training for employment.

The course fits in well with most other A-Level choices and leads into a wide range of careers.

The freedom given to choose your own programming language and pursue tasks of suitable difficulty make the course rewarding and exciting.

Alexander, Becket Sixth Student



## Course details

Most students have never programmed a computer before, so we teach you to program during the first year. The content of each module can be found below.

### A-Level units:

- **Unit 1 (40% of A-Level):**  
**Computing Systems (01)**  
This is a written exam.
- **Unit 2 (40% of A-Level):**  
**Algorithms and Problem Solving (02)**  
This is a written exam.
- **Unit 3 (20% of A-Level):**  
**Programming Project\***  
Through coursework candidates cover the following parts in the production of their project:
  - Analysis of the problem;
  - Design of the solution;
  - Developing the solution;
  - Evaluation.

\*The project choice is entirely driven by the candidate.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in Computer Science



## Course details

The topics covered in the exam specification include:

- Further Mechanics;
- Electric and Magnetic Fields;
- Nuclear and Particle Physics;
- Thermodynamics;
- Space;
- Nuclear Radiation;
- Gravitational Fields;
- Oscillations.

### • Paper 1 (30% of A-Level):

#### **Advanced Physics I**

(Mechanics, Electricity, Further Mechanics, Electric & Magnetic Fields, Nuclear & Particle Physics)

### • Paper 2 (30% of A-Level):

#### **Advanced Physics II**

(Materials, Waves & the Nature of Light, Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, Gravitational Fields, Oscillations)

### • Paper 3 (40% of A-Level):

#### **General & Practical Principles in Physics**

(Synoptic and practical based questions)

#### **Entry Requirements**

Grade 6 in Physics and another science if studied individually or Combined Science GCSE 6/6 and a 6 in Maths.

# Physics

## Why study Physics?

A-Level Physics aims for students to: sustain and develop their enjoyment of, and interest in, physics; develop essential knowledge and understanding in physics; develop the skills needed for the use of this knowledge, and understanding in new and changing situations where appropriate; and develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment.

Students will also need to: appreciate how physics has developed and is used in present day society; show how physics links with social, philosophical, economic, industrial and environmental matters; recognise the quantitative nature of physics; understand how mathematical expressions relate to physical principles; bring together knowledge of ways in which different areas of physics relate to each other; and study how scientific models develop.

## A-Level Physics is suitable for students who:

- Have an interest in, and enjoy physics;
- Want to find out about how things in the physical world work;
- Enjoy applying their mind to solving problems;
- Enjoy carrying out investigations by the application of imaginative, and logical thinking.

Physics is a supportive subject for students who study other A-Level Sciences and/or Mathematics, or other relevant courses such as A-Level Design and Technology and want to take another course that will benefit their studies.

## Careers and higher education

Physics leads on to a wide range of courses and careers. Physics can support other qualifications or help progression onto further studies or employment. This could be, for example, courses ranging from physics, the sciences, medicine to engineering and computing; chemical engineering and related programmes; radiography; and biotechnology.

# Chemistry

## Why study Chemistry?

Each day's news contains issues where chemistry matters: faster and cheaper drug development, cleaner and more economical fuel sources, safer air and drinking water, biotechnology to improve health and food sources around the world, nanotechnology to reduce the size and environmental impact of many consumer goods, and green industrial processes to prevent pollution.

Studying the molecular world helps you learn to see more than what is obvious to others, to ask questions about how the current state came to be, to examine underlying mechanisms, to design experiments carefully, and to consider alternative explanations. The analytical rigour of an A-Level in Chemistry is already well known as a valuable foundation for professions such as medicine and law; these perspectives also turn out to be useful in many areas of life.

## Careers and higher education

Chemistry and the chemical sciences open up a world of possibilities and expand your choices. No matter how the world changes in the 21st century, chemistry will always be at the centre of science and at the heart of life.

A training in chemistry or the chemical sciences gives you the skills needed for a wide range of careers.

## Chemistry is essential for:

- Chemical sciences e.g. biochemistry, chemical engineering, colour chemistry, chemical physics, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy veterinary science;
- Biological sciences e.g. agriculture, microbiology, botany, soil science, horticulture, zoology, and marine biology.

## Chemistry is strongly recommended for:

- Medical sciences e.g. bacteriology, nursing, environmental health, nutrition, genetics, and physiology;
- Material sciences e.g. material and polymer science, technology, metallurgy, and materials engineering.
- Engineering e.g. aeronautical, electronics, agricultural, instrumental, civil, mechanical, electrical, and mining;
- Environmental studies e.g. archaeology, geography, oceanography, ecology, safety & health, forestry, surveying and geological sciences (geochemistry, mineralogy, geophysics and mining).

A numerate subject such as A-Level Chemistry is useful for: architecture, law, accountancy and business.

## Course details

Chemistry is the most practical A-Level science. A substantial amount of your time will be spent on laboratory investigations, which link closely with the development of new ideas.

At other times you will be involved with your teacher in discussion, you may be doing written exercises and solving problems, or you may be making use of ICT resources.

### • Paper 1 (35% of A-Level):

- Physical Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Relevant practical skills

### • Paper 2 (35% of A-Level):

- Relevant Physical Chemistry Topics
- Organic Chemistry
- Relevant Practical Skills

### • Paper 3 (30% of A-Level):

- Any content
- Any practical skills

#### **Entry Requirements**

Grade 6 in Chemistry and another science if studied individually or Combined Science GCSE 6/6 and a 5 in Maths.



## Course details

Work is both teacher led and facilitated or as learners use directed research to find things out for themselves. Practical work is conducted wherever possible so that students are able to develop their investigative skills.

### Pastoral support

Class teaching is normally shared between two science teachers. We do, however, encourage all students to use all of the science teachers in the department as a resource, to turn to for advice and support whenever difficulties arise. Learner progress is regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure that they continue working to their full potential.

- **Paper 1 (35% of A-Level):**  
Any content from topics 1-4 including relevant practical skills
- **Paper 2 (35% of A-Level):**  
Any content from topics 5-6 including and relevant practical skills
- **Paper 3 (30% of A-Level):**  
Any content from topics 1-8 including and relevant practical skills

### Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Biology and another science if studied individually or Combined Science GCSE 6/6 and a 5 in Maths.

# Biology

## Why study Biology?

We regularly see and hear in the media of new discoveries or scientific advances being made in the world. Very often these advances are in the field of biological sciences. It may be in medicine, genetics, food production and so on, but there is likely to be a biologist involved in the research at some stage. Study of A-Level Biology offers the learner the opportunity to become more closely involved with this scientific frontier.

The course is relevant and challenging. Principles are studied in interesting contexts. It also emphasises the way scientists work and how science contributes to modern society.

## Skills

It is very important to understand how organisms function: learners are guided to develop their analytical skills, to use their knowledge of anatomy (the way an organism is put together), physiology (the way all of the bits work together), and biochemistry (the chemical reactions inside the cells) to explain observations about animals and plants.

During the course, use is made of both plant and animal tissues. Although we use computer simulations to help clarify some of the topics, they cannot replace 'hands on' experience effectively.

Field studies will be undertaken during the A-Level course.

## Careers and higher education

An A-Level in Biology is necessary for anyone wishing to study any of the branches of the biological sciences at degree level. It is also very important for anyone hoping for a career in the medical profession (medicine, physiotherapy or ophthalmic etc.), the pharmaceutical industry (pharmacy, pharmacology, forensics etc.) or the environmental sciences.

Biology is highly regarded as a qualification in itself though, when students opt to enter directly into industry.

# Mathematics

## Why study Mathematics?

Because it is amazing! Are you impressed by the way different topics link together? By the way that a difficult surd simplifies to an integer? By an angle in a diagram turning into another, then another, until you can label all sides and angles?

All students who choose to do A-Level Maths will explore Pure Maths for the beauty of it and for the possibilities it opens up within their specialism. Furthermore, they will study Statistics and Mechanics. Statistics will support students who plan to do A-Level Geography, Biology, Psychology and any other subject where a set of data needs to be analysed. Mechanics supports students whose interest lies more in the physical world of forces and particles, perhaps with a future career plan of engineering.

For those with a deep love of and interest in maths, or those who wish to take maths beyond school and to university, we recommend **Further Maths**. As it involves two A-Levels it looks at all aspects of maths and takes the study of it deeper and faster than the single A-Level.

There is a large emphasis on algebra and students taking this course should be confident in manipulation of equations and use of indices.

## Further Mathematics

### AS-Level – Further Mathematics

Students who choose Further Mathematics will sit an AS in Further Mathematics in June of Year 12. The result of the AS does not count towards the final A-Level. The skills learned during both aspects of Year 12 will be developed through Year 13.

### A-Level-Further Mathematics

The A-Level consists of four 1½ papers two focusing on the Further Pure Components of the course and one each on Mechanics of Statistics. Each paper counts for 25% of the final assessment. Papers will be sat in the Summer of Year 13. The topics in Year 13 will build on the topics from Year 12.

## Course details

### A-Level Mathematics:

A-Level consists of three two-hour papers. The first two focusing on the pure components of the course. The final paper is split evenly between statistics and mechanics. Each paper counts for 33.33% of the final assessment. Papers will be sat in the June of Year 13. The topics in Year 13 will build on top of the topics covered in Year 12.

### Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Maths



## Course details

During the two year course you will study a range of texts from different genres and time periods.

- **Paper 1 (40% of A-Level):**  
**Love Through the Ages**  
3 hours
  - 'The Taming of the Shrew' by William Shakespeare
  - 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald and pre 1900 Poetry
  - Unseen Poetry
- **Paper 2B (40% of A-Level):**  
**Modern Times**  
2 hours 30 minutes
  - 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams
  - Unseen Prose
  - 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood and Carol Ann Duffy's 'Feminine Gospels' comparative response
- **(20% of A-Level):**  
**Non-Exam Assessment**
  - 'The Country Wife' by William Wycherley compared to a literary text of your choosing.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in English Literature and Grade 5 in English Language.

# English Literature

## Why study English Literature?

If you enjoy reading novels, watching plays and discussing poetry you should consider studying A-Level English Literature. During the two year A-Level course you will study eight texts, including novels, poems, plays and critical texts. The course provides an excellent basis for further study of English at degree level; it is also a strong foundation for the study of all those subjects which require the ability to think critically, analyse ideas or support a viewpoint. This course will also develop your interest in, and enjoyment of, reading for pleasure.

## How will I study?

Lessons are seminar style, meaning that all students are encouraged to participate in discussion and analysis of the set texts. Students may give short presentations in some lessons, while others will be based entirely around whole-class discussion. In addition to this, students will complete research on context and will read relevant critical texts.

## Skills

In order to do well in this course you will need to be prepared to do a lot of reading. You should aim to read other texts by your set authors, and critical works on the set texts. You will be expected to prepare, plan and hand in essays regularly, so the ability to write in timed conditions is essential for this course.

## Outside activities

Whenever possible, study of the texts is supported by trips to see relevant plays. In recent years, students have also been involved in book clubs in school, which have allowed them to read widely for pleasure, beyond the requirements of their A-Level course.

Such reading is, of course, invaluable when students are making their university applications, and need to show that they read widely and independently.

## Careers and higher education

Some students go on to study English Literature at university – a degree which leads to many possible careers. Other students have gone on to a wide range of courses, from law to medicine.

# English Language

## Why study English Language?

If you enjoy narrative writing, thinking about how language is constructed and how language develops over time, you should seriously consider studying A-Level English Language.

## How will I study?

The course begins with an introductory sequence of lessons exploring and researching how texts convey meanings and representations. Students are asked to make presentations in pairs to develop their understanding so that they can begin to ask a wide range of questions about texts and the techniques used within them.

Teachers and students begin to discuss and analyse texts and techniques together. Each class is taught by two teachers to ensure a variety of approaches and interpretations.

## Skills

In order to do well in A-Level English Language you will need to be prepared to do a lot of reading. As well as the set texts you will need to be prepared to read other texts and to explore linguistic theories that have been put forward. You will also be expected to develop your ideas through discussions in class and presentations. In turn, you will be asked to prepare, plan and hand in assessed pieces regularly. Learning styles are varied and include group discussion and use of computers and seminar style lessons.

A range of writing skills will be used and students are guided as to how to interrogate a question and how to develop a well-constructed and textually supported response. Students are also encouraged to increase their understanding through their own creative writing.

## Careers and higher education

Students who study this A-Level English Language course go on to study subjects such as linguistics, law and modern foreign languages at university.

## Course details

During the two year course you will investigate a range of texts considering the influence of mode, tenor, field and function; some of these are studied in more depth than others.

The course provides an excellent basis for further study of English Language at degree level or alternatively an excellent foundation for other subjects that require thinking critically, analysing ideas or supporting a viewpoint. This course will also give you a real enjoyment of and interest in linguistics and the writer's craft.

- **Paper 1 (40% of A-Level):**  
**Language, the Individual and Society**  
2 hours 30 minutes
  - Section A: Textual Variations and Representations
  - Section B: Children's Language Development
- **Paper 2 (40% of A-Level):**  
**Language Diversity and Change**  
2 hours 30 minutes
  - Section A: Diversity and Change
  - Section B: Language Discourse
- **(20% of A-Level):**
  - Language in Action
  - Language Investigation focused on area of Linguistics of your choosing
  - Original Writing and Commentary

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in English Literature and Grade 5 in English Language.



## Course details

### A-Level topics:

- Breadth Study – The Tudors: England 1485-1603;
- Depth Study – Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953;
- Historical Investigation. American Civil Rights.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in History

# History

## Why study History?

The study of history at this level builds on the skills developed at GCSE and develops them further. The course is intended to stimulate interest in our British and non-British heritage as well as to seek an explanation for the causes and consequences of major events and developments.

History is about people, their ambitions, actions and responses to events. It is relevant to our lives as it has shaped the world we live in today. A knowledge of history allows students to see more clearly how present situations are rooted in the past and can often only be explained and understood in an historical context.

## Skills

Apart from being extremely enjoyable and enabling students to learn about the past, History also offers the opportunity to acquire and improve on many of the skills which will prepare students for higher education and employment.

Amongst the skills which you will have the opportunity to develop while studying History are: your ability to communicate, your skills of reasoning, deduction, and of organising and evaluating information and you will also develop your ability to work effectively with others. History places particular stress on the development of independent thought and analytical skills and as a result of having to share and defend your opinions in class discussion, you will find yourself with many chances to develop your own self-confidence.

Without doubt, the skills developed through the study of A-Level History are transferable to other fields of study as well as the world of work.

Analytical skills, the ability to evaluate sources, to select and deploy a wide range of materials and information, to sustain an argument and reach supported and logical conclusions – these are skills required beyond the history room.

## Careers and higher education

Many A-Level History students go on to higher education – either to study history to degree level or to study a related subject such as law. At a career level, History is a most useful subject for professions such as law, broadcasting, journalism, publishing, teaching, banking, commerce and industry.

# Geography

## Why study Geography?

If you think that our planet is incredible then A-Level Geography is the subject for you. Geography deals with the immense variety of processes, cultures and countries that make up the richness of our world. To achieve this, it combines the study of our fantastic natural environments with a human understanding of global issues and characteristics, and will help you develop a greater awareness and care for the environment.

In addition, a geography student acquires a training which is ideally suited to the rapidly changing employment market where flexibility and a wide range of skills are necessary for success.

The truly dynamic nature of the subject and the problem solving approach used in geography are elements which are in continuous use in all manner of careers.

## Skills

In Geography we use a wide variety of teaching and learning styles. Much time is devoted to student centred exercises which apply theory to practice (especially through fieldwork) and encourage self-development – asking you to think for yourself. We also provide a huge amount of support for your work outside school. This is mainly achieved through our use of the Google Classroom where we have the widest range of support materials of any non-ICT department in school. We also provide thorough revision materials in the approach to the exams.

## Careers and higher education

A geographical qualification, at A-Level or degree level, is widely recognised as one of the most appropriate starting points for a huge variety of occupations – be they vocational: e.g. environmental conservation, hydrology, planning; or non-vocational: e.g. law, Industry, commerce, local government, commerce, broadcasting (TV and radio), journalism, publishing, teaching, banking, and management.

Geographers are particularly valued by employers because of their adaptability, flexibility, and decision making abilities.

## Course details

### Paper 1

#### Physical Geography (30%):

- Tectonics
- Coasts
- Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Water Cycle and water insecurity

### Paper 2

#### Human Geography (30%):

- Globalisation
- Urban Regeneration
- Super Powers
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

### Paper 3

#### Synoptic themes (20%)

- A written exam based on an unseen resource

### Non Examined

#### Assessment (20%)

- Coursework element based on fieldwork

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in Geography



## Course details

There are 4 key themes, each consisting of 3 subtopics. Themes 1 and 2 are taught throughout Year 12, and themes 3 and 4 are taught throughout Year 13.

In addition, students are given the opportunity to study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13.

These are:

### Year 12

- **Theme 1:**  
**Developments in Society in France**  
*sub topics*  
Family, Education, The world of work
- **Theme 2:**  
**The political and artistic culture of the French speaking world**  
*sub topics*  
Music, Media, The role of festivals and traditions

### Year 13

- **Theme 3:**  
**Immigration and the French multicultural society**  
*sub topics*  
The challenges of immigration and integration, The positive effect of integration, The extreme right
- **Theme 4:**  
**Occupied France**  
*sub topics*  
Occupied France , The Vichy regime, The Resistance

Students will be assessed at the end of Year 13 across three papers.

- Paper 1 will cover all four of the themes studied throughout the course and assess the students' listening, reading and translation skills. (40% of the qualification grade)
- Paper 2 will cover the students' understanding of the film they have watched, the book they have read and will assess the students' ability to write effectively in French. (30% of the qualification grade)
- Paper 3 is the opportunity for students to showcase their skills of speaking in French, with a one-to-one interview with the teacher. At A Level, the students will not only discuss the themes they have studied throughout the course, but also discuss in French in detail a project that they have researched independently on a topic of their choice. This part of the speaking exam is called the IRP (The Independent Research Project). (30% of the qualification grade)

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 6 in French

# French

## Why study French?

A-Level courses are not complete nowadays without the study of a modern foreign language. Continuing French beyond GCSE is a logical step for anyone with an interest in the language and culture of our nearest European neighbour, and is a passport to success in careers with international connections.

## Information technology

Opportunities for information technology are offered, including the use of e-mail with our partner schools.

Opportunities are offered at university open days and exam revision courses in Year 12 & 13, as well as lectures, plays and films in French as and when they occur.

## Careers and higher education

Opportunities for careers involving French are many and varied. Although some students naturally move on to study French at university as part of a degree in modern languages, many also choose to combine French with disciplines such as law, and Business Studies in order to enable them to carry out their desired career in an international forum.

Any job in industry or commerce with an international company would require a working knowledge of a language other than English and an A-Level course in French is the ideal preparation for this.

# German

## Why study German?

The study of German at A Level is an excellent opportunity to develop further those skills begun at GCSE. At the end of the course, it is anticipated that students will be able to converse in and write German competently, and understand the language at quite a sophisticated level.

In a modern Europe in which Germany is the major economic power and where German has more native speakers than any other language, including English, it is obvious that A-Level students and, even more so, university graduates with a qualification in German will be closely sought after by industry.

The fact that German is not taught sufficiently in British schools to meet the demand from industry further emphasises its advantage as an A-Level option.

## Information technology

Opportunities for information technology are offered, including the use of e-mail with our partner schools.

## Careers and higher education

The opportunities available for careers linked with German are tremendous. As well as the obvious ones like teaching, interpreting, translating and working in the travel business, there are many more where German may not be seen as the major requirement but where it will be hugely beneficial such as in law, business studies or economics.

Any job in industry with an international company would look for knowledge of a language and engineering positions particularly are now asking specifically for German.

## Course details

There are 4 key themes, each consisting of 3 subtopics. Themes 1 and 2 are taught throughout Year 12, and themes 3 and 4 are taught throughout Year 13.

In addition, students are given the opportunity to study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13.

These are:

### Year 12

- **Theme 1:**  
**Developments in Society in Germany**  
*sub topics*  
The environment, Education, The world of work
- **Theme 2:**  
**The political and artistic culture of the German speaking world**  
*sub topics*  
Music, Media, The role of festivals and traditions

### Year 13

- **Theme 3:**  
**Immigration and the German multicultural society**  
*sub topics*  
The positive effect of integration, The challenges of immigration and integration, The reactions of the State and society to immigration
- **Theme 4:**  
**The reunification of Germany**  
*sub topics*  
The society in the GDR prior to reunification, Events before the reunification, Germany since reunification

Students will be assessed at the end of Year 13 across three papers.

- Paper 1 will cover all four of the themes studied throughout the course and assess the students' listening, reading and translation skills. (40% of the qualification grade)
- Paper 2 will cover the students' understanding of the film they have watched, the book they have read and will assess the students' ability to write effectively in German. (30% of the qualification grade)
- Paper 3 is the opportunity for students to showcase their skills of speaking in German, with a one-to-one interview with the teacher. At A Level, the students will not only discuss the themes they have studied throughout the course, but also discuss in German in detail a project that they have researched independently on a topic of their choice. This part of the speaking exam is called the IRP (The Independent Research Project). (30% of the qualification grade)

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 6 in German



## Course details

### Year 1

#### Theme 1:

##### Marketing and People

- Meeting customer needs
- Marketing and strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs

#### Theme 2:

##### Managing Business Activities

- Raising, planning and managing finance.
- Resource management
- External influences

### Year 2

#### Theme 3:

##### Business Decisions and Strategy

- Objectives and strategy
- Business growth
- Decision making techniques
- Influences on business decisions
- Assessing competitiveness
- Managing change

#### Theme 4:

##### Global Business

- Globalisation
- Global Markets and business expansion
- Global Marketing
- Global industries
- Global companies

You will be assessed by 3 external papers at A-Level. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations.

##### Careers and Higher Education

A regular flow of successful candidates continue their studies with a degree either in business or some related subject areas such as management, branding, accountancy or human resources. Similarly, the course is a good entry route into Higher Apprenticeships such as those offered by Rolls Royce in Derbyshire. Alternatively, the course may get you started in business. All organisations need sound business skills behind them. You could work for an existing multinational corporation, a local firm or even better if you run your own business.

##### Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English and Mathematics.

# Business

## Introduction to Business

How can Nike justify a premium price for its products? Why do UK businesses send their manufacturing overseas? Why is it important to the 'right' source of finance for starting up a business? I'm thinking of setting up my own business, but I'm not sure I'm capable. Will A Level Business help me? These are all questions that an A Level Business student can confidently answer.

**In A Level Business you will cover a wide range of topics that can be broadly categorised:**

- internal workings of the business: marketing, finance, human resources and operations - things like pricing strategies, cash flow forecasting, employee motivation
- 'external' factors: how businesses are affected by changes in the economy, by the level and nature of competition etc

## How will I study?

**You will be taught by a single member of staff and you will be expected to:**

- be asked questions and to ask questions
- take notes and to write your own notes
- read business case studies and news articles
- undertake business calculations and write essays
- sometimes work independently, and sometimes in pairs and in groups

## Is it mathematical?

**Yes, you will need to use your GCSE Maths knowledge to:**

- calculate averages and percentage changes
- rearrange business formulas
- interpret business data

**There are over 40 formulas to learn and memorise in Business, and you will not always be told in the exam which formulas you should use and when!**

I love studying Business because it gives you an insight into how the world operates.



Dan, Becket Sixth Student

# Economics

## Why study Economics?

Why has the price of Freddo's increased from 10p in 2005 to 30p in 2019? Why do Premiership footballers get paid more than the Prime Minister? How are tariffs imposed by the USA likely to impact both its own economy and that of its trading partners like China? Why do we pay taxes? Why has the French government announced a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2040? How will a rise in the interest rate by the Bank of England affect households, businesses and the government? These are all questions that are asked by economists and non-economists; and can be confidently answered by A Level Economics students.

Economics is about more than money, it is about how we allocate scarce resources in the form of machines, workers and so on, in order to produce the goods and services that society needs and wants. But, in making these choices, there's always an 'opportunity cost' – that which has to be 'given up' as a result. So, do you want to fly to the moon? Sure, but the money spent on that, now can't be spent on education. Also, think about the impact you're having on the environment as you blast off. Are you going to be paying for the damage you cause; or will that be 'paid' for by someone else?

Economics is an interesting subject if you have an enquiring mind. You will learn the fundamentals such as demand and supply theory, but you will then be expected to use this theory across a range of examples. After all, economics is everywhere.

## How will I study?

**You will be taught by a single member of staff and you will be expected to:**

- be asked questions and to ask questions
- take notes and to write your own notes
- read business case studies and news articles
- undertake business calculations and write essays
- sometimes work independently, and sometimes in pairs and in groups

## Is it mathematical?

**Yes, you will need to use your GCSE Maths knowledge to:**

- calculate averages and percentage changes
- rearrange economic formulas
- interpret economic data

**Furthermore, in Economics we do use lots of economic diagrams and use of maths helps to explain these diagrams.**

## Course details

### Year 1

#### Theme 1:

##### Introduction to markets and market failure

#### Theme 2:

##### The UK economy performance and policies

### Year 2

#### Theme 3:

##### Business behaviour and the labour market

#### Theme 4:

##### A global perspective: international economics and development.

You will be assessed via three external papers at A Level. Most of the assessment material is based on real economic situations.

##### Careers and Higher Education

Students may continue their studies with a degree within the broad field of Economics and then secure employment as an economist, investment analyst, public policy adviser etc.

##### Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English and Mathematics.



## Course details

### Year One:

- **Unit 1:**  
**Introductory Topics in Psychology**  
**Memory Attachment Psychopathology Social Influence**  
This is a written exam.
- **Unit 2:**  
**Psychology in Context**  
**Approaches, research methods and biopsychology**  
This is a written exam.

### Year Two:

- **Unit 1:**  
**Psychology in Context continued**  
This is a written exam.
- **Unit 2:**  
**Issues and Debates in Psychology**
  - Cognition and development
  - Schizophrenia
  - Aggression
  - Issues and DebatesThis is a written exam.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language

# Psychology

## Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and is therefore directly relevant to your life. It is a fascinating subject as it seeks to understand why people behave as they do, and the complex workings of the human mind. For example: Why do people forget? Why do some people suffer from mental disorders such as depression or schizophrenia?

As part of the course students design their own psychological research and develop skills to evaluate different perspectives.

## How will I study?

As psychologists we appreciate that people learn in different ways. Therefore a wide variety of teaching methods are used. External speakers such as the Police and Clinical Psychologists may contribute on occasion to emphasise real life applications in psychology.

## Links with other subjects

Psychology is a subject which combines well with most A-Level courses. It is classified as a science subject for UCAS entry, but works well alongside any humanities options.

## Careers and higher education

Psychology provides a useful foundation for any career dealing with people. However, it is also useful in preparation for studying courses in social work, teaching, medicine and law.

## Outside activities

We attend various psychology conferences and in the past have visited Twycross Zoo and Nottingham Crown Court.

Psychology is great because it deepens knowledge about why we think and behave the way we do.

Sara-Lily, Becket Sixth Student



# Sociology

## Why study Sociology?

A-Level Sociology is designed to appeal to students who want to find out more about the world we live in, what makes us the people we are, and what our role and function is in society. It is important you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in current affairs and a desire to explore new ideas. The course will cover key ideas like the family, education, crime and deviance, the role and functions of belief and religion, as well as gender, ethnicity, class and age.

## Questions to think about when studying Sociology...

- Is social class still relevant in today's society?
- Does gender or ethnic background influence later opportunities?
- Why do males and females earn different amounts of money for the same work?
- Why do statistics suggest that males have a higher rate of offending than females?
- How does family structure influence educational success?
- How does where you live influence your success at school?
- What impact do your friends (peers) have on your behaviour?

These are a few of the questions that sociology tries to answer.

## Careers and higher education

Sociology A-Level is a solid starting point for any social science degree course at university. You will also pick up many interpersonal and analytical skills to help you in your chosen future career.

Many A-Level Sociology students have gone on to study sociology or related degrees such as criminology, social policy and social work.

Future careers can include:

- Teaching;
- Social work;
- Criminal justice;
- Police;
- Probation officer;
- Youth worker;
- Public relations;
- Journalism and marketing.

## Course details

### Year One:

- **Unit 1:**  
**Education with Methods in Context**  
This is a written exam.
- **Unit 2:**  
**Research Methods and Topics in Sociology**  
This is a written exam.

### Year Two:

- **Unit 1:**  
**Topics in Sociology Continued**  
**Family and Households Beliefs in Society**  
This is a written exam.
- **Unit 2: (33.3% of A-Level)**  
**Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**  
This is a written exam.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language



## Course details

### Unit 1 Media Messages (35% of A Level)

- Includes unseen analysis source
- Section A: News and Online Media
  - Section B: Media Language and Representation (70 marks total)

### Unit 2 Evolving Media (35% of A Level)

Requires study of two long form tv dramas and two adaptations of a movie

- **Section A:** Media Industries and Audiences
- Section B: Long form television drama (70 Marks total)

### Unit 3 Making Media (30% of A Level)

- Learners will create a cross-media product
- 60 marks (NEA)

#### Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language

# Media

## Why study Media?

A Level Media offers an exciting and eye-opening look into the world around us, exploring how Media has adapted through the year and how we as a society have become so dependent on it.

Throughout the course you will look into many different forms of media from offline approaches sources such as magazines, newspapers and posters, to mass online sources such as social media, gaming, long form television drama and box office movies.

You will explore all the ways in which the media has evolved and diversified throughout the years, while also learning to unpack the meaning behind the media, what its intentions are through the products it creates and who is the intended audience. While studying you will gain an appreciation of media theorists who have developed methods of reading the digital world around us and how they can be applied to everyday life.

## What skills will I need and gain through this course?

Media combines a mixture of theoretical knowledge with a practical application, challenging you learn the skills of the media world and refining how to use the skills yourself practically. The course contains a practical coursework element based on real world briefs set by the exam board, looking at elements of photography, Videography, sound design, Magazine design and website creation

## Career paths with Media?

Students who study A-Level Media can go onto such careers as:

- Media Planner
- Public Relations Officer
- Social Media Manager
- Events Manager
- Journalist
- Digital Marketing Manager
- Music Publishing

# Politics

## Do you have an interest in current affairs?

Do you have strong opinions on world leaders past and present such as Boris Johnson, Donald Trump or Tony Blair? Do you have strong opinions on Brexit, 'partygate' or gun crime in America? If you enjoy a subject based in argument and said yes to any of the above, you should consider studying A Level politics.

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas covers all the arguments for and against our current political systems including; electoral systems, political parties, democracy and participation. You will also explore the influence of the media and its impact on politics in the UK. The Core Political Ideas studied will explore different perspectives within conservatism, liberalism and socialism, including the influence of key political thinkers and movements.

Our study of UK government includes: the constitution, the role of the prime minister and the cabinet, relations between the different institutions in the UK including the devolved governments. We also study feminism, key thinkers and the impact it has had on the political world.

We use everything we have learned about UK government and politics and compare the UK system to American politics: leadership, democratic processes, electoral systems and government systems including the Supreme Court.

## Skills

This is an essay based subject and in order to do well you will be required to do a lot of reading. It is expected you are up to date in all current affairs and take an active interest in the world around you by watching the News and political based TV, podcasts and media. The ability to formulate a clear evidence based argument verbally and on paper is required to achieve well in the exam.

## Careers and Higher Education

Students who study A-Level Politics go on to study subjects such as History, PPE, Philosophy, Politics, Anthropology, English and Law.

A Politics degree opens doors to a broad range of careers, including political work, social and political research, journalism, HR and marketing.

## Course details

The course provides students with an in depth understanding of political and the application of this theory in British and American Politics.

### Course Details – 3 papers of equal weight

#### Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

- Democracy and participation
- Electoral systems
- UK Political Parties
- Voting behaviour and the media
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

#### Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas

- The constitution
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Parliament
- Relations between institutions, including devolution and Parliament checking the executive
- Feminism

#### Paper 3: Comparative Politics

- The US Constitution and federalism
- US presidency
- US democracy and participation
- US Supreme Court and civil rights
- US Congress
- US Federalism

#### Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 5 in English Literature.



Course details

Year Twelve Topics:

- **Unit 1:**  
**Philosophy of Religion:**  
Philosophical Arguments about the Existence of God, Design Argument, Cosmological Argument, Problems of Evil and Suffering, Ontological Argument, and Religious Experience.
- **Unit 2:**  
**Religious Ethics:**  
Environmental issues, Ethics, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Natural Law, War and Peace, and Sexual Ethics.
- **Unit 3:**  
**New Testament:**  
Prophecy and Messiahship, First Century Palestine, Prologue of John, Titles of Jesus, Miracles and Signs, Interpreting the Text, and The Fourth Gospel.

Year Thirteen Topics:

- **Unit 1:**  
**Philosophy of Religion:**  
Analogy and Symbols, Verification and Falsification, Language Games, Works of Scholars, Life after Death, and Science and Religion.
- **Unit 2:**  
**Religious Ethics:**  
Meta Ethics, Religion and Morality, Deontology/Virtue Ethics, and Medical Ethics.
- **Unit 3:**  
**New Testament:**  
Interpreting Scripture Kingdom of God, Eschatology, Why did Jesus die?, Luke's Gospel, Faith and History, and Religious Authority.

**Entry Requirements**  
Grade 5 in Religious Education

Religious Studies

Why study Religious Studies?

Does God exist? What makes you a good person? Is the bible a history book or a work of fiction? A-Level Religious studies covers a wide range of life’s biggest questions involving faith and much more.

The Course

- Philosophy of Religion covers the arguments for and against the existence of God, a study of evil in the world and an analysis of the contribution of key scholars like Freud, Marx and Russell.
- Religious Ethics navigates how to make good decisions. Are good actions measured by what makes us happy, or what brings us closer to God? Can you be a good person if you aren’t religious? It also covers modern topics such as war, sex, medicine and the environment.
- New Testament Studies is the opportunity to look at The Bible and go beyond the text. It’s an exploration of the people, times and cultures that forged the most famous book in history. No prior knowledge is required because we will be studying it in a way you’ve never studied it before.

Careers and higher education

Religious Studies is considered a classical subject and therefore compliments other humanities such as Literature, History and Languages. As a written subject that requires students to demonstrate analysis and balanced arguments, Religious Studies is applicable to a wide range of courses and jobs, from Medicine to the Arts.

I enjoy studying RS because after every lesson I leave with more knowledge and more questions.

Ambeel, Becket Sixth Student



Extra Curricular Qualifications

Level 3 Mathematical Studies  
AQA (Core Maths)

Have you ever sat in a Maths lesson and wondered when you would use the skills learnt?

Well Core Maths is here to answer that question. This course maintains and develops real life mathematical skills learnt from GCSE whilst also introducing new content which supports your other subjects. It has been designed to complement your learning in your chosen A-levels, especially those which have a mathematical element, such as the Sciences, Economics, Business Studies and Psychology. This is the course for those who want to keep up their valuable mathematical skills but who are not planning on taking A-level Mathematics.

Entry Requirements

Achieved a Grade 4 or above at GCSE

Course content

Qualification studied:  
AQA Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies  
AS-level equivalent to be taken as part of an A-level Study Programme  
The topics studied on this course are:  
Analysis of data  
Mathematics for personal finance  
Estimation  
Statistical techniques (optional)  
Critical analysis

How you will be assessed

The assessment of this course is 100% exam-based. You will sit two papers which are equally weighted. The course is 1 year long and is equivalent to an AS in UCAS points.

Careers and Higher Education

Mathematics is an excellent qualification to have for a wide variety of Higher Education courses and careers. It is vital if you wish to study Mathematics or Engineering at University and is advisable for Economics, Business, Banking, Accountancy, Design, Engineering, Statistics, Computing, IT and Sciences. This qualification is completed in the summer of Year 12, so when you apply for university, you will be able to share this in your application. This will help you to stand out from the crowd and in some cases, Universities will give you a reduced offer.

Speaking in Public (LAMDA)

Speaking in Public exams prepare learners for a task that daunts so many people. Learners write their own speeches, researching the topics, creating visual aids and presenting them from memory (although they can use notecards, if they prefer). As they progress through the grades they develop the ability to speak clearly and project their voice for an audience. They discover the techniques they require to engage an audience and to structure their speech effectively. At the higher grades, learners are asked to create an impromptu speech with minimal preparation. Level 3 exams (Grades 6-8) give the students UCAS points for Higher education applications..

Sports Leaders

This is a Level 3 (A level equivalent) qualification and gives you the skills and understanding to run successful sports events. You will work as part of a team, giving you confidence and inter-personal skills. This is a great opportunity for anyone thinking of a Sports-related career, but also for any student who loves sport but is not taking PE at A level.

EPQ

What is the Extended Project Qualification?

EPQ is a level 3 qualification (equivalent to A level) which can be taken in addition to your A level subjects. You will choose an area of interest and, with guidance, you will research this area of interest and write a 5000 word report.

How will I know what I need to do?

You will be timetabled for one lesson each week which will show you how to develop your initial ideas and how to go about your research. The lessons also include skills such as writing a bibliography, using academic sources, evaluation of sources, and academic writing. It is a requirement of the course to attend these lessons.

Why should I consider doing EPQ?

EPQ is increasingly recognised as a valuable qualification by universities. Admissions tutors know that a student who has completed a Project has skills which will help them during their degree course and that they have the ability to work independently. A Project can also demonstrate an interest in the subject a student is applying to study at university. Some universities will lower the grades they require if a student has a good grade for their Project. (EPQ is graded A\*-E and contributes to UCAS points.)



# A Rewarding Experience



We aim for the highest of academic standards and the rigorous pursuit of excellence within a happy and caring atmosphere.

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## **The Majority of our students from The Becket Sixth, year on year make a decision to apply to university.**

Support and guidance is given from the start of Year 12. This is led by the Careers and UCAS Leader and supported by tutors and external providers.

Students are given a wide variety of support and advice on return to school in June following end of year exams in preparation for university application. An organised programme of events and activities is provided for all students. This includes writing personal statements and CVs, choosing courses and universities, and visits to local universities.

Students are all encouraged to research and explore alternative routes, including apprenticeships and sponsored degrees.

In addition, our annual Careers Fair not only focuses on future career choices but the opportunity to discuss courses with representatives from several universities as

well as apprenticeship opportunities with external companies.

Our early applicants for Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science all receive early support. This consists of visits to universities, advice on work experience and in maintaining a record of academic wider reading, which can be used when writing personal statements or attending interviews.

We will always support students in making applications to universities after they have left our sixth form.

The positive staff attitude towards teaching is contagious and makes you want to learn and work hard to achieve your full potential.

It was important for me to go to a Catholic school, and here, even with a busy timetable, there is still time to continue practising and living in the faith.

Charity, Becket Sixth Student



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Support is given individually to all students with university applications either from their tutor or the Careers and Guidance Co-ordinator.





# Supporting Your Experience



Each student brings a richness to the community and welcoming atmosphere of The Becket Sixth.

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## About us

The Becket Sixth Form is a warm and welcoming community and draws not only from The Becket School, but also from a wide variety of state and independent schools in the county and beyond.

## Our intake

In any given year, about one third of the intake is made up of students who have previously been attending other schools. We welcome students who join us for the first time in the Sixth Form. Each individual student brings a richness to the community and we hope that the views expressed by our students convey the welcoming and pleasant yet purposeful atmosphere of The Becket Sixth.

## Facilities and resources

The Becket Sixth Form Centre is a separate area of The Becket School. Within our centre are Post 16 classrooms, a quiet private study area, ICT facilities and the common room, with its own food servery. To provide the very best facilities across all subjects, some lessons will be taught in specialised classrooms within the wider school.

There is a large silent study area above the common room, containing computers and cubicles for independent work.

We are particularly proud of our modern classrooms for Psychology, Economics, Sociology and Philosophy and Ethics located within the centre, as well as the common room itself. Students are encouraged to work and socialise within the common room when they are not formally timetabled, in order to make the most of their time with us.

Other key facilities include the learning resource centre, music, drama and sports facilities as well as the hall and chapel.

## Enrichment

Students can access many curriculum enrichment experiences during their time at The Becket Sixth. Subject areas value the importance of field work and organise visits to enhance the educational experiences of students and complete coursework aspects.

Alongside their chosen A-Level subjects and additional qualifications, students can choose a variety of extra curricular options, such as First Aid, Music, Debating Society, Journalism, Young Enterprise, Chaplaincy and Mathematical Problem Solving.

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The facilities here are great; the classrooms are well-equipped and comfortable and make for an ideal learning environment.

Moreover, the atmosphere at The Becket Sixth is very special and you really feel as though you are part of a community.

Natalie, Becket Sixth Student

