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SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2025 ADMISSIONS

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Part of
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OF LOURDES**
CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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THE BECKET COMMUNITY



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.

While 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.

Paul Greig
Headteacher

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Becket Sixth Leadership Team will always strive to support every student to be the best they can. 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 study skills, careers education, health & well-being and Post 18 choices.

Super curricular programme

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 super curricular website, Becket Sixth canon of books and the Unifrog platform.



SUPPORTING YOUR EXPERIENCE

The Becket Sixth Form is a warm and welcoming community and draws students 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. Each 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 Centre is separate from 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 proud of our modern classrooms for Psychology, Economics, Sociology and Philosophy and Ethics located within the centre, as well as the common room. Students are encouraged to work and socialise within the common room when they are not formally timetabled.

Other 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. Subject areas value the importance of field work and organise visits to enhance the educational experience. Alongside chosen A level subjects and additional qualifications, students can choose from many extra curricular options, such as First Aid, Music, Debating Society, Journalism, Young Enterprise, Chaplaincy and Mathematical Problem Solving.

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

We aim for the highest of academic standards and the rigorous pursuit of excellence within a happy and caring atmosphere. Each year, the majority of our students from make a decision to apply to university, while others apply for apprenticeships.

Support and guidance is given from the start of Year 12, culminating in a focused Careers and UCAS week in July.

During this week, a programme of events and activities is provided for all students. This includes a Careers Day with a range of providers, and sessions on writing personal statements and CVs, choosing courses and universities, and visits to local universities.

Our early applicants for Oxbridge – Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science all receive targeted support, including regular one-to-one meetings and interview practice.

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

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.

Stephen, Becket Sixth Student



“

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

THE CURRICULUM

What subjects can I study?

The curriculum is well matched to the needs and aspirations of our students and we offer over twenty recognised A Level subjects. Most students study three A levels, excluding our Further Maths students who may study four. All our A levels are linear, which means that students will study their A levels over two years and sit exams at the end of Year 13.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of six GCSEs, two at Grade 6 and four at Grade 5. Each subject has its own grade requirement that can be found at the top of each course page. Meeting the grade requirement does not automatically guarantee a place.

A level subjects:

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

Additional qualifications

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

How is progress monitored?

Well-focused support is provided to help our students achieve results they can be proud of. 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.

COURSE DETAILS

Component 1

Non-exam Assessment (60% of A Level)

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 2

Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level):

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.



ART AND DESIGN

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in Art

Why study Art and Design?

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 you will 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. You 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

Art and Design degree courses cover a wide range of areas, including fine art, textile, fashion design, graphic design, and three-dimensional design, each with various specialisations. Students interested in a career in art and design, or wanting to develop their skills further, can apply for a Foundation Course after completing GCSE to A Level Art. Admission requires an interview and a portfolio of work from the A Level course.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in Drama and in English Language

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama is an exciting, energising and challenging subject which enriches you on a personal and academic level. Being part of a group, watching and making live performances, sharing moments of creativity and achievement, is a key aspect of A level Drama.

How will I study?

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 a highly practical approach to workshops throughout the course, with theory and practice taught for performance and then deconstructed and translated to written documents. Adopting an innovative and creative approach, you will push boundaries both as actors and designers, seeking to fuse highly naturalistic forms with modern stylistic approaches. You will also make full use of technical/multimedia elements to communicate intentions on stage.

Skills

There is an emphasis on practical exploration in all areas of the course, where you will develop your skills in performance from a range of practitioner perspectives, extending your range and repertoire. Naturalistic forms will be explored, alongside more stylised constructions. You will also hone your ability to communicate in a succinct and purposeful manner through your written work. 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 performances sit.

Careers and Higher Education

The skills acquired in this course are valuable to almost any career; however, students would be particularly well placed to pursue any of the following: Acting, Stage Management, Technical and Lighting direction, Costume design, Theatre and Arts management, Directing, Script Writing, Drama therapy, Set design or Production.

COURSE DETAILS

A-Level units

Unit 1 NEA (40% of A Level):

Practitioners In Practice

You will explore the impact of two theatre practitioners through a series of practical workshops forming a practical performance and research report based on the outcomes. You will also create a brand new piece of devised theatre, lasting up to 30 minutes, on a topic of their choice. You will document their progress and process in a creative portfolio.

Unit 2 NEA (20% of A Level):

Exploring and Performing

This is a practical unit exploring the translation of a play from the page to the stage. You are externally assessed on a 45 minute performance, together with a short written document that explores character and intended impact.

Unit 3 (20% of A Level):

Analysing Performance

You will explore two plays, 'Othello' and 'Love of the Nightingale', gaining appreciation of how techniques combine to communicate their ideas on stage. In Section B, you will analyse one piece of live theatre.

Unit 4 (20% of A Level):

Deconstructing Texts for Performance

A written exam unit based on 'The Visit'. In Section A, you will annotate a piece of text from the perspective of a director. In Section B, you will explain how they would stage a production of the play.

COURSE DETAILS

During the two year course you will study the processing, performance characteristics and industrial practice of papers, woods, metals and polymers. Undertake a design and make task and produce a final prototype based on a context and design brief developed by yourself.

Paper 1 (30% of A Level taken at the end of Y13):
Technical principles
Written exam: 2hr 30m • 120 marks

Paper 2 (20% of A Level taken at the end of Y13):
Designing and making principles
Written exam: 1hr 30m • 80 marks

50% of A Level

- Non-Exam Assessment
- Design and make project



PRODUCT DESIGN

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in Design
and Technology

Why study Product Design?

Product Design is useful to anyone considering a career in a creative or engineering based industry. You will develop invaluable skills in finding problems and producing creative solutions to resolve them. You will learn practical skills such as how to use 2D and 3D CAD, prototyping with CNC machines, 3D printing, workshop skills and 2D&3D drawing skills. You will also gain detailed knowledge of the design process, manufacturing processes, materials knowledge, design history, an understanding of new technologies and modern manufacturing techniques.

What will I learn whilst studying?

The course will strengthen your critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment. You will gain an insight into manufacturing industries, develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes, learn how to create, analyse and develop a design concept and produce high-quality prototypes/products.

Skills

You can expect Product Design to provide you with skills in developing thoughts, teamwork, problem solving, planning, sequencing and construction. You will be encouraged to use your creativity and imagination when producing design ideas, and to develop and modify designs by utilising your practical skills in the workshop. It is all about experimenting with new ideas and modelling them to produce an actual product.

Careers and higher education

Career paths this course is suitable for are product designer, architect, design engineer, graphic designer, interior designer, industrial designer, game designer, furniture designer, to name just a few. Some students go on to study Product Design or Architecture at university, whilst others have gone on to a wide range of other courses.

MEDIA

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
English Language

Why study Media?

A Level Media offers an examination of the world around us, looking at how media forms both traditional and new age have shaped and altered the world we live in. Throughout the course you will study different forms of media such as magazines, newspapers and adverts to mass online sources such as social media, gaming, long form television drama and box office movies.

How will I learn?

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, including the intentions of the products it creates and the intended audience. While studying you will gain an appreciation of media theorists who study developed methods of reading the digital world around us and how they can be applied to everyday life.

Skills

Media combines a mixture of theoretical knowledge with a practical application, challenging you to learn the skills of the media world and to apply 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.

Careers and Higher Education

Students who study A Level Media can go on to such careers as: Media Planners, Game design, working in the TV and Film industry, the audio digital media industry such as Radio and Broadcasting, journalism or digital marketing.

COURSE DETAILS

A-Level units

Unit 1 (35% of A Level):
Media Messages (70 marks total)
Includes unseen analysis source:
Section A: News and Online Media
Section B: Media Language and Representation

Unit 2 (35% of A Level):
Evolving Media (70 marks total)
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

Unit 3 (30% of A Level):
Making Media (60 marks NEA)
Learners will create a cross- media product



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 (Minimum 10 minutes)

Unit 3 (25% of A Level):

Composition

Creating two pieces of music totalling 4m 30 secs



MUSIC

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in Music, Practical,
Instrumental or Vocal

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 such as medicine or law.

In recent years music students have been very successful in gaining places in conservatoires 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 you to study, discover and be inspired by: music for media, music for theatre, western classical tradition and pop music.

Skills

It is preferable for you 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.

BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements
GCSE Separate Science:
Grade 6 Biology and at least
one other Science and Grade 5
Maths
GCSE Combined Science: Grade
6/6 Combined Science and
Grade 5 Maths

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.

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 (for example medicine, physiotherapy or ophthalmic), the pharmaceutical industry (for example pharmacy, pharmacology or forensics) or the environmental sciences.

COURSE DETAILS

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

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 relevant practical skills

Paper 3 (30% of A Level):

Any content from topics 1-8 including relevant practical skills



COURSE DETAILS

Chemistry is the study of properties and behaviour of matter. In Chemistry we use our knowledge of atomic structure to explain our observations and reactions.

Paper 1 (35% of A Level): 2hr

- Relevant Physical Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Relevant practical skills

Paper 2 (35% of A Level): 2hr

- Relevant Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Relevant Practical Skills

Paper 3 (30% of A Level): 2hr

- Any content
- Any practical skills



CHEMISTRY

Entry Requirements

GCSE Separate Science:
Grade 6 Chemistry and at
least one other Science
and Grade 5 Maths GCSE
Combined Science: Grade
6/6 Combined Science and
Grade 5 Maths

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, nano-technology 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. If you enjoyed GCSE Chemistry the A Level builds on this learning and extends your understanding further.

How will I study?

Your lessons will be a mixture of learning new content, practising applying this content and solving problems. This will include learning mechanisms for how reactions occur as well as calculation to help predict and understand our observations. Chemistry also involves practical work; a substantial amount of your time will be spent on laboratory investigations, which link closely with the development of new ideas.

Skills

You will need good practical and problem solving skills. Good maths skills are also essential. Chemistry can be challenging, so resilience and the ability to persevere are very important.

Careers and higher education

The skills you learn and use in Chemistry can be applied to pretty much any career or subject after A Levels. Chemistry is essential if you want to study chemical and biological sciences at a higher level. This includes pharmacy, veterinary science and chemical engineering. The analytical rigour of an A Level in Chemistry is already well known as a valuable foundation for professions such as medicine and law.

PHYSICS

Entry Requirements

GCSE Separate Science:
Grade 6 Physics and at
least one other Science and
Grade 6 Maths
GCSE Combined Science:
Grade 6/6 Combined
Science and Grade 6 Maths

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.

You 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.

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.

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

COURSE DETAILS

This is a two year course which will cover both theory and practical programming elements. Below is how it's structured.

A-Level units

Paper 1 (40% of A Level):

Computer Systems
Written exam (2hr 30m)
The internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.

Paper 2 (40% of A Level):

Algorithms and Problem Solving
Written exam (2hr 30m)
Using computational thinking to solve problems.

Paper 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 program must be to solve it written in a suitable programming language.

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in Computer Science or Grade 5 in Mathematics

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

How will I study?

The course consists of both the theory and practice of computing and computer systems. Lessons will consist of a mixture of written work and practical computing work including programming. You are are required to put in a considerable amount of work in your own time.

Skills

You will gain an understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. You will also develop the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so.

Careers and higher education

Can you imagine how digital technology will advance in the next ten years? It is Computer Scientists who will understand the digital possibilities and create innovative solutions to improve peoples' lives.

A Level Computer Science could lead to a wide variety of related Level 3 courses and on to careers in game development, system, business or data analysis, multimedia programming and many more. A wide variety of professions engage computer scientists to develop solutions to meet specific needs in their fields of study e.g. space science, medicine, geology and engineering.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements
Grade 7 in Mathematics

Why study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is an advanced level of study that delves deeper into complex mathematical concepts and theories, providing a more rigorous and comprehensive understanding beyond the standard Mathematics course.

It is the subject for those with a deep love of and interest in Mathematics, or those who wish to take Mathematics beyond school to university. You will will need a genuine interest in exploring advanced mathematical theories and applications. As Further Mathematics is taken in addition to A level Mathematics, it looks at all aspects of Mathematics and takes the study of it deeper and faster than only studying A level Mathematics.

How will I study?

Students who choose Further Mathematics will sit an AS level in Further Mathematics at the end of Year 12. The result of the AS does not count towards the final A level. The skills learned in Year 12 will be developed through into Year 13, and then all content learnt from the two years is assessed in the A Level papers which are sat at the end of Year 13.

Like the A-Level Mathematics course, a typical lesson is split between teacher-led information and examples, followed by independent practice. It is expected that you will also do a lot of independent practice outside of lesson time. During lesson time, you are frequently encouraged to use these skills to solve more challenging problems which require a deeper level of thinking and understanding.

Skills

You will require strong analytical and problem-solving skills, a solid foundation in algebra and calculus, logical reasoning, attention to detail, perseverance and the ability to grasp abstract concepts.

Careers and higher education

Further Mathematics, with its advanced and in-depth exploration of mathematical concepts, lends itself to careers in theoretical physics, engineering (particularly aerospace, mechanical, and civil), computer science, finance, and roles in highly technical industries such as telecommunications and advanced manufacturing.

COURSE DETAILS

YEAR 1: AS level Further Mathematics

During Year 1 you will study:

- Core Pure 1
- Further Statistics 1 (~4 chapters)
- Further Mechanics 1 (~3 chapters)

Paper 1 (50% of AS Level):

Core Pure 1 (1hr 40m)

Paper 2 (50% of AS Level):

Furtjer Statistics and Mechanics (1hr 40m)

YEAR 2: A level Further Mathematics

During Year 2 you will study:

- Core Pure 2
- Further Statistics 1
- Further Mechanics 1

Paper 1 (25% of A Level):

Core Pure 1 (1hr 30m)

Paper 2 (25% of A Level):

Core Pure 1 (1hr 30m)

Paper 3 (25% of A Level):

Further Mechanics 1 (1hr 30m)

Paper 4 (25% of A Level):

Further Statistics 1 (1hr 30m)

Exams at the end of Year 2 will cover everything in Year 1 and Year 2.

COURSE DETAILS

During Year 1 you will study:

- Pure 1
- Statistics 1
- Mechanics 1

During Year 2 you will study:

- Pure 2
- Statistics 2
- Mechanics 2

Paper 1 (33.3% of A Level):

Pure Mathematics (2hr)

Paper 2 (33.3% of A Level):

Pure Mathematics (2hr)

Paper 3 (33.3% of A Level):

Statistics and Mechanics (2hr)



MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 in
Mathematics

Why study Mathematics?

All students who choose to do A Level Maths will study elements of Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. They will see how different concepts link together and explore the possibilities Mathematics opens up within other specialisms.

Pure Mathematics is the study of mathematical concepts independently of any application outside mathematics, focusing on abstract structures, theoretical foundations, and logical reasoning. Across the two years, the Pure Mathematics part of the course will mainly focus on four key areas: algebraic manipulation and solving equations, Trigonometry, Differentiation and Integration.

Statistics supports students who plan to do A Level Geography, Biology, Psychology or Economics, as well as any other subject where a set of data needs to be analysed. Mechanics supports students whose interests lie in the physical world of forces and particles. It will benefit anyone studying Physics, or with a future career plan in engineering.

How will I study?

A typical lesson is split between teacher-led information and examples, followed by independent practice. A concept is typically introduced by looking at how it fits within the course and in a wider context, and then examples are given to how this could be assessed in different questions and problems. It is also expected that students will do a lot of independent practice outside of lesson time.

Skills

Resilience! Part of the fun of Mathematics is problem solving so prepare to be resilient. There is a large emphasis on algebra, and you should be confident in manipulation of algebraic expressions and equations. You should also be confident in other areas from GCSE, such as trigonometry and indices.

Careers and higher education

Mathematics lends itself to a wide range of careers, including data analysis, finance, engineering, software development, economics and science.

BUSINESS

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
English Language and
Grade 5 in Mathematics

Why study Business?

Studying A Level Business unlocks a world of opportunities! It equips you with essential skills in management, finance, and marketing, preparing you for successful careers in diverse industries. With a practical approach to real-world business scenarios, you'll develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making abilities. Whether you aim to start your own business, climb the corporate ladder, or pursue further studies, A Level Business provides a solid foundation and a competitive edge in the dynamic business world.

How will I study?

You will engage in a dynamic and interactive learning process. You will be asked questions and encouraged to ask your own, fostering a deeper understanding through dialogue. You'll take notes during lessons and write your own summaries to reinforce key concepts. Reading business case studies and news articles will provide real-world context. You'll undertake business calculations and write essays to develop analytical skills. Your study methods will vary, sometimes working independently, and other times collaborating in pairs or groups, enhancing both individual and teamwork abilities.

Skills

Through studying business, you will develop transferable skills that prepare you for university or the workplace. You'll become skilled in decision-making, problem-solving, applying numerical skills (including finance and data analysis), and understanding the business environment. You'll also enhance your communication skills for presenting ideas, teamwork for collaborative projects, and time management for balancing tasks, all while developing commercial awareness.

Careers and higher education

Suitable higher education courses include business management, accountancy and finance, marketing, tourism management, and international business. There are also many apprenticeships that can lead to careers in private businesses, such as banking, sales, product management and general management as well as public sector organisations or charities.

COURSE DETAILS

Year 1

In Theme 1 and Theme 2 you will learn about how businesses work. You will be introduced to entrepreneurs and business start-ups before investigating the marketing and people functions. You will also explore how business finance and operations work, and understand the impact of external influences on business decision-making.

Year 2

Theme 3 and Theme 4 move from functions to strategy. You will explore influences on business strategy and decision-making, and understand how businesses mitigate risk and uncertainty. You will also explore global business and the opportunities and issues facing businesses in today's global world.

Assessment

You will be assessed through three exam papers at the end of the course.

Papers 1 and 2 consist of data response and essay questions.

For Paper 3, you will complete a research task before the exam, with data response and essay questions linked to your research.

Each paper is 2 hours.

COURSE DETAILS

Year 1

This consists of two themes covering microeconomics. In Theme 1, you will learn about how markets work through the interaction of supply and demand, and why markets sometimes fail. In Theme 3, you will explore business behaviour across various contexts and how the labour market influences wages and employment.

Year 2

This consists of two themes covering macroeconomics. In Theme 2, you will study the UK economy's performance, such as economic growth and inflation, and policies such as interest rates and taxation. In Theme 4, you will take a global perspective, looking at international economics such as exchange rates and trade protection, and the development of countries to improve equality.

Assessment

You will be assessed through three exam papers at the end of the course.

Paper 1 is microeconomics and paper 2 is macroeconomics.

Paper 3 is synoptic, you will be expected to use your knowledge across all areas of study.

Each paper consists of data response and essay questions based upon extracts from real-life economic articles.

Each paper is 2 hours.

ECONOMICS

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
English Language and
Grade 5 in Mathematics

Why study Economics?

A Level Economics tackles intriguing questions like: Why did Freddo prices triple from 10p in 2005 to 35p in 2024? Why do Premiership footballers earn more than the Prime Minister? How will US tariffs impact its economy and China's? Why do we pay taxes? Why ban petrol and diesel cars by 2035? How does a Bank of England interest rate increase affect households, businesses, and the government? Economics examines resource allocation—like machines and labour—to meet society's needs, considering 'opportunity costs' and impacts on the environment. It's a compelling field for curious minds, blending theory with real-world applications across diverse contexts.

How will I study?

You will embark on an engaging and interactive learning journey exploring complex economic principles through active questioning and dialogue, enhancing your understanding. Note-taking and summarising key concepts will reinforce your learning, while studying case studies and news articles will provide practical context. You'll develop analytical skills through economic diagrams, calculations and essay writing. Whether working independently or in groups, you'll strengthen both individual capabilities and teamwork, preparing you to analyse economic phenomena with depth and insight.

Skills

Studying economics equips you with practical skills for university and work. You'll learn to make decisions, solve problems, analyse data and understand how businesses operate. You'll also improve your communication, teamwork and time management, gaining a better grasp of how the economy works in the real world.

Careers and higher education

Studying economics opens doors to many careers. You could work as an economist analysing trends, advising businesses, or governments. Financial analysts use economic principles to guide investments, and market researchers study consumer behaviour. Jobs in banking, consulting, or government also benefit from economics. Understanding economics helps you make a difference in shaping policies or business strategies, using analytical thinking and insight to solve real-world problems.

POLITICS

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
English Language

Why study Politics?

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.

Paper 1 (33.3% of A Level):

UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

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

Paper 2 (33.3% of A Level):

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 (33.3% of A Level):

Comparative Politics

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

COURSE DETAILS

Year 1

Unit 1 (96 marks, 2hr exam):

Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Social Influence

Unit 2 (96 marks, 2hr exam):

Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Research methods
- Biopsychology

Year 2

We complete Unit 2 and move onto Unit 3

Unit 3 (96 marks, 2hr exam):

Issues and Debates in Psychology

- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology
- Issues and Debates

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in English
Language and
Grade 5 in
Mathematics

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and 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. For example: Why do people forget? Why do some people suffer from mental disorders such as depression or schizophrenia? By studying Psychology you will develop a deeper understanding of how psychological research is applied in the wider world and the tools to analyse behaviour.

How will I study?

As psychologists we appreciate that people learn in different ways. You will experience a variety of teaching methods including lectures, seminars, clips of classic research and lessons on the construction and design of experiments. The department uses knowledge books for all topics and you can expect lots of past exam questions to build confidence with the assessment criteria. Enrichment opportunities include a Criminology Conference with Sociologists in year 12 and a Brain day in year 13. External speakers such as the Police and Clinical Psychologists help emphasise real life applications in psychology.

Skills

You will develop knowledge of competing approaches and debates in psychology as well as critical and analytical skills to evaluate psychological theory and research. You will learn how to plan and execute research and draw conclusions from a range of scientific and non-scientific data. As the course progresses our psychologists demonstrate competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.

Careers and higher education

Studying economics opens doors to many careers. You could Many of our students continue with a degree in Psychology at University, or related disciplines such Forensics, Criminology and Neuroscience. Psychology is a useful foundation for any career dealing with people leading to further study in Law, Social Work and the Social Sciences. Medicine and allied health professions such as physiotherapy and speech therapy are also popular options for our psychologists.

SOCIOLOGY

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
English Language

Why study Sociology?

A-Level Sociology is designed to appeal to students who want to find out more about the world we live in. Is it society that makes us who we are? In turn, do we influence the creation and development of society? Are our roles and functions in the world important? What about conflict and inequalities? For Sociology, it is important that 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.

How will I study?

Lessons are structured to include both lecture and discussion. You will be issued with course materials including work booklets and texts. Assessments will be largely essay based with timed exam style questions set at the end of units of study. You will also have the opportunity to attend a Criminology Conference in Year 12.

Skills

You will be prepared to work independently, annotating booklets, ensuring deadlines are met and keeping up to date with course content as each section is covered in lessons. You are also expected to work in groups, contribute to class discussions and ask questions. You should attend all lessons pre-prepared by reading appropriate textbooks or digital content in advance.

Careers and higher education

Sociology A Level is a solid starting point for any social science degree course at university. Previous students have also gone on to study a wide range of other courses. Our students develop their interpersonal and analytical skills, both of which can be beneficial in future careers.

COURSE DETAILS

Year 1

Paper 1:

Education with Methods in Context

Paper 2:

*Research Methods and Topics in Sociology
(Families and Households)*

Year 2

Paper 2:

Topics in Sociology (Beliefs in Society)

Paper 3:

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

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.

Paper 1 (40% of A Level, 2hr 30m)

Language, the Individual and Society Democracy and participation
Section A: Textual Variations and Representations
Section B: Children's Language Development

Paper 2 (40% of A Level, 2h 30m)

Language, Diversity and Change
Section A: Diversity and Change
Section B: Language Discourse

Paper 3 (20% of A Level)

- Language in Action
- Language Investigation focused on area of Linguistics of your choosing
- Original Writing and Commentary



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in English Literature and 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. You are asked to make presentations in pairs to develop your understanding so that you 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

To do well in A-Level English Language, you will need to do a lot of reading. As well as the set texts, you will need 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. Additionally, 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 A Level English Language go on to study subjects such as linguistics, law and modern foreign languages at university.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language

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 includes 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. Additionally, students will complete research on context and will read relevant critical texts.

Skills

In order to do well in this course you need 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.

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.

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, 3hr)

- Love through the ages*
- '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, 2hr 30m)

- '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

Paper 3 (20% of A Level)

- Non-Exam Assessment
- 'The Country Wife' by William Wycherley compared to a literary text of your choosing

COURSE DETAILS

There are four key themes, each consisting of three subtopics. Themes 1 and 2 are taught throughout Year 12. and themes 3 and 4 are taught throughout Year 13. In addition, students study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13:

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).

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).

Paper 1 (40% of A Level, 2hr)

Listening, Reading and Translation

Based on all four themes of study as above.

Paper 2 (30% of A Level, 2h 40m)

Written response to works and translation

Will cover the your understanding of the film (Les Choristes) you have watched, the book (Un sac de billes) you have read and will assess your ability to write effectively in French.

Paper 3:

Speaking exam

FRENCH

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 in 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.

How will I study?

Our small group classes are perfect to allow all students to benefit from contact with their teacher. All students have the opportunity to speak in French every lesson. We work from our knowledge books which have been created by teachers with extensive knowledge of the course. Throughout a typical week, lessons will focus on each of the key skills: listening, reading, writing, speaking and translating.

Skills

To do well in this course you will need to be prepared to immerse yourself in the culture of France and the French speaking world. You should aim to read or listen to additional material from a variety of sources. You will be expected to prepare, plan and hand in essays regularly, so the ability to write in French will be developed as it is essential for this course.

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 these opportunities.

GERMAN

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 in 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 a sophisticated level.

In modern Europe, Germany is the leading economic power. German is the second most spoken native language, after Russian, and ahead of French and English. A-Level and university graduates with qualifications in German will be in high demand by industry.

How will I study?

Our small group classes are perfect to allow all students to benefit from contact with their teacher. All students have the opportunity to speak in German every lesson. We work from our knowledge books which have been created by teachers with extensive knowledge of the course. Throughout a typical week lessons will focus on each of the key skills: listening, reading, writing, speaking and translating.

Skills

To do well in this course you will need to be prepared to immerse yourself in the culture of Germany and the German speaking world. You should aim to read or listen to additional material from a variety of sources. You will be expected to prepare, plan and hand in essays regularly, so the ability to write in German will be developed as it is essential for this course.

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 four key themes, each consisting of three subtopics. Themes 1 and 2 are taught throughout Year 12 and themes 3 and 4 are taught throughout Year 13. In addition, students study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13:

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).

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).

Paper 1 (40% of A Level, 2hr)

Listening, Reading and Translation

Based on all four themes of study as above.

Paper 2 (30% of A Level, 2h 40m)

Written response to works and translation

Will cover your understanding of the film (Goodbye Lenin) you have watched, the book (Der Vorleser) you have read and will assess your ability to write effectively in German.

Paper 3:

Speaking exam

COURSE DETAILS

Paper 1 (30% of A Level)

Physical Geography

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

Paper 2 (30% of A Level)

Human Geography

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

Paper 3 (20% of A Level)

Synoptic themes

- A written exam based on an unseen resource

Non-Examined Assessment (20% of A Level)

- Coursework element based on fieldwork

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in Geography
Grade 5 in
English Language

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: for example environmental conservation, hydrology, planning; or non-vocational: for example, law, industry, commerce, local government, broadcasting (TV and radio), journalism, publishing, teaching, banking, and management.

HISTORY

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in History
Grade 5 in
English Language

Why study History?

The study of History at A Level builds on the skills introduced 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 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: communication; reasoning; deduction; organisation and evaluation, and the 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.

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.

COURSE DETAILS

Paper 1 (40% of A Level)

Breadth Study: The Tudors: England 1485-1603

Split over two years, you will study the entirety of the Tudor England period, looking at themes such as: government, foreign policy, religion, society, and economy.

- Henry VII (Year 12)
- Henry VIII (Year 12)
- Edward VI (Year 13)
- Mary I (Year 13)
- Elizabeth I (Year 13)

Paper 2 (40% of A Level)

Depth Study: Russia: 1917-1953

Split over two years, you will study the Bolshevik takeover of Russia in 1917, followed by studying the changes that took place under Lenin's leadership and then Russia under Stalin.

- Russia in 1917 and the Revolutions (Year 12)
- Russia under Lenin (1917-24) (Year 12)
- The power struggle and emergence of Stalin (1924-29) (Year 12)
- Stalin's Russia (1929-53) (Year 13)
-

Non-Examined Assessment (20% of A Level)

American Civil Rights: Approx: 1860-1980

You will study an overview at the end of Year 12 and then begin your independent piece of work in Year 13. You will be able to choose a question on topics such as the role of individuals, the actions of the American government or the role of women. You will then be required to produce an essay of up to 4,500 words.

COURSE DETAILS

Paper 1 (33% of A Level, 2hrs)

Philosophy of Religion

- Philosophical Arguments about the Existence of God
- Religious Experience
- Problems of Evil and Suffering
- Religious Language
- The work of Scholars
- Life After Death
- Science and Religion

Paper 2 (33% of A Level, 2hrs)

Religion and Ethics

- Normative Ethical Theories: Utilitarianism, Natural Moral Law, Situation Ethics, Deontology
- Applied Ethics: Ethical Issues Relating to War, Environment, Sex and Medicine
- Ethical Language
- Religion and Morality

Paper 3 (33% of A Level)

New Testament Studies

- The World of First Century Palestine and the Context of Jesus
- Prophecy and the Messiah: Matthew's Proof Texts
- The Fourth Gospel: Context, Christology, Themes, Purpose and Authorship
- Forms of Biblical Criticism and Ways of Interpreting the Text
- The Parables in Luke's Gospel: The Kingdom of God and Morality
- Why Did Jesus Have to Die?
- Scientific and Historical Challenges to the Resurrection

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
Religious Education

Why study Religious Studies?

Does God exist? What makes you a good person? What were the authors of the New Testament really trying to tell you? A Level Religious Studies covers a wide range of topics involving faith, morality and biblical criticism. Religious Studies at The Becket offers students the chance to engage with some of life's biggest questions, evaluating the place of religion in the world today. This course will develop your ability to think critically, to assess and evaluate arguments as well as develop your own point of view.

How will I study?

Lessons in Religious Studies are centred on the high quality knowledge book resources which have been made by teachers who are specialists in their specific areas of study. Students will spend time reading, annotating and evaluating the core information and other questions which may arise. There are regular opportunities for debate and discussion to support you in shaping your knowledge and understanding. As well as knowledge books, students will be provided with anthologies and key philosophical texts from some of the world's most famous authors including Plato, Freud, Marx, Russell, Aquinas, and Kant.

Skills

A lot of the skills students need to be successful in Religious Studies will be acquired through our academic journey and investigation. The Religious Studies department is proud to explicitly teach students how to clarify, discuss, evaluate and analyse, providing extensive feedback and high quality exemplar essays to broaden your skills. By the end of the course students leave with the necessary tools to write academic essays at a university level.

Careers and higher education

Religious Studies is considered a classical subject and therefore complements 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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Entry Requirements
Grade 5 in
Physical Education

Why study Physical Education?

If you enjoy all aspects of physical education and would like to learn and understand more about the subject then you should consider studying A Level PE. During the course you will specifically learn about how physiological and psychological factors affect physical performance. You will also learn and research about different socio-cultural issues within sport. The course is an excellent basis for further study of PE and Sports Science at degree level. .

How will I study?

Lessons are seminar style , meaning all students are encouraged to participate in discussion as well complete a variety of written tasks and assignments. You will receive expert teaching from a variety of teachers specialising in specific topic areas. There will also be opportunities to complete both practical and oral non examined assessments.

Skills

In order to do well in this course you will have to retain a lot of new information and apply to a variety of different questions. You will need to remember and retain a significant amount of knowledge, analyse and evaluate theories, and write essays on historical and contemporary issues affecting sport.

Careers and higher education

Many students go on to study a variety of PE based subjects at university such as: Sports Science; Sports management; Physiotherapy; Business in Sport; Sports Journalism; Sports Coaching and Sports Engineering. These university courses can lead to job opportunities in many sectors in society, for example: education, professional sports, sports and exercise science, health and fitness and Sports Management.

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

Practical skills: Performance and evaluation for improvement of performance. Candidates are assessed in either performing or coaching one activity from the approved list.

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 and evaluation for improvement of performance. Candidates are assessed in either performing or coaching one activity from the approved list.

EXTRA CURRICULAR QUALIFICATIONS

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in Mathematics

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 one year long and is equivalent to an AS in UCAS points.

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.

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 to the examiner.

As you progress through the grades you develop the ability to speak clearly and project your voice for an audience. You discover the techniques you require to engage an audience and to structure your speeches effectively.

At the higher grades, learners are asked to create an impromptu speech with minimal preparation. Level 3 exams (Grades 6-8) gives 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 interpersonal 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

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 conduct research 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. In addition to the lessons you will need to allocate two hours each week of your own time to your research.

Why should I consider doing EPQ?

EPQ is 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.)



“ 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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SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2025 ADMISSIONS

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