# JMF6 ABINGDON

# PROSPECTUS 2026

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# WELCOME to JMF6 ABINGDON

Dear Student,

Welcome to JMF6-Abingdon, the Sixth Form provided by Fitzharrys School and John Mason School, delivering high quality, post-16 education to young people in the Abingdon area and beyond. Ms Julia Preston is the Director of JMF6-Abingdon and works across the two sites. She is supported by Mrs Anna Marriott (John Mason) and Mrs Caroline Scott (Fitzharrys) as Deputy Directors. Our ambition is for every student to access outstanding learning opportunities, which encourage them to become academically successful, happy, confident and inquiring young people.

We believe that you have the potential to make a difference in the world; to be ambitious in your career choices and to understand your place in society. We know we can achieve this for you, through the very best teaching, high quality careers advice and guidance, a caring, and knowledgeable pastoral support team, and a wide range of opportunities and experiences designed to help you develop talents, interests and skills.

We pride ourselves on being a friendly and inclusive student community. Our ethos is based on the principle that each student is an individual, is exceptional and is valued. Throughout your time with us, this principle drives a personal tutorial programme to help support you academically and personally, so that you achieve your goals. We have single year tutor groups in year 12 and 13 to ensure that your exact needs are met. Individual programmes will support you in whatever pathway you choose to take next.

As well as setting challenging and aspirational academic targets, we also want you to acquire skills and qualities which will help develop you as maturing adults. This we achieve through our Enrichment Programme, where you are strongly encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme. Within this enrichment programme you commit to developing the qualities of leadership, organisation, responsibility, and teamwork: the wider qualities looked for by universities and employers. You will also learn new skills from other enrichment courses, such as team sport. All students are offered the EPQ, a much-valued qualification and test of independent study skills.

We are very proud of our sixth form students; they are role models for our younger pupils and show us time and time again that they are extraordinary young people; you can be too.

We look forward to you joining our community.

Mr W Speke
**Headteacher**
**Fitzharrys School**

Mrs J Tridgell
**Director of Education**
**Abingdon Learning Trust**

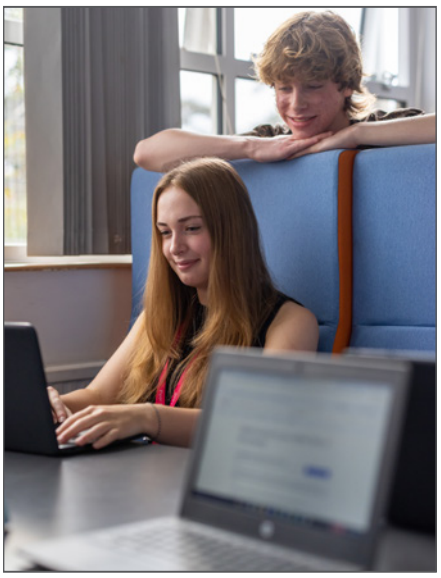
Mr A West
**Headteacher**
**John Mason School**

# Academic Culture

As a member of JMF6-Abingdon, the expectation is that you meet the standards required of an A Level student The development of professional working habits will not only contribute significantly to your academic progress whilst at JMF6-Abingdon, but will remain with you when you move to your next destination, and onwards. JMF6-Abingdon will work hard to support you in developing academic skills, but it is up to you to take responsibility for your own learning.

To support students in meeting these standards, everyone at JMF6-Abingdon works side by side. Staff work alongside you in the Sixth Form Centres at both sites, subject teachers model professional attitudes, and expect these in return. We all work alongside each other.

You will have the opportunity to play a leadership role in the rest of the school, working side by side with younger students, and be genuinely positive role models.
You will be alongside them in lessons, at break and as pastoral support.



# Student Leadership

I am very excited to be a Head Student at JMF6-Abingdon this year, after attending Fitzharrys for the previous five years. This role gives me the opportunity to represent the school and my fellow students, whilst giving back to the people that have and continue to support me throughout my academic career. Whilst the transition to year 12 can be daunting, I have found that the teachers and support staff are always welcoming and supportive from the induction day and throughout your time here.

I am currently studying A Levels in English Literature, Psychology, Drama and Core Maths, as well as undertaking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), with a view to studying Primary Education with Qualified Teacher Status at University. JMF6-Abingdon have been great at supporting the step up to A Levels, helping us to achieve our goals and to prepare for next steps with guidance on completing all aspects of our UCAS forms.

The combined Sixth Form at JMF6-Abingdon provides a unique experience, which provides students with the chance to meet new students and teachers and to experience a plethora of opportunities. Students are encouraged to take up opportunities to expand their studies by completing an Extended Project Qualification on a topic of their choice and option to complete the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Alongside this, students can choose to join a range of clubs including MUN (Model United Nations), sports, craft clubs and many more, or to start their own club! You can also get involved with a range of committees for whichever area you are passionate about by joining and getting involved in the student leadership team. There are opportunities for mentoring younger students, organising events and working to improve the JMF6-Abingdon experience for everyone.

From my personal experience I have learned to take up many of the opportunities offered to me, which has allowed me to gain confidence and step outside my comfort zone, which I think will be helpful in the future. As Head Student, I aim to build on the work of previous years to create a more integrated Sixth Form with plenty of opportunities, good communication and support all-round, allowing all students to have a place in which they can fulfil their potential.

**Megan Farnell** - **JMF6-Abingdon** Head Student

I feel incredibly proud to be a Head Student and to represent a school that has been part of my life since Year 7. I'm currently studying A Levels in Spanish, Maths, and Physics—subjects I enjoy for their challenge and the different ways they help me think and communicate. I enjoy travelling and studying a language helps me to mix with people in their native language. In year 10, I contributed to the raising of £12,000 to join a volunteer trip to Kenya with the Nasio Trust. During Covid, I set up my own pizza business and with the help of my brother delivered pizzas locally to raise funds.

For me, school is about much more than just academic learning. It's a place where strong friendships are built, skills are developed, and where everyone should have the chance to grow and feel part of a wider community. I believe in the importance of supporting others, giving back, and creating positive connections. Taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at school is an opportunity to do this, at the same time as getting involved in extra-curricular activities and forming friendships with new people.

My vision for the student leadership team is to strengthen the bond between both schools and foster a real sense of belonging for every student. I want to help create an inclusive environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and able to take pride in who they are and the school they're part of. A big part of that involves listening to student voices and working closely with staff and our student committees to make meaningful changes that improve the experience of everyone at JMF6-Abingdon.

**Charlie Bell** - **JMF6-Abingdon** Head Student

# Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

JMF6-Abingdon is proud to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Gold level to all our Sixth Form students. This award fosters leadership, teamwork, responsibility and confidence: skills that are highly valued by employers and university admissions tutors.

In year 12, students receive practical tuition in expedition training (cooking, camp craft, map reading and compass skills), physical activity and developing personal skills.

All students will canoe for their expedition, and receive basic training before their practice expedition and final assessed expedition.

As part of the Award, all students are required to complete at least 12 months voluntary service. Most students complete this through contributing to activities in the main school: helping out in lower school lessons, becoming peer mentors or leading and supervising clubs for younger students. Some students engage in voluntary activity outside school, such as helping out a local charity, and this can be accredited towards the award.

Students are also required to arrange a 5 day 4 nights residential experience themselves. They will receive full advice and guidance on this aspect of the Award.






# Curriculum Pathways

The world of opportunities post-18 is dynamic and exciting and changes every year. JMF6-Abingdon specialises in an A Level based offer, which can lead to a wide variety of pathways. Whether you choose three A Levels, or one of our flexible combinations, you will be well placed in two years time to choose the perfect route for you.

## A Levels and Level 3 courses:

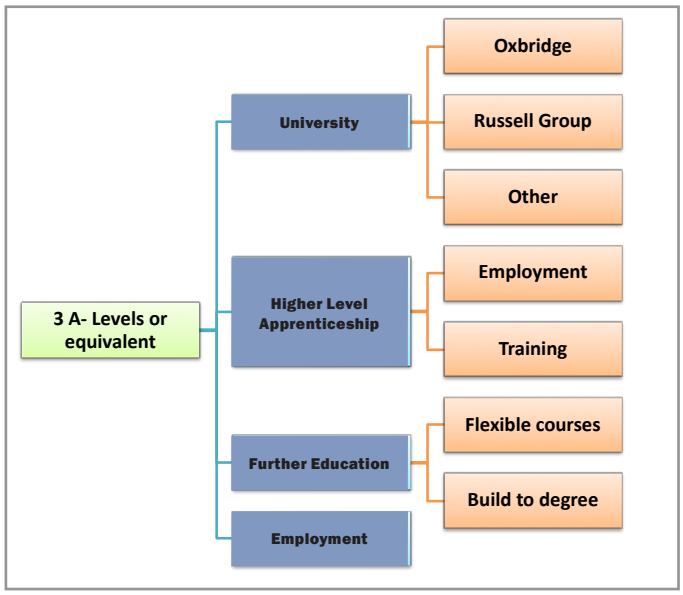
Partnership across two schools leads to a choice of a wide range of subjects and opportunities. Most subjects offered are A Levels. They are linear courses with the examination at the end of the two year course. You will find details of the courses on offer at John Mason and Fitzharrys Schools on the pages that follow. We are hoping to offer most, if not all, of these subjects in 2026, but the final curriculum offer will depend on staffing and student numbers opting for each course. Students can also opt for Level 3 Criminology, a non-linear course.

## What courses can I choose and how do I apply?

Our subject offer is on the pages that follow. We ask students to submit an application form so we can see students' subject preferences and which subjects need to be blocked together. Students can apply to join JMF6-Abingdon on the 'Application' QR Code below. External students (not already at John Mason or Fitzharrys School) should use the 'Start a New Application'on the Applicaa platform. Students based at John Mason or Fitzharrys School will be able to login as an 'Existing User'. Your username is your school email and the Applicaa password will be sent to your school email.

Our Admissions policy has been updated for 2026 entry. Students will require 36 GCSE points from their best 8 GCSEs and will require at least GCSE grade 5 in the subject they apply to study at A Level or Level 3 at JMF6-Abingdon (or the GCSE subject deemed to be most relevant to the chosen course, where the subject was not studied at GCSE).

Some subjects have higher requirements; please see the admissions policy.




## How many subjects do I have to study?

Most students will study three subjects, although it is possible to do more. Each subject you take will typically have contact time and study periods over a two-week timetable, as well as dedicated study periods in school. Beyond this you will be expected to complete guided independent study for each subject in your own time.

## Where do I study these subjects?

All A Level subjects are taught at either Fitzharrys School or John Mason School by experienced A Level teachers. You may therefore have to travel from one site to another during the day, at break or lunchtime.

Application

Admissions policy

# Enrichment

JMF6-Abingdon is uniquely placed to offer enrichment opportunities that allow students to develop as people and students, leading to success in their exams and in their chosen post-18 pathway. Whether these opportunities be extra qualifications, personal skills learning, or advice and guidance, students at JMF6-Abingdon will be perfectly placed to take their positions in the world that awaits them.

## Enriching Qualifications

JMF6-Abingdon is looking to expand its offer of supplementary qualifications that will enhance students' skills, and giving them greater choice of destination.

**Extended Project Qualification** – The EPQ is now recommended for all students starting JMF6. Students will identify a subject of interest to them, be supported in framing an investigating question, receive guidance on research and presentation techniques and then submit an end product. As well as carrying UCAS points equivalent to half an A Level, the skills developed are highly rated by admissions tutors (particularly for Russell Group and Oxbridge) and employers.

**Oxbridge and Russell Group Pathways** – JMF6 has a well-established progamme of support for applications to Oxford and Cambridge and the Russell Group universities. This includes discrete sessions covering course identification, application writing, preparation for entrance exams, and interview practice. We do this in partnership with Abingdon School and Trinity College Oxford.

**Careers Advice & Guidance** – Formal and informal advice and guidance is given throughout both years at JMF6, including a university speaker programme.

**UCAS application process**:

- Guidance with personal statements
- Full training on the UCAS system
- Programme of visiting speakers
- University Open Days

**Futures programme**:

- Development of personal skills, particularly time
- management and organisation
- Awareness of global issues and citizenship

**Careers advice**:

- Attendance at relevant Careers Fairs
- One to one advice from our dedicated Careers Advisor
- Visiting speakers from the world of industry and education

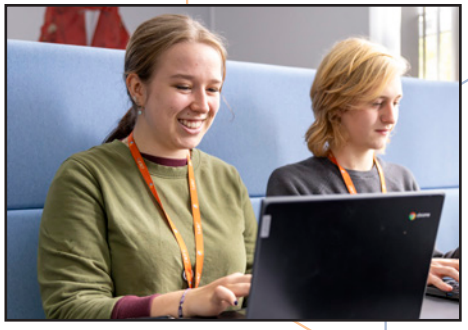
**Personal development**:

- Safe driving programme
- Curriculum enrichment trips
- Sporting opportunities – regular timetabled sessions and fixtures
- Performing Arts – contribution to school concerts and productions
- Academic opportunities – opportunities to attend lectures and seminars at our local universities and through our partnerships.

# Facilities in the Sixth Form centre

JMF6-Abingdon has Sixth Form facilities at both sites. Building on our professional study ethos, the common areas have a study cafe feel, designed to replicate a university atmosphere. Across both sites, there are 160 study spaces where students can sit and work, in comfortable and contemporary surroundings. There are over 100 Chromebooks available for independent study.

The design in the common rooms allows students to relax and socialise at appropriate times. Kitchens are available for snacks and drinks. Our learning mentor is available to support students throughout the school day.



# SUBJECTS

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel

# ART & DESIGN: Fine Art

## What will I study?

During your A Level course you will cover a whole range of different media, techniques and processes, from printmaking to abstraction.

In the first two terms of year 12 you will be introduced to a range of media and techniques in 3D, painting, drawing, photography and print, to stretch and challenge skills and understanding across the key genres in Art & Design. In the final terms of year 12 you will set your own personal brief and theme, to create a personal in-depth body of coursework that continues into year 13. This will include an extended written assignment of 1000-3000 words supporting your theme and profiling your ideas alongside artists' and designers' work.

## How will I be assessed?

60% of the assessment is based on coursework and 40% is on the final examination. The final exam starts in January of Year 13 and is an externally set theme, with a 15-hour final practical test in May.

Coursework consists of preparatory studies in the form of sketchbooks or design sheets, plus supporting artworks and refined, developed outcomes.

The course is taught across four assessment objectives (equal in weighting) that measure success against research, development, experimentation and investigation, refinement and making. All units are internally marked and externally moderated.

## How will I learn?

- Personal research, experimentation and development of ideas.
- Coverage of a wide range of techniques and processes, including 3D and contemporary art forms.
- Art/Design history and theoretical concepts.
- Site visits, exhibitions and museum visits.

## What skills will I need?

- Independent learning and self organisation.
- Passion for the arts scene, visiting exhibitions.
- Problem solving, reviewing and modifying skills.
- Good observational skills and critical analysis skills.
- An understanding of formal elements of Art & Design - composition, colour, line, form etc from GSCE study.

## Careers & Progression

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. So, your creativity isn't just a way of satisfying your artistic soul, it can open the door to creative career opportunities as well.

After A Level, many students go on to higher education in art and design via a foundation course or straight to a BA (Hons) art/design degree. JMF6-Abingdon has a 100% success rate of students gaining places on their chosen art and design courses. Students then progress to a range of related careers such as advertising, graphic and digital design, animation, set and special effects design, illustration or even automotive design. Some become professional artisans and craftspeople, painters, sculptors, textile designers, product and furniture designers, jewellery designers, florists, fashion designers, art teachers, photographers... These are just a few of the careers that are open to students with a qualification and experience in Art and Design.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel

# ART & DESIGN: Graphic Communications

## What will I study?

During your A Level course you will extend your knowledge and skill in key graphical areas such as promotional design, packaging, and typography.

In the first two terms of year 12, you will cover a core range of graphical techniques including typography principles, understanding page layout, photography, illustration, and digital skills using professional design software. The rest of the year will be a branding project that will explore a range of different phases and outcomes as part of a branding package. Students will be able to source their own clients and write creative briefs to set their project into a vocational scenario. This will enhance their own communication skills as well as develop a high-quality portfolio to support their application into higher education. This portfolio will include an extended written assignment of 1000-3000 words with a supporting theme that relates to their coursework studies, and contain in-depth research and analysis of artists and designers to conclude a personally selected question.

## How will I be assessed?

60% of the assessment is based on the coursework and 40% is on the final examination. The final exam starts in January of year 13 and is an externally set theme, with a 15-hour final practical test in May. Coursework consists of practical preparatory studies in the form of sketchbooks or design sheets, plus supporting design experimental pieces and refined, developed outcomes.

The course is taught across four assessment objectives (equal in weighting) that measure the success against research, development, experimentation, and investigation, refinement and making. All units are marked internally and externally moderated.

## How will I learn?

- Personal research, experimentation and development of ideas.
- Coverage of a wide range of techniques and processes, including 3D and contemporary art forms.
- Art/Design history and theoretical concepts.
- Site visits, exhibitions and museum visits.

## What skills will I need?

- Independent learning and self organisation.
- Passion for design and the creative industries.
- Problem solving, reviewing and modifying skills.
- Good observational skills and critical analysis skills.
- An understanding of the formal elements and priciples of design, i.e. composition, colour, geometry, construction etc.
- Skills in digital design software such as Adobe Creative suite (Photoshop & Illustrator).

## Careers & Progression

Every forward-thinking company realises that good quality promotion and branding is an important factor in generating new business, as well as making yourself visible in a competitive marketplace. Therefore, studying a design discipline such as Graphic Communication can not only satisfy the creative soul, but it can also open the door towards a commercial career opportunity too. There are many transferrable skills that are naturally embedded into the working practices of designers that can be used in every industry.

After A Level, many students go onto higher education in Design via a foundation course or straight to a BA (Hons) art/design degree. JMF6-Abingdon has a 100% success rate of students gaining places on their chosen Art and design courses. Graphics students then progress to a range of related careers such as advertising and promotional design, web and digital design, animation, media and film, set and special effects design, product design, illustration or even architectural and automotive design.

These are just a few of the careers that are open to students with a qualification and experience in Art and design.

A Level

**Specification:** Edexcel

# ART & DESIGN: Textile Design

## What will I study?

Textile Design is a creative and exciting course, which develops students' skills across a wide area and provides an excellent foundation for a career within design. Students must cover one or more of the following disciplines: textiles for interiors, fine art textiles, or fashion textiles.

Initial work explored will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of materials, techniques, and design processes, undertaken around a design theme. Through the two years students will study across a number of practical disciplines which will include some of the following: garments, fashion accessories, sculpture, knitting, weaving, printing, painting, observational drawing, CAD, fabric construction, fashion illustration and textile installations.

Initial short-term skills-building projects in year 12 will develop into a more in-depth body of coursework, set against a personally chosen theme, that runs into year 13. In year 13, the course also includes a written component of a 1000-3000 word essay, exploring artists' and designers' work alongside your own theme and ideas.

## How will I be assessed?

60% of the assessment is based on coursework and 40% is on the final examination. The final exam starts in January of year 13 and is an externally set theme, with a 15-hour final practical test in May.

Coursework consists of preparatory studies in the form of sketchbooks or design sheets, plus supporting design experimental pieces and refined, developed outcomes.

The course is taught across four assessment objectives (equal in weighting) that measure success against research, development, experimentation and investigation, refinement and making. All units are internally marked and externally moderated.

## How will I learn?

- Personal research, experimentation and development of ideas.
- Coverage of a wide range of techniques and processes, including 3D and contemporary art forms.
- Art/Design history and theoretical concepts.
- Site visits, exhibitions and museum visits.

## What skills will I need?

- Independent learning and self organisation as the course is heavily practical.
- Passion for the textile design scene, independent visits to museums/exhibitions.
- Problem solving skills and resilience to modify and improve.
- Good observational/sketching skills and critical analysis skills.
- A basic understanding of formal elements of Art & Design composition, colour etc. (via an Art/Design GCSE).
- Basic knowledge of a few textile techniques – embroidery, knit etc. Basic skills on a sewing machine are useful, but not essential as they can be quickly learnt.

The course enables students to leave with a wide and transferable skill set above and beyond design to include practical and independent learning, IT skills, critical analysis and problem solving.

## Careers & Progression

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. So, your creativity isn't just a way of satisfying your artistic soul, it can open the door to creative career opportunities as well.

After A Level, many students go on to higher education in Design via a foundation course or straight to a BA (Hons) art/design degree. JMF6-Abingdon has a 100% success rate of students gaining places on their chosen Art and Design courses. Textiles students then progress to a range of related careers such as fashion design, fashion retail and business marketing, fashion photography, trend researchers and buyers, fashion and interiors magazine publishing, hair and make-up stylists, interior designers, surface pattern design, knitwear and constructed textile designers, printed textile designers and professional artisans. These are just a few of the careers open to students with a qualification and experience in Art and Design.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel

# BUSINESS

## What will I study?

**Year 1** includes the following topics:

Theme 1 - Marketing & people

- Meeting customer needs
- The market
- Marketing mix and strategy
- Managing people
- Entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2 - Managing business activities

- Raising finance
- Financial planning
- Managing finance
- Resourch management
- External influences

**Year 2** has two themes:

Theme 3 - Business decisions and strategy
Theme 4 - Global business

## How will I be assessed?

The A-level is assessed by three two hour written exams at the end of the course.

- **Paper 1**:
  Will contain questions on theme 1 and theme 4 with a mix of short and long answers
- **Paper 2**:
  Will contain questions on theme 2 and theme 3 with a mix of short and long answers
- **Paper 3**:
  Will contain questions on all 4 themes with a mix of short and long answers. There will be a pre-released context.

**Testing quantitative skills**
The AS and A Level will assess quantitative skills, with comprise a minimum of 10% of the overall marks. The skills tested include ratios, averages, fractions, percentages and calculation of profit and loss.

## How will I learn?

Class discussions and presentations

- Research and independent learning work etc.
- Analysis of data
- Answering challenging questions
- Group work

## What skills will I need?

- Self-motivation
- Interest in the business world
- Independent learning and self-organisation
- Problem solving
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Mathematical skills for example percentage change

## Careers & Progression

A Level Business is welcomed by universities. It also provides an insight into, and progression towards, the business world for students who wish to progress to courses and apprenticeships in fields such as commerce, marketing, accounting, events management and many others.

A Level

**Specification:** OCR H446

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## What will I study?

Computers and technology are at the heart of almost everything we do. Entertainment, business, transport and education all rely on computers.

Understanding computing technology is a vital skill for the 21st century. Studying Computer Science will equip you with problem solving skills and technical insights that you can also apply to a broad range of other disciplines.

The new specification has introduced theory topics very relevant today, such as "Big Data" (how large organisations process huge amounts of information collected) and "Consequences of uses of computing" (looking at the moral, legal and cultural implications of the massive role that technology plays in today's society).

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structure
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving

## How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1: A written exam testing a student's theoretical knowledge of computer science, such as data representation, computer systems and architecture, communications and networking, big data, databases and consequences of computing. (40% of A Level).
- Paper 2: A written exam testing a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science, focusing on programming fundamentals and theory of computation (40% of A Level).
- A practical project assessing the student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate and practical problem (20% of A Level).

## How will I learn?

Content is delivered via lecture-style lessons, investigations, self-directed research and self-learning exercises (especially related to programming). Various online learning systems are used to support study. The Practical Project started in year 12 and completed in year 13 is self-managed, with deadlines set by the teacher.

## What skills will I need?

- Self-motivation
- Interest in the basic functioning of computers; how they work, how they are programmed and the underlying logic
- Independent learning and self-organisation
- Problem-solving
- Critical analysis
- Aptitude for Maths

Computer Science at GCSE is not a requirement for this course.

## Careers & Progression

A good grade in Computer Science at A Level is valued by universities and employers since it requires the development of analytical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Computer Science graduates have among the highest starting salaries of all degree subjects (The Times, 24/9/2017); the course also lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Computer Science, Engineering, Physics or related subjects in higher education and beyond.

VRQ

**Specification:** WJEC Level 3 National Diploma

# CRIMINOLOGY

## What will I study?

Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour, on individual, social and natural levels, and how it can be managed, controlled and prevented. This course will enable students to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and make recommendations for policy. Students also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.

- Unit 1 - Changing Awareness of Crime
- Unit 2 - Criminological Theories
  Unit 3 - Crime Scene to Courtroom
- Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment

## How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1 - Changing Awareness of Crime
  Candidates follow the content of the specification and complete an 8-hour controlled assessment that tests their ability to apply their knowledge and understanding to a previously unseen crime scenario. Candidates are allowed to take their class notes into the assessment to support them.

- Unit 2 - Criminological Theories
  Clear and transparent examination and marking structures are provided for this 90-minute examination.

- Unit 3 - Crime Scene to Courtroom
  Candidates follow the content of the specification and complete an 8-hour controlled assessment that tests their ability to apply their knowledge and understanding to a crime scenario. Candidates are allowed to take their class notes in to the assessment to support them.

- Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment
  Clear and transparent examination and marking structures are provided for this 90-minute examination.

## How will I learn?

Our learning depends on a variety of lesson techniques including:

- Reading and note-taking
- Individual research
- Debate and discussion
- Presentations
- Application to real world examples

## What skills will I need?

The study of Criminology will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills:

- the ability to complete project-based research, and to present it
- the ability to collect, analyse and interpret data effectively
- the ability to construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence
- the ability to learn independently
- the ability to work alongside other colleagues in a professional environment
- the ability to apply your learning in vocational contexts.

## Careers & Progression

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work, or the prison services.

A Level **Specification:** WJEC Eduquas

# DRAMA & THEATRE

## What will I study?

Students will gain an understanding of a variety of styles and practitioners in preparation for performance, performing a set extract, and evaluating and analysing performance work.

One of the key highlights of the course is the opportunity for you to perform in front of a visiting examiner. This experience not only enhances your performance skills but also prepares you for real-world scenarios. Futhermore you will have the chance to study a diverse range of play texts, expanding your knowledge and understanding of different theatrical works. The course also incorporates live theatre experiences, enabling students to watch professional theatre works.

## How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in 3 different components:

**Component 1:** Theatre Workshop 20% (internally assessed)
- Create a piece of theatre which is a combination of an existing play and your own devising.
- Write a creative log about how you made your performance.

**Component 2:** Text in Action 40% (externally assessed)
- Create 1 devised piece of theatre in the style of a practitioner.
- Perform 1 scripted piece of theatre in the style of a different practitioner.
- Write a report about how you made your performance and your evaluation of it.

**Component 3:** Text in Performance 40% (externally assessed)
- A written exam – 2 hours 30 mins.
- 3 Sections (1 script to be studied per section).
- References to live theatre seen during the course must be made.

## How will I learn?

There is a combination of internal and external assessment. You will be assessed in both practical and written work. More information can be found on the Eduquas website for A Level Drama.

## What skills will I need?

You will need to have experience of performing on stage before joining the course: you should have performed in front of a live audience and be prepared to improve your performance skills throughout the two years.

Resilience and collaboration are key skills to practise, as well as demonstrating a professional performing attitude and following up on feedback given to refine your own practice. You will also need to be able to analyse and evaluate a performance.

## Careers & Progression

Performing Arts and Drama can clearly take you into the theatre and film world if that is your goal. However, the skills gained through the course will equip you with the confidence and attributes needed in any career you might wish to pursue, whether that be higher education, apprenticeships, or employment opportunities.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel A

# ECONOMICS

## What will I study?

Over the course of the A Level you will study 4 units:

- Introduction to Markets and Market Failure
- The UK Economy – Performance and Policies
- Business Behaviour and the Labour Market
- A Global Perspective

During the A Level, you will explore the inter-relationship between micro- and macro-economic factors, consider the role of the theory in Economics, and learn to analyse economic trends, developments and debates from the news by drawing on your expertise.

## How will I be assessed?

The exam papers consist of a mixture of short-answer questions that test core knowledge and longer, essay-style responses based on case studies included in the exam. There are three final exams at the end of year 13: one on Micro-economics, one on Macro-economics, and a third paper combining both areas. Each paper is worth 100 marks and includes questions of 12, 15, and 25 marks, requiring detailed written answers with clear chains of reasoning. Some questions also require a confident grasp of mathematical skills, such as interpreting graphs, calculating percentages, and analysing data.

## How will I learn?

- Class discussions an presentations
- Research and independent learning work
- Analysis of data
- Answering challenging questions

## What skills will I need?

Students will need to develop a passion for reading about current economic events and policies. This interest will allow you to deepen your understanding from lessons and apply this knowledge in unfamiliar contexts during assessments.

Success in A Level Economics relies heavily on your ability to communicate ideas in depth and with clarity. Many exam questions require extended essay-type responses that demonstrate both your understanding of economic theory and your ability to apply concepts to real-world contexts. You will need to structure arguments logically, use precise terminology, and support your points with evidence and analysis. These strong written communication skills will also help you engage confidently with complex topics and present well-reasoned conclusions, both in exams and in future careers.

## Careers & Progression

Economics is a versatile subject that opens doors to numerous career opportunities. Many students pursue further studies in Economics, Finance, Business, or International Relations at university. Career paths often include roles in finance, banking, business consultancy, public policy, research, and economic analysis. Additionally, the analytical and problem-solving skills developed in economics are highly valued in industries such as law, journalism, politics, and management.

A Level **Specification:** AQA English Literature B (7717)

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## What will I study?

**Aspects of Tragedy:**
The study of three texts: one Shakespeare play, a second drama text, and one further text, one of which must have been written before 1900.

**Elements of Political and Social Protest writing**:
The study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text . One of the texts must be written before 1900.

You will also produce two pieces of coursework, based on your own independent reading. In preparation for this part of the course you will study a range of approaches to critical theory, including feminist and Marxist criticism, post-colonial theory, eco-critical approaches to literary criticism, aspects of narrative, and discussion of the literary canon (in other words, which texts can be considered literature, and what it is that affords a text literary 'value').

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1: Literary Genres**
{Tragedy): 40% of the A Level
**Section A**: one passage based question on the set Shakespeare play (25 marks)
**Section B**: one essay question on the set Shakespeare play (25 marks)
**Section C**: one essay question on tragedy, which links two texts you have studied (25 marks)

**Paper 2: Texts and Genres**
{40% of the A Level)
**Section A**: one compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)
**Section B**: one essay on a set text (25 marks)
**Section C**: one essay question that links two texts you have studied (25 marks)

**Non-exam Assessment (coursework)**:
Two essays of between 1250 -1500 words each: one on a selection of poetry and one on a novel or collection of short stories, all of which must be read independently, and will be chosen by students individually.

## How will I learn?

Most lessons will involve a mix of discussion, reading and writing, but discussion of ideas (in pairs, small groups or as a whole class) is the main way that you will learn in class.

When you begin a new text you will be asked to annotate, answer questions, take notes, read critical interpretations and feed back (both formally and informally) your own ideas and opinions.

Outside lessons you will be expected to read and to make notes, and as you prepare for exams there will be the requirement to plan and write essays both independently (outside lessons) and in class.

Throughout the course we expect you to reflect on your work and to act on teachers' feedback to help you move forward.

## What skills will I need?

To enjoy and succeed at A Level Literature you must first of all enjoy reading. Studying texts demands a critical and enquiring mind: you need to be able to analyse how language is used and relate this to the writer's intentions or purpose.

As this is an essay based subject, you need to be articulate and able to express yourself well in writing. You will also enjoy the course more if you are prepared to share your ideas in discussion.

## Careers & Progression

An A Level in English opens doors to a very wide range of careers and higher education courses, as it proves to any employer or university/college admissions tutor that you are articulate, analytical and evaluative.

More particularly, if you are intending to pursue a career in journalism, media or law, then an A Level in English is a key requirement.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel

# GEOGRAPHY

## What will I study?

**Paper 1**

- Topic 1: Tectonic processes and hazards.
- Topic 2: Landscapes systems, processes and change.
- Topic 3: The water cycle and water insecurity.
- Topic 4: The carbon cycle and energy security.
- Topic 5: Climate change futures.

**Paper 2**

- Topic 6: Globalisation.
- Topic 7: Regenerating places.
- Topic 8: Superpowers.
- Topic 9: Health, human rights and intervention.

**Paper 3**

The synoptic investigation paper will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that is linked to three synoptic themes: players, attitudes and actions and futures and uncertainties.

**Coursework**

Fieldwork forms the focus and context of the individual investigation which may be human, physical or integrated physical-human Geography. This will allow students to define a question or issues for an investigation.

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1**

2-hour written examination worth 30% of the final A Level examination. (90 marks)

**Paper 2**

2-hour written examination worth 30% of the final A Level examination. (90 marks)

**Paper 3**

1-hour 45 minute written examination worth 20% of the final A Level examination. (60 marks)

**Independent Investigation**

Non-examined assessment worth 20% of the final A Level examination. (60 marks)

## How will I learn?

Apart from classroom work and use of ICT, across both years, there is an exciting opportunity to spend 4 days' worth of fieldwork and research investigating the topics chosen. Fieldwork can be a great experience and allows you to apply your knowledge and understanding in a practical way.

## What skills will I need?

The Geography A Level will appeal to you if:

- you are curious about the world's places, peoples and environments.
- you like asking questions and finding answers.
- you are interested in local, regional and global issues.
- you have the ability to think independently
- you wish to explore human, physical and environmental Geography.

Independent study skills are vital.

## Careers & Progression

You will find that studying Geography is a brilliant step towards a wider range of higher education courses and/or employment opportunities.

Further education - geographers can go on to study higher level courses, including Foundation degrees, undergraduate degrees and/or BTEC Higher Nationals.

Employment - geographers can go into a wide range of jobs, including advertising, governance, finance, law, health services, education marketing, environmental management, aid agencies and sales, to name just a few.

A Level **Specification:** AQA

# GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## What will I study?

Over the course of the A Level you will study 3 units:

- UK Government, Politics and Constitution
- Political Ideas and Ideologies
- Comparative Politics: The US Constitution and Political system.

During the A Level you will explore the theory of politics and government and encounter a range of different concepts about how governments should work. You will also explore real world issues through case studies of British and American politics, developments and political trends, as you analyse the practice of politics in modern societies.

## What skills will I need?

- Enjoyment of current affairs
- Willingness to ask questions and participate in class discussions
- Ability to write coherently, with strong literacy skills
- Ability to analyse information critically
- Independent study skills, including keeping up to date with political stories in the news
- Love of reading

## How will I learn?

Our learning depends on a variety of lesson techniques including:

- Engagement with news and current events
- Reading and note-taking
- Individual research
- Debate and discussion
- Teacher presentations

## How will I be assessed?

The exam papers consist primarily of extended written essays allowing you to reach judgements on political issues, based on an understanding of contemporary issues and political theory.

## Careers & Progression

An A Level in Government and Politics provides an excellent background for careers in law, journalism, the caring professions, teaching, and a range of management and business areas. It is valued as a subject that teaches critical thinking, understanding of the world today, how to structure arguments and ideas, and how to understand people and their behaviour.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel A

# HISTORY

## What will I study?

We are changing this year to the Edexcel A Level course. This involves three papers and an NEA. **Paper 1 is a breadth study with interpretations**, while **Paper 2 is a depth study with sources**. The topics in Papers 1 and 2 are linked thematically and meet the requirement to study two different countries. Paper 3 meets the requirement to study change over at least 100 years.

**Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96**

This breadth study explores how the idea of the "American Dream" evolved across the 20th century, focusing on political, social, and cultural changes in the USA from 1917 to 1996. It examines whether the dream was achieved, for whom, and how it was challenged.

- The Changing Political Environment (1917–1980)
- The Quest for Civil Rights (1917–1980)
- Society and Culture in Change (1917–1980)
- Developments after 1980 (to 1996)

**Paper 2: South Africa, 1948–94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation'**

This depth study looks at how South Africa moved from a rigid apartheid system to a democratic "rainbow nation." It focuses on political, social, and economic developments, resistance movements, and the role of key individuals and organisations.

- Establishing Apartheid (1948–61)
- Development of Apartheid (1961–78)
- Challenges to Apartheid (1968–83)
- Collapse of Apartheid and Transition (1984–94)

**Paper 3: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603**

This depth study explores how Tudor monarchs maintained authority in a period marked by political instability, religious upheaval, and social unrest. It examines the effectiveness of Tudor government and the nature of challenges to royal power.

- Changes in Governance at the Centre (1485–1603)
- Gaining Co-operation of the Localities
- Challenging the Succession (1485–1499)
- Challenging Religious Changes (1533–37)
- Social and Economic Discontent (e.g. Kett's Rebellion)
- Later Challenges (Northern Earls' Revolt, Tyrone's Rebellion)

**Coursework: independent choice**

- Your choice of historical investigation topic.
- Independent investigation, drawing on sources, interpretation and your own areas of interest.
- Skills-based support from staff whilst you investigate an historical debate.

Furthermore, because we give you an independent choice for your coursework, in building the investigation skills for this you will cover a wide range of topics in history including:

- Was King John bad, mad and dangerous to know?
- Were child labourers in Victorian factories really treated badly?
- Who deserves the credit for abolishing slavery?

And many other topics, including the one you choose for your major investigation.

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1:** Breadth Study with Interpretations

- **Time:** 2 hours 15 minutes
- **Weight: 30%** of A Level

Focus: Long-term developments + historical interpretations.

**Paper 2:** Depth Study

- **Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Weight:** 20% of A Level
- Focus: Detailed study of a specific period.

**Paper 3:** Themes in Breadth with Aspects in Depth

- **Time:** 2 hours 15 minutes
- **Weight: 30%** of A Level
- Focus: Broad themes + depth elements + interpretations.

**Coursework (NEA)**

- **Word count:** 3,000–4,000 words
- **Weight: 20%** of A Level
- Focus: Independent historical investigation.

## How will I learn?

Just like in GCSE, the key skills are analysing material (facts, sources, events), explaining historical change and continuity and reaching your own judgements based on the evidence. Key teaching tools include articles, books, lectures and essays.

However, these skills can also be developed in a variety of creative ways including: role plays, decision-making activities, narrative accounts (photo stories, videos), and using a range of other tools such as documentaries, trips and debate. We will make use of all of these throughout the course.

## What skills will I need?

- Love of reading
- Willingness to ask questions and participate in class discussions
- Ability to write coherently, with strong literacy skills
- Enjoyment of finding out about past civilizations and cultures
- Ability to analyse information critically

## Careers & Progression

History is widely valued as a subject that teaches critical thinking, understanding of the world today, how to structure arguments and ideas, and how to understand people and their behaviour.

It is also highly valued in careers that build on these skills such as law, journalism, politics, and teaching.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel

# MATHEMATICS

## What will I study?

- **Pure Mathematics:**
  This will include proof, algebra, graphs, sequences, trigonometry, logarithms, calculus and vectors.
- **Mechanics:**
  This will include kinematics, motion under gravity, working with forces including friction, Newton's laws and simple moments.
- **Statistics:**
  This will include working with data from a sample to make inferences about a population, probability, calculations, using binomial and Normal distributions as models and statistical hypothesis testing.

## How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course. You will take three 2-hour long examinations at the end of the course. Each will require a calculator. As well as the Pure, Mechanics and Statistics content, the examinations will assess three overarching themes:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling

## How will I learn?

In lessons new topics will be taught by relating them to existing knowledge and the purpose of the topic. Weekly homework exercises will be set so that new skills and knowledge are consolidated and applied in contextual problems.

Students are expected to complete all homework with support where necessary in the weekly after school 'study group'. Practice exercises are self-assessed and then checked by the class teacher.

Regular assessments will be set based on the exam board style of questions.

## What skills will I need?

Fluent algebraic skills
Ability to work independently
Confidence use of technology
Resilience
Enthusiasm for Mathematics

## Careers & Progression

Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well-respected by employers and a "facilitating" subject for entry to higher education. Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding. People who have studied Mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. Whilst the number of young people studying A Level Mathematics is increasing there is still a huge demand from science, engineering and manufacturing employers.

The reason why so many employers highly value Mathematics qualifications is Mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems, you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments. And importantly, you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data.

The mathematical skills you learn in A Level Mathematics are of great benefit in other A Level subjects, such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Economics, and Business.

A Level **Specification:** Edexcel

# FURTHER MATHS

## What will I study?

- **Pure Mathematics:**
  This will build on your pure A Level content and include proof, complex numbers, matrices, roots of polynomials, 3D vectors and differential equations
- **Further mechanics:**
  This will include momentum and impulse, work, energy and power and collisions.
- **Decision maths:**
  This will include Network algorithms, Critical path analysis and Linear programming. The techniques are important in business, logistics and computer science.

## How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course. You will take four examinations at the end of the course. Each will require a calculator. As well as the Pure, Mechanics, and Decision content the examinations will assess three overarching themes:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling

## How will I learn?

In lessons, new topics will be taught by relating them to existing knowledge and the purpose of the topic. Weekly homework exercises will be set so that new skills and knowledge are consolidated and applied in contextual problems.

Students are expected to complete all homework with support where necessary in the weekly after school 'study group'. Practice exercises are self-assessed and then checked by the class teacher.

Regular assessments will be set based on the exam board style of questions.

## What skills will I need?

- Fluent algebraic skills
- Ability to work independently
- Confident use of technology
- Resilience
- Enthusiasm for Mathematics

## Careers & Progression

Further Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well-respected by employers and a "facilitating" subject for entry to higher education. Studying Further Mathematics broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking. It is likely to improve your grade in A Level Mathematics. The extra time, additional practice, further consolidation and development of techniques contribute to improved results in A Level Mathematics

Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also often interesting and rewarding. People who have studied mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career.

The reason why so many employers highly value mathematics qualifications is mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems, you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments. And importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data.

The mathematical skills you learn in A Level Further Mathematics are of great benefit in other A Level subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Economics, and Business.

Level 3 **Specification:** AQA 1350

# CORE MATHS

## What will I study?

- Data and Sampling
- Representing data numerically and diagrammatically
- Number work which includes algebraic substitution, approximating problems in context, percentage changes, and simple and compound interest.
- Money for personal use which includes repayment and cost of credit, tax, National Insurance and VAT, interpreting results from graphs in financial contexts, Retail and Consumer Price Indexes, currency exchanges, budgeting
- Estimation using Fermi
- Critical analysis where students must present logical and reasoned arguments in context, communicate mathematical approaches and solutions and critically analyse the validity of data quoted in media, political campaigns, marketing
- Normal distribution and confidence intervals where we research the distribution and use it to find probabilities
- Correlation and Regression where we recognise if pairs of data are linked, calculate the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient and use the best line of best fit to make predictions.

## How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course over 2 years. You will take two 90-minute examinations at the end of the course. You should have a scientific calculator. Paper 1 assesses Analysis of data, Maths for Personal Finance and Estimation. Paper 2A: Statistical Techniques assesses Critical Analysis of given data and models, the Normal Distribution and Confidence Intervals, and Correlation and Regression. Preliminary Material is made available a few weeks before the exam and can be referenced in both papers. Formulae sheets and Statistical tables are used where appropriate.

## How I learn?

There are 3 hours of lessons a fortnight. There will be regular assessments set based on the exam board style of questions.

## Career & Pathway

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE but have decided not to study A Level Mathematics.

Those who have studied GCSE Statistics will find there is a lot of crossover into this course, and indeed a lot of crossover from GCSE Mathematics; up to 80% can be GCSE Higher content. The course is equivalent to an AS Level over two years, so would combine with an EPQ to make a third or fourth A Level, and some universities reduce offers if you have Core Maths.

A Level

**Specification:** Eduquas

# MEDIA

## What will I study?

The media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society.

The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and generate significant global profit. The globalised nature of the contemporary media, ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media suggest their centrality in contemporary life can only increase.

You will study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

The following media forms are studied: newspapers, magazines, television, online and social media, advertising and marketing, film, music video, radio and video games.

## How will I be assessed?

**35% Exam** - **Media Products, Industries and Audiences**
The examination assesses media language, media industries, audiences and media contexts.

**Section A**: **Analysing Media Language and Representation.**
This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers.

**Section B**: **Understanding Media Industries and Audiences.**
This section assesses two of the following media forms - advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.

**35% Exam** - Media Forms and Products in Depth

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of three sections:

**Section A** - Television in the Global Age. There will be one two-part question or one extended response question.

**Section B** - Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media. There will be one two-part question or one extended response question.

**Section C** - Media in the Online Age. There will be one two-part question or one extended response question.

**30% Coursework** - Cross-Media Production
An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

## How will I learn?

Learners study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. The following forms are studied in depth through applying all areas of the framework: newspapers, magazines, television, online, social and participatory media. Advertising and marketing, film, music video, radio and video games are studied in relation to selected areas of the framework.

## What skills will I need?

- A good level of reading and writing
- Some computer skills

## Careers & Progression

Lots of opportunities for a future in media: university courses, apprenticeships and a wide range of careers ranging from audience research to computer gaming to more traditional roles in news reporting and production.

A Level

**Specification:** AQA French/German/Spanish

# MFL: FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH

## What will I study?

- Aspects of Society
- Artistic Culture
- Multiculturalism
- Aspects of Political Life
- Literature/ Film Topics x 2
- Research project based on a culturally relevant aspect

## How will I be assessed?

- **Paper 1** - 50% Listening, Reading and Translation
- **Paper 2** - 20% Writing
- **Paper 3** - 30% Speaking

## How will I learn?

- Independent study and homework
- Use of school-paid subscription to Kerboodle (Virtual Learning Environment)
- The opportunity to visit countries where the target language is spoken

## What skills will I need?

- Independence
- Resilience
- Strong grasp of grammar from GCSE material
- Commitment to improving yourself as a speaker
- Ability to transfer grammar concepts across topic areas

## Careers & Progression

- Interpreter
- Secondary school teacher
- Translator
- Broadcast Journalist
- Diplomatic service officer
- EFL teacher
- International aid/development worker
- Logistics/distributions manager
- Marketing/Sales executive
- Tour manager

A Level **Specification:** Eduqas (1660QS)

# MUSIC

## What will I study?

You will study performance (on an instrument or voice); composition (including numerous techniques and styles) and musical analysis and understanding, which will require the study of a number of set works and historical periods in music.

## How will I be assessed?

Performance is assessed externally by a visiting examiner at the end of the A Level course (25% of total marks, or 35% if specialising in performance).
Composition is assessed externally by Eduqas (25% or 35% if specialising).
You can only specialise in composition or performance.

Listening and appraising of two set works is assessed by a 2 hour 15 mins written examination (40%), also including dictation, an essay on the development of the symphony (1750 -1900), and a choice area of study of popular music.

## How will I learn?

The music teaching groups are often small, and so teaching is highly individualised. You will analyse the pieces for the exam together with other students and the teacher, using both listening skills and the scores provided. Compositions are completed on paper or using notation software (Musescore).

A lot of your performance work will be prepared for out of lessons as part of your extended study.

## What skills will I need?

- The ability to play an instrument or sing at least to Grade 5 level (or equivalent), with the ability to reach approximately Grade 7 by the end of the course.
- The ability to read music and the desire to improve reading skills throughout the course.
- Knowledge of a variety of musical styles and areas, and a desire to extend that knowledge.

## Careers & Progression

A Level music will prepare you for any Music degree course, as well as Music Technology or a similar further or higher education course. It will also prepare you well for a more practical course at a music college or university. The range of skills that an A Level in Music requires of you ensure that you become a creative musician, a confident performer and an expert analyst: skills that are beneficial in any career or future pathway you choose.

A Level **Specification:** OCR H555

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## What will I study?

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Biomechanical Principles
- Exercise Physiology
- Sport Psychology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society
- Contemporary Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

## How will I be assessed?

3 papers:

- Physiological factors affecting performance (30%)
- Psychological factors affecting performance (20%)
- Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (20%)

1 practical assessment in a named sport (15%) via a submitted video recording of the performance

1 NEA synoptic speech analysing the strengths and weaknesses of a sporting performance (15%)

## How will I learn?

Students who have a keen interest in sport science will thrive as they get the opportunity to explore the scientific factors that optimise sporting performance, drawing upon their experience and subject knowledge in Physics and Biology. Those who are intrigued by sports psychology, nutrition, training and contemporary issues will be certain to find themselves engaged in debate and topical conversations linked to the sporting world and these subject areas. It is a dynamic, academically challenging and extremely engaging course that will give you a breadth of skills and knowledge.

Topics are taught in class with students expected to engage in pre-reading and post-lesson learning activities. Students must participate in sport outside of school in order to submit and be assessed in the practical component (video submission).

## What skills will I need?

- Self motivation
- An interest in sport and the theoretical components of the course
- Independent learning and self organisation
- Reviewing and modifying work
- Critical analysis
- Be able to perform practically to a high level outside of school
- Be actively involved in sport

## Careers & Progression

Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will equip them for undergraduate study or long-term development in a wide range of areas. These include sport science, medicine, physiotherapy, osteopathy, podiatry, chiropractic, nutrition, teaching, psychology, sports coaching, sports management and biomechanics, as well as professional sports. The course is multi-disciplinary and will prepare students for a wide range of other professions and pathways in the working world.

A Level **Specification:** AQA 7172

# PHILOSOPHY

## What will I study?

A Level Philosophy comprises four topic areas: Epistemology, Moral philosophy, the Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of mind.

Students are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, including through the use of philosophical analysis (conceptual analysis and argument analysis). They must also be able to evaluate the philosophical arguments within the subject content to form reasoned judgements.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessments objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A Level Philosophy specifications and all exam boards.

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

**AO1**: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core concepts and methods of philosophy, including through the use of philosophical analysis.

**A02**: Analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments to form reasoned judgements.

## How will I learn?

Philosophy comes from the Greek "philo" for 'love' and "sophia" for 'wisdom'. It is a quest for insight and knowledge by those who love wisdom. So how do we learn this? Socrates believed the only way to acquire wisdom was through questioning. He would question everyone he met about their ideas, beliefs and assumptions seeking to learn from them and explore the foundations for their ideas. For Aristotle, the route to wisdom was through logical reasoning; carefully constructed deductive arguments in which unshakeable conclusions are built on sound foundations. Descartes believed that both our senses and our reason can deceive and that the only way to wisdom was through questioning everything: 'systematic doubting'. All of these are part of the answer to 'How will I learn Philosophy?' We will use discussion, questioning, logic and reasoning to explore new ideas and test our own. We will learn how to construct deductive and inductive arguments and how to test arguments by scrutinising the logic and seeking out the fallacies of thinking that lead to errors of reasoning. We'll also lay out our own arguments and expose them to the scrutiny of others; in discussion and in writing. By the end of the course you'll not only be wiser, but you'll never lose an argument again.

## What skills will I need?

- Attention to detail
  Good communication skills (orally and in writing)
- The ability to break an argument down into premises, and then evaluate the strength of each claim/ premise
- Self-motivation
- Independent learning and organisation problem solving
- Reviewing and modifying
- Critical analysis and logical thinking
- Risk taking and reflective thinking

## Careers & Progression

This course is highly rated by admissions tutors at Higher Education institutions as it supports a wide range of academic disciplines. It encourages transferable skills that are valued in a variety of career routes.

A Level **Specification:** AQA Design & Technology

# PRODUCT DESIGN

## What will I study?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical, knowledge and confidence to succeed in several careers, especially those in the creative industries.

Students will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1**
A 2 ½ hour exam assessing core technical principles and core designing and making principles. A maximum mark of 120 is available, and the questions consists of both short and extended questions. This is worth 30% of the A Level.

**Paper 2**
A 1 ½ hour exam assessing specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles. The paper consists of two sections with a total of 80 marks available. This paper is worth 20% of the A level.

**Coursework**
The non–exam assessment will be a coursework project assessing the practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.

Candidates will be required to design and manufacture a substantial project over a 45-hour period. This component is marked out of 100 and is 50% of the final A Level grade.

## What skills will I need?

Product Design links together the different design and technology disciplines: you will develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of material, components and their application, and a lot of time will be spent in the workshop.

To be successful, you need to have a clear interest in designing and making products. You will need to be motivated to complete the design and make products, spending considerable time outside of your timetabled lessons to maximise the marks awarded in the coursework module.

## Careers and Progression:

This course will open the door to further education courses and employment in areas such as: product design, engineering, architectural technology, 3D Design, art and design, game design, 3D animation, interior architecture, and teaching design and technology.

A Level **Specification:** AQA

# PSYCHOLOGY

## What will I study?

**Compulsory topics**
- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Biopsychology
- Approaches to Psychology
- Research Methods, Issues and Debates

**Optional topics** (decided by faculty)
One from:
- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and development

One from:
- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

One from:
- Forensic
- Aggression
- Addiction

## How will I be assessed?

Psychology is assessed by 3 end-of-course examinations which consist of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended (essay) questions. In class, you will be assessed through class tests, past paper questions, essays and quizzes.

## How will I learn?

Our learning depends on a variety of lesson techniques including:
- Reading and note-taking
- Individual research e.g. interviews, questionnaires, observations
- Debate and discussion
- Presentations
- Application to real world examples

## What skills will I need?

- An interest in human beings; their thinking, behaviour and emotions.
- An ability to learn and use key terms
- An ability to learn theories and research information
- An enquiring mind that can critically analyse information, research, theories and ideas
- A keen interest in using mathematical skills
- An ability to write essays and be reflective on feedback
- A willingness to discuss and debate opinions and ideas

## Careers & Progression

Psychology links to a range of careers that involve analytical thinking, an understanding of human behaviour and emotions, and a range of critical thinking skills.

These include:
- Psychology
- Therapy and other mental health work
- Nursing
- Social care
- Teaching
- Counselling
- Sports psychology and coaching
- Working with children
- Police, Armed Forces etc.
- Market research
- Human resources

A Level **Specification:** AQA Biology 7402

# SCIENCE: BIOLOGY

## What will I study?

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1**

- Content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills:
- 2 hours - 91 marks
- 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: extended response questions:
- 35% of A Level

**Paper 2**

- Content from topics 5 - 8 above, including relevant practical skills
- 2 hours - 91 marks
- 76 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions
- 15 marks: comprehension question
- 35% of A Level

**Paper 3**

- Content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills
- 2 hours - 78 marks
- 38 marks: structured questions, including practical techniques
- 15 marks: critical analysis of given experimental data
- 25 marks: one essay from a choice of two titles
- 30% of A Level

Students will also receive a pass or fail for practical skills which will be assessed following 12 Required Practicals that students complete in lessons.

## How will I learn?

- Class discussions and presentations
- Research and independent learning
- A range of practical work in lessons
- Analysis of data
- Answering challenging questions

## What skills will I need?

- An interest in the subject, beyond what is taught at school
- Excellent independent learning and organisational skills
- Good maths skills, including calculating percentage and interpreting graphs
- Excellent language skills, including using technical vocabulary and giving clear, concise explanations
- Self-motivation

## Careers & Progression

A Level Biology will prepare you for a wide range of courses, both at university and in the workplace. It is an excellent grounding for careers in Biomedical Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Marine Biology, Biophysics, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Education and many more.

A Level **Specification:** OCR Chemistry A H432

# SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY

## What will I study?

The Chemistry course is comprised of 6 modules taught by specialists across the two years:

**Module 1** – Development of practical skills in chemistry

**Module 2** – Foundations in chemistry

- Atoms, compounds molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid-base redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure

**Module 3** – Periodic table and energy

- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes

**Module 4** – Core organic chemistry

- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Infrared spectroscopy and mass spectrometry

**Module 5** – Physical chemistry and transition metals

- Reaction rates and equilibrium
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Transition elements

**Module 6** – Organic chemistry and analysis

- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and NMR spectroscopy

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment is based on three papers that each contain some synoptic assessment, some extended response questions and some stretch and challenge questions.

**Paper 1** – Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (37% of total A Level)

- 100 marks
- Assesses content from teaching modules 1, 2, 3 and 5
- Section A contains 15 multiple choice questions
- Section B includes short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions. This section is worth 85 marks

**Paper 2** – Synthesis and analytical techniques (37% of total A Level)

- 100 marks
- Assesses content from teaching modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
- Section A contains 15 multiple choice questions
- Section B includes short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions. This section is worth 85 marks

**Paper 3** – Unified chemistry (26% of total A Level)

- 70 marks
- Assesses content from teaching modules 1 to 6
- Question styles include short answer (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions. The practical endorsement is a non-exam assessment that takes place throughout the two years.

## How will I learn?

You will undertake practical work to illustrate the underlying ideas throughout the course. The course will be taught by two specialists in their field of chemistry. Lessons require active participation from students to get the most out of the course. Homework will be set to consolidate the learning in lessons and inform teachers of student understanding. End of topic tests will be used to assess understanding and exam technique.

## What skills will I need?

You will need to enjoy learning new ideas and be prepared to persevere if you find something difficult. You should be well-organised and able to work to a tight time schedule in experiments. You should not be afraid of basic calculations. You do not need to have studied separate sciences at GCSE.

## Careers & Progression

There are many careers in Chemistry open to you, especially if you go on to study the subject at university. Research and engineering jobs are interesting and rewarding.

A Level **Specification:** OCR Physics H566

# SCIENCE: PHYSICS

## What will I study?

Development of practical skills in Physics:

**Foundation of Physics**
- Quantities and units
- Scalars and vectors
- Measurements

**Forces and Motion**
- Motion
- Forces
- Work
- Energy and power
- Materials
- Newton's laws

**Electrons, Waves and Photons**
- Charge and current
- Energy
- Power and resistance
- Electrical circuits
- Waves
- Quantum physics)

**Newtonian world and astrophysics**
- Thermal physics
- Circular motion
- Oscillations
- Gravitational fields
- Astrophysics

**Particles and Medical Physics**
- Capacitors
- Electric fields
- Electromagnetism
- Nuclear and particle physics
- Medical imaging

## How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1**
- Mechanics
- Forces & Newton's laws
- Energy
- Materials
- Thermal physics & ideal gases
- Circlar motion
- Simple Harmonic motion
- Gravitational fields
- Cosmology & Astrophysics

**Paper 2**
- Electricity
- Waves
- Quantum phenomena
- Capacities
- Electrical fields
- Magnetic fields
- Particle physics
- Radioactivity
- Nuclear physics
- Medical imaging

**Paper 3**:
- Synoptic

## How will I learn?

- Working through examples
- Problem solving
- Practical activities
- Research & discussion

## What skills will I need?

- Self-motivation
- Logical thinking
- An enjoyment of problem-solving
- Determination
- Good algebra skills

## Careers & Progression

Physics is a very well respected A Level course which will helps develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across a range of industries are looking for. You develop scientific knowledge, problem solving skills, analytical thinking, and meticulous practical skills.
This course could be taken to complement other A Level courses such as Chemistry, Biology, or Mathematics. These all could lead to progression onto higher education in a science-related subject or more general higher education courses.

A Level **Specification:** AQA

# SOCIOLOGY

## Compulsory topics

- Education
- Crime and Deviance
- Research Methods
- Sociological Theory

## Optional topics (decided by faculty)

One from:

- Culture and Identity
- Families and Households
- Health
- Wealth, Poverty and Welfare

One from:

- Beliefs in Society
- Global Development
- The Media
- Stratification and Differentiation

## How will I be assessed?

Sociology is assessed by 3 end-of-course examinations which consist of a mixture of short answer and extended (essay) questions.

## How will I learn?

Our learning depends on a variety of lesson techniques including:

- Reading and note-taking
- Individual research e.g. interviews, questionnaires, observations
- Debate and discussion
- Presentations
- Research of, and application to, current events

## What skills will I need?

- An ability to select and deploy relevant information to support arguments.
- Independent study skills, including keeping up to date with sociological trends in the news.
- Willingness to ask questions and participate in discussion in class.
- Ability to analyse information critically.
- Eagerness to understand our society and how it works.
- Willingness to think critically about the world around you.
- A keen interest in writing essays and the ability to think reflectively about feedback.

## Careers & Progression

Sociology links to a range of careers that involve analytical thinking, an understanding of politics and society, and a range of critical thinking skills. These include:

- Law
- Politics
- Journalism
- Social Work
- Care Work
- Teaching
- Sociological and political research

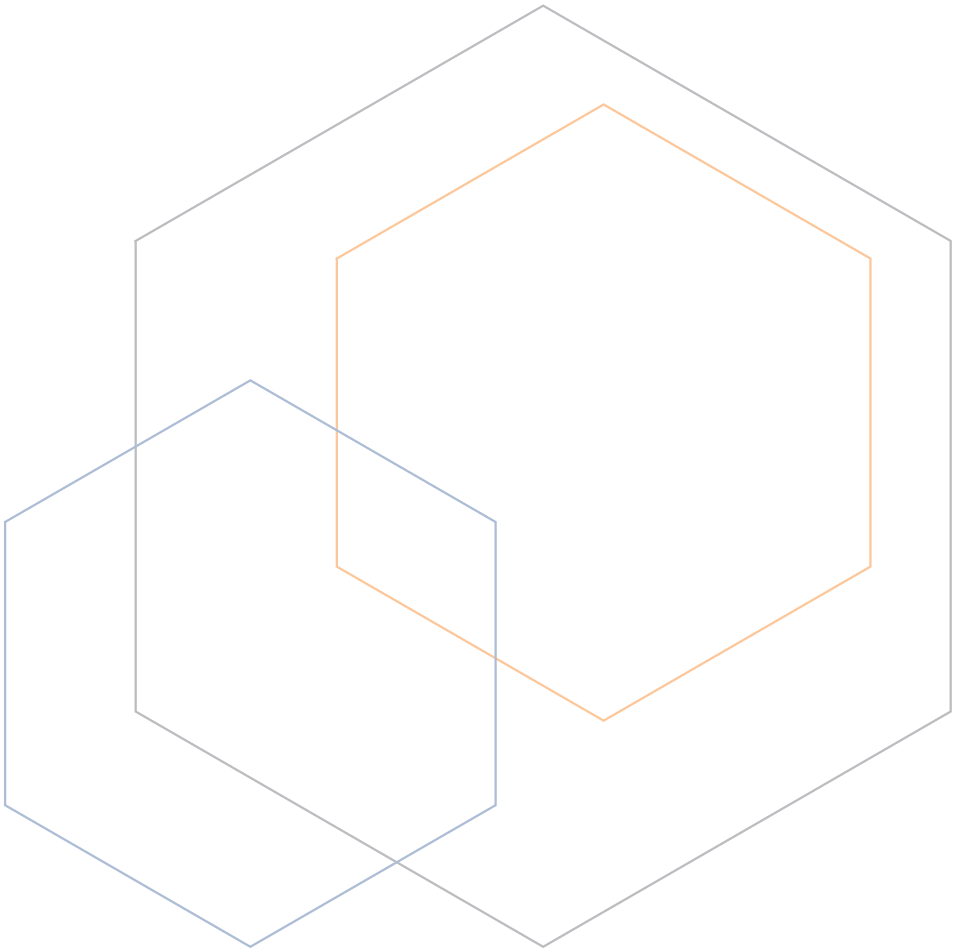
# KEY CONTACTS

**Ms J. Preston**
Assistant Headteacher / Director of JMF6-Abingdon
jpreston@fitzharrys.school
jpreston@johnmason.school

**Mrs A. Marriott**
Deputy Director of JMF6-Abingdon (John Mason School)
Responsible for year 12
amarriott@johnmason.school

**Mrs C. Scott**
Deputy Director of JMF6-Abingdon (Fitzharrys School)
Responsible for year 13
cscott@fitzharrys.school

**General enquiries**
adminteam@jmf6.org



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