

SIXTH

FORM



Wellingborough
School

Founded 1595

WELCOME TO SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form at Wellingborough represents the culmination of a school education. Students join Year 12 full of excitement at having a curriculum entirely devised by them, throwing themselves into subjects about which they are passionate and which will, in most cases, shape the decisions they make post-18; this takes place whilst supported by excellent teaching staff, skilled in the craft of getting the best out of every student.

Our Sixth Formers also take some of the many opportunities that exist beyond the classroom to develop their character, often assuming leadership positions and developing their wider skills; as well as a vast array of co-curricular activities which bring both stretch and enjoyment, they are able to choose from a number of academic enrichment options to complement their A level choices and challenge themselves further in a related or contrasting area. They leave with a true sense of what they are and what they could be, imbued with the confidence to go out and achieve their dreams, and the capability to make them reality.

I very much look forward to working with the students as they take this step.

Andrew Holman
Headmaster



Welcome to Wellingborough Sixth Form a vibrant, friendly and aspirational community where we develop the whole pupil in preparation for life beyond school.

Academic work and success are central to this community and the over-riding ethos is that the pursuit of intellectual curiosity is both expected and encouraged in partnership with our experienced subject teachers. In the Sixth Form there is even greater emphasis upon expecting pupils to take personal responsibility for their work. As part of their studies pupils will be provided with numerous opportunities to develop their leadership, interpersonal and organisational skills. It is also assumed that all Sixth Formers will take on the responsibility of being a role model to younger pupils.

The Sixth Form offers a vast range of opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom, enabling our pupils to be well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. This includes an outstanding extra-curricular programme, together with highly competitive sporting opportunities.

Our supportive and experienced Sixth Form Team, work with all pupils encouraging them to develop the skills and experiences they need in readiness for their choices ahead.

I look forward to meeting you and showing you what our outstanding Sixth Form has to offer.

Sarah Baxby
Head of Sixth Form



SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

At Wellingborough School we provide young adults with a world of opportunity. The School wishes for prospective parents and pupils to fully understand our environment and ethos before committing and we encourage you to get to know us as you make that important decision of where to continue your education.

We understand that the Admissions process can seem daunting and joining a new School at Sixth Form is a big moment.

Our experienced Admissions Team is here to guide families through the entry process and make everything as clear and simple as possible. We like to get to know our prospective families and build a relationship that will ensure a smooth journey from initial contact through to joining our community.

Jackie Cliffe
Admissions Manager

Sixth Form Admissions Process

1. Registration

We encourage early registration with us, particularly for Sixth Form. Registering will help us to keep you informed with the next stages of the admissions process, including any admissions-focused events you may wish to attend. If you would like to register your child please complete the registration form in your prospectus pack. Please ensure you pay the non-refundable £75.00 Registration Fee as directed on the form.

2. Meet the Headmaster and Applying for a Reference

Due to current restrictions we are unable to hold meetings on-site. However we can arrange remote meetings for both prospective pupils and/or parents to meet with the Headmaster. We will then apply, with your permission, to your child's current School for a reference from the Headteacher and their latest school report.

3. Requirements for Sixth Form Entry

Students applying for Sixth Form are not required to sit an entrance exam but the offer of a place will depend on their GCSE Results. For entry to Sixth Form we require 4 Grade 6's and 2 Grade 5's as a minimum.

4. Offer of a Place

Depending on the outcome of your child's GCSE Results and the Headteacher's reference and school report we will be in contact to notify you of our decision in offering your child a place to join Wellingborough School. If you wish to accept this place you will need to complete an Acceptance Form as well as paying the £500 Acceptance Deposit.

Sixth Form Scholarships

Exceptional ability is celebrated at Wellingborough, and the highly prized title of Scholar is one way in which talent is recognised. A Scholar is a pupil who contributes to the whole of School life, shows outstanding ability and commitment in a specific discipline, and is dedicated to their own progress whilst supporting the aims of the area in which they excel. Scholarships are available in Academia, Art & Photography, Drama, Music and Sports.

A Scholarship is applied for by the pupil, not the parent, and there is a rigorous selection process including an interview. The title Scholar is accompanied by a small monetary award of up to £200 per year, which is accessed by the Scholar writing to the Headmaster during the School year explaining how they would like to spend the money. The expectation is that it will be spent on something relevant to the area in which the pupil is a Scholar.

Please visit our website to find out more and apply.

www.wellingboroughschool.org/scholarships

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CURRICULUM

Wellingborough School Sixth Form provides a broad, challenging and supportive environment for the study of A Levels. The overwhelming majority of our students continue on to Higher Education.

Our expectation is that students will study three subjects on entry to the Sixth Form. In addition, it is possible for students to undertake some additional study in the form of an enrichment course including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

At the end of Year 12 students sit rigorous internal examinations to ensure that progression to Year 13 is sensible and to inform UCAS predictions made at the beginning of the Year 13.

What does this mean for students who will enter the Sixth Form in September 2021?

We ask you at this point to choose the three subjects which you would like to study through to A Level.

You should select your subjects from the 2021-2023 provisional options list, which follows. When all subject choices have been submitted a subject blocking structure will be constructed taking into account student preferences and internal factors such as staffing levels. Once the subject blocking arrangements have been finalised in January 2021 revised subject combinations, which do not conform to this structure, cannot be guaranteed.

Subjects provisionally offered to A Level

- Art and Design
- Art Photography
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics *
- Music
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Politics
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Religious Studies

* Please note that Mathematics and Further Mathematics represents the equivalent of two A Levels. Students selecting Further Mathematics will study for Mathematics and Further Mathematics A Levels and should select up to two further options from the subject list.

SUBJECT ADVICE

Introduction

Some students find the process of choosing Sixth Form subjects quite straightforward. Their interests and enthusiasms focus on particular disciplines. For others, choosing just a few subjects, after studying a broad range to GCSE, is more challenging.

This prospectus is designed to give you an idea of the content of specifications in individual subject areas and to help you to think about the best options for you, given your aptitude and inclinations. We hope that you find it helpful during your deliberations.

Motivation is critical at Sixth Form level, so you must be happy with the choices ultimately made, since the grades you finally achieve will determine your path beyond School, including Higher Education.

Do consult widely with your parents and teachers. There is a great deal of experience available to help you to make the best possible choice.

Number of subjects

We expect that most students will choose three A Level subjects. Those studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics will usually choose four A Level subjects, Mathematics and Further Mathematics being two. For most students, three A Levels provides the appropriate level of challenge and workload to allow Sixth Formers to also enjoy a rich involvement in other parts of School life and supports the achievement of the highest possible grades in the final examinations. A range of enrichment courses will be available to broaden your studies and complement your chosen A Levels including EPQ, Core Mathematics, Art History, Sports leadership, Life skills, etc.

The Provisional Options Scheme

The specification material in this prospectus is presented in good faith and so are the courses

offered. It is, however, important for students to appreciate that our resources are finite.

Therefore:

- If some courses become oversubscribed, numbers may have to be limited.
- Courses, which attract little or no interest, may have to be abandoned.

However, we shall do our best to fulfil everyone's wishes as far as we are able.

The demands of Sixth Form study

The demands upon students in the Sixth Form are considerable. Students need to be motivated and well-organised, as well as having an appropriate grounding for the subjects which they want to study. They need to start working hard as soon as they begin Sixth Form study if they want to succeed at A Level. As a general rule, they should spend the same amount of time on each of their subjects outside the classroom as you do inside the classroom (i.e. a minimum of 5½ hours work per subject per week in addition to formal lessons).

Performance in the first year of Sixth Form study is now more important than ever. The confidential reference, which the School sends to universities on the UCAS form, has to be based primarily on work done in Year 12, as are the UCAS Predicted Grades.

The standards we expect for entry to the Sixth Form at Wellingborough

It follows from this that in our professional judgement there is a minimum standard which students need to achieve before we can allow them to enter the Sixth Form.

Students wishing to enter Wellingborough Sixth Form in September 2021 should have achieved at least four Grade 6s and two Grade 5s at GCSE, although individuals falling below this will be considered if their personal circumstances and/or specific distribution of

SUBJECT ADVICE

grades suggest that A Level study would be appropriate. In reality, we have found that falling below a top grade in a subject which will be followed at A Level is unlikely to lead to anything above a C grade at the end of two years. No student will be accepted onto an A Level Mathematics course with anything below Grade 7. For fresh-start subjects, GCSE performance in English and/or Mathematics may be used by the School to assess suitability.

In addition, any student who does not gain at least Grade 5 in English Language or a Grade 5 in Mathematics (subject to revision in the light of any further information from the Examination Boards) will be expected to retake these subject exams. This tariff is applied in the students' own long-term interests. Should your son/daughter fall short of these requirements, Mr Holman – Headmaster, Mrs Baxby – Head of Sixth Form and Mrs Gamble – Deputy Head, Academic, will be available on Results Day when any relevant discussions can take place.

In our experience those who achieve less than this at GCSE rarely perform well at A Level, and in these cases academic A Level is not a suitable course for Sixth Form study. A clear provisional judgement will be made following the Trial Examinations and if there is a doubt about suitability for A Level entry this will be raised at the Parents' Evening held at the end of the Lent Term.

It should be noted that final decisions regarding acceptance into the Sixth Form at Wellingborough rests with the Headmaster and each will be considered on an individual basis taking into consideration the final GCSE grades, the performance and commitment of the student during the lower years at Wellingborough where appropriate and any other relevant factors.

It should be noted that passage from Year 12 into Year 13 is not automatic. Year 12 students must show the expected commitment to their studies and demonstrate appropriate

academic progress in their chosen A Level courses and their performance in internal Year 12 examinations.

Combination of Subjects

In general, we seek to allow students to study the subjects they wish, provided we feel the combination is in the best interests of the student. We will seek to discourage combinations which we feel are inappropriate for the student concerned, or perhaps represent, in themselves, an inappropriate combination.

The general advice to be offered to students choosing A Level subjects is as follows:

1. How able in the subject do they and their teachers think they are now, and what is their potential?
2. How interested are they in the subject? They will spend considerably more time on each subject in the Sixth Form, and will need a real commitment to make the necessary progress.
3. How important is it for any career? This question must be tempered with the advice that they should beware of any unrealistic or premature choice.

We advise students against being too strongly influenced by possible career aspirations at this stage. Career ambitions change substantially (more often than not) among boys and girls of this age. Too often, students change direction totally during the Sixth Form when they discover the subjects they have chosen (to follow a career path which they had mapped out for themselves) are too difficult and/or cannot capture their interest.

For a small minority of students, the choice of A Level subjects is dictated by vocational considerations. A student who strongly believes s/he will wish to study medicine/veterinary medicine/dentistry must choose Chemistry and ideally Biology. Some medical schools prefer to see a balance among the subjects studied by their potential students.

SUBJECT ADVICE

There are other medical schools that like to see more traditional combinations, which include Physics and possibly Mathematics. Potential applicants for medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry are encouraged to research the requirements of institutions to which they may wish to apply. Potential engineers should certainly have Mathematics, preferably with Physics.

However, we would strongly advise realistic appraisal of such ambitions. The grades at A Level needed for veterinary medicine, for example, will certainly not be below AAB.



ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

Two A Levels are available: Art, Craft and Design - AQA and or Photography - Eduqas

Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? If so, you should consider a course in Art & Design or Photography or both. Each of these creative subjects are about looking, learning, thinking and communicating. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to artist ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you.

Both Art and Design & Photography are a two year linear courses. You will start your Personal Investigation at the start of Year 12. The first year includes a number of workshops so you can identify areas of interest, build on skills previously learnt, experiment with different media, ideas and methods which will develop through in the final term into the second year of your personal study.

In Art, students follow their chosen theme through a series of taught workshops, introducing five main subject groups: Drawing and Painting using a variety of materials, Photography and digital imagery, Printmaking, Printed and constructed textiles, Relief and 3D design.

The Photography students are also taught through workshops, which include: Camera techniques, Skills and compositions and photo shoots, Animation, Digital and darkroom photography, Learning and using Adobe Creative Cloud.

Work from these areas may overlap. All the workshops are carefully taught, but students are then expected to develop personal responses to the theme using the techniques learnt in each area. At the end of each workshop a final piece is usually produced. During the course of the year all the Exam Board assessment objectives are met and the whole year's work is presented the following January, mounted or in work-books or digital portfolios in the case of Photography, for assessment as part of the 60% coursework unit.

The second year in both options is about creating a substantial final piece, along with producing a 3,000-word essay that closely links and informs their coursework. The final deadline for all coursework is the 31st January 2023. This deadline cannot be extended. From the 1st February 2023 students are issued with an exam paper and produce a new project which ends with a three-day examination (15 hours), producing a major work in response to the question paper. This Exam project is worth 40%.

Art and Design & Photography A Level build on the skills, knowledge and understanding developed through study at GCSE. At the end of the A Level course you will have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for Higher Education or an apprenticeship. Art and Design & Photography are great

Art, Craft and Design Exam Board: AQA
Photography Exam Board: Eduqas

Assessment: 60% Coursework
40% Exam Project



Julia Hennessy, Head of Art & Photography

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

companions to all other subjects as creativity, imagination, independent research and problem-solving skills are very useful life skills and can give you extended knowledge which compliment your other subjects.

In general, Art and Design & Photography students in the Sixth Form are well-motivated and prepared for hard work, with deadlines to meet; independent thinkers who enjoy developing ideas and seeing those through; coming from at least a Grade 6 in Art and Design or Photography at GCSE level (although we will accept students for Photography that have not completed GCSE but this is decided on a case by case basis); expected to spend two private study periods a week in the Art rooms and expected to make a major contribution to Art/Photography exhibitions and displays.

Further Study and Career Opportunities for Art and Design

Possible Degree Options

Design: Fashion; Shoe; Interior; Graphic; Jewellery; Product; Textile; Theatre; Three-dimensional; Web; Car.

Art/Photography: Architecture; Art conservation; Art History; Art Therapy; Photography; Film/Video Production; Fine Art, Illustration.

Possible Career Options

Art Director/Animator; Furniture designer; Architect/Design engineer; Graphic designer; Art therapist; Illustrator; Art restoration; Interior designer; Cartoonist; Jeweler; Computer game designer; Museum/gallery conservator; Community arts worker; Medical illustrator; Exhibition designer/Events/Marketing director; Product designer/Car designer; Fashion designer/buyer; Teacher; Film/video maker/stylist/Props; Theatre

designer; Fine Artist; Marketing & Advertising.

Further Study and Career Opportunities for Photography

Possible Degree Options

Animation; Film and visual culture; Commercial photography; Forensic photography; Creative and editorial photography; Medical photography; Digital media; Visual communication; Fashion photography; Film and television; Multi-media; Picture editor.

Possible Career Options

Studying a photography related degree at university will give you all sorts of exciting career opportunities, including:

Commercial photographer; Photographic illustrator; Fashion photographer; Photographic technician; Filmmaker; Teacher; Forensic photographer; Picture editor; Industrial photographer; Social photographer; Medical photographer; Sports photographer; Nature photographer; Animator.

BIOLOGY

Biology is a rapidly expanding science. It forms the basis of new and exciting fields of study, such as Biotechnology, Genetics and Ecology. Studying A Level Biology will enable a student to follow one of these courses at university. Students wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science may also take Biology as one of their A Level choices.

Throughout the Sixth Form students are taught by two teachers and theory work is backed up with relevant practical activities in all topics. Students learn to use more sophisticated equipment and techniques and continue to develop their understanding of effective practical design, precise and accurate data collection and thorough analysis and evaluation of techniques and evidence. Practical work has recently included the extraction of the students own DNA which can then be preserved as a necklace, the genetic modification of bacteria to incorporate glowing jelly fish genes and the technique of Genetic Fingerprinting using Gel Electrophoresis for the separation of DNA fragments. A newly purchased thermocycler is also allowing us to amplify small samples of DNA using the Polymerase Chain Reaction, an important technique used both in genetic engineering, medicine and forensic science.

Assessment - AQA specification

A Level Core Content

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 3 papers)

7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Written Assessment

The course is assessed in 3 papers which include theory and relevant practical work.

Paper 1: Topics 1 – 4

Paper 2: Topics 5 – 8

Paper 3: Topics 1 – 8 including an essay

Practical Assessment

Practical work is assessed as part of the written exams at A Level and practical lessons run alongside theory lessons throughout the course. They include a range of required practicals which are designed to develop students' practical ability and understanding. Students are assessed in a number of areas including working safely, recording data and developing investigative techniques.

Subject Combinations

Biology is a natural Science, usually studied with other natural sciences, such as Chemistry and Physics. However, there are no hard and fast rules about the combination of subjects. It can be taken with Geography to form an environmental package, or indeed with any other subject that fits the blocking. In other words it can be taken as a subject in its own right.



Hannah Pattison, Head of Biology

BUSINESS

Exam Board and Syllabus: AQA

What will I study?

This course is designed to focus upon the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world, provide research opportunities into topical business issues, and develop an understanding of relevant business concepts and theories and apply them to a range of real world scenarios. This course will teach the awareness that economic and business behaviour can be studied from the perspective of a range of stakeholders - customers, managers, shareholders, employees, government and society as a whole. It will also allow you to acquire the ability to make decisions in the light of evaluation, quantification and the management of economic and business information. Through the examination of business and economic theory, work is then applied to real business examples and case studies, to analyse and evaluate impact and effects. A diverse range of topics are covered, including but not exhaustive; business structures, marketing, operations, finance and accounts, political/legal/technological/social environment, HR, strategy and how these relate to small through to global businesses.

What are the recommended entry requirements?

A minimum of Grade 5 is required in GCSE Mathematics and English Language. You are expected to keep abreast of current affairs and be able to relate these to business theories and use in context in exams. It is important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business and economic affairs and a desire to explore new ideas and communicate them effectively.

Exam Board: AQA

**Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 3 papers)**

How will I be assessed?

The Business A Level is a linear course and is assessed externally at the end of the second year of the course with three exam papers each worth 33% consisting of extended answer essays and case study questions. The transferable skills underpinning these units include: calculations, interpreting and analysing data, making and presenting arguments, making and justifying business decisions, identifying problems and proposing solutions, recognising that a problem exists, conducting research and challenging assumptions.

Where might I go next?

Higher Education

The course provides students with the knowledge to move onto a range of higher education courses. There are many opportunities available to specialise in particular areas of business such as PPE, international business, business analytics, management, marketing, accountancy/finance or HR.

Employment

The subject is extremely useful for many careers, including Law, Land Management, Business, Accountancy and increasingly a wide range of professions which operate in a commercial environment, e.g. Medicine, Journalism, IT and Engineering.



Gemma Scott, Head of Business

CHEMISTRY

OCR A Chemistry A Level (H432)

Chemistry sits between Physics and Biology and overlaps with both. It is the study of elements and compounds, the composition of materials and their properties; thinking on a small scale about the interactions of atoms and electrons, and on a larger scale about the reactions which help shape and mould our modern world. Chemistry's application in modern society is pivotal to the world we now live in, making this classical subject both contemporary and exciting.

Chemistry is a highly respected subject that synergises well with the other Sciences, Mathematics and a variety of other subjects; students often choose Chemistry to develop and illustrate their strength in analytical thinking, problem solving, and numeracy. Most importantly, studying this subject will genuinely change the way you look at the world, as well as develop transferable problem-solving and analysis skills that you will value throughout your life.

Course Requirement Recommendations

There is no specific entry tariff for the OCR A Level course, but it would be recommended that students have a minimum of Grade 7 in GCSE / IGCSE Chemistry. It is not necessary to study A Level Maths to succeed at A Level Chemistry, but to take a chemistry-related subject any further than A Level, A Level Maths is a useful addition.

What does A-Level Chemistry lead to?

Chemistry is a highly relevant and valuable subject for pupils with aspirations in Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics. Good grades in A Level are essential for students aiming to study; medical-related degrees such as medicine, veterinary science, dentistry and

pharmacy; chemical industry-related degrees such as chemistry, chemical engineering and materials science; biotech-related degrees such as biology and biochemistry and related courses such as forensics and geology. A sound chemical education also promotes powers of analytical thinking valuable to those seeking careers in areas such as law, accountancy, banking and journalism.

Structure of the Course

The OCR A Level course is linear in nature and is composed of a set of three terminal examinations. Additionally, the course comprises a compulsory practical (CPAC). This takes the form of a minimum of 12 practical activities which are assessed internally against exam board criteria.

Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements & Physical Chemistry (37%)

Paper 2: Synthesis & Analytical Techniques (37%)

Paper 3: Unified Chemistry is synoptic over both years of course (26%).

Exam Board: OCR

Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 3 papers)



Chris Birch, Head of Chemistry

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Digital technologies are of growing importance in the world with exciting developments in artificial intelligence, virtual reality and quantum computing among others. With new technologies there will be an even bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If students want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides an excellent stepping stone and combines especially well with subjects like Physics and Mathematics. Students who study Computing include the following career opportunities: Information Systems Designer, IT Consultant, Cyber-Security Expert, Systems Analyst, Programmer, Web developer, Games Designer/Developer and many more.

Aim of the Course

The key aims of the Computer Science A Level course are to:

- Provide an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works, the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Provide a broad range of programming skills including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- To analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- To understand the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes, e.g. Boolean algebra/logic and comparison of the complexity of algorithms
- To think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- To understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- The ability to apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

**Assessment: 80% Written Examination
20% Project Based**

- To develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming

Assessment

The OCR Computer Science A Level is a linear course with three assessed components tackled over two years of study. Units 01 and 02 are assessed externally in an examination at the end of second year, whilst Unit 03 is a project that will be undertaken during the latter stages of Year 12.

H446/01: Computer Systems (examination: 3hrs) – 40%

This unit covers the course theory such as the use of binary, the representation of data within a computer, the function of commonly used hardware and software and the legal, moral cultural and ethical issues involved when developing software.

H446/02: Algorithms and Programming (examination: 3hrs) – 40%

This unit is primarily concerned with learning to program, introducing programming languages such as Python, C++ and Visual Basic.

H446/03: Programming Project (Project Based) - 20%

The student will choose a computing problem, analysing the problem before designing, developing and evaluating their solution.



Patrick Waugh, Head of Computer Science

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What is Design Technology?

Design is about making things better; it is about pre-empting the problems of tomorrow and finding solutions today. These are just some of the ways product design can be crystallised. To do so, however, is to take a hugely diverse subject that calls upon those studying it to apply creativity, initiative, independence of thought and action in the pursuit of producing ideas of value and originality. To do this well is not easy but can be hugely rewarding.

What will I learn about on this course?

Students will study topics ranging from the performance of materials to the technological developments that impact design, whilst providing opportunities for students to put their learning into practice by producing products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside learning knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Assessment

The assessment will be evenly split between examined and non-examined components.

Component 1. Principles of Design and Technology - Written Exam

- Performance characteristics of materials
- Manufacturing processes and techniques
- Factors influencing the development of products
- Effects of technological developments
- Potential hazards and risk assessment
- Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- Information handling
- Mathematical skills

Exam Board: Pearson

Assessment: 50% Written Examination
50% Coursework

Component 2. Independent Design and Make Project - Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework)

A portfolio submission of approximately 40 sides of A3 paper or electronic equivalent

1. Identification of a design problem
2. Designing a Prototype Design ideas
3. Making a Prototype Design
4. Evaluation and Testing of the Design and Prototype

Exam Board: Pearson

A strong performance in GCSE Design and Technology (grade 6 or above) is the ideal foundation for A Level Product Design, however the department has in the past accepted pupils with strong backgrounds in related subjects at GCSE.

Design Technology is obviously an ideal preparation for Product Design and Engineering degree courses. Wellingborough School has a proven track record in preparing students for some of the most competitive courses in the country. It is, however, important to note that Design and Technology is a very flexible qualification and has been chosen in the past to complement a wide range of A Level options, with students going onto study degree courses ranging from Fine Art to Aerospace Engineering.



Sean Egan, Head of Design & Technology

DRAMA & THEATRE

Exam Board: AQA

**Component 1: Drama and Theatre (written exam)
- 40% of A Level**

1. Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
2. Study of two set plays
3. Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How it's assessed: Written exam - 3 hours open book (80 marks)

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (Practical) - 30% of A Level

1. Process of creating devised drama
2. Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

How it's assessed: (A) Working notebook [40 marks] (B) Devised performance [20 marks]

Component 3: Making theatre (practical) - 30% of A Level

1. Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play
2. Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3
3. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)
4. Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

How it's assessed: (A) Performance of Extract 3 [40 marks] (B) Reflective report [20 marks]

In Drama you will create, perform and respond

to drama and theatre and develop the creativity and independence to become an effective theatre maker. Explore the relationship between theory and practice in a range of theatrical styles and periods and historical, social and cultural contexts. Learn to research and develop independent thought and analysis of live theatre production to inform decision making in your practical work.

Drama helps you to develop confidence and communication skills; teamwork and collaboration; time management and organisational skills, self-awareness and self-discipline; an open mind, and the ability to move beyond boundaries and experiment with different ideas; analytical research skills; the ability to cope with criticism and develop because of it; creativity.

Potential Careers

Actor/Performer; Advertising; Business Management; Costume design; Director; Economic Developer; Journalism; Leisure Industry; Locations analyst; Manager of Celebrities; Marketing; Retailer; Script writing for TV/plays; Social Worker; Sound/lighting design; Stage set design; Teaching Drama/Arts; Therapist; Theatre Managers; Production/Producers; Writing.

Exam Board: AQA

**Assessment: 40% Written Examination
60% Practical**



Rebecca Lamberton, Head of Drama

ECONOMICS

Economics is the study of how we use our scarce resources to decide what we produce. This regularly results in difficult and challenging choices that have to be made, both as individuals and as a society; one current example being the best ways to address the challenge of climate change?

Economics is divided into two areas of study, Micro and Macroeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of how individual units, people, firms and markets make decisions and allocate resources. It also studies the situations where markets fail to allocate resources efficiently. Macroeconomics is the study of the whole economy and how all the individual markets combine together. This is done at both a national and an international level. Areas of study include issues such as unemployment, inflation and international trade and how Government economic policies can be used to influence them.

Contrary to popular belief, the amount of Mathematics in the A Level course is small. What is more important is good English language skills as many of the questions in the final exams require extended answers. Students must also have an interest in and keep up to date with current affairs. It is recommended that students read/listen to the news on a daily basis as well as more subject specific broadcasts like BBC Radio 5 Live's 'Wake up to Money' programme.

The Department encourages students to broaden their experience of Economics beyond the classroom. The School runs the former Bank of England monetary policy competition as an enrichment activity and Upper Sixth students attend an annual Economics Conference to complement their studies.

Economics combines well with a range of A

Levels including Mathematics, Politics, Geography, Business, Psychology and English. Students considering going on to study Economics at degree level should be aware that many university courses require A Level Mathematics as part of their entry requirements. Economics can lead onto a wide variety of careers including Accountancy, Business Management, Finance or indeed any field where an understanding of the economy is of benefit.

Assessment

Economics A Level is a linear course with three externally assessed examinations at the end of the two years of study.

Paper 1

- Written Exam: 2 hours; 33% of final A Level grade
- 1 data response question from a choice of 2
- 1 essay from a choice of 3

Paper 2

- Written Exam: 2 hours; 33% of final A Level grade
- 1 data response question from a choice of 2
- 1 essay from a choice of 3

Paper 3

- Written Exam: 2 hours; 33% of final A Level grade
- 30 multiple choice questions
- Case Study

Exam Board: AQA

**Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 3 papers)**



Alex Woodward, Head of Economics

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Which Exam Board and Specification?

AQA 7702

A study of the linguistic make-up of English, of how our language is used and what it tells us about our society, culture and mind in the past, present and possibly future.

You learn:

A new vocabulary to talk about English alongside new rigorous method of analysis and a new way of looking at language diversity and society.

What do we expect?

You need to have a commitment to developing new skills in research and analysis with an interest in investigation rather than the more conventional methods of reading and writing. We expect you to Show a curiosity about language in society as well as having a creativity and independent approach to your studies.

Assessment

The course is assessed through 80% examination and 20% coursework

Coursework – Language in Action

Original Writing, based upon a style model and supported by a commentary on your own work. Investigation: choose your own area of Language to research and investigate.

Examination Assessment

Examination assessment is through a combination of three things: analysis of unseen data; discursive writing on one of the areas of language study and the writing of an

opinion article on an aspect of Language in society.

Examination One – Language, the Individual and Society

Language Varieties: exploring the different ways language is used by different groups.

Language Acquisition: how children learn to talk, read and write.

Examination Two – Language Diversity and Change

Examines how language has changed over time and how English differs around the world and why.

Where will it take me?

An A Level in either English Literature or English Language can lead to a wide variety of courses and careers. Obviously, it is a strong step towards Law or Journalism, Publishing or the Creative Industries, but could just as easily take you into Research and Consultancy, Public Services or any area of Management.

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment: 80% Written Examination
20% Coursework



Andrew Gamble, Head of English

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Which Exam Board and Specification?

OCR H472

This is a course which offers you access to a wide range of cultural and reading experiences, including poetry, prose and drama. Although texts span four centuries the course is very much in the modern era. Visits to the theatre and academic speakers, are a very important part of the student experience. Students have a fair amount of control over text and task choices, though always guided by teaching staff.

And from the pupils?

There is an expectation that students have a readiness to talk about the texts we are reading and to participate in a seminar style of learning. Students need an interest in the cultural and historical contexts within which all literature is rooted. To access the course students require a good GCSE pass in English Language and Literature.

Assessment

The course is assessed through 80% examination and 20% coursework.

Coursework – Modern Literature post-1900 (one text post-2000)

A comparative essay between two modern texts from different genres, for example 'The History Boys' (Alan Bennett) and 'Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit' (Jeanette Winterson) and a critical or recreative piece on a text from the third genre, for example Thomas Hardy's 'Poems 1913'.

Examination One – Drama and Poetry Pre-1900

Two tasks on a Shakespeare text, currently 'Hamlet'. A comparison task (choice of tasks) between a poetry and second drama text (currently the Poems of Christina Rossetti and Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'.

Examination Two – Comparative and Contextual Study

The study of texts in a chosen topic area, either American Literature or Gothic Literature and close analysis of a given extract as well as an essay task which requires reference to more than one text.

Where will it take me?

An A Level in either English Literature or English Language can lead to a wide variety of courses and careers. Obviously, it is a strong step towards Law or Journalism, Publishing or the Creative Industries, but could just as easily take you into Research and Consultancy, Public Services or any area of Management.

Exam Board: OCR

Assessment: 80% Written Examination
20% Coursework



Andrew Gamble, Head of English

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Do you have a passion for a particular subject? Would you like to learn about a particular area of academic interest which does not currently appear on an A Level syllabus? Do you want to study a subject in Sixth Form which will give you an impressive talking point when it comes to university interviews? Then the Extended Project Qualification is for you.

The Extended Project Qualification gives students the opportunity to develop critical, reflective, problem-solving and independent learning skills through the planning, research and evaluation of a self-selected project.

Throughout their in-depth study, learners will develop and apply skills creatively, resulting in one of four project outcomes:

- Dissertation – an essay of approximately 6000 words, answering a research question on an area of academic interest
- Investigation – a field study or scientific investigation of around 5000 words
- Performance – a musical, dramatic or dance performance, put together and/or performed by the student, accompanied by a 2500 word rationale
- Artefact – an object which has been created by the student, for example a piece of artwork, sculpture, CAD, woodwork or metalwork, or even a script or other written text. Again, this should be accompanied by a 2500 word rationale.

For each one of the outcomes listed above, students are also expected to give a 10 minute presentation to an audience, detailing the process and outcomes of their project.

Exam Board: Pearson

Assessment: 100% Coursework

What does the course involve?

The Extended Project is totally self-led and, as such, requires a great deal of motivation to accomplish successfully. Throughout the course, lessons are given on areas such as referencing, research skills and structuring the EPQ. All students are assigned a supervisor to oversee their work and are encouraged to seek out an academic mentor from the staff body to help them with the academic content of their project

How will I be assessed?

Wellingborough School follows the Pearson syllabus for Extended Project Qualification. The final project is graded A* - E and is the equivalent in UCAS points of half a full A Level. Marking is completed internally and then moderated externally by Pearson. Students will usually undertake the project in September of Year 12 and submit in April of the same academic year. However, there is the opportunity to undertake an EPQ as a Year 13 student, or to begin in Year 12 and complete in Year 13, depending on the other academic commitments a student has. One of the real strengths of this qualification is its flexibility, both in terms of choice of content and completion time.



Sue Curley, EPQ Coordinator

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board and Syllabus: Cambridge International A Level, recognised by the world's top universities and employers.

What are the recommended entry requirements?

It is not a requirement that you should have studied Geography at GCSE. It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the environment and current affairs.

What will I learn about on this course?

- The forces influencing our natural environment – rivers, waves, volcanoes, weather and climate
- The issues affecting people – changes to cities and the countryside in low and high-income countries
- The effects that people are having on the environment – pollution and degradation
- The changing economic forces that drive the global economy – trade, transnational corporations

How is the course examined?

Paper 1: Core Physical Geography

Topics: Hydrology and Fluvial, Geomorphology, Atmosphere and Weather and Rocks and Weathering

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Paper 2: Core Human Geography

Population, Migration and Settlement Dynamics

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Paper 3: Advanced Physical Geography Options

Optional Topics: Tropical Environments, Coastal Environments, Hazardous Environments and Hot Arid and Semi-Arid Environments

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Paper 4: Advanced Human Geography Options

Optional Topics: Production, Location and Change, Environmental Management, Global Interdependence and Economic Transition

Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)

Fieldwork

There will be at least two compulsory fieldwork days in the UK, and most years we offer one optional overseas visit.

Where might I go next?

Geography combines well with almost all other A Level subjects. Taken with Sciences, Geography supports applications for science-based university courses like engineering, psychology, environmental sciences and geology. Taken with Arts and other Humanities, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as business, law, media, politics and philosophy. Geography offers many transferable skills and is therefore an excellent preparation for the world of work.

Exam Board: Cambridge International
Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 4 papers)



Camilla Alexander-Watson, Head of Geography

HISTORY

What will I study?

AQA A Level Specification

Paper 1. British History: Absolutism challenged: Stuart Britain 1603-1702 (40% of the A level)

We learn how James I and Charles I ran their Court and why England was plunged into Civil War 1642-1648, resulting in the execution of Charles I; did Parliament have any right to execute him?

In Year 13 we discover why Oliver Cromwell's Republic was a failure in the 1650s and why England chose to return to a monarchy in 1660. This is followed by the reign of the much mistrusted Catholic, James II and how he was deposed in 1688 by a Parliament who invited William III and Mary II to become Protestant Monarchs.

Paper 2. Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917 – 1953 (40% of the A Level)

We start with the nature of Imperial Russia prior to the Bolshevik revolution and the character of Tsar Nicholas II. Bolsheviks including Lenin and Trotsky, their ideology and how they imposed a revolution on Russia is our next port of call. We then assess the fear and terror Stalin imposed until 1953 in order to ensure the consolidation of Communism.

Coursework (20% of the A Level)

The focus is Black Civil Rights in the USA. You will choose a question based on which President did the most to develop Black Civil Rights; whether woman organized, whilst men led the movement; or whether Malcolm X or Martin Luther King was the most influential leader of the movement. The final piece is 4000 words and will develop stylish analysis and evaluation in your writing.

Exam Board: AQA

**Assessment: 80% Written Examination
20% Coursework**

What are the recommended entry requirements?

Studying GCSE History is not a requisite. A Grade 5 or above in History, Geography, Latin or English is a good platform for A Level History.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 13:

- 1 exam on Stuarts of 2½ hours.
- 1 exam on Russia of 2½ hours.
- The Coursework is written in Year 13 and marked in School and moderated by the exam board.

Where might I go next?

Cicero 468.B.C stated: "Not to know what happened before you were born is to be a child forever."

History helps you to make sense of the world you live in today. It is a highly respected subject for those going on to study the Arts and Humanities but also complements Science based courses at University. History provides an excellent skills set for careers in Politics, Law, the Civil Service, Government, Journalism, Marketing, Accountancy and Business, and the Arts amongst many others. Employer's value pupils of History as you are able to judge significance, write a succinct and persuasive argument and you can use analysis and evaluation with ease.



Jane Selby, Head of History

LATIN

Latin A Level is for those who have enjoyed Latin at GCSE and wish to continue furthering their studies of both the Latin Language and the Literature. The course builds on GCSE Latin and aims to widen students' access to different genres of Latin writers from the golden period of Latin Literature, the first centuries BC and AD, as well as teaching them to translate increasingly complex passages of original unseen Latin.

Latin is regarded as academically rigorous and therefore valued by top universities, but it is also hugely enjoyable. To study some of the world's first (and) best Literature, in the original language, is a great thrill and the chance to study the culture and history of that which has shaped the modern world, is a real opportunity. Latin is an excellent choice to support A Levels in English, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Mathematics, but it also supports applications to university for Medicine, Mathematics and Engineering.

There are four papers at the end of the two year course; two Language and two Literature. The Language papers involve translations from Latin into English, verse and prose and a comprehension from Latin or an option to translate into Latin. There are two Literature papers; one Prose Literature and one Verse Literature.

The set texts for 2021-2023 are: Phillipics II, a speech by Cicero intended to ruin the reputation of Mark Antony, a selection from Virgil's epic poem "the Aeneid" and some history by Tacitus and some History by Tacitus, the Roman historian who is a primary historical source of the dastardly deeds around the early roman emperors (and you get to read it in the original!).

Past students of A Level Latin have gone on to study Classics, History, Russian, French, Art History, English, Anthropology, Law, Medicine, Architecture, Economics, Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Engineering and Veterinary Medicine at top universities. Those who have completed their studies all now have excellent fulfilling jobs.

Exam Board: OCR

**Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 4 papers)**



Alison Holley, Head of Classics

MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Students are expected to have achieved Grade 7 or above at GCSE level to take the A Level Mathematics course and a minimum of Grade 8 at GCSE to take A Level Further Mathematics.

Students must take A Level Mathematics if they choose to study A Level Further Mathematics.

All students will follow the Pearson specification in both courses.

A Level Maths is one of the most important subjects you can study and a very popular A Level. All of the sciences use mathematical techniques and doing an A Level in it will give you a head start in these subjects. Other A Levels such as the Social Sciences use statistics, so doing A Level Maths will give you an advantage. It is highly recommended if you wish to study any science at university.

A Level Mathematics

This is a linear course with three two hour exams at the end of the Upper Sixth. These are made up of two Pure Papers and a combined Statistics and Mechanics Paper. All students will be assessed on their knowledge of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. The assessment objectives include a greater emphasis on modelling, problem-solving and reasoning.

Further Mathematics

This is a linear course with four 90 minute exams at the end of Year 13. These are made up of two Pure Papers and two Option Papers. The course both broadens and deepens the Mathematics covered at A Level. Students will complete all A Level Mathematics content in Year 12 and begin Further Mathematics in Year 13. The Further Mathematics course also allows more flexibility with option choices. Students will be able to choose options that will complement and aid their University choices. For those students who will need to sit an entrance exam for their chosen University, we will also help to prepare them for STEP, AEA and MAT examinations.

Equipment/Resources

All students will need to be highly skilled in the use of a scientific calculator. We strongly recommend that students purchase the Casio fx-991EX CLASSWIZ as a minimum requirement. Students may also wish to use a graphical calculator during the course, but this is something they can choose to purchase at a later date.

Exam Board: Pearson

**Mathematics
Assessment: 100%
Written Examination**

**Further Maths
Assessment: 100%
Written Examination**



Katie Conroy, Head of Mathematics

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Examining board: AQA

This six-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak in French and/or Spanish with accurate grammar and syntax for a range of purposes and to understand written or spoken French and/or Spanish in a variety of contexts and genres.

French - Year 1

The changing nature of family; The cyber-society; The place of voluntary work; A culture proud of its heritage; Contemporary francophone music; Cinema: the 7th art form; Film study – La Haine from Mathieu Kassovitz.

French - Year 2

Positive features of a diverse society; Life for the marginalised; How criminals are treated; Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment; Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power?; Politics and immigration; Book Study – Candide from Voltaire; Speaking Project.

Spanish - Year 1

Modern and traditional values; Cyberspace; Equal rights; Modern day idols; Spanish regional identity; Cultural heritage; Film Study - VOLVER.

Spanish - Year 2

Immigration; Racism; Integration; Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens; Monarchies and dictatorships; Popular movements, Book study - Como Agua Para Chocolate from Laura

Esquivel; Speaking Project.

End of Course Exam

- Paper 1 – Listening, reading and writing
- Paper 2 – Writing and Grammar
- Paper 3 – Speaking card & Speaking Project

Subject Combinations

The A Level course is relevant both for those continuing with modern language studies at a higher level and for those going straight into employment. Language skills are extremely useful in many business and industrial fields and a number of universities offer courses in which language study is linked to the study of science or engineering. Employment rates for modern languages graduates currently compare very favourably with most other subjects.

Possible careers with a language degree

Airline Services; Marketing executive; Broadcast journalist; Medicine; Diplomatic Services operational officer; Patent examiner; Editing and Publishing; Retail buying; English as a foreign language teacher; Sales executive; Import/Export; Secondary school teacher; International aid/development worker; Subtitles and Voice overs; Interpreter; Tour manager; Law; Translator; Logistics and distribution manager.

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% Written Examination



Carole Stroud, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

MUSIC

Exam Board: Pearson

A Level Music gives you the opportunity to explore the music of a wide range of different genres and style periods through listening, performing and composing. If you have a real curiosity about music, as both a listener and a performer, the course will offer you many stimulating challenges.

Analysis

You will learn about composers whose music you may already have played or who may be little more than names to you at the moment. You will study eighteen works contained within a single anthology, from the baroque to the present day. The areas of study comprise Vocal and Instrumental Music, Film Music, Jazz and Popular Music, Fusions and 'New Directions', the latter incorporating three pieces which helped to define a new genre. Composers include many of the most influential figures within the broad history of the subject, including Bach, Mozart, Vivaldi, Berlioz, Debussy and Stravinsky.

Composition

You will complete composition exercises in the styles of important composers, in order to understand them better, and you will compose one piece of your own, probably utilising your main instrument or voice. The new specification allows great freedom to compose in a wide variety of genres, allowing each candidate to focus on their preferred style. In addition, you will study harmony in preparation for the completion of an exercise under controlled conditions during Year 13.

Performing

GCSE Music is a helpful grounding for A Level, but it is not essential. It is essential that you are an enthusiastic instrumentalist or singer. Most students at Wellingborough have passed Grade 5 Associated Board, Trinity College or equivalent examinations by the time they start the course; other candidates with a strong interest will be considered on their merits. Your instrument or voice lessons will be an important part of your studies during the two years, because a significant proportion of the marks in the examination are awarded for a Final Recital. You will therefore learn and perform contrasting repertoire, chosen in collaboration with your teacher, in order to prepare a recital programme.

Careers

Music combines well with both Arts and Science subjects and leads to all sorts of careers. In previous years, A Level Music students at Wellingborough have gone on to study at the Royal College of Music, the Royal Northern College of Music, and have read a variety of subjects at university, including Oxford (Mathematics, Medicine), Cambridge (Music, Physics), Leeds (Music, Physics) and Edinburgh (Engineering). Several past students are currently playing or teaching professionally both within the UK and Europe.

Mr Runnells would be delighted to discuss A Level Music with interested students or parents.

Exam Board: Pearson

Assessment: 40% Written Examination
60% Practical



Ian Runnells, Director of Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam board and syllabus: AQA

What will I study? (Course content):

The course covers Applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, Sport and society, Exercise physiology and biomechanics, Sport psychology and Sport, society and technology as theory areas. This accounts for 70%.

The additional 30% of the course is the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) where candidates are assessed in their practical performance in ONE fully competitive activity worth 15% and submit a written coursework piece on ONE activity also worth 15%.

The list of activities that can be offered can be found on the AQA A Level Physical Education specification; students can only be assessed in the activities identified in the specification.

What are the recommended entry requirements?

While GCSE Physical Education is preferable it is not essential however a strong background in science is beneficial. As students will offer one activity the higher scoring candidates tend to be those who are also involved with this on a regular basis out of school such as club sport.

How will I be assessed? (Course assessments, outline of papers/coursework/practicals)

The course is 70% theory that is examined in two written papers, both 2hrs duration, each covering 35% of the course.

The additional 30% NEA is internally assessed and externally moderated and students MUST provide video evidence of their performances for this assessment.

Within this evidence students must demonstrate their range of skills and their execution of recognised techniques, compliance with the official rules and regulations, accuracy, consistency and outcome as well as the implementation of appropriate strategies and tactics to optimise their performance. This often requires a number of performances to be recorded.

Where might I go next? (Careers/university)

For students with an interest in sport, A Level Physical Education provides a greater understanding of the cultural, historical, psychological, scientific and sociological basis for physical education so further study of Sports Science, Teaching and Coaching and Sports Management are natural options. Given the broad nature of the subject covering biology, physics, psychology, technology, sociology all of these are popular career fields as is physiotherapy and business management.

The range of sub topics within the subject means PE lends itself to the full range of A Level subjects and its diversity supports a wide range of future careers.

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment: 70% Written Examination
15% Practical
15% Coursework



Cath Irvin, Head of Academic PE

PHYSICS

Exam board and syllabus

We follow the AQA A Level specification (7408) which is accessible for both students who studied IGCSE Physics and for those who studied a separate Physics or dual award Science course at GCSE.

What will I study?

The course covers the following topics:

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear physics
9. Options topic: Astrophysics, Medical, Engineering or Turning points in physics.

What are the recommended entry requirements?

The course is suitable for students who have attained a Grade 7, 8 or 9 in GCSE Physics and Mathematics. The treatment of topics at A Level is more academically rigorous and more mathematical in nature. It is preferable for students to also be taking Mathematics at A Level as there is a degree of overlap between the two courses, particularly in the topic of Mechanics. However, the course is accessible for those students not taking Mathematics who have demonstrated good mathematical skills at GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through three written exams, each of 2 hours long. Paper 1 covers Sections 1-5 and 6.1. Paper 2 covers Sections 6.2, 7 and 8. Paper 3 covers Practical Skills,

Data Analysis & the options topic.

The course also includes a separate practical element called the practical endorsement. This does not contribute to the final grade, but is awarded separately as a pass/fail. Universities will look for this as an assessment of practical skills.

Where might I go next?

Pupils following this course will often choose to pair it with Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry or Design Technology.

Physics is widely recognised by universities as a valuable and academically demanding A Level. Its content is of direct relevance to a number of career paths such as all branches of Engineering and Medicine. As well as studying Physics you will also be developing many skills invaluable to your future career and life:

- A logical and numerate mind
- The ability to solve problems
- Communication skills, developed through report writing and presentations
- Computing and practical skills
- Teamwork and flexibility (essential for lab work and projects)

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 2 papers)



Rebecca Hill, Head of Science

POLITICS

Exam board – Edexcel, option 3A

What will I study?

There are 3 components:

- (i) UK Politics and Core Ideas
- (ii) UK Government
- (iii) Government and Politics of the USA

UK Politics

- a) Democracy and participation - the differences between direct democracy and representative democracy
- b) Political parties - ideas and policies
- c) Electoral systems - the different systems in the UK and the case for and against referendums
- d) Elections - 2017 and two other years

UK Government

- a) The constitution - nature, sources and significance of reforms, devolution and a codified constitution for the UK
- b) Parliament - the powers of the Commons and Lords, law making and the effectiveness of scrutiny of the government and backbench MPs and the opposition
- c) The Prime Minister and Cabinet - the power of the Prime Minister and the relationship with the cabinet; 3 Prime Ministers are studied in detail
- d) The Supreme Court - its power and influence; the impact of the EU on the UK; sovereignty; devolution and the Human Rights Act; Nationalism

Government and Politics of the USA

- a) US Constitution – nature and principles; federalism
- b) Congress – powers of the House and Senate; how well it carries out its functions; impact of party and partisanship

- c) President – powers; checks on presidential power; are presidents imperial or imperilled?
- d) Supreme Court and civil rights – power; the appointment process; how the court exercises its power and its impact on public policy; protection of rights and its effect on civil rights
- e) Presidential elections – primaries and Electoral College; money in elections; the Democrat and Republican parties; tactics, influence and importance of pressure groups
- f) Comparison with the UK – considers the President and Prime Minister, who is more powerful and why?

How is it assessed?

3 exams of 2 hours; in components 1 and 2 – essays and a source question as a stimulus to an evaluation of a political question; component 3 – short and long essays.

Where might I go next?

Students of A Level Politics have gone on to study a wide range of degrees including International Relations, Law, Economics, Business related and even Politics. It could also be useful for possible careers in politics, the civil service, local government, law, business administration, journalism, teaching or indeed any field where a basic knowledge of the activities of government is of assistance. It may also, however, be seen as an exciting course that tries to explain how Brexit and Trump can happen.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 2 papers)



Phil Farley, Head of Politics

PSYCHOLOGY

What will I study?

The course covers six topics; namely Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Biological Psychology, Learning Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Child Psychology. Each of these topics comprises of five inter-linked sections:

- Content – major theories and approaches linked to the approach
- Methods – the research techniques employed by the approach
- Studies – two studies, one classic and one contemporary
- Key Questions – a contemporary issue of relevance to the approach

What are the recommended entry requirements?

Pupils looking to study Psychology need to achieve a Grade 5 or above at GCSE level in Maths and English. The course requires students to calculate descriptive and inferential statistics as well as containing extended writing; the maximum mark allocation for an essay is 20 marks.

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course with 3 exams at the end of the two years of study.

Paper 1

Comprises Social, Cognitive, Biological, Learning Psychology and Issues and Debates. It is 2 hours long and consists of 90 marks.

Paper 2

Comprises Clinical (54 marks) and Child (36 marks). It is 2 hours and consists of 90 marks.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 3 papers)

Paper 3

This is the synoptic paper, comprising Psychological Skills which include research methods, reviewing classic studies and Issues and Debates. It is 2 hours and consists of 80 marks.

Where might I go next?

A Level Psychology is a good foundation for most degree courses and is particularly useful for a range of social science, arts and healthcare related degrees including: childhood studies, Business and Management studies, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Sociology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Sports Science, Speech Therapy and Law.



Hilary Arimoro, Head of Psychology

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What will I study?

The course consists of three distinct strands with separate exams.

- Philosophy of Religion explores key debates within western philosophy
- Ethics goes beyond GCSE debates and considers whether right and wrong have any objective basis, or whether it is simply feelings, opinions and cultural norms
- Developments in religious thought: Hinduism. Students are required to study one religious tradition in depth. They explore how a religious tradition has evolved over time and the diversity and conflict within that tradition

What are the recommended entry requirements?

The A Level is not a continuation of Religious Studies at GCSE. As such, GCSE RS is not a pre-requisite.

The course requires a high degree of literacy. Those achieving lower than Grade 6 in English will find both the content and assessment challenging and may be unsuitable for this A Level.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is entirely by essay writing under examination conditions.

For each of the three strands, students sit a 2 hour exam and must write three essays from a selection of four titles.

Assessment is heavily weighted towards analysis and evaluation, so remembering content is not enough. Students must construct their own argument in response to the specific question.

Exam Board: OCR

**Assessment: 100% Written Examination
(Divided into 3 papers)**

Where might I go next?

The course supports any further study or career where analysis and critical thinking are required. RS and Philosophy students have gone in to study or work in:

- Advertising
- Banking and Finance
- Civil Service
- Creative Industries
- Education
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Media
- Medicine
- Military Service
- Politics
- Public Policy
- Research
- Social Services



Peter Low, Head of Religious Studies

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

This programme blends inside the classroom with outside the classroom and is an extremely important part of the life and ethos of Wellingborough School. Leadership opportunities increase in Sixth Form, and as well as participating in all the co-curricular activities offered, students are encouraged to step into roles of responsibility. This can take many forms and there is something for everyone.

Leadership Opportunities

Lunchtime Enrichment

Years 7-10 take part in a variety of activities and these are mainly Sixth Form led, from Dance to Musical Theatre. Sixth Form can also form their own clubs too.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Our CCF has a very proud history with the oldest RAF section in the country which includes 4 sections, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force. Lessons are delivered by Sixth Formers who have completed their cadet training and are awarded cadet ranks within the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) structure. They also form a leadership team with fellow NCOs and staff and are involved in decision making as well as leading events within CCF. Many qualifications can be gained through the CCF through courses provided by the various cadet organisations, from Life Guarding and First Aid to Windsurfing and Climbing. Formal Leadership qualifications are also such as the Air Cadet Leadership Course held at RAF Cranwell.

Supporting Year 11 Leadership Training

Students who choose not to complete their CCF leadership training can support with Year 11 leadership skills. This varies from year to year and can include Language Leaders, Sports Leaders, Science Leaders and Community Leaders.

Community Cohesion

Students may volunteer in the local community and activities vary, they include gardening, working with local care homes and supporting the local fox sanctuary.

Sixth Form Academic Enrichment

Once a week, students opt for an activity to help prepare them for life after school, these include a range of qualifications from Critical thinking for our Oxbridge students, First Aid skills and English Speaking qualifications as well as a guest lecture programme. Beyond the classroom the Sixth Form Drama productions are popular as is the student newspaper.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE Award) is an optional activity for Year 12 students who may enrol on the Gold Award programme. There are five sections to complete: residential, volunteering, skill, physical and expedition. We are delighted to offer a variety of modes of travel for the expedition section catering for all tastes from: Walking in Snowdonia and the Lake District; Canoeing the Great Glen in Scotland or Cycling the famous Yorkshire hills and moors. This internationally recognised Award is held in high regard by employers and universities for those students who complete it.

LIFE AFTER SIXTH FORM

Wellingborough students are encouraged to make the most of their academic potential with a Sixth Form curriculum based around A Level study with over twenty subjects available. Formal A Level courses are complemented by enrichment activities such as Finance, Extended Project Qualification, Speech and Language qualifications, Sports Leadership and more. Results are on an upward trajectory with almost half of A level grades in 2020 at A*-A and over 80% at A*-B opening the door to competitive university courses and future careers. With small group sizes (the average group size is under 8) and experienced specialist teachers, students are supported whilst also encouraged to become more independent in their studies. We accept students who we feel have the qualities to succeed in their chosen course of study and value-added measures indicate that Wellingborough Sixth Formers make excellent progress from their starting points.

Higher Education

Most Wellingborough Sixth Formers go onto study for a degree following their A Levels with around 80% achieving a place at their first choice of university. UCAS preparation begins in the Year 12 with an introductory presentation for parents and students in the Lent term and talks from universities and recent former students who are now at university or have recently graduated in the Trinity term.

Careers advice is embedded within the Life Skills programme with the opportunity for individual interviews with the Head of Careers and support with work experience. All students are encouraged and supported to undertake meaningful work experience placements at the end of Year 12.

In 2020, Year 13 took up places on over 40 different courses encompassing traditional Russell Group destinations and Oxbridge as well as specialist drama and art colleges.

Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Law,

Accountancy and Business courses were represented with other students choosing to continue their passion for a subject studied at A Level selecting Biology, Economics, History, Mathematics, Physics, Politics and Sports Science. Some embraced the chance to explore new fields such as Portuguese, Oceanography, Criminology, Textile Design or Zoology. We look forward to seeing some of them again when they return to support a new cohort on our UCAS day in June of Year 12, to inspire and advise in their turn.





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