Urmston Grammar



sixth form



"When pupils arrive at school each morning, they enter a caring, supportive and ambitious community..." OFSTED 2026

A Message from our Headteacher

Urmston Grammar Sixth Formers are proud to be part of the wider school community; we expect our sixth form students to work hard, contribute to the life of the school and be effective role models for younger pupils. In return, we provide high quality teaching, a place where you can learn with like-minded students who want to succeed, excellent facilities and a wide range of opportunities to develop skills and experience to prepare you for your next steps.

At Urmston Grammar, your lessons are specially designed for students of a similar ability, to ensure that you are intellectually challenged so that you can achieve the highest grades and reach your full potential. You can also be reassured that when you need additional academic or pastoral support to reach your goals, this will be provided.

The success of Urmston Grammar Sixth Form is not only based on your aptitude, but also on the expertise of our staff in nurturing each individual. You will be challenged and supported to maximise your achievement and expected to actively participate in school life to make a valuable and sustained contribution to our wider community.

Our key values for everyone in the Urmston Grammar community are:

- **PRIDE** - take pride in yourself and in all that you do.
- **PARTICIPATE** - make the best of all the opportunities at Urmston Grammar.
- **EMPATHY** - treat others the way you would want to be trested in return, increasing tolerance and mutual respect.

Educating young people is a great responsibility and privilege, and we are delighted that you are considering Urmston Grammar Sixth Form for your post-16 education. There are many opportunities to come and see the school at work. We know you will be impressed with all that we are able to offer.

Our sixth formers have energy, enthusiasm and a love of learning. If you share these qualities, we know that our sixth form is a place where you can thrive, and we look forward to welcoming you to Urmston Grammar Sixth Form.

Mr T Kennedy-Fowler
Headteacher





"I chose to join UGS and couldn't have had a smoother transition into a new sixth form. The teachers are always on hand to support me in any way possible; helping me reach my full potential whilst gaining skills for the real world" *Raees, Year 13*

Life in the Sixth Form

If you have already experienced life at Urmston Grammar you will know that our Sixth Form is the right place for you to continue your studies; our excellent reputation, both regionally and nationally, means that students from many different schools also apply to be considered for a place.

In Year 12, everyone is new; whether you are joining us from Urmston Grammar's Year 11 or are transferring from another school in the region, the challenges are the same. You will be involved in a programme of induction activities, some of which begin before September, which encourage a sense of identity and cohesion for the whole year group. It is important that you quickly feel part of the school, as we know that this will help you to make a flying start with your studies and with life in the sixth form.

Within the sixth form you have a choice of places in which to study and socialise, reserved exclusively for Years 12 and 13. The LRC, Newton Hall and Sixth Form Hub are dedicated spaces for the sixth form. Whether you are looking to study independently, work collaboratively with your peers or meet up with new friends you will find a space that suits your needs. You can also use the Reading Room, Conference Rooms, Auditorium and Theatre for various enrichment activities.

Providing Support

The Sixth Form Leadership Team is here to support all students in making the most of their time at Urmston Grammar. We have an experienced team of sixth form tutors who work with Mrs Mangham-Dewhurst, our Head of Sixth Form, the Assistant Heads of Sixth Form, Miss Bamford and Mr Neale, our Sixth Form Pastoral Manager, Mrs Woodcock, and UCAS Coordinator Ms Longden.

Students will start each day with their tutor group and sixth form tutor. This allows students to get to know each other quickly and to develop strong, positive relationships. In addition, each student will also be paired with a teacher mentor who will support them during the two years in the sixth form. Tutors and mentors provide pastoral and academic help, guiding and supporting you as you make decisions about your future.

Our dedicated Careers Co-ordinator works with the Sixth Form Team to provide a comprehensive programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) for every student. We ensure that all our students are able to make informed choices about the right next steps.

The Sixth Form Leadership Team



Mrs Mangham-Dewhurst



Miss Bamford



Mr Neale



Mrs Woodcock



Ms Longden





"I chose to remain at Urmston Grammar as I knew the support from the teachers through my A Levels would be outsanding" *Amber, Year 13*

Shaping the Future

We are proud of the great success that we have in helping students to make the right choices. We support our students to secure places at elite universities, both in the United Kingdom and abroad, on high quality apprenticeships and to gain employment in local, national and international companies.

Each year students obtain places at Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group universities to study a wide range of subjects. The programme of support starts right at the beginning of the Sixth Form experience when students are encouraged to set challenging goals, supported every step of the way to ensure that these are aspirational but achievable.

Our highly experienced Sixth Form Team will guide students as they research universities, plan visits and prepare personal statements. In addition there is guidance on preparation for university admissions tests and the team will coach students as they prepare for interviews.

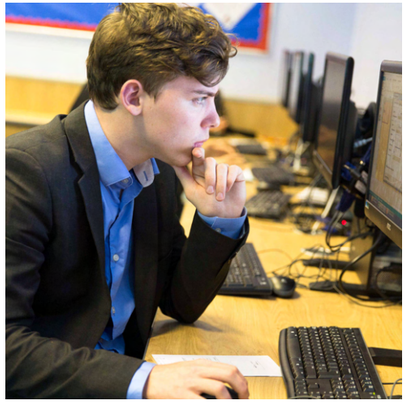
We have strong links with local universities who regularly come in to support students in areas such as how to choose the right course, selecting a university, managing budgets, and undergraduate life.

During Year 12, the Sixth Form Team organise a visit to a high ranking university to help our students crystallise thoughts about their future and to ensure that all have high aspirations. All students attend the UCAS Convention and this provides further relevant information about courses that match personal interests and career goals.

We offer our students full support in completing applications for university access programmes. Every year we help individuals secure places on schemes offered by the Sutton Trust (UK and USA), and a range of other support programmes such as 'Manchester University Access Programme' (MAP), 'Access to Leeds', and Newcastle University 'Partners' Programme.

For those who wish to pursue higher level apprenticeships or employment, the Sixth Form Team and CEIAG Advisor will provide a wide range of support and advice so that students can make successful applications to local, national and international businesses, including Aviva, BAE Systems, Astra Zeneca, Virgin Media and Jaguar Land Rover. Students regularly gain employment or apprenticeships in Financial Advising and Accountancy, Legal Administration, Business Administration, Digital Marketing, IT, Software & Web Development and Engineering.



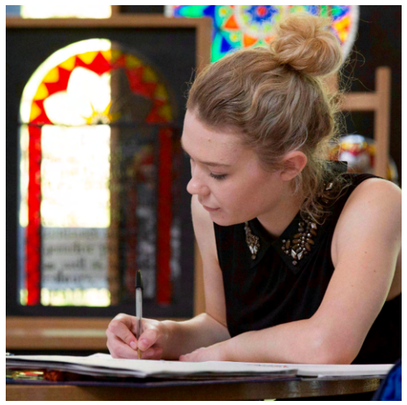




"Leaders have designed a highly effective post-16 study programme that prepares students very well for independent life in modern Britain." OFSTED 2026











High Aspirations

Aspiring Oxford and Cambridge candidates benefit from a tailor-made support programme which helps to maximise their chance of successfully gaining a place at these universities. We have a well established relationship with Corpus Christi College, Oxford and in recent years Urmston Grammar students have secured offers on courses such as Architecture, History, Engineering, Medicine, Modern Foreign Languages, English and Natural Sciences. Admissions Tutors from these prestigious universities work with our students during Year 12 to provide advice on how to make a successful application, preparation for admissions assessments, the content of personal statements and how to navigate the challenging interview process. Students also attend the Oxbridge Convention at Haydock Park in Liverpool to develop a better understanding of how to make a strong application to these world renowned universities.

Students who wish to apply for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine benefit from our bespoke MDV Programme which has been designed to assist students in applying to these highly competitive courses. Students are supported by our experienced mentors, local university admissions tutors and alumni of Urmston Grammar who work in these professions. Students are helped to secure relevant high quality work experience in our local community. We also run wokshops to prepare students for the UCAT admissions assessment, and to further enhance student's subject knowledge we facilitate visits and presentations from doctors, dentists and vets.

Mentors provide each student with tailored support in writing a successful personal statement and the Sixth Form Team provide interview experience which includes running a MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) workshop. Lastly, students are guided towards broader opportunities that will support their applications including key taster days, relevant enrichment activities and lectures.



" The transition from Year 11 to Year 12 was made so much easier with the support of teachers, mentors and other students alike. There's definitely a welcoming environment"

Matthew, Year 13

Broadening Horizons

Students will be given the opportunity to take part in a broad range of extra-curricular activities. Our well established Electives Programme will allow our Year 12 cohort to gain valuable weekly work experience, contribute to the school community, develop new skills and build cultural capital.

Our students can develop leadership skills as part of a team who participate in the 'Mock Trial'; support younger pupils within our own school or assist in lessons at local partner primary schools; develop specialist subject knowledge in areas such as Criminology or Engineering; learn Italian or British Sign Language; gain skills in First Aid; learn 'Muay Thai' or hone their fine motor skills by completing a 'Surgical Stitches' workshop.

Our students are involved in debating at a local and national level which helps to develop articulacy and oracy. Our Politics Society, Med Soc and 'Dentology' group are student-led initiatives which aim to provide support for students with an interest in these areas.

In the summer of Year 12 all students take part in work experience week to gain a taste of life in the real world. High value placements are organised though our Work Related Learning Co-ordinator – arranged either by the students themselves or by the school.

Students have the opportunity to develop independent learning skills through the Extended Project Qualification and our FutureLearn programme. Whilst students work with the support of subject mentors, we encourage a self-directed approach that allows each individual to prepare more effectively for lifelong and autonomous learning.

As part of the curriculum, students benefit from PSE and Careers programmes, and have timetabled assemblies. These equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to take the next step in their post-18 education, manage their health and wellbeing, and leave our school as model citizens ready to tackle the challenges life in modern society will provide.



"Urmston Grammar Sixth Form offers so many different opportunities. There are loads of extra-curricular activities which help you to make the smooth transition to Post-18 study" *Theo, Year 13*



"All the teachers have created a safe and supportive learning environment for us whilst studying." *Kitty, Year 12*

Developing Leadership and Contributing to the Team

There are many opportunities to develop leadership skills and to work effectively as part of a team. All students are encouraged to take up formal and informal leadership roles that are on offer.

Each year our Year 12 students can take part in the school's ASDAN mentoring programme; supporting younger pupils whilst also gaining an external accreditation. We have a range of prefect roles which allow individuals to make their mark on the school community. Year 7 Form Prefects help our new Year 7 pupils to settle into life at Urmston Grammar; supporting in form time and on the Year 7 Lakeside residential. House Prefects have the important role of leading each of our five houses by running charity events, competing in inter-house competitions and presenting in house assemblies.

Sixth form students can be nominated to represent their peers and play an active role in the School Council; helping to shape the future direction of the school. Students can also put themselves forward for a position on the Senior Prefect Team; an important group woh are elected by both peers and staff.

Our Subject Ambassadors work closely with teaching staff to lead enrichment activities for the lower school and local primary schools; these have included Geography Clubs, Maths Pi Shop and STEM Fairs. Students also take part in events to promote their subject to internal and transfer Year 11 pupils.

Though our school has multiple enrichment opportunities already established, each year students come with new ideas and are empowered to set up their own groups and societies. In recent years we have entered teams into Model United Nations conferences and translation competitions. Our students have also been a key driving force behind plans for our school Cultural Day and Iftar Dinner.

Enjoying Life at Urmston

Life at Urmston Grammar is full and varied – successful students take advantage of all the opportunities on offer. Students who are fully immersed in the life of the school will settle quickly into our Sixth Form and perform to their full potential.

All students are encouraged to take part in recreational and competitive sports, social events and a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and societies, including sports, music and languages amongst others.

Students have access to a large Sports Hall, all-weather pitch and our well-equipped fitness suite.These all help to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

The Sixth Form Prefect Team work with the students to organise their own Prom to celebrate the end of their Sixth Form studies. This event is attended by Sixth Form tutors and teaching staff and is a highlight of our annual calendar.

Opportunities exist for Sixth Formers to go on a range of field trips including to the Yorkshire Dales (Biologists), CERN (Physicists) and Iceland (Geographers). Students are able to explore art galleries and watch performances at local theatres. French and German students have the chance to participate in cultural visits and exchanges abroad. There are opportunities further afield with expeditions to areas such as Kenya and Equador as well as skiing in Europe.

We want life at Urmston Grammar to encourage our Sixth Form students to become confident, curious and independent learners. We strive to build well-rounded young adults who are active participators and are ready to maximise on any opportunities that present themselves.



"Students consistently attain very well in national examinations. This helps students move on to ambitious destinations that match their interests and aspirations." *OFSTED 2026*

Our Courses and Curriculum

We believe we are unique in providing our students with inspiration and independence whilst developing the skills and qualities necessary to meet the challenges of the future. Not only do our students learn in the classroom, but there are countless opportunities to extend this futher; be it the local Urmston neighbourhood, nationally or even world-wide.

When considering post-16 options each student must make two very important decisions:
1. Are you selecting the best environment to study and thrive in the next phase of your education?
2. Are you selecting courses and subjects that you are enthusiastic about, are good at, find interesting, and align with your future career aspirations?

Each year we have approximately **185 places** in Year 12. We offer a wide range of A Level courses and our curriculum is supplemented with additional sessions including our Electives programme, EPQ, Assemblies and PSE. In a typical year approximately 80% of our Year 13 cohort progress onto undergraduate courses at university. An increasing proportion of students choose to pursue an apprenticeship or degree-apprenticeship route, whilst other students enter the world of employment or choose to take a gap year.

Students who join Urmston Grammar will have access to high-quality facilities, including a Learning Resource Centre for independent study, ICT suites, a fitness suite, reading room, sports hall, astroturf, lecture theatre, modern science labs, conference rooms, a theatre and an auditorium in the round. Our Sixth Form students have their own dining room and area for group work in Newton Hall where they can relax and socialise with friends, as well as a dedicated Sixth Form Hub.



Entry Requirements

The general entry requirement to be offered a place at Urmston Grammar Sixth Form from September 2027 is a minimum of **eight** GCSE passes which include:

2 x grade 7s
4 x grade 6s

GCSE grades must also include a minimum of **grade 5 in English Language & Maths**.

In addition to meeting our general entry requirements, different subjects have their own specific requirements in order to pursue that course at A Level as outlined below:

- A minimum of grade 6 is required in any subjects you want to study at A Level
- In subjects which you may not have studied at GCSE such as Psychology, Sociology and Government & Politics, grade 6 is required in a similar subject such as a Humanity and English.

Students must achieve 8s and 9s in all GCSEs to be considered to study 4 A Levels.

The following subjects have their own specific entry requirement:

- A Level Biology requires grade 6 in Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science
- A Level Chemistry requires grade 7 in Chemistry or 7-6 in Combined Science, and grade 6 in Maths.
- A Level Physics requires grade 6 in Physics or 6-6 in Combined Science, and grade 7 in Maths
- A Level Computer Science requires grade 6 in Computer Science and grade 6 in Maths
- A Level Economics requires grade 6 in Maths
- A Level Maths requires grade 7 in Maths
- A Level Further Maths requires grade 8 in Maths
- A Level French or German require a grade 7 in that GCSE subject

A Level Subjects

The following subjects will be offered to study in September 2027:

A Level Art
A Level Biology
A Level Business Studies
A Level Chemistry
A Level Computer Science
A Level Economics
A Level English Language
A Level English Literature
A Level French
A Level Geogrpahy
A Level German
A Level Government & Politics
A Level History
A Level Maths
A Level Further Maths
A Level PE
A Level Physics
A Level Psychology
A Level Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
A Level Sociology
A Level Textile Design

Not all subject combinations will be possible depending on the option lines each year. Please see our provisional option blocks at the end of this prospectus.

Which subjects should I take?

When choosing an A Level you should have an interest in the subject, enjoy studying it and have a good chance of obtaining a high grade – but also please bear the following points in mind:

• If you do not currently have a specific career in mind, then choose the subjects you are most successful in and enjoy. Once in the sixth form, our Careers Advisor, Amy Marshall, will meet with every student in Year 12 to support their decision-making when considering the right post-18 pathway.

• For many careers and degree courses in Science you will need to consider selecting at least two A Levels in either Science or Mathematics. Often such courses will require a minimum of GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics if not selected at A Level.

• Degrees in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science will all require A Level Chemistry, and the vast majority of universities will also require A Level Biology. There may also be requirements as to which third subject should be taken, for example Mathematics, Physics, Psychology or Geography.

• Some degrees in Economics, Physics, Engineering and Maths may require both A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

• Some subjects at degree level are offered as both BA and BSc qualifications and these may require different A Levels. For example, a BSc in Geography may require Geography plus a Science or Mathematics, whereas a BA may not have these requirements. This also applies to Psychology.

• For many careers, what matters most is proof of your ability to work hard, to achieve good results and to have had appropriate experiences and gained valuable skills.

What if I am still unsure?

Our best advice is for you to choose the three subjects you believe you have the potential and interest in to study for two years. If you are only sure about two choices, then for a third subject you could choose a contrasting subject e.g. if you take Mathematics and Physics A Level, you could choose History or German as a contrasting third choice. Alternatively, if you take English Language and Geography, you may like to take Computer Science as a third A Level.



How do I apply to Urmston Grammar Sixth Form?

All students who would like to join Urmston Grammar Sixth Form should complete an online application found on the Sixth Form tab of our school website.

All applications must be submitted online by **15th of January 2027**.
Conditional offers will then be sent out during the spring term. Students must accept their offer to retain their place. Though students indicate their intended subject choices when applying, no A Level subjects are confirmed until sixth form enrolment takes place on GCSE results day. We highly recommend students be available to enrol in person however if this is not possible please email sixthform@urmstongrammar.org.uk to confirm that you wish to accept the place.

Later in Year 11, students who have been given a conditional offer will be invited to our Taster Day after the GCSE exams have finished in the summer term. This will provide the chance to get to know other students who have been offered a place, meet current students and teachers, and familiarise yourself with our school environment.

Applying as a current Urmston Grammar student

We want to give you time to make your post-16 choices. There will be assemblies giving you an overview of the Sixth Form and we encourage you to discuss your option choices with your subject teachers in more detail before you make any final decisions. Year 11 Parents & Carers Evening in January is another opportunity to discuss your post-16 options with subject teachers. The Head of Sixth Form and Senior Leadership Team will also be available to discuss any further queries.

Applying as a 'Transfer Student' to Urmston Grammar

You will not be alone! Typically bewteen 35-45% of our Year 12 cohort is made up of students who are new to Urmston Grammar School. Following the submission of your application, your school will be contacted to confirm your predicted GCSE grades and to provide a reference. If these meet our entry requirements, we will look to make you a conditional offer. If you have any questions during the application process you are welcome to contact us via sixthformadmissions@urmstongrammar.or.uk and your query will be answered by the relevant staff member.

Enrichment

Academic achievement is a vital aspect of studying at Urmston Grammar Sixth Form, but equally as important is the learning that takes place outside the classroom. We want all students to gain the breadth of skills and experience needed to tackle the challenges that adult life will provide; it is for this reason we have a wide and varied programme of enrichment opportunities for sixth formers to engage in.

Weekly Electives Programme

The Sixth Form Electives Programme provides Year 12 students with the opportunity to extend and develop skills beyond A Level study and the usual classroom environment. It is vital to develop a range of qualities and skills that go beyond academic results to allow individuals to compete in an ever-changing and competitive world. University admissions tutors and employers want to recruit students who can demonstrate a variety of talents and transferable skills. The Urmston Grammar Electives Programme will enable each student to develop skills and have relevant examples that to refer to in UCAS personal statements, interviews and apprenticeship/job applications.

The Sixth Form Electives Programme will enable students to:

- Learn different skills to those acquired in a classroom
- Learn strategies and methods to support becoming a successful independent learner
- Develop new interests and skills
- Demonstrate leadership qualities
- Make new friends
- Serve the wider community
- Tackle different challenges
- Have fun!

This is an eminently enjoyable part of the Year 12 curriculum and operates every Wednesday afternoon thus providing students with opportunities to broaden life skills and employability.

Examples of our Electives activities:

Acorn Theatre Company
Architectural Engineering & Design
ASDAN Mentoring
Badminton
Creative Drawing
Debating
Electronics
First Aid
Fitness Suite
Football
Introduction to Criminology
Italian
Mock Trial Competition
Muay Thai Kick Boxing
Netball
Perspectives Magazine
Rounders
Surgical Stitches
Young Enterprise
Yoga
Urmston Eats - Cookery Course
Work experience at:
- Local Primary Schools
- Local Care Homes



Enrichment throughout the year

Work Experience

All Year 12 students have the opportunity to take work experience placements for up to five days in the summer term. We believe that active participation in all that the school has to offer will allow each student to achieve this. Often we are able to assist with sourcing some placements.

Trips and Visits

In a typical year we offer opportunities for students to go Ice Skating as part of the Year 12 indution process, visit a Russell Group university, participate in a 'Safe Drive' event and attend the UCAS fair in Manchester. Additionally A Level Biologists visit the Yorkshire Dales and A Level Geographers head to Snowdonia to conduct field work. Sociologists visit Shrewsbury Prison to support their studies, and MFL students have the opportunity to visit France and Germany.

Student Leadership

We have countless opportunities for students to develop their leadership qualities. Every year our Senior Prefect teams are elected by staff and students, and the Head Prefects are selected by an interview panel. Students can also run to be a House Prefect, Year 7 Prefect or to be part of our School Council.

Students lead many clubs and societies, and if an extra-curricular club doesn't yet exist, you are empowered to set one up! Current examples include UGS MedSoc, ISoc, Dentology, UGS Pride and Feminists Society. Students can also act as a subject ambassador during open events and run charity initiatives.

A Social Life

In addition to playing an active part in whole school events, there are many opportunities to socialise within the Sixth Form. Year 12s and 13s enjoy their own Sixth Form area in Newton Hall where they can study and socialise in a more relaxed atmosphere. In addition, drinks and snacks are served all day and full lunches are available from 13:15 to 14:00.

Information about universities and apprenticeships is available in the Sixth Form Hub, display boards around school are regularly updated and opportunities available to students are distributed via email, meaning that we really do spoil you when it comes to preparation for life after Urmston Grammar and A Levels.

There is a large Sports Hall and all-weather pitch for practices as well as access to our fitness suite. The Sixth Form Prefects organise the Year 13 leaving 'Prom' each year at a luxury venue. This is attended by Sixth Form tutors and teaching staff and is always a truly memorable night.

How will Urmston Grammar help me excel?

• Staff will help you to develop sound independent learning skills.

• You will have the benefit of listening to, and questioning, a considerable number of external speakers on a huge variety of topics including; Study Skills, Managing your Finances, Applying for Courses/Jobs, Interview Techniques and Business Experience.

• Your Form Tutor will support you day-to-day and your Mentor will provide formal Mentoring Support, a minimum of six times during the Sixth Form. We will support you with individualised strategies, whenever this would aid confidence and progression.

• Subject Mentoring will guide and support you on an individual basis and is provided by your subject teachers.

• Year 12 and 13 Consultation Evenings are there for you if you encounter difficulties. Students and their parents/carers will be invited to meet individual Heads of Department to discuss strategies to improve grades.

• Additionally, at Parents & Carers Evenings, students and parents/carers will discuss progress with each of their subject teachers.

• Our Careers Advisor is available in school ensuring that up-to-date information and advice are available.

• A range of universities come to present information for you on all aspects of applying to university.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is an A Level standard stand-alone qualification designed to develop your abilities beyond your A Level courses and prepare for university or future career.

The EPQ allows you to lead your own project. You get to plan and carry out research on a topic that you have chosen which isn't covered by other qualifications. You can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to your studies. Your research is used to produce a written report or, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

At Urmston Grammar all Year 12 students begin a programme of study skills. At the end of the first half term they can then apply to continue onto EPQ. As well as gaining a range of transferrable skills such as researching, referencing, completing risk assessments and presenting, an EPQ can contribute to a competitive UCAS application and some universities may reduce the A Level grades needed for a conditional offer for students who achieve a strong grade in the EPQ.



Mentoring Programme

One of the things about Urmston Grammar Sixth Form that our students typically comment on is our mentoring system. You will be allocated an experienced sixth form mentor who will collaborate with you throughout your time in sixth form:

• You will have a minimum of six one-to-one mentoring sessions over the two years, at key points during your course, including possible pressure points such as exams. If you have a specific post-18 pathway in mind we will pair you with a mentor with the experience of supporting students in that field.

• Your mentor will gain an overview of your academic capabilities and character traits and use these to write a strong and well-informed reference for your job or university application, as well as being able to offer you the pastoral support you need.

• Your mentor will discuss personalised targets, revision and coping strategies, along with anything else they can help you with.

• You will be provided with one-to-one help on your UCAS personal statement by your mentor, who will know you well and will be an experienced member of the sixth form team.

• We also provide individual interview practice with someone from a local company or organisation.

• We host talks from visiting universities including Lancaster University, Durham University, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Oxford.

• We facilitate a week-long work experience and allow you time to attend other work-related experiences.

What other support can we offer?

We understand that while the Sixth Form years can be two of the most rewarding and memorable ones of your life, they can also be quite stressful. Sometimes existing or unexpected situations crop up and you need extra support. We have a range of levels of support to help you overcome these challenges:

Thrive - weekly on-site support for students experiencing mental health issues
Counsellors - are available in school to help students experiencing personal challenges
Safeguarding Team - are on hand to support with specific safeguarding issues
SEND Support - assist students with specific learning difficulties as well as those with social, emotional or medical needs
Form Tutor - is the regular daily point of contact for all students in the sixth form
Sixth Form Team - the Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Heads of Sixth Form and Sixth Form Pastoral Manager regularly support students thoughout their time in the sixth form.

Our Oxbridge Programme

We offer several services to help high achievers to apply to the top courses and universities. At Urmston Grammar academic standards are high and students routinely aim to fulfil their potential and exceed target grades based on their GCSEs. In all subjects and all lessons, students are stretched to understand what is needed to attain A/A* results across all components. A Level teaching and content is more academic and personalised than at GCSE, and so it is likely that students who may not have been identified as having 'Oxbridge potentials' will emerge as such during the first year of their chosen A Levels.

For those of you who have your sights on the University of Oxford or Cambridge:
- You will be given the opportunity to visit both universities, as well as attend an Oxbridge conference for potential applicants.
- We provide one-to-one help with your UCAS personal statement from a specialist team of Oxbridge-experienced Sixth Form staff members who will liaise with you and your mentor.
- Support for additional aptitude tests, such as MAT, MLAT and PAT.
- We provide Oxbridge specialist interview practice from Oxbridge graduates.
- We run special sessions for Oxbridge applicants and have staff who will liaise with your mentor to write your Oxbridge reference.

Our 'MDV' Programme

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses are extremely popular and as such are highly competitive. To help students stand the best chance of successfully pursuing such degree courses our MDV programme consists of the following:

- Special sessions to support you to prepare for the UCAT assessment.
- Guidance on the quantity and quality of background reading; this equips you with the breadth and depth of understanding to give detailed responses to interview questions.
- Regular updates on a range of relevant opportunities offered in the northwest and national programmes for students who can access widening participation benefits.
- Participation in our student-led MedSoc and Dentology Society to gain a broad understanding of these healthcare sectors.
- Support by your mentor in writing a competitive UCAS personal statement.
- Support and guidance in securing a variety of appropriate work experience placements.
- We offer a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) workshop, as well as mock panel-style interviews designed to prepare students for each universities selection process.

What courses do we offer?

A Level Art, Craft & Design (AQA)

100% A*-B in 2026

Head of Department: Miss H Jones

Join the Creative Economy 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 exciting career opportunities as well. This popular A Level is a practical course that allows you to be as creative as you want to be.

A Diverse Course During your A Level you will find out about a whole range of different media, techniques and processes. From charcoal to digital design, you cannot have enough ideas when it comes to expressing yourself. The course is big on hands-on experience too; it is the work you produce that counts. Make sure to look around the corridors at Urmston Grammar and the school's Twitter account to see past student work.

The department teaches a wide range of techniques using materials as part of the curriculum delivery such as:
- Watercolour, acrylic and oil painting, dry pastel, oil pastel, charcoal and graphite
- Textiles, mixed media approaches, batik, fabric painting, bonding, machine and hand embroidery
- Printing: mono printing, collographs and screen-printing
- Digital photography and image manipulation using commercial software used in the professional industry

Key Learning Topics The emphasis in this course is learning by doing, so you'll be able to create imaginative personal work.

We offers a number of enrichment opportunities to students including a trip to London, Manchester Gallery and museum visits, and workshops from local established artists,

Where will Success Take me? Many students go on to take higher education in Art and Design including courses at the Ruskin School of Fine Art at Oxford University and The University of Arts, London, then aim to join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, typographers or become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers, photographers to name just a few. For those ambitious to become architects, this is an essential subject choice for university entry.

A Level Component 1: Personal Investigation
- 60% total A Level
- Candidates develop a personal investigation supported by between 1000 and 3000 words

A Level Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
- 40% total A Level
- An exam based assignment set by AQA
- Preparation time + 15 hours supervised time

You will build on experiences gained at GCSE where you will continue to explore and develop your use of materials and associated techniques. Your ideas will be linked closely to extension work and developed through your knowledge of historical and critical studies.

A Level Biology (AQA)

83% A*-C in 2026

Head of Department: Dr O Richards

A Level Biology is usually taken by:

• Students who wish to pursue a career in Science, Medicine or Dentistry, either after a course in higher education or after completing A Level studies. In this case it is usually studied with at least one other A Level Science subject.

• Students who enjoy Biology but do not wish to study Biology at a higher level. In this case it may be studied in conjunction with any other A Level subject.

The topic areas studied are:

Year 12
1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchanging substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

You are required to complete twelve specified practical investigations for A Level Biology and your understanding of practical Biology will be assessed in the written examinations.

A Level Biology students attend a residential field study course in September of Year 13. Essential practical skills are experienced and developed and are essential for the assessment of these. You are supported throughout the course by a team of highly experienced subject specialists who provide one-to-one support, additional tutorials, subject clinics and revision sessions. All subject staff are also experienced AQA examiners.

Students are also provided with the opportunity to participate in a variety of extension activities including: museum visits, practical DNA workshops, zoo visits, Biology Olympiad and lecture events.

The course is completely assessed in three exam papers sat at the end of Year 13. There is no Non-Examined Assessment in the Biology course however you must also show competence across the twelve required practical assignments.

Further information is available on the school website or from Dr. Richards.

A Level Business (Edexcel)

84% A*–B in 2026

Head of Department: Mr D Kearns

The Business and Economics department regularly achieves excellent results and has received awards from the Good Schools Guide for its performance nationally. It is important to note that you do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE in order to take the A Level, and the performance of students is equally impressive regardless of whether or not they took GCSE Business. It is more important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business and economic affairs and a desire to explore new ideas and challenge your views on the world today.

The Edexcel Business syllabus consists of four themed modules; themes 1 & 2 comprise the first year of the A Level course, whilst themes 3 & 4 are only studied in the second year. Themes 1 & 2 introduce entrepreneurial and managerial concepts from generating business ideas and assessing market potential, through financing and start up, to managing and growing a business in the UK market; themes 3 & 4 develop a greater depth of understanding with a focus on strategic decision making, managing change, competitiveness in international markets and global economics. Businesses are the principal source of wealth creation in society and, as such, their performance and management is crucially important. The investigation and study of real-life business lies at the heart of this course which has been designed to analyse the management and behaviour of firms within a competitive market and investigate their interaction with consumers, competitors and government, both domestically and internationally.

The A Level course is examined at the end of Year 13 through three exams – Paper 1 covers themes 1 & 4, Paper 2 covers themes 2 & 3, and Paper 3, which is based on a pre-release context, draws from all themes. The four main areas of study are:

- **Theme 1: Marketing and People**

This theme covers the characteristics you need to develop to be successful in business and how businesses generate and test their ideas through market research to develop an effective marketing mix; it also considers how best to manage people in organisations.

- **Theme 2: Managing Business Activities**

Here we look at the activities in which you may be involved if you were to set up and manage any size of business. It introduces key management tools in Operations and Finance and considers revenue generation and external influences such as competition, the economic climate and the government.

- **Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy**

Through this theme, you will learn how to assess the competitiveness of a business through performance indicators and analyse corporate objectives and strategy; you will also consider the cause and effects of change on business and examine effective risk management.

- **Theme 4: Global Business**

The aim of this theme is to introduce you to the world of international business, global economics and the issues facing multi-national corporations. It covers identifying new markets, global branding and the increasing economic power of China and India.

Accepted by all the major universities, including Oxbridge and LSE, as a foundation for further Business or Economics studies, the course examines the link between theoretical perspective and successful business decision-making. Business subjects are now the most popular courses at university, and their graduates command some of the highest salaries. They open the door to careers in management, sales and marketing, accountancy and finance, economics, human resources and the most prestigious and highly sought after graduate career, management consultancy.

A Level Chemistry (AQA)

86% A*-C in 2026

Head of Department: Mr T Parker

Chemistry is an essential science in modern society, alongside Biology and Physics. As well as being the foundation for further study in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Environmental Science, Polymer and Colour Chemistry and much more, it is also an essential A Level for Veterinary Science, Medicine and Dentistry. The skills needed to succeed in Chemistry are wide-ranging; from the analysis of data through to the synthesis of ideas. Chemists, therefore, have many transferrable skills which may lead to careers in Law, Personnel, Management and Finance.

We have chosen to follow the AQA A Level specification because it complements our Science course at GCSE and builds on the concepts of 'How Science Works' that ensure relevance to contemporary issues.

AQA A Level is a natural progression from the GCSE course and so there are many recognisable topics that are taken a stage further. Some, such as atomic structure, are studied in greater detail while others, such as equilibria, broaden the GCSE experience and use mathematics so that qualitative understanding becomes more quantitative. One of the biggest content differences at A Level is the increase in the amount of organic chemistry. This includes many more functional groups, an understanding of the mechanisms of reactions, and synthetic routes that create much more complex molecules with medicinal uses.

To take Chemistry A Level, you must achieve at least one grade 7 or above in GCSE Combined Sciences or GCSE Chemistry, and a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Maths, although grade 7 is strongly recommended.

Content Overview

The course is split into 3 areas:

Physical Chemistry - including topics such as Bonding, Redox, Kinetics, Equilibria, Acids and Bases, Thermodynamics and Electrode Potentials

Inorganic Chemistry - comprising of topics such as Periodicity, Group II, Group VII, Period 3, Transition Metals and Aqueous Ions.

Organic Chemistry - consisting of topics such as Nomenclature, Isomerism, Alkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Aldehydes & Ketones, Aromatic Chemistry, Amines, Amino Acids, Proteins & DNA. There is also a focus on spectroscopic techniques such as NMR and Infra Red Spectrometry.

The course is assessed in three 2-hour examinations at the end of Year 13. Additionally, students must demonstrate practical competency in twelve assessed experiments across the course.

A Level Computer Science (OCR)

75% A*-C in 2026

Head of Department: Mr S Verma

Computing is offered at A Level. This course focuses on the computing aspects and programming.

Students will study aspects of theory as well as how to program using Python, C# and Unity.

The structure of the course will take the following format:

Paper 1: **Computer Systems**
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Processors, input and output devices

Paper 2: **Algorithms & Programming (C# & Unity)**
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Paper 3 : **Programming Project (C#, Unity, Godot & Python)**
This unit will assess the student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained from the programming language that they have learnt. They will then investigate a practical problem and solve it using the programming language.

A summary of each unit can be seen below:

Paper 1 (Written exam,140 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A-level)
This paper tests a student's ability to program as well as their theoretical knowledge of Computer Science.

Paper 2 (Written exam,140 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A-level)
This paper will test a student's ability to answer subject content listed above under Paper 2.

Paper 3 (Project, 70marks marks, 20% of A-level)
An exam board set project must be completed within the allocated time and will be assessed via class teachers in school.

This course is ideal preparation for any computing-based course at university.

A Level Economics (Edexcel - Spec A)

88% A*-B in 2026

Head of Department: Mr D Kearns

Economics is about choice and the impact that our choices have on each other; it relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families, to the world fashioned by governments and businesses. An economic way of thinking can help everyone make better choices.

To study A Level Economics, it is important to note that you do not have to have studied any Business oriented subject at GCSE, however, a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and 6 in English Language is required; you should also have a keen interest in the world in which you live, the ability to think logically and clearly, and you should enjoy healthy debate where you challenge conventional thinking by researching evidence from which you form your own judgements. Economists often hold differing views on fundamental issues such as employment, price levels, taxation, international trade and poverty and it is this controversy that makes Economics lively and interesting. Economics does require a level of mathematical ability and, because of the nature of the course, you must be comfortable working with numbers, formulae and graphs.

The A Level course is examined at the end of Year 13 through three exams – Paper 1 covers themes 1 & 3, Paper 2 covers themes 2 & 4, and Paper 3 draws from all themes.

Year 12 - **Theme 1**: Markets and Market Failure
This theme introduces the nature of economics and examines how the price mechanism allocates resources in markets, exploring market failure and its potential remedies, and the application of Supply and Demand analysis to real-world situations.
Year 12 - Theme 2: The UK Economy – Performance & Policies
Here, we look at the key measures of economic performance and the objectives and strategies of economic policy. We assess demand and supply-side policies in managing the economy, predicting the impact of such policies and arguing for different approaches and identifying criteria for success.

Year 13 - **Theme 3**: Business Behaviour and Labour Markets
The aim of this theme is to analyse pricing and output decisions in differing contexts, examining the impact of the number and size of firms in a market on the nature of competition, and exploring the concept of government intervention to promote competitive markets.
Year 13 - Theme 4: A Global Perspective
The application, analysis and evaluation of economic models is central to this theme, as well as the ability to assess policies used to deal with economic problems such as poverty and inequality. An awareness of trends and developments in the global economy over the past 10 years will be developed.

Understanding Economics lies at the heart of understanding the world in which we live; the understanding of how individuals, businesses, governments and countries behave and the effect of their behaviour on others within our increasingly globalised society. Our study is clearly focussed on the real world, using the current economic, political and social landscape to illustrate the influence of economic models on decision-makers the world over.

A well regarded, traditional, academic subject, Economics is the cornerstone of successful, highly paid careers in multi-national corporations, government, global NGOs, international finance and law, industry analysis, and environmental/sociological consultancy. Please note that for study at university, Mathematics is often required, but not always, as a complementary A Level.

A Level English Language (AQA)

93% A*-C in 2026

Head of Department: Miss L Derby

A Level English Language explores the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on your ability to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use. Language is seen as a creative tool for expression and social connection, as well as for individual cognition. The study of language as a symbolic system used to assert power in society is also fundamental to the scope of this course. You will create texts and reflect critically on your own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society: 2h 30m – 40% of A Level
The aim of this part of the course is to introduce you to language study, exploring textual variety and children's language development. It introduces you to methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation. It also introduces you to the study of children's language development, exploring how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change: 2h 30m – 40% of A Level
The aim of this area of study is to allow you to explore language diversity and change over time. You will study the key concepts of audience, purpose,genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and historical contexts. You will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires you to study social attitudes to, and debates about, language diversity and change.

Language Investigation & Original Writing – Non-Exam Assessment: Language in Action – 20% of A Level
The aim of this area of study is to allow you to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon your own writing expertise. It requires you to carry out two different kinds of individual research:

1. Language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)
2. Original writing and commentary (750 words each)

What transferable skills does English Language promote?
Employers want people with proven motivation, intelligence, and ability to work independently. An English Language A Level shows that you have all of these qualities. Additionally, the ability to communicate is very valuable for almost any job. Studying English Language teaches you how to write clearly and effectively, which is required in most careers, for example when giving presentations and seminar discussions. You will also develop your ability to understand and express sophisticated ideas and theories. That ability to read, reflect, and critique – and then synthesise conclusions clearly – is essential to most kinds of work – as is the ability to construct and defend an argument.

To which careers does English Language lend itself?
In essence any career that requires good communication skills, analysis, inference and argument – i.e. virtually all careers. But the typical destinations of English Language students include: management, administration, teaching and other education work, writing, publishing, PR, journalism, speech and language therapy.

A Level English Literature (AQA - Spec B)

92% A*-C in 2026

Head of Department: Miss L Derby

Genre study is at the heart of English Literature B and we explore the genre of tragedy and political and social protest. Working with genre involves looking at the ways authors shape meanings within their texts. It also involves thinking about a range of relevant contexts, some to do with the production of the text at the time of its writing, some to do with how the text has been received over time, and how the text can be interpreted by readers now. Looking at texts as generic works involves connecting individual texts with others, as the whole idea of genre is a connective one. Because genres and their qualities are not fixed, this means interpretation is not fixed and that multiple interpretations are possible.

Literary Genres Exam – 40% - Aspects of Tragedy
At the core of all the set texts is a tragic hero or heroine who is flawed in some way, who suffers and causes suffering to others and in all texts there is an interplay between what might be seen as villains and victims. Some tragic features will be more in evidence in some texts than in others and students will need to understand how particular aspects of the tragic genre are used and how they work in the three chosen texts.

Texts and Genres Exam – 40% - Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing
Although it could be claimed that all texts are political, what defines the texts here is that they have issues of power and powerlessness at their core, with political and social protest issues central to each text's struture. The political and social protest genre covers representations of both public and private settings. All set texts foreground oppression and domination and they all look at the cultures we live in and have lived in over time.

Theory and independence Coursework – 20%
This component is designed to allow students to read widely, to choose their own texts and to understand that contemporary study of literature needs to be informed by the fact that different theoretical and critical methods can be applied to the subject. This area of the course provides a challenging and wide-ranging opportunity for an introduction to different ways of reading texts and for independent study. The title 'Theory and independence' highlights the important idea that, within a literature course, students should have the opportunity to work as independently as possible. This process is supported by the AQA Critical anthology, which has accessible extracts on the following critical methods and ideas:

- narrative theory
- feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- eco-critical theory
- post-colonial theory
- literary value and the canon

In this component, students write about two different literary texts. One of the texts must be a poetry text and the other must be prose.

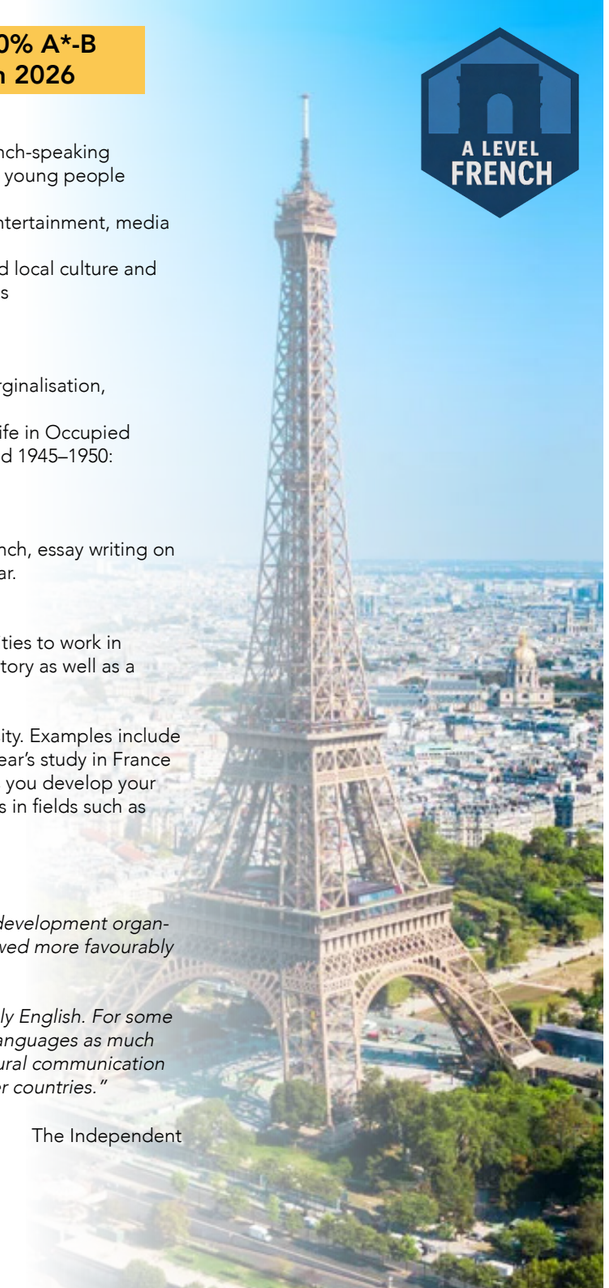
What transferable skills does Literature provide?
Employers want people with motivation, intelligence, and the ability to work independently. An English Literature degree demonstrates these qualities. The ability to communicate is very valuable for almost any job. Studying English Literature teaches you how to write clearly and effectively, required for example when giving presentations and seminar discussions.

To which careers does Literature lend itself?
In essence any career that requires good communication skills, analysis, inference and argument – i.e. virtually all careers. But the typical destinations of Literature students include: management, administration, teaching and other education work, writing, publishing, PR and journalism.

A Level French (Eduqas)

Head of Department: Mr M Bridge

100% A*-B in 2026



Year 12
Year 12 offers you the opportunity to learn more about life in France and French-speaking countries by studying authentic French material covering issues of interest to young people today:

- Contemporary youth culture including personal identity, trends, entertainment, media and digital culture, and youth sub-cultures
- Travel and exploration including working and studying abroad, and local culture and festivals in France and French-speaking countries and communities

Year 13
You will learn about:

- Diversity including migration and integration, cultural identity, marginalisation, enrichment, discrimination and celebrating difference
- France 1940–1950: The Occupation and post-war years including life in Occupied France and the cultural dimension (théâtre, cinéma, littérature), and 1945–1950: rebuilding and restructuring

Skills developed and assessed at French A Level
Speaking spontaneously, listening and reading, translation from and into French, essay writing on both a film and a literary text, and a deeper understanding of French grammar.

French classes and beyond
You will usually be taught in small classes of up to 12 students with opportunities to work in smaller groups or pairs. The Languages Faculty has a digital language laboratory as well as a French assistant to give weekly conversation practice to each of you.

French A Level provides access to many combined degree courses at university. Examples include French and Law, and French with Business Studies. Many of these involve a year's study in France and lead to a variety of exciting career prospects. Studying French also helps you develop your skills in English – essay writing, for example – so is highly desirable for careers in fields such as Law, Journalism, Advertising and Teaching.

Languages and employers

"Employers ranging from law firms to multinational banks, to major aid and development organisations confirmed that applicants with languages were, at the very least, viewed more favourably than those without."

"Some state categorically, that they would not employ people who spoke only English. For some companies, the specific languages were immaterial: they saw students with languages as much more flexible and adaptable, more likely to appreciate the need for intercultural communication skills and more able to build relationships with counterparts or clients in other countries."

The Independent

A Level Geography (OCR - H481)

Head of Department: Ms C Bramwell

90% A*-B in 2026

Year 12
Physical Systems (Unit 1) Glaciated Landscapes

- Factors affecting the landscape
- Landform development
- Influence of climate change
- Impact of human activity

Geographical Debate (Unit 3)
This is a second debate topic and is based on another contemporary topic
The Future of Food:

- Defining food security and assessing current trends
- Causes of food insecurity
- Globalisation of the food industry
- Impacts of food insecurity
- Opportunities and solutions

Human Interactions (Unit 2)
Changing Spaces; Making Places:

- Two contrasting places at a local scale
- How place is understood and represented
- Economic change and social inequality
- What contributes to creation of place

Geographical Debate (Unit 3): Disease Dilemas:
This topic allows debate on a number of features of disease e.g.:

- the role economic development plays in the world pattern of disease
- how weather hazards influence disease
- whether disease can be eradicated

Both written papers have a separate resource booklet and contain a mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Year 13
Physical Systems (Unit 1) – Earth's Life Support Systems
Requiring the study of the following:

- The importance of water and carbon to life on earth
- Case studies of Tropical Rainforest and Arctic Tundra
- Changes over time
- Links and interdependence between the carbon & water cycles

Human Interactions (Unit 2) – Global Connections: Option B – Global Migration

- Dynamic flows of people
- International migration and socio-economic development
- Refugees
- Economic migrants
- Case studies

Option C – Human Rights

- What are human rights
- Patterns of human rights violations
- Gender inequalities & case study of women's rights
- Governance and human rights organisations

Independent Investigation (Unit 4)
In this extended study you independently research a topic from those already studied in class. You set the issue to be investigated and use skills, primary and secondary data to investigate the issue- it is worth 20% of the overall A level.

At the end of Year 13, you sit 3 written exams:
Unit 1 from Year 12 and 13 together with skills; it is 1 hour 30 minutes long and worth 22% of the total. Another tests Unit 2 from Year 12 and 13 together with skills and this too is 1 hour 30 minutes long and worth 22% of the total. The third paper is worth 36% of the total and is longer, at 2 hours 30 minutes. It tests knowledge and understanding of both Unit 3 debate topics. The remaining 20% comes from the independent investigation.

Fieldwork
This is integral to both Year 12 and Year 13 – with at least 4 days over the course.
OCR request that fieldwork is carried out for Units 1 and 2 so there will be an opportunity to carry out physical and human fieldwork; your independent investigation could be based in part on one of these fieldwork opportunities.



A Level German (Eduqas)

Head of Department: Mrs R Chadwick

100% A*-B in 2026

The A Level German course offers the opportunity to learn more about life in Germany and other German-speaking countries, by studying authentic German material covering issues of interest to young people today:

- Travel and exploration of the wider world, including working and studying abroad, and local culture and festivals in Germany and German-speaking countries and communities
- Contemporary youth culture, including personal identity, trends, entertainment, media and digital culture, and youth sub-cultures
- Diversity and tolerance, including migration and integration and cultural identity
- The making of modern Germany from 1989 onwards, and the initial and subsequent process of reunification and social cohesion in present-day Germany. The economic impact of a united Germany

Our students are usually taught in groups of up to 12, with opportunities to work in smaller groups or pairs. The Languages Faculty has a digital language laboratory with IT facilities for individual and independent study. We are also lucky enough to have a German Assistant to give weekly conversation practice and support.

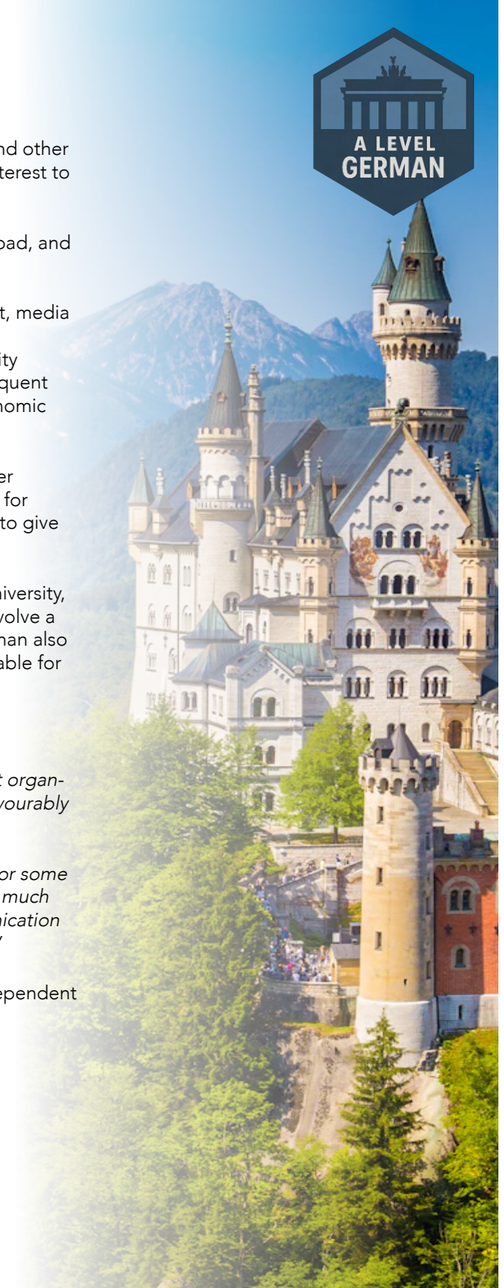
German A Level provides access to many interesting and combined degree courses at university, including German and Law, and German with Business Studies. Many of these courses involve a year's study in Germany, and lead to a variety of exciting career prospects. Studying German also helps you develop your skills in English – essay writing, for example, which is highly desirable for careers in fields such as Law, Journalism, Advertising and Teaching.

Languages and employers

"Employers ranging from law firms to multinational banks, to major aid and development organisations confirmed that applicants with languages were, at the very least, viewed more favourably than those without."

"Some state categorically, that they would not employ people who spoke only English. For some companies, the specific languages were immaterial: they saw students with languages as much more flexible and adaptable, more likely to appreciate the need for intercultural communication skills and more able to build relationships with counterparts or clients in other countries."

The Independent



A Level Government & Politics (Edexcel)

Head of Department: Mr P Corrigan

100% A*-C in 2026

Why study Government and Politics?
Government and Politics is a well respected A Level course accepted at all of the top universities. The course is designed to develop a wider understanding of the role of politics in the modern world, from the philosophical origins of the concept of the modern state to the internal workings of the state itself. It is also designed to encourage debate on the key issues affecting the UK today such as the EU and electoral reform. Through these issues you are able to develop both your written and oral communication skills. You are also encouraged to form your own political opinions and express them through persuasive argument.
The course also aims to improve your independent research skills and teach you to view various sources of information with a critical eye.

Due to the wide range of skills being developed, Government and Politics is compatible with a wide variety of other subject options. It links in particularly well with humanities-based options such as History, Geography, Sociology, and Business Studies as well as less obvious subjects such as Maths and Environmental Sciences. Government and Politics is also useful in a variety of career paths such as Business, Law, the Civil Service and Journalism, as well as the study of academic subjects such as History.

Course Overview
A Level Politics consists of three components, each assessed by a 2 hour examination.

Component 1: UK Politics
This comprises two sections. The first will cover Political Participation. You will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. The second section involves the study of the core political ideas of Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism.

Component 2: UK Government
This also comprises two sections and will involve studying the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and the executive, and the relationship between the different branches of government. In the second section you will study one of the following optional political ideas: anarchism, nationalism, feminism, multiculturalism or ecologism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics – USA
This paper involves the study of the US Constitution, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation and civil rights. Questions will focus on comparing the UK and US political systems.



A Level History (AQA)

Head of Department: Dr M McPartland

96% A*-C in 2026

UNIT 1: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603–1702
This option allows you to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How far did the monarchy change?
- To what extent and why was power more widely shared during this period?
- Why and with what results were there disputes over religion?
- How effective was opposition?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

Part One: Absolutism Challenged: Britain, 1603–1649
Monarchs and Parliaments, 1603–1629
Revolution, 1629–1649

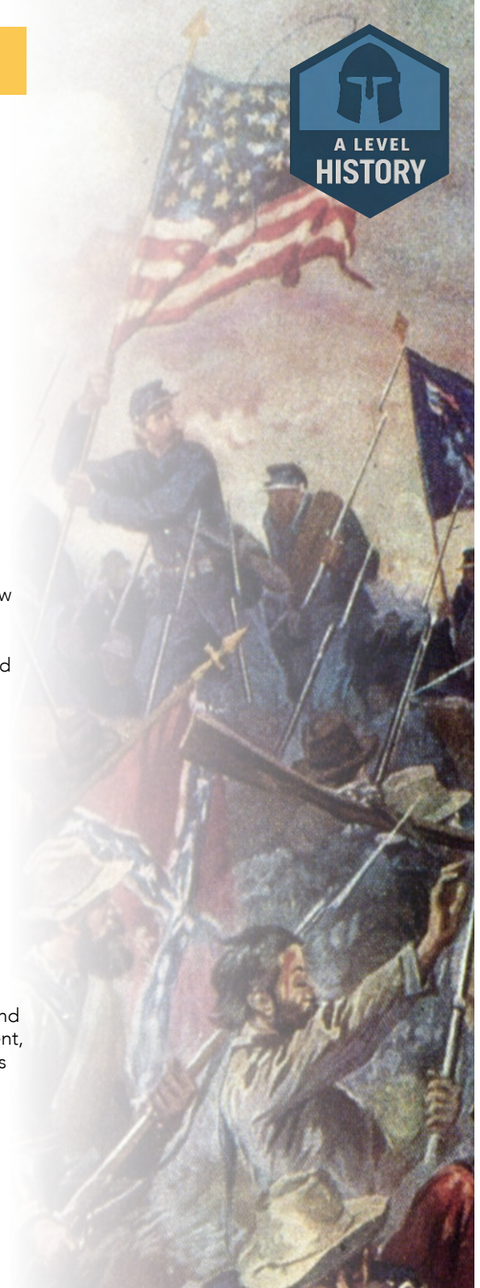
Part Two: Monarchy restored and restrained: Britain, 1649–1702
From Republic to Restored and Limited Monarchy, 1649–1678
The Establishment of Constitutional Monarchy, 1678–1702

UNIT 2: America: A Nation Divided, c1845–1877
This option provides for the study of a period of major change in American history, which saw the disintegration of the country into Civil War, demanding a subsequent reconstruction. It explores concepts such as political authority, abolitionism and social justice. It also encourages you to consider what creates social tension and harmony, the idea of nationhood and the issues surrounding political compromise.

Part One: The origins of the American Civil War, c1845–1861
North and South in c1845
Attempts to maintain the Union, c1845–1854
The outbreak of Civil War, 1854–1861

Part Two: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861–1877
The War, 1861–1865
Early Reconstruction, 1865–1867
Radical Reconstruction, 1867–1877

UNIT 3: Coursework module: African-American Civil Rights 1877–1980
This module is an investigation of the black struggle for equality in the USA from the end of reconstruction to the 1980s. It examines the role of individuals such as Martin Luther King and Booker T Washington in that struggle as well as the role of the federal government (President, Congress and Supreme Court). You select a question which encompasses the whole 90 years and you write a 4500 word essay for assessment in the summer of Year 13.



A Level Mathematics (Edexcel)

Head of Department: Mrs G Kelly

**55% A*-A
75% A*-B
in 2026**

The two year course comprises of ten one hour lessons per fortnight and is taught exclusively by Maths specialists; we are proud that the Department's expertise allows students to make a seamless transition from GCSE to the A Level course. The popularity of the subject allows us to offer it on multiple option lines.

All examination boards now offer the same 100% core material and this comprises of topics in Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Mathematics topics:
- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Vectors
- Numerical methods

Topics in Statistics:
- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing

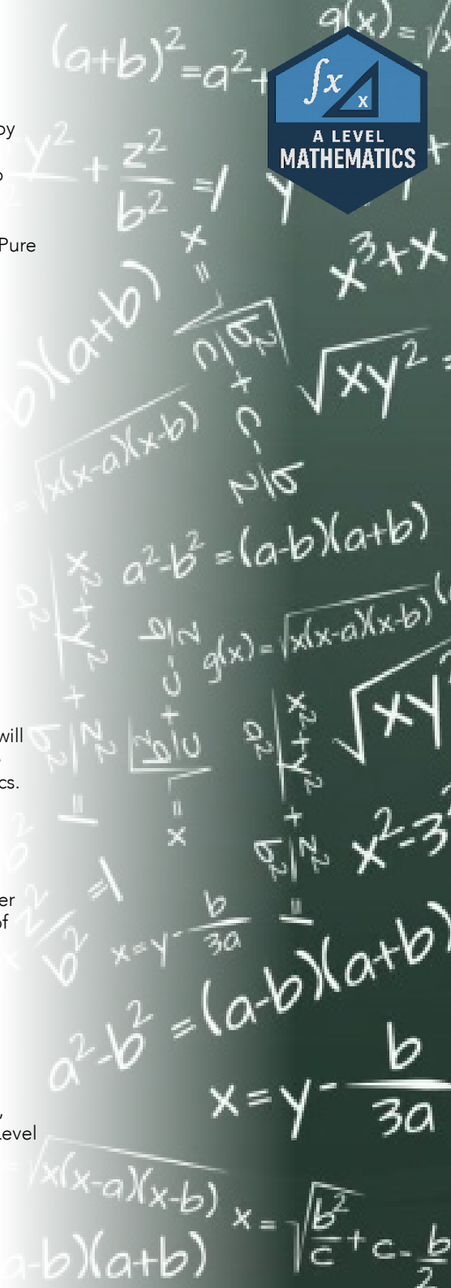
Topics in Mechanics:
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

About two thirds of the work will consist of topics in Pure Mathematics and the remainder will comprise the applications of these to Statistics and Mechanics.

Examinations
Students will sit internal examinations throughout the course and three external examinations will be taken in the summer of Year 13. To reflect the balance of topics studied, these will comprise of two papers in Pure Mathematics and one which will be split between Statistics and Mechanics. Each paper will be worth 100 marks and will take two hours, giving a maximum 300 marks over the 6 hours. Calculators are allowed in all papers.

General
A Level Mathematics is an excellent companion for a wide range of other A Level courses, either for its rigour in supporting the Sciences and Social Sciences or because it offers a logical way of thinking; students who include Biology, the Arts subjects or the Social Sciences in their A Level choices will tend to find that Statistics supports them while
those who choose Physics, or who wish to follow an Engineering career, will find that studying Mechanics complements their studies. Mathematics is highly valued by universities and employers as evidence of students' logical and problem solving abilities.

Entry requirements
For entry to Mathematics at A Level, the minimum requirement is a Grade 7 obtained at GCSE, however a grade 8 or 9 is desirable as this creates a stronger foundation to build on for the A Level course. GCSE topics will become the baseline for the A Level course.



A Level Further Mathematics (Edexcel)

95% A*-B in 2026

Head of Department: Mrs G Kelly

For students taking A Level Mathematics, it is possible to also opt for A Level Further Mathematics. All examination boards offer the same 50% core material and we have chosen Edexcel's A Level in Further Mathematics.

Further Pure Mathematics Topics:

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

Building on A Level Mathematics, we have chosen to offer:

Further Statistics topics:

- Discrete probability distributions
- Poisson, binomial and geometric distributions
- Hypothesis testing
- Central limit theorem
- Chi squared tests
- Probability generating functions
- Quality of tests.

Topics in Further Mechanics:

- Momentum and impulse
- Work, Energy and Power
- Elastic strings and springs
- Elastic collisions in one and two dimensions

This is an exciting course which means that up to two thirds of the total A Level time will be Mathematics; applicants will need to really enjoy and be committed to the subject in order to make this a viable option. It is especially important that prospective Further Mathematics candidates discuss their intentions with their Mathematics teacher and the Head of Faculty.

Examinations

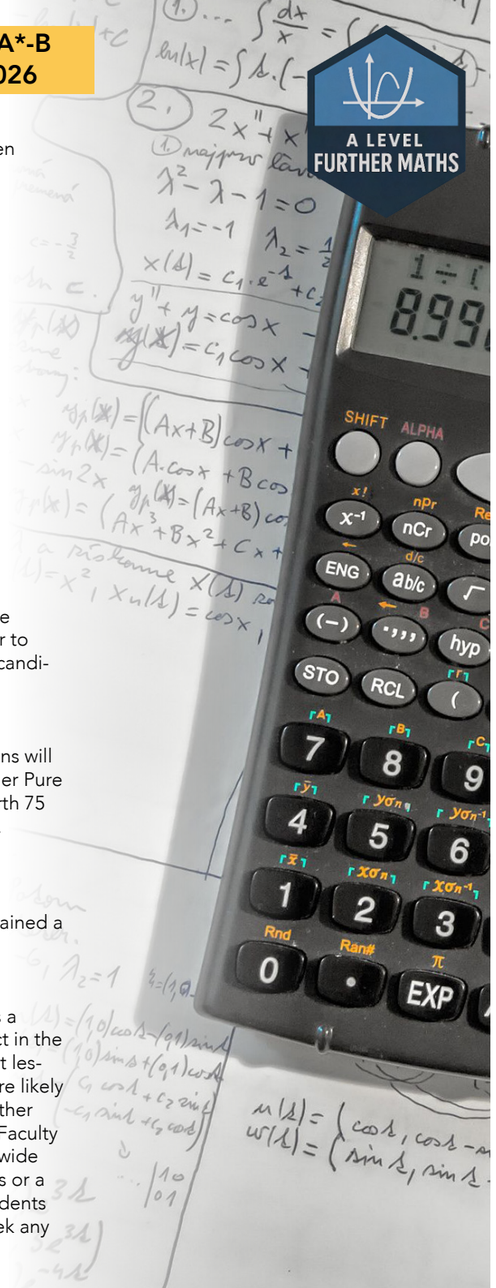
Students will sit internal examinations throughout the course and four external examinations will be taken in the summer of Year 13, reflecting the topics studied. Two papers will test Further Pure Mathematics with the remaining two examining the applied topics. Each paper will be worth 75 marks and will take one and a half hours, giving a maximum of 300 marks over the 6 hours. Calculators will be allowed in all papers.

Entry requirements

Because of the extra demands, if you wish to take Further Mathematics you should have gained a Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE.

General

Homework is set after every lesson in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics and it is a requirement of the course that this is completed punctually. Mathematics is a linear subject in the more general sense, so that homeworks are necessary to the understanding of subsequent lessons and ultimately to success at this level. Only students with a good homework record are likely to succeed. The above information provides guidelines only. Any student who requires further information on any aspect of these courses should consult a member of the Mathematics Faculty who will be happy to advise. Mathematics is equally suitable for girls and boys studying a wide range of other A Level subjects and successful former students have studied Arts, Sciences or a combination of both. The Mathematics Faculty has a proven reputation for supporting students at all levels and both encourages and expects that sixth formers will use their free time seek any help that they need.



A Level Physical Education (AQA)

100% A*-A in 2026

Head of Department: Mr M Bradshaw

Physical Education provides a course of study that expands on many ideas and concepts alreac encountered at Key Stage 4 and a natural progression for candidates who have additionally studied GCSE Physical Education.

It provides a transition for those intending to go on to further study and provides a balanced broad based course worthwhile in its own right.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

- *Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology*
- *Section B: Skill acquisition*
- *Section C: Sport and society*

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 2 hours 35% of A Level

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

- *Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics*
- *Section B: Sport psychology*
- *Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport*

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 2 hours 35% of A Level

Practical Performance: 30% of A Level

What's assessed?

You are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. To be a strong candidate for A Level PE it is essential you participate in a suitable sporting activitiy at a high level. Written/verbal analysis of performance is also an important aspect of the A Level.



A Level Physics (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr R Murray

85% A*-C in 2026

The A Level course follows AQA Specification, with sections 1 to 5 taught in Year 12 and sectic 6 to 9 taught in Year 13.

1: Measurements and their uncertainties
Practical work is very important in Physics and will be studied in all sections of the course. At least 12 practical activities are identified by AQA, and these will be tested in exams.

2: Particle Physics and quantum concepts
This introduces you to exciting new ideas in Physics, such as, quarks, leptons and conservation laws. Quantum concepts include the photoelectric effect, energy levels in the atoms with photon emission and wave-particle duality.

3: Waves
This covers interference of light, diffraction, refraction of light, total internal reflection and fibre optics.

4: Mechanics
Vectors and their treatment are introduced followed by a development of energy, forces and motion. Materials are considered in terms of their bulk properties and tensile strength.

5: Electricity
A full practical study of this topic is undertaken, including important applications, such as resistivity and superconductivity.

6: Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
This unit considers the link between oscillations, waves and circular motion via simple harmonic motion. Thermal aspects of ideal gases are studied, including molecular kinetic theory which is studied in depth.

7: Fields and their consequences
Key applications of fields are developed, including satellite motion, capacitors, transformers and alternating current generators. A quantitative study of fields explores gravitation, magnetism and electric fields.

8: Nuclear Physics
This section covers radioactive decay and nuclear densities. It builds on the work of particles and radiation to link the properties of the nucleus to the production of nuclear power.

9: Option topic
We study 'Astrophysics', which considers hov telescopes magnify distant objects, develops understanding of stars and galaxie and explores our current understanding of the universe, black holes, neutron stars and dark energy.

The A Level course is assessed through three 2 hour exams. Paper 1 focuses on sections 1-5, Paper 2 focuses on sections 6-8, and Paper 3 is on the optional module.

Good mathematical skills are a pre-requisite for the course and a minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is expected. Clearly it is an advantage to study Mathematics at A Level but this is not essential and the Physics department provides extra help for those students who don't.

Practical work is an important part of the course and you are trained to become proficient in using a wide variety of scientific apparatus. This rewarding and enjoyable aspect of the course is designed to reinforce theoretical work and is assessed by the required practical tasks and subsequent questions in the final examination paper.

A Level Physics is clearly important for further study in Science and Engineering subjects, but i also highly regarded by employers and can provide a route to more diverse areas of further education and employment. As such, career opportunities arising from Physics qualifications are numerous and wide-ranging.



A Level Psychology (AQA)

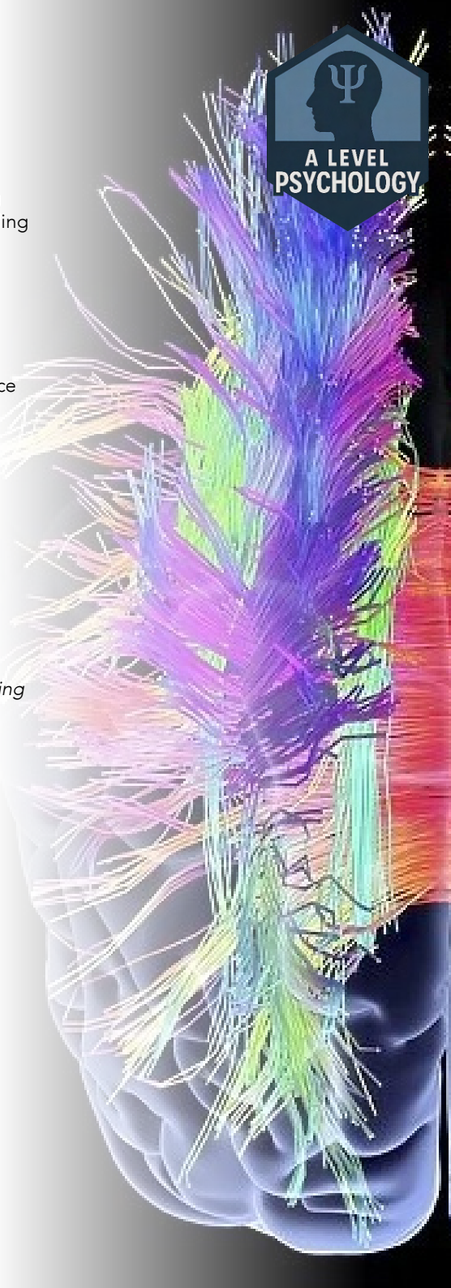
Head of Department: Mrs B Dooley

87% A*-B in 2026

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?
Psychology is the '**scientific** study of people', how they think, act and interact. Psychology is concerned with all aspects of behaviour and the thoughts, feelings and motivations underlying such behaviour. As well as exploring human behaviour, psychologists also use their understanding to help people with difficulties and bring about change for the better.

Why Study Psychology?
- It is an **academic**, well-respected subject
- It is interesting – what you learn on the course will make you think very differently about yourself and the world you live in
- For career opportunities – the understanding and analysis of human behaviour and experience is relevant to most fields, especially those oriented towards people
- You will gain transferable skills such as numeracy, problem solving, communication and practical ones such as how to conduct and write up research
- It is classified as a **science** subject by universities and accepted for courses in dentistry, medicine, and veterinary science.

COURSE CONTENT TOPICS COVERED
Key Approaches in Psychology: *Biopsychology, Biological, Behaviourism, Social Learning Theory, Humanism, Cognitive & Psychodynamic.*
Physiological Psychology: *The genetic basis of behaviour & study of the nervous system and the brain.*
Research Methods: *Planning research, experimental & non-experimental methods, representing data, descriptive statistics and ethics.*
Clinical Psychology & Mental Health: *Definitions of abnormality, with a focus on anxiety disorders such as OCD & Phobias. Explanations & Treatment of these conditions.*
Social Influence: *Types of Conformity and explanations for it, obedience and disobedience. Minority influence and resistance to social influence.*
Memory: *Models of memory and explanations of forgetting and eyewitness testimony.*
Attachment: *Infant-caregiver interactions, explanations of attachment, the effects of institutionalisation and the influence of attachment on childhood and adult relationships.*
Stress: *The physiology of stress and stress management.*
Forensic Psychology: *Offender profiling, explaining criminality and treatment of offenders.*
Gender: *The role of chromosomes and hormones in determining sex and gender. Psychological & Biological explanations of gender development; atypical gender development and sex-role stereotypes.*
Issues and Debates in Psychology: *Freewill vs. determinism; nature-nurture; holism vs. reductionism; idiographic vs. nomothetic; psychology & science*



A Level Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (OCR)

100% A*-B in 2026

Head of Department: Miss H Stedman

You are encouraged to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. It is open to anyone with a commitment to intellectual inquiry, academic study and a willingness to engage with, understand and challenge arguments. This thought-provoking course is designed to develop your understanding of the modern world and establish a deeper knowledge and appreciation of world religious thought. The emphasis is on enabling you to respond critically and engage with a wealth of philosophical, ethical and religious concepts, equipping you with analytical skills that are readily transferable. Religion, Philosophy & Ethics is a recognised qualification for entry onto many academic courses in Higher Education.

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS & DEVELOPMENTS IN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Year 12

1. Philosophy of Religion – this addresses the philosophical issues that arise from at tempts to describe and explain the nature of God, the evidence used to prove or disprove his existence, the problem for believers with the reality of evil, and the relationship between the mind, body and soul. Questions such as 'Is there life after death?' and 'What can we learn from religious experiences?'are also addressed.

2. Religion and Ethics – this addresses the issues of what we believe to be right and wrong and how and why we reach those judgments by exploring normative ethical theories such as Natural Law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism. These theories are then applied to two issues of importance: Euthanasia and Business Ethics, allowing you to explore contemporary issues and deepen your understanding of the ethical theories.

3. Developments in Religious Thought – in this component, you have the opportunity to undertake a systematic study of key concepts within the development of Christian thought. You will explore religious beliefs, values and teachings, the interconnection between moral principle and moral action, how they have developed historically and how they are presently discussed in relation to contemporary social issues

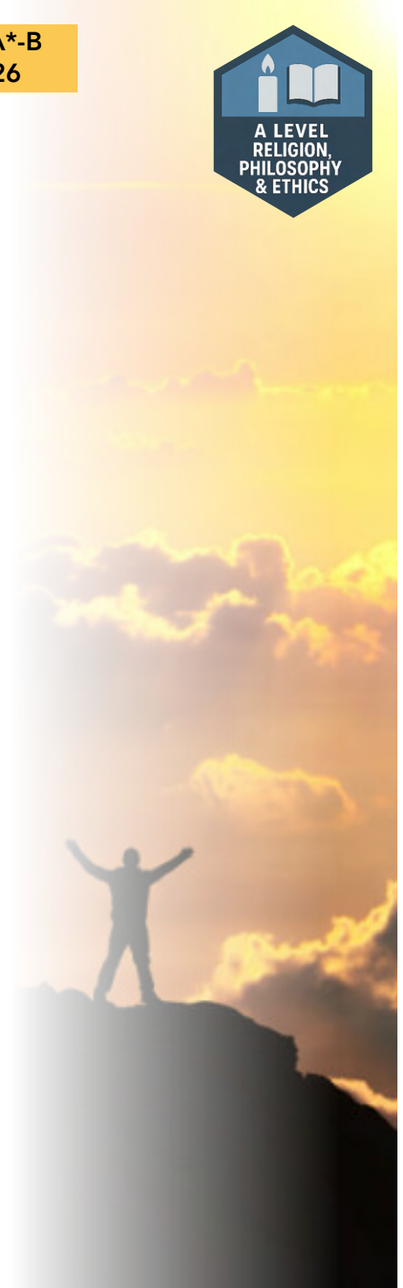
Year 13

1. Philosophy of Religion – In addition to Year 12 component 1, the focus shifts to the language used to express religious beliefs and values and the nature of God in Judeo-Christian thinking.

2. Religion and Ethics – In addition to Year 12 component 2, the focus is on the study of Ethical language. You will explore key concepts and the influence of key thinkers, you will study the idea of conscience and these will be applied to Sexual Ethics.

3. Developments in Religious Thought – In addition to Year 12 component 3, the focus shifts on to the challenge of secularism to Christianity, the consideration of religious pluralism and theology as well as religious pluralism and society and how some Christians have responded to secularism.

You are assessed by written examination in which you attempt essay-style questions.



A Level Sociology (AQA)

100% A*-B in 2026

Head of Department: Miss L Matthews

Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to media, from the family to the state and from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture. It raises questions such as "How does the media influence our behaviour?" and "Why do people commit crimes?" It is not a subject that provides quick answers but it helps you think about the underlying issues. Sociology makes you look at the world in new ways and challenge existing ideas.

Progression routes

Employers, training providers and universities accept Sociology qualifications at this level as an entry qualification. The A Level qualification may lead to:

- Undergraduate study in a wide range of social sciences, humanities or vocational subjects. Popular degree courses our students progress to study include Law and Criminology.
- A wide range of career options, including law, policing, social work and social care, public relations, politics, journalism, teaching and management, amongst others.The list is endless, as you learn a range of research and communication skills which are highly valued in today's workplace.

In Sociology you also acquire generic skills as you progress through the course. For example:

- Critical Thinking i.e. not accepting facts and figures at face value
- Literacy – writing essays, as well as summarising key concepts
- Evaluative and analytical skills
- Research skills
- Communication skills

Year 12

Families and Households – changing patterns of marriage, divorce and cohabitation, power relationships and social policies effecting families.
Research Methods – how sociologists conduct their research and the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations that influence research.
Education – the purpose of education, why certain groups have different rates of achievement within the education system and the relationship between teachers and pupils. You will also look at how sociologists conduct their research into education.

Year 13

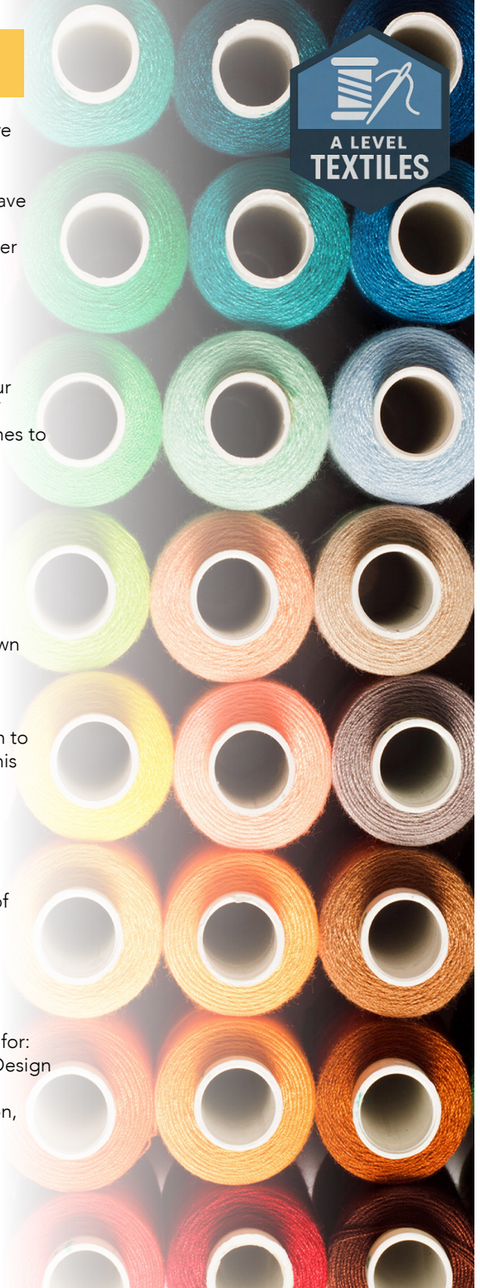
Media – media representations of different groups in society, the impact of the new media and the selection and presentation of the news.
Crime and Deviance – different explanations of why people commit crime, the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, state crime and human rights.
Theory and Methods – examining sociological theories in depth and considering the relationship between sociology and social policy.



A Level Textile Design (AQA)

First Results in 2027!

Head of Department: Miss H Jones



Explore. Create. Innovate.
Step into the exciting world of fashion and textile design at Urmston Grammar School, where creativity meets craftsmanship. This dynamic A Level course allows you to express yourself through a wide variety of materials, techniques, and processes. From embroidery, weaving, crochet, and printmaking to dyeing, fabric manipulation, and garment construction. You'll have the opportunity to develop original outcomes in areas such as fashion design, costume, accessories, and body adornment; all while building the skills and portfolio needed for further study or a creative career.

What is the course about?
This two-year course is perfect for students who are passionate about fashion, textiles, and design. You'll explore a wide range of creative approaches to working with fabric, learning practical skills such as sewing, crocheting, dyeing, and surface decoration. With access to our well-equipped classrooms and one-to-one support, you'll be guided through the process of developing your ideas into final textile or fashion outcomes, from initial concepts and sketches to finished products.

What will I study?
Over the duration of the course, you'll explore key topics and techniques including:
- Creative embroidery – both hand and machine stitching
- Textile printing – applying pattern and imagery through various printing methods
- Fabric manipulation – folding, pleating and distorting materials to create texture form
- Dyeing techniques – experimenting with methods such as tie-dye, dip-dye and more...

Your learning will be project-based, with personalised guidance to help you develop your own style and area of interest.

What do I need to take this subject?
You'll need a strong interest in fashion, textiles, or design, along with creativity and attention to detail. If you haven't studied either at GCSE, we will ask to see a portfolio of creative work this would include drawings, photography, handmade items, or personal design projects.

How can I prepare for this course?
To get ready for A Level Textiles, you can:
- Practice sewing, knitting, or crochet to build your confidence with different materials
- Research the work of fashion designers and textile artists to develop your understanding of design trends and techniques
- Visit galleries, exhibitions, or fashion shows to gain inspiration
- Try small creative projects at home, such as printing or dyeing your own clothing

Where can this course take me?
A Level Textiles opens the door to a wide range of creative futures. It provides a foundation for:
- University degrees in Fashion Design, Textile Design, Costume Design & Surface Pattern Design
- Creative careers such as fashion designer, textile artist, costume designer and stylist

You'll also gain valuable transferable skills in creativity, critical thinking, research, presentation, and project management - all of which are highly regarded in many sectors.

Course Highlights at Urmston Grammar:
- A final End-of-Year Exhibition to showcase your work
- Access to excellent facilities and equipment
- A focus on individual creativity and personalised learning pathways

Subject Option Blocks

We are proud to offer a broad range of A Level courses with many possible combinations of subjects. Our sixth form timetable is split into four blocks and students benefit from 10 hours of teaching per fortnight in each block. When selecting subject options it is only possible to select one subject from each option block.

Our provisional option blocks for September 2027 are below:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Biology	Art*	Biology	Biology
Business	Biology	Business	Chemistry
Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry	Economics
French*	Economics	Computer Science*	Geography*
German*	Maths	English Language*	English Literature*
Maths	PE*	History*	Maths
Further Maths*	Physics	Maths	Physics
Psychology	Politics*	Psychology	Sociology
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	Textiles*		

For subjects shown with a * we are currently planning for there to be only one class for that subject. When completing your application form on Applicaa, if your desired combination of subjects does not fit please select a subject combination that works to submit your application, but then email ***sixthformadmissions@urmstongrammar.org.uk*** to inform us of your preferred subject combination. Most years we are able to adjust some option block combinations to enable as many students as possible to study their preferred subjects.



For further information about our school and sixth form please visit:
www.urmstongrammar.org.uk