

Urmston Grammar



sixth form

Welcome to Urmston Grammar



We are delighted that you are considering pursuing post-16 study here at Urmston Grammar. Becoming a Sixth Form student is a huge decision and Urmston Grammar is an excellent choice.

Join a dynamic and prestigious Grammar School Sixth Form as your steppingstone to the future, and remember: we meet your needs, work for your successes and support you whenever you need advice, guidance or just a helping hand.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant community offering exciting, unique and challenging experiences.

You can read about some of our current and past students' thoughts on life at Urmston Grammar in the speech bubbles throughout this booklet. Here are some to start you off:

The teaching facilities and all the teachers are outstanding at Urmston Grammar Sixth Form. ...Every teacher from every department is willing to take their own time and help you in order to develop your understanding of anything you struggle on. They ensure you have the relevant materials that you need in order to revise and monitor you throughout the year.

AJ, St Antony's

What I especially like about the atmosphere in the Sixth Form is that there are smaller classes so you can get more attention from your teachers and get closer to people who you share classes with.

CW, Urmston Grammar

Teachers are always happy to help even when they are extremely busy. Students are always prioritised and it is easy to build good relationships with teachers due to their support.

HS, Urmston Grammar



Pride, Participation & Empathy



Introduction

Thank you for showing an interest in Urmston Grammar Sixth Form. We believe we are unique in providing our students with inspiration, independence and the qualities necessary to meet the challenges of the future.

Not only do you learn in the classroom, but there are opportunities to extend beyond these walls, be it in the IT suites, the school garden, online communities, Urmston neighbourhood or even worldwide, thanks to visits to Ecuador, Iceland and the French Alps, amongst others. All this can be yours if you choose to join us for success!

The aim of this Information Booklet, is to help you to make two very important decisions:

1. You must be sure that as an individual, you select the best environment to study and one with a proven record of success.
2. The courses you select should be in subjects you are enthusiastic about, areas you are good at and those that will support your future interests and aspirations.

Sixth Form

There are approximately 180 Sixth Form places available in Year 12 at Urmston Grammar. We offer a wide range of A Level courses which lead around 80% of Year 13 into Higher Education. Others pursue a specific career interest and go on to find opportunities in employment, often through apprenticeships where they earn a salary and studying simultaneously. Some students opt to take a well-organised gap year.

If you come to Urmston Grammar, you will have access to high-quality facilities, including a Learning Resource Centre for independent learning, ICT suites – including a suite linked to our Sixth Form Hub (a space for independent study or focused group work) – a free fitness suite, reading library, full size sports hall, astroturf, a lecture theatre, lecture/drama room, many modern science laboratories, a state of the art music facility, and an auditorium in the round. As a Sixth Form student, you will have your own dining room and area for group work in Newton Hall, where you can relax and socialise with friends. Finally, and by no means least, the school's conference facilities, which the Sixth Form use for guest presentations, preparing for the mock trial, post-18 preparation workshops and celebration events, amongst other things.

In addition, we offer the highest level of personal support to all our Sixth Form; we challenge you to find a more committed and caring team of teachers anywhere.

And so: read this information booklet with anticipation and curiosity; we hope it will lead you to conclude that Urmston Grammar Sixth Form is indeed for you, and that this information will help you to choose your A Levels: your steps to your future.





achievement

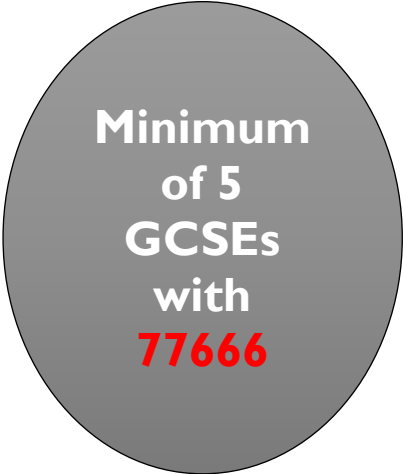


Pride, Participation & Empathy



What GCSE grades do I need to get a place?

The academic requirement for entry into the Sixth Form from September 2024 is a minimum of five GCSE passes: 2 x 7, 3 x 6. You should also have a grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics GCSE, preferably grades signalling a 'top end' performance, and a **minimum Grade 6 in the subjects you want to study** at A Level. See additional academic requirements below.



Minimum
of 5
GCSEs
with
77666

If you wish to study **Mathematics or Music A Level**, we expect you to have achieved a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics or Music respectively.

To take **Chemistry A Level**, we would expect that you achieve a Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or 7,6 in Double Science GCSE. You will also need a minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics, preferably Grade 7.

We suggest that you only take **three Sciences at A Level** if you have a minimum of Grade 7 in two sciences and a Grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE.

If you want to study **Business Studies, Economics, Government & Politics, Psychology or Sociology** but have not had the opportunity to take a GCSE in that subject, you must have at least a Grade 6 in a GCSE subject involving similar skills.

To study **Computer Science**, you need a Grade 6, as in other subjects, and you ideally need to have a minimum of Grade 6 in Mathematics, Grade 7 is preferred.

These requirements should be read in conjunction with the Admissions Policy available from here: [Admissions Policy for the admission of children in September 2024 \(urmstongrammar.org.uk\)](https://urmstongrammar.org.uk)



How many A Levels will I be able to take?

The majority of students will take three subjects, but the most exceptionally able students may be able to select four subjects after discussion with Miss Lingwood, Head of Sixth Form.

Which A Levels will be on offer in September 2024?

The following subjects will be offered* at A Level in September 2024:

- **Art**
- **Biology**
- **Business Studies**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computer Science**
- **Economics**
- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Food & Nutrition (Level 3 Diploma)**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **German**
- **Government & Politics**
- **History**
- **Mathematics and Further Mathematics**
- **Music**
- **Photography**
- **Physical Education**
- **Physics**
- **Psychology**
- **Religion, Philosophy & Ethics**
- **Sociology**

I chose to come to UG because the ratings are very good and my brother came here and recommended it as a great school. The teaching and support are exceptional and the teachers are very helpful. I also find the extra-curricular support such as revision classes useful. The 6th Form is very welcoming and friendly towards newcomers.

KW, Wellacre

Having been here since Year 7 and enjoying the overall environment, staying here was the only choice. The teaching is faultless and outstanding, and the choice of extra-curricular activities is excellent.

EH, Urmston Grammar

See second half of booklet for specifics of each A Level: 'Subjects Offered'

*There may be some restrictions on the combination of subjects available due to the option lines.

The school may withdraw a subject where the number of students opting for it is too low.



When will I take my A Level exams?

All exams will be taken at the end of the two-year course, in the summer of Year 13.

Some courses will include coursework, such as English, Geography and History, or another assessment such as MFL orals, which will be taken prior to the Year 13 summer exam session.

Urmston Grammar provided me with the superb teaching and the support needed to achieve good GCSE grades and thus follow through into Sixth Form. The fact that all of my friends were staying on also gave me an incentive to stay; but it doesn't take long before it feels like all the newcomers have always been here, as it is a very friendly and sociable place to study.

VW, Urmston Grammar

I initially chose to come here because it is close to home and easier to get to school without getting up too early. But I have found that there is a lot of teaching support here and I am able to keep on top of my work.

LG, Flixton Girls'

Urmston Grammar has given me the motivation and determination to go on to further my education.

At the start of the year I settled in quickly, as there is a warm and welcoming atmosphere around this school. I have made the right choice.

SJ, Flixton Girls'



Which A Level 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 bear the following points in mind:

- Some Russell Group universities/courses require a minimum of **two facilitating subjects** to be studied at A Level. If you do not meet these requirements, it may limit your choice of universities, so we would advise that you check on www.informedchoices.ac.uk.
- If you have **no definite career in mind**, then choose the subjects you are most successful in and enjoy. In school, our **Careers Advisor**, Amy Marshall, will meet with every student to support decision-making. Those of you at other schools should arrange an appointment with your Careers Advisor or contact Amy Marshall for additional support when you decide to apply to Urmston Grammar: amarshall@urmstongrammar.org.uk
- For certain careers in **Science**, you will need a complete programme of Science and Mathematics if you want to progress to a degree course in these fields, e.g. Medicine, Engineering, Veterinary Science, Dentistry etc. In general, two science A Levels are essential to gain a place to study a science-based degree, and often (but not always) a Grade 7 in Mathematics is also required. Note also, that some universities may accept Geography or Psychology as a science if you are not applying for a pure Science degree.
- Degrees in Maths, Economics and Engineering sometimes require Further Maths – you must enjoy Maths!
- Some subjects 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 these days, 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.

Urmston Grammar is competitive, but not in a bad way, and it helps me to realise my full potential.

JN, St Bede's



I am still unsure about my choices...

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 Photography or Computer Science as a third A Level.

The best advice is to choose two complementing subjects and one for contrast or interest

Or if your strengths lie on one particular side, go for a complementary choice

Another option is to take a **complementary** subject e.g. if you know you want to take PE and Psychology, you may opt for Biology. Or if you want to do Sociology and Religion, Philosophy & Ethics, you may opt to go for English Literature or Government & Politics.

We suggest that you avoid three essay-based subjects or three 'new' subjects – two will most definitely be a challenge. Please note, three sciences or two sciences plus Maths is equally challenging.

These recommendations are simply to assist the difficult decision-making process and to give you the benefit of our experience.

Fancy something new?
(Not offered at GCSE at UG, or significantly different from the GCSE of the same name)
Why not consider:

Economics
English Language
Government & Politics
Psychology
Sociology

I went to several college open days, but nothing compared to the friendly atmosphere, high standards and fantastic teaching here at Urmston Grammar.

BW, Urmston Grammar



How do I apply to Urmston Grammar?

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

All applications must be made online by **Monday the 15th of January 2024**, hopefully you will then receive your offer. You must accept the offer using the link provided to retain your place.

You must then confirm your enrolment for your A levels on GCSE Results Day.

All students will be seen individually to confirm their subject choices. In exceptional circumstances, such as if you are away on holiday, you will be able to confirm acceptance by email. If you are on holiday or unable to enrol, please email sfenrol@urmstongrammar.org.uk to confirm that you wish to accept the place.

Later in the year will invite you to our Sixth Form Offer Holder Evening, where you will be able to familiarise yourself with the school, gain support with your GCSE revision skills and have an opportunity to ask further questions. You will also be invited to an Induction and Subject Taster Day. These events provide the chance to get to know other students who have been offered a place, meet current students and your future teachers.

Applying as a current UG student

We want to give you time to make your choices. You have had an assembly giving you an overview of the Sixth Form and we now encourage you to discuss your option choices with your subject teachers in more detail before you make your decision. In January, you will have Parents' Evening and the option to discuss your post-16 options with the Head of Sixth Form who will explain the way that you will be supported from the onset of your course and at key stages throughout KS5. If you have any queries, please see Miss Lingwood or one of the Sixth Form team.

I chose to stay at Urmston Grammar because I am familiar with the school and the teachers, and there is excellent support in your subjects which prepares you well for exams. We have become close as a year group and there is a good atmosphere. GB, Urmston Grammar

Applying as a newcomer to UG

Following the submission of your application, your school will be contacted to confirm for your predicted GCSE grades and to provide a reference. If these meet our entry requirements, we will offer you a place. You will receive a reply as soon as we have processed your application.

The reason why I chose Urmston Grammar was because I thought that it would be a school with smaller class sizes and a closer support network. This has definitely been the case and I have benefitted from this environment. Furthermore, I receive the monthly Bursary as financial support, and I was encouraged to apply for the Social Mobility Foundation Aspiring Professionals Programme. Since being accepted, I have received two prestigious work experience placements and additional support and contacts. Anon, Flixton Girls'





Principles



Pride, Participation & Empathy



Careers represented at our Careers Fair include...

- Accountancy
- Apprenticeships
- Army
- Biochemistry/Medical research
- Business
- Dentistry
- Engineering
- Physiotherapy
- Law
- Journalism
- IT
- Landscape Architecture
- Languages – Interpreting
- Marketing
- Media – TV Production
- Medicine
- Midwifery
- Policing
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Teaching
- Veterinary Science

I feel I get great support from all the staff in terms of my courses and helping me get experience.

OK, Urmston Grammar

What I especially like about Urmston Sixth Form is the amount of opportunities available to help boost your level of experience.

JN, St Bede's



Weekly Electives Programme

The Sixth Form Electives Programme provides you with the opportunity to extend and develop your skills beyond A Level study and the usual classroom environment. It is vital that you develop a range of qualities and skills that go beyond academic results to allow you 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 you develop these skills and have relevant examples that you can refer to in your UCAS personal statement and apprenticeship/job applications.

The Sixth Form Electives Programme will enable you to:

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

You will be expected to complete 2 or 3 activities during the year. These can include community service, work experience and sports, as well as learning new skills.

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

At the end of the year a report is compiled based on staff observations at the placement itself. These reports are used when Higher Education or employment references are written and depending on your commitments can be very persuasive when added to your qualifications.

Weekly Community Work Experience Placements

Work experience is hugely varied and, in the past, has involved working in a solicitor's office, travel agency, newspaper and media industries, and veterinary practices. Most often students arrange their own placement such as:

- Helping in a local primary or special school
- Visiting patients and operating the mobile library at Trafford General Hospital
- Running activities in Residential Care Homes for the elderly
- Volunteering with charities
- Coaching sports teams

This list is not exhaustive, and many students come up with their own ideas.



Weekly Electives Programme (cont.)

Below is a list of recent activities:

- Acorn Theatre Company
- Architectural Engineering and Design
- Badminton
- Creative Drawing
- Electronics scheme
- First Aid
- Fitness Suite
- Football
- Introduction to Criminology
- Italian Lessons
- Mock Trial

Attending Criminology for my Wednesday Enrichment activity allowed me to study something completely different to from my chosen A Level courses.

It was great to study something I'm interest in without the stress of an end of topic test!

AS, St. Patrick's

Playing netball was such a joy to be a part of, and it helped me relax too.

Having the opportunity to be part of the netball team built my confidence and it was a pleasure this activity with my peers.

AD, Urmston Grammar

- Muay Thai Kick Boxing
- Netball
- Rounders
- Student support Mentoring (ASDAN qualification)
- Surgical Stitches
- U Eats – Cooking course

Charity Work

Our Sixth Formers give generously of their time and energy to organise functions and sponsored events for charity. Breast Cancer Now, Children in Need, The Royal British Legion, N.S.P.C.C., Senior Citizens and disadvantaged children have all benefited from their efforts.

Support for Students in Year 7–11

There are many opportunities for Sixth Formers to offer support to younger students. There is a team of fourteen Senior Prefects, including a head prefect and their deputies. This team is elected by staff and Sixth Form students and in addition, Sixth Form prefects are attached to younger year groups in the school.

Sixth Form students also act as Year & House Prefects where they play a leading role in helping teachers with the social and academic development of younger pupils.

Sixth Formers engage with younger pupils in such activities as Lower School Discos, Drama club, football, netball and basketball coaching, fundraising, school productions, presenting talks in PSHE and within a small and highly active team of trained ASDAN peer support mentors.



Enrichment throughout the Year

Work Experience Placement

All Year 12 students have the opportunity to take work experience placements for up to five days in the summer term. We want our students to leave Urmston Grammar with the skills, qualities and experience that employers and Higher Education institutions admire. We believe that active participation in all that the school has to offer, will allow each student to achieve this. We are able to assist with a large number of placements.

Trips Out of School

Opportunities usually exist for you to go on field trips to **Yorkshire** (Biologists) and **Eryri National Park** (Geographers). Art students usually visit the **London galleries**. In the past, both French and German students have the opportunity to participate in **exchanges with foreign students**. Sociology students have attended **Shrewsbury Prison**, whilst Psychology students visited **Chester Zoo**. Maths students go to the University of Manchester for **Maths Inspiration** and also to **Bletchley Park**; the English department plan theatre trips in **Manchester** and **Stratford**, as well as visits to the **British Library** and **Portico Library**. These are only examples of the many visits arranged.

A Social Life

In addition to playing an active part in whole school events, there are many opportunities to socialise within the Sixth Form. You will enjoy your own Sixth Form area in Newton Hall where you can study and socialise in a more relaxed atmosphere. In addition, drinks, sandwiches 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 free membership of our **fitness suite**. The Sixth Form Prefects organise the Year 13 leaving **'Prom'** at a luxury venue. This is attended by Sixth Form tutors and teaching staff. It is always a truly memorable night.

I stayed at UG because of the support that the teachers give you. There's a very helpful mentoring system that helps mentors to track your progress and grades to ensure that you have the best support possible.

Also, the enrichment programme allows you to gain work experience and to volunteer in the community in order to enhance your personal statement.
CW, Urmston Grammar

Sixth form events are organised by the prefects and are a great way to meet other students that you wouldn't usually meet in school.

KW, Wellacre

Newton Hall provides a laid-back atmosphere where we can work or talk to friends.

JW, Urmston Grammar



Careers and Higher Education Guidance

Advice on careers is readily available to you through tutors, Sixth Form Heads and team, subject teachers, individual mentors and our careers advisor.

Each year, all Year 12 students are taken to a major external **Higher Education convention** in Manchester. During the Sixth Form, the Careers Advisor will interview students who require advice. There is an extensive **Careers Education Module** offered in PSHE/Enrichment sessions. Moreover, you will also visit a Northern university (either top 10 or Russell Group) for a campus tour and lectures on university life, as well as taster sessions.

You are encouraged to attend university and college **Open Days** as well as courses for prospective applicants in many fields, such as Education, Engineering, Forensic Science, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Psychology, and Sociology. **Speakers** from The University of Leeds, The University of Liverpool, The University of Manchester and The University of Northumbria, and often other universities further from home, give presentations to the Sixth Form. A **Gap Year** company also present on the advantages of volunteering overseas and this year we also have an inspiring presentation on undergraduate studies abroad, from a **group specialising in international study**. Individual companies often approach us to give presentations to students and to look for prospective applicants.

We organise a one-day course on **'Interview Technique and Post-18 Preparation**. All students have an interview with a professional in their stated area of interest. They receive **expert advice** from interviewers, with written feedback to support future interviews & university or apprenticeship applications. An **Admissions Tutor** from a local university also gives advice on the writing of the UCAS Personal Statement.

All students are shown websites which we believe will help you to make the right individual choice of university and course. MMU visit to explain the **Degree Apprenticeships**, for post A Level entry. The Skills and Growth Company present on apprenticeships, how to apply and secure a position.

All Year 12 students have the opportunity to take work experience placements for up to five days in the summer term. We want our students to leave Urmston Grammar with the skills, qualities and experience that employers and Higher Education institutions admire. We believe that active participation in all that the school has to offer, will allow each student to achieve this.

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after Sixth Form, so I was given two sessions with the Careers Advisor to go through all of my options and talk about school life.

JM, Urmston Grammar



What Extra-Curricular Activities are available?

Each year teachers put on different activities before and after school, and at lunchtimes. Some of them are exclusive to Sixth Form, whilst others offer integration with the whole school community. Below is a list of the current activities available, just to give you an idea of what may be available next year.

The Arts

- Theatre Tech Club
- West Side Story Rehearsals
- Dance Squad
- Orchestra
- Acorn Theatre Co
- Senior Choir

The teaching staff provide many extra-curricular sessions to allow you to improve your grade and gain some extra support in topics which you may be struggling with.
KF, Flixton Girls'

I like the friendly environment and I get on well with the teachers who support me well. The atmosphere is good and the options of extra-curricular activities are endless.

GT, Urmston Grammar

Community & Hobbies

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Magic the Gathering
- UNO and Board Games
- Chess Club
- Future Leaders
- Sixth Form Debating
- WSL Club (Women's Football)

I chose to stay on at Urmston Grammar mainly for the high standard of teaching.

The new atmosphere of Sixth form is very welcoming and there were lots of opportunities straight away to get involved with a number of different groups and societies.
RL, Urmston Grammar

STEM

- BMAT Clinic
- Café Sci
- MedSoc

Culture

- Perspectives Magazine
- Poetry by Heart
- UGS PRIDE Club

I chose to stay at Urmston Grammar because the support I received when doing my GCSEs was impeccable. The atmosphere around the whole school is very friendly and welcoming. There is an incredible selection of extra-curricular activities available to suit everyone in the school, which enables you to make many new friends.
HD, Urmston Grammar

Academic

- UGS Scholars Society
- A Level Geography Support
- A Level Computer Science Support
- A Level Psychology Prep
- A Level Music Composition
- A Level Maths Clinic





Levee



Pride, Participation & Empathy



How will Urmston Grammar help me to 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.
- Many free Science lectures are offered by Café Sci, local universities and the Royal Institution. These are all advertised in the Sixth Form areas and students are also alerted via email. Form Tutors will also ensure that you are aware of such opportunities.
- 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.

In Sixth Form, I'm surrounded by like-minded and highly-motivated individuals. This drives me to work hard.

PR, Wellacre

My mentor has given me useful support especially in preparation for applying to University and prep gave me extra support and prepared me for my exams. I think the 6th Form 'gels' well together and there is a good atmosphere.

CL, Urmston Grammar

- 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/guardians will be invited to meet individual Heads of Department to discuss strategies to improve grades.
- Additionally, at Parents' Evenings, students and parents 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.
- Northwest Universities and others come in to present information for you on all aspects of applying to university.

I chose to stay here due to the esteem associated with the Sixth Form as well as the high standards the institution sets for itself. The teaching is of high quality, with the student culture being one of not only friendliness, but one of an industrious nature.

JG, Urmston Grammar



Pride, Participation & Empathy



Extended Project Qualification

EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your students' abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career.

- it can be taken as an extension of other Level 3 qualifications or vocational qualifications
- it's worth half an A-level (28 UCAS points)
- it's recognised by universities and employers
- many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

'EPQ provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond A-level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. It can also be used to earn additional UCAS points!

(AQA,2022)

- WATCH THIS! [Be seen after the sixth form - YouTube](#)
- Want to know more?
- [Endorsement: case study - Jane Stevens \(aqa.org.uk\)](#)
- [Endorsement: case study - Michelle Hackett \(aqa.org.uk\)](#)
- Still curious? Look here.....
- [AQA | Project qualifications | Level 3 Extended Project Qualification | Specification at a glance](#)

How it works

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Undertaking an EPQ can also deliver other benefits for students and schools, such as:

- improved A Level performance for students taking EPQ
- boosting student recruitment by making your curriculum more attractive
- increasing student motivation by allowing them to study topics of personal interest
- enabling students to apply their new skills to other areas of study.

It's 'cool to be clever' - no one is embarrassed about being themselves.
BM, Urmston Grammar

During my experience of completing an EPQ, my supervisor always put time aside to help me with research and project ideas and was often available to have conversations about my progress outside of the classroom.

HS, Urmston Grammar



Pride, Participation & Empathy



What is this Mentoring system I keep hearing about?

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 usually collaborates 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.
- 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 individual 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's work experience** and allow you time to attend other work-related experiences.

I especially love the fact that you are assigned mentors. My mentor has definitely helped me in the university application process and has helped me to complete my personal statement. I also really like the careers advisor who has helped me to decide on my future career and she has given me a great insight into what I can do in order to get onto my choice of course.

AJ, St Antony's

The mentoring system ... really helped with both my personal choices and academic abilities, providing me with guidance on university and future career options.

RE, Urmston Grammar



Will Urmston help me to apply to Oxford or Cambridge University?

As you will have seen in the section above on mentoring, we offer several services to help high achievers to apply to the top courses and universities.

At Urmston Grammar everyone here is consistently highly achieving aiming to fulfil their potential and hoping to exceed expectations based on their GCSEs. In all subjects and all lessons, students are stretched and challenged to not merely achieve their minimum target grades, but to understand what is needed to attain A/A* and top band 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 would not have been identified as 'Oxbridge potentials' will actually emerge as such during the first year of their chosen A Levels.

For those of you who have your sights on Cambridge University or Oxford University:

- 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-conversant Sixth Form staff members who will liaise with you and your mentor.
- Support for some of the additional tests, such as MLAT and PAT.
- We provide Oxbridge specialist interview practice, often from our former students.
- We run special **sessions for Oxbridge applicants** and have staff who will liaise with your mentor to write your Oxbridge reference.

Will Urmston help me to apply for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science?

- Special training sessions to support applications that require the additional **UKCAT**: the UK Clinical Aptitude Test which is used in the selection process by a consortium of UK University Medical and Dental Schools. An external company – UKCATprep.com – visit our school to give a tutorial on tips for the UKCAT, including follow-up question practice
- Discussions about background reading and the selection of material at an appropriate level.
- Individual communication about a huge range of relevant opportunities offered in the Northwest and national programmes for students who can access widening participation benefits.
- Support through your mentor and your subject specialist with completing reviews of your work experiences and lectures – this will help you to develop a catalogue of reflections on your experiences on specialist software, OSCAR, an online system used for students writing personal statements and teachers composing references
- We also offer mock interview practice for both **Multiple Mini Interview** and **panel style interviews**, led by the Head of Sixth Form and her team who have many years of experience in supporting students for these most competitive applications (MMI is an interview format that uses many short independent assessments, typically in a timed circuit).



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.

Thrive

The Trafford Thrive team are hold weekly on-site support for students experiencing mental health issues, such as anxiety, exam stress and low mood.

Counsellors

Perhaps you need a few regular support sessions to cope with personal issues – our counsellors may be able to help you with this. Everyone will also be introduced to Kooth, a free web-linked counselling advice service.

Safeguarding

Maybe you are concerned about a friend or indeed your own situation at home and are not sure where to turn. Whilst you can speak to any member of staff at all, in confidence, we also have a dedicated safeguarding team who are available whenever you need to talk to them. We also have a Confide link that students can access on the school computers, here students can log concerns that they don't feel able to disclose face to face.

SEND

Being a diverse and inclusive sixth form, we are used to helping those of you with additional needs, be it dyslexia, visual stress or another specific need, we have a specialist team of support staff who can liaise with you and your parent/carer prior to your starting your A Levels and at regular intervals during your time here, so that all of us can support you in the best way for you, ensuring there are no barriers to your learning and excelling.

I chose to stay at Urmston Grammar as I enjoy the environment and the support given by the teachers. I also appreciate how supportive everyone is. The teachers and Form Tutors will help you in any way they can.

SM, Urmston Grammar

Form Tutor and PSE

Because at Urmston Grammar we care about you, our Sixth Form students, throughout your time here, the person you will see consistently will be your form tutor. Each day you will have a short registration period, in which you can let off steam, catch up on news or complete tasks from our 'Growth Mindset' programme. You will have your own workbook, designed specifically for A Level students; you are guided through topics by your Form Teacher. This programme develops the fundamentally important elements of your character that underpin all your academic endeavours. For example, it helps to build resilience, through identifying your 'VESPA' qualities (Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice, Attitude). Once a week you will attend an enrichment session lead by the Head of Sixth Form and your Head of Year, these sessions will help you prepare for your future, as well as keeping you up to date with current affairs. Universities will also lead talks in these sessions. On Friday mornings you will engage with the excellent programme of PSE we have designed specially to benefit Year 12 and 13 students to steer their way through the choppy waters of A Levels and the exciting but sometimes daunting prospect of life after school.





Pride, Participation & Empathy



Subjects offered

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

A Level (AQA)

100% A*-C
in 2023

Head of Department: Mrs. L. Nanvazadeh

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 computers, 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.

The Department offers a number of enrichment opportunities to students including a trip to London, The Clothes Show Live and the chance to apply to attend a residential week-long course in Tuscany, Italy run by practising 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. It is intended that the courses we offer will encourage you to extend your knowledge of Art and Design through individual observation, expression and invention. Practical sessions are supported by theoretical studies, which explore the ways in which artists and designers from different periods and cultures have used materials to express and communicate beliefs and values.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



BIOLOGY

A Level (AQA)

Head of Department: Dr. O. Richards

**83% A*–C
in 2023**

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. Almost all subject staff are also experienced AQA examiners.

In addition, students are 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. A 3-day residential field study excursion takes place in Year 13.

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



Pride, Participation & Empathy



BUSINESS

78% A*-B
91% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (Edexcel)

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 of the A Level course. 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 essential 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.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



CHEMISTRY

32% A*-A
57% A*-B
in 2023

A Level (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr. T. Parker

Chemistry is a very important science complementing 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 the one 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 marketable skills which may lead to careers in Law, Personnel, Management and others as well as Chemistry itself.

We have chosen to follow the AQA specification because it follows on well from Science at GCSE and builds on the concepts of 'How Science Works' that ensure relevance to contemporary issues. This new model follows the key themes of the highly popular former AQA specification, updated in-line with the new QCA Science criteria.

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 topics, such as atomic structure, are studied in greater detail while others, such as equilibria, broaden the GCSE experience and then use Mathematics so that qualitative understanding becomes more quantitative. The biggest content difference at A Level is the great increase in the amount of organic chemistry. This includes many more functional groups, an understanding of the mechanisms of reactions and synthetic routes to complicate more complex molecules with roles in medicine.

To take Chemistry A Level, we recommend that you achieve at least one grade 7 or above in GCSE Combined Sciences (Trilogy) or GCSE Separate Sciences and a minimum grade 6 in GCSE Maths, although grade 7 is strongly recommended.

Content Overview

The course is split into 3 distinct traditional Chemistry areas: Physical, Inorganic and Organic. This is to help you clearly identify which branch of Chemistry you are studying. This is particularly useful for students wanting to study Chemistry at university and take up research opportunities in your chosen specialised field.

Required practical exercises for A Level are integrated into the specification.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

38% A*-A
in 2023

A Level (OCR)

Head of Department: Mr. S. Verma

Computing is offered at A Level. This course focuses on Computing aspects and Programming.

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

The structure of the course will take the following format:

Paper 1 based on: **Computer Systems**

- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Processors, input and output devices

Paper 2 based on: **Algorithms & Programming**

- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Paper 3 Programming Project:

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 university Computing courses.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



ECONOMICS A

29% A*-A
92% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (Edexcel)

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 6 in GCSE Mathematics and 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.

- **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.

- **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; their rationale; 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.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

42% A*-A
83% A*-B
100% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (AQA)

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: 2 hours 30 minutes – 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.

Topics Studied in A Level Language

gender
power
accent and dialect
conversation analysis
language change
history and future of English
occupational language & jargon
individual and group identity
sociolinguistics
child language acquisition
phonetics
language and ethnicity
creoles and lingua francas

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change: 2 hours 30 minutes – 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.

Which careers does English Language lend itself to?

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 therapy. No matter what career you pursue, or course you apply for, the first impression you create will be through your written expression: an English Language A Level is the only one that explicitly teaches you how to refine your written expression as well as master a range of writing styles.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



ENGLISH LITERATURE

A Level (AQA - Specification B)

77% A*-B
100% A*-C
in 2023

Head of Department: Miss. L. Derby

Genre study is at the heart of English Literature B and at Urmston we explore the genre of tragedy and political and social protest. Working with genre involves looking at ways in which authors shape meanings within their texts. It also involves thinking about a wide range of relevant contexts, some of them to do with the production of the text at the time of its writing, some (where possible) to do with how the text has been received over time and, most of all in this specification, contexts to do with 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. And finally, because genres and their qualities are not fixed, this means that 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 structure. 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 proven motivation, intelligence, and the ability to work independently. An English Literature degree shows that you have all of these qualities. Additionally, the ability to communicate is very valuable for almost any job. Studying English Literature teaches you how to write clearly and effectively, 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 many kinds of work – as is the ability to construct and defend an argument.

Which careers does Literature lend itself to?

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, journalism, and writing.

A knowledge of the classics of English Literature is well recognised by all university courses and employers as being of immense benefit: to know your Shakespeare and your Dickens is seen as an important part of being well-educated, and for this reason an A Level in English Literature is highly regarded by all Universities.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



Food Science & Nutrition

Level 3 Diploma (WJEC/Eduqas)

Head of Department: Mrs. S. Rowlands

Interested in joining the food industry? The food and drink industry is the UK's largest manufacturing sector, employing nearly 400,000 people with a turnover of about £76 billion. Studying this course can lead to numerous job opportunities within this market. If you're passionate about the science of food, health and diet then this is the subject for you.

What is a Level 3 Diploma? This qualification is equivalent to an A Level and carries UCAS points for entry into higher education. This course is accepted at a number of leading universities such as Nottingham, Leeds and Newcastle. This qualification will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on-going practical sessions, to gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals. It has been designed to offer exciting, interesting experiences through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful, work-related contexts, linked to the food production industry.

The Level 3 Course consists of the following units.

You will complete **three** units: two mandatory and one optional, over the two years. Learners will be involved in weekly practical sessions and will build on the skills and knowledge developed at GCSE.

Year 12: Unit 1 Meeting nutritional needs of specific groups.

This unit involves a practical food show case and an externally marked written examination. Learners will demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts. Students will experience on-going practical sessions, to gain a wide range of high level skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

Year 13: Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat

This is externally marked and involves experimentation and written research. This will allow you to develop your understanding of the **science of food safety and hygiene**; essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry. Again, practical sessions will support the gaining of theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience.

Year 13: Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems or Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition

Both units will allow you the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to you, building on previous learning and experiences.

Career Progression: The food industry is rapidly growing on a global scale. There is an international need for students to enter the workforce.

Together with other relevant qualifications at A Level such as Biology, Chemistry, Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Business Studies and Maths, learners will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to relevant Food Science, Food and Nutrition and Food Marketing courses. This can lead to exciting job opportunities such as Sports Nutritionist, Dietitian, Food Buyer, Food Account Director, Food Advertising, Digital Analyst, Innovation, Research and Development, Food Scientist, Public Health and Lifestyle Coordinator.



FRENCH

100% A*–A
in 2023

A Level (Eduqas)

Head of Department: Mr. M. Bridge

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. In addition, we have run a very successful school exchange trip with the Lycée Saint Paul in Lille, in northern France.

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



Pride, Participation & Empathy



GEOGRAPHY

A Level (OCR)

Head of Department: Ms. C. Bramwell

Year 12

Physical Systems (Unit 1)

Landscape Systems:

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

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 Dilemmas

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 both contain a mixture of short answer and extended response questions. Geographical skills are tested within the Unit 1 and 2 papers.

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.

67% A*-B
83% A*-C
in 2023

Year 13

Physical Systems (Unit 1) – Earth's Life Support Systems

Requiring the study of the following elements:

- 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

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, including a case study
- Globalisation of the food industry
- Impacts of food insecurity
- Opportunities and solutions

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.



GERMAN

60% A*-B
80% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (Eduqas)

Head of Department: Mr. S. Cummins

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



Pride, Participation & Empathy



GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

A Level (Edexcel)

Head of Department: Mr. P. Corrigan

**92% A* - B
in 2023**

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.



HISTORY

A Level (AQA)

85% A*-B
95% A*-C
in 2023

Head of Department: Dr. M. McPartland

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 Malcolm X, 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 100 years and you write a 3000-4000 word essay for assessment in the summer of Year 13.

Year 12	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Teacher 1	Unit 1	Unit 1	Unit 1
Teacher 2	Unit 2	Unit 2	Unit 2 & Unit 3 coursework
Year 13	Term 1	Term 2	
Teacher 1	Unit 1 and Unit 3 coursework	Unit 3 coursework	
Teacher 2	Unit 3 coursework and Unit 2 revision	Unit 2 revision	



Pride, Participation & Empathy



MATHEMATICS

47% A*-A
80% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (Edexcel)

Head of Department: Miss. G. Cookson

The two year course comprises ten lessons of one hour per fortnight and is taught exclusively by Maths specialists; we are proud that the Department's expertise has allowed us to make a seamless transition to the new A Level specifications. 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 topics in Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Mathematics topics will be:

Proof
Algebra and functions
Coordinate geometry
Sequences and series
Trigonometry
Exponentials and logarithms
Differentiation
Integration
Vectors
Numerical methods

Topics in Statistics will be:

Statistical sampling
Data presentation and interpretation
Probability
Statistical distributions
Statistical hypothesis testing

In Mechanics, the topics will be:

Quantities and units in mechanics
Kinematics
Forces and Newton's laws
Moments

Further Mathematics
A Level is also on
offer...

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 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.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



FURTHER MATHS

58% A*-A
92% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (Edexcel)

Head of Department: Miss. G. Cookson

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 will be:

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 will be:

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 will be:

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.



MUSIC

A Level (EDUQAS)

**100% A*-B
in 2023**

Head of Department: Ms. J Langham

Many subjects combine well with Music, from a wide range of Humanities and Languages as well as Mathematics and Science. A qualification in Music is highly regarded by universities and future employers; it demonstrates an impressive combined skill-set in theoretical understanding, technical proficiency, talent and creativity. Students who have achieved an A-level in music demonstrate that they are committed individuals who have worked for a long time on the development of a practical skill.

In Year 12, you will study:

Music Theory

- Circle of Fifths and key relationships
- Chord and interval analysis
- Figured bass
- Score reading
- Structural conventions

The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900

- Changes in orchestration, thematic writing, approach to harmony, rhythm, texture and programmaticism throughout the Classical and Romantic Periods
- Analysis of example Symphonies including Haydn Symphony 104 (set work) and Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony
- Composers including Mozart; Beethoven; Berlioz; Tchaikovsky; Schubert; Brahms; Wagner.

Rock and Pop

- The stylistic conventions of Soul; Funk; Disco; Pop; Rock; Folk and Country music
- Develop analytical skills in Rock and Pop compositional writing, melodic parts, chords and technology

Composition

- Advanced compositional skills using music technology and musicianship skills
- Compose a free composition in a genre of your choice

In Year 13, you will study:

Music Dictation

- How to dictate music from an orchestral extract and identify mistakes on a score

20th Century Music

- The stylistic conventions of Impressionism, Expression, Serialism and Neo-Classicism
- Analyse Debussy's 'Nuages' and Poulenc's 'Trio' as set works
- Wider listening in these genres and develop appraisal skills for 20th century repertoire.

Composition in the Western Classical Tradition

- The Classical conventions for small ensemble and apply these to a composition of your own, following a brief from EDUQAS.

Performance recital

- Perform a 10-minute recital to a visiting examiner (at a minimum difficulty level of Grade 6)

At the end of Year 13, you sit 1 written exam.

- 2 questions analysing Rock and Pop extracts
- 1 question analysing a 20th century set work
- 1 question analysing an unknown 20th century extract
- 1 orchestral dictation question
- 1 question on the Haydn 104 set work symphony
- 1 essay question on the Development of the symphony 1750-1900.

We submit your two compositions to the exam board along with a composition log and scores.

UGS Music department is a vibrant place where there are countless opportunities for students from all year groups to participate in music making, including Performing arts events, whole-school musicals, recitals, trips and workshops.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



PHOTOGRAPHY

67% A*-B
100% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (AQA)

Head of Department: Mrs L. Nanvazadeh

Join the Creative Economy

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. You may use traditional methods and/or digital techniques. Researching the work of other photographers and artists is an integral part of the investigating and making process. You will produce a sketchbook/workbook/journal to underpin your work, documenting your research and recording the development of your own work. You should be able to express ideas and link your intentions to outcomes in a confident and assured manner.

A Diverse Course

Photography is an exciting medium that can be used in many different ways including artistically, commercially, for advertising, personally, industrially, through fashion and architecturally. Photographs can be used on the web or as beautiful printed objects. This course will teach you to look at the world in a creative way. The creative potential stimulated in this course will enable you to apply creative, analytical and critical thinking to any other course that you do.

Throughout the course, you will learn about a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes including hands-on experimentation with traditional and digital media. You will develop an awareness of critical analyses of artists' work, helping to develop their own ideas through awareness, practical application and written reflections. You will use sketchpads and workbooks to demonstrate all practical learning, ideas development and critical analysis. Tuition is enjoyable, structured, friendly and supportive, resulting in high-grade achievements on this course. Emphasis at the beginning of the course is on traditional photographic techniques, you will also have the opportunity to use digital photography and Photoshop applications.

Photography develops a wide range of skills, which will be useful in university applications and future careers. Photography may offer a highly creative and hands-on alternative to other subjects you may be studying at A Level.

Key Learning Topics

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

The department offers a number of enrichment opportunities to you including a trip to London, The Clothes Show Live and the chance to apply to attend a residential week-long course in Tuscany, Italy run by practising artists.

Where will Success Take me?

Many of you 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.

Component 1: Personal Investigation

- 60% total A-Level marks.
- Candidates develop a personal investigation supported by between 1000 and 3000 words.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

- 40% total A-Level marks.
- 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 the extension work and developed through your knowledge of historical and critical studies. It is intended that the courses offered by the Department will encourage you to extend your knowledge of Photography through individual observation, expression and invention. Practical sessions are supported by theoretical studies, which explore the ways in which artists and designers from different periods and cultures have used materials to express and communicate beliefs and values.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A Level (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr. M. Bradshaw

Physical Education provides a course of study that expands on many ideas and concepts already 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. It provides a balanced broad based course worthwhile in its own right.

**50% A*- A
100% A*-B
in 2023**

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.
Plus written/verbal analysis of performance.



PHYSICS

43% A*-B
61% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (AQA)

Head of Department: Mr. R. Murray

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

Section 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. This unit uses many ideas from mechanics and electricity from earlier in the course.

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

An option will be selected by each centre. We study 'Turning Points in Physics', which considers how the electron was discovered, wave-particle duality and Einstein's theory of Special Relativity.

Paper 1 – 2 hours 85 marks – (34% of A Level)	Sections 1 to 5	Short and long answers (60 marks) 25 multiple choice
Paper 2 – 2 hours 85 marks – (34% of A Level)	Sections 6 to 8 Plus aspects of sections 1 to 5	Short and long answers (60 marks) 25 multiple choice
Paper 3 – 2 hours 80 marks – (32% of A Level)	Section 9 - (Option topic) Practical experiments and data analysis	Short and long answers (45 marks) Short and long answers (35 marks)

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 does provide extra help for those who prefer not to do this. Full details of the Mathematical requirements are provided in the specification and this can be found on the AQA website.

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 is 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.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



PSYCHOLOGY

A Level AQA

61% A*- B
89% A*-C
in 2023

Head of Department: Mrs. B. Dooley

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, I.T., 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	Approaches: 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.
Psychopathology	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 the role of social influence processes in social change.
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.
Debates in Psychology	Debates: Freewill vs. determinism; nature-nurture; holism vs. reductionism; idiographic vs. nomothetic; psychology & science



Pride, Participation & Empathy



RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

100% A*-A
in 2023

A Level (OCR)

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. Religious Studies 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 attempts 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.



Pride, Participation & Empathy



SOCIOLOGY

90% A*-B
100% A*-C
in 2023

A Level (AQA)

Head of Subject: Mrs. N. Kinder

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
- A wide range of career options, including law, policing, social work and social care, public relations, politics, journalism in all its forms, 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 society.

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.



Pride, Participation & Empathy





Urmston Grammar is a selective school and an Independent state academy.

The school works in partnership with The Urmston Alliance, The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University.

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<http://www.urmstongrammar.org.uk/>

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Pride, Participation & Empathy

