Your future in safe hands

Information for Applicants

SEPTEMBER 2018
Welcome

Welcome to King James’s Sixth Form. This prospectus aims to provide a brief snapshot into life in the Sixth Form, the opportunities available to our students, the support offered to help them achieve their potential and the vital information about the individual courses available. I hope you find it helpful and informative.

King James’s Sixth Form is a vibrant, thriving community of valued individuals. We pride ourselves on maintaining our heritage and strong links with the wider King James’s School and community, while developing a unique Sixth Form experience, which emphasises support and ambition. We are an open access Sixth Form that puts the individual student at the heart of all we do. Every student will be challenged and supported through high quality teaching, bespoke learning and tailored advice. We believe that our close Sixth Form community, emphasis on developing independent study skills and small class sizes facilitate this individual support.

The key to our success is a combination of raising aspirations, an ethos that promotes a thirst for learning and an endless belief in providing the best possible education for all students. A King James’s Sixth Form student should have the opportunity to leave school with the intellectual currency to enable them to become fully engaged citizens, capable of fulfilling their potential. We are ambitious with our students and want the very best life chances for all. The strength of our examination results, which consistently place us in the top 25% of Sixth Form providers, opens doors to many exciting options for students’ futures. Career pathways often vary; our experienced team support all students to enable them to reach their potential whatever that might be. This may be through further study at university or college, a gap year, apprenticeships or employment. Students receive personal support, which is tailored and independent. In this way we can celebrate the successful progression of all.

Sixth Form can be a challenging time for students. We have developed a robust, flexible support structure to maintain students’ wellbeing and ensure that these years are also the most rewarding. A strong pastoral team led by our Learning Managers supports students in the transition into Sixth Form and beyond, along with our tutors who provide one-to-one support and a team of careers, health and academic specialists. We also appreciate that there is more to Sixth Form than exams, and encourage our students to take advantage of the wealth of opportunities provided at King James’s to ensure a well-rounded education. These opportunities include everything from sports, music and drama to international trips, cultural visits and much more.

The Sixth Form is an important stage of all our students’ education. We very much hope that you will pursue your interest in King James’s and join us in September. If you would like any more information then please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting our Sixth Form Administrator: sixthform@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk We look forward to meeting you and working with you from next September.

Message from our Head Boy & Girl

“King James’s Sixth Form has many strengths. These include small class sizes, enabling more personalised teaching and well structured time tables giving students valuable contact time with teachers. We also have the opportunity to enhance and develop independent study skills through private study. Sixth Form staff guide and support you along your chosen pathway, making sure that you excel in what is right for you, offering an environment that is suitable for both academic and creative students.”

John O’Hara
Director of Sixth Form
Small class sizes means teachers can focus on individual students’ needs, helping you to build on your strengths and improve on your weaknesses - this means you make progress at a quicker rate.

Year 12 Student
What do we stand for?
At King James’s Sixth Form we are rightly proud of our strong academic tradition, supportive learning environment and happy, vibrant community. Ours is a comprehensive Sixth Form and we put the individual at the heart of all we do. Every student is with us to learn, to progress and to plan their next step – whatever this may be. We know there is more to Sixth Form than qualifications and university and we have an experienced and dedicated team on hand to support our students and encourage them to get involved in a full range of enriching experiences.

What courses are available to me?
Our Sixth Form curriculum has been developed to provide a wide choice of subjects and qualification types to suit each student’s needs and aspirations. This wealth of choice allows students to follow a curriculum tailored specifically for them, which helps meet their individual needs through personalised learning – which we see as a key factor in the Sixth Form’s continued high levels of achievement.

How do I choose between courses?
Research what type of course it is and if it suits how you learn. Some of the courses are Applied A Level, which means that your studies will involve more investigation, coursework and links to the workplace. Others are BTEC or vocational courses, which again are focused on skills, ongoing assessment and linked to a particular vocational experience. A Levels are more traditional, academic courses which require a greater understanding of ideas and are usually examined rather than assessed through coursework.

Look ahead! If you think you will go to university and have an idea of what you want to study there, look at what courses are accepted. If you are looking to the top end universities (these are known as the ‘Russell Group’), then make sure your course choices are accepted by them. If you have a particular subject in mind, check out what’s needed for it.
Although some subjects may be familiar from GCSE, they will be different at Sixth Form, and some courses will be totally new to you. Make sure you ask the subject teaching staff lots of questions; whether it is about what Psychology actually involves or how Maths is different at A Level.

Level 3
What do I need to get onto the course?
To study at ‘Advanced Level’ or ‘Level 3’ you need to have at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C or level 4 and above including a grade 4 in English and Maths. Some courses have additional entry requirements which you must also have to enrol on the course. Additional entry requirements can be found on the subject pages. Make sure you read the subject pages really carefully and ask questions of subject teachers.

How many courses do I study?
The majority of Year 12 students will study three Level 3 courses for two years. Students with a strong GCSE profile may be able to pick a fourth subject. They would be expected to study all four subjects for two years. In addition, some students may be able to pick up an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or Core Maths. We will discuss these options on an individual basis with students. All students will have supervised study as part of their weekly timetable.

Aspire
We have some of the best brains at King James’s and we want to do all we can to support and challenge those very academically able students to apply to the top universities with well-placed confidence. Those who get the top GCSE grades in the year group will be invited to join a group to develop crucial academic skills and a love of learning. Through a personalised programme of bespoke university preparation we will give you a step up to approach medicine, law, Oxford or Cambridge, if that is what you want!

Additional Level 3 courses
Alongside academic A Levels we also offer several Level 3 courses including BTEC, Applied, Vocational and Cambridge Technical qualifications. These often involve a larger element of practical work and assessment with smaller weighting of examined assessment. As with A Levels, these courses are recognised by Higher Education institutions and will count towards the UCAS points needed for most university courses. These can be taken in combination with academic A Levels.

Level 2
What is this course?
Our Level 2 course ‘Next Step’ is for those of you who want to continue to learn but are not ready for Advanced Level study. This course provides a range of experiences, from work experience to Enterprise and GCSE Maths and English re-sits where necessary (all students in Post-16 education continue to study Maths and English until they have reached a grade 4 or above at GCSE).

Where will it lead?
Most students will go into employment or apprenticeship from this course. Others may go on to Level 3 provision at a college where the courses are vocational.

Foundation
Unique across North Yorkshire, we have a Foundation programme that gives a vital grounding for students from King James’s or Forest School who want to continue in education and need some extra support. Places on this course are by invitation through our Special Educational Needs Department or the Local Authority.

Your future in safe hands with King James’s Sixth Form
The welfare and happiness of all our students is our principal concern. We appreciate that Sixth Form combines increased pressure of study with a time where students desire more independence. King James’s School provides outstanding care and guidance to our students and has an excellent track record in leading them to fulfil their potential in studies and beyond. Our robust, flexible support structures aim to guide students smoothly through any problems, covering everything from relationships and financial issues to guidance about the future.

Our strong pastoral team is led by individual Learning Managers for each year group. Their role is to manage student performance, with the help of the experienced team of Form Tutors. This involves monitoring progress, attendance and Attitude to Learning data, holding student meetings and communicating with parents where necessary. The Form Tutors keep up regular contact with students, meeting every morning to ensure that there is regular monitoring of academic progress, welfare and attendance. In addition, they further assist in guiding students through university and employment applications and will write their UCAS references where needed. The relationship built between students and Form Tutors is vital in allowing guidance to each Sixth Form student to be tailored to the individual.

The Learning Managers have a key role in managing the overall progress and welfare of the student. They are further assisted by dedicated careers, health and academic specialists who add their knowledge and expertise to the team. The small, community nature of our Sixth Form, accompanied by small class sizes, enables all our students to be known individually to both staff and their peers. This is often quoted as one of the key reasons students choose to study at King James’s Sixth Form.

Students are also given greater freedom to manage their own academic studies through private study and supervised study periods. The dedicated silent study area of the Sixth Form Centre enables students to make the most of this time and develop independent study skills valued by universities and employers.

Beyond The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is a challenging and pivotal time in a student’s career, representing the threshold between school and the next step in their lives. Decisions made in these two years may influence the course of their careers for years to come. At King James’s School, we pride ourselves on supporting and guiding our students throughout the Sixth Form, so when they leave as many doors are open to them as possible. This not only means challenging every individual to achieve the best they can academically, but enabling them to develop into well-rounded young adults with a wealth of experience under their belts.

Unique to King James’s we offer the equivalent of a week of activities aimed at helping Year 12 students to make decisions about their options when they come to the end of Year 13. Our ‘Post-18 Options’ programme includes visits to universities, guest speakers from industry, careers support and training on university and employment applications. Our aim is to prepare and support our students to take whichever pathway they choose to follow after completion of their studies. This enables every student to make informed, ambitious decisions about their future.

We offer a comprehensive programme of guidance and support including dedicated teams of pastoral staff supporting progression into careers and university, access to professional careers advisors, confidential, impartial advice as well as a range of online resources. We have links with a number of top universities and often welcome speakers from a range of organisations. Mock interviews, employment workshops and regular bulletins keep students well prepared for taking any opportunities that come their way.

King James’s offers a huge range of exciting and educational enrichments trips and extra-curricular opportunities. These range from work experience and shadowing schemes with local employers, to local, national and international trips. King James’s students have recently visited a diverse range of locations from Sri Lanka, Rome and Krakow to London, Leeds and Dalby Forest. Ultimately, we believe that these valuable opportunities enhance the students’ Sixth Form experience and help them to become more successful, well-rounded young people ready for their next steps beyond this school.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive Sixth Form, which challenges and supports individual students and gives them every opportunity to succeed.
Why Choose King James’s Sixth Form

What are our results like?
We are really proud of our results; both students and staff work very hard to get excellent outcomes. We are consistently in the top 25% of post-16 providers nationally. That is not to say we are complacent - every year is a new challenge! A summary of A Level results for 2017 can be found on page 47.

How do I know how well I am doing during the course?
We use data from ALPS (an aspirational data tool) to indicate what grades you are likely to get based on your GCSE scores. You, your subject staff, Form Tutors and Learning Managers will know what you will be aspiring to and will regularly measure your targets against learning cycle assessments. These will be reported home, ensuring that we are all working to the same goal.

Is there life outside of study?
Of course! We know that our students are creative, adventurous, inquisitive young adults and need more than qualifications. From sporting excellence to musical experience our Sixth Formers can build on their main school experience or make a fresh start! There is an enormous range of opportunities to learn outside the classroom.

Young Enterprise is incredibly successful at King James’s, where our students create a successful business in a year and battle it out against other schools (usually winning). If you’re not the next Sir Alan Sugar perhaps the AMP Awards are for you, or leading House Drama or maybe something we have not even thought of yet! When we wave you off at the tremendous leavers’ ball we want to know that you are fully prepared for what follows.

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York University trip

Every student has a different story and all pathways will be unique. To give you some idea of the range of qualifications that can be taken to get you to different destinations we have put together four profiles from last year’s leavers.

STUDENT 1
8 GCSEs (mostly As & Bs)
Art - C
English Language - C
Geography - C
Employment

STUDENT 2
10 GCSEs (mostly Cs)
Digital Photography - A*
English Language - C
Sociology - B
EPQ - C
Photography Degree at Bournemouth Arts University

STUDENT 3
10 GCSEs (A*-B)
English Literature - A*
Mathematics - A*
Economics - A
EPQ - C
English Degree at Cambridge University

STUDENT 4
10 GCSEs (A*-B)
Biology - A
Chemistry - B
Geography - A
EPQ - B
Biomedical Science at University of Sheffield

To mention but a few!
The Experienced Team

We have over 200 students in the Sixth Form at King James’s but you are still important individuals to us. You will work closely with your classroom teachers to support your academic work but there is a vast amount of support available from the Sixth Form team.

Entry Requirements

To study Advanced Level or Level 3 subjects, you need to have at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including grade 4 in English and Maths. Please ensure you discuss any queries regarding the entry requirements with a member of the Sixth Form team.

Look out for this tab to see minimum entry requirements for each subject.

Director of Sixth Form
Learning Managers
Form Tutors
Careers Advisor
Pastoral Support Officer
Sixth Form Administrator
Students

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths
Applied Business

What’s it all about?
AQA Applied Business provides a highly successful alternative to a traditional A Level, suitable for students who prefer a more practical approach to learning where you are assessed continuously throughout the two years via coursework instead of exams only. Applied Business provides a broad foundation into how businesses work and enables you to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding you need to succeed in an ever-changing business world. You will develop your understanding of the techniques used in marketing, finance, operations, events management and human resource management. You will learn how to set up a small business, and the relationship between business and the changing external environment. Applied Business is designed to be practical, enabling you to develop up-to-date business skills, knowledge and understanding. You will work with local businesses on investigative portfolio assignments. This year’s projects have been supported by Taylor’s of Harrogate, GSPK, Black Sheep Brewery, McDonalds, and Marks and Spencer.

To get started:
Newcomers to the subject are welcome; it is not necessary to have studied Business Studies previously. Take this course if you prefer a more practical, ‘hands-on’ approach to learning and would prefer to be assessed continuously throughout the two years via coursework.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA in Applied Business assessment is mainly through coursework assignments:
Level 3 Certificate in Applied Business: Assessment is by two coursework assignments and one exam.
Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Business: Assessment is by two additional coursework assignments and one exam.

Our students say …
“I prefer coursework to exams, so this course really suits me. I can apply what I learn to work, and it’s a great stepping stone for my future career.”
Sibohan Kelly
“I am really enjoying this course; I’m glad I chose it. The teachers are helpful and friendly. My personal organisation has improved since starting the course. I enjoy working with local businesses because it makes everything we do in class so relevant.”
Rosie Leach

What next?
Applied Business provides an opportunity to add breadth to any combination of A Levels. It is relevant to a wide range of careers, including management, finance, law, media, engineering and accountancy. It is a highly respected route for students who wish to move into employment in business, either directly or following further study. Applied Business also provides an excellent basis for any business-related degree, such as management science or marketing. The skills and understanding you gain will prove valuable in virtually any career. You will also know how to go about setting up your own business!

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 4 in Business if taken

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BTEC

Applied Science BTEC National

What’s it all about?
BTEC National Applied Science is a course for students who enjoy being in the lab, but do not wish to study separate subjects. It is all about science in the workplace and how science affects our day-to-day lives. It will have a balance of coursework and examined units.

“It’s science for the hands on scientist! Love practical science? Want a well-regarded vocational level 3 qualification? BTEC Applied Science is the perfect blend of laboratory work and real-life content.”

Exam and Assessment Information:
The course on offer is the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science. It is available to extended certificate (equivalent to one full A Level) over 2 years.

The BTEC comprises 50% externally assessed examined units and 50% internally assessed coursework. You will study key concepts in science incorporating biology, chemistry & physics and undertake an array of experimental techniques such as calibration, chromatography and calorimetry. In units assessed by assignments, you will carry out set tasks and create evidence to work-related scenarios. Assignments can include research, projects, investigations, fieldwork, and experiments, and often link theory with practical exercises.

Each BTEC Nationals unit is individually graded (Pass, Merit, Distinction) and contributes towards the final qualification grade. All mandatory units, three of the four studied, must be passed. The final grades awarded are Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Our students say …
“It’s fun and very interesting and you get to do some physics!”
Zoe Valentine-Saunders

“Like the coursework aspect of applied science, it’s a nice change from always doing exams.”
Olivia Burley

What next?
BTEC Level 3 Applied Science provides access to a huge range of scientific and non-scientific degree courses. It also provides a good balance for the student studying predominantly arts and humanities as it tests a wider variety of skills. As the subject includes portfolio modules it can cater for students who excel with coursework.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 4 in Science

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“Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.”
Edwin Hubble

"The best way of learning about anything is by doing. A business has to be evolving, it has to be fun and it has to exercise your creative instincts.”
Sir Richard Branson

"I am really enjoying this course; I’m glad I chose it. The teachers are helpful and friendly. My personal organisation has improved since starting the course. I enjoy working with local businesses because it makes everything we do in class so relevant.”
Rosie Leach

"I prefer coursework to exams, so this course really suits me. I can apply what I learn to work, and it’s a great stepping stone for my future career.”
Sibohan Kelly

"It’s science for the hands on scientist! Love practical science? Want a well-regarded vocational level 3 qualification? BTEC Applied Science is the perfect blend of laboratory work and real-life content.”

"Like the coursework aspect of applied science, it’s a nice change from always doing exams.”
Olivia Burley

"It’s fun and very interesting and you get to do some physics!”
Zoe Valentine-Saunders

"The best way of learning about anything is by doing. A business has to be evolving, it has to be fun and it has to exercise your creative instincts.”
Sir Richard Branson
**Art and Design**

What's it all about?
This course is a dynamic, hands-on and energetic introduction to the world of making art in all its guises. You don't have to cut your ear off or grapple with a pickled shark to do this course, but you do need an insatiable visual appetite!
You will need to be excited about art and wanting to create art, have a thirst for knowledge and keep vivid and lively sketchpads.

To get started:
You will develop a series of art pieces exploring a range of media including oil painting, life drawing, printmaking and sculpture, as well as exploring themes of your own. This is an intensive, diagnostic course designed to teach you about the processes involved in making art works and as a foundation for future development in art and design. You will look at and respond to a variety of artists related to your own work and will be expected to research thoroughly at home.

You will build on the acquisition of skills and develop your own distinct style and ideas based on themes developed by you. As well as practical coursework for the A Level you have to produce a 'Personal Study', which is a written/illustrated study about a theme closely related to artists' work that will influence your own. This has a minimum of 1,000 words of continuous prose which will be illustrated. The theme would be the same as the practical work.
Sixth formers have their own dedicated studio to work in during lessons and free periods. There are some costs involved in buying sketchpads and other equipment and life drawing. We sell a pack of equipment at the start of the course, including portfolios, sketchpads etc.

**Entry Requirements**
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 4 in GCSE Art if taken

What next?
This course complements the A Level in Photography. You can go on from here to do a one-year Foundation course where you focus on an area you could study at degree level (e.g. sculpture or stage design). The A Level also allows you to apply directly for a degree course and is important for degrees such as architecture, film making, advertising, illustration, fine art or stage design.

**Exam and Assessment Information:**
- **EDEXCEL** - 9FAO
  - A Level, 60% marks = Coursework (Personal Investigation).
  - 40% = Exam (externally set assignment) with a 15 hour exam at the end of the course.

Art teachers examine all your work and this is externally moderated.

**Course Leader** - York College

Francis Bacon

"The job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery. I believe in deeply ordered chaos. If you can talk about it, why paint it?"

Abi Mayes

"Year on year the KJS students who come to York College to study on the Art Foundation Diploma bring with them some of the best portfolios we see. The students themselves are well informed and incredibly passionate about their work, which is no doubt due to the fantastic facilities they have access to."

**Our students say...**
- "A Level Art is great if you want to further develop your skills. It gives you freedom, allowing you to create what you want and make your own style."
  - Luke Herrington
- "Art involves a lot of imagination and creativity that links to a lot of other subjects."
  - Abi Mayes

Neil deGrasse Tyson

"If you removed all the arteries, veins and capillaries from a person's body, and tied them end-to-end... the person will die."

**What next?**
Having an A Level in a science subject is great for university applications and opens many options to you. Depending on what other A Levels you choose, a Level Biology could lead to a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, science journalism, pharmacy, conservation, research science, nutrition and the food industry, forensic science, sports science, zoology or nursing, amongst a huge range of others. In fact, having an A Level in Biology will stand you in great stead for a huge range of careers, as it provides a wide range of transferrable skills.

**Entry Requirements**
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 6 in Triple or Combined Science

**Exam and Assessment Information**
OCR - Biology A – H420

- Assessment will be 6 hours of exams for A Level. There is no coursework element but practical skills will be assessed within the written exams and also form the biology practical endorsement. The exams will also include assessment of higher tier GCSE mathematical skills.
- Year one includes Cell Structure, Biochemistry, Breathing and Circulation, Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease.
- Year two includes Communication Systems, Homeostasis, Energy, Genetics and Evolution.

Harvey Burton

"Biology offers a new challenge every day."

"If you removed all the arteries, veins and capillaries from a person's body, and tied them end-to-end... the person will die."

Chloe Houldsworth

"Choosing Biology enables you to enhance your scientific understanding in a fun and interesting way. Going on trips and doing fascinating experiments is only a sample of the exciting opportunities you are given."

**What's it all about?**
How do we start to conserve an endangered species? What is actually happening inside your body when you eat your breakfast or run for the school bus? What will you find inside a cell? How do your genes make you unique? Where does your urine come from? Find out all of the answers to these questions (and many more) in A Level Biology. If you have a good general understanding of science and an urge to find out more about the living world around you, A Level Biology could be for you.

During Year 12 you will learn the important basics of biology, including cells, biochemistry and biodiversity. In Year 13, we study specific systems in much more detail. In order to enhance your learning and experience biology in the real world, we will visit several local organisations including the Yorkshire Wildlife Park to find out how they conserve their animals, both locally and internationally, and Harlow Carr Gardens in order to complete ecological experiments that are not possible within a school setting. You will also have the opportunity to develop your research skills by completing a series of independent projects throughout the course, in which you study specific areas of biology and apply them to examples of your choice.

To get started:
We ask for grade 6 in GCSE Triple Science or Combined Science as well as grade 6 in Maths. All of the course assessment will be through exams, there is no coursework. To succeed at Biology A Level you need good GCSE mathematical skills, problem solving skills, a good understanding of GCSE Science and to be able to explain your ideas clearly in writing.

**Our students say...**
- "Choosing Biology enables you to enhance your scientific understanding in a fun and interesting way. Going on trips and doing fascinating experiments is only a sample of the exciting opportunities you are given."
- Harvey Burton
- "Biology offers a new challenge every day."
- Chloe Houldsworth

**What next?**
Having an A Level in a science subject is great for university applications and opens many options to you. Depending on what other A Levels you choose, a Level Biology could lead to a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, science journalism, pharmacy, conservation, research science, nutrition and the food industry, forensic science, sports science, zoology or nursing, amongst a huge range of others. In fact, having an A Level in Biology will stand you in great stead for a huge range of careers, as it provides a wide range of transferrable skills.
**Business**

**What's it all about?**
Business is front-page news. Many of you will already have contact with businesses through TV programmes like The Apprentice and The Dragon’s Den, and from part-time work and jobs your family and friends do; all of you will work in some form of business in the future. A Level Business provides a broad, academic foundation into how businesses work and enables you to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding you need to succeed in an ever-changing business world. You will develop your understanding of the techniques used in marketing, finance, production and human resource management. You will learn how to set up and run a small business, and also about management, leadership and decision-making at a strategic level in larger organisations.

**To get started:**
Newcomers to the subject are welcome, it is not necessary to have studied Business previously. A Level Business is an academic subject. Exam questions require you to analyse both written information and numerical data. A mix of short and longer essay-style answers are required. Quantitative skills, including financial ratios, averages, fractions and percentages, and calculation of profit and loss, make up 10% of the overall marks.

**Exam and Assessment Information:**
AQA - 7132
Assessment is by three 2 hour exams at the end of the course. There is no coursework.

“Our students say...”
“Business is a great subject to study – I can apply what I learn to work, and it’s a great stepping stone for my future career. I am really enjoying the course.”
Aden McCarthy

“I enjoy visits to local businesses because it makes everything we do in class relevant. I want to be a manager in the future, so the skills I am learning really suit me.”
Penny Salter

**What next?**
A Level Business provides an opportunity to add breadth to any combination of A Levels. It fits equally well with humanities, arts, sciences and modern languages. A Level Business provides an excellent basis for any business-related degree, such as management science, and is also relevant to a wide range of careers, including management, finance, law, media, engineering and accountancy. The skills and understanding you gain will prove valuable in virtually any career. You will also know how to go about setting up your own business!

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**Chemistry**

**What's it all about?**
Have you ever wondered... What is in a medicine? What new fuels do we need to develop? Why do onions make you cry? How is chemistry linked to art? Can you turn lead into gold? What is in a medicine? What new fuels do we need to develop? Why do onions make you cry? How is chemistry linked to art? Can you turn lead into gold? What's it all about?

“Launching a business is essentially an adventure in problem-solving. If you love adventure and you want to make a difference, the life of an entrepreneur could be for you.”
Sir Richard Branson

“Business is a great subject to study – I can apply what I learn to work, and it’s a great stepping stone for my future career. I am really enjoying the course.”
Aden McCarthy

“I enjoy visits to local businesses because it makes everything we do in class relevant. I want to be a manager in the future, so the skills I am learning really suit me.”
Penny Salter

**What next?**
Studying chemistry is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry as well as chemistry, the biological sciences, physics, maths and analytical chemistry. Chemistry is also undertaken by a number of law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts. Chemistry can also complement a number of arts subjects... the possibilities are endless!

A range of career opportunities are available including chemical, manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries and in areas such as forensics, environmental protection and healthcare. The problem solving skills are useful for many other areas, too, such as law and finance. Remember Helen Sharman the first Briton in space... she has a chemistry degree from Sheffield University.

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**Entry Requirements**

**AQA**

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 5 in Business if taken

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**OCR**

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and 6 in Maths Grade 6 in Triple or Combined Science
Computer Science

What’s it all about?
Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It’s an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. This Computer Science qualification will value computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

The course is delivered by skilled and experienced computer science teachers who have real world experience in programming and computing, helping students to push their knowledge and experience of computing to the limit. A combination of exciting practical tasks and theory delivery are devised to deliver the content in an enjoyable and challenging way.
In this course we teach you how to think like a computer, solving problems through logic and algorithm design. Your mind will be stretched and taken on new journeys in a way that you have never experienced before. You have been warned.

What next?
An A Level in Computer Science will make you one of the most valuable students on the market, opening doors to a variety of university courses in computer studies, IT and programming. There are an increasing number of apprenticeships opening up in this area too, with a high demand for quality individuals which could lead to employment and/or further study in this exciting new area.

To get started:
A highly demanding and challenging A Level which requires you to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Previous studies in Computer Science and / or IT is not a necessity as long as you are enthused at the thought of solving problems through computational thinking, algorithm design and coding real world solutions.

An inquiring mind, willingness to work hard and a firm grasp of mathematical concepts are essential qualities for this course.

Exam and Assessment Information:
OCR - H446
01 Computer systems (external exam – 40%)
02 Algorithms and programming (external exam – 40%)
03 Programming project (internal coursework – 20%)

Our students say ...
"I have never been challenged like this before. My Computer Science teacher introduced me to a topic which totally bent my mind. I have never had to stretch myself so much in any of my other lessons; it was great fun and so satisfying."
Sam James

"The computing teachers are so knowledgeable; we do lots of practical programming tasks as well as researching and finding out about new theory topics. I’m really enjoying it and am so glad I chose to do it."
James Wiehe

"There are only 10 types of people in the world, those that understand binary and those that don’t."  
Anon

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and 6 for Maths + Grade 5 in Computer Science if taken

AQA Design and Technology - Product Design

What’s it all about?
This course is an introduction to the world of product design - an industry which increasingly has a greater impact upon our daily lives. From the electronic devices with which we interface to the vehicles that transport us, the buildings that protect us and the systems and products that make our lives safer, healthier and happier - both now and in the future.

The course aims to stimulate students’ creativity through innovation, problem-solving, design, development and realisation. Subject knowledge is not therefore acquired for its own sake, but to aid the process of finding tangible solutions to problems which arise in everyday life in an industrial and commercial context. We simply ask the questions: What should we do? Why should we do it? How should we do it?
We have an outstanding team of staff delivering the course who, through their own specialisms and experiences, bring the correct balance of skill and technological know-how within an inclusive and supportive environment.

As a school we are technology-rich and have an abundance of CAD (Solidworks; Corel Draw; Adobe Illustrator / Photoshop; Boxford Design Tools) and CAM (3D-Printer; CNC lathe; miller; laser-cutter; plotter-cutter) at our disposal. To enhance this we have strong industry and university links which give us access to Waterjet and Abrasivejet cutting as well as CNC routing.

Our students say ...
“Studying Product Design at King James’s has provided me with a broad range of opportunities as well as the ability to challenge myself through great facilities and excellent staff. The design team are particularly welcoming with support being given not just during lessons but often after school and into early evenings - such is their dedication that they make you feel like you are their main priority.”
Nicole Cant

“Antoine de Saint Exupery

To get started:
You will need a grade C or above in GCSE and also need to show commitment in meeting frequent deadlines to produce an extensive design portfolio and be willing to work beyond the four hours of lesson-time in order to fully access the facilities at your disposal.

Exam and Assessment Information:

AQA

Paper 1 - 30% of A Level
Technical Principles
Written exam: 2.5 hours - 120 marks

Paper 2 - 20% of A Level
Designing and Making Principles
Written exam: 1.5 hours - 80 marks

Non-exam assessment (NEA) - 50% of A Level
Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge. Substantial design and make task. 45 hours - 100 marks

Our students say ...
“A designer knows they have achieved perfection not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.”
Antoine de Saint Exupery

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade C Product Design, Resistant Materials, Graphics or Engineering
**What's it all about?**

Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? Do you enjoy making? If so, you should consider a course in textile design. It is a practical course in which you learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative personal work. Practical work is produced by researching and developing ideas using drawing, digital exploration, sketchbooks and worksheets, supported by critical evaluation and an awareness of contemporary and historical influences.

Textile design is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects. The study of fashion and textiles is exciting and challenging. Students work with a range of different materials and produce original, experimental work, whether sublimation printing or fabric manipulation. They are encouraged to look at textiles and fashions from different periods and cultures and interpret those designs using a repertoire of different techniques and processes.

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

"Fashion is very important. It is life-enhancing and, like everything that gives pleasure, it is worth doing well!"

_Vivienne Westwood_  

**What next?**

"The UK’s thriving fashion industry makes a huge contribution to the economy," AQA Qualifications Developer Ben Galvin, "It employs hundreds of thousands of people and is one of our most sought-after exports. It’s important that we support the growth of this industry by developing young people with a solid understanding of the commercial, creative and technical sides of the trade. This new A Level will enable students to learn about some of the most influential and iconic designers and movements to demonstrate the history of the industry and its importance within our society."

Fashion and textiles is a major employer in the UK offering a highly diverse and exciting range of career opportunities: fashion designer, fabric designer, pattern cutter, interior design, textile art, fashion journalism, stylist, window dresser, retail buyer, theatre designer, sportswear designer, fashion promotion/merchandising, upholsterer, wallpaper designer, teacher or lecturer, footwear design, fashion retailing, costume design for theatre and film and/or fashion illustration.

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**To get started:**

A grade C or above in a GCSE Design and Technology subject or Art is requisite to access the course fully. You will also need to show commitment in meeting frequent deadlines to produce an extensive portfolio and be willing to work beyond the four hours of lesson-time in order to fully access the facilities at your disposal.

**Textile design course content:**  
Fashion design • Fashion textiles • Costume design  
Printed, dyed fabrics & materials • Domestic textiles  
Wallpaper • Interior design • Constructed textiles  
Art textiles • Digital textiles • Installed textiles

**Exam and Assessment Information:**

_AQA_  

**Component 1 – Personal Investigation**  
At A level in component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A Level marks.

**Component 2 – Examination**  
In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks. It is a 15 hour practical exam at the end of the course.

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Our students say …

“The photography course has a very ‘can do’ attitude, opening up possibilities to further ideas. It’s perfect for those who have a passion to record and want to develop their skills to create something original and exciting.”

_Rebecca Wood_

“I love photography because it allows you to be creative and the practical work makes it great fun.”

_Alice Wright_

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**What’s it all about?**

This course is a buzzing visual feast where you experiment with types of photography from ‘Street to ‘Fashion’ in an individual and highly creative atmosphere.

There are some costs attached to this course. The Art Department sells a pack of equipment at the start of the year including an SD card, an SD card reader, a portfolio, a memory pen and a sketchpad and glue.

**To get started:**

You will develop a series of projects using digital cameras (DSLR’s) that allow you to become familiar with the different types of photography (genres) from landscape photography, portraits, fashion, street and fine art photography. You will start off with a thorough grounding in the functions of the camera and then develop your own work based on the themes above. You will be taught about editing; however the best shots are those that don’t need editing. You will need to be imaginative and energetic! You have to keep sketchpads full of thumbnail shots and edited shots. Students will be given the opportunity to go out on location for various shoots. You will build on the acquisition of skills and develop your own distinct style and ideas based on themes developed by you.

As well as practical coursework for the A Level you have to produce a ‘Personal Study’ which is a written/illustrated study about a theme closely related to photographers’ work that will influence your own. This has a minimum of 1,000 words of continuous prose which will be illustrated. The theme would be broadly as the practical work. You will look at and respond to a variety of photographers related to your own work and be expected to research thoroughly at home.

**What next?**

The qualification enhances applications to other creative courses and is a good complement to the Art and Design A Level course. You can go on from here to do a one year Foundation course where you focus on an area you could study at degree level (e.g. photography or fashion photography). The A Level also allows you to apply directly for a degree course and is important for degrees such as advertising, film studies, and photography. Careers stemming from the A Level Photography course include film making, advertising, film and TV, and museum curators amongst others. Sixth Formers have their own dedicated studio to work in during lessons and study periods.
**What's it all about?**
A Level Drama & Theatre Studies offers you the opportunity to study many facets of theatre in a uniquely practical way. The course is written by AQA and is designed for students with a passion for theatre and performance. Much of the course is concerned with discovering how to transform words on the page into words on stage: the process of what happens to the drama text as a group of people get hold of it and begin to fashion a piece of live theatre from it.

We have an outstanding team of staff who are dedicated and driven to inspire you and develop your skills as an actor, director or designer and we push you to be the best that you can possibly be. We believe in your ability to interact creatively and professionally with like-minded students.

The school boasts exceptional facilities for drama. The drama tower houses three dedicated teaching and performance spaces. The three floors are professionally-themed to create a truly theatrical environment with illuminated poster frames, lighting, plush carpet and handrails. The studios are equipped with excellent lighting and sound facilities as well as blackout blinds, drapes and dance-mat flooring.

**To get started:**
A grade 4 or above in GSCE Drama or Performing Arts is desirable. This is a subject which requires a hands-on approach; indeed a large percentage of the final result is based on practical work, and you will be required to work closely with the rest of your group in problem-solving and communicating within a team.

The course requires a large commitment from you in terms of contribution both in and out of lessons. Regular theatre visits and practical work supplement the academic studies. The emphasis of the course is very much on putting theory into practice.

**What next?**
The role of the Arts within society has grown significantly throughout the years. This course is an excellent foundation for a direct degree in acting. It also equips students for further education in various pathways relating to media, arts, communication, teaching and events management. The scope for development is vast.

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**Exam and Assessment Information:**

**AQA – 7261, 7262**

**Entry Requirements**

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above

including 4 in English Lang. and Maths

+ Grade 4 in Drama or Performing Arts if taken

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**What's it all about?**

Economics is front-page news. You will learn how to use the 'economists toolbox,' a set of skills and techniques which will enable you to analyse and debate headline issues in an informed way. Economics will make you stand out as an independent, critical thinker. As citizens, future taxpayers and voters you need to understand the 'big issues.' To do so, knowledge of economics is invaluable, many would say essential.

There are two main areas of study:

**Microeconomics:** How does a market economy work? What happens when markets fail? What determines how much we earn? Why do stockbrokers earn more than doctors?

**Macroeconomics:** How can a government best manage the economy to achieve high employment, low inflation and economic growth? How does globalisation affect us? Can we solve world poverty?

**What next?**

Economics provides an opportunity to add breadth to any combination of A Levels. It fits equally well with humanities, arts, sciences and modern languages. Economics A Level provides an excellent basis for any economics/management-related degree, and is also relevant to a wide range of careers, including law, finance, business, media, engineering and accountancy. The skills and understanding you gain will prove valuable in virtually any career.

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**Exam and Assessment Information:**

**OCR – H460**

**Entry Requirements**

Newcomers to the subject are welcome, it is not necessary to have studied Economics previously. Economics is an academic subject. Exam questions require you to analyse both written information and numerical data. A mix of short and longer essay-style answers are required. Quantitative skills, including ratios, averages, fractions and percentages, make up 20% at A Level.

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**Our students say...**

“Economics is a challenging and interesting subject. It touches on everyday aspects of the current world and it is a useful subject for the future.”

Jack Brennan

“Studying economics means I understand issues that were just a meaningless blur before! It’s actually useful, which is why I strongly recommend it.”

Megan King

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“The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually slaves of some defunct economist.”

John Maynard Keynes

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**Entry Requirements**

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above

including 4 in English Lang. and Maths

+ Grade 5 Economics if taken
English Language

What’s it all about?
If you are fascinated by language, this course is for you. Maybe you listen with interest when you come across an accent that is different from your own; or you might have a young child in your family learning to talk; or perhaps you’re intrigued by the way new words seem to appear on a daily basis – or even by the unique histories of older words. Each of these areas, and many more besides, are the business of a linguist and this is what you become if you study English Language. You can turn your natural interest in language into the study of linguistics. During the two-year linear course, you will learn to analyse language in its many forms and show creativity through the production of your own original writing.

To get started:
The most important qualities to have are a curiosity about how language works and an enjoyment of the process of reading and writing. To manage this course effectively, you will need high quality analysis and writing skills. Successful students contribute to discussions in class and have a pro-active and independent attitude to learning. You will need to have a grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7702
A Level
A linear course assessed by two exam papers which require the student to analyse, compare and discuss.
And
A non-exam assessment worth 20% involving a language investigation and a piece of original writing.

Our students say ...
"I enjoyed the chance to write creatively because I’m interested in journalism."
Alice Wright
"Child Language Development is fascinating and will be useful when I train as a primary school teacher."
Hannah Davy

What next?
English Language sits happily alongside a wide range of subject combinations. It is a particularly good choice for those considering A Levels in Literature, Modern Languages, Sociology and Psychology, but its wide ranging nature also makes it an ideal choice for those considering one of the sciences. It will prepare you to be a critical reader and effective communicator. Past students have gone on to work in media, journalism, teaching, law, politics and speech therapy. It is also a useful spring board for studying English Language or Linguistics at university.
The English language has never been so influential: it is the language of international business, politics and the internet. It is constantly evolving and the focus of many a lively debate on Twitter or YouTube. Check out what David Crystal, Donna Tartt or Stephen Fry have to say about it.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in Maths and 5 in English Language

Literature

What’s it all about?
Should women be forced to have babies?
Does raw sexual chemistry trump morality?
Were the Romantic poets more debauched than today’s rock stars?
Wouldn’t Hamlet have been happier if he had stopped his whinging and accepted his new father?
Can we trust anything a character tells us?
Are baddies really all that bad?
The A Level Literature course attempts to answer questions about the world and everything that’s in it. Students will explore some of the best literature the English Language has to offer and consider what each text reveals about the human condition and the world around us.
Students will engage in lively debate concerning the ideas presented in literature and make connections between texts borne out of a diverse range of artistic movements and contexts. All aspects of essay writing will be honed including areas such as taking a firm perspective on an issue, precision, structure and evaluation. Learning will be achieved through a combination of group work, independent study, lecture format, debate and discussion. You will refine your skills in evaluating the issues raised in texts and the methods writers utilise to present their ideas. You will consider and respond to alternative critical interpretations of literary texts from both academic writers and your classmates.

To get started:
You will need to be interested in improving your skills in arguing, explaining and defending your viewpoint. You will enjoy reading and discussing prose, poetry and drama texts. You will be enthusiastic, have a sense of fun and possess a willingness to be directly involved in learning activities.

Exam and Assessment Information:
Edexcel
Three examination papers (80%) and one piece of coursework (20%). All exams are open book.

What next?
Some of the traits most valued by today’s employers and universities are emotional and social understanding. The Literature course will refine these aspects of your personality as well as giving you a more profound understanding of yourself and the world around you.
An A Level in English Literature can be used in a fantastic range of careers and higher education courses including the media, the arts and the performing arts, journalism, writing, education and academia, publishing, public relations, advertising and marketing and the law.
A Level Literature enables you to apply for single or combined Degree programs, where you can study Literature alone or in conjunction with another academic field.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English Language and Maths + Grade 5 in English Language
French

What’s it all about?
By studying French, you’ll stand out from the crowd: 61% of the UK population don’t speak a foreign language! (source: Eurobarometer survey 2012). A language opens opportunities and widens career choices as well as employment prospects: almost 300 of Britain’s top employers believe an additional language boosts employability (source: CILT). Universities too look favourably at language qualifications and some courses even require a language. Many scientists believe that knowledge of another language can boost your brainpower (source: BBC).

There are four main topic areas:
- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Works: either one literary text and a film or 2 texts

To get started:
GCSE grade 6 in French is required.
The emphasis is on the culture and society of France or French speaking countries. An independent research topic will be assessed through the speaking test (presentation and discussion). Grammar is key throughout and there are translations into English and French. Students are expected to read and listen to French outside lessons on an independent basis. Students are encouraged to take part in the exchange to Privas.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7652
This qualification is linear and students will sit all their exams at the end of the year.

To help you...:
- Grade 5 in English
- GCSE Geography at grade 4 is required.

Our students say ...
“What I like most about French is that it opens you up to new cultures; you can enjoy new music, literature and films which you wouldn’t have been able to understand before. As well as this, it helps you in your other subjects as you learn how to understand language as a whole. It particularly helps with the quality and structure of your writing, which is really useful over a range of subjects!”
Bronte Madeley

What next?
Potential careers: international law, journalism, travel & tourism, teaching, working in finance, design, fashion and engineering for those aiming at highly globalised industry.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 6 in French

Geography

What’s it all about?
Geography is a contemporary subject that looks at the relationship between population and the physical environment at a variety of scales from local to global. The units studied offer opportunities for you to consider your own values and attitudes to themes and issues discussed, as well as those of the decision makers. It also encourages the acquisition of a broad range of skills, including the ability to deal with statistics and analyse maps and other kinds of data. Some GCSE topics will be touched on but there are many new ones to learn about. There’s a lot more depth in the ones you think you know all about!

Fieldwork is a vital part of any A Level Geography course. In Year 12 we will visit Saltaire to study changing places and the Holderness coast. Over the course of the two year course you will complete four days of field work which will prepare you for your Individual Investigation in Year 13.

To get started:
GCSE Geography at grade 4 is required.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7037
You will study a range of themes and issues including coastal systems and landscapes, water and carbon cycles and hazards.

Our students say ...
“I enjoy Geography because it effectively combines the scientific elements and explaining geographical processes with the social elements of discussing the impacts of geography in everyday life. It is a fascinating insight into the way the world works and the fieldwork is great.”
Jasmine Rowson

“I enjoy the range of areas we study in Geography, with the human and physical side, and the different topics within them. It is a good A Level to have due to the variety of skills used within the course. Maths, Science and analytical skills are combined within the subject. The course is fun as well as interesting.”
Joe Vessey

What next?
You will gain a wide range of skills so you will be well equipped to enter a variety of jobs and degree courses, including environmental and recreation management, pollution science, global futures, transport studies, geology and oceanography. Geography graduates are highly sought after and post-graduate unemployment is low.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and 5 in Maths + Grade 4 in Geography
German

What's it all about?

Why study German?

By studying German, you'll stand out from the crowd: 61% of the UK population don't speak a foreign language! (source: Eurobarometer survey 2012). A language opens opportunities and widens career choices as well as employment prospects. Almost 300 of Britain's top employers believe an additional language boosts employability and German is first of the top four languages rated by employers as useful to their organisation, (source: CILT). Universities too, look favourably at language qualifications - some courses even require a language! Many scientists believe that knowledge of another language can boost your brainpower. (source: BBC).

There are four main topic areas
Social issues and trends
Political and artistic culture
Grammar
Works: literary texts and/or film

To get started:
GCSE grade 6 in German is required.

The emphasis is on the culture and society of Germany. Students must study either one text and one film (from a set list provided by AQA) to encourage critical thinking skills. An independent research project (IRP) will be assessed through the speaking test and an oral presentation. Grammar is key throughout and there are translations into English and German.

Students are expected to read and listen to German outside lessons on an independent basis. Furthermore, students are encouraged to take part in the exchange to Bebra, which has been running for more than 40 years.

What next?
Possible careers: international law, journalism, travel & tourism, teaching, working in the highly globalised industries of finance, design, fashion and engineering. Famous German linguists: Roger Federer, Paula Radcliffe, Hugh Laurie, Eddie Izzard, Jodie Foster and Sandra Bullock.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 6 in German

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7662
This qualification is linear and students will sit all their exams at the end of the two years. There are three papers.

Paper 1 – Listening, reading and writing
Written exam - 2 hours 30 mins
100 marks - 50% of A Level

Paper 2 – Writing
Written exam – 2 hours
80 marks – 20% of A Level

Paper 3 – Speaking
Oral exam – 21-23 mins
60 marks – 30% of A Level

Our students say ...
"German has been a very interesting subject to study at A Level. I have learnt about the culture, language and global problems and I can talk about them in German more than in English! It's a language that not many people learn so it will lead to lots of job opportunities. I have enjoyed it so much that I have chosen to study it at university!"
Rosalyn Sword

"Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going."
Rita Mae Brown

Government and Politics

What's it all about?

To get started:
Five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including grade 4 in English Language or Literature, are required.

There is no coursework component in A Level Government & Politics. A degree of confidence with examinations is therefore important, as is the ability to revise effectively. However, Government and Politics fits in with both essay based and more scientific subjects, although again the ability to write an essay is an advantage. This skill will, however, be taught. Confidence in literacy is important.

Students should be prepared to read newspapers and articles, watch news and current affairs programmes... and debate! Willingness for participation as well as a literate and enquiring mind are a must.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA
Unit 1: UK Politics
Written paper, 2 hours, mixture of short and longer questions. Worth one third of the A Level.

Unit 2: US and Comparative Politics
Written paper, 2 hours, mixture of short and longer questions. Worth one third of the A Level.

Unit 3: Political Ideas
Written paper, 2 hours, mixture of short and longer questions. Worth one third of the A Level.

Our students say...
"It is really interesting getting to understand the different political systems and ideologies we study in the course. Some of the decisions politicians make start to make sense, even though you may not agree with them."
Ben Fitzpatrick

"Lessons are always fun and engaging and there are plenty of opportunities to develop your answers and exam technique."
Chantele Hodson

"We live exactly as we please, and yet through politics are just as ready to encounter every legitimate danger."
Pericles

What next?
Many politicians, comedians, actors, lawyers have degrees in politics; as do teachers, accountants... it's a subject that leads to everything and rules out nothing.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths
What’s it all about?
The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care will provide learners with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a health and social care-related programme such as Health and Social Care, Nursing, Social Work or Early Childhood Studies. When studying the Cambridge Technical Health and Social Care course you will explore different environments and settings where care takes place, the importance of effective communication in health and social care, the importance of legislation in health and social care and how to deliver a person-centred approach in the care given. You will also develop transferable skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation which will help many different careers or courses in higher education.

To get started:
In order to be able to study a vocational Health and Social Care course you need to have at least a grade 4 at GCSE level in English.

Exam and Assessment Information:
OCR
Assessment will take place in two forms, combining external examinations and internally marked and assessed coursework that is then moderated by an external examiner.
There are four compulsory modules, followed by two optional ones which we select in school. Three of these units are assessed by external examination.

What’s it all about?
As well as an insight into the past, and therefore a greater understanding of the present, A Level History aims to provide students with analytical skills which can be applied in many varied contexts. A good historian will learn to understand, appreciate and evaluate different perspectives and interpretations. They will also learn to think independently, develop their own arguments and justify their opinions with both evidence and reason.

History
To get started:
Successful A Level history students will combine a thirst for knowledge with an inquisitive and questioning mind. They will be excited by unravelling the mysteries of the past. They should be willing to read around the subject and must enjoy challenging ideas and developing their own arguments. Ideally they should enjoy the process of writing essays, embracing them as opportunities to develop an analytical response to a complex issue. Above all a good historian is someone who wants to ask “why?”

Exam and Assessment Information
OCR
British period study and enquiry: 1 hour 30 minute paper - 25%
Y105 England 1445–1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII
(Enquiry topic: Wars of the Roses 1445–1461; source based.)
Non-British period study: 1 hour paper - 15%
Y219 Russia 1894–1941
Thematic study and historical interpretations: 40%
Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485–1603
Topic-based essay: (unit Y100) - 20%
Students will complete a 3000–4000 word essay on a topic of their choice, which may arise out of content studied elsewhere in the course.

What next?
History is easily combined with a number of subjects at King James’s School and beyond, including government and politics, English literature, philosophy, geography and psychology. However, a large number of students also combine history with mathematics and sciences as the use of evidence, logical thinking and academic approach are very similar. Careers which follow from a degree in history are hugely varied, including law, journalism, business management (10% of the directors of FTSE 100 companies have history degrees), education, research, public relations, politics, the Civil Service, the diplomatic services and consultancy. However, as a highly valued academic discipline a strong history degree opens many surprising doors in unexpected areas.

Our students say ...
“I really like history; the teachers are all really enthusiastic which makes the lessons engaging and interesting.” Ellie Senior

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 4 in Science

What’s it all about?
A vocational qualification in Health and Social Care will provide valuable experience and knowledge for working in the care sector with clients of all ages, and will support progression into apprenticeships in care settings. The assessment of both coursework and examinations will prepare learners for the rigour of higher education in areas such as childcare, nursing and midwifery, mental health care and counselling.

Our students say ...
“Having good communication with patients/clients helps them in three main ways. To feel at ease, to feel in control and to feel valued.”
(Reference http://rcnhca.org.uk/Royal College of Nursing.)

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 5 in English and 4 in Maths + Grade 4 in History if taken

“Not to know what happened before you were born is to remain perpetually a child.”
Cicero

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 4 in Science
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate IT (A Level)

What’s it all about?
A brand new and exciting course which replaces the A-Level in ICT. Cambridge Technicals are high quality, nationally recognised qualifications which provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge demanded by employers and universities.

The Technicals will provide learners with the opportunity through applied learning to develop core principles and the specialist knowledge and understanding required in the IT sector. If you are keen to learn how organisations use information and technology to advance in the world of business and commerce then this qualification is for you.

The qualification has some optional units, undertaken in Year 13, specialising in different areas of IT and computing. Units could be based around the internet, for example building a website or systems analysis which looks at how information systems are developed; there is also project management or product development; a decision of which 2 will be studied will be taken nearer the time.

To get started:
This course is suited to students who are aiming for university, college, work-based apprenticeships or similar. The Cambridge Technicals in IT would also be a perfect support your other subjects at university or college.

What next?
Get me to university, college, work-based apprenticeships or similar. The Cambridge Technicals in IT would also be a perfect support your other subjects at university or college.

Exam and Assessment Information:
05839 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (A Level equivalent)
3 mandatory and 2 optional units.

There are two compulsory units in the certificate: Fundamentals of IT and Global information, which are externally assessed through exams. There is a further compulsory unit - Cyber security and two further optional units in the Extended Certificate. Cyber security is assessed through external exam and the two other units are internally assessed and moderated coursework units. The optional units available will be decided nearer the time, please refer to the course description for possible topics.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade C in ICT if taken

Core Mathematics – Level 3 Certificate

What’s it all about?
This Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies is a qualification studied over two years which carries the same UCAS points as an AS level. The aim is to consolidate and build on students’ mathematical understanding, develop it further and build skills in the application of maths to authentic problems. An excellent course to develop GCSE skills.

This course will enable students to:
• Study a mathematics curriculum that is integrated with other areas of their study, work or interest, leading to the application of mathematics in these areas.
• Develop mathematical modelling, evaluating and reasoning skills
• Solve open-ended problems
• Solve substantial and realistic problems encountered by adults
• Use ICT for developing mathematical understanding and solving problems
• Develop skills in the communication, selection, use and interpretation of their mathematics
• Enjoy mathematics and develop confidence in using mathematics.

To get started:
The Mathematics Studies course is suitable for any student with a grade 4 or above from either Foundation or Higher tier GCSE Mathematics.

Exam and Assessment Information
AQA Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies (1350)
The course is linear with two 90 minute papers sat at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1 assesses:
Analysis of data
Maths for personal finance
Estimation

Paper 2 assesses:
Critical analysis of given data and models including
spreadsheets and tabular data
Statistical techniques

Our students say ...
“I like studying Core Maths because you learn about real-life maths such as financial problems.”
Freja Lythgow

What next?
Mathematical Studies will prepare students for the varied contexts they are likely to encounter in vocational and academic study and in future employment and life. As such, Mathematical Studies fosters the ability to think mathematically and to apply mathematical techniques to a variety of unfamiliar situations, questions and issues with confidence. While Mathematical Studies is likely to be particularly valuable for students progressing to higher education courses with a distinct mathematical or statistical element, this qualification will also be valuable for any student aiming for a career in a professional, creative or technical field and supports A Level subjects with a mathematical element, such as Geography, Psychology, Economics and the Sciences.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths

“A recent survey by the CBI showed that 39% of the firms surveyed are struggling to recruit workers with the IT skills they require.”

Our students say ...
“The first two units are more about how businesses use and need IT, but that’s important to know. I like the way they are delivered as practical tasks using different ways to present it like reports, presentations and videos, it makes it more fun.”
Harry Cope

“I like the way that the unit is delivered in a real world situation, some people came in from 02 and talked about how they used information in their business, it made it much more real for us.”
Freja Lythgow

“Go down deep enough into anything and you will find mathematics.”
Dean Schlichter
What's it all about?
Mathematics is not only a beautiful and exciting subject in its own right, but underpins many other branches of learning. Mathematics is needed by a wide range of students from those intending to read the subject at university to those needing particular techniques to support other subjects or chosen careers. The overriding aim of the teachers is to develop students’ understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment. A Level Mathematics is a very challenging and satisfying course where a willingness to attempt problems with enthusiasm leads to a better understanding of topics.

Topics studied in Year 12 and Year 13 come from three branches of Mathematics: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

Year 13 extends the work covered during Year 12 as well as introducing new topics.

The Pure Mathematics topics start to develop the basic techniques and language of algebra that the study of Advanced Mathematics requires. Topics such as algebra, coordinate geometry, sequences and trigonometry follow smoothly on from the Higher GCSE Mathematics course whilst new topics such as logarithms and calculus are introduced.

The Statistics topics develop ideas in analysing and presenting data that were studied at GCSE. The topics covered include graphs and networks, linear programming and analysis of algorithms. The topics covered in Further Mathematics.

The Mechanics topics build on the kinematics studied in the Higher GCSE course and introduce the use of Newton’s laws of motion.

Year 13

The Pure Mathematics topics continue to develop the skills needed for the study of the numerate disciplines at university. The topic of numerical methods is introduced as an approach to mathematical problems which cannot be solved analytically.

Students’ Statistics knowledge and understanding is broadened further with an introduction to correlation coefficients and the Normal distribution and in Mechanics they will learn to resolve forces to help them to solve problems using Newton’s laws of motion.

To get started:
Students intending to study A Level Mathematics must have a GCSE Mathematics grade 6.

Required Equipment:
All A Level Mathematics students require an advanced scientific calculator such as the Casio Classwiz. These are available to buy through school for approximately £20.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7357
The A Level is examined after two years.
Paper 1: Pure Maths
Paper 2: Section A Pure Maths, Section B Mechanics
Paper 3: Section A Pure Maths, Section B Statistics
All A Level examinations are 2 hours long.
An advanced scientific calculator is required for all examinations.

Our students say ...
"An A Level in maths is a great qualification to have as universities find it very impressive."
Phippia Dodds
"Come to Maths. We have pi!"
Chloe Foxton

What next?
A Level Mathematics provides very good support for a wide variety of higher education courses including engineering, chemistry, medicine, business studies, law and accountancy. It is also a very stimulating subject to study in its own right, opening the door to many employment opportunities.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and 6 in Maths

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7357
As well as sitting the A Level Mathematics examinations, students will sit three extra examinations each lasting two hours.
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics
Paper 3: Statistics and Discrete Maths

An advanced scientific calculator is required for all examinations.

What it all about?
Further Mathematics is designed for students with an enthusiasm for mathematics. It prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

The course will suit the able student who enjoys mathematics and wishes to understand it in more depth. Desirable qualities include initiative and independence of learning as the subjects covered are diverse.

Pure Mathematics comprises two thirds of the content with the other third being split between the Discrete and Statistics branches of mathematics. The Pure Mathematics content not only extends some of the topics from the Mathematics A Level but also provides the opportunity to study different topics such as complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.

The Statistics elements build on the content covered in the Mathematics A Level whilst the Discrete Mathematics element introduces the use and analysis of algorithms. The topics covered include graphs and networks, linear programming and critical path analysis.

To get started:
Students studying Further Mathematics must also be studying A Level Mathematics and should have at least grade 7 at GCSE.

Our students say ...
"Further Maths is great because it teaches you how to solve problems you never knew existed."
Alex Knight
"Further Maths unleashes your full mathematical potential and sets you up for a successful career."
Jack Brennan

What next?
Further Mathematics is ideal for any student wishing to study a degree course with a high mathematical content such as mathematics, engineering, the sciences and economics. Many students comment that the first year of their Mathematics degree is made much easier and in many ways is revision from the work covered in Further Mathematics.
Media Studies

What's it all about?
This course is a dynamic mix of exploration and practical production. Over the two years students will study a wide range of media products from music videos and magazines to television dramas and the film industry. Each section of learning is designed to develop students’ understanding and then to put that knowledge into practice by creating complimentary media products.

The Media Studies course helps students to engage with the world around them and look critically at things we often take for granted. This exploration is supported by media theory and a wide range of current media texts to ensure that what we cover in lessons is always relevant and engaging.

Students should expect lessons to be varied and interesting. There will be chances for group work, pair work, presentations, discussions as well as traditional written work with peer and teacher feedback.

Our Media Studies course is taught by an experienced team of dedicated, supportive and energetic teachers who will inspire and encourage students to immerse themselves in the world of the media; to gain a holistic view of this varied and fascinating area of study.

To get started:
Students need a Grade 4 in either English Literature or English Language to meet the entry requirements for the course but a keen interest in the Media is fundamental.

“Is your belief that your thoughts originate inside your brain, do you also believe that television shows are made inside your television set?”
Warren Ellis

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths

Exam and Assessment Information:
OCR – H409
The two year course builds up to two exams:
- Media Messages and Evolving Media, both worth 35% and a piece of practical coursework worth 30%.
Set texts include:
- Minecraft, The BBC Radio 1 Breakfast Show, Music Videos including David Guetta’s, Titanium, Long Running TV dramas including Netflix’s Stranger Things and The Big Issue.

Our students say ...
"I chose Media Studies because it feels relevant for today and I get to create my own music video."  
Chris Booley
"It’s great that we still get to do coursework; it’s not all exams. It also goes really well with my other subjects."  
Toby Ogley

Music

What’s it all about?
Music at A Level covers all aspects of musicianship, from performance and analysis to composition and historical enquiry.

The music industry is a multi-billion pound industry in Great Britain and permeates through all aspects of life. There are few places you can go without hearing music of some sort. All of this music has been created by someone - could that be you in the future? Do you have a passion for music and do you want to take your music making to the next level? Then A Level Music is for you!

The course is very versatile and covers all aspects of music making which are relevant to the working world of music. We have a very high rate of continuation to university or conservatoires to study music at some of the best institutions in the country.

We use state of the art music production software for composition and have a full suite of Apple Mac computers to use. For students who wish to record compositions live then we have a recording studio for Sixth Form use.

There are also many opportunities to get involved in the wide variety of ensembles we have at school and to take part in public performance to develop your musicianship.

Our members of staff all have different specialities, from performance to composition and analysis. We are all trained to post-degree level in both practical and theoretical music.

Modules covered in this course:
- Performance on instrument or voice – solo
- Analysis of set works – music from 1650 – 1910
- Performance on instrument or voice by the start of the course to
- Analysis Examination 40%
- Component 2: Performance – Programme lasting 10 – 12 minutes 35%
- Component 3: Composition - 2 original pieces 25%

All coursework is marked externally by examiners.

To get started:
You should be around grade 5 on your chosen instrument or voice by the start of the course to enable you to gain good marks in the performance element. It is vital that you are able to read both treble and bass clef notation and have had experience of composition (preferably at GCSE level).

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7272
Component 1: Appraising Music – Listening and Analysis Examination 40%
Component 2: Performance – Programme lasting 10 – 12 minutes 35%
Component 3: Composition - 2 original pieces 25%

Our students say ...
"Music at King James’s offers a friendly, collaborative and constructive environment in which musicians can grow and experiment to find their own unique style, progressing to further study.”
Ben Munro

What next?
Music has a multitude of possibilities after A Level. Not only is it very good for cognitive development and a great contrast to many other subjects, but it has real applications if you wish to pursue a career in music which is a growing industry in the UK. It prepares you very well for university or conservatoire courses in analysis, composition or performance. It is also a great course for deepening your interest in the area of music and seeing it from a different perspective.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths
+ Grade 5 in Music if taken
+ Grade 4/5 in instrument or vocal

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.”
Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)
Performing Arts - BTEC National Diploma

What's it all about?
Edexcel Level 3 National Diploma Performing Arts.
The course covers a wide spectrum of skills and techniques in order for you to experience every aspect of drama and theatre. You will develop the technical and interpretative skills necessary to work in acting. You will explore the means and processes of characterisation, interpret texts, develop material for performance through rehearsal and take part in performances of rehearsed material. Although the emphasis is on practical work to develop and expand vocal skills, improvisation and technical understanding, it does contain elements of theory and written work.

We have an outstanding team of staff who are dedicated and driven to inspire you and develop your skills as an actor, director or designer and we push you to be the best that you can possibly be. We believe in your ability to interact creatively and professionally with like-minded students.

The drama tower houses three dedicated teaching and performance spaces. The three floors are professionally-themed to create a truly theatrical environment with illuminated poster frames, flooring. The studios are equipped with excellent lighting and sound facilities as well as blackout blinds, drapes and dance-mat flooring.

What's next?
The role of the Arts within society has grown significantly throughout the years. The course is an excellent option if you have an interest in arts and media. It will allow you to develop your interest further and study a subject that you enjoy.

To get started:
A grade 4 (Drama GCSE) or Pass (BTEC PA) is desirable for you to fully access the course. You need to be passionate about performance and have a good knowledge of theatre and acting to fully engage with this rigorous and enjoyable course as it requires a considerable commitment in terms of time and energy.

You need to possess a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment to succeed on this course, combined with a willingness to develop as a performer across a range of practical skills in the disciplines of acting, singing and dancing, together with the motivation to meet regular coursework deadlines.

Exam and Assessment Information:
BTEC Performing Arts Level 3 Foundation and National Diploma NQF

In Year One you will study:
- Various contemporary practitioners.
- Develop your skills and techniques for a live performance.
- Devising.
- Script extracts.
- Various drama styles.

In Year Two you will study:
- Auditions.
- Physical Theatre.
- Script.
- Devising.

Our students say ...
"The Performing Arts course has pushed me out of my comfort zone practically and physically building immensely on my confidence. If it wasn’t for the teachers I wouldn’t have progressed to the person I am."
Anna Percival

"Everybody gets the opportunity to take part, and nobody is left out, whether it be in a performance, classwork or discussion. The course offers a look into many exciting methods and styles; there is always something that will excite you."
Elwy Dinsdale

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 4 in Drama or Pass in BTEC Performing Arts if taken

edexcel Religious Studies - Philosophy and Ethics

What's it all about?
This course is an introduction to the exciting world of philosophical enquiry and ethical dilemmas. Philosophy means the ‘love of wisdom’ or ‘truth about life and morals’; it’s a way of thinking and deals with questions about the fundamental nature of the world, the grounds for human knowledge, and the evaluation of human conduct, all of which are critical for our development and have an impact on our daily lives.

As human beings, we thrive on those complicated questions which do not necessarily have answers and Philosophy and Ethics allows us to contemplate and question the unknown.

We have specialised staff delivering the course who, through their expertise and experiences, bring different perspectives and insights into the teaching and learning of Philosophy and Ethics.

To get started:
The specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills that students may have developed through the study of GCSE Religious Studies. GCSE English Language at grade 5 is a prerequisite as is Religious Studies at grade 4 if taken. Students will also be expected to display knowledge, understanding and evaluate skills in respect of the specified philosophical and ethical topics. They are asked essay-style questions in which they are expected to use material from more than one area in the unit, to draw comparisons and to assess the relative significance of different aspects of the unit. The questions direct students towards the assessment objectives but students are expected to select their own material and structure it into a coherent answer.

Exam and Assessment Information:
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Religious Studies (9RSO)
Candidates study three components and sit a two hour examination for each.
The topics they will study are:
Philosophy of Religion - 9RSO/01
Philosophical issues and questions; The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; Philosophical language; Works of scholars; Influences of developments in religious belief.

Religion and Ethics - 9RSO/02
Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance; Ethical language; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues.

Development in religious/philosophical thought – Study of a religion - 9RSO/4B
Religious beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity; Social and historical development; Works of scholars; Religion and society.

Our students say ...
"I chose Philosophy and Ethics because I have a keen interest in the important questions about life."
Ben Fitzpatrick

"Philosophy delves into the unknown. Its great!"
Molly Kingston

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in Maths and 5 in English Language + Grade 4 Religious Studies if taken

What next?
This subject will equip students with transferable skills which can be applied to any academic subject. It lays a foundation for further study in philosophy, English, history, theology, law or related subjects in higher education. It also provides a worthwhile course for students in terms of general education and life-long learning.
Physical Education

What’s it all about?

“The only rule is no murder!” How has the game of football developed from the violent ‘mob’ form of the game? What are the psychological reasons why Luis Suarez shows heightened states of arousal in the modern era? Where does Gareth Bale get the energy to run his socks off for the full 90 minutes? These are just some of the questions answered in A Level PE.

The course covers the physiological, psychological and socio-cultural theoretical topics in three hours per week. Basically how the body and mind process information to develop skills and how sport is structured and organised from the Olympic Games down to grass-root level.

Students choose one activity from a variety of sports in which to be assessed, either as a performer or coach, as part of their coursework. They will also be expected to analyse a performance and suggest a plan to improve a specific weakness.

To get started:

Students are expected to have achieved grade 5 or equivalent in GCSE PE if taken, although not essential. The theoretical content is mostly new and is challenging and rewarding. Each student will be expected to keep a file for all areas and it is important they keep thorough ‘revision friendly’ notes for each topic. Students should follow issues to do with sport by using the media channels and research topics in advance using YouTube and other search engines online.

In order to enhance their practical scores, students should ensure they are regular participants in their chosen activity. They may do this by playing for school or club teams. This may be easier for students involved in games activities, though those with strengths in areas such as gymnastics, athletics or swimming are strongly advised to join a club, ensuring regular practice. Alternatively, students may choose to be assessed in coaching or officiating a sport.

Exam and Assessment Information:

OCR

The course is 70% theory, 30% practical at a Level.

Theory Syllabus

• Application of Anatomy and Physiology and Biomechanics
• Skill Acquisition
• Sports Psychology
• Sport and Society
• Exercise & Sport Physiology
• Contemporary Issues in Sport

Our students say ...

“A Level PE allows you to explore all aspects of the human body and their role in sports performance. It is a challenging subject, but every section is interesting and all the teaching staff are really supportive and helpful.”

Emily Wilson

What next?

The course is fully accepted by institutes of higher education as a bona fide A Level on the same footing as more traditional subjects.

Degree courses in sport and exercise science, teaching, sports management, coaching and sports physiotherapy are all directly linked to A Level PE. However some of our former students have gone on to study such courses as forensic science and engineering. A number of PE teachers have become headteachers of schools and colleges.

Physics

What’s it all about?

Physicists strive to gain a deep understanding of the natural world. Describing nature within a mathematical framework enables them to model systems as diverse as the inner workings of the atomic nucleus to the birth of the Universe. Physics touches our life in the modern world constantly; we use the latest mobile phones and tablets without truly appreciating the immense technological advances that have been made to put these devices into our hands. We might glance up at the news to see a report on a space probe landing on a comet, without realising the probe was launched over 10 years ago and has travelled 6.4 billion kilometers before its audacious landing. As a budding physicist you will appreciate these wonders, and want to be part of the future challenges that we can’t even imagine.

As a school we have an outstanding team delivering the A Level Physics course. Our own interests include medical physics, engineering and astrophysics (to name but a few), and we bring these experiences into our daily work with students to help inspire and advise them.

The AQA Physics A Level specification retains a popular, traditional approach to physics. It covers both modern and classical physics in a clear and lively manner. Practical skills are developed throughout the course with the practical endorsement award accredited to successful candidates.

To get started:

A Level Physics is an intellectually challenging but highly rewarding endeavour. It is well suited to students who enjoy their mental faculties being pushed to the limits. The high level of maths content makes it the perfect accompaniment to an A Level in Mathematics. You should be prepared to work hard in order to get the most out of the subject. To be accepted onto the course you will need a grade 6 in all GCSE science subjects along with a 6 in Mathematics.

Exam and Assessment Information

AQA - 7408

• Measurements and their errors
• Particles and radiation
• Waves
• Mechanics and materials
• Electricity
• Further mechanics and thermal physics
• Fields and their consequences
• Nuclear physics
• Astrophysics

Assessment: Three written two hour exams.

Our students say ...

“Physics has changed the way I look at the universe.”
Ross Bridges

“Although it may be strange, I love the charm of quarks.”
Nic Parsons

What next?

Physics is essential for degree courses in the physical sciences, engineering and architecture; it is also well regarded for courses in medicine and veterinary sciences. Physics is a well-respected subject in its own right and physics graduates can be found in a variety of fields from law and accountancy to IT and research posts. Recent King James’s School Physics students are currently undertaking careers in medicine, architecture, accountancy, engineering, astrophysics and of course physics, to name but a few.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C, or Level 4 and above, including 4 in English and Maths
+ Grade 5 in PE if taken
+ Grade 5 in Science

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grades A* to C, or Level 4 and above, including 4 in English and 6 in Maths
+ Grade 4 in Combined Science

“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”
Michael Jordan (Basketball Legend)
Psychology

What's it all about?
The course provides an interesting and varied introduction to Psychology by focusing on a wide range of different topic areas. Key theories and pieces of research are studied and students will be taught to critically examine theories that have been developed by a number of well-known psychologists including Freud, Bowlby, Skinner and Zimbardo. Year one covers a wide range of different types of human behaviour and thought. Year two further develops the key themes and topics incorporating psychological research & the scientific method and investigating an area of psychopathology.

Students who typically do well in Psychology A Level are those who possess strong academic skills, aspiring to a very wide variety of higher education pathways. It is very important that students enter the course with sound literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to think scientifically. From the beginning of their academic studies, they will be expected to fully engage with material that requires a basic knowledge of the experimental method, basic ability to use statistical analysis techniques (e.g. mean, median, mode and correlation) and the English Language skills to design and reverse the meaning of items in a questionnaire. Students have to be flexible and critical in their thinking, and they also need to have a natural tendency to enjoy a debate!

Our students say ...
"Psychology is a challenging subject that requires a lot of revision. Nonetheless, I would advise you to take Psychology as it is a fascinating, exciting and enjoyable subject which is very rewarding." Helen Bowes

"Psychology is the scientific study of people, the mind and behaviour." (Reference http://www.bps.org.uk/ - The British Psychological Society)

What next?
Psychology A Level is considered to be an excellent entry qualification for a wide range of degree courses and graduate careers. Clinical psychology, sports psychology, occupational psychology and forensic psychology are all becoming increasingly popular graduate career choices. An A Level in Psychology may be welcomed by a huge variety of university departments, for example Business Studies, Humanities, the Biological Sciences, Education and all the Social Sciences. It should be noted that studying Psychology demonstrates that you are a "good all-rounder" as you must be able to execute scientific investigations, discuss and evaluate research in essays and complete data analysis. These skills give Psychology students a wealth of transferable skills which is essential in today's changing employment market.

To get started:
Students need to be able to work across disciplines so will need grade 4 in GCSE Maths, English Language and Science. Students will be required to analyse data, create extended pieces of essay writing and conduct scientific research. As a subject new to students at KS5 it moves quickly. Students must be organised and prepared to work independently and engage in wider reading.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA - 7182
Students will be required to complete multiple choice, short answer and extended writing responses. All the A Level modules 1, 2 and 3 are examined in the summer of year two. All modules are equally weighted. The A Level award has three exams weighted at 33% each.

Paper 1 - Exam 33.3%
Introductory Topics in Psychology
Compulsory content:
Social influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology

Paper 2 - Exam 33.3%
Psychology in Context
Compulsory content:
Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research Methods

Paper 3 - Exam 33.3%
Issues and Options in Psychology
Compulsory content:
Exploring the issues and debates in Psychology is part of exam paper 3.
A choice of one from each option block – to be decided by the Psychology team.

Option 1: Relationships; Gender; Cognition & development
Option 2: Schizophrenia; Eating behaviour; Stress
Option 3: Aggression; Forensic psychology; Addiction

What's it all about?
This course helps you to gain a critical understanding of the society in which you live. You learn how society shapes people's ideas, social behaviour and cultures.

Sociology addresses the most challenging issues of our time. It is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. Since all human behaviour is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge.

In addition to the subject content the course will enable students to develop a series of key and critical skills that are transferable. In particular the course will give students the opportunity to think critically about the world in which they live and to become independent learners.

Our students say ...
"Sociology is a fantastic subject to study as it covers a range of interesting topics such as crime and deviance. We study these in a variety of ways, through discussion, written work and exam practice."
Amber Hewitt & Sophie Bell

"Since sociology is the study of society in all its forms, the range of applications is extremely wide and this makes it a good foundation for many careers.” (Reference http://www.britsoc.co.uk/ - The British Sociological Association)

What next?
Sociology provides an excellent basis to study a range of subjects such as social sciences, history, humanities, politics, geography, psychology at university. It also offers a sound basis for many career paths including law, politics, criminology (including police work and probation), social research, youth work, social work, nursing and teaching, to name but a few.

To get started:
Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language would be an advantage because A Level Sociology is an exam essay based subject and will require you to write extended exam answers. Additionally an interest in current affairs, people and society would be of benefit and a natural curiosity to explore the structure of UK society.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA
You will be examined in three papers, each taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 - 33.3%
The sociology of education with theory and research methods
- What factors influence educational achievement?
- How do different social groups differ in relation to educational experience and success?
What differences are there in terms of class, ethnicity and gender and why do these differences exist?
- What is the role and function of education systems in society?
- Sociological theory and the application of methodology to study education.

Paper 2 - 33.3%
Topics in Sociology
- Families and households: The role of the family in society.
- Changes in the structure of the family. The social construction of childhood.
- One option from beliefs in society; the mass media, global development or stratification and differentiation.

Paper 3 - 33.3%
Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
- Theories and crime and deviance.
- The causes and effects of crime on individuals and society.
- Sociological theory and issues in sociology.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English Lang and Maths

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 for Maths and 5 in English
What’s it all about?
By studying Spanish, you’ll stand out from the crowd: 61% of the UK population don’t speak a foreign language! (source: Eurobarometer survey 2012). A language opens opportunities and widens career choices as well as employment prospects: almost 300 of Britain’s top employers believe an additional language boosts employability (source: CILT). Universities too look favourably at language qualifications and some courses even require a language. Many scientists believe that knowledge of another language can boost your brainpower (source: BBC).

There are four main topic areas.

Year One
• Aspects of Hispanic-speaking society: current trends.
• Artistic culture in the Hispanic world.

Year Two
• Multiculturalism in Hispanic society.
• Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world.

Students also study a book and a film.

To get started:
Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish is required.

The emphasis is on the culture and society of Spain or Spanish speaking countries. A set text or film is now compulsory to encourage critical thinking skills. An independent research topic at A Level will be assessed through the speaking test (presentation and discussion). Grammar is key throughout and there are translations into both English and Spanish. Students are expected to read and listen to Spanish outside of lessons on an independent basis.

Exam and Assessment Information:
AQA Year 1 – 7691, Year 2 – 7692

The qualification is linear and students are assessed at the end of the second year.

Paper 1 - worth 50%
Listening, reading, translation and grammar.

Paper 2 - worth 20%
An essay in Spanish on the film and the novel.

Paper 3 - worth 30%
Speaking examination, including an independent research topic.

Our students say …
“Learning Spanish allows you to experience a whole new world of opportunities, whether it be travelling, looking for a job or just learning about a new culture.”

Danielle Win-Johnson

What next?
Studying Spanish can lead to a wide variety of careers including: international law, journalism, travel & tourism, teaching, working in finance, design, fashion and engineering for those aiming at highly globalised industry.

Entry Requirements
Five GCSEs at grades A* to C or Level 4 and above including 4 in English and Maths + Grade 6 in Spanish

King James’s School exam results from 2017 were categorised as “Excellent” by the national A Level target setting and benchmarking organisation ALPS.

Results in the following subjects were categorised as “Outstanding” and place the school in the top 10% of providers nationally: Art, Photography, Computer Science, Government and Politics, History, Media Studies, Physics and Psychology.

In addition to this, results in the following subjects were categorised as “Excellent” and place the school in the top 25% of providers nationally: Business Studies, Chemistry, ICT and Music.

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<th>Subject</th>
<th>Entry</th>
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“A level Results 2017

“The sum of human wisdom is not contained in any one language.”

Ezra Pound
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<td>University of York</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<td>Wright</td>
<td>Hazel</td>
<td>Employment</td>
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Joining the Sixth Form

How do I join the Sixth Form?
When you join the Sixth Form at King James’s you will be joining a community of around 220 students. By winter in Year 11 you will be thinking seriously about deciding your post-16 options - subjects and course level. Whether you are already at King James’s or are new to the school, we will provide you with a carefully planned, step-by-step induction programme which will ensure that you are fully briefed to make the best possible choices. Through discussions and interviews with your Form Tutor, Careers Advisor and other staff, you have had and will have every opportunity to look at your strengths and to decide upon the most suitable option for you. Significant dates in the Induction Programme are as follows.

**Autumn/Spring Term**
On Wednesday 10 January 2018 there will be an evening meeting for you and your parents. This will consist of a presentation in the school hall and an opportunity for individual discussion with subject staff and current Year 12 and 13 students. Existing King James’s students will receive information through form and assemblies, culminating in a Moving Up Day on Thursday 1 February 2018.

We ask you to submit an application form by Friday 23 February 2018. This assists us greatly in planning the timetable. If any aspect of your application is unworkable you will be advised. Also, in the event of a course being very unpopular, we do reserve the right to withdraw it at any stage. Should this be the case you will be informed as soon as possible. Again, the emphasis is on consultation and negotiation. You should try to get advice whenever possible. Late applications are accepted but as time goes on the timetable becomes less flexible and therefore options will be reduced.

**Spring/Summer Term**
If you are new to the school, you and your parents will be welcome to have an individual meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team to discuss your application in detail. You will also be invited to a New Student Induction Day after your GCSE examinations have finished. Existing members of the school will have a meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team or Senior Staff. The Careers Advisor is also available to provide information on course options and to help with final preparations for the GCSE examinations.

**August**
GCSE results are published on Thursday 23 August 2018.

**September**
Enrolment and induction will take place at the start of term. You will be asked to attend an individual post-results meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team to confirm your subject choices. At this stage it is still possible to alter them and we would recommend that you ask for help if you are at all unsure. You will also collect transition work to prepare yourself for your new A Level courses. You will be introduced to your Form Tutor and given further helpful information about the courses and the Sixth Form in general. Your individual timetable will be finalised and the teaching of all courses will commence. Finally, choosing the correct post-16 course is challenging if done properly and so the wider your sources of advice/information the better - older students, brothers and sisters, careers advisers, Form Tutors and, of course, your subject teachers. Individual meetings with the Sixth Form team are available on request.

Dress Code

King James’s students, parents, staff and governors are proud of the school’s dress code. Sixth Formers are asked to support the main school by wearing uniform smartly and in the spirit of a business environment. As Sixth Formers are role models for younger pupils, for example as helpers in lessons and mentors, the spirit in which students dress is very important to the whole school.

**The basics are:**

*Either*

- A suit
- Sixth Form tie
- Plain white, grey, blue or black shirt or blouse, suitable for wearing with the Sixth Form tie. No patterned, checked or striped shirts.
- Plain black or brown shoes or boots.

*Or*

- Royal Stewart Dress Tartan kilt with plain black tights.
- A plain white or cream shirt or blouse with a collar, worn with a plain long sleeved jumper or cardigan in black, cream, red or grey (round or V-neck). They should not be of a large or patterned knit.
- A plain long sleeve polo neck (high neck) jumper in black, cream, red or grey can be worn instead of the above shirt/jumper combination.
- Plain black shoes.

As well as school wear and associated items such as lab coats, a wide range of sports equipment and clothing is also available for Sixth Form students from Rawcliffes. This includes trainers, tracksuits, football boots, kit bags and other sports items such as tennis rackets, cricket bats, footballs and associated protective gear.

As with main school:

- No facial or tongue piercings.
- Small/subtle earrings may be worn.
- No ear spacers, stretchers or expanders.
- No visible tattoos.
- No extreme hairstyles or hair colours.
- No outdoor clothing in main school or lessons.

Our official school wear and sportswear stockists are:

Rawcliffes Schoolwear Centre, Rawcliffes Corner, East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5BG. Tel: 01423 504130

Broadbank & Empson, 3 Chapel Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8AN, Tel: 01423 860447

Significant dates in the Induction Programme are as follows.

- 23 February 2018. This assists us greatly in planning the timetable. If any aspect of your application is unworkable you will be advised. Also, in the event of a course being very unpopular, we do reserve the right to withdraw it at any stage. Should this be the case you will be informed as soon as possible. Again, the emphasis is on consultation and negotiation. You should try to get advice whenever possible. Late applications are accepted but as time goes on the timetable becomes less flexible and therefore options will be reduced.

- 23 August 2018. GCSE results are published on Thursday 23 August 2018.

- 10 September 2018. Enrolment and induction will take place at the start of term. You will be asked to attend an individual post-results meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team to confirm your subject choices. At this stage it is still possible to alter them and we would recommend that you ask for help if you are at all unsure. You will also collect transition work to prepare yourself for your new A Level courses. You will be introduced to your Form Tutor and given further helpful information about the courses and the Sixth Form in general. Your individual timetable will be finalised and the teaching of all courses will commence.

- Cautiously but determinedly, you will commence.