THE DUSTON SCHOOL
Knowledge itself is power
4-19

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2025/2026

WELCOME

Mr Strickland - Principal

I am greatly heartened that you are considering The Duston School Sixth Form. I am hugely proud of the Sixth Form and do not take lightly the inspirational role modelling that our Sixth Form students offer to the wider school, the contribution that each and every sixth former makes to the Sixth Form itself and the brilliant support, advice and guidance offered by the Sixth Form Management team to all Post 16 students. The Sixth Form really is a vibrant and bustling environment, housed in a state of the art facility and supported by an extensive team of experts, under the leadership of Mrs Montagu. Our Sixth Form offers the opportunity to engage in a varied, yet personalised curriculum, which will arm students with the qualifications and skills necessary to be a competitive applicant for any Post 18 option choice. Students are nurtured, inspired and pushed by our highly personable approach to Sixth Form life, which is an incredibly unique feature of The Duston School.

I look forward to being a part of the academic and personal development of all students who join The Duston School Sixth Form.

"The Duston Sixth Form was the challenge I needed to direct me in the correct path, with immense support! Teachers and Sixth Form staff that go the extra mile, friends I will never forget, and the experiences that Duston Sixth Form provided for me will always be treasured."

WELCOME

Mrs Montagu - Vice Principal Key Stage 5

I am delighted to welcome you The Duston School Sixth Form and share with you our aims and aspirations. We are proud of our Sixth Form and the support, care and guidance we provide to our students, along with excellent teaching and the facilities you would expect from a great Sixth Form, including a designated Sixth Form area and an experienced Sixth Form team.

A relentless approach to student focused achievement and progress is what has driven up standards in Sixth Form. The Sixth Form has increased in capacity over the last few years, with a wide range of A Levels and vocational subjects. There has been a record number of successful Russell Group applicants and we are proud of the superb destinations of all our Post 18 leavers. The Sixth Form results have continued to improve year on year and in the 2024/25 academic year the Sixth Form results were the best ever in the school's history. Our students believe their best interests are at the heart of all that we do, and have recently said that 'it is the best they could wish for.' We have excellent programmes for enrichment, including EPQ and Sports Leader, and we have an extensive work experience programme. Our Sixth Form is an integral part of the whole school community and the students in all year groups benefit from our focus on role modelling and mentoring.

Our Sixth Form study centre offers opportunities for both independent and supported study, and staff are always available to offer academic support. All students undertake engaging and meaningful enrichment activities, and we encourage students to take on roles of responsibility within the school community, such as Head Student Team, Student Voice, Peer Mentoring and Curriculum Support.

We also recognise that education is not solely based on achieving those vital qualifications, but also about becoming a confident young adult. We offer high quality pastoral care, careers guidance, and Higher Education support so that our students are fully informed of the wealth of opportunities open to them in the future.

We are ambitious for our students, and our expectations of conduct and commitment are high. Our Sixth Form is a place for students who want to work hard and realise their potential, and we are proud to support them on their journey.

Thank you for your interest in our Sixth Form. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have.

MONITORING PROGRESS

At The Duston School we believe that targets should be aspirational, achievable and measurable. Progress is continually monitored throughout the year, and there are 3 formal Progress Assessment (PA) cycles, where current progress is reported to ensure that students and parents are fully aware of outcomes, based on attainment and work ethic.

Students who are not performing to their full potential are identified and a number of interventions are put in place to support them, including 1:1 meetings with subject staff, form tutor mentoring and additional after school sessions.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Regardless of ability, many students find that the transition to A Level studies can be challenging. Undertaking new subjects, managing independent study periods and balancing school work with part time job commitments can be overwhelming at times.

Our team of experienced staff are always available to guide and support students, and ensure that their emotional well-being is maintained. In addition to mentoring by form tutors, additional academic support is available from both our Sixth Form pastoral team and our external careers adviser. For support with attendance, well-being and pastoral issues, our study support manager and assistant director of Sixth Form are always on hand to help.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 12 students are required to research and organise a work experience placement related to their chosen career path. This is a compulsory element of Sixth Form study and students should ensure their chosen placement is relevant and useful for future university/job applications. Students will be supported in their search by our Sixth Form team who will ensure that all prospective placements are of a suitable nature.

Work experience provides an invaluable opportunity to build confidence and communication skills, in addition to the chance to explore different career paths. This experience will also form an essential part of an employment or UCAS application, and will help to set students apart from other candidates.

ACHIEVEMENT

We are extremely proud of the achievements of our students, and we are delighted to support them in their journey to university or employment and beyond.

The university application process begins in the middle of Year 12 with a range of presentations, seminars and events that focus on personal statement writing, choosing the right university course, making your UCAS application and arranging student finance. All students attend the UCAS convention and we work in partnership with a number of universities to organise open days at a wide range of institutions, including Russell Group universities.

We also ensure that our students are fully informed of other pathways, including apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. We have a dedicated apprenticeship tutor group and we work closely with professional organisations such as Starting Off and 3AAA to provide information sessions, workshops and presentations about apprenticeship opportunities.

TDS Alumni 2025		
Grades	**Destination**	**Course**
A*A*A*A*	University of Birmingham	Computer Science
A*A*A*A*	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
A*A*A*A	Dyson	Degree Apprenticeship
A*A*A*A	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
A*A*A	University of Exeter	History & Politics
A*A*A	University of Warwick	Politics & Sociology
A*A*A	University of Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
A*AA	University of Glasgow	Economics
A*A Dist*	University of York	Psychology integrated Masters
A*AA	University of Warwick	English Literature and Creative Writing
A*AA	University of Birmingham	Medicine
A*AA	University of Warwick	Mechanical Engineering
A*AB	University of Warwick	History
AAA	University of Leeds	Law with Hispanic Law
AAA	University of Sheffield	Mathematics
AAA	University of Reading	Law with Criminology
A*AAB	Lancaster University	Cyber Security

THE SIXTH FORM TEAM

Mrs N Montagu - Vice Principal Key Stage 5

- Strategic overview of Sixth Form
- Sixth Form Achievement
- Quality of Sixth Form Learning and Teaching
- Safeguarding
- Overview of Sixth Form Enrichment

Miss Griffiths / Mrs G Martin - Head of Year 13

- Care, guidance and support
- UCAS applications
- Transition & Sixth Form Enrichment
- Safeguarding

Mr N Floyer - Head of Year 12

- Care, guidance and support
- Transition & Sixth Form Enrichment
- Safeguarding

Mrs T Ward - Assistant Director of Sixth Form

- Manage Sixth Form Study Area
- Student Pastoral Support
- UCAS Applications
- Safeguarding

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Entry Requirement
Business Studies BTEC	5 in English and 5 in Maths
Biology	6 in Biology or 2 x 6 in Combined Science
Chemistry	6 in Chemistry or 2 x 6 in Combined Science
Core Maths	5 in Maths
Computer Science	6 in Computing and 6 in Maths
English Language	6 in English Language
English Literature	6 in English Literature
Environmental Science	5 in Maths and 5 in Science
EPQ Written	5 in English
Fine Art	5 in Fine Art
French	6 in French
Further Maths	8 in Maths
Geography	6 in Geography
Health & Social Care	5 in English
History	6 in History
Maths	7 in Maths
Media	5 in English
Physics	6 in Physics and 6 in Maths or 2 x 6 in Combined Science and 6 in Maths
Politics	5 in Humanities and 5 in English
Psychology	5 in English and Science, and 5 in Psychology (if taken)
Sociology	5 in English and 5 in Sociology (if taken)
Sport BTEC	Level 2 Merit in Sport, and 5 in English
Sports Leader	-
Spanish	6 in Spanish

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

This course is designed to stimulate a wonder and interest about living things, biological processes, the building blocks of life and the science that glues it all together. It will help you develop research, problem solving and analytical skills, as well as the ability to link and apply key concepts across several disciplines of biology.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Work practically on a multitude of relevant and engaging experiments.
- Learn how living things function within themselves and in the world around them.
- Develop and demonstrate a deeper understanding of how science works.
- Build up research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills.
- Work on group projects, which will help you build your team work and communication skills.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

- Possible careers include agriculture, health care, dentistry, forestry, horticulture, physiotherapy.
- Many biologists work abroad on research projects.
- Excellent basis for science based degree courses and any career needing effective communication skills e.g. teaching, nursing, medicine.

"Biology has challenged my mind in by intertwining other subjects such as chemistry and mathematics into the subject."

BTEC LEVEL 3 BUSINESS

BTEC business studies is a demanding, applied learning qualification. Students will need to complete a range of units, be organised, complete assessments and keep a portfolio of assignments as well as undertake external tasks and exams within strict time frames. The units chosen cover a range of business topic areas to provide a foundation for further study or employment.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 1 – 2 units

- **Exploring Business** - study features of different businesses and analyse what makes them successful, investigate how businesses are organised, examine the environment in which businesses operate, examine business markets and investigate the role and contribution of innovation and enterprise to business success
- **Developing a Marketing Campaign** – introduction to the principles and purposes of marketing that underpin the rationale for a marketing campaign; developing a rationale for a marketing campaign and plan and develop a marketing campaign

Year 2 – 2 units

- **Personal and Business Finance** - Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing your money can help prevent future financial difficulties. It is vital you understand the financial decisions you will need to take throughout your life and how risk can affect you and your choices. The business finance aspects of the unit introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses. Planning tools, such as cash flow forecasts and break-even, will be prepared and analysed. Measuring the financial performance of a business will require you to prepare and analyse statements of comprehensive income and statements of financial position.
- **Recruitment & Selection Process** - You will learn that successful recruitment is key to maintaining the success of a business, as people are often considered to be the most valued resource. You will explore the various selection tools and the enhanced use of technology in this area. Businesses with an effective recruitment process in place are more likely to make successful appointments. In a competitive labour market this is a major advantage and will support business success. This unit gives you the opportunity, through role play, to take part in selection interviews.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

A BTEC in business studies can help you to go on to study a wide range of subjects at university, or could lead into a career in finance, accounting, human resources, marketing, and many other related subjects.

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

A-Level chemistry is a rigorous, challenging and ultimately rewarding course that will develop your scientific skills and knowledge.

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances, and how substances interact with energy. This course will help you develop research, problem solving and analytical skills. It helps to you challenge ideas and show how you worked things out through logic and step-by-step reasoning.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Gain understanding of how the chemical elements interact and the role they play in making up our world and beyond
- Develop an appreciation of how science works
- The relevance of science beyond the laboratory
- Extend your analytical, evaluative and synoptic skills
- Gain practical skills, including the ability to plan and manipulate information and data.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

If you enjoyed chemistry at GCSE, you will love this A Level course. In two years you will get a real in-depth knowledge of this fascinating subject, preparing you for higher education or giving you the credentials to enhance your job options straight away.

Chemistry is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, nursing, biochemistry, dentistry or forensic science. It will also equip you for a career in industry, for example in the petrochemical or pharmaceutical industry.

"Chemistry has allowed me to put theory into practice. I look forward to the challenges it brings me."

A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

The OCR A Level Computer Science course is crafted to engage and challenge students through a comprehensive and hands-on learning experience. It provides a thorough understanding of how computer systems operate, encouraging curiosity and exploration of their role in modern life. By the end of the course, students will be well-prepared to pursue further education or careers in computing and related fields.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Component 1: Computer Systems

Assessment: Written exam

Marks: 140

Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes

This unit explores the architecture and functionality of the CPU, data transmission, software development, data representation, and the ethical and legal aspects of computing. The knowledge gained here supports programming skills and is essential for the Programming Project. Students will also examine how these principles apply to emerging technologies.

Component 2: Algorithms and Programming

Assessment: Written exam

Marks: 140

Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes

Expanding on Component 1, this section focuses on computational thinking and problem-solving. Students will:

- Grasp the concept of computational thinking.
- Apply it to diverse scenarios.
- Use algorithms to model and solve problems.
- Deconstruct complex problems into manageable parts.

Component 3: Programming Project

Assessment: Coursework (internally assessed, externally moderated)

This practical project involves identifying a real-world problem and creating a software solution. Students choose their programming language and project topic, with teacher support. The project highlights agile development and computational thinking, culminating in a detailed report that showcases the full development lifecycle and problem-solving abilities.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

Completing this course can lead to:

University Courses in Computer Science, Engineering, ICT, and related disciplines.

Career Paths such as software and web development, IT support, data science, engineering, and teaching.

Transferable Skills including analytical thinking and computational modelling, useful across many sectors.

For computer science degrees it is worth considering taking computing alongside Maths, Business or any of the Science disciplines.

LEVEL 3 CORE MATHEMATICS

(One year course with UCAS points corresponding to AS Level)

Core mathematics is predominantly higher GCSE maths with some extension into A Level. There is a heavy emphasis on personal finance and the "real world" application of maths problem-solving skills. Level 3 Mathematical Studies is split into finance, analysis and data in Paper 1 and critical path and risk analysis in paper 2. In the first module you will learn how to use statistical techniques, interpret data and draw conclusions to solve problems including those involving personal finance, and forming models to help them. In the second module, they use the knowledge learnt to be critical of the data and models given, and use critical path analysis to solve more complex problems.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Study statistics and finance— building and extending GCSE knowledge.
- Apply this real life situations involving personal finance, tax, national insurance and data analysis.
- Develop your analytical thinking.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

Level 3 mathematical studies is an increasingly popular option for those students who want to show an aptitude for maths but in real life situations instead of more science related areas. There are obvious benefits surrounding the financial aspects of the course, analysing data in its many forms and problem solving using increasing complicated models.

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

In this course you will gain a deep understanding of how language works in various contexts and functions. You will have opportunities to debate contentious issues regarding language use and explore the popular topics of child language acquisition and media discourse.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Study topical language issues such as Language and Power, Language and Gender and how language is manipulated by the producer.
- Analyse written, spoken and multimodal texts, exploring the effect of language in various contexts such as in the media but also in everyday life.
- Undertake your own individual, independent research into language in use, in a field of particular personal interest. Particular past topics have been rap music, footballers in the media and how language is used to portray key events in society.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

- Excellent preparation for undergraduate study in either English language or linguistics, but also for progression into other language-related degrees such as modern languages or classics.
- Furthermore, these specifications will enable all students to develop advanced reasoning skills and abstract thinking: useful preparation for whatever you choose to do after school and college.
- Excellent basis for further study in discursive subjects and communication which may lead onto various careers: teaching, law, journalism and speech and language therapy to mention a few.
- You will also be able to choose from several university courses e.g. English, drama, modern languages, media and humanities.

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

During this course you will read widely and independently with set texts from a selection of poetry, prose and drama, from Shakespeare to the present day. You will also be expected to bring your own selection of favourite literature to the study and will be given the opportunity to explore both writers and eras in great detail. You will explore texts, their contexts and their critics in order to become critics yourselves.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Study two plays, 'Othello' and 'Death of a Salesman'; the poetry of William Blake and John Keats and Maya Angelou; and the following novels: The Handmaid's Tale and The Kite Runner
- Engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them, exploring key issues highlighted throughout literature.
- Develop and effectively apply knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation.
- Explore the contexts of texts and others' interpretations of them.
- Undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen your appreciation and understanding of English Literature, including its changing traditions.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

English literature is a highly regarded A Level that can take students onto almost any course of study. It is an essential choice for students considering an English degree, but would be a good option for students considering humanities subjects, languages or law. It could lead onto many careers such as law, journalism, teaching, business management and publishing.

"I am given a term to read the books I love, research the writer I love, and write about them both—what's not to like?"

A LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

As a society we are at an interesting time in Earth's history. With increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, a climate that is warming up at a significant rate, more extreme weather hazards, increasing pollution levels and a decrease in biodiversity, an understanding of the Earth's systems and how human's rely on these systems has become an important aspect in many future careers.

Environmental Science is the study of how physical, chemical and biological processes maintain and interact with life, including the study of how humans affect nature. All sectors of the economy will need expertise and knowledge in Environmental Sciences to navigate the ongoing changes needed to be competitive and achieve a more sustainable future.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

100% examination will be taken at the end of the second year. There is also a requirement of the course to complete a minimum of two days of field study as well as laboratory-based activities.

- Paper 1 – Topics include the physical environment, energy resources, pollution and research methods (Weighting = 50%)
- Paper 2 – Topics include the living environment, biological resources, sustainability and research methods (weighting = 50%)

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

- This A Level is a great accompaniment to A Levels in geography, biology, physics and maths and develops key skills including communication, teamwork and critical thinking.
- Environmental Studies is a worthwhile choice for students who are considering a career in Ecology, Countryside Management, Wildlife Conservation, Marine Biology and Planning.
- Career prospects following on from a degree in Environmental Science could include: Environmental Consultant, Environmental Education Officer, Nature Conservation Officer, Recycling Officer, Sustainability Consultant, Waste Management Officer, Water Quality Scientist, Environmental Health Practitioner, Landscape Architect, Town Planner, Toxicologist, Transport Planner and many more.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

(One year course with UCAS Points 8-28 Dependent on Grade)

EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must choose a topic and create an academic title before planning, researching and developing their idea into a finished written report/dissertation (approx. 5000 words).

We encourage creativity and curiosity. A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme, but should look beyond the specification.

Students must also record their project progress in an Activity Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product itself. Both the Activity Log and dissertation will be assessed. Students are also required to deliver a short presentation to their peers at the end of the course.

A LEVEL FINE ART

A Level fine art offers a broad curriculum developing and honing practical skills and contextual understanding of art and design. You will be instigating various drawing and designing skills and will deepen your understanding of drawing for different purposes. A broad range of media will be available to explore within the areas of fine art including painting, digital artwork, photography, and sculpture. There will be investigations into artists and art movements which will inspire you to try your own versions of their work and enable you to adapt their styles and ideas within your own work.

The A level consists of 60% coursework and 40% external exam.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will be given a choice of topics such as landscapes, buildings, natural forms, botanical, animals and figures. Within your chosen topic, you will investigate art history and contemporary artists, designers and craft persons, creating your own works inspired by these. In your first year, you will undertake a series of workshops exploring a broad range of media from the different artistic disciplines; fine art, photography, and sculpture. During your second year, you will undertake a personal investigation which will focus on a self-identified theme that enables you to refine your artistic skills and specialise in your own areas of interest. Annotating and evaluating your work and the work of others is really important as is creating a substantial final piece fit for display.

By studying fine art, you will be able to build up your creative problem-solving skills along with observational drawing, analytical, and practical skills.

A LEVEL FRENCH

During this course you will develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the French language, the culture of France and other francophone countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills.

This course will expose you to inspiring and engaging themes, ranging from social dilemmas on immigration to modern lifestyles, as well as including popular literary texts and films.

Studying French at A-level boosts **communication, memory, and analytical skills**. It opens doors to global careers in diplomacy, business, and tourism.

It enhances **cultural awareness and confidence**, making you stand out to universities and employers. This course will help you to prepare for higher education and to **enhance your employability** profile.

Mastering French empowers ambitious students to travel internationally and pursue exciting, multilingual careers.

Acquiring a language to an advanced level challenges your mental pathways and memory developing your ability to **think critically** and enhancing your experience of any future learning

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Theme 1: Changes within French society - This theme covers trends and changes in the modern family structure, approaches to relationships, the education system and the world of work.

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture in the French speaking world - set in the context of French-speaking countries and communities. This theme covers freedom of expression, the impact of music on popular culture and francophone customs and traditions.

Theme 3: Immigration and the multicultural French society - set in the context of France only. This theme covers social issues and trends in immigration and integration in social contexts both the challenges and advantages.

Theme 4: The French occupation and resistance including occupied France in WW2, Vichy France 19040-1944 and the French resistance including the role of women and Charles de Gaulle.

A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A-Level further mathematics builds upon A-Level mathematics and is also split into pure and applied mathematics. There are 2 pure modules and 2 applied modules to study. Pure mathematics is the theoretical mathematics that underpins the ability to study applied mathematics. Applied mathematics is the study of real life situations that are modelled mathematically using the theory learnt in pure. Applied modules are split into decision mathematics, which is the study of algorithms which underpins computing, and further statistics, which goes into further depth than A-Level, showing how situations can be modelled as different distributions to predict future results or probabilities of outcomes.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Study pure modules— building and extending A-Level mathematics knowledge to imaginary numbers and beyond.
- Apply this to areas of A-Level further mathematics, further statistics and decision mathematics, showing you new ways to model real life situations mathematically and solve more complex problems.
- Develop your analytical and logical thinking.
- Have fun solving more complex problems!

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

A Level further mathematics is highly sought after by both universities and employers, and can lead to many careers including civil engineer, architect, mechanical engineer, banking, accountancy, investments, economist, physicist, doctor, pharmacist, ecologist, vet, dentist, sport scientist, software engineer, computer programmer and games designer.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Geography enables a range of skills to be understood and applied including developing the use of evidence based evaluation, real world and real time analysis and the application of key geographical processes. Geography puts world news events into context, allowing us to understand the logistics of historical events as well as understanding decisions and changes made both globally and locally.

Geographical skills guide important localised and governmental decisions every day from architecture, to political decisions, to surveying the physical landscape - all of which frame the

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

3 external assessed units:

- Paper 1 - Physical paper including tectonic processes and hazards, coastal landscape and change , the water cycle and water insecurity, and the carbon cycle and energy insecurity (30%)
- Paper 2 - Human paper including globalisation, regenerating places, super powers and health, human rights and intervention. (30%)
- Paper 3 - Geographical synoptic paper which uses an unseen resource booklet and tests your understanding on linked parts of the two year course. (20%)

1 independent investigation (coursework – 20%)

- 4 investigation days (including two residential days) allowing us to focus on methodology practices, data collection techniques and coursework planning.
- Completion of a geographical independent investigation of your choice.

Future Prospects:

- It is classed as a science subject by many universities allowing you to gain access to a whole range of scientific and geographical courses.
- The excellent examination results nationally make the subject one of the most versatile and sought after skills based A Levels for future employers and universities.
- Geography could lead to exciting career prospects — such as surveyor, international aid worker, travel journalist, geologist, environmental and disaster management, urban planner, climatologist, tourism planner or logistics expert—the possibilities are endless!

A LEVEL HISTORY

Papers 1 and 2 are linked by the theme of communism, one of the most significant ideologies of the twentieth century. Communism directly affected the lives of millions of people who lived under communist rule, but it also had indirect effects on countless others around the world. Studying two different countries allows students to develop a greater understanding of the nature of communist rule and the similarities and contrasts between them.

Paper 3 explores the British experience of war in different aspects of major overseas conflicts and the changing relationship between the state and the people as the government attempted to create an effective fighting machine and prepare the people for war. Within the primarily military focus on the experience of warfare, this option also gives students the opportunity to explore its political, social and economic dimensions and their part in generating pressure for change.

Studying History will allow you to develop your analytical skills and ability to construct well-sustained arguments. You will be able to evaluate the uses and limits of historical sources as well as support and counter argue academic interpretations.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Paper 1: Russia from 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin (30%)
- Paper 2: Mao's China, 1949-76 (20%)
- Paper 3: The British experience of warfare, c1790-1918 (30%)
- Coursework (20%)

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

You could go on to further study in subjects such as:

- History
- Law
- Humanities
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Archaeology
- Law
- Business

LEVEL 3 HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The level 3 Cambridge AAQ qualification (equivalent to 1 A Level) in health and social care allows you to achieve your potential and progress to the next stage of your lives, whether it be higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.

The course content is up to date, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable to ensure you will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

Through a combination of theoretical study and hands-on experience, you will develop the necessary knowledge and skills that can support progression to higher education health and/or social care study.

In the examined unit, you will study key knowledge and understanding relevant to health and social care. In the non examined assessment (NEA) units, you will demonstrate knowledge and skills you learn by completing applied or practical assignments.

The qualification will also help you develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the sector and that prepare you for progressing to university courses where independent study skills are needed. You will develop the following transferable skills that can be used in both higher education and other life and work situations:

- Communicating and collaborating effectively with individuals
- Creating and presenting/delivering information to an individual.
- Independent learning, spending time outside of lessons completing research solve problems.
- Researching topic areas and recording research sources, then using them to interpret findings and present evidence.
- Recommending care and support for individuals.
- Presentation skills by presenting recommendations to others.
- Problem solving health and social care problems for others.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will consider the real impact for people living with conditions or illnesses, such as the social, financial and psychological impacts, not just the signs, symptoms and treatment of faceless conditions or illnesses.

You will also learn about the legislation and guidance that supports health and social care, so that you can ensure the people you are working with are not only able to access all the care and support they are entitled to, but are also able to protect themselves from any harm or abuse whilst at work. You will cover a range of coursework and examined units with practical and wider project based opportunities, including:

Year 12

Principles of health and social care (January exam)

Person-centred approach to care (non examined assessment (NEA)

Supporting people with mental health conditions (non examined assessment (NEA)

Year 13

Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (January exam)

Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles (non examined assessment (NEA)

Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health (non examined assessment (NEA)

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

The Cambridge AAQ provides a strong base for progression to university and is recognised for UCAS tariff points. Both the subject-specific knowledge, understanding and skills, and broader transferable skills developed in this qualification will help you progress to further study in related areas such as:

- BSc Nursing (Adult/Child/Learning disabilities/Mental health)
- BSc Midwifery
- BSc Health and social care
- BSc Healthcare and Health Science
- BSc Health Sciences
- BSc Paramedic Science
- BSc Public Health and Wellbeing
- BA Social Work

A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

A Level mathematics is split into pure mathematics and applied mathematics. There are 2 pure modules and 1 applied module to study. Pure mathematics is the theoretical mathematics that underpins the ability to study applied mathematics. Applied mathematics is the study of real life situations that are modelled mathematically using the theory learnt in pure. The Applied modules in A Level mathematics are split into statistics, which concerns the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, and mechanics, which deals with the motion of objects and the effect of forces upon them. This module has a large overlap with forces and motion in physics.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Study pure modules— building and extending GCSE knowledge
- Apply this to areas of A Level mathematics, such as statistics and mechanics, showing you new ways to model real life situations mathematically.
- Develop your analytical thinking.
- Have fun solving problems!

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

A Level mathematics is highly sought after by both universities and employers, and can lead to many careers including civil engineer, architect, mechanical engineer, banking, accountancy, investments, economist, physicist, doctor, pharmacist, ecologist, vet, dentist, sport scientist, software engineer, computer programmer and games designer.

A LEVEL PHYSICS

Physics is the study of matter and energy and the relationship between the two. The study of physics covers the entire Universe from the smallest particles to stars and galaxies, and the variety of topics studied at AS and A Level gives a greater opportunity for students to delve into the many areas that fall within the very broad confines of the subject.

An A Level in physics will extend GCSE physics and the physics component of a GCSE science double award course. During the course your study will include topics such as forces, electricity and electromagnetism, radioactivity, astrophysics, particle physics, waves and the Universe.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Study key topical debate questions such as:

- Carry out a multitude of relevant and hands-on practical's linked to the content.
- Develop your understanding of the forces of nature and the world around us.
- Study engaging content which extends from the study of the tiniest particles of matter to the largest objects in the universe.
- Extend your research, analytical and problem solving skills.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

As a facilitating subject it is a highly regarded course suitable for a wide variety of university courses at top institutions. The skills gained throughout the course are transferable to most forms of employment, as the analytical and application techniques are relevant to everyday situations. Graduates in physics related subjects are highly employable with high earning potential.

"I love coming to physics because we always learn about really exciting things going on in the universe."

A LEVEL MEDIA

Media studies is designed to allow media students to draw on their existing experience of the media and to develop their abilities to respond critically to the media. It enables students to explore a wide variety of media, including digital media technologies, drawing on the fundamental concepts informing the study of the media: texts, industry and audiences. The specification also encourages creative work to enable students to gain a greater appreciation of the media through their own production work and to develop their own production skills. At A Level in particular, students are given the opportunity to research a topic which will then form the basis for their production, thus encouraging them to create productions informed by an awareness of contemporary media issues.

The WJEC Eduqas A Level in media studies offers a broad, engaging and stimulating course of study which enables learners to:

- Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis.
- Demonstrate a critical approach to media issues.
- Demonstrate appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy.
- Develop an understanding of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, industries and audiences.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the global nature of the media.
- Apply theoretical knowledge and specialist subject specific terminology.
- Analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed.
- Make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues.
- Engage in critical debate about academic theories used in media studies.
- Appreciate how theoretical understanding supports practice and practice. supports theoretical understanding.
- Demonstrate sophisticated practical skills by providing opportunities for creative media production.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This A Level media studies specification is based on the theoretical framework for analysing and creating media, which provides learners with the tools to develop a critical understanding and appreciation of the media. The framework consists of four inter-related areas:

- Media language: how the media through their forms, codes, conventions and techniques communicate meanings.
- Representation: how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups.
- Media industries: how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms.
- Audiences: how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves.

HOW AM I ASSESSED?

- Component 1: Investigating media language and representation – written exam, 1hour 45 mins and worth 35% of the qualification
- Component 2: Investigating Media Industries and Audiences – written exam, 2 hours and worth 35% of the qualification
- Component 3: Media production – Non-exam assessment (a coursework folder), 30% of the qualification

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

You could go on to further study in subjects such as: film & television studies, broadcast production, digital media, graphic design, media communications, law, English language or literature and advertising.

Studying the media could lead to exciting career prospects in the film, radio, TV, news and online industries, amongst many other careers. If you are interested in teaching or working in other academic settings such as universities there are opportunities here, too.

A LEVEL POLITICS

This course is designed to help you gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the systems of governance that exist in the UK and USA. You will also learn about the role politics plays in relation to current local, national, and global issues, as well as studying key thinkers and political ideas.

In Year 12, the focus is on UK Politics and UK Government looking at how Westminster is structured, Parliament and the Prime Minister as well as looking at the issues surrounding political parties, pressure groups and the media.

In Year 13, the focus is on US Government and Politics, making comparisons to the UK looking at how the different systems work. You will also study core ideologies as well as a non-core

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Study key topical debate questions such as:

- How has 'party gate' changed the relationship between the public and politicians?
- Why has Brexit had such an impact on UK Politics?
- How does the media influence how we vote?
- Is the UK suffering from a democratic deficit?
- How controversial is the second amendment in the US Constitution?

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

This is an excellent course to help prepare students for the rigour and academia of university. The extended writing element of the course means it is well suited to students who have an interest in law, history, international relations, philosophy and sociology. You will engage with current affairs on a daily basis, meaning those who study politics have a breadth of understanding of issues that will affect them both now and in the future. In this respect the course complements studies in geography and business.

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Please note: This course is accessible to students whether they studied GCSE Psychology or not. All concepts will be taught in a way which is accessible to all learners, regardless of existing knowledge of the subject.

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. Throughout the course, we will look at the role of various factors in determining behaviour, including the workings of our brain, our mental processing, our upbringing, genetics, and environment. Psychology aims to create general laws of human behaviour but to also understand individual differences to discover what makes us unique.

In this course, you will be introduced to topics such as:

Aggression (Why do people aggress? Is it due to biology, role models or the role of the media?)

Clinical Psychology and Mental Health (Why do people develop depression, OCD and phobias? How can these be treated through different therapies?)

Memory (How do our internal mental processes allow us to hold, manipulate and retrieve information?)

Attachment (How do our early attachments with our primary caregivers shape relationships throughout our lives.)

The subject is accessed through examinations only. There will be 3 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Psychology is the second most popular A Level subject nationally. It is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

Degrees in psychology are offered by 118 UK universities, as well as many international universities.

There are many psychology-specific careers. This includes clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology, educational psychology, forensic psychology, sports and exercise psychology and occupational psychology.

There are also many other careers, where knowledge of psychology will be beneficial! This includes law, medicine, teaching, marketing, human resources, policing, public relations, sales, project management#, technology (use experience design), and political consulting.

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Think about the major questions that we ask about our social world. Are men and women really that different? Why do we have problems such as racism? What motivates people to have social status and respect? These questions are hugely important to life as a human being, and they are studied by the field of sociology. A general definition of sociology is the systematic study of human society, culture, and relationships on a group level.

You will have the opportunity to explore taken for granted assumptions about how society is structured and why we act in the ways that we consider 'normal'.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by higher education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.
- Become a Sociologist! You will be given opportunities to conduct your own meaningful research on a range of issues relating to the specification.
- Engage in topical debates and lively class discussion (you will never be completely wrong as long as you back up your answer with a reason!).
- Study and evaluate key sociological theories and concepts including; the family, education, beliefs and crime & deviance as well as evaluating research methodology.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

Sociology graduates are found in a wide range of occupations: Sociology graduates are attracted to careers that centre on the challenges and demands that members of a society face. This leads to jobs in social services, education, criminal justice, welfare services, government, counselling, charities and the voluntary sector. They include charity fundraiser, community development worker, counsellor, lecturer, housing officer, teacher, probation officer, social researcher, social worker and welfare rights adviser.

A LEVEL SPANISH

This course will expose you to inspiring and engaging themes, ranging from social dilemmas on immigration and international dictatorships to modern lifestyles, as well as including popular literary texts and films. During this course you will develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language, the culture of Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills. This course will help you to prepare for higher education and to enhance your employability profile.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Theme 1: The development of Spanish society - set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world - set in the context of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

Theme 3: Immigration and the multicultural Spanish society - set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers social issues and trends.

Theme 4: The dictatorship of Franco and the transition to democracy - set in the context of Spain only. This theme covers political culture.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

The Spanish language is one of the most spoken in the world and we live in an increasingly global society. Speaking Spanish dramatically enhances your job prospects for any career and as a facilitating subject Spanish A Level enables you to take a Spanish degree course at university as well as study another language. Studying Spanish will broaden your worldview providing you with the skills to be a more successful modern citizen. Acquiring a language to an advanced level challenges your mental pathways and memory developing your ability to think critically and enhancing your experience of any future learning.

BTEC LEVEL 3 IN SPORT

The BTEC Level 3 Sport Extended Certificate is a dynamic and practical qualification designed for students passionate about sport, fitness, and physical education.

Equivalent to one A Level, this course blends theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience, preparing learners for careers in the sports industry or further study at university.

Students will explore key areas such as anatomy and physiology, fitness training and programming and professional development in the sports industry. Through engaging coursework, real-world scenarios, and practical assessments, learners develop essential skills in leadership, analysis, and communication.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology (written exam)
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (written exam based on a case study)
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry (internal coursework)
- Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing (internal coursework)

Future Prospects:

Ideal for those aiming to become coaches, personal trainers, PE teachers, or sports therapists, this qualification offers a solid foundation for progression into higher education or employment in the ever-evolving world of sport.

It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines (depending on the subjects taken alongside). For learners who wish to study an aspect of sport in higher education, opportunities include:

- BA (Hons) in Sport Studies and Business, if taken alongside A Levels in business and maths

- BSC (Hons) in Sport Psychology, if taken alongside A Levels in science and psychology

- BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, if taken alongside A-Levels in science and one other.

LEVEL 3 SPORT LEADERSHIP

This is a one year course. Students will gain 16 UCAS Points for passing/completing, which is equivalent to a B grade in an AS Level.

The Sport Leadership Level 3 is a nationally recognised qualification that enables successful learners to independently lead purposeful and enjoyable sport/physical activity. The course is specifically designed to establish and promote high quality leadership skills and to apply these to sport and physical activities, to a range of participants with differing needs.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Work in practical and theory based settings to develop your sports leadership skills
- Understand key issues surrounding effective leadership including elements such as: Legislation, Health and Safety, Safeguarding.
- Plan, lead and evaluate a sports or physical activity event
- Lead safe sport or physical activity sessions.
- Plan, lead and evaluate sport or physical activity sessions for children and then subsequently for other groups such as those with a physical impairment or disability.

"Sports leaders has really helped me to improve my confidence and has taught me really useful skills, it has also allowed me to meet some great people, it is one of the best courses I have taken."

www.thedustonschool.org