



Sixth Form
Options Booklet
2026–2028

A Welcome from the Sixth Form

QE Sixth Form is already seen as the natural choice for students moving up from the main school and is attracting increasing numbers of students from other schools due to the extensive curriculum on offer. On top of this, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities allowing students to broaden their experiences whilst meeting their individual needs and aspirations.

Sixth Form students are able to work in an environment where they feel valued and included, from their own designated Sixth Form area to the breakout spaces around the school. Students not only work brilliantly together making friends for life but develop excellent relationships with staff allowing them to make progress and be successful, independent and confident learners.

We have a superb pastoral system to aid and support students so that they are happy, will thrive and be more successful in what they do. Furthermore, there is an extensive extra-curricular programme including: careers, apprenticeship and university guidance; a wide range of sporting activities; visiting speakers; trips far and wide – from Swanage to New York; fieldwork trips; music and drama; ending the two years with the Year 13 Ball. Whatever your interests and aspirations there will be something for you.

Not only do the students receive excellent teaching and support to help them reach their goals but they have such a positive ethos; our students are exceptional role models to the lower school students and are the best ambassadors for the school.

Sophie Dean
Head of Sixth Form

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We will run a course if student numbers make it viable. If not, there are alternative courses.

Sixth Form at QE- be 1% better everyday

Entry Requirements

Programmes of study at Queen Elizabeth's School consist of a tutor programme, 3 academic courses (4 in some cases) plus an enrichment course. All are designed to prepare you for further education, an apprenticeship, employment or training. The academic courses could consist of A Levels, BTECs, or a mix of both. The courses selected will make up your pathway, of which there are 3: A Level, Mixed Pathway and Professional.

The courses available as part of the Programme of Study are subject to achieving the entry requirements. These are outlined in the table below. All courses are linear and last for 2 years. Work experience can be part of the study programme but this needs to be organised once you have been accepted into Queen Elizabeth's School.

The general entry requirements are set out below for all 3 pathways, but there are some subject specific requirements which can be found on each subject page in this information booklet.

Pathway	Courses	Entry Requirements
A Level	All A Levels (3 or 4)	Grades 6-9 ideally including English/Maths with individual subject requirements
Mixed Pathway	Mix of A Levels and BTECs	Grades 5-9 ideally including English/Maths with individual subject requirements
Professional	BTECs / Core Maths / AS Maths	Grades 4-9 ideally including English/Maths with individual subject requirements
Level 2	GCSE English and Maths retakes	Grade 3 in English/Maths
Enrichment to add to your Programme of Study	Various	(EPQ 6-9 in English)

** We will run a course if student numbers make it viable. If not, there are alternative courses available.*

UCAS Tariff Table for Qualifications

The tariff table below will help you decide which courses are required to enable you to progress onto the next part of your journey. Further education courses and some apprenticeships will require set grades or set tariff points - the table will help you check you have selected what is needed.

Tariff Points	A Level	EPQ	AS Level	BTEC National Diploma	AAQ/BTEC National Extended Certificate	RSL L3 Subsidiary Diploma	RSL L 3 Extended Diploma
112				D*D*			
104				D*D			
96				DD			
84						D*	D*
80				DM			
72						D	D
64				MM			
56	A*				D*		
48	A			MP	D	M	M
40	B						
32	C			PP	M		
28		A*					
24	D	A				P	P
20		B	A				
16	E	C	B		P		
12		D	C				
10			D				
8		E					
6			E				

How to Apply

An online application form needs to be completed in order to apply, which can be found on our website [here](#)

Complete all of the information, making sure you add the correct options in the correct option blocks. An option block list is also available online or at the back of this booklet.

When completing the application form remember to include:

- Why do you want to come to the QE Sixth Form?
- Why have you chosen your subjects and enrichment option?
- What are your future plans and desired destinations?
- What do you think you will bring to QE and the Sixth Form?

Interviews

Students will be invited to attend an interview with a member of the QE Senior Leadership or the Sixth Form Team.

- If unsuccessful on the first interview students will be offered a second interview.
- If unsuccessful on the second interview students will automatically be referred to our in house Careers Team to look into options outside of QE and prepare them for applications and external interviews. Not one student will ever be left behind.

All successful applicants must be available to attend our **compulsory Sixth Form Induction Day on Tuesday 23rd June 2026**. Failure to attend may affect a student's place on courses.

Deadline – 31st January 2026

Applications can be made throughout the year but we encourage students to meet this deadline for the purpose of securing their preferred choices, for courses to run and to balance individual subject choice combinations.

Sixth Form Application Timeline

- November 2025: Invitation/Year 11 Launch
- 13th November 2025: Sixth Form Open Evening
- 14th November: Application process opens and interviews begin
- 31st January 2026: Application Deadline
- May–June 2026: GCSE Exams
- 23rd June 2026: Compulsory Sixth Form Induction Day
- 20th August 2026: GCSE Results Day

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Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7202

Assessment:

The qualification is made up of 2 components.

Personal Investigation – 60%: Practical and written investigation. Externally set assignment – 40%: 8 weeks preparatory work followed by a 15 hour practical exam. All components are marked by the school and moderated by AQA.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in Art or Graphics.
- Route B – A portfolio of work, written personal statement and interview process will be used to support applications to ensure the suitability for the course.

Why Study Art?

This course encourages an adventurous and inquiring approach to Art and Design. If you enjoy working creatively and have a flair for drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed-media, textiles, installation, moving image (video, film, animation) and photography you will find the course very fulfilling.

The Art course will enable you to be as individual as you are. You will be continually encouraged to be an original and creative thinker, to challenge yourself, push boundaries and realise your potential as a visual practitioner.

Art offers a distinctive way of learning, where seeing, thinking and making are combined in a powerful form of visual and tactile communication. You will be encouraged to be creative, to enquire and question, and to make connections and synthesise ideas. To imagine a world where art and creativity has not had an impact upon our society is not worth thinking about. How will your creativity impact upon future lives?

What Could I Do Next?

Art offers a broad education prior to the opportunity to further focus upon your chosen area. Many universities welcome this broad education prior to specialising in a chosen area. Universities around the country offer BA Honours degrees in a variety of subjects under Art: Textiles, Fashion, Mixed Media, Photography, Film, Video, Animation, Model Making, Product Design, Sculpture, Ceramics, Jewellery, Architecture and many more. The Arts University College Bournemouth and other arts schools/institutions offer higher education courses across sector disciplines within Art & Design. To progress to a Visual or Creative Arts degree students would normally be required to take a Foundation Diploma in Art & Design prior to specialising within chosen disciplines.

In addition to this an Art A Level can be vital to those wishing to pursue a career in Architecture, Interior Design or indeed Dentistry where manual dexterity and an awareness of aesthetics can be key.

It is also worth noting that the creative industries within the UK continue to grow and be highly successful contributing to the economy. A future within the creative industries could be very rewarding.

We will run a course if student numbers make it viable. If not, there are alternative courses available. 6

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7402

Assessment: 100% examination plus practical skills endorsement.

Paper One: Modules 1-4. Paper Two: Modules 5-8. Paper Three: All modules.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 6 in Biology and a Grade 6 in Maths
- Route B - GCSE Grade 6/6 in Combined Science and a Grade 6 in Maths

Why Study Biology?

Students develop a deeper appreciation of how science works. They will learn to appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society. Students will be able to participate in fieldwork and complete practical experiments.

Key Components of the Course:

Module 1: Biological molecules

Module 2: Cells

Module 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Module 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Module 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms

Module 6: Organisms respond to changes in their environments

Module 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

Module 8: The control of gene expression

What Could I Do Next?

Degree level courses in a Biology related discipline such as Biology, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Marine Biology, Microbiology, Conservation, Forensic Science, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Teaching, Physiotherapy. Employment with environmental agencies, laboratory work, research and development, quality control or veterinary assistant.

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Business

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Pearson 9BS0

Assessment: 100% external assessment.

Paper One: 35% – Marketing, People and Global Businesses. Paper Two: 35% – Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy. Paper Three: 30% – Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment

All exam papers consist of two sections, each section comprising one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open response question.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – BTEC Business L2 Merit or GCSE Grade 5 in Business Studies
- Route B – GCSE Grade 5 in English

Why Study A Level Business?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers which challenge students to investigate a wide range of real world business and economic events as they happen during the course.

Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions. Students are advised to have business news feeds to their phones or social media accounts or to read a range of business newspapers or websites on a daily basis.

Students are expected to present to the class constructively critical opinions on programmes such as the BBC Bottom Line, globally accredited Business Ted Talks and developments in their chosen study business. The sharing and critical discussion of current business issues supported by key theory allows students to develop presentation skills critical to success in higher education or in the decision-making careers students would be expected to aspire to.

What Could I Do Next?

This qualification will equip you equally for the world of work or to move on to further/higher education. Careers in engineering or accounting; education opportunities at a range of universities to study Business, Economics, Accounting or Management.

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Business (Single Award)

Duration: Two Year National Extended Certificate **Exam Board:** Pearson UDH10

Assessment:

The qualification is made up of 3 mandatory units (1-3) and 1 optional unit (8).
External assessment - 58%: Externally set task covering Unit 2. Written examinations covering Unit 3.

Internal assessment: Units 1 and 8.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - BTEC Business L2 Pass or GCSE Grade 4 in Business Studies
- Route B - GCSE Grade 5 ideally in English

Why Study Business?

Do you think you have what it takes? Do you want to be the next Lord Sugar? Then Business is for you! The BTEC Extended Certificate in Business is a practical, work-related course designed to provide students with a broad range of knowledge about the business environment. The range of assessments - both practical and written - allow students to showcase their achievements to best effect, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.

BTEC Business students at QE are given 4 varying units of work. Three core units which cover a range of key business aspects, and an optional unit which is best tailored around their programme of study and student needs. These are detailed below:

Unit One: Exploring Business

Unit Two: Developing a Marketing Campaign

Unit Three: Personal & Business Finance

Unit Eight: Recruitment & Selection Process*

*This option is subject to change

Students are strongly encouraged to use the Work Experience Enrichment option during Year 12 to help identify and actively research possible career routes.

Employers play a major part in the course with speakers visiting and organising study days to assist with the completion of assessments. Current partnerships include: Blue Sky Financial Planning; JP Morgan; Nationwide. Students take part in a wide range of supplementary activities including "The Student Investor Challenge".

What Could I Do Next?

BTEC Nationals are valued by employers, universities and colleges and support learners in applying for jobs in business related careers such as accounting, administration, customer service, finance, IT, personnel or sales.

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Chemistry

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** OCR H432

Assessment: 100% examination plus practical skills endorsement.

Paper One: Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper Two: Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper Three: All modules 1-6

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 6 in Chemistry and a Grade 6 in Maths
- Route B - GCSE Grade 6/6 in Combined Science and a Grade 6 in Maths

Why Study Chemistry?

We all do Chemistry every day! Studying A Level Chemistry will allow you to make sense of the world around you. It significantly extends the subject from GCSE, developing both thinking and practical skills with new experiences and concepts. Breakthroughs in many cutting-edge fields from materials science to medicine are currently being driven by Chemistry and you will be able to appreciate how these impact on our lives.

Chemistry provides the stretch and challenge needed to stimulate high achievers. It can be taken by students who have yet to finalise their route into further education or as part of a science focused combination to lead on to greater specialisation within the discipline.

The summary of components is as follows:

Module 1: Development of practical skills

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

Module 4: Core organic Chemistry

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6: Organic chemistry and elements

What Could I Do Next?

Chemistry is a prerequisite for many courses in higher education especially Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. It is highly desirable for many universities and courses, as it is considered a "facilitating subject". It is also a long established and respected qualification that can allow progression into a number of career areas.

Computer Science

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** OCR H446

Assessment: 80% external assessment.

Paper One: 40% – Written examination of short and extended answers.

Paper Two: 40% – Written examination of short and extended answers.

Non-Exam Assessment: 20% – Programming project

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in Computer Science
- Route B – GCSE Grade 6 in Maths, interview

Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science is forever advancing as everyone uses computers and technology systems increasingly, impacting our working lives and leisure time. Computer scientists discover innovative ways of providing technological solutions to wide ranging problems and bringing them into reality. Subject content includes:

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices.
- Types of software and the different methodologies used to develop software.
- Data exchange between different systems.
- Data types, data structures and algorithms.
- What is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc.)
- Problems solving and programming – how computers and programs can be used to solve problems.
- Algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems.
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

Join them to discover how to program using industry standard agreed methods used in commercial languages found in engineering, manufacturing, banking, retail and others. Discover how today's internet traffic is used to capture and analyse big data about business and the world we live in.

What Could I Do Next?

A background in Computer Science can allow you to specialise in Computing and IT or branch out into other spheres normally associated with mathematical and scientific qualifications. Within IT, employers urgently need skills such as programming, network management, database administration, web design, hardware engineering, network engineer and system administrator. Higher education opportunities would include Computer Science, cyber security or IT related degree courses.

Criminology

Duration: Two Year Applied Diploma **Exam Board:** WJEC 4543QD

Assessment: 50% examination.

Paper One (Unit 2): 25% – Criminological Theories.

Paper Two (Unit 4): 25% – Crime and Punishment.

Non exam assessment: Unit One: 25% – Changing Awareness of Crime. Unit Three: 25% – Crime Scene to Courtroom

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in Psychology or Sociology
- Route B – GCSE Grade 5 in English

Why Study Criminology?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.

WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities. This qualification is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning through applied learning i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

The qualification would support learners' progression from any study at Level 2, particularly GCSEs in Sociology, Law, Psychology, History and Humanities.

The applied purpose will also allow learners to learn in such a way that they develop: skills required for independent learning and development, a range of generic and transferable skills, the ability to solve problems, the skills of project based research, development and presentation, the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment.

What Could I Do Next?

The qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

Also to support access to higher education degree courses such as BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology and BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Pearson 9DR0

Assessment:

The qualification is made up of 3 components.

Devising – 40%: Internally assessed and externally moderated devised performance with supporting coursework.

Text in Performance – 20%: Externally assessed scripted group and monologue performance.

Theatre Makers in Practice – 40%: Written examination on a piece of live theatre seen and on practical exploration of a play text.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in Drama
- Route B – GCSE Grade 5 in English and be able to demonstrate a commitment to Drama with participation in extracurricular clubs/productions in school or within the local/national community

Why Study Theatre Studies?

Your lessons will involve the practical exploration of plays, devising and creating your own performance work, performing plays and monologues, and the analysis and evaluation of theatre. The course is designed to provide a balance across a range of highly engaging learning activities. There are also routes through the specification for students whose interest is in theatre production (ie. lighting or sound) rather than acting.

Students completing the course will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others. Visits to see live theatre and workshop opportunities with some of the most vibrant theatre makers around today will also be afforded to students taking this course.

What Could I Do Next?

This course will benefit those students wanting to continue on to university and conservatoire level education in the subject. Students will develop transferable creative, communication and collaborative skills needed in further education or employment. The practical course also develops students' performance skills, giving students an understanding of the demands of the creative industry. The course also prepares students for work in other areas of the performing arts industries.

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Pearson 9ECO

Assessment: 100% external assessment.

Paper One: 35% – Markets and Business Behaviour. Paper Two: 35% – The National and Global Economy. Paper Three: 30% – Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

Papers One and Two are a mix of short answer and essay style questions. Paper Three is a choice of essay style questions.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in Maths and Grade 5 in English

Why Study Economics?

BREXIT! What does it really mean? The credit crunch, the banks going bust, price of bread, austerity and BREXIT are some of the many topics covered in Economics. A topical course where students are expected to read widely and take an interest in the news and current affairs. Economics is around you all the time and affects your daily life, so studying A Level Economics will give you an insight into the rational or irrational decisions that are made by ourselves, businesses and governments. You will be taught by staff with a passion for the subject using a range of teaching styles to develop your independent learning and the ability to evaluate the world around you.

Students gain knowledge and understanding of core economic models and concepts in Year 12 and then build on this and apply their knowledge to more complex concepts and models in Year 13.

What Could I Do Next?

This qualification will equip you equally for the world of work or to move on to further/higher education. Careers in engineering or accounting. Higher education opportunities would include Oxbridge, the London School of Economics and a range of other colleges and universities to study Economics, Law, PPE, Accounting or for a management degree.

English Language

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7702

Assessment: 80% examination plus 20% non-exam assessment.

Paper One: 40% – Language, the Individual and Society. Paper Two: 40% – Language Diversity and Change. Non exam assessment: 20% – Language in Action

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in either English Language or Literature and a Grade 5 in the second course.

Why Study English Language?

English Language offers students a range of valuable skills that can benefit both their academic and personal development. Here are a few reasons why students should study English Language:

- Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills: students critically examine how language works in different contexts. You will analyse texts, explore the power of language in communication, and understand the social and cultural factors that influence language use.
- Improved Communication Skills: Studying language helps you become more aware of how you express yourself. You will refine your writing, speaking, and listening skills, which are invaluable in both academic settings and professional environments.
- Understanding of Linguistic Diversity: it covers a wide range of topics, including dialects, sociolects, gender differences, and the evolution of language. This broadens your understanding of how language shapes identity and reflects cultural diversity, equipping you to engage with diverse perspectives in our increasingly globalised world.
- Creative and Independent Thinking: Whether you're analysing media, writing your own pieces, or studying the nuances of different linguistic theories, the course allows for independent thought and creative expression.
- Foundation for Further Study or Careers: The analytical and communication skills developed during the course are highly transferable, making this subject valuable for a wide range of careers.
- Engagement with Real-World Issues: The course allows you to explore how language is used in real-world contexts, from politics and advertising to gender and identity.
- Personal Enjoyment and Satisfaction: Its diverse range of topics and the opportunity to explore language from multiple angles; whether you're fascinated by how children acquire language or intrigued by how the media shapes public discourse.

What Could I Do Next?

It opens doors to further education and career opportunities. It can lead to further studies in linguistics, literature, media, communications, law, journalism, teaching, or marketing.

English Literature

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel 9ET0

Assessment: 80% examination plus 20% non exam assessment.

Paper One: 30% – Drama. Paper Two: 20% – Prose. Paper Three: 30% – Poetry.

Non exam assessment: 20%.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in English Literature and GCSE Grade 5 English Language.

Why Study English Literature?

This A Level English Literature course provides a full range of texts to study and explore, including a large proportion of modern texts. Students will learn to respond to a text with independent thought and judgement, thus developing their thinking skills and ability to articulate ideas. The course teaches critical and analytical thinking and explores wider connections across culture, history and psychology.

The course offers students the opportunity to study complex and difficult ideas and concepts, and fully develop their own responses, engaging creatively and exploring the traditions of Literature in English.

Regular theatre trips and lecture conferences on set texts are run to enhance the learning experience and stimulate unique insights into texts.

What Could I Do Next?

Studying this A Level will lead you on to higher education courses such as Literature, Journalism, Creative Writing and joint Honours degrees, although it is a “facilitating subject” for a full range of degree options.

Employers will recognise the skills gained whilst studying: analytical thinking, the capacity for independent study and critical interpretation and a high level of literacy. These skills lead to careers in journalism, editorial positions, publishing, marketing roles, teaching, public relations and digital copywriting.

French

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7652

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 50% – Listening, Reading and Writing. Paper Two: 20% – Writing two essays based on a film and a novel. Paper Three: 30% – Speaking, based on stimulus cards and IRP.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in French.

Why Study French?

French is spoken by 74 million people across the world, notably in France and former French territories. Being able to speak French can provide you with travel and work opportunities. In fact, according to the British Council's 2013 report "Languages for the Future", 49% of UK businesses look for employees who can speak French, meaning studying the language will be a huge asset to your career. With a projected 750 million speakers by 2050, being able to speak French is a powerful skill to have.

Learning French will build your communication, interpersonal, intercultural and public speaking skills. Additionally, French goes well with subjects like English Literature, Philosophy, Theatre, History and Geography, as they are closely linked and can inform each other. Learning a bit about the French Revolution in History? Knowing some French could give you a whole new perspective! Bear in mind too that French is classified as a facilitating subject, which is a subject favoured by top universities for a whole range of degree courses.

What Could I Do Next?

The ability to speak another language can be very beneficial when it comes to career opportunities, as linguists are the second most employable graduate category. While there are many jobs where you can use your language skills indirectly, if you want to actively employ it in your work, here are some careers you could consider: tourism, government, politics, media, journalism, translation and living and working abroad. Remember that you could earn 10% more than somebody who does not speak a second language.

Further Mathematics

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel 9FM0

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 33.3% – Further Pure Mathematics 1. Paper Two: 33.3% – Further Pure Mathematics 2. Paper Three: 33.3% – Decisions and Mechanics or Statistics.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics.

Why Study Further Mathematics?

A Level Further Mathematics is a course for students who are particularly gifted at Mathematics and have a real interest in the subject. It is a demanding course which requires a high level of skill, but is a qualification that is highly valued by all top universities.

Students studying Further Mathematics will also complete Mathematics at A level.

By studying Further Mathematics it makes the transition from Sixth Form to university courses which are mathematically rich that much easier as more of the first year of the course content will be familiar.

The course covers pure content (including algebra, calculus, sequences, complex numbers) and applied content (mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics). The deeper content covered will allow students to specialise in their areas of interest.

What Could I Do Next?

There are a significant amount of opportunities for students who study A Level Further Mathematics.

If you are looking to apply to the top 10 universities to take Mathematics or an Engineering based course, there is a significant advantage with an A Level in Further Mathematics, to the point where some courses are not accessible without it.

* The course will be taught through the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) as well as taught lessons

Geography

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7037

Assessment: 80% examination plus 20% non exam assessment.

Paper One: 40% - Physical geography. Paper Two: 40% - Human geography.

Non exam assessment: 20% - Individual investigation.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 6 in Geography
- Route B - GCSE Grade 6 in a Humanities subject

Why Study Geography?

Do you want to understand the natural and human causes of climate change? Do you want to question why the rates of deforestation are still increasing?

Geography is an exciting and relevant course to study at present as it links to contemporary global issues such as climate change and globalisation. It is a subject which offers a diversity of skills, both quantitative and qualitative, that students will require at university level and beyond which are highly transferable. It is considered both a science and an arts subject.

It has always been a very popular subject at QE with high recruitment levels and it complements sciences such as Biology, Physics and Maths as well as other subjects such as Economics, Law and Sociology.

There are a range of opportunities for students throughout the two years, including an individual investigation and various field trips and a residential.

What Could I Do Next?

Many employers find the wide skill base provided by Geography very attractive. It can lead to a range of vocational qualifications and a very wide variety of higher education courses including degrees in Geography or Geography related subjects such as Geology, Science, Environmental Science, Meteorology, Planning and teaching.

Graphic Communication

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 8203

Assessment: 40% external assessment.

Unit One: 60% – Practical and written personal investigation.

Unit Two: 40% – Externally set assignment. Eight weeks preparatory work followed by a 15 hour practical exam.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in Graphics or Design Technology subject
- Route B – GCSE Grade 5 in Art. A portfolio of work and interview process will be used to support applications.

Why Study Graphic Communication?

Graphic Communication is a practical course that allows you to be as creative as you want to be whilst preparing you for a future in the creative industries.

The course will encourage interest and enjoyment in art and design with visual communication being the overall objective. Students are encouraged to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, whilst working from their own strengths and interests in either 2D or 3D realisation. Students will combine drawing and illustration skills and develop their ideas using Adobe creative programmes such as Photoshop and Illustrator to produce their final outcomes that are commercially viable.

What Could I Do Next?

Students can progress into the following further education or employment areas once having gained an A Level grade in Graphic Communication: Art and Design foundation, graphic design, advertising and marketing, interior design, fashion design, fashion promotion, fashion marketing, visual communication, visual merchandising, industrial design, illustration, product design, architecture, journalism and many other creative avenues.

It is also worth noting that the creative industries continue to grow and are ranked to be the most highly contributing area of industry to the UK economy. A future within the creative industries could be very rewarding.

Health & Social Care

Duration: Two Year AAQ Extended Certificate **Exam Board:** Cambridge OCR

Assessment:

For this qualification, students must complete six units:

- Two mandatory externally assessed examination units
- Two mandatory NEA assignment units
- Two optional NEA assignment units

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – OCR National Grade P2 in Health & Social Care
- Route B – GCSE Grade 5 in English

Why Study Health & Social Care?

Health and Social Care is a dynamic and rewarding subject that prepares you for a future in one of the UK's most vital sectors. Equivalent to one A Level, this qualification is suitable for students looking to develop their knowledge and skills in Health and Social Care as part of a Post-16 study programme.

It will allow you to develop key knowledge, understanding and skills, relevant to the care sector. You will be able to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and develop valuable communication skills that are important in all aspects of further study and life. You will develop transferable learning and skills, such as evaluation, planning, presentation and research skills, that are important for progression to HE and can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.

The summary of components is as follows:

- Principles of Health and Social Care
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care
- Person-centred approach to care
- Supporting people with mental health conditions
- Supporting people with long term physiological conditions
- Investigating public health

This course is graded: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass

What Could I Do Next?

This qualification isn't just about caring for babies or the elderly and the ill; it will provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a health and social care related programme such as medicine, nursing, social work, physiotherapy, counselling, psychotherapy, paramedics or a range of other related health care occupations.

History

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7042

Assessment: 80% examination.

Paper One: 40% - The Tudors: England 1485-1603. Paper Two: 40% - The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945-1980.

Non exam assessment: 20%- Independent Enquiry

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 6 in History
- Route B - GCSE Grade 6 in English

Why Study History?

"History is who we are and why we are the way we are." (David McCullough)

We are shaped by our past just as the powerful nations of today were shaped by theirs. We are offering you the opportunity to gain an understanding of how two of today's powerful nations were shaped by events in the 16th and 20th centuries. Our course looks at a national and international history, contrasting a powerful emerging 'Early Modern' nation with a 20th Century Super Power.

Unit 1 explores how the Tudors changed England internally, as well as how they began to spread England's influence across the world as one of the most powerful nations of the time.

Unit 2 investigates how the USA's internal struggles brought the nation closer to equality whilst also exploring their post World War Two foreign conflicts from 1945-1976.

To complement the two taught units you will also have the freedom to carry out an independent study from a choice of topics. You will produce a 3,500 word analytical essay which combines all the skills developed in unit 1 and unit 2. Topics analysed so far have ranged from the motives behind the Crusades to the role of Gandhi in Indian Independence.

What Could I Do Next?

History is a traditional academic route through to university, college and employment. Employers and colleges see the transferable skills developed by the study of History as useful preparation for the world of work, especially the literacy and research skills.

History students continuing their studies in higher education have gone on to study History, Law, Politics, Sociology, Applied Social Sciences, Education and Journalism.

Mathematics

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Pearson Edexcel 9MA0

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 33.3%- Pure Mathematics 1. Paper Two: 33.3% - Pure Mathematics 2.

Paper Three: 33.3%- Statistics and Mechanics.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics.

Why Study Mathematics?

A Level Mathematics offers students with a strong understanding of Maths the chance to study it at a higher level. It provides a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques often needed in the workplace. Techniques covered include algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus, which together form the fundamental building blocks of the subject.

A Level Mathematics is now the most popular A Level subject in the UK. It is a course that is not only stimulating, but also highly rewarding.

The course will develop key employability skills such as problem-solving, logical reasoning, communication and resilience. It leads to a versatile qualification that is well respected by employers and higher education, especially Russell Group universities.

It is a challenging course that links very strongly to a range of other courses at university level. It relies heavily on strong prerequisite algebra skills from GCSE and a strong work ethic for exploration and self-study.

What Could I Do Next?

There is a vast array of opportunities for students with an A level in mathematics from; games design, internet security, programming, communications, all applications of engineering, population modelling, quantum physics, astronomy, forensics and DNA sequencing. This is a small list of key areas where there are currently shortages in the UK workforce.

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** WJEC Eduqas GCE

Assessment: The qualification is made up of 3 components.

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences. Written examination: 35% of qualification.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth. Written examination: 35% of qualification

Component 3: Cross Media Production. Practical coursework. Non exam assessment 30% of qualification.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Grade 4 in English Language GCSE

Why Study Media Studies?

Media Studies will help you to develop valuable, transferable skills such as critical thinking, analysis, research, planning, skills of enquiry and evaluation, practical skills, creativity, time management, essay writing skills and more. The media is the most dynamic, innovative and influential medium of mass communication of modern times. It has been reported that adults in Great Britain are consuming media for almost 8 hours a day. That is 8 hours a day watching films and television, reading newspapers and sifting through online media. Within that time, we are bombarded by other people's representations of the world and how we respond to these representations can affect our perceptions of people, places and society, of politics and culture, of ourselves and of our place in the world. Media Studies is a vital tool necessary to understanding the media's significance and its power.

Your studies will complement and assist your learning in other subjects such as English Language and Literature, Humanities, Sociology, Film, ICT and the Extended Project.

What A-levels go well with Media Studies?

Sociology, Psychology, Business, Politics and Economics are popular companion subjects to Media Studies, along with creative arts subjects such as Art, Photography and Drama, which can be brought into the coursework.

What Could I Do Next?

Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communication and Cultural Studies in the UK. A GCE in Media Studies helps you to progress to these courses, as well as to those in other areas such as English, Humanities and Social Sciences. There is a huge array of career opportunities in the media, which is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate. Studying Media at GCE and at degree level is a route into careers such as TV and film production, advertising, journalism, interactive media and digital marketing. It could help to provide you with the foundation to secure roles in technical production, special effects, web design and post production. There has never been a better time to become a Media Studies student!

Mental Health: Individuals & Society

Duration: Two Year AAQ Extended Certificate **Exam Board:** Cambridge OCR

Assessment:

For this qualification, students must complete five units:

- Two mandatory externally assessed examination units
- Two mandatory NEA assignment units
- One optional NEA assignment unit

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - OCR National Grade M2 in Health & Social Care or Grade 5 in Sociology/Psychology
- Route B - GCSE Grade 5 in English

Why Study the Mental Health course?

Are you passionate about understanding people and improving wellbeing? In this exciting qualification, which is equivalent to an A Level, students will develop a range of skills, perspectives and knowledge about mental health conditions, causes and support available.

The course will allow you to develop a range of key skills, applicable to many industries, including critical thinking, analytical and debating skills. Furthermore, you will also develop your knowledge on mental health conditions (allowing you to challenge misconceptions around mental health), debate the key methods to help people struggling with their mental health, and how policies in organisations can better support people struggling with their mental health.

The summary of the components we study is as follows:

- Fundamentals of mental health and the individual
- Mental health, wellbeing and society
- Supporting and promoting mental health and wellbeing in organisations
- Community-based support for mental health and wellbeing
- Supporting mental health and wellbeing with physical activity

This course is graded: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass

What Could I Do Next?

This course is ideal if you are wishing to work in the Public Sector (such as in health care, social care, schools or the police) and many other relevant professions or further study (such as charity work, social research, activism, government or human resources). This qualification will provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a health and social care or other Social Science related programme such as medicine, nursing, social work, physiotherapy, counselling, psychotherapy, paramedic training or a range of other related occupations.

Music Practitioners RSL

Music Performance – Subsidiary Diploma

Duration: Two Year Subsidiary Diploma **Exam Board:** RSL
Takes one option slot, 84 UCAS Points – equivalent to 1.5 A Levels

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including;

- Route A – Merit in BTEC Music Level 2 or Grade 5 in GCSE Music. Video of a minimum of 2 minutes showcasing performance ability, to be assessed by the Head of Music.
- Route B – Without a L2 Music qualification, a 5 minute performance video would be required showcasing at least two contrasting excerpts of music and a short piece to camera outlining your musical experiences to date. This will be assessed by the Head of Music

Assessment: The qualification is made up one externally assessed core unit and one internally assessed unit.

Externally assessed – 33%

Mandatory assessment – 50%

Why Study Music?

This is a vocational Music course that is very practical, with a focus on preparing young performers for entry into the Music industry. The assessments are a balance of practical development alongside research, planning and self reflection that will allow students to become independent learners and know how to reach their musical potential.

The course requires students to:

- Perform effectively on their instrument/voice
- Rehearse and display musicianship skills
- Initiate and develop repertoire
- Rehearse effectively and perform music live
- Understand contextual issues relating to music style, audience and the music industry
- Confidently use music technology to realise compositions

There are four bands of assessment: Unclassified, Pass, Merit and Distinction.

What Could I Do Next?

This course is suitable for students who wish to improve their performance skills and knowledge, and who want to progress to further study at university/music college, or to work in the music industry.

Performing Arts (Single Award)

Duration: Two Year National Extended Certificate **Exam Board:** Pearson UXA91

Assessment: The qualification is made up of 3 mandatory units (1-3) and 1 optional unit. External assessment: 58%: Externally set task covering Unit 1. Externally set task covering Unit 3. Internal assessment: Unit 2 and the optional unit are assessed internally.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 5 in either Drama or Dance
- Route B - GCSE Grade 5 in English and be able to demonstrate a commitment to performance with participation in extracurricular clubs/productions in school or within the local/national community

Why Study Performing Arts?

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts provides opportunities to develop skills in creativity and performance, attain audition preparation and undertake professional training in a variety of disciplines.

The course structure is defined through a variety of unit options and assessment styles, enabling you to develop both practical and theoretical skills.

Over the two year course you will undertake practical exploration into well known practitioners, undertake group performance workshops and explore a range of performance styles. The flexibility of the course means that some content will be tailored specifically to your interests. You will have the opportunity to develop your acting skills and performance techniques, personal skills and attributes. The course contains the valuable knowledge and employability skills you will need to succeed at higher level study or in your chosen career.

It is important to note that this course runs over a two year cycle, with no opportunity to attain certification after year one.

The units are detailed below:

Unit One: Investigating Practitioners' Work

Unit Two: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

Unit Three: Group Performance Workshop

Unit Four: Optional Choice

What Could I Do Next?

This course will benefit those students wanting to continue on to university and conservatoire level education in the subject. The course is practical in nature and suitable for those students considering pathways into the Performing Arts industry or higher education performance arts training.

Philosophy and Ethics

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** OCR H573

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 33.3% – Philosophy of Religion. Paper Two: 33.3% – Religion and Ethics.

Paper Three: 33.3% – Developments in Religious Thought.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in RE

Why Study Philosophy and Ethics?

The Philosophy and Ethics course is an invaluable opportunity to gain knowledge, skills for careers and to question morality and its meaning. The A Level course examines ethical theories and deeper philosophical questions about the nature of the universe and of humanity, and the existence and non existence of God. The course demands and develops analysis skills, evaluation and clarity of expression.

The course is aimed at those who are prepared to explore thought-provoking concepts around human actions, consequences and philosophy, in particular, the more compelling issues that affect human lives today. Philosophy and Ethics is an exciting A level that allows students to engage with the world around them and encourages them to reflect on morality, faith and different approaches to these issues.

What Could I Do Next?

An A Level in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics is highly regarded by universities and is an excellent preparation for degrees in Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies, PPE, Sociology and Law.

Graduates in these subjects may go on to careers in law, civil engineering, the foreign office and teaching. Ethical theories in this A Level are also highly relevant in medicine, science and business.

Photography

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7206

Assessment: The qualification is made up of 2 components. Personal Investigation- 60%: Practical and written investigation. Externally set assignment- 40%: 8 weeks preparatory work followed by a 15 hour practical exam. All components are marked by the school and moderated by AQA.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 5 in Art, Graphics, Media or Textiles (recommended Grade 6).
- Route B - A portfolio of work, written personal statement and interview process will be used to support applications to ensure the suitability for the course.

NB: It is a requirement that each candidate owns a manual digital camera.

Why Study Photography?

Photography gives you the opportunity to capture a moment within a time capsule. If you have a genuine interest in taking photos and want the opportunity to further develop your images creatively and technically then this could be the course for you. This course provokes and develops your independent learning and research skills. Photography will not only develop your technical and practical skills; it will inspire confidence in questioning and analysing the visual world around you. The aim of the Art department is for you to be fully engaged in your learning whilst thoroughly enjoying the process.

Employers realise that creativity is an important factor in developing the individual. The emphasis of this course is on learning by experimenting with digital and darkroom imagery to create a portfolio of work that evokes a sense of personal interests and learning. Equally, if you would like to join the creative industries, this course will help you find out about a wide range of approaches to Photography, with an emphasis on Fine Art Photography.

What Could I Do Next?

Students can progress to a higher education course in a wide range of Visual Arts specialisms such as Animation, Film, New Media and Fine Art. To progress to a Visual Arts degree students would normally be required to take a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.

Opportunities to complete an apprenticeship in the related field or to have a career as a fashion photographer, photo journalist or forensics photographer. Photographic skills and techniques can be directly applied to personal projects such as digital work to support online work with websites as well as freelance work.

We will run a course if student numbers make it viable. If not, there are alternative courses available.

Physical Education

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** Edexcel 9PE0

Assessment: The qualification is made up of 4 components:

Components 1 and 2 are both written examinations on Scientific Principles of Physical Education (40%) and Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education (30%). Components 3 and 4 are both internally assessed and externally moderated by Edexcel. Practical Performance (15%) and Performance Analysis and Performance Development Programme (15%).

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 6 in PE or Distinction in Level 2 BTEC Sport
- Route B - GCSE Grade 6 in Science

Why Study Physical Education?

The UK is sports mad! Every year more and more people take up sport and since the UK hosted the Olympic Games in London 2012, Physical Education has never played such an important part in our society. As somebody studying sports, you'll be at the forefront of the positive impact that sport can have on developing a nation.

Physical Education is now a well-established academic subject, with one of the highest growth rates of any subject area in the UK. The Physical Education course at QE will enable you to understand and analyse the major concepts and principles underlying sport and physical education and to develop higher order thinking skills suited to life at university, in apprenticeships and an exciting range of employment opportunities.

What Could I Do Next?

The course provides an excellent foundation for specialist study in both Physical Education and Sports Studies. It provides excellent content for students intending to pursue careers in; teaching, coaching, sports policy/development, sports therapy, the leisure industry, recreational management, nutrition, health, leisure, fitness and professional sport. This is a perfect stepping stone to university, apprenticeships or employment.

We will run a course if student numbers make it viable. If not, there are alternative courses available.

Physics

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7408

Assessment: 100% examination plus practical skills endorsement.

Paper One: Topics 1-5 and 6.1 Periodic Motion

Paper Two: Topics 7-8 and 6.2 Thermal Physics.

Paper Three: Practical skills, data analysis and Turning Points in Physics.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 6 in Physics and a Grade 6 in Maths
- Route B – GCSE Grade 6/6 in Combined Science and a Grade 6 in Maths

Why Study Physics?

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of the matter and energy which make up the Universe. Students use mathematical skills to determine how particles and forces interact to produce the amazing complexity we see around us.

The summary of components is as follows:

Topic 1: Measurements and their errors

Topic 2: Particles and radiation

Topic 3: Waves

Topic 4: Mechanics and materials

Topic 5: Electricity

Topic 6: Further mechanics and thermal physics

Topic 7: Fields and their consequences

Topic 8: Nuclear physics

Optional unit: Turning Points in Physics

What Could I Do Next?

Physics is a rigorous A level subject and is identified as a key facilitating subject by the Russell Group of world-class, research-intensive universities. Physics is an excellent choice for students considering a career in Physics, Astrophysics, Medicine, Computing, Mathematics, Economics, Finance and Engineering.

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7152

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 33.3% – Government and Politics of the UK. Paper Two: 33.3% – Government and Politics of the USA. Paper Three: 33.3% – Political Ideas.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in English Language

Why Study Politics?

“Build Back Better!” “Make America Great Again!” What do politicians mean with their slogans? Can we trust them?

What has changed in the UK since Britain left the EU? What impact will it have on your future? How did Trump become President again in 2024 after he lost to Biden in 2020? Why did the Conservatives win a landslide victory in 2019 then 5 years later lose over 250 seats seeing Labour win power with only 34% of the vote? These are just some of the things we investigate and debate whilst studying Politics.

As you read this, laws are being debated in Parliament, MPs’ decisions are impacting on us and people are protesting about what matters to them; Politics never stops. This makes it a unique subject as it is constantly developing around you and gives you a greater understanding of what is happening in the world.

Through independent study, debate and talks from speakers you will explore how people in the UK and the USA vote, who they vote for and how political parties and pressure groups influence the way people vote. You will study Governments in the UK and USA, contrasting how they work at local and national levels to represent and protect the rights of people like you. You also explore Political Ideas, looking at the development of Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism and where they fit into the world today.

Politics combines well with A levels in History, English, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics.

What Could I Do Next?

You could pursue a career in any area of local or national government. The knowledge and transferable skills you acquire would also be beneficial when working in Law, Media, Charity or Public Sector jobs, as well as in Education or Research across many industries.

If you are going into higher education and thinking of studying Humanities, Social Sciences or Art subjects, then having this A Level on your application will look particularly good to admissions tutors.

Product Design

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7552

Assessment: 50% examination.

Paper One: 30% - Assessing Technical Principles

Paper Two: 20% - Designing and Making Principles.

Both papers are a mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Non exam assessment: 50% - Written/digital portfolio, with final manufactured product.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 5 in Product Design
- Route B - GCSE Grade 6 in Graphics. A portfolio of work and interview process will be used to support applications; particularly if demand for the subject is high

Why Study Product Design?

The opportunity to design and make products satisfying specific needs using a range of processes and materials does not exist elsewhere in the school curriculum.

This qualification emphasises two key factors - Technical Principles and Design and Make Principles. We want all students to explore ideas of originality and value, to question and challenge, to envisage what could be, but equally we need them to achieve the results that will progress their careers. British industry needs bright new engineers and designers, and this course offers the perfect opportunity to pursue a career in this area.

This is an academic course which also offers an opportunity for creative and hands-on work. Students taking on this course will also demonstrate high level thinking and logic as well as mathematical ability, and the ability to communicate in a variety of different ways.

What Could I Do Next?

Students can progress into the following further education or employment areas once having gained an A Level grade in Product Design: Degrees in Product Design, Engineering, Design, Architecture, Automotive Engineering and Interior Design. Apprenticeships with engineering and design based industry. Careers in the construction industry.

Psychology

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** OCR H567

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 30% – Research methods. Paper Two: 35% – Psychological themes through core studies. Paper Three: 35% – Applied Psychology. Mental health, sports psychology, forensic psychology.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in English and Maths

Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is a new and exciting subject for many of those who take it up in the Sixth Form. It is a collaboration of scientific methodology and theory in the study of five core components: Social, Cognitive, Physiological, Developmental and Individual Differences. We use these key approaches to study causes of behaviour based on historic and contemporary research from psychologists. If you are interested in mental health, forensics/crime, sports psychology alongside a range of other areas like autism, social influence, the effect of brain structure and phobias then this is a course for you.

We also look at the structure of scientific research, learn how to plan and carry out psychological research by forming a hypothesis, collecting data, analysing data and coming to a conclusion. The skills and content taught on this A Level course will help further study at university and act as a guideline for when students carry out their own research on undergraduate courses.

What Could I Do Next?

Throughout the course of study candidates are encouraged to develop an awareness of the role of psychology in society and its application to many situations and careers.

Many students go onto undergraduate degrees in Psychology, Criminology, Law, Sports Science and Medicine to name a few.

Careers in research, police, legal system, counselling, psychotherapy, business, HR, medicine, mental health nursing, sports science, physiotherapy and coaching, have all been popular destinations with previous students.

Sociology

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7192

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 33.3% – Education with Theory and Methods.

Paper Two: 33.3% – Topics in Sociology; Families and Stratification.

Paper Three: 33.3% – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A – GCSE Grade 5 in English and Maths

Why Study Sociology?

Sociology is an exciting A Level subject in which students gain a wider understanding of individuals and society. The course encourages critical thought about social processes and changes that have occurred as a result of crime, law making, changing social attitudes, the decline in formal religion and through the influence of individuals, social protest and social movements.

If you like learning about the big social issues and discussion this is the course for you! Students learn about religious sects and cults, crime and the role of crime in society, education and how certain groups are advantaged and disadvantaged and different families and households. Students will learn to look at these topics from competing viewpoints based on sociological research and perspectives. Students will also gain an understanding of research methods and evaluate sociological practice. Students are encouraged to reflect on society, laws, life chances and outcomes for groups based on class, gender, ethnicity and age.

What Could I Do Next?

With Sociology A Level students often select undergraduate courses in Law, Government and Politics, International Relations, Social Policy, Sociology, Criminology and English. They can also go on to careers in the civil service, teaching, social work, media, journalism, nursing and graduate training schemes in business with a sociology degree, marketing, social research, law and the police.

Spanish

Duration: Two Year A Level **Exam Board:** AQA 7692

Assessment: 100% examination.

Paper One: 50% - Listening, Reading and Writing. Paper Two: 20% - Writing two essays based on a film and a novel. Paper Three: 30% - Speaking, based on stimulus cards and IRP.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - GCSE Grade 6 in Spanish.

Why Study Spanish?

First and foremost because it's fun! But there are plenty of more practical reasons too. With the competition for university places growing even fiercer, it is advantageous to have a foreign language qualification. A foreign language is widely considered to be one of the most prestigious academic subjects and is also favoured by higher education institutions for the communication skills that it helps students to develop.

Just think about the work and study possibilities at home and abroad in today's global market that you may be opening up for yourself if you study a language. An A Level in a foreign language can give you an invaluable linguistic base on which to build your fluency and confidence to communicate with others. Critical thinking skills also improve as you learn to see the world through a different cultural perspective, so learning a second language actually stimulates your creative streak and it opens your mind - literally!

What Could I Do Next?

Almost two thirds of modern languages graduates enter employment within six months of graduation. Popular areas of work include translating, writing, advertising and marketing, personnel and HR, sales and business. Linguists are the second most employable graduate category after medics.

Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally. Experience in areas such as administration and IT will also be useful for many jobs that use language skills. Many modern language graduates choose careers not directly related to their subject. This means that language graduates work for a huge variety of employers and sectors including: business, engineering, media, teaching and tourism.

Sport (Single Award)

Duration: Two Year National Extended Certificate **Exam Board:** Pearson VDL11

Assessment:

The qualification is made up of 3 mandatory units (1-3) and 1 optional unit (7).
External assessment - 67%: External written exam covering Unit 1. Externally set task covering Unit 2.

Internal assessment: Units 3 and 7 are assessed internally.

Entry Requirements: Standard Sixth Form entry requirements including

- Route A - BTEC Sport Level 2 Pass or GCSE Grade 5 in PE
- Route B - GCSE Grade 5 in English

Why Study Sport?

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is a practical, work related course. You will learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands, as well as written examinations and tasks. The course is equivalent to one A level.

The course is multi-disciplinary, encouraging the development of a range of skills and emphasising independent learning. It combines theory with practical work, and is taught and assessed through activities closely related to the sports industry. As well as formal teaching and practical activities, the course will include role-play, group work, discussions and debates, research, visiting speakers and visits to external organisations.

The units are detailed below:

Unit One: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit Two: Fitness Training and Programming for Health Sport and Wellbeing

Unit Three: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit Seven: Practical Sports Performance

What Could I Do Next?

The qualification is primarily designed to support progression to employment after further study at university. However, it also supports learners who choose to progress directly into employment, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give learners an advantage in applying for a range of entry level roles or "school leaver" industry training programmes and Higher Apprenticeships in areas such as sport and fitness training, coaching and sports performance research.

The single award provides learners with knowledge and experience in key theoretical and practical areas of sport and gives learners an opportunity to develop a career in sport.

Option: Arts Award Gold

Duration: Two Years **Qualification:** AS Level – UCAS Points (up to B)

Cost: £50 approx **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

Gold Arts Award develops creativity, communication, planning, teamwork and leadership skills. The award is currently worth UCAS points. Unit one will help you explore and develop your particular performance or creative arts skill/interest. It will include us helping you to secure arts industry work experience. Unit two is where you organise some form of arts event; this could be within or beyond QE.

Option: Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** AS Level – UCAS Points (up to A*)

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** Grade 6 in GCSE English

Course Description:

The EPQ allows students to discover the joys of independent learning, take responsibility for their own study and develop new life and study skills.

The student is required to:

- Choose an area of interest – this can be as an extension of their chosen subjects or an extension of their extra-curricular activities and interests.
- With supervision, formulate a title or question for the project and put forward the aims they wish to achieve.
- Plan, research and complete the project.
- Deliver a presentation to an audience.
- Provide a written assessment of the project at all stages to show development and a final conclusion.

Universities support and value the EPQ as evidence of a student's ability to use a range of skills that are vital for successful study in higher education.

Enrichment Options

Option: Level 3 Core Mathematics

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** AS Level – UCAS Points (up to A)

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Description:

Level 3 Core Maths is a qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 5 or above at GCSE. It helps to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking, and supports courses such as A Level Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geography.

Studying Level 3 Core Maths will better prepare students for the mathematical demands of work, study and life. Most students who study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential. UCAS points are also awarded equivalent to an AS qualification. The course has been developed with employers, universities and professional bodies as valuable preparation for higher education and employment.

Option: Sports Leaders UK – Level 3 Qualification in Sports Leadership

Duration: Two Years **Qualification:** 16 UCAS Points

Cost: £60.90 **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

Sports Leaders UK awards and qualifications equip young people with employability skills for life improving motivation, self-esteem, communication, teamwork and confidence.

Leadership volunteering is a vital part of all our courses allowing young people to practise and build their skills to help them in employment and education.

Option: LAMDA Examinations: Acting and Musical Theatre

Duration: Two Years **Qualification:** Level 3 – A Level Equivalent – UCAS Points

Cost: Up to £108 per exam **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

LAMDA examinations will develop the student's ability to develop their:

- Interpretative skills by exploring style, form, character, subtext and context in order to realise the specific demands of the text and engage with character and situation in order to create a sense of reality.
- Technical skills by developing skills in voice diction and movement.
- Knowledge of the performance process.

We will be offering examination preparation in both Acting and Musical Theatre qualifications. LAMDA examinations in Musical Theatre help students to develop their acting and singing skills. Like our Acting exams, they encourage empathy and self-awareness, as learners are required to present believable characters through both acting and song.

Students will receive one to one tuition within the sessions, developing their vocal techniques and acting skills in a wide range of styles. These sessions will also help prepare students for professional and conservatoire auditions.

The qualifications are highly recognised and will provide students with the skills and techniques required to progress into a career within the performing arts. Students would look to undertake Grade 7 (Silver Medal) in Year 12, followed by Grade 8 (Gold Medal) in Year 13.

Option: QE Sixth Form Sport

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** N/A

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

A practical enrichment option designed to give you weekly curriculum time for recreational sport. QE Sixth Form Sport provides that opportunity and is open to students wanting to use the PE facilities as a group. This Enrichment will be staffed by a member of PE who will organise the sports and activities that are on offer during that timetabled period.

Option: Advanced Google Workspace Skills

Duration: Two Years **Qualification:** N/A

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

This course equips students with advanced digital productivity skills using Google Workspace tools—Sheets, Docs, and Slides—to help them succeed in both academic and professional settings. Students will develop confidence in managing data, analysing information, and creating high-quality written and visual content using cloud-based applications widely used by businesses and universities.

Over the two years, learners will complete a series of structured modules that build from beginner to advanced levels in Google Sheets, including data handling, time management, probability calculations, and data analysis. They will also explore creative and practical applications such as designing artwork, planning events, tracking budgets, and creating crosswords and word games.

In addition, students will strengthen their skills in Google Docs and Google Slides to produce professional documents and engaging presentations. The course promotes independent learning, critical thinking, and digital literacy—skills essential for success in higher education and modern workplaces.

Employers increasingly value individuals who can collaborate efficiently, present information effectively, and use technology to solve problems. By mastering Google Workspace, students gain practical and transferable ICT skills that make them ready for university study and future employment in the digital world.

Option: Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)

Duration: 12-18 months **Qualification:** DofE Gold, Silver or Bronze Award

Cost: £250-£450 (plus residential fee) **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

Many young people find achieving a DofE Award life-changing. A fun adventure and major challenge, three progressive award levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and a wide range of activities offer endless possibilities to anyone aged 14 to 24. Millions of young people in the UK have already taken part in the world's leading youth achievement award – pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs and university applications. Time to get involved and go the extra mile?

Option: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** Online Certification (Optional)

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

MOOCs offer university level courses without the need to complete an entire programme of study, and are becoming increasingly popular. They offer a large number of students the opportunity to study high quality courses online with prestigious universities, often at no cost.

They are ideal for independent study and users can select courses from any institution offering them. MOOCs do not always lead to formal qualifications but students are awarded for their successful completion. Video-based, they offer interaction either through peer review and group collaboration or automated feedback through objective, online assessments (including quizzes and exams).

Option: GCSE Mathematics or English Language Retakes

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** GCSE

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** Grade 3 or below in GCSE Maths/English

Course Description:

This enrichment course will be made compulsory for those students who have achieved the entry criteria to study in our Sixth Form but have not achieved the desired Level 4 in Mathematics or English Language.

Government criteria states that all students need to continue to retake the qualification during their Post 16 programme of study until they reach a minimum of a Grade 4. Students who achieve this in year 1 will be able to opt into another enrichment route once completed.

Option: Mentoring

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** n/a

Cost: n/a **Entry Criteria:** n/a

Course Description:

As a peer mentor you will be 'buddied up' with a lower school student and build a relationship with them that enables them to feel better about school. You will meet regularly with your mentee and help the students to cope with the aspects of their school lives by developing strategies to help meet their individual needs. You will receive training, support and dedicated study periods to be able to become an effective mentor.

This course is for any student who possesses the qualities and dedication to become an effective peer mentor and would be a good experience for a student looking to go into a range of careers in care, education, law, psychology, or any career where you will be developing interpersonal relationships.

Option: Junior Athlete Education Programme (JAE)

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** N/A

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** Application Only

Course Description:

The JAE framework at QE looks to support students who excel and who are extremely committed in either; Sport, Dance, Drama or Music. Potential performers are given the opportunity to complete a "JAE Performance Profile Form", which enables us to identify a performer's needs, level/standard, training and competition/event commitments/demands. Student profiles are assessed against a Gold, Silver and Bronze performance criteria (needs analysis) and those selected are given access to a number of performance support opportunities to help balance their academic, performance and social commitments.

Option: Dance – Industry Preparation

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** N/A

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** N/A

Course Description:

Dance Industry Prep will provide students with extensive dance technique development, audition guidance and support and opportunities to learn from dance industry professionals through workshops and bespoke presentations. Practical sessions will refine and extend students current dance ability as well as broadening their experience of a variety of movement styles. Strength, conditioning and flexibility will be a focus to ensure all dance students are always able to achieve their maximum potential.

Opportunities for students to take leadership roles in performance and the creation of dance works for both QE events and national competitions will be encouraged. During Dance Industry Prep students will be supported to create their dance portfolio; opportunities to record and capture showreel footage and professional quality head shots will be embedded into the programme.

Enrichment Options

Option: Work Experience / Voluntary Work

Duration: One Year **Qualification:** Industry based experience portfolio

Cost: N/A **Entry Criteria:** Placement organised by 30th Sept 2024

Course Description:

Work Experience within external organisations and internships within QE School.

Employers and higher education institutions value the transferable skills developed through work shadowing or work experience. These skills include verbal and written communication skills, problem solving, teamwork, initiative and skills using technology.

Students are encouraged during the summer break to think about which organisations they would like to gain experience working within. Contact will need to be made directly with the employers to enquire as to whether they are interested in hosting a work experience student on a regular basis throughout the school academic year. Students need to register their interest with the employer and gather sufficient contact details ready to make contact again in September. All students must wait until they have received their new school timetable to see when their free periods are before confirming their work experience placement timings with their employer.

Please note that students are unable to use their current part-time employment as work experience, nor can they work with family members at home.

After students have been successful in finding a suitable employer who is willing to work with them and the times they can offer, they will need to complete an online "WEX Proposal Form" which can be found on Google classroom under Work Experience.

The Careers department will check its suitability and will then make contact with the students via email on how to apply officially through the Unifrog portal. Upon registration, an automated application is created by Unifrog that will capture the relevant information needed to legalise the placement and capture permissions from student, employer, parent/carer and school. Joining instructions will then be sent to the student prior to their start date.

Assistance from the Careers team can be given in room B3.

Contact Information

Sixth Form Team

Miss Sophie Dean
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Mrs Roxy Riding
Sixth Form Office Manager
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Careers Advice and Guidance Team

Mrs Nadia Gribbins (WEX)
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Contact Information

Heads of Faculty and Subject

Business & ICT

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Creative Arts

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Mrs Cara Parsons (Graphics & Textiles)

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Design Technology

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English

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Humanities

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Mrs Clare Dudley (Geography)

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Mr Neil Kirby (History)

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Mrs Sue Jones (Social Sciences)

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Mrs Sophie Forster (RE)

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Mathematics

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Modern Foreign Languages

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Performing Arts

Mrs Alex Payne (Head of Drama & Performing Arts)

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Mr Phill Hall (Music)

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Mrs Nicky Miller (Dance)

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Physical Education

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Science

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Mrs Sarah Grant (Biology)

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Mrs Victoria Wilson (Chemistry)

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Pathway	Entry Requirements	
Advanced	Five Grade 6+ ideally including English/Maths with individual subject requirements	
Mixed Pathway	Five Grade 5+ ideally including English/Maths with individual subject requirements	
Professional	Five Grade 4+ ideally including English/Maths with individual subject requirements	
Subject Specific Entry Requirements		
A Level	Route A	Route B
Art	5 in Art	5 in Graphics/Textiles, portfolio, interview
Biology	6 in Biology and Maths	6/6 in Combined Science and Maths
Business	5 in Business/L2 Merit in BTEC Business	5 in English
Chemistry	6 in Chemistry and Maths	6/6 in Combined Science and Maths
Computer Science	6 in Computing	6 in Maths, interview
Economics	6 in Maths and 5 in English	
English Language	6 in either Language and 5 in literature	
English Literature	6 in Literature and at 5 in Language	
French	6 in French	
Geography	6 in Geography	6 in another Humanities subject
Graphic Communication	5 in Graphics or a DT subject	5 in Art, portfolio and interview
History	6 in History	6 in English
Maths	7 in Maths	
Further Maths	7 in Maths	
Media Studies	5 in Media Studies	5 in English
Mental Health	5 in Sociology or Psychology/OCR M2 in H&SC	5 in English
Philosophy & Ethics	6 in RE	
Photography	5 in Art, Graphics, Media or Textiles	Portfolio and interview
Physical Education	6 in PE/Distinction in BTEC Sport	6 in Science
Physics	6 in Physics and Maths	6/6 in Combined Science and Maths
Politics	5 in English Language	
Product Design	5 in Product Design	6 in Graphics, portfolio and interview
Psychology	5 in English and Maths	
Sociology	5 in English and Maths	
Spanish	6 in Spanish	
Theatre Studies	5 in Drama	5 in English and participation in extracurricular

Mixed and Professional	Subject Specific Entry Requirements	
Business	4 in GCSE Business/L2 Pass BTEC Business	5 ideally in English
Criminology	5 ideally in Psychology or Sociology	5 ideally in English
Health & Social Care	L2 Pass in Health & Social Care	5 ideally in English
Mental Health	5 in Sociology or Psychology/OCR M2 in H&SC	5 in English
Performing Arts	5 in Drama or Dance	5 ideally in English plus experience
RockSchool Music Practitioners	L2 Merit RSL Music Practitioners/5 in Music also 2 min video performance showcase	
Sport	5 in GCSE PE/L2 Pass in BTEC Sport	5 ideally in English
GCSE English and Maths	Grade 4 not achieved in subject	