

Sixth Form Choices

This booklet shows you what A Levels and BTECs we offer at Kingsmead and what they involve. We ask students and parents to indicate if they are interested in staying on at Kingsmead and what A Levels they would like to do by Friday 19th October 2018. We will then come up with Option Blocks to fit and then you can apply to stay on.

A Levels now are a two year course with all the exams at the end. The AS qualification still exists at the end of Lower Sixth and we might advise students to take one or more, but only if we thought the practice was going to be beneficial, or that a student was struggling, and it might help if they dropped a subject. By taking the AS level, they would at least have some UCAS points.

Because of this change, most students only study three subjects along with the Extended Qualification Project. This is a qualification which attracts UCAS points and is well thought of by universities and employers because it requires students to do independent research and give a presentation about some topic which is of interest to them and may or may not be connected with their other work. We would envisage everyone starting this, but if the load of A Levels seemed too much, it could be dropped.

All children must get Level 4 in their English and Maths GCSEs and we would be looking for 6s in the subjects that they want to do for A Level. Some subjects require higher grades in Maths or English to support the main subject. If students do not get 6s in the subjects they want to continue, we would have a discussion with when your results come out to see if you can continue a subject.

As a rule of thumb, generally, if your grades are mainly 4s, you would be looking at Es at A Level. Grades 5 and 6s would look towards Ds and Cs, 7s, Bs, and the new 8s and 9s would indicate As. This is a very rough guide and students can improve on that a lot with the right mindset.

If your grades are likely to be mainly 4s, it would be worth looking at BTEC qualifications as well as A Levels. Because there is more internal assessment, this suits some students much better than the A Level. Getting Distinctions or Merits in a BTEC will enable students to progress on to good university courses. At the moment we are only offering the Sports Level 3 BTEC, which is a double one and counts as two A Levels.

As well as looking at Kingsmead, you may want to look at other Sixth Forms. You can hold offers for a number of places and then see how your results turn out before you decide where to go.

Art, Craft and Design A Level AQA

This is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media.

Art, craft and design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in degree opportunities and careers ranging from painting portraits to producing exotic fashion costumes. It is a great companion to other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving are all desirable skills.

Art, Craft and Design course content

Fine Art: for example, drawing, painting, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, photography

Textile Design: for example printed and/or dyed textiles, fashion and costume design

Graphic Communication: for example illustration, packaging design, communication graphics, advertising



A-Level assessment

At A-Level for component 1 you will produce a portfolio of work in which you will develop a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total marks.

In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will account for 40% of your total marks.

Practical course

This A Level is a practical course in which you will learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative personal work. You will find out about a whole range of media, techniques and processes. You will develop your creativity and independent thought, learn to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish.

Ideally you will have done an Art GCSE and been awarded Level 6 or above. If you have not done Art GCSE, we would want to see a portfolio of your work and

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give you a chance to show what you can do in an assessment afternoon. You will also need Grade 4 in both English and Maths.

A level Biology AQA 7402

Why study A level Biology? Biology is the study of living organisms; it will give you the skills to make connections and associations with living things around you. Biology teaches the skills of data analysis, mathematical and statistical methods, presenting and organising information and key practical skills. Frequently items of biological interest are in the news so future citizens will need a good foundation in life sciences. The top degree courses taken by those who study A Level Biology are: Biology, Psychology, Sports Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology and Pharmacy Chemistry.

What's involved? A level Biology is a two year linear AQA course. There are internal practical assessments throughout the two year course and 3 exams at the end of Year 13.

Year 12 we will study:

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

Year 13 we will study:

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

The three exams at the end of Year 13 are:

Paper 1 a written 2 hour exam worth 35% of the A level on Year 12 topics.

Paper 2 a written 2 hour exam worth 35% of the A level on Year 13 topics.

Paper 3 a written 2 hour exam worth 30% of the A level based on the whole course including practicals, critical analysis of data and an essay.

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What are the course requirements? GCSE grade 6 Biology, grade 4 English, grade 5 Maths.

More information can be found on the transition from GCSE to A level via this link: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402/teaching-resources>

Click on the pdf "Transition Guide: Biology".

Chemistry A Level 7405

Why study Chemistry A Level?

Chemistry is sometimes called the 'central science' because it helps connect the physical sciences, like Maths and Physics, with the applied sciences like Biology, Medicine and engineering so it is important in its own right and to support other subjects. Its study will develop skills of research, problem solving and analysis. You need to be able to follow through things logically and it also involves teamwork and communication skills. It leads to the following careers -

medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, environmental science, engineering, toxicology, developing consumer products, metallurgy (studying how metals behave), space exploration, developing perfumes and cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, software development and research.

What's involved?

It is a two year course with internal practical assessments throughout the course and three exams at the end. You will study Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and develop your experimental and practical skills.

The exams are all 2 hours long.

Paper 1: Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and relevant practical skills

Paper 2: Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and relevant practical skills

Paper 3: Any content, and practical skills.

Physical chemistry uses the principles of Physics to explain how particles interact with one another and how this affects their properties.

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Inorganic chemistry studies the properties, reactions and structures of all the elements and compounds with the exception of those containing carbon (organic compounds).

Organic chemistry studies the properties, reactions and structures of organic compounds (compounds containing carbon, both naturally occurring and synthetic)

Course Requirements

English GCSE at Grade 4 or above, Maths at Grade 5 – mathematical skills are an important element of the course, and Chemistry at Grade 6 or above.

Computer Science A Level OCR H446

Our A Level Computer Science qualification helps students understand the core academic principles of computer science. Classroom learning is transferred into creating real-world systems through the creation of an independent programming project. Our A Level will develop the student's technical understanding and their ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices• Software and software development• Exchanging data• Data types, data structures and algorithms• Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues <p>Elements of computational thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem solving and programming• Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms <p>The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of the problem• Design of the solution• Developing the solution• Evaluation	Computer systems (01) 140 marks 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper	40% of total A level
	Algorithms and programming (02*) 140 marks 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper	40% of total A level
	Programming project 70 marks Non-exam assessment	20% of total A level

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

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- an understanding of and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology

You will need English GCSE at Level 4 and Maths at Level 5. You should have got a 6 for Computer Science GCSE or similar qualification.

Three - Dimensional Design A Level AQA

Three - dimensional design is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers, problem solvers and people who enjoy making.

Three- dimensional design is the ideal opportunity to explore ideas and develop skills and is a great first step for those who wish to follow a course in design at University. However it's balance of practical, academic and analytical skills are widely transferable.

A course in three-dimensional design will enable you to select appropriate materials and learn how they fit together.

Three – dimensional course content

Product design

Architectural design

Environmental design

A-Level assessment

At A-level for component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total marks. In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will account for 40%of your total marks.

Practical course

The A-level is a practical course in which you will learn through involvement in design and make activities where you will be encouraged to develop your creative and problem solving skills. You will develop these skills through independent thought and learn to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish in response to the challenges presented.

Course Requirements

You will need Grade 4 in English and Maths GCSE and Grade 6 in a Design and Technology GCSE. If you have not studied Design and Technology, we will arrange an interview and possibly an assessment, to see if you can access the course.



English Literature A Level AQA 7712A

This is a two-year course leading to an 'A' Level qualification. However, there is the option to take the 'AS' Level (AQA Specification 7711) exams at the end of Year 12 if it is felt success at the full 'A' Level in Year 13 is unlikely. An 'AS' Level qualification still gives UCAS points (though at a reduced value), to support university application later.

There are three elements of the course, as outlined in brief below. Of these, just the first element is examined at 'AS' Level:

- Love through the ages (100% of AS Level, 40% of A Level – assessed by external examination – part closed book, part open)
- Texts in shared contexts – option A: WW1 and its aftermath (40% of A Level – assessed by external examination – all open book)
- Independent critical study: texts across time (20% of A Level {coursework} – assessed internally and moderated externally)

We would always aim to enrich the study of literature through theatre visits, study of historical contexts and, where possible, visits to key locations of interest.

Love through the Ages

Study of FOUR texts, as follows:

- Shakespeare play – ***Othello***
- Love Poetry – ***AQA Anthology of Love Poetry through the ages post-1900***
- 19th Century Prose – ***Wuthering Heights*** (Emily Bronte)
- 20th Century Prose – ***The Great Gatsby*** (F. Scott Fitzgerald)



Texts in Shared Contexts – Option A: WW1 and its aftermath



Study of THREE texts, as follows:

- Post-2000 prose text – ***Life Class*** (Pat Barker)
- Poetry – ***War Poems of Wilfred Owen***
- Drama (set text) – ***Journey's End*** (R. C. Sherriff)

Non-Examined Assessment: Independent Critical Study – texts across time

Study of TWO texts of student's own choice, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. Coursework assessment. One extended essay (2500 words) and a bibliography.

French A Level AQA 7652

The French A Level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It moves beyond these GCSE topics to explore more stimulating, challenging, motivating and up to date issues.



You will follow the AQA specification, with a focus on language, culture and society. Many valuable, transferrable skills are developed, including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

French A Level is relevant and attractive to employers, whether you wish to progress to employment or study at university. French is still widely used in diplomatic and creative sectors, as well as in food and fashion. It is a working language of the United Nations, an official language of the EU and the International Olympic Committee. As one of only two languages spoken in five continents, it presents many opportunities.

You will explore how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change, by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

Topics will include cinema, music and literature, current trends of French-speaking society and current issues such as multiculturalism, politics (including action such as strikes and demonstrations), crime and the 'cyber-society'. The aim is to develop confidence and independence as a French speaker and also the ability to research, analyse and develop response, with interest and enthusiasm for the language. You will have the opportunity to practice your spoken French and possibly to take part in a trip to France.

French A Level is assessed as follows:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & writing

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

Paper 2: Writing

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Paper 3: Speaking

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total

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- 30% of A-level

Course Requirements

English and Maths at Grade 4 or above and French GCSE at Grade 6 or above.

Geography A Level AQA 7037

This specification has been designed to excite the mind, challenge perceptions and stimulate investigative and analytical skills. Whilst new units have been added to reflect the world today, it's retained much of the topics students enjoy including hazards and population. This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

COURSE CONTENT:

There are **four** main components – Physical geography, Human geography, a fieldwork investigation and geographical skills.

Physical geography

This will be assessed in a 2 hour 30 minute exam at the end of the course.

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hot desert systems and landscapes
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Glacial systems and landscapes
- Hazards
- Ecosystems under stress

Human geography

This will be assessed in a 2 hour 30 minute exam at the end of the course.

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments
- Population and the environment
- Resource security

Fieldwork investigation

This will take the form of a 3000 – 4000 word written report. This independent investigation must incorporate a significant element of fieldwork. The fieldwork undertaken as part of the individual investigation may be based on either human or physical aspects of geography, or a combination of both.

Geographical skills

These will be assessed as part of the other three components.
Students will develop a mixture of qualitative and quantitative skills. Specifically, these skills will be:

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Core skills
Graphical skills
Statistical skills
ICT skills

Course requirements

Course requirements You will need Grade 4 in English and Maths GCSE and Grade 6 in Geography GCSE.

A Level History AQA 7042

The A-level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The course will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. They will be encouraged to develop their powers of critical analysis and the ability to understand a range of complex material, relating to historical issues and problems.

What will a History A Level lead to?

History will lead to a History or Archaeology degree, but it is also a 'facilitating' subject and would be valued by most degree courses as evidence of you being able to master facts and opinions and analyse them, as well as express yourself well.

Course Description for A Level

- Component One: Breadth Study (40% of A-Level)- The Tudors: England 1485-1603
- Component Two: Depth Study (40% of A-Level)- The American Dream: Reality & Illusion (Part 2), 1945- 1980
- Component Three: Historical Investigation (20% of A-Level)

The Historical Investigation is a personal study, based on a topic of the students' own choosing.

Typically, it will take the form of an enquiry based question, covering a period of approximately 100 years. It may not duplicate the content of Components One or Two.

Assessment

2 papers, each of 2hrs 30min, one on the breadth study and one on the depth study. There will be a compulsory question based on sources in each one and then a choice of two out of three essays.

The Historical Investigation.

Course Requirements

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Maths at Grade 4 or above, and either English or History at Grade 6 or above. It does not matter whether you have done History at GCSE but we need evidence that you can express yourself in sustained, argumentative prose.

Maths A Level AQA 7537

Why study Maths A Level

According to a 'Which' report, Maths is the most popular A Level. Its strength is its versatility

- It is fascinating in its own right
- It helps develop skills of analysis, problem solving and communication
- It goes with, and will support, any other subject and you may need it if you want to study specific subjects at university
- It supports subjects you would think it had little to do with, such as Philosophy, English and History, and with these subjects, you develop a wide range of skills.

It is hard though, and this is another reason why it is appreciated by universities and employers. To succeed you need to apply yourself from the beginning and throughout the course because it is hierarchical and if you haven't got the building blocks you cannot move on. It will take persistence to get through the parts you personally find difficult but that is where you will benefit from being taught in a small environment. We can help pinpoint your difficulties and give you work to conquer them – you will find that very satisfying but you have got to do the work.

The A Level courses now are very similar and you do not have the choice there was a couple of years ago.

3 papers, each one third of the assessment

Paper 1 Pure Maths

Paper 2 as Paper 1 and Mechanics

Paper 3 as Paper 1 and Statistics

In all papers there is a mixture of short and multi-step questions.

Course Requirements

English GCSE at Grade 4 or above and at least a 6 in Maths GCSE (or a B). You need to be prepared to spend time most days working through exercises, using a text book and digital resources to come to terms with the subject. This is not

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as bleak as it sounds; you will get a great sense of satisfaction from it and a good grade at the end.

Music A Level AQA 7272

Music is constantly evolving and inspires creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. This A-level qualification is relevant and contemporary and offers students the chance to study a wide range of musical genres. It brings listening, performance and composition to life in new and engaging ways. Every student has different learning styles and musical tastes and this specification values all styles of music, skills and instruments. It will broaden students' minds and foster a love of all music.

The course is divided into three parts:

Appraising music

Performance

Composition

Appraising Music: 40%

1. Listening, analysis, contextual understanding of set works. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 is the compulsory study and then candidates choose two areas of study from Pop Music, Music for Media, Music for theatre, Jazz, Contemporary traditional music or Art music since 1910.

Assessment is a listening exam of questions and essays.

Performance: 35%

Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist

Assessment is a live performance of ten minutes.

Composition: 25%

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Composition 1: Composition to a brief set by AQA

Composition 2: Free composition, your own choice of style and scoring

Assessment is two pieces to submit, a score or leadsheet, programme note and recording

Course requirements You will need Grade 4 in English and Maths GCSE and Grade 6 in Music GCSE. If you have not done music but have other musical experience we could discuss whether we think you could cope with the demands of the course.

Psychology A Level 7182

The AQA A-Level qualification in Psychology offers students a fascinating insight into human behaviour and experience. It is applicable to a wide range of exciting careers; primarily those in healthcare, law, teaching, business, marketing & human resources.

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and is primarily concerned with investigating what people do and why. As such, it is one of the most transferable subjects you can study providing you with a knowledge base and range of skills that Higher Education and employers value.

Transferable Skills:

- Critical reasoning skills
- Interpretation and evaluation of theory & research
- Independent and analytical thinking
- Research (planning, conducting, interpreting & reporting scientific investigations)
- Mathematical skills (Data handling & statistical analysis)
- Construction of fluent and coherent arguments
- Problem solving
- Improved communication

A-Level compulsory content:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology

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- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in Psychology

Within this engaging and stimulating introduction to Psychology, we will endeavour to answer real world questions such as;

- *Why do people conform to others & obey authority?*
- *Why do people forget?*
- *How do childhood attachments influence adult relationships?*
- *What is abnormality?*
- *How do people develop phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorders & what methods are used to treat them?*
- *How do Psychologists explain human behaviour from five different perspectives: Learning; Cognitive; Biological; Humanistic and Psychodynamic?*
- *What biological processes underpin human behaviour?*
- *How do Psychologists research human behaviour & what problems do they face?*

We will also consider major areas of controversy within Psychology such as free-will and determinism; gender & culture bias; ethical issues and the nature-nurture debate.

Students will then choose to study three additional topics: one from each of the following option blocks.

Option Block 1:

Relationships
Aggression

Gender

Cognition & development

Option Block 2:

Schizophrenia

Eating Behaviour

Stress

Option Block 3:

Forensic Psychology

Addiction

Assessment:

3 written exams

(3 x 2 hour papers consisting of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions)

Course Requirements:

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Minimum school requirement of 5 GCSEs at level 4 or above. However, a level 6 in GCSE Biology and GCSE Mathematics is recommended.

Dr Nadine Boojawon (BSc (Hons) PGCE MPhil PhD)

(nboojawon@kingsmeadschool.com)

A-level Physics AQA 7408

Why study Physics?

Physics is the study of how the Universe works. Physicists work to uncover the rules that govern matter and energy and then apply those rules to areas that are very small like atoms or very large, like stars and everything in between. As well as subject specific knowledge and skills, students studying Physics will develop their research, problem solving and analytical skills.

Typical careers

Industries employing physicists are varied and include:

aerospace and defence, education, energy, engineering, instrumentation, manufacturing, oil and gas and science and telecommunications

Physics graduates not directly using their physics degree can pursue careers in a range of sectors such as IT and consultancy, the environmental industry, financial services, legal sector, transport and utilities.

What's involved?

It is a two year course with internal practical assessments throughout the course and three exams at the end. All exams are 2 hours long.

Paper 1	Paper 2
Measurements and their errors Particles and radiation Waves Mechanics and materials Electricity Further mechanics and thermal physics (part)	Assumed knowledge from Paper 1 Further mechanics and thermal physics (part) Fields and their consequences Nuclear physics

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Paper 3

Section A: Compulsory Section Practical skills and data analysis

Section B: One of the following

Astrophysics

Medical physics

Engineering physics

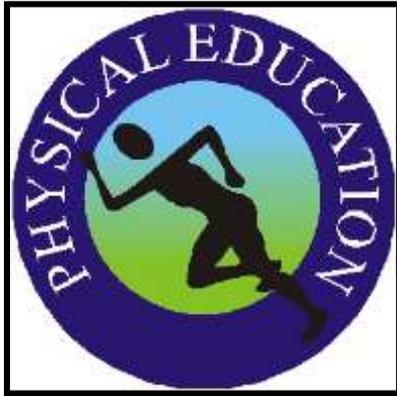
Turning points in physics

Electronic

Course Requirements

English GCSE at Grade 4 or above, Maths at Grade 5 – mathematical skills are an important element of the course, and Physics at Grade 6 or above.

BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport



Who is this qualification for?

The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport is for students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the sports sector. The qualification is equivalent to two A Levels and has been designed as a two-year programme.

What does this qualification cover?

The mandatory content allows students to concentrate on the development of their practical skills and the broad knowledge required for entrance into higher education programmes in sport.

Learners will study six mandatory units:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 4: Sports Leadership

Unit 22: Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry

Unit 23: Skill Acquisition in Sport.

Alongside these 6 units, students choose three further ones from a range of optional units. These have been designed to support progression into a variety of sport courses offered in higher education and link with relevant occupational areas. This allows students freedom to follow a route into a specific specialist area or to continue on a broader programme.

Which skills will I develop?

- the ability to learn independently
- the ability to research actively and methodically
- being able to give presentations and being active group members.

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- reading technical texts
- effective writing
- analytical skills
- creative development
- preparation for assessment methods used in degrees.

What could this qualification lead to?

Students can progress to higher education on full degree single or combined courses, for example:

- BA (Hons) in Sports Development and Management
- BSc (Hons) in Sports Management
- BSc (Hons) Sports Business Management
- BSc (Hons) Sport and Leisure Management
- BSc (Hons) Sports Science (Outdoor Activities)
- BSc (Hons) in Exercise, Health and Fitness
- BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Psychology.

Course Requirements

English and Maths GCSE at Grade 4 or above, and PE at GCSE Grade 5 or above. If you have not studied PE at GCSE, but have sporting experience we will arrange an interview and possibly an assessment, to see if we think you can access the course.

Extended Project Qualification AQA

The EPQ is a stand alone qualification. Students have the freedom to study the topics that they are interested in. Lessons will be divided into both taught and tutorial based sessions and will develop independent research and referencing, project management and ICT skills.

Students have to do research and produce a report of about 5000 words, or they can produce an 'artefact' and a report of 1000 words. The definition of 'artefact' is very loose, and could involve a presentation, a play, producing a short film, doing a science experiment, designing a stage set etc. There must be a large element of research in any of these.

Students will be assessed both on the outcome of their project and the process of developing it. They will gain knowledge and transferable skills to help them move on to further study and the workplace.

Many universities and further education institutions support the EPQ and recognise the value of the skills they develop. Some make lower offers for students taking the Extended Project Qualification.