

Heron Hall Academy Sixth Form Prospectus

Entry
2025



Continue Your Success with Us

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Welcome to our Sixth Form

Choosing the right Sixth Form is a very important decision.

Heron Hall is a place where students excel academically and personally. We also believe in love, respect, and tolerance, creating a welcoming environment where high standards and expectations help students succeed. Our Sixth Form is more than just an extension of school; it's a place to achieve your goals. We have an experienced, dedicated and ambitious teaching and learning team that encourages curiosity and critical thinking. Our classrooms are lively spaces where new ideas and creativity are part of everyday learning.

At Heron Hall, education isn't just about lessons and textbooks. We focus on developing the whole person, giving you the skills and resilience to thrive in a fast-changing world. Some of you reading this will, at the end of your education journey, be in jobs that have not yet even been created. Our clubs, activities, and societies are an important part of the Sixth Form experience

as well. They will allow you to follow your interests, take on leadership roles, and grow through new opportunities and experiences. It's about more than academics and study in a good Sixth Form - it's about building lasting friendships, creating memories, and forming networks that will stay with you for life. With us, you'll join a diverse and vibrant community, connecting with people from different cultures and perspectives.

So, join us at Heron Hall Sixth Form, where you'll gain the knowledge and confidence to shape your future. The journey starts here, and we're excited to help you make your dreams come true.

A. Barzey

Arthur Barzey

Times UK Headteacher of the Year for 2022-23



STUDENT COMMENTS

In just one year, I've grown more than I ever thought possible. This Sixth Form isn't just a school; it's a launchpad for my future.

Our Vision



Mr Pieri - Associate Deputy Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form

I am delighted that you are considering furthering your education journey with us. At Heron Hall, not only will we support all of our students in their pursuit of excellence in the classroom, but we also take pride in developing well-rounded young people ready for the challenges of modern society.

We have built a diverse, engaging and challenging curriculum that seeks to enthuse, inspire and nurture every learner.

Students in our Sixth Form benefit from listening to the external speakers we invite, taking part in workshop opportunities and attending trips. Not only does all this enhance their academic studies but it helps to shape them socially and morally. This is all underpinned by our school's S.T.R.I.V.E values.

Being an inclusive Sixth Form is important to us. We have a welcoming approach where all of our students feel cared for and supported with a Head of Year 12 in place supported by a team of form tutors to provide pastoral advice and guidance.

Our vision for the Sixth Form has three distinct but vital elements. The primary focus of our vision is in ensuring that our students achieve the best possible outcomes academically. I believe that with hard work, commitment and determination, all our students can progress academically and achieve outcomes that give them the best opportunity to succeed after Sixth Form.

The second part of our vision is focused on ensuring that students are adequately prepared for the next stage of their lives after they finish Year 13. It is vital that students are supported to transition into but also out of the Sixth Form. As such, at Heron Hall, the Sixth Form has a comprehensive careers and employability programme that will upskill our students. For our students who wish to continue with higher education at university or those who may wish to leave post-compulsory education and transition into the world of work, the speakers we bring in, the careers advice that is on offer and the workshops that students attend will give them the information required to make a decision that is right for them.

The final part of our vision is focused on ensuring that students are given the chance to develop key skills that are needed in the workplace and everyday life. This will be achieved by developing and enhancing the character and culture of students within the Sixth Form. This is embodied by all Year 12 students undertaking work experience at the end of their first year.

I eagerly await welcoming you all. I believe that students will be very happy at Heron Hall Sixth Form and will be able to continue their success with us.

I see the students joining our Sixth Form as learners but leaving as leaders.



Dear future Heron Hall Sixth Formers

The next two years of your life are arguably the most exciting but also challenging in your academic career and choosing your Sixth Form will determine your overall Year 12 and Year 13 experience.

As a new Sixth Form, Heron Hall is at an exciting stage, where you will grow as a young person but are afforded the opportunities to help shape your Sixth Form.

As current Year 13s we have had many opportunities that have allowed us to become informed and get the right advice about where we will go after Year 13. For example, I have had the pleasure of being part of 'The Future Leaders' programme and the Zurich Insurance mentoring & work experience programme.

We have fantastic teachers and amazing support from staff.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated study area for both Year 12 and Year 13 where we can study independently in a comfortable and silent environment. We also have easy access to Chromebooks.

Our Sixth Form canteen is an area only we get to use and allows us to enjoy some downtime where we can develop our friendships.

The library has a dedicated Sixth Form area where we can use textbooks our teachers have recommended and is another area where quiet focused study can happen.

This year, we have seen every Year 12 benefit from one-to-one careers advice from an expert, external careers advisor and in the summer term all year 12s will have the opportunity to go on work experience.

With a Head of Year 12 and Head of Year 13 as well as form groups, we have pastoral care that benefits us all because of the planned activities such as wellbeing assemblies and comprehensive form time pastoral programme.

Year 13 have benefited from individual and group advice and guidance for the UCAS process, especially with personal statements. In addition, we have also had guidance about apprenticeships.

With a large number of external speakers coming to school to talk to us as well as workshop opportunities, Heron Hall Sixth Form has certainly given me the best chance to succeed as I progress to the next stage of my life beyond school.

I therefore wholeheartedly recommend Heron Hall Sixth Form for the next stage of your life and personal growth.

Good luck for the rest of Year 11!

Adil, Year 13

How to apply

We welcome applications from all students.

Internal candidates can apply by completing an application form. Mr Pieri will let you know when and how you can apply.

For external candidates, please contact heron-sixthform@northstartrust.org.uk for all the information you need to apply to us..

Courses and options are subject to alterations and in some cases cancellation depending on student numbers.

Admissions criteria

Academic Pathway: A minimum of 6 GCSE grades 9-4 with at least 3 grades 9-6 at GCSE including Maths, English and the subject-specific entry requirements.

Applied Vocational Pathway: A minimum of 5 GCSE grades 9-4 including English and Maths.

Interview process: All students that apply for a place within the Sixth Form will be subject to an interview to ensure they adequately meet the admissions criteria. At this stage, where applicable, all references will be checked. The interview process will support students to make appropriate course choices.

Offers of places at Heron Hall: All students who meet the admissions criteria will be made a conditional offer in writing. A firm offer will only be made following confirmation of GCSE results in the summer. On GCSE results day, students will be able to confirm their qualifications and begin enrolment into the Sixth Form. If you do not achieve your expected grades please speak to us so we can discuss your options. Students applying from Heron Hall will be expected to attend school during the final week of August to complete the full enrolment process.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

EPQ stands for Extended Project Qualification, which is an additional qualification you can take alongside your academic studies. It helps to develop research skills, time management and a number of other skills that are necessary for higher-level study.

The EPQ course is offered to students aiming to study at elite universities. Studying an EPQ demonstrates valuable proof of your capacity for independent learning, as well as your passion for the subject you want to study at a higher level.

The EPQ is an independent research project that can but does not have to relate to an A-level subject that is being studied. It is important therefore that students choose topics that they are interested in and relate to further study so they are motivated to complete it. Students who undertake the EPQ will be expected to complete a 5000-word research task and a presentation relating to their research task.

So what are the benefits of doing the EPQ:

- Practice academic writing which is necessary for studying at a university
- Supports your university application
- Increased chance of being given a conditional offer for your first choice university
- Potential lower admissions criteria for those who have completed the EPQ
- Development of key skills needed for university and employment

Making the best subject combination choices

When you are considering the choices and qualifications, you would like to study in the Sixth Form, it is important to keep in mind how they will support your progression into the next phase of your life.

For example, if you are not planning to go to university, but after studying at Sixth Form would like to progress into employment and further training, then an Applied Vocational Qualification would be an appropriate choice. However, if you are planning to progress to higher education and university, then it is important to keep in mind the essential subjects required by universities (academic pathway).

Some subjects are more frequently required for entry to degree courses than others are. These are often referred to as 'facilitating' subjects because choosing them at an advanced level keeps open a wide range of options for university study. The facilitating subjects are Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Geography, History, Languages, Physics and Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

If you are unsure what you want to study at undergraduate level at university, then it would be advisable to study at least two facilitating subjects. This will broaden your options when making a choice at university level.

The table below provides essential and useful subject combinations for popular university courses. The Russell Group publication 'Informed Choices' also provides supportive information to assist with choosing the right university for you. See www.informedchoices.ac.uk

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES	ESSENTIAL A-LEVEL SUBJECTS	USEFUL ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS
Medicine, Dentistry Biological, Life Sciences	Chemistry & Biology	Mathematics & Further Mathematics
Physical Sciences, Engineering	Mathematics & Physics	Chemistry & Further Mathematics
Mathematics	Mathematics & Further Mathematics	Physics & Computer Science
Economics, Actuarial Science	Mathematics	Economics & Further Mathematics
Humanities	N/A	English, History, Geography, Languages, Psychology, Biology, Religious Studies & Sociology
Psychology	Some require Biology or Chemistry	Biology, Psychology, Chemistry, English, Sociology & Religious Studies
Law	Some require English	English & History
Computer Science	Mathematics	Further Mathematics, Physics & Computer Science
The Arts, Social Sciences, English	English Literature, History, Languages, Drama, Art & Mathematics	Economics, Geography, Religious Studies, Sciences & Sociology
Business, Accounting	N/A	Mathematics, Business, Economics
Teacher training	A national curriculum subject	English, mathematics, Geography, History, Sciences, Religious studies, Sociology.

Curriculum and subjects

A' Levels

Art & Design - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5 in GCSE Art, textiles or photography and Grade 4 in GCSE English. Exam Board – AQA.

Biology - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Biology and Maths. Exam Board – AQA.

Business Studies - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Exam Board – AQA.

Chemistry - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry and Maths. Exam Board – AQA.

Computer Science - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science or Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Exam Board – OCR.

Economics - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths. Exam Board – AQA.

English - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature. Exam Board – AQA.

Geography - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography and Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths. Exam Board – Edexcel.

Government and Politics - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5's in English and Maths, Grade 5 in History or Geography preferable but not compulsory. Exam Board – AQA.

History - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE History and Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths. Exam Board – AQA.

Mathematics - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Exam Board – Edexcel.

Media Studies - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. Exam Board – Edexcel.

Physics - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Physics and Maths. Exam Board – AQA.

Product Design - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design or GCSE Art. Exam Board – AQA.

Psychology - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE science and maths. Exam Board - AQA.

Sociology - *Entry requirements:*

Grade 6 in GCSE English or Grade 6 in GCSE Humanities subject. Exam Board - AQA.

Art & Design – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Art & Design, textiles or Design and Technology. Grade 5 in English Lit & Lang.

Course content

Students will produce a body of work for all units throughout the course. Students will compile a collection of work linked to at least 2/3 investigations. Both Component 1 and Component 2 both have the same expectations of investigations and conclusion with a final piece. Students will sit a 15hr exam to complete their set Investigation response.

Students are required to conduct investigations, related to an issue, concept or theme supported by a written piece. Students' investigations must show independent development from the original issue, concept or theme to the outcomes. Student Investigations must evidence students' ability to research and develop ideas into outcomes. The written material must be comprehensibly structured and be between 2000-3000 words. The written materials must include appropriate spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout the topics. The student's practical work will produce a response or to conclude the investigation without any restriction on materials or scale. Students must demonstrate their artistic skills being developed and challenged throughout the investigations as they conclude.

The following topics are studied:

- Personal investigation outline and structure.
- Essay writing and research gathering. An introduction to lecture-style sessions about art & design influencers and the Art world to build up an understanding of the importance of research and investigations.
- Practical Art skills and techniques developed using a vast set of materials, building independent practical working. Students should aim to develop Artistic skills through various mediums such as drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, animation and photography.

Assessment overview

1. **Component 1:** Coursework (Internal personal investigation) 96 marks, 60%
2. **Component 2:** Exam (External set assignment) 96 marks, 40%

Progression

A-Level Art & Design is just the beginning to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the world in which we all live. Art & Design A-Level can lead you into the various different fields of work and life in the future. Students can go onto study at Degree level and explore the world of Visual artists, Digital artists, Animators, Advertisement, Photographers, Product designers, Architectures, Interior designers and so on. Art & Design is a forever changing and challenging field to develop and dive into and to be a part of the change.



STUDENT COMMENTS

I used to dream about achieving big things. Here, I've started turning those dreams into plans. It's incredible how much support and guidance I receive.

Biology – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Biology and Maths

Course content

Biology is the study of life and living organisms. This science encompasses a wide range of domains including genetics, microbiology, taxonomy, biochemistry, physiology but also ethology and ecology. Studying A level Biology will give you a basic understanding of the way the body works, an overview of the impact of the expression of the genome and epigenome on metabolism, an insight into how cells communicate or how molecules interact or the use of microorganisms in industry and ecology.

The A level Biology Course is a two-year course gained by completing eight modules combined with the practical endorsement. The practical endorsement is an assessment of a student's skills and competency when completing core practicals.

The following topics are studied during A level biology:

Year 12

Biological molecules

Cells

Organisms exchange substances with their environment

Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13

Energy transfer in and between organisms

Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

The control of gene expression

Assessment overview

1. **Paper 1:** 2 hours (written paper) – 91 marks, 35% of A-level
2. **Paper 2:** 2 hours (written paper) – 91 marks, 35% of A-level
3. **Paper 3:** 2 hours (written paper) – 78 marks, 30% of A-level

Progression

A-level Biology is a stepping-stone to future study. Biologists have a key role in contributing to improvements in tomorrow's world of health, sport, medicine, conservation and the food industry. The Biology course provides an excellent basis for further study and careers in the Life Sciences. From GM crops to diseases and medicines, to environmental issues, there has never been a more exciting time to be a Biologist.



Business Studies - AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 5 in maths

Course content

Whether you want to start your own company or be a CEO of a multinational corporation, an A-Level in business studies will teach you the skills that are required. Business is a dynamic, fast-moving subject based in the real world. You will learn about how businesses operate and discover that business is always in the news. There is always something going on directly related to what you will be studying, from mergers and takeovers to ethical concerns about supply chains or executive pay.

You will discover how to market a product successfully depending on the target audience and you will learn to analyse the strategies employed by businesses such as Jaguar, Land Rover and Ikea for success. You will also find out how to motivate people, and look at different ways of leading an organisation. You will discover what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur.

Business will equip you with the skills you need to progress into work or on to University. You will learn how to apply theory to factual situations, how to analyse problems, arrive at solutions, and how to evaluate business strategies.

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.

Assessment overview

1. **Paper 1 – Marketing, people and global business** – 2hrs – 100 marks - 35% of A level
2. **Paper 2 – Business activities, decisions and strategy** – 2hrs – 100 marks - 35% of A level
3. **Paper 3 – Investigating business in a competitive environment** – 2hrs - 100 marks – 30% of A level

Progression

Studying Business will open your eyes to the wide range of job opportunities available, ranging from finance to marketing to management. Jobs in business include human resources management, fashion retailing, accountancy and finance, as well as setting up your own business.

Many business A-Level students' progress onto university or degree apprenticeships. This ranges from courses such as Business Studies, International Business Management to more specialised ones such as Accounting and Finance, Marketing and Human Resources Management.

HOW TO
POSITION YOUR
FOR SUCCESS

THE
THINGS
YOU
CARE
ABOUT

YOUR
BRAND

WHAT
YOUR
CUSTOMER
CARES
ABOUT

STUDENT COMMENTS

Every day in Sixth Form is a new adventure. I've discovered passions I didn't even know I had and skills that I'm excited to develop further.

Chemistry – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry and Maths

Course content

Chemistry is the study of the properties and reactions of materials. It is sometimes called a central science, because it links the other sciences to each other, such as biology, physics, geology and environmental science.

The A level Chemistry Course is a two-year course gained by completing modules in 3 larger sections combined with the practical endorsement. The practical endorsement is an assessment of a student's skills and competency when completing core practicals.

The following topics are studied during A level chemistry:

Year 12

Physical Chemistry – atomic structure, bonding, energetic, kinetics, chemical equilibrium

Inorganic Chemistry – periodicity, group 2 the alkaline earth metals and group 7 (17) the halogens

Organic Chemistry – Alkanes, haloalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis

Year 13

Physical Chemistry 2 - Thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium constant, electrode potentials, acids, bases & buffers

Inorganic Chemistry 2 - Periodicity, transition metals, reactions of inorganic compounds in aqueous solutions

Organic Chemistry 2 - Isomerism, carbonyl groups, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymerisation, amino acids, proteins & DNA, organic synthesis, chromatography

Assessment overview

1. **Paper 1:** 2 hours (written paper) – 105 marks, 35% of A- level
2. **Paper 2:** 2 hours (written paper) – 105 marks, 35% of A - level
3. **Paper 3:** 2 hours (written paper) – 90 marks, 30% of A - level

Progression

A-level Chemistry is a stepping-stone to future study. Having a chemical science qualification is desirable and valuable to future employers as it provides you with a wide range of transferable skills. It gives you a vast choice in a wide range of careers such as Research and Development, Production, Marketing and Sales, Veterinary Science, Forensic Science, Marine Science, Management and Marketing, Patent Agent, Environmental, Finance, and Sales and Advertising.



Photo by Neil Garrett

Computer Science – OCR

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science or Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Course Content

Computer Science has computational thinking at its core; thinking that provides solutions to problems, designs systems and recognises the nature of human and machine intelligence.

It is a creative subject that involves the innovative thinking and development of ideas through coding.

You will learn to become a strong programmer using different programming paradigms. As part of this, you will explore many of the standard algorithms used in searching, sorting and pathfinding and will be able to select the most appropriate to use, based on its efficiency and suitability for the problem at hand. A diverse range of theoretical topics are covered, including how computers use logic, number systems, networks, databases and more.

Computer science is split into papers one, two and non-examined assessment (NEA). Students will study a range of topics over the two years of A-level.

The following topics are studied during A level computer science:

- 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
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem-solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Assessment overview

1. **Computer systems:** 2 hours and 30 minutes (written paper) – 140 marks, 40% of A -level
2. **Algorithms and programming:** 2 hours and 30 minutes (written paper) – 140 marks, 40% of A - level
3. **Programming project:** NEA component – 70 marks, 20% of A -level

Progression

University progression. Students progress to Russell Group universities or take up apprenticeships with leading companies to become programmers, computer engineers, big data analysts, computer game designers or specialists in the telecommunications industry.

Employment progression. Future careers include: computer science, software development, IT support, cyber security, web development, computer programming.



STUDENT COMMENTS

The teachers here don't just educate; they inspire. They've helped me see the potential in myself that I never knew existed.

Economics – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths

Course content

The study of Economics emphasises the importance of economic issues in a modern society and seeks to encourage an understanding of the economic forces that shape all our lives in today's world. Economics is an excellent subject for developing personal transferable skills. Employers and universities value the content, the questioning attitudes and the skills which are acquired through studying Economics. Now, more than ever, it seems the study of Economics is incredibly significant. Fundamentally, Economics is about people and the economic choices they make. At Heron Hall, studying Economics allows our students to become better-informed consumers, producers and citizens of this world. Studying economics enables students to develop an awareness and understanding of the economic forces that shape all our lives. Economists asks big questions about the world around us and seek answers to often complex issues. Economics is a powerful social science, with economists working in key roles in government and in international organisations.

Students are taught Microeconomics and Macroeconomics to gain an insight into the methodology such as price determination, production, markets and market failure, as well as the reasoning behind government intervention. Other topics include government policy with an emphasis on understanding macroeconomic indicators such as inflation, unemployment and economic growth. Economics requires sound mathematical ability while students should also have an interest in the workings of individual industries and the policy decisions of governments, as the A-Level looks at both of these. Students will be expected to keep up to date with economic changes and trends, so an interest in watching or reading current affairs is very helpful.

Assessment overview

Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure (2 hours)

Paper 2: National and International Economy (2 hours)

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues (2 hours)

Progression

Economics is a subject highly valued amongst employers and universities. Average earnings and employment levels for Economics graduates are particularly high. Its study can lead to careers in a broad range of areas such as Banking, Finance, Business, Consultancy, Law and Government Policy.



English – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

Course content

English Literature's historicist approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. English Literature privileges the process of making autonomous meaning, encouraging students to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses.

Whilst the course invites a variety of written response types, these will all encourage critical debate. Students will be required to argue and to show personal responses and critical preferences, supported by the terminology relevant to the topics and contexts with which they are engaging. In doing so, they will be able to show 'creativity'.

Both examined elements of the course have the methodologies of historicism at their centre. In *Love through the ages*, the theme of love, one of the most central themes in literature, is explored across time. In *Texts in shared contexts*, students explore texts written within a narrower and clearly defined time period: either WW1 and its aftermath, or Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day. The non-exam assessment element offers students the freedom to compare texts either diachronically or synchronically.

Assessment overview

1. *Love through the ages*: 3 hours (written paper) – 75 marks, 40% of A-level
2. *Texts in shared contexts*: 2 hours and 30 minutes (written paper) – 75 marks, 40% of A-level
3. *Independent critical study*: Non-exam assessment (NEA) 50 marks – 20% of A-level

Progression

A-Level English students will have a world of opportunities open to them, specifically the opportunity to study topics such as Law, Journalism, Psychology and Sociology. Studying English is very useful for any subject area that you need to communicate. English is one of the most popular subjects to study at university level and the skills developed from this subject are in great demand from employers.

Geography - Edexcel

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography and Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths.

Course content

In Year 12 Geography is split into two sections – one physical and one human. Physical geography will include Tectonic processes, hazards, and coastal landscapes; two topics that students should be somewhat familiar with from GCSE study. On the human paper, students cover globalisation and either regeneration or diverse places, linking in with similar topics taught at GCSE. Students will also cover questions relating to fieldwork on a residential trip that year, on the topic of coasts, regeneration and diverse places.

In Year 13, students sit 3 exam papers. The first is on the physical geography above, but adding in topics on water insecurity, the carbon cycle and energy. The human paper gains additional content on Superpowers and global development, with options to study health or migration. The third paper is a decision making exercise investigating one of the compulsory issues studied throughout the course. The exam board in advance of the exam will send out a pre-release paper. The fieldwork that was studied in Year 12 will form the basis of a roughly 3000-4000 word independent report which will be internally marked and submitted to the exam board.

Assessment overview

1. Physical Geography: 2hr 15m – 105 marks, 30% of A level
2. Human Geography: 2hr 15m – 105 marks, 30% of A level
3. Synoptic Investigation: 2hr 15m – 70 marks, 20% of A level
4. Independent Investigation: non examined assessment (NEA) – 70 marks, 20% of A level

Progression

A level Geography is seen as one that presents students with a wide range of skills to progress in future careers. The ability to communicate complex points, use evidence to come to an informed decision and skills used to complete an independent investigation in the subject are highly valued by employers and universities. Jobs directly involving geography include roles in international development agencies, flood management, land surveying, architecture, health research and the civil service.

STUDENT COMMENTS

This Sixth Form has been my second home. It's a place where I feel both challenged and cared for, and that's made all the difference.



Government and Politics - AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5's in English and Maths; Grade 5 in History or Geography preferable but not compulsory. There is an expectation that you will have an understanding and interest in current affairs.

Course content

The students study three main units over the two years. The first unit covers British Politics and the Government of the UK and looks at the nature and function of the British Constitution and the three branches of the British Government: the Prime Minister & the Cabinet; the Judiciary and Parliament. Students also study how democracy operates in the UK by looking at political parties, pressure groups, elections and referendums and how we measure participation.

The second unit is US politics. Students need to be able to make synoptic links between this unit and the British Politics unit and understand that while there are differences between the two political systems there are also similarities. Students will understand the constitutional framework of the US government focusing on the difference between the power of Congress and the US President. Students also study the US Judiciary, political parties and pressure groups and can make connections, links and highlight differences between the US and the UK. One of the key aspects of the US political system is an understanding of Civil Rights thinking about how the United States have developed political freedoms and rights for individuals.

The final unit is an understanding of different political ideologies. Students understand the key features of different political ideologies and the similarities and differences between them. These ideologies include socialism, conservatism, nationalism and feminism.

Assessment overview

1. Government & Politics of the UK: 2 Hours (written paper) – 77 marks, 33.3%
2. Government & Politics of the USA (+ Comparative Study): 2 Hours (written paper) – 77 marks, 33.3%
3. Political Ideas: 2 Hours (written paper) – 77 marks, 33.3%

Progression

A level Government & Politics is a subject that is well viewed by the majority of Russell Group and non-Russell Group universities. Students of Politics can go into a range of different careers including political research, the Civil Service, the police, education or even working for a political party or a pressure group. Students of Government and Politics can understand different viewpoints, understand complex problems and be able to articulate and argue effectively.



History - AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE History and Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths

Course content

In year 12, students will study two courses concurrently with two different teachers. They study the rise of Communism in Russia and the reasons for, and impact of, the February and November revolutions in Russia in 1917. Students look at the social, economic and political impact of the revolutions and the reasons why Russia was ripe for revolution and how Lenin exploited the impact of WWI and the Tsar's inability to rule. Students also study the Early Tudor period looking at the victory at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 and how Henry Tudor secures his position on the throne and wins the War of the Roses.

In year 13, students continue their studies sitting two exams at the end of Year 13 with each constituting 40% of their final mark. Students continue studying Russia under Stalin looking at the changes he makes in Russia and the impact of his economic and social policies on the people. We finish this unit by looking at the Soviet victory in WWII and the final years of Stalin and how secure Stalinism was upon his death in 1953. On the other side of the course students continue their study of Henry's 3 children and their reigns focusing much of the time on Elizabeth I and the Golden Age. This includes an analysis of her foreign policy relations with Spain and the New World and her religious policies and impacts on England. Students also study an NEA or Non-Examined Assessment. This involves a self-studied and self-researched historical investigation with students choosing and answering their own question over the course of Year 13 and submitting this prior to the exam. The NEA constitutes the final 20% of the student's overall mark.

Assessment overview

1. Breadth Study: 2hr 30m – 80 marks, 40% of A level
2. Depth Study: 2hr 30m – 80 marks, 40% of A level
3. Historical Investigation – non examined assessment (NEA) – 40 marks, 20% of A level

Progression

A level History is a subject which is well viewed by the majority of Russell Group and non-Russell Group universities. History supports careers such as Law, Journalism, Politics and Finance. Many History graduates go on to study for further qualifications and can work in museums, teaching or project management.



STUDENT COMMENTS

I've made friends for life and learned lessons that go way beyond textbooks. This Sixth Form experience is truly shaping who I am.

Mathematics - Edexcel

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

Course content

Maths is a stimulating and rewarding course that is highly regarded by universities and employers. Additionally, however, studying maths will greatly improve your numeracy which is a life skill that can have profound positive effects on you. Having high levels of numeracy is linked with higher wages, will enable you to make sense of charts and information reported in the media and have financial capability.

The following topics are studied during A level Maths:

Pure Maths

This is the study of the more abstract elements of maths, which teaches the knowledge and skills that underpin the entire course.

- Topic 1 – Proof
- Topic 2 – Algebra and functions
- Topic 3 – Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
- Topic 4 – Sequences and series
- Topic 5 – Trigonometry
- Topic 6 – Exponentials and logarithms
- Topic 7 – Differentiation
- Topic 8 – Integration
- Topic 9 – Numerical methods
- Topic 10 – Vectors

Statistics

When you study statistics you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data to arrive at conclusions about it. Many of the ideas in this part of the course have applications in a wide range of other fields, from assessing what your car insurance is going to cost to how likely it is that the Earth will be hit by a comet in the next few years.

- Topic 1 – Statistical sampling
- Topic 2 – Data presentation and interpretation
- Topic 3 – Probability
- Topic 4 – Statistical distributions
- Topic 5 – Statistical hypothesis testing

Mechanics

Mechanics deals with the action of forces on objects. It is therefore concerned with many everyday situations, e.g. the motion of cars, the flight of a cricket ball through the air, the stresses in bridges and the motion of the earth around the sun. Such problems have to be simplified or modelled to make them capable of solutions using relatively simple mathematics.

- Topic 6 – Quantities and units in mechanics
- Topic 7 – Kinematics
- Topic 8 – Forces and Newton's laws
- Topic 9 – Moments
- Topic 7 – Differentiation
- Topic 8 – Integration
- Topic 9 – Numerical methods
- Topic 10 – Vectors

Assessment overview

1. Pure Mathematics 1: 2 hours (written paper) – 100 marks, 33.33% of A-level
2. Pure Mathematics 2: 2 hours (written paper) – 100 marks, 33.33% of A – level
3. Statistics & Mechanics: 2 hours (written paper) -100 marks, 33:33% of A- level

Progression

There are a wealth of careers and degree choices that either require or would benefit from studying maths including; Engineering, Computing, Medicine, Science, Finance and Economics, Accountancy and Architecture.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\rho u) = 0$$

$$u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\rho u) + u \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x}$$

Media Studies - AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 4 in maths

Course content

Media and communication are at the centre of our everyday lives. At home, at work, at college or while travelling we are rarely far away from mediated sounds, images or words in the form of TV, film, radio, music, Internet, magazines, newspapers or games. The media entertain us, enable connections with friends and communities, provide interpretations of the world around us and offer us resources for creating identities and imaginations. We live in a media culture, a media society.

Media Studies at St Charles gives you the opportunity to investigate how the media work in society and to understand the role that the media play in our complex world. The balance of media theory and practical media production on the course means that you will learn about how media industries operate, research and investigate issues and debates about the role of the media in society, analyse media products in depth and produce amazing media of your own.

Assessment overview

1. **Media One** – 2hrs – 84 marks - 35% of A level
2. **Media Two** – 2hrs – 84 marks - 35% of A level
3. **Creating a cross-media production** – non examined assessment (NEA) – 60 marks - 30% of A level

Progression

Media studies naturally leads to exciting careers in TV, film, journalism, web development, marketing, advertising, social media or public relations. An awareness of how the world of media works can also support other careers, such as business, commerce, law, finance, medicine, the arts, social work, and education. By knowing how the media operate you'll be able to decode messages more skilfully, understand how to use the media to your advantage and engage with topics and issues that interest you.

Many of our students go on to university to study media, cultural or communication studies as academic subjects. Many more choose to study and train on media, film and TV production courses or apprenticeships as a way into exciting careers in the creative, media and marketing industries.



STUDENT COMMENTS

What sets this Sixth Form apart is its spirit of innovation. We're not just learning about the world as it is; we're preparing to lead the world as it could be.

Physics – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Physics and Maths

Course content

Students studying A level Physics will cover a range of key concepts such as particle physics, wave-particle duality, the photoelectric effect and atomic energy levels. There is also an electricity section that develops concepts like current, voltage and resistance in direct current circuits. Students will get a more in-depth treatment of topics like kinematics, dynamics, statics and energy that they were introduced to during their GCSE. This is combined with a study of the properties of materials to complete the mechanics component. Additionally, there is also a study of the properties of waves, which includes a look at progressive and standing waves, refraction, diffraction and interference.

The syllabus provides a choice of optional topics such as astrophysics. This gives students a view of the universe at large including dark matter and energy, black holes and quasars along with knowledge of the tools used by astronomers to see to the edge of space and time.

A level physics is a two-year qualification that involves a practical endorsement. The practical endorsement is an assessment of a student's skills and competency when completing core practicals.

The following topics are studied during A level physics:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurements and their errors• Particles and radiation• Waves• Mechanics and materials• Electricity• Further mechanics and thermal physics• Fields and their consequences• Nuclear physics | Optional topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Astrophysics• Medical physics• Engineering physics• Turning points in physics• Electronics |
|---|--|

Assessment overview

1. Periodic Motion: 2 hours (written paper) – 85 marks, 34% of A-level
2. Thermal Physics: 2 hours (written paper) – 85 marks, 34% of A - level
3. Practical Skills & Data Analysis: 2 hours (written paper) - sections A & B – 80 marks, 32% of A - level

Progression

A-level Physics is a stepping-stone to future study. Having a qualification in A-Level Physics will equip you with sought after skills in Banking, Logistics, Management, Game Design and a host of other industries. It is invaluable for studying medicine and other related subjects as well as engineering and a wide range of technological subjects. Studying Physics beyond A-Level also opens up opportunities for exciting and well-paid careers. Physics graduates are found working in a range of professions as diverse as patent lawyers, brewing technologists, investment bankers, architects and acoustic engineers as well as the more traditional careers in research and teaching.



Product Design – AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design or GCSE Art

Course content

Do you want to make the world a better place for consumers? Do you look at some products and think you could have done better? Have you ever wondered how a product continues to stay popular in the marketplace?

Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in several careers, especially those in the creative industries. The subject content is focused on consumer products and applications; their analysis in respect of materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development.

The course is designed to teach students to initiate design solutions and develop, test and trial working models and prototypes. Develop and sustain imagination, innovation and flair when working with concepts and material. Develop an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials. Develop thinking skills, financial capability, and enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

During the two-year course, you will study a range of materials. You will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products.

Assessment overview

1. Technical Principles: 2 hours and 30 minutes (written paper) – 120 marks, 30% of A-level
2. Designing & Making Principles: 1 hour and 30 minutes (written paper) – 80 marks, 20% of A - level
3. Design Portfolio: Non-exam assessment (NEA) – 100 marks, 50% of A – level

Progression

This qualification can lead to a variety of different career pathways, including product design, engineering and architecture.

It could also form part of your route into university, especially if you wish to pursue a subject like Engineering.

Some students progress to taking advanced apprenticeships with local companies or gain employment directly in the technology and engineering sector in their local area.



Psychology - AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE science and maths

Course content

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, it is a multi-layered discipline and includes many sub-fields of study such areas as human development, health, clinical, social behaviour and cognitive processes. This course has been designed to equip you with critical psychological skills, knowledge and values that can be applied to real world contexts.

You will discover a key topic of research and learn about important studies related to that topic, and find out how research is conducted in that area. You will learn to use statistical tests to help interpret data. You will have an opportunity to study some uses of psychology in the real world, such as gender and social influences.

Psychology confers a broad variety of transferable skills. Psychology students will have the usual array of skills that science students acquire - from experimental design to statistical analysis. Psychology students will gain an understanding of human behaviour and motivation, the ability to work with a wide variety of people, and skills in demonstrating compassion and empathy.

During the course you will study the following topics over two years:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Research Methods
- Approaches in Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Biopsychology
- Issues and Debates
- Relationships
- Eating Behaviour & Aggression

Assessment overview

1. Introductory Topics in Psychology: 2 hours (written paper) – 96 marks, 33.3% of A-level
2. Psychology in Context: 2 hours (written paper) – 96 marks, 33.3% of A - level
3. Issues and Options in Psychology: 2 hours (written paper) – 96 marks, 33.3% of A-level

Progression

A Psychology A level enables you to acquire a variety of transferable skills. These include numeracy, argument synthesis, data analysis, time management, independent research, teamwork, report writing, presentation skills, interpersonal and communication skills, plus an evolved ability to work ethically and professionally with people. All skills are highly valued in a range of employment fields.

Career opportunity areas include - Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Occupational Psychology, Research and Academic & Forensic Psychology, Sports and Exercise Psychology



STUDENT COMMENTS

Being part of this Sixth Form has boosted my confidence incredibly. I now feel ready to take on challenges that once seemed impossible.

Sociology - AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE English or Grade 6 in GCSE Humanities subject

Course content

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from crime to religion, from the family to the state, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies.

Sociology will help you to think about society in a new and critical light, questioning the status quo and developing a sophisticated understanding of the real issues that affect the society we live in. It is an excellent subject for showing you how society works and for making you aware of the range of conditions that individuals within society experience. Students often comment that they didn't realise how varied the human experience can be and how powerfully group identity shapes a person's future.

Sociology is for you if you want to explore and understand society. Why do some people do well at school and others don't? Why do some people have children and others don't? Why do some people join cults and others don't? Why do some people commit crimes and others don't? Also if you enjoy debating and evaluating social theory and indicating strengths and weaknesses the course gives a lot of weight to those skills. Sociology can make the world around you "come alive" and every day there will be examples for you to consider.

During the course you will study the following topics over two years:

- Education and Methods in Context
- Research Methods and Families and Households
- Education with Theory and Methods
- Families, Households and Beliefs within Society
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Assessment overview

1. Education with Theory and Methods: 2 hours (written paper) – 80 marks, 33.3% of A-level
2. Topics in Sociology: 2 hours (written paper) – 80 marks, 33.3% of A - level
3. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: 2 hours (written paper) – 80 marks, 33.3% of A-level

Progression

Sociology develops several skills that are transferable and useful in a variety of careers. Analysis of evidence, evaluation and essay writing skills develop as do research skills. Sociology can directly lead you into higher education courses such as Law, Social Policy/Politics or Anthropology. Many areas such as Business, Marketing, Journalism, Social Research, Teaching, Management Consultancy, HR and Public Relations all require skills learnt in Sociology.



Curriculum and vocational subjects



Applied Science

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science.

Entry requirements: Grade 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English Language. Exam board – Edexcel.

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care.

Entry requirements: 5 GCSE grades 9-4 including Maths and English. Exam Board – Edexcel.

Music Performance

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

Entry requirements: Grade 5 in music GCSE or level 2 equivalent and ability to play to grade 4 on an instrument or voice. If you do not have performance-graded certificates, we can audition you to check your level of ability. Exam board – Edexcel.

Performing Arts

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Entry requirements: 6 GCSEs at Grade 4 and above. Grade 5 in GCSE Drama/Music or Distinction in BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts. If a performance subject has not been studied, we can audition to check level of ability. Exam board – Pearson.

Sport

BTEC Level 3 Sport and Physical Activity (Extended Diploma)

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in GCSE PE or Distinction in BTEC/OCR Sports Studies and Grade 4 in GCSE English and Science. Exam board – Edexcel.

Travel and Tourism

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism

Entry requirements: 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4, including Maths and English. Exam Board – Edexcel.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science – Edexcel

Entry requirements

Grade 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English Language.

Course content

This qualification provides learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin study of the applied science sector, providing the opportunity to focus on different aspects of applied science.

You will study seven mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I
- Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills
- Unit 4: Laboratory Techniques and their Application
- Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II
- Unit 6: Investigative Project
- Unit 7: Contemporary Issues in Science.

There is the opportunity to explore, through the optional units below, a particular area of science, to support progression to applied science courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas. The particular scientific areas covered are:

- Biomedical Science – optional units cover topics such as physiology, microbiology, and diseases and infections
- Analytical and Forensic Science – optional units cover topics such as chemical analysis, applications of organic chemistry, and forensic evidence collection and analysis
- Physical Science – optional units cover topics such as materials science, astronomy and electrical circuits.

Assessment overview

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of this qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. For this qualification, there are three main forms of assessment; external, internal and synoptic.

External-assessed units: Learners will sit written examination papers based on the qualification content, under specified conditions. These are marked by Pearson and a grade awarded.

Internally-assessed units: Most units on this qualification are internally assessed. This means that the school will set and assess assignments, which will be externally moderated by Edexcel.

Synoptic- assessed units: There are formally identified units which contain a synoptic assessment task. These tasks allow learners to apply their knowledge and skills to realistic contexts.

Progression

Applied science qualification provides a range of progression pathways. It supports entry to university degree courses, for example BSc (Hons) in Chemistry with Analytical Science, BSc (Hons) in Forensic Science, BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences, BSc (Hons) in Pharmacy (some university courses may require achievement of specific units) as well as Higher National Diploma (HND) in Applied Science. The course also provides learners with a range of transferrable employability skills including cognitive and problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills and intrapersonal skills.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care – Edexcel

Entry requirements

5 GCSE grades 9-4 including Maths and English

Course content

To study Health & Social Care, you need to be interested in working with people. It is also important that you develop a greater understanding of Health & Social Care professionals such as nurses and social workers and how they support individuals when they need help. This might include understanding the support that an elderly client with dementia might need.

If you want to make a positive difference in people's lives, then studying Health and Social Care is for you.

Students complete a range of mandatory and optional units as listed below:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Work Experience in Health and Social Care
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- Promoting Public Health
- Sociological Perspectives
- Psychological Perspectives
- Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs
- Physiological Disorders and their Care
- Nutritional Health

Assessment overview BTEC Health and Social Care

1. Human Lifespan Development: 1 hour 30 minutes (written paper) – 90 marks
2. Working in Health and Social Care: 1 hour 30 minutes (written paper) – 80 marks
3. Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care: 1 hour 30 minutes (written paper) – 90 marks
4. Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care: Part A and Part B supervised assessment – 65 marks

Progression

Health and Social Care is a vocational qualification. For students who are interested in pursuing a career in a health or social care profession or seeking employment, the opportunities are endless. Health and Social care can lead to higher-level study in the following areas; nursing or midwifery, social work, teaching and youth and community work.



STUDENT COMMENTS

I always thought Sixth Form would be just about academics, but here I've learned about leadership, teamwork, and resilience. It's been transformative.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance - Edexcel

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in music GCSE or level 2 equivalent and ability to play to grade 4 on an instrument or voice. If you do not have performance-graded certificates, we can audition you to check your level of ability.

Course content

You will learn a range of musical skills from theory and harmony, performance skills, an insight to the music industry and compositional skills. Music theory covers a range of skills from the elements of music including signs and symbols used in music to exploring the application of said skills in compositional based tasks as well as notation for different means of performance. The course gives learners the opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/instrumental technique. As performance is the main focus of the qualification, students will be required to perform in front of a live audience at least once a year as part of the course requirements as well as attending one music club (lunch or after school) on a regular basis. Through composition units we aim to develop students ability to compose different styles and genres of music through original compositions.

Assessment overview

4 units – three are mandatory, two of which are external assessed

- **Practical Music Theory and Harmony** (Internally assessed)
- **Professional Practice in the Music Industry** (externally assessed) – 70 marks
- **Ensemble Music Performance** (externally assessed) – 80 marks – 6 – 15 minutes of performance
- Composing Music (Internally assessed)

Progression

Music Performance is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses, if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year course e.g. A-levels and level 3 b-tecs.

Transferable and higher-order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers to access courses such as BA (Hons) Music, BA (Hons) in Performing Arts and BA (Hons) in Music Industry Management (it taken alongside business).

Students are given time to develop employability skills during the teaching and learning, such as:

- **Cognitive and problem-solving skills:** using critical thinking, approaching non-routine problems by applying expert and creative solutions, using systems and technology
- **Interpersonal skills:** communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation
- **Intrapersonal skills:** self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.



Photo from: www.pexels.com

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts – Pearson

Entry requirements

6 GCSES at Grade 4 and above. Grade 5 in GCSE Drama/Music or Distinction in BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts. If a performance subject has not been studied, we can audition to check level of ability.

Course content

You will gain a taste and an appreciation of performing arts, through knowledge and experience of the performance process. You will develop a range of skills, techniques and personal attributes, which will be valuable across areas of future study and work. You will also learn about the performing arts industry and professional practice - choosing between the acting and musical theatre pathway, where you will develop your skills as a performer, create your own work and perform to large audiences. Every term you are assessed in skills workshops, rehearsals and performances, with written work linked to practical development of performances evaluating your final product and performance process. This course is equivalent to one A-Level.

Assessment overview

Assessment is through a combination of centre assessed and externally examined units.

• **Investigating Practitioners' Work (Exam unit):** Students will study two practitioners practically across the space of 6 weeks. The exam paper will give the students a theme and the students must link these two practitioners to the theme in an essay-based format under controlled conditions. Externally assessed. (25%)

• **Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance:** Students will put two performances together and perform to an audience. Students will keep regular diaries, setting short and long-term targets. Internally assessed. (25%)

• **Group Performance Workshop (exam unit):** Students will be given a stimulus and have to work in groups to devise a performance based on a given stimulus (from the exam paper). Students will write about their journey of devising. Externally assessed. (33%)

Another unit will also be studied from the below options worth 17% of BTEC:

- Acting Styles
- Developing the voice for performance
- Improvisation
- Movement in performance
- Musical Theatre techniques

Progression

Students could consider progression routes into the following areas, with the course being recognised by universities and carries UCAS points:

- Performing arts degree at university/Drama school
- Performance Design and Management
- Careers in Musical Theatre/Entertainment industry
- Performance Support, Arts Administration, Workshop Leadership

Depending on a student's other Advanced Level courses, they could also consider working in Drama/Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Teaching, Journalism, PR, Advertising, Marketing or Travel and Tourism.



Sport and Physical Activity Extended Diploma - OCR

Entry requirements

Grade 4 in GCSE PE or Distinction in BTEC/OCR Sports Studies and Grade 4 in GCSE English and Science

Course content

You will learn the theoretical, biological and mechanical knowledge of different body systems and how they impact directly on sport. You will develop practical skills needed to work within the sporting environment, such as how large sporting organisations are run and how to effectively plan, implement and deliver sporting events to a large audience. You will undertake an in-depth analysis researching the importance and necessity of adequate nutrition and hydration, identifying its importance for elite performance.

Students complete a total of seventeen units for the qualification, thirteen mandatory units alongside four optional units.

- Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity
- Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership
- Sports Organisation and Development
- Working Safely in Sports, Exercise, Health and Leisure
- Performance Analysis in Sport and Exercise
- Group Exercise to Music
- Improving Fitness for Sport and Physical Activity
- Organisation of Sports Events
- Physical Activity for Specific Groups
- Nutrition and Diet for Sport and Exercise
- Health and Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise
- Working in Active Leisure Facilities
- Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation
- Practical Skills in Sport and Physical Activities
- Sport and Exercise Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Sociology
- The Business of Sport

Assessment overview Sport and Physical Activity

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of this qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. For this qualification, there are two main forms of assessment; internal and synoptic.

Internally-assessed units: Most units on this qualification are internally assessed. This means that the school will set and assess the assignments, which will be externally moderated by OCR.

External assessment: Four units on this qualification are externally assessed. Students will sit written exam papers based on the qualification content.

Progression

Sport and Physical Activity can open up a vast array of career paths. Students studying this course will have developed the analytical, evaluative and critical thinking skills required to undertake degree-level study in Sports Science, PGCE Teacher Training, Sports psychology, Sports Development and sports physiotherapy/rehabilitation.

For those not wishing to continue with higher education, there are a range of apprenticeships and employment opportunities in sports coaching, officiating and administration and additional training opportunities for those interested in becoming Personal Trainers and Fitness Instructors.



BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism – Edexcel

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at grades 9-4, including Maths and English

Course content

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism is designed to support progression to further study, with the primary goal of helping post-16 learners access higher education within the Leisure, Travel, and Tourism sector.

This sector is one of the fastest growing in the world, providing over 250 million jobs globally. If you're looking to be part of this exciting industry, this course is perfect for you. Through work experience and educational visits, you will gain valuable skills and insight into this dynamic and diverse field.

Students will complete a range of mandatory and optional units, including:

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism

Unit 4: Managing the Customer Experience in Travel and Tourism

Unit 5: Travel and Tourism Enterprise

Unit 6: Specialist Tourism

Unit 7: Sustainable Tourism

Unit 9: Visitor Attraction

Unit 12: Working Overseas

Unit 13: Work Experience in Travel and Tourism

Unit 16: Researching Current Travel Trends and Key Issues in Travel and Tourism

Unit 17: Managing Accommodation Services

Unit 18: The UK as a Tourist Destination

Assessment overview

Unit 1: The World of Travel & Tourism

1.5 hours (external exam) – January 2025 / retakes in May 2025

Unit 2: Global Destinations

Part A: 6 hours of controlled research in December 2024

Part B: 3 hours (external exam) – January 2025 / retakes in May 2025

Progression

Travel and Tourism is a vocational qualification, reflecting the industry's shift toward increased graduate employment. Roles at Level 3 and below are generally found in related sectors, such as customer service, airport operations, travel agencies, tour operators, and more.

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements for many relevant degree courses.

Learners can progress to degree programs such as:

- BA (Hons) in Hospitality, Leisure, Sport, and Tourism
- BA (Hons) in Business Studies
- BA (Hons) in Business Management with Accounting and Finance
- BA (Hons) in Marketing
- BA (Hons) in International Tourism Management
- BA (Hons) in Geography and Tourism
- BSc (Hons) in Geography and Environmental Management



Photo from: www.pexels.com

Football Academy Programme

Our Football Academy Programme for 2025-26, is designed to provide students with the unique opportunity to pursue their academic studies alongside professional football training. Whether you are working towards A-Levels or Level 3 Applied Vocational Qualifications, this programme allows you to excel in both your academic and footballing ambitions.

This is an exciting offer for students who are passionate about football and committed to achieving academic excellence. Our flexible approach means you won't have to choose between your studies and your passion for the game – you can do both. By tailoring your educational journey to fit around a high-level football schedule, we ensure that you're well-equipped for success both on and off the pitch.

Flexible study options:

Our Football Academy Programme offers great flexibility, allowing students to choose between pursuing A-Levels or Level 3 Applied Vocational Qualifications. This approach ensures that every student can tailor their academic journey to suit their personal goals and aspirations, without compromising on their passion for football.

Elite coaching staff:

Participants in the Football Academy will benefit from the expertise of UEFA A & B licensed football coaches. Our coaching team is committed to fostering technical and tactical excellence, ensuring that all players reach their full potential.

Training sessions:

The programme includes three training sessions per week, meticulously designed to enhance both individual and collective skill levels. These sessions are crucial in developing the technical, tactical, psychological, emotional, and interpersonal skills necessary for success on and off the pitch.

Competitive games programme:

Our students will have the opportunity to put their skills to the test in a full games programme, including participation in the ESFA League and Cups. This competitive experience is invaluable, offering real-world application of training and fostering a spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Education and career opportunities:

The Football Academy Programme goes beyond the field, offering students the chance to undertake coaching qualifications.

Additionally, we will provide comprehensive support and guidance for careers post-academy, ensuring our students are well-prepared for the future.

Overview of academy programme

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30am – 3.30pm	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons until 12pm – match day	Lessons	Lessons
3.30pm – 5pm	Football training	Football training		Recovery/academic catch-up	Football Training



Our Vision and Values:

At Heron Hall Academy, we leverage football as a vehicle to reinforce our school's STRIVE Values.

Our vision is to nurture well-rounded young people and footballers, equipping them with a blend of technical prowess and essential life skills.

Through our shared vision, we aim to cultivate not just exceptional athletes, but also resilient and compassionate individuals ready to make a positive impact in the world.

Join us at Heron Hall Academy's Football Academy Programme, where your passion for football meets academic ambition, paving the way for a bright and successful future.



Photo from: www.pexels.com

The Experience

Life in the Sixth Form is much more than just attending your lessons and studying hard in the library. Students will enjoy their own café and study areas. We will be also offering our students lots of enrichment initiatives and opportunities while they are with us to ensure they can acquire a range of different skills and experiences to add to their academic ones, helping to make their time with us, we hope, memorable for the rest of their lives.

Leadership opportunities

Our Sixth Form has an active body of Student Leaders who work as ambassadors for the school and Sixth Form. Student Leaders have a variety of roles, giving our students a voice in decision-making. The Student Leaders' work allows them to learn how to effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility to prepare them for life beyond education.

Being a good role model is an important part of being a Sixth Form student. Our students are given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and embody our school and Sixth Form values. Alongside their academic studies, students can become involved in activities that help to develop their creativity, communication and teamwork skills, as well as helping to embed resilience, excellence and tolerance. All of which are underpinned by our STRIVE values.

Subject ambassadors and voluntary service

One of our strengths is that our Sixth Form is part of a wider school community and students have the opportunity to be a subject ambassador, supporting staff and students in the lower school. This involves mentoring younger students in lessons, and after-school clubs, and supporting them with their reading. Sixth Form students lead assemblies and run after-school enrichment such as sports and drama workshops, homework clubs, debating clubs and much more. Student leaders organise fund raising events for both national and local charities





STUDENT COMMENTS

This place is about more than just grades; it's about growing as a person. I've become more independent, more curious, and more ambitious in just one year.

All Sixth Form students are encouraged to volunteer to help with Heron Hall and community events, developing a range of transferrable skills. These experiences will enhance their CVs and UCAS applications, ready for the next stage of their lives whether this be higher education or employment.

Dress expectations

All students should dress in smart, business-appropriate attire that reflects the professional environment of the Sixth Form. This includes wearing a collared top, and we recommend black shoes. The aim is for students to feel comfortable while presenting themselves in a way that supports the focused, mature atmosphere of the Sixth Form.

Careers information and guidance

At our Sixth Form, we are committed to preparing students for success in an ever-evolving world of work, where technological advancements like AI are reshaping industries. Now more than ever, creating a well-thought-out career path is essential. In Year 12, students receive one-to-one careers advice to explore a range of opportunities through university visits, employer engagement, workshops, and work experience. Our strong partnerships with local businesses and higher education institutions provide invaluable insights into various career pathways.

As students move into Year 13, this support intensifies with a sharper focus on refining their career goals, whether it's pursuing higher education, apprenticeships, or direct employment. Our experienced Careers Team offers tailored resources such as CV building, interview preparation, and work placement opportunities, while also helping students build leadership, resilience, communication, and problem-solving skills. We empower every student to take confident steps towards a successful and fulfilling career, fully prepared for the dynamic opportunities of tomorrow's world.

The Experience

Enrichment lessons

In addition to academic subjects, students will also attend enrichment lessons. This is a great opportunity to develop personal development skills and study skills to prepare students for applications, personal statements and UCAS entries. We will have a variety of talks from guest speakers.

UCAS preparation and guidance

Any student that applies to university will be given a comprehensive programme of support prior to attending university and completion of their UCAS application form. Year 12 and 13 students will undertake bespoke workshops delivered by a university organisation covering a wide range of topics such as budgeting and finance and how to write an outstanding personal statement. In addition, students will be given 1 to 1 tailored support whilst writing their personal statements. Year 12 students will undertake a 'UCAS Preparation and Guidance Day'. They will be supported to understand how the UCAS process works, key dates and how to complete their online form. Throughout their time within the Sixth Form, students will be given the opportunity to participate in a number of University taster days, trips and visits.

Work experience and placements

During Year 12 students will receive the opportunity to experience the world of work first-hand. This is managed and coordinated by the school and students are encouraged to source their own work experience placements. This offers them more flexibility and choice in what they want to do and what skills they would like to learn during placements. Students are able to gain industry-specific knowledge and skills that are vital for future employment.

Fantastic sporting facilities

At Heron Hall we have some of the very best sporting facilities in the borough, from state-of-the-art astro pitches, to an indoor sports hall that is the envy of most schools. So, whether you fancy a game of football, or want to shoot some hoops, we have everything you need.

Dedicated library staff

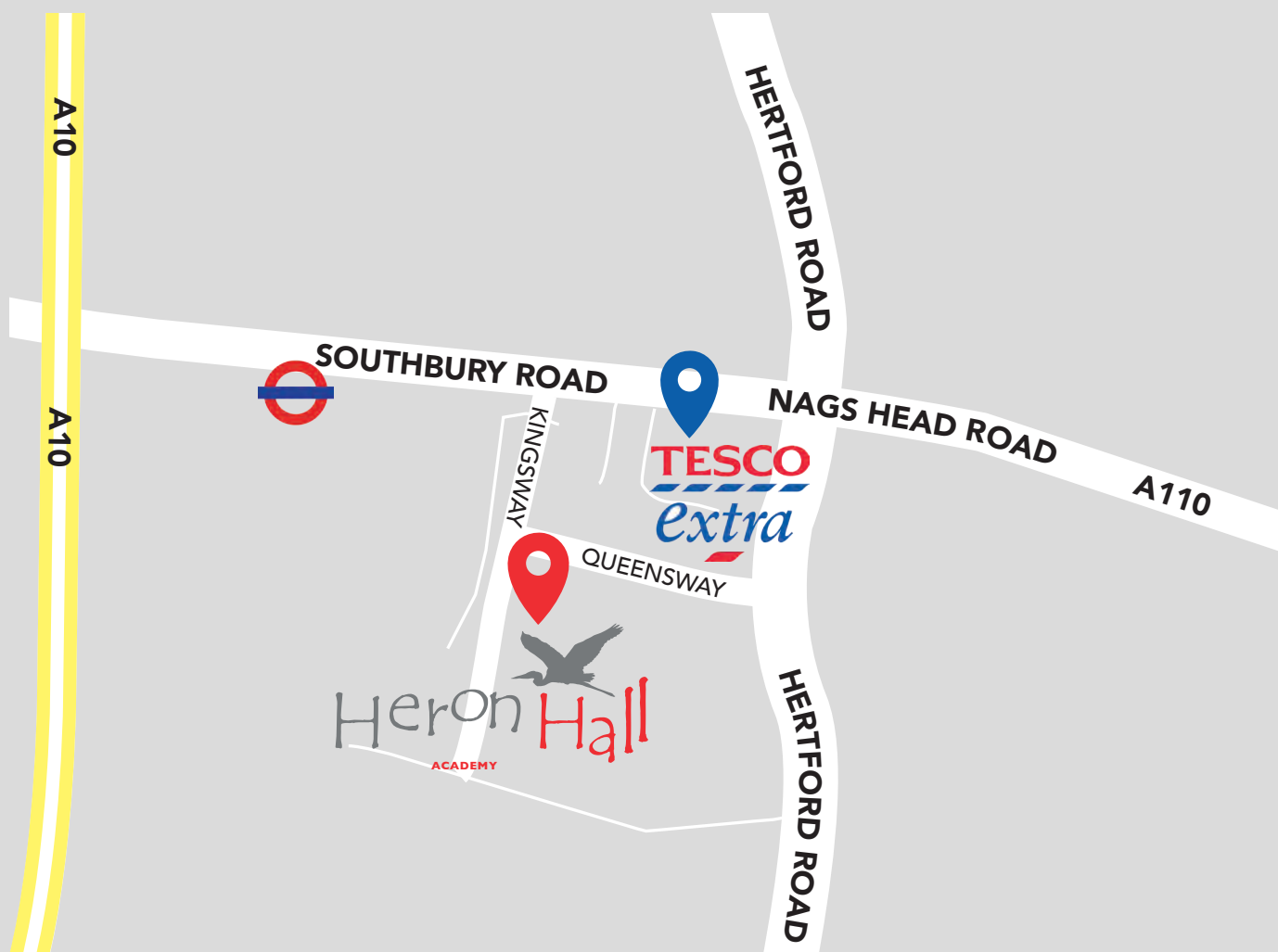
We pride ourselves on having two members of staff who work full time in the library. Every student should benefit from a great school library staffed by dedicated professional librarians.

Bursaries

You could get a bursary to help with education-related costs from the government and from the Trust's scholarship fund. Students can apply for financial support in a variety of ways during their time in at the Sixth Form.



How to find us



Heron Hall Academy

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STAY
IN

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Heron Hall Academy



Heronhallchat



HeronHallAcademy



North Star Community Trust



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