Hamstead Hall Academy Sixth Form

Course Information





"Success for all through hard work and harmony"

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Choosing the Right Subjects

Choosing your Sixth Form subjects can be quite a challenge! You will have much more freedom of choice than you have ever had before. The choices you make will impact your future University course and career choices and so they require careful consideration. For certain courses and careers you need to make specific choices for your Sixth Form studies.

Key Questions

What you should consider when choosing your courses

1. Which subjects do you enjoy studying?
2. In which subjects have you been most successful?
3. Do you have a particular career in mind that requires a particular set of subject qualifications?

How should you make your decision?

1. Talk to your teachers, parents / carers and to the careers adviser.
2. Talk to current Sixth Form students about the courses and subjects.
3. Do not choose a course because your friend is going to do it or because you like the teacher.
4. Use the course information booklet for subject specific details.
5. Choose subjects you enjoy doing.
6. Choose subjects you are good at.
7. Visit websites such as:

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
www.ucas.com

Other considerations

The Russell Group (the largest research-led Universities in the UK) sees some advanced level subjects as preparing you better for entry to degree courses than others. We call these subjects 'facilitating' because choosing them at advanced level leaves open a wide range of options for university study.

These facilitating subjects are: Biology, English Literature, History, Chemistry, Geography, Physics, Modern and Classical Languages, Maths & Further Maths.

This does not mean that you should discount 'other' subjects, but taking more than one 'other' subject will make it difficult to successfully apply to a leading university for many courses. Some 'other' subjects are very important if you hope to take a particular course. Please refer to The Russell Group's booklet 'Informed Choices' for more information, which you can access online here: http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx.

Each University and each course will have its own entry requirements. We advise students to check the guidance given by institutions very carefully. This information should be easily accessible on university websites or in their prospectuses.

Pathways and Courses on offer at Post 16 for 2027 entry

Level 3 Pathways

Students can select a minimum of three or four subjects from across the academic and vocational pathways outlined below providing they meet the necessary entry requirements and that subject choices are viable within the prescribed option blocks.

Please note that if you wish to study any A Level subjects you must have met the Academic Pathway Entry requirements.

Academic Pathway Five GCSE's/Level 2 at Grades 5-9 including GCSE English Language\Literature and GCSE Mathematics plus specific subject entry requirements.		Vocational Pathway Five GCSE's/Level 2 at Grades 4-9 including GCSE English Language / Literature and GCSE Mathematics plus specific subject entry requirements.
Art	Geography	BTEC Health and Social Care
Biology	Government and Politics	BTEC Sport
Business	Graphics	BTEC Information technology
Chemistry	History	BTEC Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation
Drama	Law	BTEC Music
Economics	Mathematics	BTEC Performing Arts
English Language	Media Studies	
English Literature	Psychology	
English Literature and Language Combined	Physics	
French	Religious Education	
Philosophy	Sociology	
	3D	

Most students will study three different subjects. The higher attaining students will be offered the option to study four A-Levels. Students who have not achieved a grade '4' or higher in GCSE Maths and English will be required to continue to study these in the sixth form. This is in line with the government's policy on English and Maths.

Entry Requirements

Standard A Level Entry Requirement

Five GCSE's/Level 2 at Grades 5-9 including GCSE English Language\Literature and GCSE Mathematics plus specific subject entry requirements.

Standard Vocational Entry Requirement

Five GCSE's/Level 2 at Grades 4-9 including GCSE English Language\Literature and GCSE Mathematics plus specific subject entry requirements.

Subject Specific Entry Requirement

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art	Minimum grade 5 in Art. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Biology	Minimum grade 5 in Mathematics (High Paper only) and a high grade 5 in English. Minimum 6 grade in Biology or grade 6 in Science at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Business Studies	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Chemistry	Minimum grade 5 in Mathematics (High Paper only) and a high grade 5 in English. Minimum 6 grade in Chemistry or grade '6' in Science at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Drama	Minimum grade 5 in Drama. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Economics	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
English Language/Literature/Combined	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
French	Minimum grade 5 in French. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Geography	Minimum grade 5 in Geography. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Government and Politics	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Graphics/3D	Minimum grade 5 in Graphics at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
History	Minimum grade 5 in History at GCSE. Minimum grade 5 in English at GCSE if not completed GCSE History. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Law	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Mathematics	Minimum grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE Higher Tier. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Media	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Physics	Minimum grade 6 in Mathematics (High Paper only) and a high grade 5 in English. Minimum 6 grade in Physics or grade 6 in Science at GCSE.
Philosophy	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Psychology	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Religious Studies	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Sociology	Standard A Level Entry Requirement.
Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation	Standard Vocational Entry Requirement (two must be in science).
Health and Social Care	Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.
Information Technology	Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.
Music	Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.
Sport	Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.

Further Guidance

- For a wide range of University degree courses there is no special subject requirement. You need only to have good A Level / BTEC grades.

  Among these degree courses are the following: **Law, Accountancy, Education, Drama, Philosophy, Sociology, Business Studies and many combined courses at University.**

- For a very wide range of careers there is no special A Level / BTEC subject requirements. The qualification needed is the level of attainment. E.g. 3 A Levels. This is why it is usually best to go for the subjects you like or are good at because it is in these subjects that you are most likely to be successful.

  Among the most obvious careers for which this is true are: **The Civil Service, Journalism, Local Government Service, Insurance, Banking, Marketing, Accountancy, The Forces, Public Services and there are others, many of which can be entered at either 18 or 21 years of age.**

- Of course, for some degree courses the relevant A Levels are essential. You obviously need A Level Maths to do a Maths degree; just as you would be expected to have a language if you wished to do linguistics and sciences are required for the medical profession.

- There are some misconceptions, which need pointing out. You do not need A Level Mathematics or Accounts to do **Accountancy,** A Level Law to do a **Law** degree or A Level Economics to do **Business Studies, Management, Banking, or Insurance.**

- Some courses now prefer you to study an A Level in an unrelated subject. **Medicine** now prefers you to study one A Level, which is a non-science related subject.

- Before choosing your subjects ensure that the A Levels you choose will take you on to the course you desire at University / Further Education.





On the following pages you will find a brief description of the courses offered in the sixth form. The descriptions have been prepared by the individual Heads of Department concerned and in general tell you what will be studied in the syllabus, entry requirements, the method of study used and the assessment procedures for the subject.

Please talk to the individual Heads of Department to discuss your suitability for courses. It must be stressed that all courses will only run if they attract enough students to make them viable.

Art & Design
(Art, Craft & Design option)

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
Component 1 (Personal Investigation)
Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment)

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design

Brief Content Description / Summary:
This course provides students with the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide range of art materials, building on the skills they developed at GCSE. Students are expected to develop their own ideas through visual research and by studying the work of other artists. Students have to present their work creatively and support their practical work with a written component.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum grade '5' in Art at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Component 1 is worth 60% of the overall grade.
Component 2 is worth 40% of the overall grade.

Work is teacher assessed as it progresses over the duration of the course to ensure that students are progressing towards their target grade.
Components 1 and 2 are then moderated by AQA during a visit to the academy.

Career Progression Options:
Graphic design/illustration
Animation/computer graphics
Architecture
Fashion/textiles design
Ceramic design
Theatre/costume design
Interior design
Product design
Art teaching



Head of Department:
Miss M. Yeatman

Biology

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
7401, 7402

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402

Brief Content Description / Summary:
Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.
In the first year of A-level you will study the foundations of the subject: Biological molecules; Cells; How organisms exchange substances with their environment; Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
Second year of A-level will cover: Energy transfers in and between organisms (the biochemistry of life); How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; Control of gene expression – genetic engineering and new gene technologies.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum grade 5 in Mathematics (Higher Paper only) and a high grade 5 in English.
Minimum 6 grade in Biology or grade 6 in Science at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Practical Work
Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities, including: Using microscopes to see cell division, dissection of animal or plant systems, aseptic technique to study microbial growth, investigating activity within cells, investigating animal behaviours and investigating distributions of species in the environment.

Examination Work
No coursework.
Performance during practical activities will be assessed.
3 two-hour exams at the end of the two years.
At least 15% of the marks for A-level Biology are based on what you learned in your practical activities.



Career Progression Options:
Doctor, Clinical molecular geneticist, Nature conservation officer, Pharmacologist, Research scientist, Vet, Secondary school teacher, Marine biologist, Dentist.

Head of Department:
Ms S. Martin

Business Studies

A Level

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units
Theme 1 – Marketing & People
Theme 2 – Managing Business Activities
Theme 3 – Business decisions and strategy
Theme 4 – Global Business

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/business-2015.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments

Brief Content Description / Summary:
Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work.
Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Paper 1 and Paper 2 are individually worth 35% of the total qualification (70%). Paper 3 is worth 30% of the total qualification. All papers are:

- Written examination
- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June





Career Progression Options:
Students can progress from this qualification to:

- Higher education courses such as business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business
- A wide range of careers ranging from banking, sales, product management and general management to working in public sector organisations or charities.

Head of Department:
Mr R. Babbage

Chemistry

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Unit:
7405

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-7404-7405-SP-2015.PDF

Brief Content Description / Summary:

A Level Chemistry goes into much more detail than GCSE. It attempts to answer the big question: ***'What is the world made of?'*** and it is the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a **new wonder drug** to **save millions of lives,** the opportunities that Chemistry provides are endless.

Three branches of chemistry are studied in both years of the course. These are physical; inorganic and organic.

Year 1 builds on GCSE and the second year builds on the first year. The course links ideas of biology in biochemistry, DNA and protein synthesis as well as buffer solution. Chemistry also links ideas of physics in atomic structure, kinetics and thermo dynamics. 20% of the course is mathematical skill based.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Minimum grade 5 in Mathematics (High Paper only) and a high grade 5 in English. Minimum 6 grade in Chemistry or grade '6' in Science at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Practical Work

Chemistry, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- Measuring energy changes in chemical reactions
- Tests for identifying different types of compound
- Different methods for measuring rates of reaction
- Studying electrochemical cells
- Preparation of organic solids and liquids
- An advanced form of chromatography for more accurate results.

Examination Work

There is no coursework on this course. However, your performance during practical activities will be assessed. There are 3 two-hour exams at the end of the two years. At least 15% of the marks for A Level Chemistry are based on what you learned in your practical activities.

Career Progression Options:

Analytical chemist, Chemical engineer, Clinical biochemist, Pharmacologist, Doctor, Dentist, Nursing, Health professional, Research scientist (physical sciences), Toxicologist, Chartered certified accountant, Environmental consultant, Higher education lecturer, Patent attorney, Science writer, Secondary school teacher.

Head of Department:

Mrs D. Jawanda

Drama and Theatre

A Level

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
Component 1: Devising
Component 2: Text in Performance
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-studies-2008.html

Brief Content Description / Summary:

A Level Drama is a qualification that will engage students through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects 21st-century theatre practice and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum grade 5 in Drama. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Component 1: 40% Practical and Written Evaluation. Internally assessed.
Component 2: 20% Practical. Externally assessed.
Component 3: 40% Written Exam. Externally assessed.

Career Progression Options:
Performing Arts
Teaching
Journalism
Law
Public Relations

Head of Department:
Ms M. Peck

Economics B

A Level

Exam Board:
Edexcel/Pearson

Units
Theme 1 – Markets, Consumers and Firms
Theme 2 – The Wider Economic Environment
Theme 3 – The Global Economy
Theme 4 – Making Markets Work

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/economics-b-2015.html

Brief Content Description / Summary:
Students are introduced to economics in Themes 1 and 2 that help students to explore the way in which consumers make choices, entrepreneurs create desirable products and how firms can become more competitive.
In Themes 3 and 4, students build on their understanding from Themes 1 and 2 and are required to investigate globalisation, multinationals, competition, markets and regulation.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Paper 1 and Paper 2 are individually worth 35% of the total qualification (70%). Paper 3 is worth 30% of the total qualification. All papers are:

- Written examination
- Externally assessed
- Availability: May/June





Career Progression Options:
Students will develop transferable skills that support study in a wide range of subjects at university and the transition to employment. The development and application of quantitative skills prepare students for study of economics and related courses at university.

Students can progress from this qualification to:
● higher education courses such as economics degrees and business degrees.
● a wide range of careers ranging from finance, banking, insurance, accountancy, management and consultancy, to becoming professional economists.

Head of Department:
Mr R. Babbage

English Language

A Level/ AS Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
3

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702

Brief Content Description / Summary:

The English Department now offer A-Level Literature as an AS and A-Level.

You will develop invaluable skills that will be vital towards success within higher education. You will understand past and present cultures, societies, systems and movements, different peoples, positions, and perspectives that will be crucial to creating well-rounded, knowledge-rich students in higher education. You will analyse and interpret a range of poetry, drama, and prose texts. The coursework module allows you to choose your favourite prose and poetry and apply several literary theories in the analysis of your chosen writers and their work

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

2 exams and Coursework component, Focus on Tragedy or Comedy
Social protest or Crime:
Coursework: Application of a Critical Anthology to a prose text and a poetry collection of your choice

Career Progression Options:
Medicine, Law, Media, IT, Gaming, Teaching, Writing, Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations, Editing.
Anything as English language teaches you to communicate effectively, which is needed for any career!



Head of Department:
Miss L. Davis

English Literature

A Level/ AS Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
4

Hyperlink to online specification:
www.aqa.org.uk/English-literature/7716/7717

Brief Content Description / Summary:
The English Department now offer A-Level Literature as an AS and A-Level.
You will develop invaluable skills that will be vital towards success within higher education. You will understand past and present cultures, societies, systems and movements, different peoples, positions, and perspectives that will be crucial to creating well-rounded, knowledge-rich students in higher education. You will analyse and interpret a range of poetry, drama, and prose texts. The coursework module allows you to choose your favourite prose and poetry and apply several literary theories in the analysis of your chosen writers and their work

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
2 exams and Coursework component, Focus on Tragedy or Comedy
Social protest or Crime:
Coursework: Application of a Critical Anthology to a prose text and a poetry collection of your choice

Career Progression Options:
Medicine, Law, IT, Gaming, Teaching, Project Management, Publishing, Advertising, Journalism, Public Relations, Human Resources, Media.



Head of Department:
Miss L. Davis

English Language and Literature

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
3

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7706-7707

Brief Content Description / Summary:

You will be able to analyse a range of different texts successfully using a wide variety of Literary and non-fiction texts. You will have the opportunity to create your own texts and complete an independent investigation into a chosen area of English.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Two exams: Telling stories and Conflict. There is also one coursework component.

Career Progression Options:
Law, Medicine, IT, Gaming Teaching, Writing, Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations, Editing, Media, Human Resources Project Management, Publishing.



Head of Department:
Miss L. Davis

French

A Level

Exam Board:
Eduqas

Units:
4

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/french-asa-level/#tab_keydocuments

Brief Content Description / Summary:

A Level French builds on all that has been learnt since year 7. The focus is on language, culture and society. We will be looking at current trends and issues in French speaking society (family, crime, diversity…), culture (cinema, music…), politics (should teenagers have the right to vote? Integration and racism in French society…).

We will study at least one film and one book and will be taught in small groups by native speakers. You will also have the opportunity to take part to a '6th form only' trip to Paris.

Our aim is to develop critical insights into, and contact with, the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries and communities where French is spoken. Extensive use is made of authentic material drawn from newspapers, magazines, film, radio and TV broadcasts.

Do not hesitate to ask for any additional information.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Minimum grade 6 in French. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Three papers covering all four skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking). Unlike GCSE, you have full control of the recording in the listening exam.

Component 1: Speaking (60 marks) 30%
Component 2: Listening, reading and translation (100 marks) 50%
Component 3: Writing (40 marks) 20%

Career Progression Options:

Marketing, HR, Journalism, Diplomatic Services, Travel and Tourism, International aid/development worker, Teaching, Translating, Interpreting

Head of Department:
Miss L. Dupon

Geography

A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Units:
4 units in total over 2 years

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/geography-h081-h481-from-2016/

Brief Content Description / Summary:

The OCR A level Geography specification comprises of four units of study:

Paper 1 Physical systems

Paper 2 Human interactions

Paper 3 Geographical debates

Investigative geography Non-examination assessment (NEA)

Subject Entry Requirements:

Minimum grade 5 in Geography. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Paper 1 Physical systems (1 hour and 30 minutes, 66 marks, 22% of total A level)

Paper 2 Human interactions (1 hour and 30 minutes, 66 marks, 22% of total A level)

Paper 3 Geographical debates (2 hours and 30 minutes,108 marks, 36% of total A level)

Investigative geography Non-examination assessment (NEA) (60 marks, 20% of total A level)

Career Progression Options:

Hydrologist, Coastal Manager, Civil Engineer, Soil Conservationist, Weather Presenter, Disaster Manager, Risk Assessor, Water Supply Coordinator, Geologist, Cartographer, Estate Manager, Forestry Ranger, Environmental Consultant, Pollution Analyst, Conservation Officer, Social Worker, Market Researcher, Housing Officer, GIS Specialist, Utilities Manager, Economic Developer, Location Analyst, Retailer, Regional Developer, Transport Manager, Flood Prevention Officer, Remote Sensing Analyst.
Statistics show that compared with other subjects, Geographers are amongst the most employable. It is one of a select number of 'facilitating subjects' - those identified by the Russell Group of leading Universities as equipping students with the skills for success in Higher Education.

Head of Department:

Miss N. Newton

Government and Politics

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
- Government and Politics of the UK
- Government and Politics of the USA and comparative politics
- Political ideas

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/politics/specifications/AQA-7152-SP-2017.PDF

Brief Content Description / Summary:

Government and Politics of the UK:
Students study ten key areas of Government and Politics within the UK. Each area will have a particular focus such as; the significance of historical documents or the roles, responsibilities and powers of different key figures/institutions all relating back to the UK. They will ultimately study the interrelationship between all ten areas.

Government and Politics of the USA and comparative politics:
Students study eight key areas of Government and Politics within the USA. Each area will have a particular focus such as; the US Constitution or the structure, role and powers of Congress. They will ultimately study the interrelationship between all eight areas.

Political ideas:
Students will use three theoretical approaches to make a comparative study of the Government and Politics of the UK and USA, analysing and explaining similarities and differences between them.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Students have 3 exams at the end of Year 13. Each exam is 2 hours. All 3 exam papers are given the same weighting

Career Progression Options:
Politics degree
Legal work - Solicitor / barrister, MP,
Political Assistant, Journalism,
Civil Service, Business management and administration, Armed services,
Retail Management,
Public Affairs Consultant.



Head of Department:

Mr S. Mckenzie

Graphic Communication

A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Units:
60% portfolio
40% exam

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170210-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h600-h606.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:
This qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that allow learners to gain experience of working from different designs techniques, guiding their own learning and experiencing the full graphic process that will prepare them for further study, training or the work environment.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Minimum grade 5 in Graphics at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
60% portfolio this includes a 2000 word written piece
40% exam

Career Progression Options:
Graphic Designer
Illustrator
Animator
Architect
Web Designer
Interior Designer
Teacher
Typographer
Freelance Designer
Printer





Head of Department:
Mr D. Johnson

History

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
Two-year linear course
- A study in breadth 1H-Tsarist-and-Communist-Russia (1855 -1964)
- A study in depth 2E-the-English-Revolution (1625 -1660)
- A historical Investigation - USA (1865-1968)

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042

Brief Content Description / Summary:
A study in breadth 1H-Tsarist-and-Communist-Russia (1855 -1964)
Students study the changes and continuities in Russia History over a 100-year period and explore the importance of political ideology. They evaluate different interpretations of these events.
A study in depth 2E-the-English-Revolution (1625 -1660)
Students the causes and consequences of the English Civil War exploring the issues of power, sovereignty and authority. They use and evaluate contemporary sources to support their understanding.
A historical investigation - USA (1865-1968)
Students independently study an aspect of their choice about the American Civil Rights movement. They use interpretations and contemporary sources to prove their case.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum grade 5 in History at GCSE. Minimum grade 5 in English at GCSE if not completed GCSE History. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Students sit **2 exams** at the end of Year 13 - each exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes in length.
- Paper 1 is worth 40%
- Paper 2 is worth 40%
- They also complete **a 4,000 - 4,500 word independent investigation** – which is worth 20%

Career Progression Options:
Legal work – solicitors & barristers, accountancy, librarian, archaeology, archivist and research, journalism, Civil Service, business management and administration, armed services, retail management & teaching.



Head of Department:
Mr S. Mckenzie

Law

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
Two-year linear course
- The English Legal System
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law
- Contract Law

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/law/specifications/AQA-7162-SP-2017.PDF

Brief Content Description / Summary:
A Level Law provides an introduction to law. It allows students to learn about a fascinating subject, one which covers many aspects of life.

Students of A level Law will:
• Develop an understanding of law and how it works
• Learn more about society from a legal perspective – both contemporary and historical
• Learn about the interaction between law and morals, justice and society
• Learn about different areas of law – e.g. criminal law, contract and tort
• Make connections with business, economics, history, politics and technology
• Develop academic skills, including analysis and evaluation
• Be able to make an informed decision about future careers.



Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Students will sit 3 exam papers at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: English Legal System & Criminal Law - 2 hours
Paper 2: English Legal System & Tort Law - 2 hours
Paper 3: English Legal System & Contract Law - 2 hours

Each paper is worth 33%.

Career Progression Options:
Legal professionals; barristers, lawyers, judges, legal secretaries & legal associates, education, government administrators, human resources, business & research professionals, the Police, marketing associates, management consultants & business analysts.

Head of Department:
Mr JM Dunnett

Mathematics

A Level

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
Two year linear course

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html

Brief Content Description / Summary:
There are many reasons why people choose to continue their study of Mathematics after year 11. It might be a requirement for what you want to study at university (Physics, Psychology, Economics, Computing and Business Studies prefer students to have A Level Maths if possible). Since Maths is one of the most traditional subjects a good grade in Maths can boost an application for most courses! Studies have also shown that people with Maths A Level also tend to earn more on average than people without it. Though this itself may or may not be a good enough reason to study Maths, the skills it allows you to develop include problem solving, logic and analysing situations. Add in the improvements to your basic numeracy skills and that bit of creativity needed to solve Maths problems and you have got yourself a set of skills which would make you more desirable for almost any job!



Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE Higher Tier. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Pure Mathematics 66.7% and Applied (Mechanics & Statistics) 33.3%
Listed below are examples of assessment papers however, this is subject to change depending on the exam board selected:
AS Level: (2 papers)
Paper 1: Pure Maths, 1hr 30minutes
Paper 2: Mechanics & Statistics, 1hr 30minutes
Advanced level: (3 Exam papers)
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics, 2 hours
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics, 2 hours
Paper 3: Applied Maths (Mechanics & Statistics), 2 hours

Career Progression Options:
Accountancy, Aerospace and Defence, Insurance, IT & Computing, Science, Chemical, Construction, Consultancies, Education, Engineering, Business support services.

Head of Department:
Mrs G. Leihal

Media Studies

A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Units:
Four

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/316672-specification-draft-a-level-gce-media-studies-h409.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:
You will explore and analyse how meanings and representations are constructed through the study and analysis of television and film, and you will learn about theories in media and have a deeper understanding through the application of theories in a range of resources. Topics covered are news, advertising, music videos, magazines, gaming, film, and radio. You will gain an understanding of media institutions and how they create and advertise products, and you will learn how to consider a target market. You will establish an understanding of how media has changed over time and how the media performs in a digital generation.
For the coursework component, you are provided with a brief by the exam board and then you choose an area of interest and create a promotional campaign which requires you to create three linked media products.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
2 exams and 1 coursework component

Career Progression Options:
Media, Digital Communication, Gaming, IT, Teaching, Project Management, Publishing, Advertising, Journalism, Public Relations, Human Resources



Head of Department:
Miss L. Davis

Psychology

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA



Units:
Eleven units in total over two years

Paper 1:
- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2:
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3:
- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Option 1 – Relationships
- Option 2 – Schizophrenia
- Option 3 – Forensic Psychology

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/subject-content-a-level

Brief Content Description / Summary:
This qualification provides the knowledge to understand why people behave the way they do and how psychologists analyse and theorise about human behaviour. Alongside this they will gain knowledge of how to conduct psychological experiments and analyse results. Students should be interested in the processes, motives, reactions and nature of the human mind.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
The A Level consists of 3 papers: 2 hour exam, 96 marks, 33.3% of A Level award. Multiple choice, short and extended writing questions. Each section 24 marks.
Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology.
Paper 2: Psychology in context.
Paper 3: Compulsory section and optional sections.

Career Progression Options:
Industrial Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Occupational Psychology, Sports Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Health Psychology, Teaching and Research in Psychology, Neuropsychology, Counselling and Therapy, Health/welfare, Medicine, Law, Teaching, Marketing, Human resources, General management, Police, Media.

Head of Department:
Mr C. Goray

Philosophy

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
Introduction to Philosophy 1
Introduction to Philosophy 2
Key Themes in Philosophy
Philosophical Problems

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/philosophy/as-and-a-level/philosophy-2175

Brief Content Description / Summary:

Introduction to Philosophy 1
Students get to grips with key philosophical concepts, such as 'Reason and Experience', 'Being Governed', 'Morality', 'God' and 'Personhood.'

Introduction to Philosophy 2
Students will explore further the epistemological account of knowledge that is empiricism. Units covered are, 'Knowledge of the External World', 'Tolerance', 'The Value of Art', 'God and the World', 'Freewill and Determinism.'

Key Themes in Philosophy
Students will explore five key themes in Philosophy, 'Philosophy of the Mind', 'Political Philosophy', 'Epistemology and Metaphysics', 'Moral Philosophy', 'Philosophy of Religion'.

Philosophical Problems
Students are required to approach philosophy through a series of problems raised by a philosopher in a classical text for this topic.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Standard A Level entry requirement.

Assessment:

Students have three exams of 1hr and 30 minutes and one final exam of 2hrs. There is no coursework for this subject.

Career Progression Options:

Author, Lecturer, Legal work - Solicitor / barrister, Accountancy, Librarian, Archaeology, Archivist and Researcher, Journalism, Civil Service, Business management and administration, Armed services, Retail Management, Teaching

Head of Department:
Mr J.M. Dunnett

Physics

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
7408

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/physics-7407-7408

Brief Content Description / Summary:

A Level Physics goes into much more detail than GCSE. As the most fundamental of the sciences, it is about understanding how the Universe works, from the very smallest scale up to the very biggest, and about the application of this understanding to allow us to build a better world. A Level Physics students are highly sought-after by good Universities and Physics opens the door to countless interesting career opportunities. It is an essential qualification for those wanting to study Physics or Engineering to degree level.

Topics covered in year 1 of A Level course:

Measurements and their errors; Particles and Radiation; Waves; Mechanics and Energy; Electricity.

Topics covered in year 2 of A Level course:

Further mechanics and thermal physics; Fields; Nuclear Physics; one option from Medical Physics, Astrophysics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics, Electronics.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Minimum grade 6 in Mathematics (High Paper only), Minimum 6 grade in Physics or grade 6 in Science at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

- Investigating systems that oscillate
- Investigating the charge and discharge of capacitors
- Investigating the relationships between temperature, volume and pressure in gases
- Investigating electromagnetic induction and the motor effect
- Measurement of gamma radiation



Career Progression Options:

Engineering (Acoustic / Aeronautical / Chemical, Civil/Structural / Electronic / Mechanical / Software / Telecommunications / Satellite Engineer / Computer Games Designer; Physicist; Consultancy; Finance / Economic Modelling

Head of Department:
Mr A. Clarke

Religious Education

A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Units:
H573
1 – Philosophy
2 – Ethics
3 - Christianity

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:

Component 01: Philosophy of religion



Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief: Ancient philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body, Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, The nature and impact of religious experience, The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil, Ideas about the nature of God, Issues in religious language.

Component 02: Religion and ethics

Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application: Normative ethical theories, the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance, Ethical language and thought, Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience, Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Component 03: Developments in religious thought

Students study Christianity systematically where they explore: Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world, Sources of religious wisdom and authority, Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition, Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought, Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Three two hour exams, one exam per topic.

Career Progression Options:
Accountancy, Banking, Business, Journalism, Law (domestic and international), Local government, Medicine, Police, Politics, Retail management, Teaching, Travel and Tourism.

Head of Department:
Mr J.M. Dunnett

Sociology

A Level

Exam Board:
AQA

Units:
Unit 1: Education/Methods in Context/Research Methods

Unit 2: Topics in Sociology

Unit 3: Crime and Deviance/Theory and Methods

Hyperlink to online specification:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192

Brief Content Description / Summary:

Sociology academically observes the dynamics and social construction of society through a variety of different theories. Each theory examines society differently with the intention of social progress through research that Governments may use as social policy to create change.

As students become more competent in their sociological understanding, they can see sociology in action around your everyday experiences.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Standard A Level entry requirement.

Assessment:

Examination for each unit at the end of Year 13. See specification.

Career Progression Options:

Any career which is people orientated will benefit from the sociological knowledge from this course.

E.g. Education/Healthcare/Law/Journalism



Head of Department:
Miss H. Henry

3D

A Level

Exam Board:
OCR

Units:
60% portfolio
40% exam

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170210-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h600-h606.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:
This qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that allow learners to gain experience of working from design briefs, guiding their own learning and experiencing the full design process that will prepare them for further study, training or the work environment.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum grade 5 in Graphics at GCSE. Plus, Standard A Level Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
60% portfolio this includes a 2000 word written piece
40% exam

Career Progression Options:

Product designer

Graphic designer

Adverting

Web designer

Sports development

Teacher

Printer

Typographer

Freelance designer



Head of Department:
Mr D. Johnson

Forensic Science and Criminal Investigation

BTEC Level 3

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
4 Units
2 optional
2 external assessment
4 internally marked assessments
Equivalent to 1:5 'A' level

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Forensics-and-Criminology/2017/Teaching%20and%20learning/btec-nationals-forensics-and-criminology-guide.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:
This qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that allow learners to gain experience of the key scientific areas which all underpin forensic science. These inquisitive and analytical skills will prepare students for further study, training or the work environment.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Minimum four GCSE's at grade **'5'** and above (two must be in science). Standard Vocational Entry Requirement (two must be in science).

Assessment:
Assignments: Set and marked internally
Written: External examination set online and marked by Pearson
Internal assessment (66)
External assessment (34%)
Pupils must pass both unit 1 and 2
to complete the course.



Career Progression Options:
Apprenticeships, Forensic investigator, Forensic photographer
Criminology and Law

Head of Department:
Mr D.Johnson

Health and Social Care

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
Unit 1 Human Lifespan and Development
Unit 2 Working in Health and Social Care
Unit 5 Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
Unit 12 Supporting Individuals with Individual Needs

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/health-and-social-care-2016.html#tab-2

Brief Content Description / Summary:

This qualification is equivalent to 1.5 A levels. The course is designed to combine up-to-date industry knowledge with the right balance of the practical and research skills you need to succeed in higher education and in your career.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
Assignment: Set and marked internally
Task: Set and marked externally by Pearson
Written: External examination set and marked by Pearson
Internal assessment (42%)
External assessment (58%)



Career Progression Options:
If you are interested in studying for a career in teaching, nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, radiography, physiotherapy, social work, nursery nursing, health education/promotion, psychology, counselling or caring for the elderly or disabled, working in the police/probation offices or any other roles in health and social care then this course is for you!

Head of Department:
Mrs J. Sheridan

Information Technology

BTEC Level 3 Information Technology (Extended Certificate) AAQ

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
4 mandatory units

Hyperlink to online specification:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/information-technology-aaq.coursematerials.html#%2FfilterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments

Brief Content Description / Summary:
This qualification allows students to study the fundamental knowledge of Information Technology covering the role and implications of using Information Technology systems and cyber-security threats and how to manage attacks. Students will also develop important skills for creating websites to meet a specific purpose and to manage data through the development of a relational database solution.

Learners will study four mandatory units:
• **Unit 1:** Information Technology Systems
• **Unit 2:** Cyber Security and Incident Management
• **Unit 3:** Website Development
• **Unit 4:** Relational Database Development

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
2 units are external assessments, and 2 units are internal assessments.

Two external assessments include:
- Written examination set and marked by Pearson.
- A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions.

The two internally assessed units allow students to engage in practical tasks to develop their Information Technology skills and knowledge, based on a Pearson Set Assignment Brief (PSAB).

Career Progression Options:
This qualification can lead to progression into many degrees, including the following:
• BA Business Studies
• BSc Information Systems
• BSc Computer Science

The qualification, when studied with other Level 3 qualifications, is aimed at post-16 students with an interest in the Digital sector and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Head of Department:
Mr R. Babbage

Music

BTEC Level 3

Exam Board:
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Music

Units:
Unit 1: Ensemble Music Performance (externally assessed)
Unit 2: Practical Music Theory and Harmony (internally assessed)
Unit 3: Professional Practice in the Music Industry (externally assessed)
Plus one of:
Unit 9: Composing Music (internally assessed)
Unit 18: Solo Performance (internally assessed)

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Music/2017/Specification/9781446928110_BTEC_Nat_ExtCert_Music_Spec_prepubfinal.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:
Designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. The programme covers broad basis of study for the music sector with a focus on performance, personal instrumental technique development, music theory and professional practice.

Subject Entry Requirements:
Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.

Assessment:
360 GLH (Guided Learning Hours) Equivalent in size to one A Level.
4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.
Mandatory content (83%).
External assessment (58%).

Career Progression Options:
In addition to the music sector-specific content outlined above, this qualification gives learners transferable and higher-order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers. For learners who wish to study an aspect of music in higher education, opportunities include:

- BA (Hons) in Performing Arts, if taken alongside an A Level in Music and a BTEC in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Music Industry Management, if taken alongside a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business
- BA (Hons) in Music Business and Arts Management, if taken alongside a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business and an A Level in Art.

Head of Department:
Mr D. Taylor

Performing Arts

BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
Unit 1 – Investigating Practitioners' Work
Unit 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
Unit 3 – Group Performance Workshop

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Performing-Arts/20161/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446938348_BTEC_Nat_Cert_PA_Spec_Iss2C.pdf

Brief Content Description / Summary:

This Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in performing arts. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Equivalent to one 'A' Level.
Coursework (50%)
External assessment (50%)

Career Progression Options:

The qualification carries UCAS Points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for degree courses when taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications. Depending on the other qualifications learners have taken, they can progress to a degree programme from a wide range of programmes in the performing arts sector.
Progression opportunities can include:

- BA Hons in Performing Arts
- BA Hons in Music Performance
- BA Hons in Dance techniques
- BA Hons in Musical Theatre

Head of Department:
Mr D. Taylor and Miss S. Wood

Sport

BTEC Foundation Diploma in Sport

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Units:
7 Units in total over two years
4 Mandatory Units
3 Optional Units
2 External Exams
Equivalent to 1.5 A Levels

Hyperlink to online specification:

http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html#tab-1

Brief Content Description / Summary:

This qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that allow learners to gain experience of the sport sector that will prepare them for further study, training or the work environment. The course includes a combination of external assessment, practical assessment and coursework-based tasks which means it is a course that adds variety and allows to meet the needs of a wide range of learners.

Subject Entry Requirements:

Standard Vocational Entry Requirement.

Assessment:

Assignment: Set and marked internally
Task: Set and marked externally by Pearson
Written: External examination set and marked by Pearson
Internal assessment (66%)
External assessment (44%)

Career Progression Options:

Sports Development and Management
Sports Therapy
Sports Teaching
Sports Design
Sports Coaching and Leadership

Head of Department:
Mr J. Sims

English Language	GCSE Level 2
Exam Board: AQA **Paper 1:** Explorations in creative reading and writing (1hr 45mins). Section A – Reading. Section B – Writing. **Paper 2:** Writer's viewpoints and perspectives (1hr 45mins). Section A – Reading. Section B – Writing.	**Equivalent to 1 GCSE** Re-sit opportunities in November and January.
This course is for students who have not achieved GCSE English Language at grade 4 or above and wish to improve their grade. This is an essential qualification for students wishing to achieve employment or who wish to study at FE or University. 100% exam with spoken language endorsement for those pupils who have not previously completed AQA English Language. Pupils will study non-fiction and literacy fiction and will be taught how to understand and comment on meaning. Pupils will consider how writers use techniques to create effects including language and structural methods. Pupils will also be expected to demonstrate skills in evaluation and comparison. The writing tasks will ask pupils to write to express a viewpoint and write to describe a narrative. This is a 1 year course.	
Head of Department: Miss L Davis.	

Mathematics	GCSE Level 2
Exam Board: Edexcel	**Equivalent to 1 GCSE**
This course is for students who have not achieved GCSE Maths at grade 4 or above and wish to improve their grade. This is an essential qualification for students wishing to achieve employment or who wish to study at FE or University. Students will be assessed through a formal examination. This is a 1 year course.	
Head of Department: Mrs. G. Leihal	

Good luck making your subject choices!

APPLY NOW

Complete the Sixth Form application form that is available from www.hamsteadhall.com in the designated sixth form area.

Once we have received your application we will write to you with an offer and arrange an interview with you to further discuss your options and subjects.

The Sixth Form area on the Academy website contains much more information about courses, subjects and pathways that we offer. The Sixth Form team are always happy to answer questions relating to any aspect of your application.

Please feel free to contact the team using the details below:

Address: Hamstead Hall Academy
Craythorne Avenue
Handsworth Wood
Birmingham
B20 1HL

Tel: 0121 3867510

Fax: 0121 3867511

E-mail: sixthform@hamsteadhall.com

Website: www.hamsteadhall.com

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