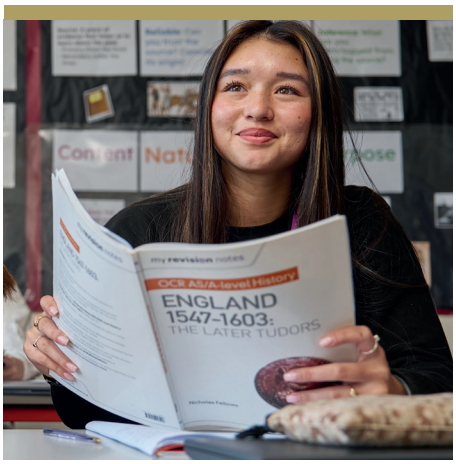
St Katherine's School
Sixth Form Prospectus





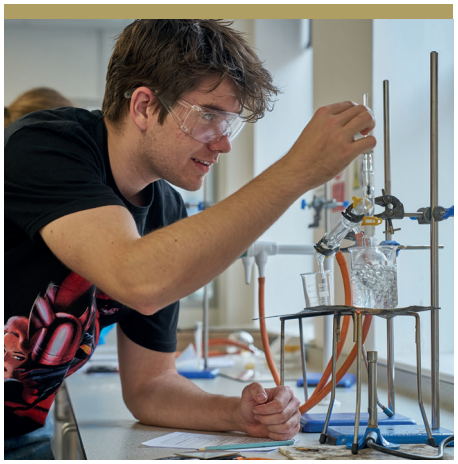












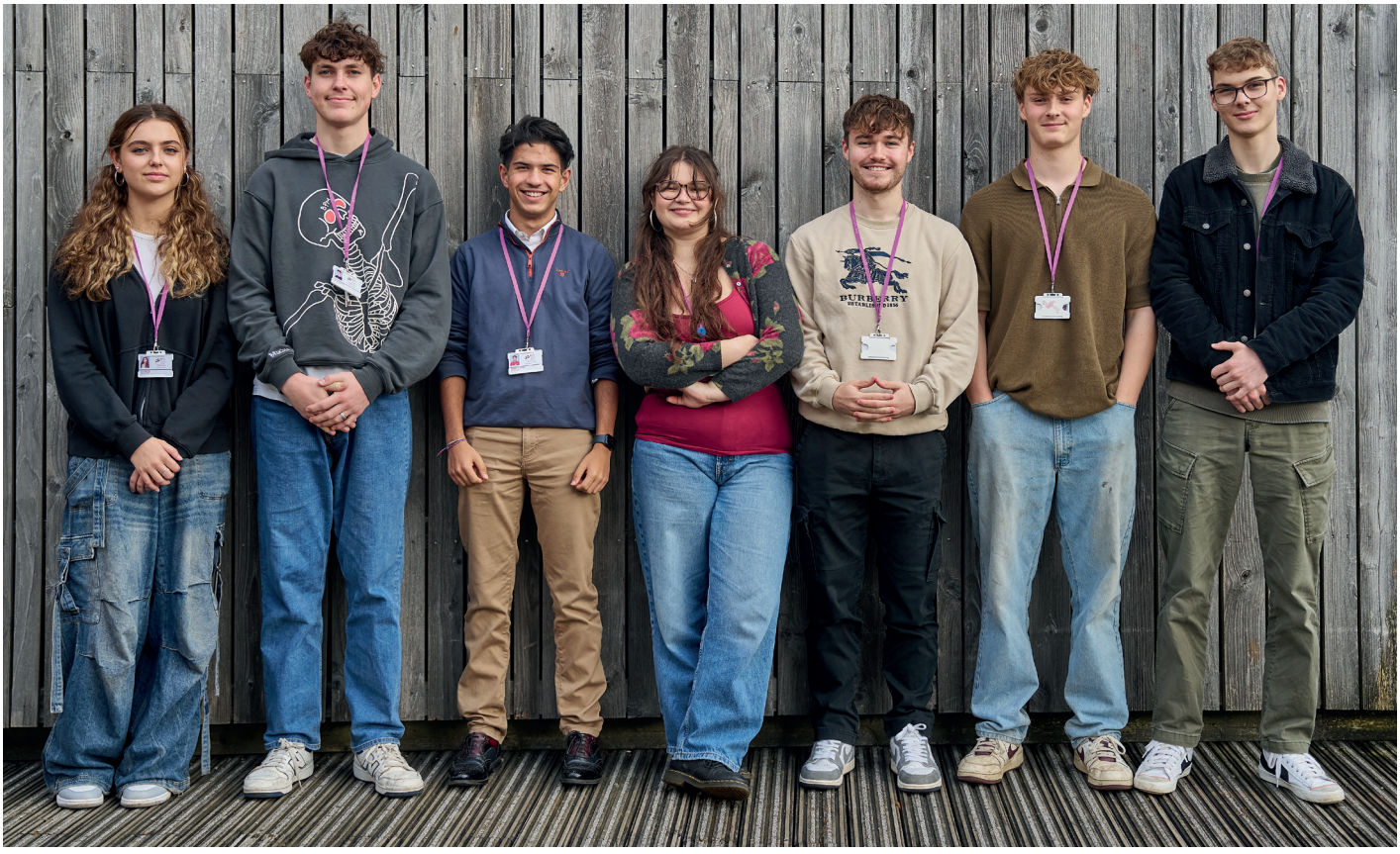


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A warm welcome



We are a small, community-focused Sixth Form in a beautiful rural setting, which allows students to flourish both inside and outside the classroom.

It is a great privilege to welcome you to St Katherine's as I begin my first year as Head of Sixth Form. Having been part of the St Katherine's community for the past six years as a head of department, I already know what a special school this is and have seen first-hand the opportunities, care and ambition that make it such a brilliant place to learn. I am incredibly proud to now lead our Sixth Form and to build on the successes of the students and staff who have made it such a vibrant and successful community. Our students leave us to pursue an exciting range of destinations, from leading universities and competitive degree courses to apprenticeships, vocational training and employment. Whatever their aspirations, we are committed to ensuring that every student has the support, challenge and opportunities they need to fulfil their potential. With our dedicated Sixth Form Centre providing a calm, modern space for study and community, alongside the outstanding facilities and environment of St Katherine's, we offer students the opportunity to develop their independence, discover their passions and take confident steps towards their future. I am excited about what the year ahead will bring and look forward to working with our students as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

We are proud of the culture we have built in our small but thriving Sixth Form. We have high expectations of each and every student, building resilient and curious independent learners and critical thinkers who are prepared for undergraduate study, whilst also helping shape our young people holistically. We want each student to be open-minded by engaging with our varied enrichment programme, and aim to turn each student into a leader of the future by contributing to the wider school community.

> "A vital stepping stone to your future."

We work closely with the partner schools in Cathedral Schools Trust, and benefit significantly from the facilities and experience of Bristol Cathedral Choir School Sixth Form.

We achieve strong results each year due to the exceptional base of knowledge and expertise of our Key Stage 5 teachers, whilst smaller than average class sizes means more feedback and teachers who understand how you learn and truly get to know you, both as a person and a student. Equally, our experienced and dedicated pastoral team will ensure your wellbeing is our priority - you will be listened to and supported each step of the way across these challenging two years.

We understand how difficult choosing a sixth form is for you, and in order to decide who to trust with these two all-important years of your life, you must be fully informed. We hope this prospectus will answer as many questions as possible about sixth form life, what St Katherine's can offer, and each of the subjects you may choose to study. Most importantly, if you want to find out more, come and visit us in person at an open event, or via appointment. We can't wait to welcome you into our community.

Jess Huzzey
Head of Sixth Form



St Katherine's student stories

Sophia Harper, **Charlie Topp** and **Hector Andrieux** flourished in their role as St Katherine's Head Students. As they embark on their next steps - Sophia with an Art Foundation course, followed by studying TV and Set Design at the University of South Wales, Charlie studying History at Exeter, and Hector English at Brighton - they speak warmly about their time in the Sixth Form.

For Charlie, staying at St Katherine's was the natural choice, having excelled in his GCSEs. "I chose to come to St Katherine's because I had developed trust and security in the teachers that helped me achieve my goals," he says. "It was natural to continue building those relationships further during Key Stage 5."

All three students studied English Literature, and all three achieved an A* in the subject. Sophia attributes her academic achievement to the more collaborative nature of A Level learning, stating that "The best thing about my academic experience was getting to discuss and debate in my English classes." It's a sentiment echoed by Hector, for whom "developing critical thinking skills and gaining a wider understanding of the world around me" was the core academic memory of St Katherine's that he will take on with him to university. Whilst Charlie and Hector both studied Biology, Charlie's third subject was History and Hector PE, as he was considering a career in Physiotherapy. Sophia took a more creative pathway, studying Art and Product Design, and excelled across the board. All three agreed that relationships were at the core of their St Katherine's experience: Charlie describes "the breadth of personalised support offered at St Katherine's. The close-knit relationship between pupil and teacher meant that the teaching is tailored to your needs, as opposed to the 'one-size-fits-all' approach of a larger college."

In their roles as Head Students, all three students made valuable and lasting contributions to the school, whether through supporting their peers, representing the school at events such as the North Somerset Debating Society, building relationships with the lower school including acting as judges in the Year 7 poetry slam, or leading on whole school events such as the Pride Parade, the Black History Month football tournament, or Culture Day. They reflect just as fondly on their experiences outside the classroom as within it. For Sophia, the HE+ programme and its culmination of a trip to Cambridge is most memorable. For Charlie, he will always remember trekking to the Himalayas at the end of Year 13: "It was an incredible opportunity to test myself physically and restart after the intensity of the A Level period," he recalls. Hector's most memorable moment is a little closer to home: "Mr Davies's Christmas Decoration competition. I'll never forget those!"



Our way of learning

We are, first and foremost, an educational institution, and our entire ethos is guided by our core principle of giving you the best possible education. Each subject is guided by a **curriculum** which has been designed and honed by experienced, expert practitioners to help ensure the best possible results for you.

Common threads you will see in all your lessons will include frequent, probing **questioning** designed to deepen understanding and improve oracy; **retrieval practice** at the start, and throughout, lessons to create 'joined-up thinking' and reinforce key concepts; **modelling** of tasks in order to support all learners to understand what top grade work looks like; and **flipped learning**, which puts emphasis on students to independently pre-learn content and bring this knowledge to their lessons.

While we offer mostly academic A Level subjects, there is still a small range of Level 3 BTEC options available. Whatever you choose to study, these are a serious **commitment**, and all students should understand this before embarking on them. Most students will study three subjects, with some students opting to pursue four. Each A Level/Level 3 BTEC subject is allocated four hours of lessons. Students are then expected to complete six to eight hours of independent study, per subject, per week. Some of this can be completed in the six hours of timetabled study periods students are allocated each week.

Considering the size of this commitment, **choosing the right subject is vital**. Following your application, you will be invited to a Course Consultation Meeting with one of the Sixth Form team, as well as being offered Subject Taster Sessions in Term 3. Think about what subjects inspire you to continue your learning outside the classroom, in what subjects you consistently achieve results that make you proud, and what subjects may help facilitate your desired future pathway.

We aim to embed positive **study skills** and **learning habits** throughout our curriculum, both in lessons and our tutorial programme, empowering students to be independent, autonomous learners who are self-motivated and committed to their studies. These learning habits include **Organisation**, **Wider Reading**, **Consolidation**, **Responding to Feedback** and **Revision Skills**.

We are committed to preparing students for 21st century society by providing **21st century learning**. Online platforms such as Google Drive, Google Classroom and Classcharts ensure that work and resources are accessible 24/7, whether on or off-site, whilst also helping communicate vital information such as coursework deadlines, homework assignments and upcoming assessments. Most work is completed online, and therefore it is important that students have their own laptop. Families experiencing financial hardship can access support in this area.



Putting you first

St Katherine's Sixth Form prides itself on providing truly exemplary **pastoral care and guidance** to every student who walks through our gates. We know that you matter, we understand that each individual has their own needs, and we are here to support you. As a small, community-centred Sixth Form, each member of the team will get to know you, and you them.

Your first point of contact and your biggest champion will be your **sixth form tutor**. Our tutor team is experienced and dedicated to this all-important role. This is why we place such value on our daily 25 minute tutor time, where you can benefit from their experience, whether it's guidance on your post 18 destinations, to support with managing time and study skills, or a wellbeing concern. Equally, Our Sixth Form Leadership Team, Ms Huzzey (Head of Sixth Form) and Mrs Garrett (Deputy Head of Sixth Form), operate an open-door policy, ensuring that students always have someone they can turn to for support, advice or guidance.

As a full-time, non-teaching member of the team, Mrs Garrett is able to provide dedicated support to students, helping them to manage their workload, use their time effectively and navigate the demands of post-16 study. Her office is also a welcoming and safe space where students can talk openly and seek support if they are experiencing personal or academic challenges.

If you require more specific forms of professional help, school-wide services such as the **school nurse** and our incredible **school counsellor** are available for Sixth Form students and can be accessed either through self-referral on the school website, or you can be referred by a member of staff. We also work closely with some exceptional local charities, such as Off The Record who can provide mental health support to young people. Students can also access **student support groups**, where you find help and guidance from your peers.



"I felt listened to by my tutor. There was a real sense that they cared about my future and made time to give me one-on-one support when I really needed it."

An enriching experience



We place great emphasis on your **holistic development**, and don't believe that education should end at the classroom door. That's why we have worked hard to develop a range of developmental opportunities and enrichment options built around our '5 Cs': **challenge**, **converse**, **create**, **compete** and **contribute**. Where possible, we invite students to select their enrichment options on a carousel basis, and aim to offer you a new enrichment opportunity each term.

Enrichment options include: **Business Enterprise and Charity Fundraising**, **Outdoor Education** (including the chance to work towards your Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award) alongside **Adventure Training Club** (including surfing, climbing and caving trips), **Yoga**, **British Sign Language**, **Martial Arts**, **Documentary Filmmaking**, **Blogging**, **Art Club**, taking part in the **school musical**, **Sports Leadership**, our joint **CST Rugby Team** alongside **Bristol Cathedral Choir School** and many, many more.

You can also take the opportunity to add to your qualifications by undertaking one of our additional courses, delivered as part of enrichment.

EPQ: The **Extended Project Qualification** is a widely recognised course which is the equivalent of an AS or half an A Level. This qualification is hugely valued by top universities as it helps develop undergraduate skills such as independent research, critical thinking and time management. You will work with a supervisor to produce either an extended essay-style piece of writing, or an artefact. The best bit? Your EPQ can be about **whatever you like**, allowing you to explore your passions and interests and produce a piece of work of which you can be proud.

ESB: We are one of the few state schools who offer the **English Speaking Board** qualification. Through working on your presentation and discussion skills, you will work towards the Level 3 Certificate in Speech (Grade 8), the highest spoken language qualification in the country. On the way, you will build your confidence and grow your voice.

Building leaders of the future

As members of the Sixth Form, you will be seen as natural leaders within the school. By building up your leadership qualities, you can not only act as role models and make a difference to the lives of others; you can also build a range of vital skills which employers and universities are always looking to see.

We have a thriving **Sixth Form Leadership Team**, overseen by our Head Students. They keep things running smoothly in the Sixth Form block, act as a conduit between students and staff, and lead on a wide range of initiatives, whether raising funds for charity, leading assemblies across the whole school on important issues, or contributing to the organisation of our Pride and Culture Day celebrations.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of what we do, and our student leaders have made a massive difference both within the Sixth Form, our school and across the Cathedral Schools Trust, of which we are a part.

Since its inception eight years ago by former Head Student Alex Leakey, **Team Pride** has been at the forefront of championing the rights of the LGBTQI+ community and its allies in our school, and its impact has been fully felt in the incredible scenes of our whole school Pride March, with hundreds of students gathering together to celebrate.

Since last year, the school has encouraged neurodivergent students to gather on a weekly basis as part of our **Neurodiversity Group** and discuss the challenges, strategies and successes which are part of day-to-day life at school. This group has been powerfully led by a Year 13 student alongside Ms Wild.

Ever-growing is the school's **BAME Network**, led by Ms Jefferson alongside the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team. Through this group, we aim to ensure that St Katherine's is an actively anti-racist school, through the values of 'Educate. Celebrate. Give Voice.'

Other ways that students can become leaders includes being trained as a **Peer Listener**, changing the lives of lower school students through listening sessions; supporting a range of lower school enrichment as **Subject Ambassadors**; leading school initiatives as **Environmental Ambassadors**; supporting literacy in the lower school as **Reading Mentors**; or creating promotional videos and posters as part of our **Media Team**.



Where next?



Your **future pathway** is our number one priority. Over the last three years, St Katherine's students have progressed onto a wide range of world leading universities including **Oxford**, **Cambridge** and **Edinburgh**, and even progressed overseas on sports scholarships at the **University of Utah** and **Oregon State**. Other pathways include progression onto **apprenticeships** in education, hospitality and property management, art colleges and faith schools and **careers** in trades, the armed forces and healthcare.

At St Katherine's, we are proud of the strong progression of our students into higher education. Over the past three years, 75% of our students have progressed to university, with 46% of these students securing places at prestigious Russell Group universities, compared with a national figure of 27%. During the same period, **more than 88% of students received an offer from either their first-choice or insurance university**. We are particularly proud that this year, 38% of our students progressing to higher education are the first generation in their family to attend university, highlighting the important role we play in helping students to achieve their ambitions and access opportunities that can shape their future.

As well as facilitating significantly above-average progression to universities, St Katherine's works to promote **high-level apprenticeships** through regular visits from ASK Apprenticeships, a trip to the National Universities and Apprenticeships Fair, promotion of apprenticeship search tools and support with writing cover letters and preparing for interviews.

We promote the use of **Unifrog**, a one-stop destinations platform available to all sixth form students, which includes search tools for apprenticeships and universities, know-how articles on all types of varied pathways, and writing tools for CVs, cover letters and personal statements.

St Katherine's Sixth Form works closely with Bristol University and UWE to offer **frequent insights into university life**. This includes the opportunity to apply for the exceptional Access to Bristol scheme which allows students weekly visits to the University of Bristol for a term. We also work with **Oxford and Cambridge universities** on programmes such as STEM Smart and HE+, all aimed at raising aspirations.

Our Careers and Work Related Guidance team work to bring a wealth of **varied and enriching speakers** into school to speak about pathways: we have visitors from employers such as Wessex Water and Thatchers; speakers discussing their own careers in tech, sports coaching, law, entrepreneurship and creative media and a range of local post-18 colleges.

"I was given the information and guidance I needed to make the right choice for me, and I was supported every step of the way in my application."

Art and Design - Fine Art



What our students say:

"In art we are given the freedom to find our own style and voice, and produce pieces of work we can be really proud of."

Why this course is right for you:

Bringing together influences from history's greatest visual artists through the prism of your own response to the world around you is what A Level art students do. We offer you a creative, dynamic course which helps you to develop your technical and analytical skills through a broad range of media to create a personal portfolio. Commitment to the course is vital: you will work independently, and you will create every day.

All students study a core curriculum covering drawing, mixed media, painting, sculpture and printmaking in order to find your own artistic voice. Working from a range of primary and secondary sources in the classroom, regular gallery visits allow you to experience the work of other artists first hand.

If you're interested in working in the media, being an artist, creative, animator, film maker, designer or photographer, you should study this course.

What you need to know:

Exam board: AQA
Who to speak to: Ms Lacey

Topics Covered:
In the first year of the course students are guided to develop and strengthen core skills under the umbrella theme of 'Light & Dark'. After February half term, students will begin a sustained and personal investigation for which students choose their own idea, concept or starting point.

Assessment:
Year 1 - Continual, ongoing assessment. Students have specific, personal targets written in consultation with teachers. Personal Investigation begins after February half term.
Year 2 - Personal Investigation. At the beginning of February, students will begin their exam unit which includes an exam preparation period and a 15 hour exam.

Entry requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE Art required
Grade 7+ in GCSE Art desired

Co-curricular/trips:
Annual visits to both local and national galleries and exhibitions. Enrichment life drawing is organised every year, with visiting tutors from Weston College.

Art and Design - Textiles



What our students say:

"In art we are given the freedom to find our own style and voice, and produce pieces of work we can be really proud of."

Why this course is right for you:

Bringing together influences from history's greatest visual artists through the prism of your own response to the world around you is what A Level Textiles students do. We offer you a creative, dynamic course which helps you to develop your technical and analytical skills through a broad range of media to create a personal portfolio. Commitment to the course is vital: you will work independently, and you will create every day.

All students study a core curriculum covering drawing, mixed media, painting, sculpture and printmaking in order to find your own artistic voice. Working from a range of primary and secondary sources in the classroom, regular gallery visits allow you to experience the work of other artists first hand.

If you're interested in working in the media, being an artist, creative, animator, film maker, designer or photographer, you should study this course.

What you need to know:

Exam board: AQA
Who to speak to: Ms Lacey & Ms Everard

Topics Covered:
In the first year of the course students are guided to develop and strengthen core skills under the umbrella theme of Light & Dark. After February half term, students will begin a sustained and personal investigation for which students choose their own idea, concept or starting point.

Assessment:
Year 1 - Continual, ongoing assessment. Students have specific, personal targets written in consultation with teachers. Personal Investigation begins after February half term.
Year 2 - Personal Investigation. At the beginning of February, students will begin their exam unit which includes an exam preparation period and and 15 hour exam.

Entry requirements:
Grade 6 in Textiles required
Grade 7 in Textiles desired

Co-curricular/trips:
Annual visits to both local and national galleries and exhibitions. Enrichment life drawing is organised.

Biology



What our students say:

"The depth of the course and the studies of the human body were really rewarding, but as someone interested in a career in forensic science, this topic was particularly fascinating."

Why this course is right for you:

Biology is about examining fundamental questions about the natural world and everything within it, including investigating how the human body works. If you are interested in how living beings function and came to be as they are, you should study biology.

Through learning about biological principles, you will appreciate how biologists approach problems and provide solutions with efficacy. A Level biology will develop the essential skills of investigating a problem with the aim of generating evidence from which valid conclusions can be drawn.

If you're interested in further study in genetics, medicine, nursing, environmental sciences, forensic science, zoology, veterinary science or ecology, biology is right for you.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel Biology (Salters Nuffield)
Who to speak to: Mrs Ivey

Topics Covered:
Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk
Topic 2: Genes and Health
Topic 3: Voice of the Genome
Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources
Topic 5: On the Wild Side
Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics
Topic 7: Run for your Life
Topic 8: Grey Matter

Assessment:
100% written examination in Year 13
Year 1:
Ongoing in-class assessment and mocks
Year 2:
Paper 1: The Natural Environment and Species Survival
Paper 2: Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination
Paper 3: General and Practical Applications in Biology

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or grade 6, 6 in Combined Science required
Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or grades 7, 7 in Combined Science desired
Grade 6+ in GCSE Maths required, grade 7+ in GCSE maths desired
We recommend that students take A Level biology alongside A Level maths and/or chemistry and/physics

Co-curricular/trips:
We The Curious and Studland Bay sand dunes and A Level Science live

Business



What our students say:

"I really enjoyed how active the learning was in business, whether we were examining case studies and learning how businesses work, or coming up with our own ideas."

Why this course is right for you:

Business is all around us, whether we are conscious of it or not. We rely on businesses to deliver the goods and services we need and to build the society we are part of. The study of business allows you to understand these vital building blocks, and how to become a successful business person in your own right.

When you study for a vocational qualification, you 'learn by doing.' So, expect a mixture of conventional classroom theory and real world practical application, just as you would in a workplace. The course provides opportunities for visits to local businesses, to run your own events and business projects, and guest speakers to work with you in the classroom. Problem-solving, teamwork and communication are essential skills to be successful.

If you want to work in leadership, management, human resources, accounting, marketing or finance, business is right for you.

What you need to know:

This is a vocational course (BTEC) and you will study the Level 3 Extended Certificate in business.

Who to speak to: Mrs Reade

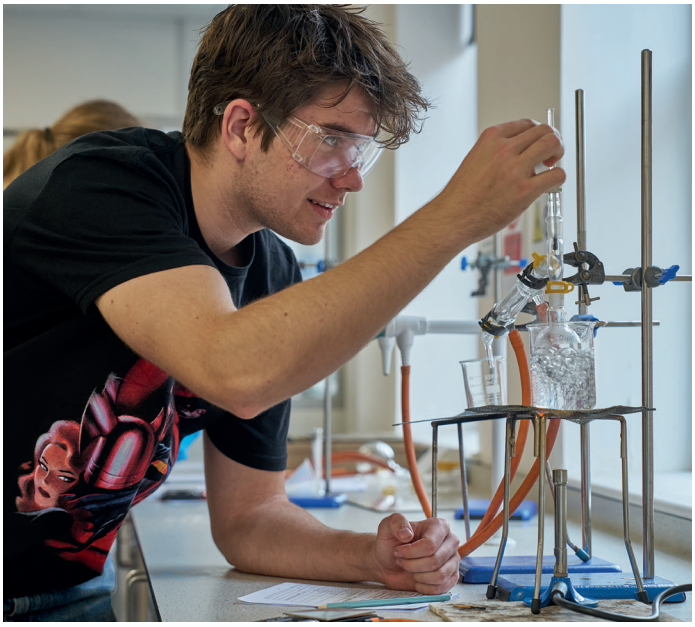
Topics Covered:
Exploring business
Developing a marketing campaign
Personal and business finance
Recruitment and selection process

Assessment:
Exploring business coursework
Developing a marketing campaign exam
Personal and business finance exam
Recruitment and selection process coursework

Entry Requirements:
Grade 4 in GCSE English Language required
Grade 4 in GCSE Maths required
GCSE in Business Studies not essential

Co-curricular/trips:
Young Enterprise – set up and run your own business, The Royal Mint, Bank of England

Chemistry



What our students say:

"I want to study medicine, so chemistry was a natural choice. The A Level was definitely really challenging, but teachers always went the extra mile to help me understand key concepts."

Why this course is right for you:

Everything in the universe, from you to the stars, is made of 92 naturally-occurring elements. To understand chemistry is to understand the universe. Countless aspects of our lives are interconnected due to chemistry, and chemists explore the world at its molecular level.

As an A Level subject, this course fosters scientific curiosity, logic and creative problem-solving, working in the lab in an experimental capacity.

If you see a future in biochemistry, medicine, nursing, environmental sciences or forensic science, study chemistry. However, chemists also go on to have a huge range of careers outside STEM, from marketing to law and politics.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR A
Who to speak to: Miss Hodder

Topics Covered:
Topic 1 - Development of practical skills in chemistry
Topic 2 - Foundations in chemistry
Topic 3 - Periodic table and energy
Topic 4 - Core organic chemistry
Topic 5 - Physical chemistry and transition elements
Topic 5 - Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment:
100% written examination in Year 13
Year 1:
Ongoing in-class assessment, early hurdle and module tests and mocks
Year 2:
Module tests
Paper 1 - Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (100 marks)
Paper 2 - Synthesis and analytical techniques (100 marks)
Paper 3 - Unified chemistry (70 marks)

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE chemistry or grade 6, 6 in Combined Science required
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths required, grade 7 in GCSE maths desired
Grade 7 in GCSE chemistry or grade 7, 7 in Combined Science desired
We recommend that students take A Level chemistry alongside A Level maths and/or biology and/physics

Co-curricular/trips:
Chemistry Olympiad, STEM Smart, A Level Science live

English Literature



What our students say:

"The atmosphere in lessons is perfect, because it makes us grow together as a class. The lessons are interesting and fun, and I can see my work getting better from feedback."

Why this course is right for you:

Literature is a prism through which we understand the world around us, as it is now, and as it was in the past. This course compels you to interrogate the greatest pieces of literature ever written, to discuss and debate meanings and interpretations, and to have a voice.

English Literature A Level is dedicated to critical thinking, evaluation of high order concepts and writing coherently and fluently. The skills you develop as a student of this subject will empower you for life. Learners encounter a rich range of literary texts and develop skills of reading, analysis and synthesis. Wider reading is an essential part of the course. Communication, including the ability to discuss the critical context of texts and expressing ideas in an academic register, is at the heart of the subject.

If you are interested in a career in academia, journalism, teaching, law, advertising, or anything which requires the ability to form an argument and write with skill, study English Literature.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: EDUQAS
Who to speak to: Ms Jefferson

Topics Covered:
Unseen prose and poetry
Charlotte Brontë's '*Jane Eyre*' alongside '*Wide Sargasso Sea*' by Jean Rhys.
The poetry of Larkin and Duffy
Prebble's '*Enron*' alongside Marlowe's '*Dr Faustus*'
Milton's *Paradise Lost*
Shakespeare's King Lear

Assessment:
Year 1:
In-course assessment to ascertain priorities for Year 2; first draft of coursework
Year 2:
80% summer examination
20% coursework

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature required
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature desired

Co-curricular/trips:
Theatre trips, guest speakers and the opportunity to take Advanced qualifications in Speaking and Listening

Geography



What our students say:

"You can see the teachers' passion for the subject which makes the lessons really engaging. We study a wide range of topics - everything from plate tectonics to global politics."

Why this course is right for you:

If you have ever wondered how vast natural landscapes came to be as they are, or considered how global geopolitics have evolved to the situations you currently see on the news, you should consider studying geography at A Level.

The course provides you with knowledge and understanding that is essential for any citizen of the planet in the 21st century. Through a range of exciting topics, you will understand the nature of physical and human geography whilst unpicking the debates surrounding contemporary global challenges.

The course will equip you with the skills necessary for success in higher education and the world of work. Geography is a multidisciplinary subject in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills to work across the physical and social sciences.

This course prepares you for careers in environmental engineering, politics, archaeology, planning and development, international relations, conservation, and much more.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel
Who to speak to: Ms Hambidge

Topics Covered:
Tectonic Processes and Hazards
Coastal Landscapes and Change
Water and energy
Globalisation
Diverse Places
Superpowers

Assessment:
Paper 1: Physical Geography
(Written examination, 30%)
Paper 2: Human Geography
(Written examination, 30%)
Paper 3: Synoptic Geography
(Written examination, 20%)
Independent Investigation (Coursework, 20%)

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Geography required
Grade 6 in GCSE Geography desired
For high-attaining students, GCSE Geography may not be required

Co-curricular/trips:
Three days of group fieldwork, coastal and urban.
One independent day of fieldwork to complete Independent Investigation.

Health and Social Care



What our students say:

"I like the mix of coursework and exams. In both we get to apply theoretical knowledge to real life situations."

Why this course is right for you:

Health and social care workers are the heartbeat of our society. From healthcare to social care to childcare, working with vulnerable people of all ages and backgrounds, and providing vital attention, expertise and guidance to those who need it most, when they need it most, the country could not run without these individuals.

This vocational qualification in Health and Social Care aims to provide an introduction to this all-important sector. Learners can also benefit from opportunities for deep learning where they are able to make connections among units and select areas of interest for detailed study. As a vocational course, students are also encouraged to 'learn on the job' through work experience, applying their learning in real-life settings and developing their employability.

Students of HSC typically go on to work in the care sector, including mental health support, nursing, midwifery, adult care, child care, social services and public services.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)
Who to speak to: Miss Ball

Topics Covered:
Mandatory:
Unit 1 - Human Lifespan and Development Unit 2 - Human Biology and Health Unit 3 - Principles of Health and Social Care Practice

Optional:
Unit 5 - Promoting Health Education

Assessment:
Two units examined (50%): Unit 1 and Unit 2
Two units coursework (50%): Unit 3 and Unit 5

Entry Requirements:
Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in Biology/Combined Science Required
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in Biology/Combined Science desired
Level 2 Merit in Cambridge National Health and Social Care

Co-curricular/trips:
Visit to UWE Glenside campus to experience a 'taster day.' First hand experiences of teaching of health-related degrees such as midwifery and nursing.

History



What our students say:

"Knowledgeable teachers help keep the content accessible but the challenge high. I have really enjoyed choosing my own topic for my coursework and being able to independently research a period I've always found interesting."

Why this course is right for you:

As a facilitating subject, history not only develops your understanding of the past and how it has shaped the modern world, but also focuses on skills which will be applied across a range of other subjects.

In Year 12, students will hone their source skills, examining the challenges facing the later Tudor monarchs: Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. In contrast, they will consider Germany's transition through democracy to dictatorship and the external events which influenced the course of this period of history.

In Year 13, students will have the opportunity to select an independent study topic of their choice to research and investigate. Recent topics have included the causes of the Nanjing Massacre, the reasons Mary I deserves the title 'Bloody Mary'; and the view that the threat of communism was the main reason America became involved in the Vietnam War. Alongside this, students will also learn of the struggle of four key groups to gain freedom and equal rights in America from the end of American Civil War to the early 1990s.

Apart from being interesting, history is extremely useful. Employers recognise a range of skills, such as precise and analytical thinking and the ability to construct an argument effectively - particularly relevant to careers paths such as law, teaching, politics and curating.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR
Who to speak to: Mrs Cavanagh

Topics Covered:
English History: 1547-1603
German History: 1919-1963
Civil rights in the USA: 1865-1992
Topic-based essay

Assessment:
Unit 1: English History: 1547-1603: The Later Tutors (25%)
Unit 2: Democracy and dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963 (15%)
Unit 3: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 (40%)
Unit 4: Topic based essay (20%)

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE History required
Grade 6 in GCSE History desired

Mathematics



What our students say:

"I can honestly say the level of teaching is incredible, and while there is a substantial workload in the subject, having lots of practice helped me to achieve a top grade."

Why this course is right for you:

Mathematics at A level builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves new ideas produced by some of the greatest minds of the last millennium. If you have a mathematical flair and enjoy the challenge of problem solving, this is the course for you.

Maths is not only a hugely valuable subject in its own right, but is a vital facilitating subject which will help you to thrive in other subjects.

Studying maths at A Level prepares you for a broad range of career-based applications, such as all forms of engineering, accountancy, aerospace and defence, manufacturing, the environmental sector, pharmaceutical and medicine, bioscience and anything which involves analytical thinking and numerical skills

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel
Who to speak to: Mr Lee

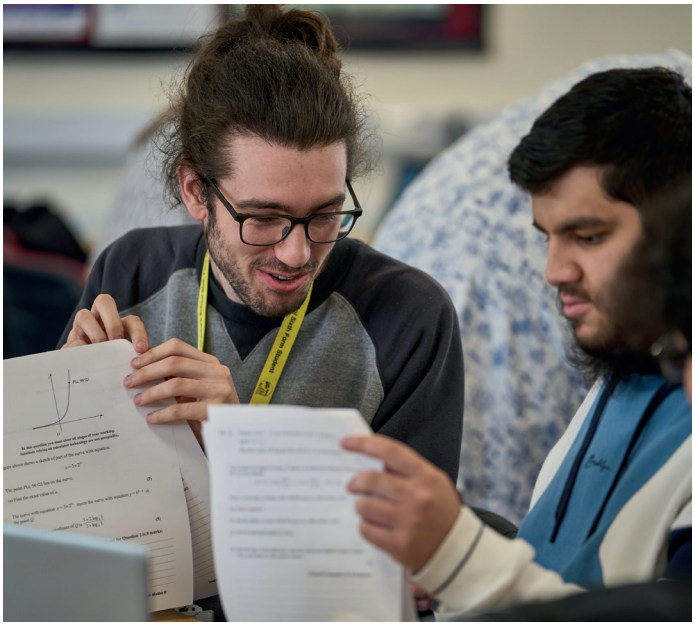
Topics Covered:
Pure 1
Pure 2
Applied (Mechanics and Statistics)

Assessment:
100% written examination in Year 13:
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (33.3%) - 120 minutes
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics (33.3%) - 120 minutes
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (33.3%) - 120 minutes

Entry Requirements:
Grade 7 in GCSE Maths required
Grade 8 in GCE Maths desired

Co-curricular/trips:
You will have the opportunity to take part in the UKMT National Challenge competitions as an individual or as part of a team representing the school. Visits to maths events at UWE and Bristol University as well as Maths Inspiration at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Further Mathematics



What our students say:

"Further Mathematics made me think about maths in ways I'd never considered before, and the small class size meant lots of chances to ask questions and deepen my understanding."

Why this course is right for you:

If you have flair, curiosity and passion for mathematics, and are considering pursuing the subject at post-18 level, then Further Mathematics will unlock the next level of challenge and understanding.

Further Mathematics at A Level should be studied in addition to Mathematics at A level. It is an opportunity to both broaden and deepen your mathematical knowledge, through studying additional, more challenging topics in pure maths, as well as a wider range of topics in applied maths, including decision maths and mechanics.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel
Who to speak to: Mr Lee

Topics Covered:
Decision Maths
Pure Maths
Mechanics

Assessment:
100% written examination in Year 13:
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (25%) - 90 minutes
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (25%) - 90 minutes
Paper 3: Further Mechanics (25%) - 90 minutes
Paper 4: Decision Mathematics (25%) - 90 Minutes

Entry Requirements:
Grade 8 in GCSE Maths required
Grade 9 in GCSE Maths desired

Film Studies



What our students say:

"There is a really good balance of theory and practical elements, where you get to apply your evaluation of media texts to your own creative practice. Being part of the Media Team has helped build up my experience in the field, and I'm now aiming for a career in media production."

Why this course is right for you:

Studying Eduqas A-Level Film Studies offers a powerful blend of academic rigor and hands-on creativity. Comparable in demand to English Literature, this discursive, essay-based subject teaches you to deconstruct visual media, apply complex critical theories, and build persuasive arguments. These highly valued analytical skills provide an excellent foundation for university admissions and long-term careers across the humanities and creative industries.

The curriculum stands out for its diverse, global approach to cinema. Over the course of the program, you will analyze 11 distinct films spanning mainstream Hollywood, American independent cinema, British film, and global non-English language cinema. The course also dives deep into specialized film movements, including silent cinema, experimental filmmaking, and documentaries, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of visual storytelling.

A major highlight of the specification is the creative production component, which makes up 30% of your final grade. This coursework element moves beyond traditional essay writing, allowing you to choose between making a short film or writing a professional screenplay with a storyboard. This balance of deep textual analysis and practical application makes the subject exceptionally engaging and rewarding for students.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: EDUQAS
Who to speak to: Mr McGettigan

Topics Covered:
Critical analysis of 11 core films through the lens of three main areas of study: film form, meaning and response, and film contexts.

How filmmakers manipulate visual media to evoke emotional responses.

Spectatorship and how different audiences interpret representations of culture, gender, and social groups.

The social, cultural, political, and institutional contexts that shape a film's production and reception, alongside specific theories like ideological critique and auteur theory.

Assessment:
Two external exams worth 35% each
A short film NEA assignment (coursework) worth 30%

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature required
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature desired
An interest in Film and the Film industry essential

Co-curricular/trips:
Trips to the BFI London (Southbank).
Screenings of new and classic films in the Watershed Cinema Bristol.
Strong links within the industry, opportunity to gain practical film experience.

Philosophy



What our students say:

"In every single philosophy and ethics lesson we are encouraged to think deeply, to discard any preconceptions, and be prepared to be challenged."

Why this course is right for you:

Do you ever question life? If so, then this course will empower you with the skills to critically interrogate and debate the kind of ideas human beings have grappled with for centuries. You will be able to develop your interest and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of philosophy and ethics, and relate it to the wider world. You will adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach and reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of your learning. You will learn and understand how people make moral decisions and you will formulate your own opinions on various current ethical issues.

The study of philosophy and ethics combines with many disciplines. It can lead onto career paths including further education, politics, the civil service, marketing, advertising and law.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: AQA
Who to speak to: Mr Murdoch

Topics Covered:
What is knowledge?
Moral philosophy
Arguments for the existence of God
Philosophy of mind

Assessment:
Ongoing in-class assessment and mocks across two years
100% written examination at the end of Year 13

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in English Language and Literature required
Grade 6 in English Language and Literature desired

Physical Education



What our students say:

"The PE course is really well-structured and every lesson builds on the learning of previous lessons. We cover a really broad range of topics, and the 'performance' element meant that the practical side of PE was assessed as well."

Why this course is right for you:

For those interested in sport, exercise and the workings of the human body, PE A Level is an academic course that develops and challenges you at every turn.

This course gives you a chance to study how the body responds to exercise and how biomechanical principles can be applied to sport, how individuals learn new skills and the influence the mind has on performance and behaviour, and how sport and society have developed from their historical beginnings to present day. Studying these components will improve your understanding of sporting performance, coaching and sports analysis.

Continuing the study of Physical Education can prepare you for careers in sports development, media, coaching, performance analysis, strength and conditioning, nutrition, physiotherapy, sports psychology and a wealth of other careers in the sports and exercise industry.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR
Who to speak to: Miss Ball

Topics Covered:
Physiological factors affecting performance
Psychological factors affecting performance
Sociocultural and contemporary Issues
Performance within Physical Education

Assessment:
You will have written examinations alongside practical assessment of your physical education performance.
Physiological factors affecting performance (30%)
Psychological factors affecting performance (20%)
Sociocultural and contemporary Issues (20%)
Performance within Physical Education (30%) - 15% practical / 15% EAPI

Entry Requirements:
Every student must participate in regular club level sport outside of school in a sporting activity from the OCR approved activity list
Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or grade 6, 6 in Combined Science required
Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and GCSE English required
Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or grades 7, 7 in Combined Science desired
Level 2 Merit in Cambridge National Sport Studies

Co-curricular/trips:
We work with partners to access a range of facilities and placements.

Physics



What our students say:

"Our physics teachers show extensive knowledge of the subject and encourage us to engage with physics beyond the curriculum through wider reading and supercurricular activities. I really enjoyed learning about astrophysics."

Why this course is right for you:

Look at the world around you; physics is the only subject which explains the universe from small to large, from the beginning to the end. Via topics ranging from Quantum Mechanics to the Origins of the Universe, physics A Level considers how and why things work. If you want to understand where you came from and where you are going to, then continuing your study of physics is right for you.

Time and time again, employers have listed physics as one of the most respected A Levels, and it can prepare you for careers including medicine, engineering, further education, research, the MOD and computer science.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR
Who to speak to: Mr Arden

Topics Covered:
Topic 1: Development of practical skills
Topic 2: Foundations in physics
Topic 3: Forces and motion
Topic 4: Electrons, waves and photons
Topic 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
Topic 6: Particles and medical physics

Assessment:
100% written examination in Year 13
Breadth in physics examination
Depth in physics examination
Modelling physics examination
Exploring physics examination
Unified physics examination

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grades 6, 6 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in Maths required
Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grades 7, 7 in Combined Science and Grade 7 in Maths desired
We strongly recommend that all students taking A Level physics also take A Level maths

Co-curricular/trips:
There are a range of enrichment activities including the British Physics Olympiad and annual CERN trips.

Politics



What our students say:

"A-level Politics has opened my eyes to the decisions and debates that shape our society, giving me the confidence to discuss current affairs and develop my own informed opinions."

Why this course is right for you:

If you are curious about how real-world power operates and want to understand the decisions shaping your daily life, A Level Politics is for you. Over our two year course we will aim to go beyond the news headlines to examine how UK democracy actually works, how political parties operate, and how elections shape society. We will explore core political ideologies like socialism, liberalism, and conservatism, alongside ideologies such as feminism, anarchism, and nationalism.

We will uncover how Governments function and how the laws that dictate our lives are created and challenged. We will compare political systems, judging the democratic processes of these systems.

You will build on GCSE skills to be able to critically analyse arguments and come to substantiated conclusions, forming opinions and developing your sense of self, enabling informed discussions and measured debates. A Level politics is recognised by employers and universities as a subject that develops knowledge and key interdisciplinary skills.

What you need to know:

Who to speak to: Mrs Cavanagh

Topics covered:
UK Politics & core political ideas
· Political participation: democracy, political parties, electoral systems
· Core political ideas: socialism, liberalism, conservatism
UK Government & Non-core political ideas
· UK Government: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister
· Non-core political ideas: feminism/ecologism/anarchism/nationalism/multiculturalism
Comparative Politics
· Global political systems

Assessment:
Ongoing in-class assessment and mocks across two years
100% written examination at the end of Year 13

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in English Language required.
Grade 6 in English Language and Humanities (History, Geography or Philosophy & Beliefs) desired.

Co-curricular/trips:
Visit to the Houses of Parliament
Visit to the UK Supreme Court

Product Design



What our students say:

"The lessons are really interesting and fun, and each lesson switches between theory, practical and project work, which keeps us engaged and challenged. I have really enjoyed the independence of coming up with my own responses to design briefs."

Why this course is right for you:

Think about your day today - the things you've done and the places you've been. Everything you have come into contact with has been designed and developed by some form of product designers and design engineers. From the clothes you wear, the vehicles you use for transport, the buildings you live and work in, to the products that make each day easier and more enjoyable, product design has an undeniable impact on our lives.

If you share an interest in design, and would like to work both collaboratively and independently on a challenging brief as well as designing and making a variety of products then this course is for you.

This course is applicable to careers in industrial design, graphic design, interiors, and anything in the field of engineering.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel
Who to speak to: Mr Simmons / Mr Fey

Topics Covered:
Core technical principles
Core designing and making principles
Additional specialist knowledge

Assessment:
Written examination: 50% - End of Year 13
Design and Make Project: 50% - Starts Term 3 of Year 12

Entry Requirements:
Level 2 Distinction in Engineering Design required
Grade 5 in Maths is desired

Co-curricular/trips:
STEM Club, various design competitions

Psychology



What our students say:

"We use case studies and a wide range of scientific research to answer big questions about why people behave the way they do, and how factors like stress and social influence can influence human behaviour. I have enjoyed the course so much I'm going to study social sciences at university."

Why this course is right for you:

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. We use scientific methods in order to explore how and why people behave the way that they do. Psychology covers a broad range of topic areas which aim to prepare learners for a variety of university courses and employment opportunities such as education, sport, health and media.

Psychology is suited to students who are interested in other people and the differences between each individual. It prepares you for future careers including psychologist, psychiatrist, counsellors, consulting, marketing, human resources management, and any roles that benefit from considering what makes people tick.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: AQA
Who to speak to: Ms Huzzey

Topics Covered:
Cognitive functioning, developmental psychology, research methodologies, social influences, biopsychology, issues and debates, relationships, stress, aggression.

Assessment:
Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology
Paper 2: Psychology in context
Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Biology, Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 5 in English Language required.
Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, Grade 6 in Maths and Grade 6 in English Language desired.

Co-curricular/trips:
Attend A Level conference in London with world-renowned keynote speakers. Trip to Glenside Hospital Museum. Opportunity for students to attend specialist exam-focused workshops.

Sociology



What our students say:

"A-level Sociology has helped me understand the world around me in a completely new way, while developing my ability to question ideas, think critically and see issues from different perspectives."

Why this course is right for you:

Sociology is a relevant and exciting course that provides an insight into how our behaviour is shaped by the world around us. The topics covered on the A Level course help to explain why people are no longer choosing to marry, why middle class students achieve better grades in school, how religion can unify and divide a society and why crime is concentrated in inner city areas. If you are inquisitive and keen to understand these points, Sociology will help you to develop a multiple-perspective and critical approach to understanding these and other issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power.

Studying Sociology provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular university courses. For example, Criminology, Education Studies and Social Policy. Sociology provides knowledge and skills that are transferable to a number of careers such as Education, Media, Marketing or Health.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: AQA
Who to speak to: Ms Huzzey

Topics covered:
Research methods
Education
Crime and Deviance
Families & Households
Beliefs in Society.

Assessment:
There are three exams, each accounting for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of short answer and extended writing questions:

Entry requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Biology, grade 5 in maths and grade 5 in English required
Grade 6 in GCSE English and a Humanities subject is desirable

How to apply

Find an application form on the Sixth Form Admissions section of the St Katherine's website. We strongly recommend applying as early as possible in order to guarantee a course consultation meeting and a place on your first-choice courses.

Entry requirements:
5 GCSE grades 4-9 are essential for any combination of subjects.

Subjects have individual entry requirements, which can be found on the course outline pages in this prospectus. Please note: While 5 GCSE grades of 4-9 are our basic entry requirements, a place in St Katherine's Sixth Form cannot be guaranteed unless you also meet entry requirements for your chosen subjects.

Sixth Form Bursary:
Young people who need financial support to help them stay in education or training after 16 can apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund. All students will be given a bursary form at 'Step Into Sixth Form' Day. This bursary can be used for transport, trips or resources. There should be no obstacles to you accessing the best possible education.

Enrolment Timeline

October-December 2026

Course consultation meetings

December 2026

Sixth Former for a Day event

18th December 2026

Application form deadline

July 2027

Step Into Sixth Form days

19th August 2027

GCSE results day and enrolment

September 2027

Begin your studies

Why study at St Katherine's:



- Personalised learning experience
- Exceptional pastoral care and expert guidance
- Small class sizes
- University destinations for 22-26 include Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol
- Enrichment and extension opportunities including EPQ, Access to Bristol, HE+ and the English Speaking Board

Notes

St Katherine's School
Ham Green
North Somerset
BS20 0HU

Telephone 01275 373737

Email school@skdrive.org
Web www.stkaths.org.uk
St Katherine's School

