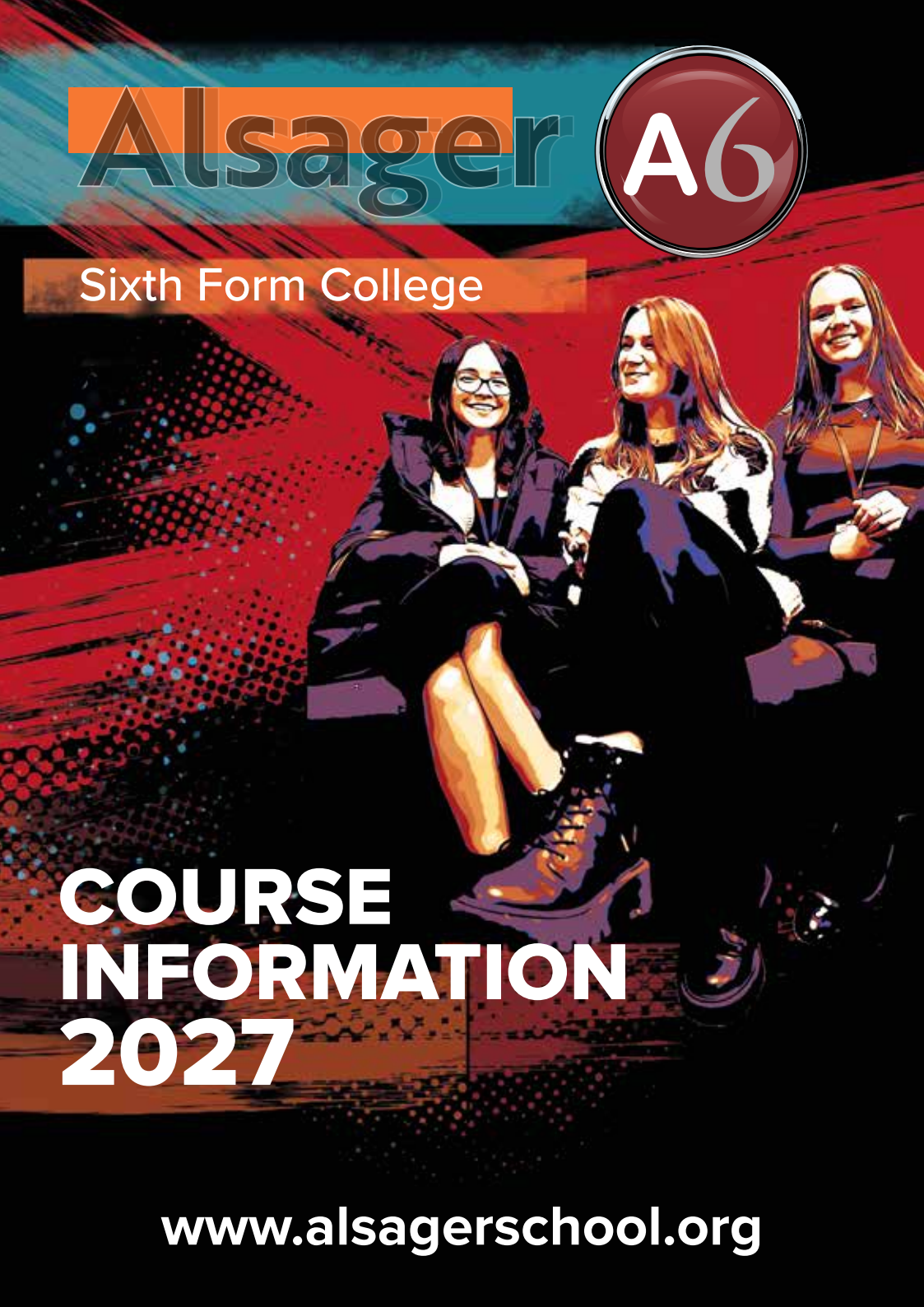
Alsager

A6

Sixth Form College



COURSE INFORMATION 2027

www.alsagerschool.org

Welcome to Alsager Sixth Form College

At Alsager Sixth Form College, we pride ourselves on offering a unique and nurturing environment where students are supported to succeed both academically and personally. Our small class sizes and excellent pastoral care create a strong sense of community, ensuring every student is known, valued, and encouraged throughout their transition into post-16 education. We take a holistic approach to support, offering a tailored personal development programme, a wide range of enrichment opportunities, and dedicated guidance that goes far beyond what is often possible in larger college settings.

Our commitment to academic excellence is evident in our outstanding exam results and the consistently high aspirations of our students. Through high-quality teaching, a strong work ethic, and the promotion of self-belief, we empower learners to reach - and often exceed - their full potential.

Alsager Sixth Form College also provides personalised and focused support for students as they prepare for life beyond school. Whether aiming for competitive universities, higher-level apprenticeships, or alternative career pathways, students benefit from bespoke guidance delivered by experienced staff and tutors who understand their individual goals and ambitions.

As a familiar and trusted part of the local community, Alsager Sixth Form College offers the convenience of remaining close to home, allowing students the flexibility to balance their studies with part-time work, driving lessons, and a healthy social life. This balance fosters independence and maturity, equipping students with the skills they need for future success.

Students who apply to the Sixth Form College will be invited to a guidance meeting by one of our sixth form team to help them make sure they have chosen the correct subjects for them to succeed.

This booklet contains details of all of the courses offered and entry requirements for these courses. As well as A levels, Cambridge Nationals and BTEC courses we also offer Traineeships which combine high quality works experience, BTEC Work Skills and, if required, GCSE Maths and English re-sit classes.

If you need further information about any of our courses, would like to come and look round, or to apply for a place online just visit our page on the school website at www.alsagerschool.org, contact us on 01270 871122 or email sixthform@alsagerschool.org.

Once again, many thanks for your interest in our Sixth Form College. We look forward to welcoming you as a new student in September 2027.

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Subject Entry Requirements - September 2027

At Alsager Sixth College Form we expect students to study 3 qualifications.

These can be a combination of any of the qualifications below, as long as they work in combination with the Option Blocks (these are set and shared once applicant conversations are completed in February).

Students must have taken the full suite of exams in the core subjects, English Literature, English Language, Maths and Science

Subjects listed below require **5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent** to be able to selected as part of a students study programme at sixth form:

- Classics
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History
- Psychology
- Sociology

Additional subject-specific requirements are listed below.

Subject	Entry requirements
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology OR Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry OR Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science
Physics	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics OR Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science
Mathematics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 GCSE Mathematics **& must also do Maths A level**
French	Grade 5 in GCSE French (must have sat higher tier)
German	Grade 5 in GCSE German (must have sat higher tier)

Subjects listed on this page require students to fulfil the specific entry requirement stated for the subject to be selected as part of a students study programme at sixth form:

Subject	Entry requirements
Applied Science	44 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 4 in two of the following: GCSE Biology; GCSE Chemistry; GCSE Physics and grade 4 in Maths.
Art (Fine)	Grade 4 in GCSE Art or a student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.
Business	Grade 4 in GCSE Business or Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English if the subject has not been studied at GCSE.
Criminology	Grade 4 in English (either Language or Literature)
Digital Creative Media	Grade 4 in English (either Language or Literature)
Drama	Grade 4 in GCSE Drama
Ethics, Philosophy and Theology	Grade 5 in English (either Language or Literature)
Health and Social Care	Grade 4 in English or Merit in Child Development plus a minimum of Grade 3 in English.
IT	Merit in an IT-based BTEC. If you have not studied IT at GCSE/ BTEC then a grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths.
Law	Grade 5 in English (either Language or Literature)
Music	Grade 5 GCSE Music and/or ABRSM Grade 5 or equivalent (practical) including ABRSM Grade 5 theory (or working at)
Photography	Grade 4 in GCSE Art or a student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.
Product Design (Resistant	Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology or Level 2 Merit in Engineering. If not studied before at least one grade 4 in Maths.
Sport and Physical Activity	Grade 4 in GCSE PE or Merit in a Level 2 Sport qualification. If not studied previously a grade 4 in Science.
Statistics	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths
LLS (full-time sports course)	Applicants require five GSCEs at 9-4 grades, plus Maths and English at a minimum of grade 4. Exceptions may apply if a grade 3 at Maths or English is gained. Applicants will also need to be successful at interview with LLS as a limited number of places are available.
Traineeships	Although there are no formal entry requirements, entry to this programme is by interview to ensure suitability. The traineeship can be studied alongside one of the above qualifications.

Applied Science (Level 3 Extended Certificate)

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	Level 3 AAQ Cambridge Advance National
Exam board and subject code	OCR H151 610/3948/2
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	44 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 4 in two of the following: GCSE Biology; GCSE Chemistry; GCSE Physics. PLUS grade 4 in Maths

Course details

This Applied General Science course follows a balanced programme covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It combines a familiar style of learning with refreshed content and an updated structure. This course will allow you to study how science is applied to many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work. You will also learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live. You will have opportunities to develop broader skills and to become a well-rounded scientific thinker. This course will allow you to progress to scientific careers via a range of HE pathways.

In the first year you will complete two units:

Fundamentals of Science - this covers areas such as medical physics, cells, the heart, exercise, sampling, the periodic table and rates of reactions.

Investigating Science - a practical based unit where you will plan and carry out your own practical work.

In the second year you will complete three units:

Science in Society - you will learn about the skills scientists use and the roles they perform in an international scientific community.

Forensic Biology and Environmental Studies.

Assessment

In Year 12:

Fundamentals of Science Exam - 1 hour and 30 minutes

Investigating Science - coursework

In Year 13:

Science in Society Exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes

Forensic Biology and Environmental Studies - coursework

Career options

This course is excellent for gaining ideas about employment opportunities in science as well as good preparation for courses in Higher or Further Education. Universities recognise the value of this qualification in relation to science and it supports any vocational based science career e.g. nursing, midwifery, science technician, forensic science.

Art (Fine)

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Donathy
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Art & Design (Fine Art) A Level 7202

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Art A student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.

Course details

The Fine Art course in a two year A level in which you will be taught how to make informed decisions about your own creative artwork and the world around you in a culture of experimentation, exploration and critical reflection.

You will learn how to use a broad range of art materials and techniques influenced and inspired by the work of contemporary and traditional artists, designers and photographers. The art tutors will expect you to investigate and reflect upon your own practice to take imaginative and creative risks in the artwork you produce.

You can explore any combination of painting and drawing, mixed media, intaglio printing, photography and digital manipulation using Adobe Photoshop. You have your own Sixth Form Art Studio in D10 with access to computers in which you can develop your artwork outside of lessons.

Each individual student will develop their own visual style influenced by the taught workshops. The skills you will develop will be wide and varied with a particular focus on personal expression and developing your own style and approach. Fine Art is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating.

Assessment

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

Career options

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

At the end of the A level course you will have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for higher education studying a wide range of Art and Design courses.

Biology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7402

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology OR Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science

Course details

A level Biology is an exciting course that builds on your existing GCSE knowledge of key topics such as stem cells, enzymes, immunology and genetics. It also introduces new topics such as muscles, the biology of cancer and up-to-date advances in research. Would you like to learn about things such as how we can stop disease progression by switching off the production of proteins or how the environment can cause inherited changes in features without changes to the DNA sequence?

Students will develop good practical skills during their Biology course and will complete experiments set by the exam board. This will provide excellent transferrable skills for future scientific courses and a wide array of careers.

Units studied include:
Unit 1 - Biological Molecules
Unit 2 - Organisms and substance exchange
Unit 3 - Cells
Unit 4 - Genetic information
Unit 5 - Energy transfers
Unit 6 - Organisms: responses to the environment
Unit 7 - Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
Unit 8 - Control of gene expression

Assessment

3 x 2 hours exams at end of Y13.
Paper 1 - exam on Year 12 content, including practical work.
Paper 2 - exam on Year 13 content, including practical work.
Paper 3 - exam on both years content and includes an essay.

You will complete required practicals throughout the course. The exams will test you on these practical skills. You will also receive a practical certificate if the teacher deems that your practical skills meet the pass criteria.

Career options

The subject has enormous applications and can be combined into a number of vocational courses at university. Many students go on to study subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Genetics, Nursing and Forensic Science or combine Biology with other subjects, e.g. Business and Psychology.

Business

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Potts
Type of qualification	Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business
Exam board and subject code	OCR 05834

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Business or Merit in BTEC Business if subject studied at KS4. Otherwise Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English

Course details

You will study 3 mandatory units: The Business Environment, Working in Business and Customers and Communication. And select an additional 2 units from a range of subjects such as Law, Accounting, International Business, Project Management etc.

You will learn how a business might evolve from a small start-up business to a large multinational organisation. You are required consider a range of different business types and gain an understanding of how the choice of business type might affect the objectives that are set. You will also look at the internal workings of businesses, including their internal structure and how different functional areas work together. Plus, by looking at the external constraints under which a business must operate, you will gain an understanding of the legal, financial and ethical factors that have an impact. You will also explore ways in which businesses respond to changes in their economic, social and technological environment and gain an appreciation of the influence different stakeholders can have upon a business.

Assessment

Unit 1: The Business Environment - worth 120 Points (external exam)
Unit 2: Working in Business - worth 60 Points (external exam)
Unit 4: Customers & Communication - worth 60 points (coursework)
Plus two optional units (yet to be confirmed) - worth in total 60 points each

Examples of Optional Units:
Unit 9: Introduction to Human Resources - worth 60 points (coursework)
Unit 3: Business Decisions (external exam)

Career options

The business world values the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information in order to make effective decisions and this course will equip you to gain these vital skills. Alongside this you will develop practical employability skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with both internal and external stakeholders, and to manage your time effectively. The Cambridge Technical provides a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or employment and are recognised for UCAS tariff points. Past Business students have also gone on to study Business related apprenticeships for Network Rail, Bentley & local firms. Alternatively students may go on to study a variety of Business and/or Economics related degrees at university. Business also combines well with Accounting, Politics, Geography, Law and Foreign languages at degree level. A wide range of career options naturally follow from studying Business. For instance – Retail Management, Human Resource Management, Marketing and Commercial Banking.

Chemistry

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7405

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry OR Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science

Course details

A level chemistry is an exciting, challenging and ultimately rewarding course designed to develop students' scientific skills and knowledge.

Practical chemistry is central to the way we deliver the core chemical concepts and is often where students learn to be the most creative.

We develop your knowledge and understanding of the concepts such as atomic structure, organic chemistry, energetics, kinetics, new and novel polymers, modern analytical techniques and catalysis.

Assessment

3 x 2 hours exams at end of Y13.

You will complete required practicals throughout the course. The exams will test you on these practical skills. There is no separate practical test but you will receive a practical certificate if the teacher deems that your practical skills are good enough.

Career options

A level Chemistry is a good choice for students considering careers in the health and clinical professions, including medicine, veterinary science, nursing, dentistry and forensic science. Studying Chemistry will also prepare students for industry careers, such as those within the pharmaceutical or petrochemical sectors.
Many of the skills you will develop are sought by employers from a wide range of backgrounds; A-level chemists are numerate and possess good communication skills.

Classics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Wilmore
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	OCR H408

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

The World of the Hero (H408/11)
This component covers both Greek and Roman epic through Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid. You'll gain a deeper understanding of the epics' content, composition, and the religious, cultural, and social values they reflect. In Year 12, you'll explore Homeric values and legacy through the Odyssey. In Year 13, you'll study Virgil's Aeneid, a cornerstone of Western literature. These epic tales of gods and heroes provide a rich foundation for examining the classical world.

Culture and the Arts - Imperial Image (H408/22)
In this unit, you'll examine how Augustus Caesar crafted his public image to transform Roman society from republic to empire. By analysing literature and visual sources, you'll explore how Augustus presented his personal brand to all social classes and evaluate the long-term success of his image management—paralleling modern political spin.

Beliefs and Ideas - Greek Religion (H408/31)
This component explores ancient Greek religion as a central part of identity and daily life. You'll study how religious ritual influenced both personal and political life, the nature of the gods and their interactions with mortals, the role of Mystery Cults, and how emerging philosophical thought challenged traditional beliefs.

Assessment

The course is taught over 2 years with a final examination at the end. The course is assessed across 3 exam papers. Paper 1 is 2 hours and 30 minutes, and Paper 2 and 3 are 1 hour and 45minutes.

Career options

Valued by universities as an academically rigorous subject our two-year course enables you to develop key skills prized by employers, such as the ability to:
interpret and analysis a range of evidence from classical sources
evaluate evidence to produce analytical responses
present these judgements in a clear, concise and logical manner.

A background in classics can lead to careers in education, law, the media, politics, archaeology, museum curation, and more.

Computer Science

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Steed
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	OCR (H446) QAN = 601/4911/5

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

Computer Fundamentals
Students look at computing fundamentals, including hardware and software; the presentation, structure and management of data; how data is transmitted and networked; the life cycle of systems development; the characteristics of information systems; and the implications of computer use.

Programming techniques and logical methods
Students learn about designing solutions to particular problems; how procedural programs are structured; the types of data and data structures; the common facilities of procedural languages; how to write maintainable programs; and how to test and run solutions.

Advanced Computing Theory
Students understand the function of operating systems; the function and purpose of translators; how computer architectures are structured; how data is represented, structured and manipulated; high-level language programming paradigms; low-level languages; and how databases function.

Computing Project
Through coursework, students gain an understanding of definition, investigation and analysis; system design; software development and testing; documentation; evaluation; and how to produce written reports covering these topics.
The coursework is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Assessment

Computer systems 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (40%)
Algorithms and programming 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (40%)
Programming project Non-exam assessment (20%)

Career options

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of Computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computing A level and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

Criminology

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Taylor
Type of qualification	WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate and Diploma in Criminology
Exam board and subject code	WJEC 601/6248/X and 601/6249/1

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in English (either language or literature)

Course details

Unit 1 Changing awareness of crime
You will study different types of crime and look at why some people are reluctant to report certain crimes. You will examine the links between unreported crimes such as counterfeiting designer goods as a way to fund terrorism and human trafficking and consider the role of the media. You will have gained the skills to plan a campaign for change in relation to crime; for example, to raise awareness, change attitudes or change reporting of behaviours.

Unit 2 Criminological theories
You will gain understanding of why people commit crimes, what makes behaviour 'criminal'. You will be looking at what makes someone a serial killer or abusive to their family. This unit also addresses the theories of Criminologists and how these can be applied to real life scenarios. In this module you will learn how to evaluate expert opinions and gain skills to apply theories to specific crimes or criminals.

Unit 3 Crime scene to court room
You will be looking at how the justice system works, from the moment the crime has been identified right through to the verdict. How fair have past verdicts been? You will get to review cases and make a decision.

Unit 4 Crime and punishment
You will be evaluating how effective the Criminal Justice system is in England and Wales by asking questions such as why do we punish people? How effective are current punishments? Why do most people tend to obey the law?

Assessment

- Unit 1: 8 hour Controlled Assessment at the end of the unit
- Unit 2: 90 minute exam (external)
- Unit 3 8 hour Controlled Assessment at the end of unit.
- Unit 4: 90 minute exam (external)

Career options

Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is relevant to job roles within the Criminal Justice Sector, social and probation work, Sociology and Psychology. People who are considering working for the Police would also benefit from this qualification.

Digital Creative Media

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Darley
Type of qualification	BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 601/7467/5

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in English (either language or literature)

Course details

This is course aims to develop both theory and practical skills in relation to the study of media.

Year 12: There are two Units for Year 12. Unit 4: Production portfolio and Unit 14: Digital Magazine Production. This year focuses on the creation of a coursework portfolio and designing a magazine that features across print and digital platforms. For Unit 4, candidates need to understand the requirements at both pre-production and production level in order to effectively produce a fit for purpose digital media product. Part of this will require candidates to compile a pre-production portfolio evidencing primary and secondary research as well as reviewing the methods undertaken to create this work. Unit 14 will be assessed through the development of materials for the magazine production as well as through the production of magazine layouts applying the codes and conventions of the genre.

Year 13: This year is fully focused on the two exam units. Unit 1: Representations and Unit 8: Responding to a commission. For Unit 1 we explore a range of different media texts including magazines, films and print adverts. Key theories are taught in relation to the deconstruction and understanding of how texts are targeted towards an audience and consumed by them. For Unit 8 we explore the planning and preparation that is required when fulfilling the requirements of a set brief. This enables candidates to explore how to respond to a brief in terms of content, style, audience, purpose and approach. As well as working within the requirements and constraints of the client's specifications. Communication and problem solving skills will be integral part of successfully completing this external unit.

**please note there is no Supplementary level that results in a grade being awarded at the end of Year 12*

Assessment

There are four Units delivered over the courses of the two years.

Year 12 External Assessment:

Unit 4: Pre-Production Portfolio - Work in lesson and outside of lesson (90 hours)

Unit 14: Digital Magazine Production - Work in lesson and outside of lesson (60 hours)

Year 13 Internal Assessment:

Unit 1: Media Representations - Onscreen, Two Hours (80 Marks)

Unit 8: Responding to a commission - A set task from the Exam Board which consists of responding to a commission. Response in a 5 hour time period (75 Marks)

Career options

This course has a very vocational focus that would suit any workplace as it teaches independence and excellent communication skills. It links particularly well with: English Language and Literature, Journalism, Business and Media Studies all of which can be taken at Degree level. A university degree in Media Studies (e.g. TV production or a more theoretical course) or a related area such as Film or Cultural Studies. It also combines well with another subjects (e.g. English) or a degree in Sociology, Publishing and Information Science. The course allows students to develop a range of skills that are transferable to other areas of study as well as employment. The BTEC is designed as vocational qualification that is recognised in the Media industry e.g. television, radio, publishing etc. and therefore will provide a wide and varied range of employment desirable qualities.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Holland
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7262

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Drama

Course details

Component 1: Drama and theatre - You will study of two set plays and analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers.

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director).

Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

Component 3: Making theatre (practical) - Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play. Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to one which is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

Assessment

Component 1

What is assessed? Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre of the study of two set plays and live performance theatre review.

How is it assessed? Written exam: 3 hours. Open book.

Section A: one question (from a choice) of a set play (25 marks).

Section B: one, three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays (30 marks).

Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)

80 marks in total, 40% of A level

Component 2

What is assessed? Process of creating original performance and the application of a practitioner in a devised performance.

How is it assessed? Working notebook (40 marks) Devised performance (20 marks)

60 marks in total, 30% of A level which is marked by teacher and moderated by AQA

Component 3

What is assessed? Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) • Reflective report (20 marks)

60 marks in total, 30% of A level

How is it assessed? This component is marked by an external examiner from AQA.

Career options

Many of our students have gone on to study Theatre at university or at Performing Arts College. However, the course is not vocational. It helps students to develop excellent presentational and communication skills valuable in a range of professions, such as Law and Marketing. Students develop a high level of competence in analysis of text and performance, which has led to degree courses in English, History and American Studies for some of our candidates.

Economics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Potts
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9EBO

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

Economics is about real world issues that matter. Questions such as 'What impact does the economy have on the business world?' and 'Why do some economies grow and others don't?' will be covered.

You will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail, consumer choices and enterprise in the economy. You will also consider the role of banks and life in a global economy. (Themes 1 & 2)

You will explore the impact of globalisation on consumers, firms and the labour market. You will also investigate the role of the government and have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector. (Themes 3 & 4)

Through the study of Economics we will be debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare. We will be using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems. We also will be discussing alternative courses of action, such as how to use tradeable permits to reduce pollution and we will be keeping up to date with national and international trends.

An interest and passion for the Economy and World affairs would be beneficial. Economics works very well with many other subject areas, as the course stems from Humanities as well as Maths.

Assessment

100% externally assessed.
There are 3, 2 hour exams at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 - Theme 1 & 3; accounts for 35% of the A level
- Paper 2 - Theme 2 & 4; accounts for 35% of the A level
- Paper 3 - All 4 themes; accounts for 30% of the A level

Career options

Economics is a popular degree at University, and can be studied on its own, or combined with a variety of other subjects such as accountancy, a foreign language or geography. The study of Economics at A Level can also lead into other degree subjects such as Business and Finance. It also leads to possible careers in: the Civil Service, Insurance; Management, Accountancy, Retail and Finance.

English Language

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Darley
Type of qualification	A Level
Exam board and subject code	AQA A level 7702

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

A level English Language will enable you to study a wide range of texts from a range of time periods. It allows you consider different approaches of analysis and you will be able to apply the views of a range of theorists as well as contributing your own ideas and beliefs on the English language to analytical essays. Furthermore, there are various elements of creativity included within the course which are tested both in the exam and in the coursework components.

This course requires a certain amount of independent study alongside teacher support and intervention when needed.

Assessment

Exam – 80% Coursework – 20%

Exam Paper 1: Language, the individual and Society - The first section of this exam covers the introductory aspects of the study of language using a variety of texts that was studied during the two-year course. It mainly focuses on how language is used to create meaning and representation. However, Section B looks at 'Children's Language Development' looking at how children learn to read, write and speak.

Exam Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change - The first section of this exam unit may ask you to consider how men and women talk differently and whether men really are from Mars and women from Venus! You may also consider how much variety there is in the modern English language - for example, are accents really dying out? Section B will ask you to look at how language is changing and consider why, for example, 'wicked' now means something positive. In addition to this, you will be asked to consider language change and write an opinion article in which you voice how you feel about words such as 'Reem' entering the English language.

Coursework: Language in Action - In this coursework unit, candidates apply their knowledge of linguistic methods and concepts to an investigation of their choice. Students choose whichever area of language interests them most.
The investigation is followed by the production of a piece of original writing (e.g. a monologue) followed by a commentary.

Career options

English Language combines effectively at A level and at undergraduate level with a huge range of subjects. It is a useful subject for Journalism, Law, Media Studies, Social Sciences, Modern Languages and Speech and Language therapy. Effective English is always a great asset for employment. Students wanting to study a traditional English course at University may need to study Literature too.

English Literature

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Jardine
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7717

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

A level English Literature involves the study of a wide range of texts, including prose, poetry and plays, so a love of reading is a must. Students will study Shakespeare's 'Othello', Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' and a selection of John Keats' poetry through the lens of Tragedy (Paper 1). Students will also study a range Crime Writing (Paper 2) such as Ian McEwan's 'Atonement' and Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. Students are expected to read widely outside of class.

Assessment

Over the two-year course, students will prepare for two final examination papers (80% of the final grade) and a non-exam assessment (20%).

Paper 1 (2hr and 30 minutes) is a closed book examination on **Aspects of Tragedy.**

Paper 2 (3 hours) is an open book examination on **Elements of Crime Writing.**

The **Theory and Independence non-exam assessment** involves students selecting one poetry collection and one prose text (of their choice) and examining the texts through the lens of critical theory such as Feminism or Marxism. They will produce two essays of 1,250-1,500 words.

Career options

Of course, if you hanker to study English Literature in Higher Education, then an English Literature A level is a must. The new courses clearly offer plenty of scope for developing the kind of independent thought and study habits which will be essential at university level, and it's our aim to foster pupils' love of literature while fully equipping them to take their studies further.

English Literature fits well in any combination of A level subjects. In Higher Education an increasing number of courses allow for English to be studied alongside other subjects, particularly those from the Arts or Humanities.

The intellectual and practical skills learned and developed during this course are valued highly by universities and employers, and a good English Literature A level is widely recognised as proof of intelligence and communicative skills. Career opportunities include journalism, business and management, media and law.

Ethics, Philosophy and Theology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Skingle
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7062

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in English (either language or literature)

Course details

The A level course has two components:

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics: The following content is covered:

- Section A: Philosophy of religion - Arguments for the existence of God; Evil and suffering; Religious experience; Religious language; Miracles; Self and life after death
- Section B: Ethics and religion - Ethical theories; Issues of human life and death; Issues of animal life and death; Introduction to meta ethics; Free will and moral responsibility; conscience; Bentham and Kant.

Component 2: Christianity: Study of religion and dialogues: The following content is covered:

- Section A: Sources of wisdom and authority; God/gods/ultimate reality; Self, death and the afterlife; Good conduct and key moral principles; Expression of religious identity; Religion, gender and sexuality; Religion and science; Religion and secularism; Religion and religious pluralism.
- Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.
- Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.

Assessment

Written exam: 1 x 2 hour exam worth 120 marks and 1 x 1 hour exam worth 60 marks.

Career options

The course encourages students to develop their critical and evaluative skills which will enable then to go on to Higher Education studying a wide range of courses such as Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Law, Sociology and the Social Sciences.

This can lead to job opportunities in the following areas; business (particularly international business), counselling and social work, education, journalism, law, event planning, hospitality, or the service industry, the government, foreign service, or the Peace Corps, marketing and management, museums and the arts, non-profit or non-governmental organizations, publishing.

French

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Howlett
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA French 7652
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent plus Grade 5 in GCSE French (must have sat higher tier).

Course details

You will continue to study French through the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop your knowledge of society and culture, past and present, of the countries and communities where French is spoken. You will develop your opinions and be able to justify them on a wide range of topics. You will also explore the world of French literature and films. All Sixth Form language students work within small groups. We aim to provide you with a wide range of opportunities, by using magazines, newspapers, videos, songs, the internet, our state of the art multimedia language lab, cartoons and other authentic materials.

Assessment

Speaking Examination 30% Listening, reading and translation (Written paper)

50% Critical and analytical response in writing (Written paper) 20%

Career options

"Le monde est à toi!". Employers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of employing staff with language skills. Potential employers will often want you to combine your language skills with another subject area. The choice of University courses offering such opportunities is incredible: you can combine language study with a vast range of other subject areas including science, maths, business and the Arts. Your language skills can help to give you an advantage in a competitive job market and give you access to a higher salary. French sits in 3rd position amongst the top 9 languages for the highest paid jobs in Britain. * Students interested in Primary Education will also reap the benefits of studying a foreign language as the demand for teachers of MFL is constantly increasing. *

*As reported in The Independent in September 2016.

Geography

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Coxon
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9GEO

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

Paper 1: Interactions between Dynamic Landscapes and Resources - *30% of course*
Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change - Investigation topic: Coastal Landscapes and Change with **fieldwork** to the Anglesey and North Wales Coastline.
Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2: Interactions between Dynamic Places and Human Development - 30*% of course*
Topic 3: Globalisation
Topic 4: Regenerating Places
Topic 8: Superpowers
Topic 9: Health, Human Rights and Interventions

Paper 3: Synoptic Exam - *20% of course*
Based on knowledge and understanding from the above parts of the course.

Coursework: Independent Investigation - *20% of course*
Investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification. The investigation is internally assessed and externally moderated, within 3000-4000 words.

Assessment

80% Exam (Paper 1 30%, Paper 2 30%, Paper 3 20%)

20% Independent investigation

Career options

Developing excellent analytical and communication skills geographers can go into a wide range of jobs, including:
Advertising, Education, Environmental management, Finance, Law, Marketing, Retailing, Sales, Social/health services, Geographical Information Systems or any career with an environmental concern or interest.

German

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Howlett
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA German 7662

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent plus Grade 5 in GCSE German (must have sat higher tier)

Course details

You will continue to study the language through the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop your knowledge of society and culture, past and present, of the countries and communities where German is spoken. You will develop your opinions and be able to justify them on a wide range of topics. You will also explore the world of German literature and films.

All Sixth Form language students work within small groups. We aim to provide you with a wide range of opportunities, by using magazines, newspapers, videos, songs, the internet, our state of the art multi-media language lab, cartoons and other authentic materials.

Assessment

Speaking Examination 30%
Listening, reading and translation (Written paper) 50%
Critical and analytical response in writing (Written paper) 20%

Career options

'Die Welt liegt dir zu Füßen'. Employers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of employing staff with language skills. Potential employers will often want you to combine your language skills with another subject area. The choice of University courses offering such opportunities is incredible: you can combine language study with a vast range of other subject areas including science, maths, business and the Arts.

German is a widely spoken language, especially in Business, and by speaking the tongue, you are able to more closely work with people in Europe. Your language skills can help to give you an advantage in a competitive job market and give you access to a higher salary. Students interested in Primary Education will also reap the benefits of studying a foreign language as the demand for teachers of MFL is constantly increasing.

Government and Politics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Brookshaw
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9PLO

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

This is an exciting course aimed at students who are interested in how our world works!

You will be debating the power of the President in US politics, investigating why Americans are allowed to have guns and deciding how "free" people should be.

You will study the impact of the government in the UK on our lives, how the British system works and how decisions made in parliament are interpreted by the courts. You will explore different political ideas, from liberalism to socialism as well as specific issues such as the environment and gender equality.

If you are interested in whether referendums are the best way to make decisions or whether political parties should be doing more for the environment, then this could be the course for you.

Assessment

The Politics A Level will be assessed at the end of Year 13 with 3 exams.
Each exam is 2 hours long and is worth one third of the overall A level.

Paper 1: UK Politics. This includes topics such as democracy, voting behaviour and the media, as well as core political ideas such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Paper 2: UK Government. This includes topics such as the constitution, parliament, Prime
Minister as well as non-core political ideas where we study feminism.

Paper 3: Comparative Politics. This includes the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation and comparative theories.

Career options

Politics is an academic subject that is valued by universities, colleges and employers. You will be developing skills that are highly prized in the work place from analysis, to presenting an argument and carrying out independent research. Politics can lead to a wide-range of careers and professions such as law, journalism, marketing and many more.

Health and Social Care

Teacher in charge of subject	Ms Howard
Type of qualification	Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) Level 3 in Health and Social Care
Exam board and subject code	OCR H025

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature or a Merit in Child Development plus a minimum of Grade 3 in English Language or English Literature

Course details

This qualification is for learners who want to study health science or social care. It can also be applied to child care settings too. It isn't just about caring for the elderly and the ill; it will provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a health and social care related programme such as paramedic science or child nursing.

You will focus on: principles of health and social care, anatomy and physiology, person centred approach to care as well as supporting people with mental health and supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health.

This content will give you an understanding of health and social care in the wider contexts of different environments and settings where care takes place, the importance of communication as well as the importance of legislation. Students will also develop transferrable skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation.

Assessment

This course is based on 360 guided learning hours and is equivalent to one A level. The course is made up of 4 mandatory units plus other optional units set by the subject teachers.

Units covered in year 12 and year 13:

· F090 - Principles of health and social care (externally assessed exam paper)
· F091 - Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (externally assessed exam paper)
· F092 - Person centred approach to care (internally assessed NEA/coursework assignment)
· F093 - Supporting people with mental health (internally assessed NEA/ coursework assignment)
· FO96 - Supporting people in relation to sexual health and pregnancy (internally assessed NEA)
· FO97 - Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles (internally assessed NEA/ coursework assignment)

Career options

Suitable for a wide range of careers: nursing, care assistant, support worker, dental careers, health care assistant, midwife, occupational therapist, counsellor, probation officer, social worker plus many more.

History

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Brookshaw
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA HIS 1K and 2S

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

1K The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1975
You will explore how America came to be the superpower that it is today by looking at how America unified after its catastrophic Civil War, the impact of slavery, the social and cultural developments of America and weigh up its foreign policy decisions such as the Vietnam War. You will be exploring the development of modern American society and how the decisions of politicians have shaped the lives of millions. (Year 12: 1865-1920 and Year 13: 1920-1975)

2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007
You will explore the changing face of modern Britain from a country without an NHS and nearly bankrupted by war, to the affluent society of the 1960s. You will examine a range of issues, for example the rise of the teenager, the impact of the Falklands War, Thatcher's new economic policies and the "war of on terror". You will explore the impact of the media, immigration and music has had on British society during this time. (Year 12: 1951-1979 and Year 13: 1979-2007)

Historical Investigation (Coursework) 20% A Level
This is your chance to craft a convincing argument about the gruesome rebellions in Tudor England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Through this you will explore Tudor society, religion, law and order and threats from abroad.
You will carry out your own research to produce a 4000-4500 word essay.

Assessment

Paper 1 Exam (40% of A Level) - 2.5 hours

- 1 compulsory interpretations question: assessing 3 interpretations (30 marks)
- 2 essay questions from a choice of 3 (25 marks)

Paper 2 Exam (40% of A Level) - 2.5 hours

- 1 compulsory source question: assessing the value of 3 primary sources (30 marks)
- 2 essay questions from a choice of 3 (25 marks)

NEA (20% of A-Level) - 4500 word essay, completed in Year 13

Career options

A level History is a rigorous academic subject which is greatly valued by employers and universities. Through the study of History, you will develop the ability to argue a case effectively, analyse a range of information including a range of sources and present information cogently. These skills are sought after in a wide range of careers from law to journalism and from business to marketing.

IT - Digital systems and Data

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Steed
Type of qualification	Information Technology AAQ
Exam board and subject code	TBC

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Merit in an IT based BTEC. If you have not studied IT at GCSE/BTEC then a grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths.

Course details

This qualification is designed for students who are interested in understanding, building and evaluating digital systems. The course is based heavily on scenarios and the business needs and use of data, AI and cybersecurity.

The course will cover the following main areas;

WRP1: Prepare, analyse, interpret and present data from different sources to support conclusions and decision making

To achieve this you must be able to collect, analyse and validate data from a wide range of sources including AI, LLM and big data. You must be able to format and present this data appropriately.

WRP2: Apply security protocols and interpret system information to detect and escalate cyber security concerns

To achieve this you must implement security controls and interpret security-related information in order to identify potential cyber threats, apply appropriate protective actions, and escalate concerns in line with defined procedures.

WRP3: Prepare, configure and assure readiness of digital systems to meet user needs

To achieve this work-related purpose, students must prepare and configure digital systems in response to defined user requirements and confirm that systems meet defined functionality, usability, security and performance requirements.

Core Knowledge and Understanding

You will learn about the hardware, software, laws and requirements needed to make the IT infrastructure of a business suitable for purpose.

Assessment

TBC but will include both coursework and exam modules

Career options

We live in the Information Age so it is hard to see a career in which this set of knowledge and skills will not be relevant! In particular, the skills gained through studying the use of social media in business may allow you to gain direct entry to employment in this area and there are numerous University courses which will have IT as the main subject.

Law

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Skingle
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Law (7162)

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in English (either language or literature)

Course details

A stable and effective legal system is the cornerstone of a functioning society. When societal structures begin to break down, the root cause is often a weakened rule of law and failing legal institutions. This course explores how legal systems - particularly the English legal system - are essential to maintaining order and justice. Through the study of Law, students will gain a strong foundation in the core principles of English law and its ongoing evolution. The course examines how laws are created, interpreted, and applied, while also highlighting the roles played by legal institutions and professionals within the system. Students will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, along with a deeper understanding of how legal processes operate in real-world contexts. A strong emphasis on current events and legal developments ensures that learners appreciate the law not just as a theoretical discipline, but as a practical force that shapes everyday life and society.

You will gain a broad understanding of the legal landscape by exploring the nature of law and the structure of the English legal system. This foundation will help you understand the origins of legal principles and the sources from which law is derived. The course also provides insight into the roles and functions of key legal institutions and professionals, as well as the core procedures that underpin the operation of the justice system. Through focused study of Criminal Law and Tort Law, you will examine the concept of legal liability - learning how responsibility is assessed and applied, often through the analysis of real-life cases and hypothetical scenarios. The Human Rights element of the course is a welcome addition to the Law specification and allows you to explore how human rights are recognised in both theory and practice.

Assessment

3 x 2 hour exam papers say at the end of Year 13, all with a focus on the nature of law and the English legal system:

Paper 1: Criminal law

Paper 2: Tort law

Paper 3: Human rights

Career options

Legal Professions: Solicitor, barrister, legal executive.
Business: Many businesses rely on legal knowledge, so an A level in Law can be a valuable asset.
Other Legal Fields: Police force, probation, prisons, or court service.

Mathematics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs A Sutch
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9MA0

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent plus Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

Course details

A level Mathematics supports the study of a wide range of other A level subjects. Physics, Chemistry, and Biology rely on good algebraic and graphical skills, statistical techniques, and the use of a range of functions including logarithms and trigonometry. In addition, Economics, Psychology, Business, Computing and Geography all benefit from students having fluent and confident numerical, algebraic, graphical, and statistical skills.
Two thirds of the course is Core Mathematics and one third is Applied. Core Mathematics includes topics such as Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus. If you enjoy problem solving and are keen to further your experience of Pure Mathematics, you will enjoy this part of the course.
The Applied topics give you the chance to use your mathematical skills in real-life situations. Applied is split into two sections Mechanics and Statistics each with the same weighting. Mechanics is the mathematics used to study the physical world, modelling the motion of objects and the forces acting on them. This includes moments, where the turning effect of a force is considered. Statistics involves statistical sampling, data presentation and probability, all of which follow on from topics met at GCSE, leading to the study of statistical distributions with special properties, such as the Binomial Distribution.
Students are expected to use technology such as graphical calculators, graphing software and spreadsheets throughout the course.

Assessment

There are three two hour papers.
Papers 1 and 2 are Pure Mathematics (Core) each paper is worth one third of the overall A level.
Paper 3 is Statistics and Mechanics and is worth the final third of the A level.
A calculator is allowed for all three papers and there is no coursework element.

Career options

Whatever Mathematics means to you, the breadth of applications is immense. Mathematics underpins most of science, technology and engineering and is also important in areas as diverse as business, law, nutrition, sports science and psychology. There are many opportunities to use mathematics to make a difference in society, for example through the analysis involved in medical research, developing new technology, modelling epidemics or in the study of patterns of criminal activity to identify trends.
Many areas of employment see Mathematics A Level to be an important qualification. Higher Education courses and careers which require or strongly recommend A level Mathematics include: Accountancy, Architecture, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Studies, ICT, Medicine, Psychology and Teaching. Mechanics has links with Sports Science as well as Physics/Engineering. Statistics fits Business/Commerce, Insurance/Actuarial work.

Further Mathematics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs A Sutch
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9MF0

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent plus grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics - must also do A Level Mathematics

Course details

Further Mathematics provides a great opportunity for enthusiastic mathematicians to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge. Further Mathematics is essential for students hoping to do Mathematics degrees and highly advisable to anyone keep on pursuing STEM, especially if this is likely to be at a Russell Group university. Further Mathematics counts as a separate subject to Mathematics and can only be taken in addition to Mathematics.

Further Mathematics is 50% Pure Mathematics and 50% Mechanics. Topic areas studied include complex numbers, which allow the solution of a range of equations that would otherwise have no solutions, through the introduction of 'imaginary' numbers, and matrices which consist of grids of numbers that can be used to represent transformations and are used to solve simultaneous equations amongst many other uses. Other areas of pure mathematics are covered such as polar co-ordinates, differential equations and hyperbolic functions. In Mechanics, centres of mass and their effect on how a body moves are studied in depth, as well as circular and harmonic motion. Each of these builds on earlier topics and encourages the development of a wider understanding of the ways in which mathematical topics are interconnected.

Further Mathematics is a difficult A level requiring a huge commitment of time and effort. It is for those who love Mathematics and find learning about it interesting and rewarding.

Assessment

There are four one and a half hour papers.

- Papers 1 and 2 are Pure Mathematics (Core) each paper is worth 25%
- Papers 3 and 4 are Mechanics each paper is worth 25%

A calculator is allowed for all four papers and there is no coursework element.

Career options

If you plan to apply for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degree, you should consider taking Further Mathematics. Several of the more traditional Universities have Further Mathematics as a requirement to gain access to a Mathematics or Mathematics-based degree. Further Mathematics is also a fantastic qualification for those students who love Mathematics and want to devote more time to studying wider aspects of the subject.

Music

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Blythe
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7272

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 GCSE Music and/or ABRSM Grade 5 or equivalent (practical) including ABRSM Grade 5 theory (or working at)

Course details

The AQA specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills you will have acquired studying GCSE music. Similarly to GCSE, the course is based on three main strands: Appraising music (listening), Performance and Composition, providing a balanced study of music, in which skills and understanding are developed, revisited and reinforced throughout the course.

Subject Content

Music is taught through 3 main strands:

Appraising music

Listening, analysis, and contextual understanding, covering the following topics:
Western Classical tradition, including Baroque Solo Concerto, The Opera of Mozart and The Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms, and Grieg
Music for Theatre
Popular Music

Performance

Solo and/or ensemble performances of no less than 10 minutes. You can perform as an instrumentalist, vocalist or in music production. The minimum level of skill required is Grade 5 or equivalent.

Composition

Composition is assessed in two ways: Composition to a Brief and Free Composition

Assessment

Component 1: Appraising music (40% of A-level)
- Section A: **Listening** (56 marks),
- Section B: **Analysis** (34 marks)
- Section C: **Essay** (30 marks)

Component 2: Performance (35% of A-level)
- **Solo and /or ensemble** performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).
- A minimum of **ten minutes** of performance in total is required.

Component 3: Composition (25% of A-level)
- **Composition to a brief** (25 marks)
- **Free composition** (25 marks)
- A minimum of **4 minutes 30 seconds** of composition in total is required.

Career options

The A level course provides an excellent basis for continued study at degree level. Whilst candidates often pursue a career in music, it is equally a respected and acceptable academic A level and would provide a valuable complementary area of study when combined with other A levels. Careers in music include those such as professional musician, music therapy, music teaching, sound technician or broadcasting.

Photography

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Donathy
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Art & Design (Photography) A Level 7206

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Art or a student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.

Course details

The Photography course is a two year A level in which you will be taught how to make informed decisions about your own creative practice and the world around you in a culture of experimentation, exploration and critical reflection.

You will learn how to use a broad range of photographic techniques influenced and inspired by the work of contemporary and traditional photographers, designers and artists. The photography tutors will expect you to investigate and reflect upon your own practice to take imaginative and creative risks in the images you produce.

You will be taught the Techniques of Production of photography, Adobe Photoshop and explore Documentary, Still Life and Abstract photography before developing a personal project. You have your own Sixth Form Studio in D10 with access to computers in which you can develop your portfolio outside of lessons. The course is designed using Microsoft OneNote and your final portfolio will be a digital Flip eBook that can be accessed online.

Each individual student will develop their own visual style influenced by the taught photographic workshops. The skills you will develop will be wide and varied with a particular focus on personal expression and developing your own style and approach. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.

Assessment

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

Career options

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.
At the end of the A level course you will have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for higher education studying a wide range of Art and Design courses.

Physics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	OCR Physics A (H556)

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics OR Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science

Course details

The course is taught as 6 modules as detailed below:

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

A level Physics will give a solid basis for further study in physics, any engineering and many other sciences as well as building skills for all problem-solving future careers.

A level Physics complements A level Mathematics well, with mechanics covered in both subjects.

Assessment

3 written exams at the end of Y13

Paper 1: Modelling Physics - 2hr 15 minutes
Paper 2: Exploring Physics - 2hr 15 minutes
Paper 3: Unified Physics - 1 hr 30 minutes

You will complete required practicals throughout the course. The exams will test you on these practical skills. You will also receive a practical certificate if the teacher deems that your practical skills meet the pass criteria.

Career options

You will develop numerical, analytical, problem-solving and practical skills that are highly sought after by employers in many sectors as well as science and engineering.

The three major employers of career physicists are academic institutions, government laboratories, and private industry, with the largest employer being the last. Many people who are trained as physicists, however, use their skills in other parts of the economy, in particular in engineering, computing, and finance.

Product Design

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Potts
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9DT0

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology or Level 2 Merit in Engineering. If not studied before at least one grade 4 in Maths.

Course details

During year 12 year, through project work we will focus on developing your designing and making skills to a higher level, including the use of CADCAM as well as using more traditional graphics and workshop equipment. You will then start a challenging design and make project which will be completed in year 13 for the NEA. In addition to the practical coursework, Principles of Design and Technology will be covered. These principles are covered in the following topics:

- Topic 1: Materials
- Topic 2: Performance characteristics of materials
- Topic 3: Processes and techniques
- Topic 4: Digital technologies
- Topic 5: Factors influencing the development of products
- Topic 6: Effects of technological developments
- Topic 7: Potential hazards and risk assessment
- Topic 8: Features of manufacturing industries
- Topic 9: Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- Topic 10: Current legislation
- Topic 11: Information handling, modelling and forward planning
- Topic 12: Further processes and techniques.

Through your choice of major project, it is possible to specialise in a material area such as graphics or resistant materials.

Assessment

Written Exam 50% of the qualification
Taken in Year 13
Principles of Design and Technology

Course work 50% of the qualification
Completed in Year 13
Independent Design and Make project
This project is instigated by a client, negotiated with the student leading to a working prototype.

Career options

Students have gone on to study degrees in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Motor Vehicle Design, Product Design, CAD designer, Architecture. Over the years some students have chosen to follow industry sponsored degree courses or high level apprenticeships whilst in employment e.g. Bentley (Crewe) and BAE systems.

Psychology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Coxon
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7182

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour.

The course covers all the main, traditional areas of Psychology and some more current and applied areas, as well as developing the students' understanding of Psychological research and their ability to carry out small-scale research studies.

Paper 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2 - Psychology on Context: Approaches in Psychology, Research Methods and Bio-Psychology.

Paper 3 - Issues and debates in Psychology plus 3 options in Psychology chosen from the following: Relationships/Gender/Cognition and Development, plus one from Schizophrenia/Eating Behaviour/Stress and one from: Aggression/Forensic Psychology/Addiction.

Assessment

The course is assessed by 3 x 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Exams include longer answer essay questions, multiple-choice questions, shorter knowledge-based questions and questions requiring the students to apply their understanding to new situations.

Career options

Previous students have gone on to a variety of University courses:

e.g. Psychology, Law, Medicine, Business, Media, Criminology, Sports and Social Sciences. It is also a useful preparation for Nursing, Social Work, Teaching and Advertising.

Psychology A level is useful for anyone considering a career where they will be working with people and can often add an extra dimension to the application of someone doing predominantly arts or the more traditional science courses.

Sociology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Coxon
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7192

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent

Course details

Sociology is the study of society and the way it shapes our lives. If you've ever questioned why inequality exists, how identities are formed, or what role education, crime, and media play in modern life, then sociology offers the tools to explore those ideas critically. This subject helps you understand the structures, institutions, and cultural norms that influence human behaviour—and how they can be challenged or changed.

Year 12 Topics:

Education with Research Methods: Explore how factors like social class, gender, and ethnicity affect educational achievement. Learn how sociologists conduct research.

Families and Households: Examine changes in family structures, gender roles, and the impact of policies on family life.

Year 13 Topics:

Crime and Deviance with Theory & Methods: Investigate who commits crime, why people break laws, and how societies respond. Apply sociological theories to crime and broader social issues.

Beliefs in Society: Study the role of religion, secularisation, and the rise of new spiritual movements

Assessment

The course is assessed by 3 x 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Education with Methods in Context
Paper 2: Families & Beliefs (Topics in Sociology)
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Career options

Sociology is valued in a wide range of careers including: Social work, youth work, policing, journalism, politics, law, teaching, human resources, marketing, public policy and charity sector work
It pairs well with subjects like Psychology, Politics, History, Criminology, and English.

Spanish

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Howlett
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Spanish 7692
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	5 x grade 5 GCSEs or equivalent plus Grade 5 in GCSE Spanish (must have sat higher tier)

Course details

You will continue to study the language through the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop your knowledge of society and culture, past and present, of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. You will develop your opinions and be able to justify them on a wide range of topics. You will also explore the world of Spanish literature and films.

All Sixth Form language students work within small groups. We aim to provide you with a wide range of opportunities, by using magazines, newspapers, videos, songs, the internet, our state of the art multi-media language lab, cartoons and other authentic materials.

Assessment

Speaking Examination 30%

Listening, reading and translation (Written paper) 50%

Critical and analytical response in writing (Written paper) 20%

Career options

'Te comes al mundo'. Employers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of employing staff with language skills. Potential employers will often want you to combine your language skills with another subject area. The choice of University courses offering such opportunities is incredible: you can combine language study with a vast range of other subject areas including science, maths, business and the Arts.

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and by speaking the tongue, you are able to more closely work with people in Europe, as well as those in the US and South America. Your language skills can help to give you an advantage in a competitive job market and give you access to a higher salary.

Students interested in Primary Education will also reap the benefits of studying a foreign language as the demand for teachers of MFL is constantly increasing.

Sport

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Blythe
Type of qualification	Cambridge Technical Level 3 – Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity
Exam board and subject code	OCR 601/7094/3

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE PE or Merit in a Level 2 Sport qualification. If not studied previously a grade 4 in Science.

Course details

The course is equivalent of 1 A-level and will be studied over two years.
The course includes both theoretical and practical elements which students will find challenging but enjoyable.

Units studied:
Unit 1: Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity (exam)
Unit 2: Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership
Unit 3: Sports Organisation and Development (exam)
Unit 10: Biomechanics and Movement Analysis
Unit 19: Sports Psychology

It is an excellent course which sport-minded students will love!

Assessment

Mandatory units 1 and 3 will be externally assessed. Unit 1 will be a 70 mark 1 ½ hour examination and will take place in year 12. Unit 3 will be a 60 mark 1 hour examination and will take place in year 13. Both unit examinations can be resat in the following examination window in either January or June.

Unit 3, and the other optional units, will be internally assessed by the class teacher. This assessment will take place in the form of assignments, presentations, portfolios and reports.

Career options

Universities recognise the value of this qualification for careers:

- Teaching
- Sport Development
- Sport Coaching
- Sport Science
- Sport & Leisure Management

Statistics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Sutch
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9ST0
	Entry requirements
Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths

Course details

This course will help students to develop the skills of statistical enquiry and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real-world data and authentic contexts. Our approach supports skills development for progression to a range of other subjects and develops and awareness of statistics beyond the classroom.

- Paper 1: Numerical measures, graphs and diagrams, probability & distributions, correlation, and linear regression.
- Paper 2: Hypotheses testing, contingency tables, one and two sample non-parametric tests, experimental design, sampling, confidence intervals, goodness of fit, analysis of variance and effect size.
- Paper 3: Questions may be set on any of the topics within the specification, including the statistical enquiry cycle.

The emphasis of the course is on using and applying statistics; appropriate interpretation of contexts and the outcomes of statistical procedures will be required - it is a qualification that enables students to apply themselves and gives them the logical, problem-solving and numerical skills to succeed in their chosen pathway.

Assessment

The course is assessed by three two hour exams at the end of the second year. There is no coursework.

Paper 1: 2 hours (Probability & Data)
Paper 2: 2 hours (Statistical Inference)
Paper 3: 2 hours (Statistics in Practise)

Career options

Using and understanding data is becoming increasingly important in may areas of study and employment. Understanding statistics is a crucial skill, and this specification aims to give students the tools needed to help them to prepare for higher education and the work place.

A Level Statistics might appeal to the student seeking to pursue the study of a numerate post-16 subject but not wishing to study pure mathematics. It is desirable for careers linked to medicine, research, law, environmental management, humanities, business, finance and economics.

EPQ

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Rayner
Type of qualification	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – additional qualification equivalent to an AS level (1/2 A level)
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7993

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Optional for all students to add to their other programmes of study

Course details

Why study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)?

The EPQ enables you to explore a topic in depth, or to be creative, in ways that take you beyond or outside of your A Level studies. It is designed to sit alongside your other subjects. By taking this qualification you develop the sorts of independent learning skills that universities value. It must not cover topics you will be examined on for your A Levels (but can, of course, be totally unrelated to them). Extended project is offered in Year 12 as a fourth qualification to complement students studies for their first year, submitting their project in the first week of the summer term.

What can I choose to do?

The choices are limitless, no two projects are the same. You will spend the initial period discussing your ideas and making the right choice for you. Your project will end up as one of the following:

- An extended essay of 5,000 words
- An artefact (e.g. piece of art, music, a short film, creative writing, a performance) supported by a report of at least 1,000 words.

Examples of previous A / A* submissions being:

- Is there a gender bias in the diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder (APD)?
- Production of an art installation to raise awareness of climate change.
- Does the moon influence people's mood?
- Are anti-depressants overprescribed in 2023?
- Could artificial intelligence spell the end for humankind?

Assessment

100% coursework assessed via EPQ product, Production Log and Presentation

Career options

The EPQ is valued by a broad range of universities who may reduce their offer for high grades EPQs or include them in a points based offer. Universities differ in whether or not they will include the EPQ as part of any offer they make to a student, but you students can draw upon their Extended Project in their personal statement and at interview to provide evidence of enthusiasm for their chosen subject.

Teacher in charge of subject	This course is delivered by LLS – A trusted partner who specialise in 16-19 sports education and careers development.
Type of qualification	BTEC Extended Diploma – equivalent to up to 3 A Levels.
Exam board and subject code	603/0459/5
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Applicants require five GSCEs at 9-4 grades, plus Maths and English at a minimum of grade 4. Exceptions may apply if a grade 3 at Maths or English is gained. Applicants will also need to be successful at interview with LLS as a limited number of places are available.

Course details

Year 1:

- Principles of Anatomy & Physiology
- The Physiology of Fitness
- Assessing Risk in Sport
- Fitness Training and Programming
- Sports Coaching
- Sports Development
- Fitness Testing for Sports and Exercise
- Practical Team Sports
- Practical Individual Sports

Year 2:

- Sports Nutrition
- Current Issues in Sport
- Organising Sports Events
- Instructing Physical Activity and Exercise
- Psychology for Sports Performance
- Sports Injuries
- Analysis of Sports Performance
- Rules, Regulations and Officiating Sport
- Work Experience in Sport

Assessment

You will be assessed throughout the course in several different ways. These will be written assignments, presentations, production of videos and practical observations.

Career options

LLS is a combined academic and practical course which gives students a wide and varied understanding of the sports industry. Completing the LLS course gives you a pathway to many career options in the sports industry. Students can access university, scholarships and apprenticeships, full time sports jobs which involves travelling abroad. Popular career pathways from the course are Coaching, Teaching, Physiotherapy, Personal Training and Professional Athletes.

T-level in Education

Teacher in charge of subject	Ms L Howard
Type of qualification	T Level: Education and Early Years, Supporting Education specialism
Exam board and subject code	NCFE/CACHE – T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in English Language or English Literature.

Course details

The NCFE T Level in Education and Early Years is a two-year Level 3 qualification designed for students who want to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for future study or employment in education. At Alsager School, we intend to offer the Assisting Teaching occupational specialism. This means the course will focus on supporting learning in school and education settings.

This course will take up all of your learning hours and can only be combined with a GCSE resit in Maths.

Students will study core content linked to the education sector from ages 0 to 19, including child and young person development, safeguarding, health and safety, wellbeing, behaviour, equality and diversity, special educational needs and disability, English as an additional language, and the role of families and wider support agencies. The course also develops students' understanding of reflective practice and professional responsibilities when working with children and young people. Within the Supporting Education specialism, students will learn how to support teaching and learning, build positive relationships, communicate effectively, help pupils access the curriculum and contribute to safe, inclusive learning environments. A key part of the T Level is the industry placement, which gives students practical experience of working with an employer and applying what they have learned in real education settings.

Assessment

The T Level is assessed through a combination of external examinations, an employer-set project and assessment of the occupational specialism.
The core component is graded A* to E and includes externally assessed examinations and an employer-set project.
The Supporting Education occupational specialism is assessed through synoptic assignments and is graded distinction, merit or pass.
Students must also complete a substantial industry placement, normally at least 315 hours, to successfully complete the T Level programme.

Career options

This course is ideal for students considering careers in education, teaching support, special educational needs support, pastoral work, youth work or wider roles involving children and young people. It can support progression to employment, higher-level apprenticeships or university courses linked to education, childhood studies, primary teaching, special educational needs, psychology, social care or related subjects. Students may progress towards roles such as teaching assistant, learning mentor, special educational needs teaching assistant, education support worker or further training leading towards teaching and other education-based careers.

Alsager Sixth Form College Traineeships

Teacher in Charge: Mr Rayner / Mrs Casewell

Entry Requirements:
Although there are no formal entry requirements, entry to this programme is by interview to ensure suitability.

What is a Traineeship?
A Traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that is focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for. At its core are work preparation training with a BTEC in Work Skills, GCSE English and Maths GCSE lessons for those who need it, and a high quality work experience placement.

Is a traineeship right for me?
Traineeships are an ideal opportunity for young people who are motivated to get a job but who lack the skills and experience that employers are looking for. In addition to requiring work skills you will probably not have achieved a 4 or above in GCSE English and or Maths.

Course Details:
Four lessons per fortnight per resit subject. Students are entered to resit exams during the November and May exam series. Four lessons of BTEC work skills and up to four days work experience per fortnight.

What are the benefits of a Traineeship?
- A Traineeship will put you in a better position to compete for an apprenticeship or vocational based college course.
- The opportunity to build your CV and get vital experience with local companies.
- Improving your English and Maths skills will boost your chances of getting a job, as well as improving your long term prospects and earning potential over your lifetime.
- Employers are at the centre of Traineeships to ensure they give you the skills you need to secure a job and succeed in employment.
- At the end of the work experience placement you'll get a job interview with the company if a role becomes available or a reference and an exit interview.
- Students will receive careers guidance and information on apprenticeships and job opportunities throughout the course.

Career options:
On completion of the one year course, students are equipped with the work skills and qualifications to enable them to apply and ideally secure an apprenticeship in their chosen work area. Or if they wish they can apply to progress onto CTEC, BTEC or A level courses within our Sixth Form providing they meet the course specific entry requirements.

Wider Curriculum Opportunities

At Alsager Sixth Form College we fully promote a positive approach to taking the opportunities that are available for students to engage in. These activities also support the development of personal attributes and characteristics. As well as simply being enjoyable these can also provide the evidence that future employers and universities are looking for in a potential applicant. Below is a summary of some of the enrichment activities that students at Alsager Sixth Form College engage in:

SportSocs (Sports and Societies)

The Alsager Sixth Form College fortnightly society programme allowing for participation in a range of different activities, including sports, Future Medics, debate, music, crafting, baking and many other worthy activities students would like to complete with like-minded souls in their society. Societies are formed at the start of the year with students signing up to the society of their choice.

Guest Speaker Talks

A fortnightly programme of guest speakers, exposing students to a vast range of academic and cultural experiences.

Student leadership

Our Head Student Team are a pivotal part of the evolution of the sixth form and that the voice of the student body is heard and utilised in our goal to ensure every aspect of the sixth form is outstanding. Attached to the roles of Head and Deputy Head students are specific responsibility in the areas of: Community, Charity, Diversity & Wellbeing, Sixth Form Experience and Sixth Form Media and Communications.
In Year 12 students can be a representative of their tutor group, attending regular meetings led by the Head Student Team.

Mentoring/tutoring

As part of the sixth form tutor programme students are offered the opportunity to support students from Alsager School, either in the role of a subject tutor – aiding their understanding of a subject, or as a mentor – providing guidance as an older role model for younger students. All students receive full training for these roles to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to ensure mentoring/ tutoring partnerships are successful and maintain appropriate boundaries.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

A life-changing experience. An opportunity to have fun with friends. A chance to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers.

Volunteering

As part of our ongoing work with the community Alsager Sixth Form is actively seeking opportunities for students to volunteer in the local community. An example of this is our partnership with the charity 'Friends for Leisure' – an organisation that helps disabled children and young people in Cheshire East enjoy friendship and leisure time.

Application Timeline

8th October 2026	Online Applications Open
1st December 2026	Deadline* for submission of course choices which informs the design of the options grid. Applications received after this date will not be able to influence the design of the options grid or timetable.
December to February 2027	Advice and Guidance conversations with all applicants and their parents, initial choices confirmed or amended as required.
March 2027	Applicants to receive conditional offer letters detailing grade requirements for their chosen courses.
22nd June 2027	Sixth Form transition day. Opportunity to complete lessons and information sessions to prepare students for life as a sixth form student. An information session will be provided to share information with parents/carers at this same time.
19th August 2027	Publication of GCSE results. Enrolment of students and advice and guidance conversations with applicants as required.
2nd September 2027	First day of term

***Although the initial submission deadline is 1st December 2026, we accept new applications until 30th September 2027.**

sixthform@alsagerschool.org

01270 871122

alsagersixthform

@alsagersixth

Alsager Sixth Form College

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The Cornovii Trust

The Cornovii Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 8597784 and having its registered office at Hassall Road, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2HR