Globally Minded • Future Ready

Sixth Form Prospectus

Principal's Welcome

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to inspire every student through an innovative, world-class education.

As we launch our exciting brand new Sixth Form offer, we are proud to provide once-in-a-lifetime enrichment experiences that complement exceptional academic study. This is a place where ambition meets opportunity, where every young person is empowered to aim high, grow with confidence, and achieve success at the very highest level.

We believe passionately in nurturing the natural curiosity and unique potential of every learner. Our curriculum is enriched with first-class opportunities for leadership, creativity, personal development, and global connection is designed to shape not only great scholars, but also outstanding young people ready to make a difference. We are proud to develop students who are 'globally minded and future ready', prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

At the heart of everything we do are the values that define us: acting with kindness, learning with curiosity, and living with integrity. These principles are lived every day in our classrooms, in our community, and through the remarkable achievements of our students. Our learners leave us as confident, resilient, and compassionate individuals, ready to succeed at university, in the workplace, and on the global stage.

As a recognised World Class School for High Performance Learning (HPL), we are proud to lead educational excellence both within our walls and across the wider region. Through collaboration, innovation, and a relentless focus on high standards, we ensure every teacher is the best they can be because great teaching transforms lives.

I warmly invite you to join our thriving Sixth Form community, a place of exceptional teaching, high expectations, and unforgettable experiences. Together, we will continue to shape futures, raise aspirations, and inspire success for every student.

- Chris Bishop

Welcome
FROM OUR
Head of Sixth Form

"It is a privilege to work with such a vibrant and aspirational community of young people as they take the next step in their educational journey. In my role, I am committed to ensuring that every student is supported academically, personally, and socially so they can flourish both inside and outside the classroom. Working closely with our dedicated Sixth Form team, I strive to create an environment where students feel empowered, valued, and confident to pursue their ambitions.

Whether students are preparing for university, apprenticeships, or the world of work, our focus is on helping each individual develop the skills, independence, and resilience needed for the future.

I look forward to working with you and supporting you throughout this exciting and transformative stage of your education."

Aless Cambio

Assistant Principal, Head of Sixth Form

Meet our Sixth Form Team

Mrs Treagus

Sixth Form Study Centre Manager

Miss Hogben

Head of Year

Mr Jones

Head of Year

Pastoral life and Wellbeing in Sixth Form

At the heart of our Sixth Form is a strong commitment to pastoral care and student wellbeing. We recognise that academic success is most meaningful when it goes hand in hand with personal growth, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Our pastoral support ensures that every student feels valued, supported, and empowered during these important years.

Individual Guidance and Support	Community & Belonging	Preparation for the Future

Entry Requirements

Pathway 1

Students must achieve at least five GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including Maths and either English Language OR English Literature.

Pathway 1 is designed for students aiming to study A Level qualifications. It requires careful attention to individual subject entry requirements, which can be found on page 8 of this prospectus.

Pathway 2

Students must achieve at least four GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including Maths and either English Language OR English Literature.

Pathway 2 is tailored for students who wish to pursue Applied Academic Qualifications (AAQs) and BTEC courses. These qualifications offer a more practical and vocational approach to learning.

Application Timeline

27 November 2025
Open Evening
Discover more about our subject offering and Sixth Form provision.

Submit your application
Applications will open on Thursday 27 November and close on Saturday 31 January 2026.

Interview
Applicants are invited to an interview with a member of our school's leadership team - February 2026.

Conditional Offers made (in writing)
March 2026.

Scan here to start your application

Induction Week - All applicants
Get a taste of life at CCS Sixth Form - July 2026. (Week after exams end)

GCSE Results Day
Thursday 20 August 2026.
Please login to Applicaa to confirm your enrolment.

September 2026
School starts



Enrichment

At CCS, we are committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are ready to thrive in the real world. Our weekly Enrichment Afternoon is a dedicated time when students step away from their usual timetable to focus on personal development, future planning, and essential life skills.

Students will take part in inspiring Meet the Expert sessions, where professionals from a range of industries will share insights into career pathways and opportunities. These sessions are designed to broaden horizons and spark ambition. In addition, students can opt into focused 6–8 week programmes that build practical life skills. Topics include financial literacy (“How to manage my money”), independent living (“How to cook on a budget”), and understanding adult responsibilities (“What is a mortgage?”). These experiences equip students with the confidence and knowledge to navigate life beyond school.

Enrichment Afternoon is a cornerstone of our commitment to personal growth, helping students develop the skills, awareness, and ambition to shape their own futures.

Student Leadership

Our Sixth Form takes great pride in its strong tradition of student leadership. At the heart of this are our Head Students, who play a key role in shaping positive change and enhancing life and learning across the school.

The selection process for our Head Students is designed to identify individuals with creativity, vision, and a genuine commitment to our school community.

Applicants are invited to present their vision for the role to their peers, outlining ideas to strengthen community cohesion and enrich the Sixth Form experience for all. This stage allows students to demonstrate initiative and originality as they share their proposals for contributing to the life of the Sixth Form.

Following these presentations, shortlisted candidates take part in a rigorous interview process, giving them the opportunity to further articulate their goals and reflect on the leadership qualities they can bring to the role.

Head Students begin the role in the spring of Year 12, and continue until the Easter Term of Year 13, concluding before they begin the exam season.

Current Head Students

Pierre & Makayla

Subject entry requirements

Applied Science  Minimum of a Grade 4 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics or 4-4 in combined science	**Biology** Minimum of a Grade 7 in Biology, or 7-7 in Combined Science	**Business Studies** Minimum of a Grade 5 in Business Studies	**Chemistry** Minimum of a Grade 7 in Chemistry or 7-7 Combined Science
Computer Science Minimum of a Grade 6 in Computer Science	**Criminology**  No subject specific entry requirement	**Drama & Theatre Studies** Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Drama	**Economics** Minimum of a Grade 6 in Maths and Grade 6 in Business (if studied at GCSE)
Engineering  Minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths	**English Literature** Minimum of a Grade 6 in both English Lit and Lang	**Film Studies** Minimum of a Grade 5 in English Lit	**Fine Art** Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Fine Art
French Minimum of a Grade 6 in French	**Geography** Minimum of a Grade 6 in Geography	**German** Minimum of a Grade 6 in German	**Health & Social Care**  A Merit or above in L2 Health & Social Care (or equiv.)
History Minimum of a Grade 6 in History	**IT: Data Analytics**  Minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths	**Law** Minimum of a Grade 6 in English	**Maths** Minimum of a Grade 7 in Maths
Maths · Further Minimum of a Grade 8 in Maths	**Music** Minimum of a Grade 6 in Music	**PE** Minimum of a Grade 6 in PE and 6-6 Combined Science	**Philosophy** Minimum of a Grade 6 in English
Photography Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Photography	**Physics** Minimum of a Grade 7 in Physics or 7-7 Combined Science	**Politics** Minimum of a Grade 6 in English	**Product Design** Minimum of a Grade 6 in Design Technology
Psychology Minimum of a Grade 6 in English and 6-6 Combined Science	**Sociology** No subject specific entry requirement	**Spanish** Minimum of a Grade 6 in Spanish	**Sport**  Minimum of a L2 in Sport (or equiv.)

 **Pathway 2**

Applied Science

'Practical. Purposeful. Powerful.'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 4 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics or 4-4 in Combined Science

Exam board:
Edexcel

Why study this course:
Level 3 BTEC Applied Science is designed for students who love science and want to apply it in real-world contexts. Unlike traditional A Levels, this course focuses on hands-on, practical learning, giving you the skills to investigate scientific problems, analyse data, and communicate results effectively.

You'll study biology, chemistry, and physics concepts, exploring how science is used in industries such as healthcare, pharmaceuticals, forensic science, and environmental management. The course emphasises practical skills, problem-solving, and project-based learning, preparing you for higher education or directly entering the workforce with a strong, applied scientific foundation.

What this subject leads to:
BTEC Applied Science opens doors to a wide range of careers and further study. Popular pathways include biomedical sciences, forensic science, healthcare, laboratory work, environmental science, and applied research. It's also highly regarded by universities and employers because it develops practical laboratory skills, analytical thinking, and teamwork, which are essential in both scientific and non-scientific roles. Whether your goal is higher education, apprenticeships, or direct entry into a science-based career, this course equips you with the knowledge and skills to succeed.

Biology

'Unlocking the secrets of life'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 7 in Biology, or 7-7 in Combined Science

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
AQA A Level Biology covers the study of life at molecular, cellular, and organism levels. Students explore biological molecules, cell structures, and processes like respiration and photosynthesis. The course includes genetics, inheritance, and evolution, showing how traits are passed on and populations change over time. It also investigates ecology and ecosystems, focusing on interactions between organisms and their environment. Finally, students learn about physiology, homeostasis, and gene regulation, understanding how organisms maintain internal balance and control biological functions.

The AQA A Level Biology course is assessed through three written exams at the end of Year 13. Paper 1 covers Topics 1–4, Paper 2 covers Topics 5–8, and Paper 3 includes content from across the course, with a focus on data analysis and an extended essay. Each exam is 2 hours long and includes a mix of short-answer, long-answer, and data-based questions. In addition to the exams, students complete a Practical Endorsement, which involves carrying out 12 required practicals during the course: an essential component to continuing science related studies at degree level. This is assessed by teachers and reported separately as a pass or not reported, without contributing to the final A Level grade.

What this subject leads to:
A Level Biology will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means 'the study of life' and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest that will open the door to a fantastic range of careers within medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, zoology, environmental sciences and much more. Studying A-level Biology will make you step into a microscopic world that is 'life'.

Business Studies

'Show me the money…'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in Business Studies

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Business is all around us – from the products we buy to the services we use every day. Studying A Level Business Studies helps you understand how organisations operate, the decisions they make, and the impact these have on society, the economy and our daily lives.

This course is ideal if you want to: explore how businesses start, grow and succeed in a competitive world, learn how leaders make strategic decisions about finance, marketing, people and operations, develop skills in problem-solving, analysis, communication and teamwork and apply real-world case studies to deepen your understanding of current business issues. Whether you aspire to run your own company, work in management, or simply want a greater awareness of the world of business, this A Level gives you the knowledge and confidence to succeed.

What this subject leads to:
Studying A Level Business Studies at CCS equips students with a strong understanding of how organisations operate and make decisions. It develops transferable skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking, data analysis, and effective communication – all of which are highly valued by universities and employers.

The course provides practical insight into real-world business problems and decision-making. This develops a commercial awareness in students and an understanding of the business world. A Level Business Studies supports students with further study and careers in: Business and Management, Economics, Marketing, Finance, Accounting and Banking, Law, Human Resource, Management and International Business.

Chemistry

'Test the Limits'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 7 in Chemistry, or 7-7 in Combined Science

Exam board:
OCR

Why study this course:
Chemistry is often called the "central science" – it explains the materials that build our world, the reactions that power our bodies, and the innovations that drive modern technology. By studying OCR A Level Chemistry A, you'll go beyond the basics and dive into the fascinating details of matter at the atomic and molecular level. You'll explore Physical Chemistry, from energy changes and equilibrium to the mathematics of reaction rates. In Inorganic Chemistry, you'll uncover the patterns and power of the Periodic Table, from transition metals to redox reactions. In Organic Chemistry, you'll study the chemistry of carbon – the foundation of life – including everything from alcohols and aromatic compounds to polymers and medicines.

Alongside theory, you'll carry out the 12 required practical activities, where you'll learn how to design experiments, analyse data, and refine techniques. They will equip you with skills valued in scientific research, medicine, engineering, and beyond. You'll also develop problem-solving skills, interpret real chemical evidence, and gain confidence applying mathematics (which makes up at least 20% of the marks across exams). Assessment is through three written exams (totalling 6 hours). Your practical ability will be recognised separately through the Practical Endorsement, giving universities and employers proof of your hands-on competence.

What this subject leads to:
Chemistry is one of the most versatile A Levels you can choose – it's a passport to an incredible range of futures. If you're aiming for careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacy, chemical engineering, or biochemistry, Chemistry is essential. It also plays a central role in fast-growing fields such as pharmaceuticals, environmental science, forensic analysis, and materials research – where chemists are at the heart of solving real-world challenges, from developing new medicines to tackling climate change. But Chemistry doesn't just prepare you for science-based careers. The subject is highly respected in areas like finance, law, data science, and management, because it develops transferable skills employers love: logical thinking, analytical precision, and the ability to solve complex problems.

Computer Science

'Shape Tomorrow's World'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science

Exam board:
OCR

Why study this course:
Computing is central to modern life and increasingly essential in both academic and professional contexts. In this course, you will develop rigorous analytical thinking, logical reasoning, and systematic problem-solving — skills that are highly transferable and valued across a wide spectrum of disciplines. You will gain a strong foundation in computational theory and practical programming, enabling you to adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing technological landscape. You will be equipped to approach complex problems with clarity, precision, and confidence, whether you continue to deepen your programming expertise or apply the principles of computational thinking to diverse fields.

What this subject leads to:
This qualification equips you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to excel in a rapidly evolving digital world. It provides you with clear pathways to higher education and a wide range of rewarding careers, including Computer Science, Software Engineering, Game Design, Creative Media, Artificial Intelligence, Data Analysis, Robotics, and Cybersecurity. Through a combination of practical experience and analytical thinking, you will graduate ready to tackle complex challenges, innovate in technology-driven fields, and seize opportunities in some of the most dynamic industries of today and tomorrow.

Criminology

'Explore criminal behaviour'

Entry requirements:
No subject specific entry requirement

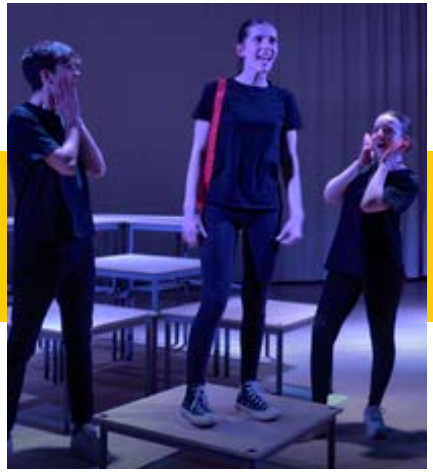
Exam board:
WJEC

Why study this course:
Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour; you will study crimes, criminals, victims of crime, the justice system, and punishments. This course will enable you to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and make recommendations for policy. You will also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness of crime and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases. WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of Psychology, Law and Sociology that also complements studies in Humanities.

What this subject leads to:
An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. The qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within aspects of the criminal justice system, for example, the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service. The qualification also supports access to relevant higher education degree courses with a focus on the criminal justice sector.

Drama and Theatre Studies

'Theatre is a mirror, a sharp reflection of society'



Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Drama

Exam board:
Eduqas

Why study this course:
Drama and Theatre allows you to explore the world of the past, present and future in a practical and creative way. It gives students unique opportunities to engage with material and worlds that are out of their ordinary realms and learn about the world surrounding them. Through the creation of practical work students use research to help develop and shape the drama.

You will have the opportunity learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these to new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time-management skills. You will also work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas, all of which will develop your emotional intelligence. Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills. Your analytical and creative written skills will be developed, alongside your ability to self-reflect. Studying Drama and Theatre will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. Through studying Drama and Theatre, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps

What this subject leads to:
The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report predicts creativity, innovation and ideation will be key skills for the workforce of the future. These so-called soft skills, which sit alongside analytical thinking and problem-solving, will replace manual tasks that become automated. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted Creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

Economics

'Your World Explained'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in Maths, Grade 6 in Business (if study at GCSE)

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
A-Level Economics teaches students how to apply economic theory practically to various real scenarios. Here at CCS, we like to conduct social experiments to combine with the theoretical concepts. Economics is a useful subject that can help you learn skills to prepare you for the challenges you may face in working life, like assessing the value of goods and investing for your retirement. It can also give you a clear understanding of the impact economic issues have, both historically and currently, and provide you with the tools you may require when managing these issues. It helps you to understand the way the world works and how it functions in response to the fundamental economic problem – how do we satisfy unlimited wants with scarce resources?

What this subject leads to:
Studying Economics gives some strong foundational skills into the way the world works and can be suited for those looking to pursue study further at University or those looking to enter the world of work through a Degree Apprenticeship.

Economics can lead to a wide range of careers in economics and finance-related professions including: Accountant, Actuarial Analyst, Chartered Accountant, Data Analyst, Economist, Finance and Banking, Financial Risk Analyst, Financial Planner, Forensic Accountant, Investment Analyst, Statistician, Stockbroker.

Engineering

'Engineering the future'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths

Exam board:
Edexcel

Why study this course:
The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Engineering (Extended Certificate) enables students to study the principles and applications of engineering including the fundamental mechanical, electrical/electronic and mathematical principles, the engineering sectors, engineering materials, engineering processes and emerging technologies.

Students will also develop important engineering design and project management skills when developing solutions to engineering challenges/problems. The mastery of Computer Aided Design (CAD) is a key element of the course and students are taught the use of industry-standard packages such as AutoCAD and Fusion.

What this subject leads to:
The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A Levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A Level STEM subjects such as A Level Mathematics and A Level Physics. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- Mechanical Engineering BEng
- Civil Engineering BEng
- General Engineering BEng
- Electronic and Electrical Engineering BEng

English Literature

'Explore. Analyse. Inspire'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in both English Language and English Literature

Exam board:
Edexcel

Why study this course:
A level Literature develops a broad understanding of human experience across multiple centuries and perspectives, encouraging students to empathise with a multiplicity of experiences beyond their own daily lives. We study all the major literary forms: poetry, drama and prose whilst covering diverse topics such as the scope of science, patriarchal society, racism, xenophobia, sexism, faith, relationships, childhood, memory, pride, the class system, betrayal, duplicity... and many, many more. The scope is broad, but the depth is granular: you learn to analyse and write with precision, clarity and confidence.

What this subject leads to:
English Literature A-Level is a highly regarded academic subject that provides a pathway to a wide range of degree programmes and careers. As well as single and joint honours degrees in English Literature, Language and Creative Writing, it is a recognised qualification for many other disciplines across the arts, humanities and social sciences.

English Literature A-Level is highly valued by employers. Alongside careers such as publishing, journalism, teaching, the legal profession, television and radio production, advertising, marketing and librarianship, the study of English Literature is excellent preparation for work in the charity sector, marketing, PR, arts administration, HR, the civil service, the intelligence services and business. Wherever analytical skills, effective communication and the ability to work independently are needed in the workplace, a background in English Literature will make you attractive to employers.

Film Studies

'Create your own story'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in English Literature

Exam board:
Eduqas

Why study this course:
This course is ideal for students who want to explore how and why films are made. A Level Film Studies focuses on the analysis and deconstruction of film over a wide historical time frame. It allows you to engage with films from early silent cinema to 1930s Hollywood films to contemporary and experimental cinema. Film Studies A Level involves studying 12 different films. These are separated into set categories, which are: American, British, Independent, Global, Documentary, Experimental and Silent Film. These are analysed via a number of different study area frameworks, including: film form, meaning and response, context, spectatorship, narrative, ideology, authorship, critical debates and theoretical debates.

What this subject leads to:
A Level Film Studies students can go onto study Film, TV or Media at University. Students have the option to study a practical degree, theoretical degree or a combination of the two. This can lead to a very broad range of professions with many students able to develop skills that will enable them to apply for production roles within the Film, TV and Media industries. Some students opt for careers within Journalism and photojournalism. A good degree in a creative arts subject like Film Studies can also develop a wide range of transferable skills including analysis, visual communication, problem solving, as well as communication, presentation and organizational skills.

Fine Art

'Open your mind'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Fine Art

Exam board:
Eduqas

Why study this course:
The course is designed to prepare students for the rigours of Higher education. The A Level coursework unit incorporates two linked elements – a series of workshops to improve skills and embed knowledge, which prepares students for the demands of the Personal Investigation and critical essay. Students will have opportunities to generate practical work, ideas and research from primary, secondary and contextual sources. They will experiment widely with media and techniques, develop and refine their ideas and present their outcomes. The examination represents the culmination of the A level course, encouraging student independence and innovation in the development of ideas, intentions and response(s).

Students will develop the following skills on this course:

- Development of ideas through sustained investigation informed by contextual sources
- Analytical and critical understanding and application
- Experimentation of media, materials, techniques and processes
- Observation and reflection
- Recording of ideas in visual /other forms
- Presentation of a personal response

What this subject leads to:
A Level fine Art will prepare you for the progression to either a Foundation Course in Art & Design or a BA (Hons) Degree; specialist areas include Fine Art, Fashion and Textiles, Illustration, Jewellery, Graphics, Interior Design and more. Potential careers could include: Professional Artist, Film Maker, Product Designer, Architect, and more.

French

'Culture. Confidence. Connection'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE French

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Choosing AQA A-Level French allows students to build on GCSE skills and develop their language proficiency to a high level. The course enhances spoken and written accuracy while deepening cultural understanding through the study of French film, literature, and contemporary issues in French-speaking societies. Students explore themes such as social change, multiculturalism, politics, and the arts, connecting naturally to subjects like history, politics, sociology, and media studies.

A key feature is the Individual Research Project, which enables students to investigate a topic they are passionate about, preparing them for university-style independent study. Alongside this, the focus on critical thinking, analysis, and structured argument develops transferable skills valued across all subjects.

Ultimately, AQA A-Level French is not just about learning a language — it's about becoming a confident communicator, gaining cultural awareness, and opening doors to further study, travel, and career opportunities around the world.

What this subject leads to:
Studying French at A-Level provides an excellent foundation for further study at university, either as a single honours degree, combined with another language, or alongside subjects such as business, law, politics, or international relations. Top universities recognise the intellectual challenge of A-Level languages, and students often strengthen their applications across disciplines. For those considering medicine in particular, studying a language is a real advantage, showing communication skills, cultural awareness, and the ability to connect with diverse people.

Geography

'Real world impact'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

Exam board:
OCR

Why study this course:
Studying OCR Geography A Level offers Real-World Relevance and a rich, relevant, and rigorous exploration of the world around us. It tackles pressing global issues and links classroom learning to current events and future challenges.

You will explore a range of physical and human geography topics, including coastal environments, natural hazards, global trade, the geography of disease, and geopolitics. Each topic considers the impact of change and uses contemporary examples to illustrate the opportunities and issues facing our world.
You will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment. Fieldwork investigations provide hands-on experience and practical insights.

What this subject leads to:
Geography's broad scope and the skills it develops, such as analytical thinking, decision-making, independent research and synoptic thinking, had led to it being recognised as a facilitating subject by the Russell Group of universities, which means it is a subject that is most likely to be required or preferred for entry into degree courses.

A Level Geography opens up a world of career possibilities, including roles in environmental science, policy-making, and international relations. The subject's ability to integrate traditional and modern topics, as well as its emphasis on fieldwork and case studies, prepares students for a variety of professional paths. Geography graduates are less likely to be unemployed after their degree course compared to those studying almost any other subject, highlighting its relevance and value in the job market.

German

'Culture. Confidence. Connection'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE German

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Choosing AQA A-Level German enables students to build on GCSE knowledge and advance their language skills to a high level. The course develops spoken and written accuracy while exploring German-speaking cultures through film, literature, and contemporary societal issues. Students investigate topics such as social change, politics, multiculturalism, and the arts, linking naturally to subjects like history, politics, sociology, and media studies.

A highlight of the course is the Individual Research Project, which allows students to pursue an area of personal interest, preparing them for independent, university-style study. The course also emphasizes critical thinking, analysis, and structured argument, helping students develop transferable skills valuable across academic disciplines.

What this subject leads to:
Studying German at A-Level provides an excellent foundation for further study at university, either as a single honours degree, combined with another language, or alongside subjects such as business, law, politics, or international relations. Beyond academic knowledge, learning a language develops transferable skills: resilience, creativity in problem-solving, adaptability across cultures, and the confidence to communicate clearly in unfamiliar situations. These qualities are highly valued in higher education and help language students stand out in a competitive academic and professional landscape. Top universities recognise the intellectual challenge of A-Level languages, and students often strengthen their applications across disciplines. For those considering medicine in particular, studying a language is a real advantage, showing communication skills, cultural awareness, and the ability to connect with diverse people.

Health and Social Care

'Health, Empower, Support'

Entry requirements:
A Merit or above in L2 Health and Social Care (or equivalent)

Exam board:
OCR

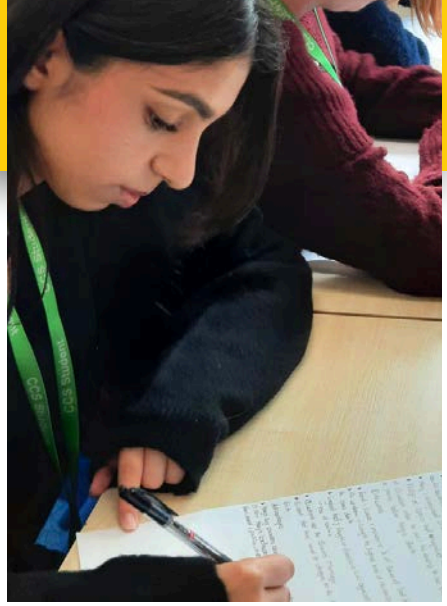
Why study this course:
The subject content is designed to engage students with relevant, real-life issues in contemporary society, including the challenges faced by vulnerable individuals, the importance of safeguarding, and how practitioners meet the needs of people across all life stages.

Students will study content such as Building Positive Relationships in Health and Social Care, Equality, Diversity and Rights, Health, Safety and Security, and Anatomy and Physiology. The course combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, helping learners to develop key vocational skills. Throughout the course, students will learn how to communicate effectively, understand the importance of person-centred care, and reflect on professional practice.

What this subject leads to:
This course provides a strong foundation for students aiming to pursue careers or further study in the health, social care, or early years sectors. It supports progression to higher education degrees such as Nursing, Social Work, Midwifery, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, and Primary Education, as well as apprenticeships in health and care settings.

History

'History shapes tomorrow'



Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in History

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Studying the Tudor period reveals how dramatic shifts in monarchy, religion, and society laid the foundations of modern Britain, from the power struggles of Henry VIII to the cultural legacy of Elizabeth I. By contrast, examining America from 1945 to 1980 highlights the nation's rise as a global superpower, the pressures of the Cold War, and the profound domestic changes brought by the civil rights movement and social reform. Together, these topics encourage students to think critically about how power, belief, and identity shape societies, offering valuable insights into the forces that continue to influence the modern world. These topics are externally examined papers totalling 5 hours of exams which are sat at the end of Year 13. These make up 80% of the overall grade.

There is also a non-examined assessment (NEA) which makes up 20%. Through the NEA process, students develop essential academic skills such as critical reading, independent research, and the evaluation of differing interpretations. The NEA also strengthens a student's ability to construct sustained, evidence-based arguments and to communicate complex ideas with clarity and precision—skills that are highly valuable for both further study and a wide range of future careers.

What this subject leads to:
Studying history equips students with the capacity to analyse complex evidence, construct reasoned arguments, and understand the dynamics of continuity and change over time. These skills foster intellectual rigour and adaptability, qualities that are highly valued across professions such as law, governance, research, education, and cultural institutions. Beyond specific career pathways, historical study cultivates a nuanced appreciation of diverse perspectives and the interplay between past and present, thereby preparing individuals to engage thoughtfully with the challenges of contemporary society and contribute meaningfully to future developments.

IT: Data Analytics

'Practical Digital Skills'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths

Exam board:
OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 3 (AAQ Extended Certificate)

Why study this course:
In a world driven by information, the ability to analyse, interpret, and present data is one of the most valuable and sought-after skills by universities and employers alike. The Cambridge Advanced National in IT: Data Analytics is a cutting-edge qualification designed to equip you with the practical expertise and theoretical knowledge to thrive in the digital age. Taken alongside your A Levels, this course will help you develop crucial transferable skills including critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and time management, all of which are vital for success in higher education.

You will gain hands-on experience in a range of specialised areas, including building and testing sophisticated spreadsheet data models to solve client problems, designing, creating, and reviewing relational databases for business use, exploring the challenges and innovations of Big Data and Machine Learning, creating powerful data dashboards to visualise and communicate complex information effectively, and planning and developing data-driven digital marketing campaigns.

What this subject leads to:
This qualification provides a solid foundation for progression to a wide range of university courses. The subject-specific knowledge and transferable skills you will develop are well suited to undergraduate degrees in areas such as Business Analytics, Information Technology, and Digital Marketing. These skills are also highly complementary to disciplines including Business, Computing, Geography, Mathematics, and Psychology. By mastering the tools of data analytics, you will be equipped to pursue further study and a career at the forefront of technological and business innovation.

Law

'Understanding legal principles'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in English

Exam board:
OCR

Why study this course:
A Level Law provides an introduction to law. It allows students to learn about a fascinating subject, one which covers many aspects of life. Students of A Level Law will develop an understanding of law and how it works, learn more about society from a legal perspective – both contemporary and historical and learn about the interaction between law and morals, justice and society. Students will develop a wide range of academic skills, including analysis, application and evaluation.

What this subject leads to:
A Level Law is a useful introduction for students who wish to study Law at university or start a legal apprenticeship; students will explore criminal law, human rights law and the law of tort alongside exploring the processes in the making of the law and broader concepts including the concept of justice. It is a well-respected subject and is a welcome addition to many A Level programmes of study. A Level Law links well with science subjects and humanities and social science subjects including, history, sociology, philosophy, economics and business.

Mathematics

'Theory of everything'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Students who choose A Level Mathematics will study three core areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics. All components are compulsory, ensuring students develop a well-rounded foundation in both mathematical concepts and their practical applications.

Assessments take place at the end of the two-year course through three written examinations, totalling six hours in duration:

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics
- Paper 2: 50% Pure Mathematics, 50% Mechanics
- Paper 3: 50% Pure Mathematics, 50% Statistics

This structure ensures students are fully prepared with a breadth of mathematical knowledge and skills that are highly valued in both higher education and future careers.

What this subject leads to:
Studying A-Level Mathematics opens a wide range of opportunities for further education and future careers. It is a highly versatile qualification that is well regarded by both universities and employers. Mathematics develops logical reasoning, problem-solving, and analytical thinking—skills that are highly sought after in today's job market.

Many university courses either require Mathematics at A-Level or view it as a strong advantage in the admissions process. Beyond academia, mathematical skills are essential in numerous professions, including finance, actuarial science, accountancy, engineering, data science, and a wide range of STEM-based careers.

Mathematics - Further

'1% Club'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 8 in GCSE Maths

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Students studying A Further Level Mathematics will explore three main areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics. Together, these provide a strong foundation in mathematical concepts and their applications.

Assessment takes place at the end of the two-year course through three written examinations (totalling six hours).

- Papers 1 and 2: Pure Mathematics
- Paper 3: 50% Mechanics and 50% Statistics

Our Further Mathematics students have consistently achieved at the highest level. In the most recent Year 13 performance data, the department was ranked within the top 1% nationally. This reflects both the exceptional commitment of our students and the expertise of our teaching staff, ensuring an outstanding foundation for further study and future careers.

What this subject leads to:
A Level Further Mathematics is a highly regarded qualification, valued by both universities and employers. It demonstrates advanced problem-solving ability, logical reasoning, and analytical thinking—skills that are widely transferable and in high demand.

Studying Further Mathematics can make a number of university courses more accessible, particularly in mathematics, physics, engineering, computer science, and other STEM disciplines. It is also recognised as an excellent foundation for careers where strong quantitative and analytical skills are essential.

Music

'Everything we do is music'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Music

Exam board: Eduqas

Why study this course:
You can develop your existing performance ability and use this towards achieving an A level by performing on your own, in a group, or both. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice, including band and orchestral instruments. If you already enjoy writing your own music or songs, you can use this ability and experience and learn how to develop your ideas into successful, extended, pieces. Also, exploring how great pieces of music were put together, then applying some of these techniques when composing your own music. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc. If you love listening to music, you will learn more about what makes the music you enjoy work so well. Listening to a variety of music and analysing what you hear, making connections between different pieces and describing how styles have evolved. If you love listening to music, you will learn more about what makes the music you enjoy work so well.

What this subject leads to:
In the future, Creativity shall be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work according to the World Economic Forum. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow, especially in the increasingly automated world of business. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

PE

'Perform. Analyse. Excel'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in PE and 6-6 Combined Science

Exam board:
Pearson

Why study this course:
The A Level PE course engages students with real-world sporting contexts and cutting-edge developments in sport, health, and physical performance. You will explore how the human body responds to physical activity, how skill is acquired and developed, and the influence of social and cultural factors on participation.

They will also learn how to evaluate and improve performance in a chosen sport, applying scientific principles to training and physical development. In addition, students will develop an understanding of how psychological factors such as motivation, confidence, and anxiety impact performance. Finally, the course enables students to analyse the role of sport in contemporary society, including key issues such as equality, media influence, and the effects of commercialisation.

Assessment for A Level PE consists of two written exams: Paper 1: Scientific Principles of Physical Education (2 hours 30 minutes, 40%) and Paper 2: Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education (2 hours, 30%), alongside a Non-Examined Assessment (30%) which includes practical performance in one sport and a written Performance Analysis and Evaluation.

What this subject leads to:
This A Level PE course offers a comprehensive understanding of sport and physical education through a combination of theoretical and practical study. It is ideal for students aspiring to careers in sports science, teaching, physiotherapy, coaching, fitness, nutrition, or sports psychology. Many students go on to study degrees in Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Teaching, or related health and fitness pathways.

Students will develop a critical understanding of the physiological, psychological, and sociocultural factors that affect performance. The course explores key areas such as biomechanics, anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sports psychology, sport in society, and contemporary issues in physical activity.

Philosophy

'Explore big ideas'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in English

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Studying topics including Epistemology and Moral Philosophy, Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind, A Level Philosophy offers students an exciting opportunity to study and explore some of life's most intriguing questions. All aspects of the course involve a study of a wide range of philosophers past and present, and draw on contemporary examples to ensure that debate is lively and relevant.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of philosophical themes, and will develop considerable transferable skills, such as precision of language, critical thinking, analysis and evaluation.

What this subject leads to:
The critical thinking skills that are developed by this subject will prove useful in most career paths. The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that the Philosophy A level provides 'suitable preparation for university generally' and employers like the fact that A Level Philosophy students are logical thinkers and problem solvers, and are able to offer a balanced and open minded approach in the work place.

Photography

'Framing the World'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Photography

Exam board:
Eduqas

Why study this course:
The course is designed to prepare students for the rigours of Higher education. The A Level coursework unit incorporates two linked elements – a series of workshops to improve skills and embed knowledge, which prepares students for the demands of the Personal Investigation and critical essay. Students will have opportunities to generate practical work, ideas and research from primary, secondary and contextual sources. They will experiment widely with media and techniques, develop and refine their ideas and present their outcomes. The Externally Set Assignment (Examination) represents the culmination of the A level course, encouraging student independence and innovation in the development of ideas, intentions and response(s).

Students will develop the following skills on this course:

- Development of ideas through sustained investigation informed by contextual sources
- Analytical and critical understanding and application
- Experimentation of media, materials, techniques and processes
- Observation and reflection
- Recording of ideas in visual /other forms
- Presentation of a personal response

What this subject leads to:
Students may progress from A Level Photography to a one-year full time Foundation Course at college, which will enable them to gain access to a degree course in a more specialist area of Art and Design such as Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design, Fine Art, Silversmithing and Jewellery, Photography, Industrial Design, Theatre Design etc.

Alternatively, A Level Photography would support many other creative areas of study at university, including a degree in Photography. Employment directly related to a degree in Photography includes: Graphic Designer, Magazine Features Editor, Medical Illustrator, Photographer, Press Photographer, Television/Film Camera Operator and Film Stills Photographer. Other employment opportunities include: Advertising Art Director, Digital Marketer, Film/Videos Editor, Media Planner, Teacher/Lecturer, Visual Merchandiser and Web Designer.

Physics

'Explore beyond boundaries'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 7 in GCSE Physics, or 7-7 in Combined Science

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Physics asks the biggest questions: How does the universe work? What are the forces shaping reality? How can we harness energy and technology to change the world? On this course, you'll uncover the answers, studying matter, energy, and the fundamental forces that underpin everything around us.

You'll explore:

- Particles, waves, and quantum phenomena – the strange but powerful rules of the microscopic world.
- Electricity, mechanics, and fields – the physics behind technology, power, and motion.
- Nuclear and thermal physics – from the heart of the atom to the energy that fuels stars.
- Optional specialism in turning forces where you will be applying your knowledge to real-world challenges.

Alongside theory, you'll complete the 12 required practicals in the Practical Endorsement, building hands-on skills in experimental design, data analysis, and problem-solving. These are not just assessments – they are preparation for university study, research, and STEM careers.

Assessment is through three written exams (6 hours total), with 40% of marks testing mathematical skills, so you'll strengthen your ability to think logically and quantitatively.

What this subject leads to:
Physics is more than a subject – it's a training ground for solving the toughest problems in science, technology, and beyond. The skills you'll develop – from sharp numeracy to creative problem-solving – are prized in careers such as engineering, architecture, astrophysics, computer science, medicine, finance, and cutting-edge research. Top universities and employers recognise Physics for its academic rigour and the highly transferable skills it develops, making it a gateway to a wide range of futures.

Politics

'Politics shapes everything'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in English

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Exploring topics including the British constitution, the role and effectiveness of parliament and the impact of devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, A level Politics students will develop a broad understanding of news and current affairs in the UK while developing research, communication and debating skills. Students will expand their understanding of UK political systems through contrasting this with the USA political system, where they will explore the role of the president, the significance of the US constitution and civil rights. Students will then further develop their analysis and evaluative skills through exploring wider political ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

What this subject leads to:
Studying A Level Politics at AQA can lead to various career paths and further education opportunities. Universities and employers value Politics because it shows you can digest complex information, compare viewpoints, and communicate persuasively. It is an essay-based subject that suits a wide range of degree paths and careers where judgement, research, and communication matter. Students will find studying Politics at A level useful for future studies in a wide range of areas including politics, law and sociology. It is also useful for future employment opportunities, including local government, civil service and public services.

Product Design

'Creative minds. Realised solutions'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in Design Technology

Exam board:
Edexcel

Why study this course:
Design and Technology equips students with the creative and analytical skills to respond to real-world challenges. It encourages innovation, problem-solving, and an understanding of how global issues and emerging technologies shape the world around us.

This subject is ideal if you want to: pursue further study in Product Design, Architecture, Engineering, Industrial Design, or Sustainable Technologies, explore career paths in design consultancy, manufacturing, construction, or technology development, gain transferable skills in project management, research, prototyping, and client-focused design, and demonstrate creativity and technical understanding through a self-directed design brief and portfolio.

What this subject leads to:
Design and Technology develops creative thinking, technical understanding, and problem-solving skills that are essential in today's fast-changing world. Students learn to respond to real design needs, work with clients, and apply knowledge from across disciplines including science, maths, art, and computing.

Psychology

'Understanding human behaviour'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in English and 6-6 Combined Science

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Students will explore theories and research in various areas of psychology including memory, attachment, clinical psychology, and social influence. Students will examine the effects of deprivation of an attachment figure in infancy, why people obey orders even if it means being cruel to others and how abnormality such as depression and OCD can be explained using different approaches in psychology.

The A level course requires students to show a good depth of analysis. 'Research methods' is a central theme, and students will understand how research into human behaviour is conducted and learn to critically evaluate these processes. In addition, students will consider key issues and debates when exploring human behaviour including analysing the extent to which humans have free will and the ethical implications of carrying out socially sensitive research.

What this subject leads to:
Studying A level Psychology will enable students to develop a wide range of skills including numeracy, literacy, analysis, evaluation and research skills useful for many future careers. Studying Psychology relates to a broad range of future options, including university, employment or apprenticeships. Understanding human behaviour is useful for many future careers and students could follow paths in education, business and marketing, criminology and forensics or counselling and wellbeing

Sociology

'Understand society. Empower yourself'

Entry requirements:
No subject specific entry requirement

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Students will learn how to analyse and apply sociological concepts to contemporary society while exploring topics such as the family, education and research methods from different sociological perspectives. Students will critically analyse the role of the family and education for society and explore questions such as "Why is domestic violence increasingly happening to men?" or "Why do rich kids get the best education?"

Students will also explore the methods sociologists use to investigate these topics and consider issues such as the ethics involved in researching individuals without their consent. Students will further develop their understanding of sociological theory by investigating the topic areas of beliefs and crime utilising their greater depth of understanding of sociological perspectives and applying these critically to areas of beliefs and crime. Students will explore controversial issues such as "Who is to blame for criminal behaviour?".

What this subject leads to:
Students will develop many transferable skills as a result of studying Sociology including clear and logical thinking and critical evaluation which are useful for many future careers. Sociology A level can be useful for future degree studies or apprenticeships related to education, social work, the criminal justice system and journalism.

Spanish

'Culture. Confidence. Connection'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

Exam board:
AQA

Why study this course:
Choosing AQA A-Level Spanish gives students the chance to build on GCSE skills and take their language learning to a much higher level. The course not only develops spoken and written accuracy but also deepens cultural understanding through the study of film, literature and contemporary issues in Spanish-speaking societies. Students explore themes such as social change, multiculturalism, politics, and the artistic heritage of the Hispanic world, which links directly to areas like history, politics, sociology and media studies.
The course also encourages independent research, giving students ownership of a topic they are passionate about through the Individual Research Project, a fantastic preparation for university-style study. Alongside this, the emphasis on critical thinking, analysis and structured argument equips students with skills that are transferable across all subjects.

Ultimately, AQA A-Level Spanish is not just about learning a language — it's about becoming a confident communicator, gaining cultural awareness, and opening up future opportunities for study, travel and employment across the world.

What this subject leads to:
Studying Spanish at A-Level provides an excellent foundation for further study at university, either as a single honours degree, combined with another language, or alongside subjects such as business, law, politics, or international relations. Beyond academic knowledge, learning a language develops transferable skills: resilience, creativity in problem-solving, adaptability across cultures, and the confidence to communicate clearly in unfamiliar situations. These qualities are highly valued in higher education and help language students stand out in a competitive academic and professional landscape. Top universities recognise the intellectual challenge of A-Level languages, and students often strengthen their applications across disciplines. For those considering medicine in particular, studying a language is a real advantage, showing communication skills, cultural awareness, and the ability to connect with diverse people.

Sport

'Knowledge. Fitness. Future'

Entry requirements:
Minimum of a L2 in Sport (or equivalent)

Exam board:
Pearson

Why study this course:
This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical and applied learning. It covers topics that reflect current trends and practices within the sport and fitness industries, including anatomy and physiology for sports performance, fitness training and programming for health and well-being, professional development in the sports industry, and practical sports performance.

Throughout the course, students will develop an understanding of how the body functions during exercise and how training can enhance physical performance. They will explore various career pathways in sport, gaining insights into the skills, attributes, and qualifications required for success. Learners will also be taught how to plan, deliver, and evaluate training programmes and fitness assessments. Additionally, the course encourages the application of theoretical knowledge to real-life sporting situations and scenarios.

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is assessed through two externally examined units (Anatomy and Physiology; Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being) worth 58% of the course, and two internally assessed coursework units (Professional Development in the Sports Industry; application of fitness testing) worth 42%, studied over two years.

What this subject leads to:
The BTEC Level 3 Sport qualification provides a practical, real-world approach to learning and develops the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the sport, fitness, or leisure industries. It is widely recognised by universities, apprenticeships, and employers, making it an excellent foundation for careers such as sports coaching, fitness instructing, sports therapy, personal training, teaching, and health promotion.
Students can progress into higher education to study Sports Science, Sports Coaching, Sports Rehabilitation, Physical Education Teaching, or Strength and Conditioning, among others. The course is equivalent to one A Level and is studied over two years, combining internally assessed coursework and externally assessed units.

Work Experience

Work experience is an important element of Sixth Form life, giving students the chance to apply their learning in real-world settings and build confidence for the future.

We are proud to have established strong partnerships with a range of local and national employers, offering placements across diverse industries. Recent placements have taken place with businesses such as...

Northamptonshire Police

Northampton Saints

GXO

barclaycard

West Northamptonshire Council

NetworkRail

nationwide

Wootton Primary School

NHS Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust

KAJIMA CORPORATION

oriordanbond

Kiddi Caru Day Nursery

KIER

MERCEDES AMG HIGH PERFORMANCE POWERTRAINS

Where are our alumni now?

Our 2025 leavers have gone on to achieve remarkable success, continuing a proud tradition of excellence at Caroline Chisholm School. Our school is in the top 10% nationally for the progress made between their GCSE results and their outstanding A level outcomes, achieving an average grade B across all subjects - a testament to their dedication and the exceptional support of our staff.

An impressive 95% of students secured their first-choice university placement, with 44% progressing to prestigious Russell Group institutions. We are also delighted to celebrate four students who gained places at Oxford and Cambridge, a reflection of the academic ambition and hard work that define our sixth form community.

Our recent alumni are now studying a diverse range of subjects at leading universities across the UK, a few of which are detailed below:

- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Newcastle University
- Queen Mary University of London
- University College London
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of Warwick
- University of York
- Keele University
- Lancaster University
- Loughborough University
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Swansea University
- University of Bath
- University of East Anglia
- University of Leicester
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Southampton

Where are our alumni now?

Over 40% of our students secure a place at a Russell Group University.