

The  
**Folkestone**  
School for Girls



Sixth form  
2020-2022



Your onward journey







# Introduction to Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at The Folkestone School for Girls is an amazing, supportive and fulfilling place to complete your final two years of compulsory education.

Not only do we offer a wide range of courses, we also provide you with numerous opportunities to broaden your education through trips, work experience, mock interviews and a whole host of enrichment opportunities that allow you to develop other skills and attributes - beyond simply the academic! At FSG we believe that qualifications are what you get, they do not define who you are and will play only a part in shaping who you become. Our academic curriculum therefore is only part of what we do. We also encourage our students to explore other interests and to take part in the wider life of the school through our many co-curricular opportunities - be that debating society, music, dance, sports, self-defence, Duke of Edinburgh... the list goes on. We believe that this is an incredibly important part of education. Being part of a club, a team, a cast or orchestra requires teamwork and commitment. It develops self confidence and, simply, can allow us all to flourish in other arenas. This belief in the power of co-curricular activities drives our thinking. We won't ask you to complete an excessive amount of qualifications, typically, students study three. This allows you the time to focus efforts on achieving the highest grades within these, but also the time to spend on those other activities, as well as time for friends and family too. We feel a sensible balance is key, with the ability to explore and excel in the classroom, but also on the stage, the sports field, the concert hall or even in the workplace through our internship programme.

Year 11 has undoubtedly been your most important year of school to date, and now, you must make some important decisions about your future. Choosing the right educational establishment and courses for post-sixteen study is of paramount importance. At The Folkestone School for Girls we can guarantee a first class, all-round educational experience, whilst preparing you for life after Sixth Form study.

We are able to offer you excellent teaching in a wide range of A levels, including some vocational courses. We are proud, not only of the high quality care and support which we give to enable you to fulfil your potential, but also of the constructive Careers Education and Guidance which we offer in order to help you make informed and realistic choices at 18+.

We are dedicated to providing help and support to enable students to make informed decisions regarding their options post 18. A very high proportion of our students go on to Higher Education each year and our sixth form team guide and support such students to ensure that they acquire places on courses at institutions that are right for them. Equally, we are dedicated to providing help and support for those students who wish to undertake an apprenticeship or perhaps wish to enter the world of employment directly. Our ultimate goal is to raise awareness of the range of opportunities available. There is no ceiling! The sky is the limit!

Whilst the Sixth Form is about learning and developing skills to prepare students for their personal next step and careers, it is also about enjoying yourselves and effectively using the greater freedom with which you are entrusted. Moreover, it is your chance to have a fresh start and develop new interests.

I hope that you find this booklet helpful and I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form.

Mrs Ashley Hagedorn, Head of Sixth Form



# Head Girl

If there is anything that I have learnt in my time at the Folkestone School for Girls it is that whatever I decide I want to do, I can do it. The school has taught me that I can do whatever I set my mind to, and achieve things that feel out of my reach. So I have never been scared, when previously I have been unsure about what I want to do post sixth form, because I knew with information and guidance provided that whenever I did decide, I would have taken the time to make the right decision for me.

I am so lucky to go to a school that cares for its students and supports them in ways that go beyond the classroom. In my time here I haven't just grown academically, but as an all round individual. I've grown to be confident, ambitious and resilient, and it's those sort of lessons that I think top anything you can learn from a book in a classroom. This school isn't just about giving it's students the ability to achieve good grades, but an opportunity to grow into a fantastic young women. For any students wishing to take their education further past GCSE by studying A level and BTEC courses this is a great environment to do it.

Amelia Taylor - Head Girl



# Deputy Head Girl

My name is Halle Breed and I am currently Deputy Head Girl at FSG. I am currently studying History, Politics and Maths at A level and I hope to go on to university and study History with Politics.

The sixth form at FSG is a friendly and cheerful environment in which the teachers are supportive and willing to help whenever possible. The new sixth form centre has created both a studious and sociable environment where you can have a quiet place to work, or a place to socialise and relax.

I feel my confidence has grown hugely throughout my sixth form experience and has allowed me to make new friends and take the next step in my education. Lessons are interesting and a discussion based environment in which you can start to take control of your own education.

In sixth form at FSG there are a wide range of extra-curricular activities you can be involved in, and working on the prefect team has given me a sense of responsibility which is valuable not only now but in future life. These activities mean that the sixth form does not only offer you an education but also important life skills.

Deciding what you want to do after school can be daunting, and making these decisions whilst studying for A levels can be difficult, however this school will support you in any of your decisions about your future. There is always someone available to answer your questions or to talk to, making the process much more relaxed. I feel confident that with the opportunities this school has given me I will be able to do whatever I put my mind to.

Overall, the sixth form at FSG is a place to grow and develop your interests in education, but also your interests elsewhere, helping you develop valuable skills that will help you in whatever you choose to do.

Halle Breed - Deputy Head

# Information, Advice & Guidance

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## The Curriculum

In Sixth Form the majority of students will study 3 subjects. This provides an opportunity to focus on the subjects that you enjoy, that interest you, that you excel in and that support your future career goals. On occasion, some students may elect to study 4 subjects. This is in consultation with the Head of Sixth Form or the Senior Leadership Team. There is a wide range of subjects and courses on offer and we aim to offer a diverse curriculum that not only allows students to study subjects of interest in more detail, but also meets wellbeing needs and prepares them for life after Sixth Form.

## Entry to Year 12

For entry to Sixth Form we require:

- GCSE English at Grade 5 or above. This can be English Language or English Literature.
- GCSE Maths at Grade 5 or above.
- An average GCSE grade score of 5.5 across your best 6 qualifications including Maths and English.
- To study Mathematics **or** a Science subject a 7+ grade is strongly recommended.
- To study 2 or more Sciences or Mathematics **and** Science two Grade 7's are very strongly recommended.

## Notes

Individual subjects often have additional entry conditions. Please see course information for the subject entry requirements.

It is usually possible to provide most students with the subjects of their choice, but timetabling, staffing or financial considerations may make it impossible to run all the courses offered, for example if numbers opting for a course are very low.

## How to apply

If you are a student at the school, you are required to fill in the options by Friday 6th March 2020. In order to select your options you will be invited to do this on SIMS Options, submitting your course choices online. This will require the SIMS login details you already have to log in and enter your course choices. Students will receive an email with a link to load and log into SIMS options the day after options evening. Alternatively the following URL should take you to the login page: <https://www.sims-options.co.uk>

If you experience any issues with this please contact Mr J. Anderson in the IT support office.

## External applicants

If you are applying to join us from another school or college, please complete your application through Kent Choices. Places will be offered according to the Sixth Form Admissions Criteria.

## Applicants from Overseas

It should be noted that any student who applies for entry to the Sixth Form from overseas must have equivalent qualifications that can be recognised in the UK. Students may also be required to sit test papers in English and Mathematics when invited to the school.

## Changing your options

Changes prior to the commencement of the course will always be permitted, unless the addition of another student to the group takes the group size above the optimum level. Changes after a course has commenced will only be permitted, subject to availability of places, up to the notified deadline. For the academic year 2020-21 that date will be Friday 18th September 2020. From this date onwards students must continue with all their chosen subjects.

## Attendance

All students in the Sixth Form are required to attend all their timetabled lessons and also study periods until the end of Term 2. If the student's attendance is above 95% and they are up to date with their school work, some study periods will be removed from their timetable after the Christmas break. If a student is unwell, it is expected that parents will call in and certify their daughter's absence. Where the student knows of an absence in advance, they must see all relevant teachers to obtain the work from the lesson. Any student whose attendance falls below 95% will be at risk of receiving sanctions.

## Sixth Form Dress Code

Sixth Form students are expected to dress appropriately for school. School should be regarded as a place of work and Sixth Form students should be seen as role models for the younger students and demonstrate this through their choice of clothing. As with the lower school, facial piercings are also against the Sixth Form dress code. Any student deemed to be dressed inappropriately will be sent home to change, or in the case of a facial piercing, we will request that it is removed.

## 16-19 Bursaries

Financial support is available for those from low-income households. Further information can be obtained from Mrs Natalie Foster in the Finance Department.

## Enrichment

The Sixth Enrichment Options aim to provide students in Key Stage 5 with further opportunities to participate in activities that meet their individual needs and interests. Moreover, the wide range of choices allow students to select an enrichment choice that is coherent with the 3 A Level subjects in their Programme of Study, and forms part of the development of the skills required for their Post-18 aspirations – there is no default option, as students select options that meet their individual needs.

Options currently available to students include: Level 3 EPQ, Work Experience, Internship, Volunteering, Cooking, Self-defence, Rock Climbing, Level 2 ECDL, Peer Mentoring, Academic Mentoring, MOOCs, Wider Academic Reading and Personal Development. Students in the Sixth Form may also set up a university style society in an area they are interested in. Details of all the available activities will be given to our students at the start of term. In addition to their Programme of Study, girls are expected to make a positive contribution and involve themselves fully in the life of the school.



## Pastoral Support

Each student is allocated a tutor who provides information and guidance to support them with their UCAS applications and/or employment applications, along with discussions and activities on wider social issues and life skills. Attendance at tutorial sessions is compulsory, and there is also a weekly Sixth Form assembly which all students are expected to attend.

# Information, Advice & Guidance

## Work Related Learning and Careers, Information and Guidance

The school provides a wide range of events advising students about different occupations and careers throughout the academic year. Students are also provided with the details of university courses, taster days, summer schools and apprenticeships in preparation for applying to university/further education and training and making important decisions about their future. Careers Advisors visit the school on a regular basis and students can seek advice and guidance regarding their future career aspirations or university choices.

## Internship

Previously we have offered and supported students to find work experience, if this was something they wished to undertake while studying in the sixth form. New to September 2019, we offered The Internship programme. This allows students to undertake an extended programme of work experience. Students will have the opportunity to work within a placement for one day a week during the school year alongside their continued education. This will provide students with a completely immersive placement allowing a real in depth development of their work skills and useful experience ready for their careers. The school will have a range of excellent placements to offer from local and international businesses, and students will also be able to arrange their own should they have exciting connections to do so. The aim is to facilitate students to gain workplace exposure and experience in a field they intend to pursue a career in.

## Job Market Information

*Mr Michael Kennedy, Director of Learning – Careers and Work Related Learning*

This section of the prospectus is designed to inform you and your child of the likely future job markets in the Shepway and further Kent area, and we hope it will be beneficial in providing further context to their future academic decisions and career ambitions.

### What have recent trends shown?

- In the last two years, the sectors showing the most growth in number of jobs are **accommodation and food service activities** (+3,000, +7.2%) and **Human health and social work activities** (+3,000, +3.8%).
- The industrial sectors showing the biggest reduction in employee jobs in that time in Kent are **Transportation & Storage** (-5,000, -13.3%), **professional, scientific and technical services** (-3,500 jobs) and **Administrative and support service activities** (-3,500 jobs).

### How is the job market looking to change in the coming decade?

- **Kent and Medway will remain an entrepreneurial economy, driven by thousands of small and medium sized businesses.** Currently 13.1% of people in Kent aged 16-64 are self-employed. (Business Intelligence, May 2018) and 89% of these businesses employ less than ten people
- **Construction** will be a huge growth sector in Kent; predicted to grow by 14% by 2020. These will be in not only skilled trades, but project management, building infrastructure, construction management, electrical services and telecommunications. 6.3% of all jobs in Kent are in this industry (Kent SCA, 2014) and 15.8% of businesses in Kent as at 2017 were Construction based enterprises, above the England average of 12.0% (Kent SCA, 2014)
- **Tourism and Hospitality** will remain a strong performer and will look to grow 7% (currently 55,500 jobs) by 2020, mostly across the top level occupations, such as hotel and restaurant management, tour management, and site management services at tourist and heritage sites
- **Life Sciences** remains a significant local employer, though looking to decline by 12% by 2020, as 19% of Kent jobs remain through biological scientists, biochemists, lab technicians and R&D managers.
- The **low-carbon** economy is a priority sector for Kent and employment is around 184,000, with a growth of around 6,000 jobs over the next decade.

### Where can I find more information?

- The website **Labour Market Information for All** offers a powerful comparative tool for you and your child to compare how specific careers might grow or contract **nationally** within the next decade (opposite), and can be found at: <http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/widget/>.
- Students can also use the program **Fast Tomato** to investigate specific careers, career routes and working conditions. All Year 11 students have access to this via a log-in.
- The **National Careers Service** website provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work.

## Sixth form Destinations 2019

We aim to help you unlock the next part of your own personal journey after your time at school comes to an end. Should that be university then we'll help you to get there. Should that be an apprenticeship, we'll help you to get there. Should that be Russell group, or Oxbridge even, we'll help you to get there. Our aim is to provide an outstanding academic curriculum, outstanding teaching and outstanding opportunities and experiences to ensure you leave as well-qualified and well-rounded young women. You'll have a strong academic portfolio of qualifications, highly-developed interpersonal skills, a broad range of interests and will be well prepared to pursue varied and fulfilling careers! You'll leave us with the knowledge, experiences, skills and attributes necessary to challenge yourself, to be confident, successful and adaptable to change. You'll be able to seize opportunities and to create them!

Students from The Folkestone School for Girls apply to, and are accepted by, a wide range of universities each year. This includes universities from the Russell Group, Oxford and Cambridge, along with universities all over the UK. For example, in September 2019, students who gained their A level results in August have progressed to study courses in a range of different disciplines including Law, Medicine, Criminology, Computer Science, Economics, Psychology, Marine Biology and Archaeology. Students have also gone on to successfully secure places on apprenticeships with providers such as KCC, within the events department, and employment in Italy as an Au Pair.

### Courses on Offer

- Art and Design
- BTEC Business
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- English Literature and Language
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- History
- BTEC Information technology
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Modern languages (French or Spanish)
- Music
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

### Additional Subjects

Additional subjects available through our partnership with The Harvey Grammar School:

The following subjects will be available due to our partnership with The Harvey Grammar School. If you would like further information about these subjects please let Mrs Griffiths know by contacting her using the email address: [pgriffiths@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:pgriffiths@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk)

It is also worth noting that if a subject is taught at both schools in the first instance your timetable will allocate you to the lesson at The Folkestone School for Girls. It is only when there is a timetable clash that a lesson would be taught at The Harvey Grammar School unless it is one of the subjects identified below whereby all lessons would be at The Harvey Grammar School:

- Art and Design: graphic Communication
- Design technology: Product Design
- Film Studies
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Sport - BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport

Course information for these subjects can be obtained from the KS5 desk on options evening.

# Courses on offer

## Art and Design

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 in Fine Art or BTEC Art & Design equivalent, Distinction.

**Course content:**

This new AQA specification allows us to continue to provide for a flexible structure and an excellent choice of experiences, tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of each individual student. The emphasis is on achieving a balance of technical skill, personal expression and contextual knowledge, with each topic being taught and then further developed by each student's own aspirations. Critical/ Historical/ Contextual studies permeate all areas and visits to Art Exhibitions are an essential element.

The course comprises of two components: Component 1 will run from the start of the course until the end of January 2022 where students will engage in a number of practical workshops, including working alongside professional artists, to raise the standard of their skills and find their artistic strengths. Component 2 is externally set by AQA and runs from the start of February 2022 until completing the exam in the May.



Component 1 allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcomes. It incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study.

- Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.
- The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum of 1,000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

**Assessment:**

The work will be internally marked during the course with External Moderation by a Visiting Examiner occurring at the end of the course.

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### Why choose Art and Design:

As a distinct subject, Art and Design is unique. The skills learned in Art are entirely transferrable to many situations due to the focus upon creative learning, experimentation and independent thinking. Art is also a way of understanding the world in which we live, our cultures, our histories, our similarities and differences. In many ways Art can be seen as being an integral aspect of all disciplines and can enhance the way that we navigate the challenges of work, study, and everyday life. This course is ideal for any student who has a passion for exploration, and the urge to make something new and original.

If you enjoy seeing your ideas come to life then Art and Design is for you.

### Skills and progression:

It is now generally accepted that most of the jobs that exist in the future have yet to be invented and many will belong to the Creative Economy. The skills learned in Art and Design will be at the core of this employment revolution. Over £90,000,000,000 (yes, billions) is generated by the Creative Industries each year in the UK alone and we are seen as one of the paramount creative hubs in the world.

A snapshot of the avenues you can follow through an Art and Design education are:

Advertising, Architecture, Museum Curation, Games Design, Fashion Design, Teaching, Lecturing, Industrial Design, Fine Art, Set and Theatre Design, TV and Film Design, Film and TV production, Camera Direction, Film Editor, Photography, Illustration, Media, Animation, Graphic Design, Engineering, Web Design, Textile Design, Printmaking, Exhibition Design, Art History, Interior Design, Cartography, Landscape Architecture, Art Therapy, Art Conservation, Costume Design, Theatre Tech, and the list goes on and will continue to expand in the future.

# Biology

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Biology or GCSE Combined Science Grade 6 or above. If you are taking GCSE Combined Science, you must have scored a grade 6 in the Biology units. However, a Grade 7 or 8 is strongly recommended.

Grade 6 or above in Mathematics is strongly recommended.

**Course content:**

A-Level Biology gives you the opportunity to study many of the same topics as at GCSE, but in much greater depth, as well as focussing on applications of Biology in the real world. Topics at AS include biological molecules, organism exchange of substances with their environment and genetics. Topics in the full A-Level also include energy transfers in and between organisms, organism response to internal and external environments, genetics, populations evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1: Any content from AS Topics listed above

Paper 2: Any content from A-Level Topics listed above

Paper 3: Any content from AS and A-Level Topics listed above

You will also undertake a number of Core Practicals throughout the year to gain a separate 'Practical Endorsement'.



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**Why choose Biology:**

The biology team at FSG have been recognised by AQA as a supportive and encouraging department that provides excellent provision for its students. Practicals are at the heart of the subject and we pride ourselves on delivering experiments that go beyond the specification in order to foster the next generation of biologists.

Last year we had students who successfully attained places at medical and veterinary schools, with almost a quarter achieving an A/A\*.

If you love biology and have a genuine interest in the subject we look forward to seeing you next year!

**Skills and progression:**

An A level in biology leads to a myriad of career pathways ranging from an athletic trainer to a biostatistician, to a molecular biologist to an ecologist.

An A level in biology broadens your horizons and provides numerous opportunities to have a fulfilling and rewarding future.

A biology student at FSG will gain skills in both verbal and written communications, data analysis and evaluation. Critical thinking will become an enhanced skill which is transferable across a range of disciplines.

# Courses on offer

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## BTEC Business Studies

**Exam board:** Pearson

**Entry requirements:**

If studied, Level 2 Merit in Business.

New to Business, GCSE level 5 or above in English and a level 5 or above in Mathematics.

**Course content:**

This qualification is equivalent to one A level. Units studied include:

1. Exploring Business
2. Developing a Marketing Campaign
3. Personal and Business Finance
4. Recruitment and Selection Process

**Assessment:**

Unit 1. Exploring Business

Consists of 3 class based assignments which are internally assessed but moderated externally by a standards verifier.

Unit 2. Developing a Marketing Campaign

Developing a marketing campaign is a Controlled Assessment for 3 hours based on a pre-seen case study received 2 weeks prior to the assessment.

Unit 3. Personal and Business Finance

Personal and Business Finance is an external examination. The exam is 2 hours long and has a section on personal finance and a section on business finance.

Unit 4. Recruitment and Selection Process

3 class based assignments focused around human resources which are internally assessed as unit 1.

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**Why choose Business Studies:**

Business enterprise is essentially a formula not just for wealth creation, but for life satisfaction.

Business is the future for the UK. The UK economy relies on small and medium businesses to fuel it and post "Brexit", these will be even more integral. The combined annual turnover of SMEs was £1.9 trillion, 51% of all private sector turnover in the UK. Business studies will allow you to be part of that.

Business studies combines a vast array of skills from being analytical or creative to using psychology and working with people. If you want a subject that will compliment any other subject you do and provide you with the foundation to be your own boss and become an entrepreneur then this is the course for you.

The biggest reason to select Business; it is the subject that provides the opportunity to do what you love, for a living.

**Skills and progression:**

Some potential areas that you could work in are listed below. Although the advantage of business is there are unlimited and endless possibilities that business can help you access if you have an entrepreneurial spirit. After leaving school there is degrees, apprenticeships, working for someone and starting your own business all open to you.

- advertising
- banking, investment and financial services
- general management
- HR/personnel
- management consultancy
- public relations
- retail management
- sales and marketing.

# Chemistry

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Chemistry or GCSE Combined Science Grade 6 or above. If you are taking GCSE Combined Science, you must have scored a grade 6 in the Chemistry units. However, a Grade 7 or 8 is strongly recommended.

Grade 6 or above in Mathematics is also strongly recommended.

**Course content:**

A-Level Chemistry gives you the opportunity to study a core of key concepts in greater detail. Many of the ideas first covered at GCSE will be revisited, but with a greater emphasis on explaining, rather than simply describing the behaviour of molecules.

Topics include Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Energetics, Mole Calculations, Kinetics and Organic (carbon) Chemistry. While studying GCE Chemistry you will develop practical skills that include making observations, collecting data, analysing experimental results and formulating conclusions. You will also gain an appreciation of how scientific models develop and evolve, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that Science brings and the ways in which society uses Science to make decisions.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1: Further Inorganic & Physical Chemistry

Paper 2: Further Organic & Physical Chemistry

Paper 3: All topics including experimental techniques

You will also undertake a number of Core Practicals throughout the year to gain a separate 'Practical Endorsement'.

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**Why choose Chemistry:**

If you are analytically minded, enjoy problem solving, you should think about choosing Chemistry at FSG. You will not only have the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of the specification, but students have also had the opportunity to work with Greenwich University, the Royal Society of Chemistry and different companies including Pfizer, to test the different compounds that you make in the lab. The most importantly, if you are an independent, hardworking, resilient, critical, and logical thinker who is able to come up with creative solutions to problems, Chemistry is the subject for you.

**Skills and progression:**

From a Zookeeper to a Petroleum engineer, an A-Level in Chemistry can open many doors for you to be able to enter a range of fields including; Medicine, Offshore Drilling, Pharmacology, Ecology and Meteorology. Doing an A-Level in Chemistry will allow you to delve deeper and gain further understanding of the way the world works, why copper sulphate is blue but iron sulphate is green, whilst giving you the opportunity to work on your ability to analyse and problem solve, time management and organisation, monitoring, recording and handling data, research and practical skills.

# Courses on offer

## Computing

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Studying Computing at GCSE level is not a requirement, however, if you have studied GCSE Computing, you will need at least a Grade 6, which shows that you have an aptitude for the subject.

**Course content:**

This course covers the fundamentals of computer science and develops a high level of programming skills. By the end of Year 12 you will be writing complex programs to solve given problems. Much of the theory will involve the use of software to explore different computational ideas. The coursework component is completed during Year 13.

At the heart of program design is the skill of problem solving. A large part of this qualification is the development of your problem-solving skills and your ability to think.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1:

40% of A-level. Written exam of 2.5 hours. Students answer a series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an electronic answer booklet.

Paper 2:

40% of A-level. Written exam of 2.5 hours answering short and extended answers to questions.

Non-exam assessment (coursework):

20% of A-level. Students solve or investigate a practical problem (chosen by the student).



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**Why choose Computing:**

Simply speaking, Computing is part of everything we now do.

Every industry uses computers so naturally computer scientists can work in any. Problems in science, engineering, health care, and so many other areas can be solved by computers. It's up to the computer scientist to figure out how, and design the software to apply the solution. The digital age needs computer scientists hence career opportunities are extensive.

Some will choose Computing for its academic grounding. It also has a high proportion of individual work with some opportunity for working in a team. Others choose Computing as it will likely open the door to a lucrative and fulfilling career; perhaps even create opportunities for you to make a positive difference in the world.

**Skills and progression:**

Few subjects can offer to develop your problem solving ability; Computing is solving problems. The skills learnt in Computing are useful for a range of careers.

Web design and cyber security are some of the careers that did not exist a number of decades ago. What will be the new careers in the next few decades? We don't know what they are but we do know that they will likely be in a field of Computing. The skills acquired in this course are a great foundation and will keep the door open for new opportunities in the future.

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## **Criminology (Level 3 Applied Diploma)**

**Exam board:** WJEC Eduqas

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 5 or above in English.

**Course content:**

The Changing Awareness of Crime unit will enable the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

The second unit, Criminology Theories, will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1.

The Crime Scene to Court Room unit 3 will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. Learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

In the final unit, Crime and Punishment, learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

**Assessment:**

- Changing Awareness of Crime (Internal controlled assessment)
- Criminology Theories (Exam – 90 minutes)
- Crime Scene to Court Room (Internal controlled assessment)
- Crime and Punishment (Exam – 90 minutes)

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**Skills and progression:**

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology. This Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities and many other Level 3 subjects. The program is designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

# Courses on offer

## Dance

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Dance.

**Course content:**

**Choreography:** Students must learn how to create an original piece of choreography, in response to an externally set task.

**Performance:** Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform as a soloist in the style of a practitioner and how to perform as part of a quartet.

**Critical engagement:** The areas of study and set works provide an appropriate focus for students to critically engage with dance and understand the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/appreciation of dance.

**Assessment:**

Component 1: Performance and Choreography: practical exam 50%

Component 2: Critical Engagement: written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes



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**Why choose Dance:**

Dance is a powerful and inspiring qualification that encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity. A-level Dance inspires, challenges and motivates every student, through creative and engaging lessons

**Skills and progression:**

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

**Careers:**

Teacher, Professional Choreographer, Movement studies for a theatre company, Dance & Musical Theatre, Dance critic, Health & Nutrition, Creative Writing, Theatre Management, and Dance Performance.

# Drama & Theatre Studies

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Drama

**Course content:**

Component 1: Drama and theatre: You will explore two set texts and will explore how to interpret these for performance. You will learn how to evaluate a live piece of theatre.

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical) you will create an original piece of theatre from a stimulus of your choice. The devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

Component 3: Making theatre (practical) you will explore and perform three extracts from different texts. You will perform the third extract to a visiting examiner.



**Assessment:**

Component 1 – Drama and Theatre (40%) – 3 Hour written exam

Component 2 – Creating original drama (30%) – Practical moderation with written coursework

Component 3 – Making theatre (30%) – Practical exam

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**Why choose Drama & Theatre Studies:**

Studying Drama and Theatre helps you develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. You will learn how to work collaboratively, to think analytically. You will grow in confidence and maturity as you successfully realise your own ideas. You will learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making. Whatever the future holds, students of A-level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps.

**Skills and progression:**

This specification will inspire you to become independent theatre makers with the skills you need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre or another subject. We want you to have an inspiring experience of A-level Drama and Theatre. This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. You learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for yourselves. You will be introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as you explore plays practically, devise and work on performances.

# Courses on offer

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## Economics

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in English and Mathematics

**Course content:**

The specification is split into two main sections. The first section introduces students to microeconomic issues and the second section covers mainly macroeconomic issues.

**Section 1: Economics: Markets and Market Failure**

Candidates will explore the nature of demand for, and supply of goods in a wide range of situations and be able to use this understanding to explain why markets may fail and how governments intervene in the marketplace to rectify the situation.

**Section 2: Economics: The National Economy**

This unit offers the opportunity to explore how we measure the performance of the UK economy investigating issues such as economic growth, unemployment, inflation and exchange rates and it looks at the use of government policy to manage the economy.

**Assessment:**

The A-Level course is made up of 2 sections over 2 years;

The course is assessed by 3 examinations of 2 hours in duration, each worth 33.3%

These examinations consist of multiple choice and data response questions, and written essays.

All exams are externally marked.

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**Why choose Economics:**

Economics is the application of economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, and encourage students to appreciate the interrelationships between theory and the real world.

We study issues within the UK and Internationally and try to predict outcomes from data and other sources of information. We look at how our Economy works and can we improve the lives of people who live and work in it.

**Skills and progression:**

Students will develop the use of Higher skills such as Evaluation and Analysis which are invaluable when following a career through university or work. Economics leads directly to Banking and Finance, but also any form of Management in the service sectors.

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## English Language and Literature

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

Student requires a minimum of a grade 6 in English Language.

We would recommend a grade 6 in each of English Literature and English Language.

**Course content:**

Unit 1 – Telling Stories (AQA Paris Anthology, The Lovely Bones, Carol Anne Duffy Poetry)

Exam – 3hrs - 40% of A-level

Unit 2 – Exploring Conflict (The Great Gatsby, A Street-Car Named Desire)

Exam – 2hrs 30mins - 40% of A-level

Coursework – Making Connections

3000 word personal investigation - 20% of A-level

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**Why choose English Language and Literature:**

If you enjoy reading, yet have a creative flair then English Language and Literature is the course for you. With its focus on how the power of language creates inspiring literary texts, coupled with the opportunity to apply the very same writing skills to your own imaginative writing, the Lang/Lit course is a fantastic opportunity to develop in all areas of English at A level.

**Skills and progression:**

English Language and Literature is a diverse and varied A-Level that we are delighted to offer.

Designed with a focus on the integration of language and literature, the course allows you to explore different modes of communication and investigate how authors craft language for effect.

The variety of assessment styles used, such as re-creative writing, commentary writing, discursive essays and research-based investigative writing, encourages you to develop a wide range of skills. These include the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

At A level you will build on your work at GCSE level, but do so in a way that attempts to find connections between these different types of study, and in doing so present a more holistic and exciting kind of 'English'.

I hope that you decide to study English Language and Literature with us; it is a decision that I am sure you will not regret.

# Courses on offer

## English Literature

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**Entry requirements:**

Student requires a minimum of a grade 6 in English Literature.

We would recommend a grade 6 in each of English Literature and English Language.

**Course content:**

Unit 1 Drama (Duchess of Malfi and Othello)

One Shakespeare play and one other drama.

(2 hours 15 minutes) 30%

Unit 2 Prose (Dracula and Dorian Gray, or War of the Worlds and The Handmaid's Tale)

Two prose texts from a chosen theme.

(1 hour) 20%

Unit 3 Poetry (Poems of the Decade and John Donne or Philip Larkin)

A selection of post-2000 specified poetry and a specified range of poetry from a certain period.

(2 hours 15 minutes) 30%

Unit 4 Coursework

Students have a free choice of two texts to study.

20%



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**Why choose English Literature:**

"First and foremost it is a fun subject. It offers opportunities to see the lives of others through your own eyes. English encourages curiosity about the world and also gives answers to big questions but for me, the best thing is that there is more than one interpretation to everything. It is the study of people; an amalgamation of Psychology, Sociology, History, Geography and R.E."

**Skills and progression:**

Why should you commit two years of your life to the study of English Literature?

Perhaps the question that you should ask yourself is how can you choose not to?

English Literature opens your eyes to a plethora of unknown worlds, characters and experiences. Each new text studied creates an opportunity to share ideas with your peers and teachers, and to learn, not only about the texts and contexts, but about yourself. English Lit studies people, their behaviours and their relationships, and through their challenges and misadventures we learn about each other.

English Literature is a rigorous A-Level that requires an unquestionable work ethic and an open mind. But what you are given in return is priceless. This facilitating subject not only comes with a reputation second to none amongst A-Levels, but you will also learn to write with both style and substance, and your analytical skills will flourish.

I hope that you decide to study English Literature with us; it is a decision that I am sure you will not regret.

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## Extended Project

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature

**Course content:**

The Extended Project Qualification (Level 3) or EPQ is the equivalent of half an A Level. It is typically studied across one year, and is expected to take 120 hours of research/writing/execution. EPQs take one of four forms: a dissertation (c6000 word extended essay), an investigation/field study, a performance, or an artefact. They are equally weighted, but have slightly different mark schemes (see assessment). The majority of FSG students follow the dissertation route, but there is scope to pursue the other routes.

**Course content:**

There are four assessment objectives for the Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project. The assessment objectives are as follows:

- Manage (9 marks / 17%);
- Use resources (12 marks / 22%);
- Develop and realise (24 marks / 44%);
- Review (9 marks / 17%).

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**Why choose Extended Project Qualification:**

The EPQ allows learners to study a topic area which extends their learning in their area of study. Students should plan a project topic which expands their learning in their field of study, in a related area, or that is relevant to their own personal interests. The EPQ is worth up to 70 UCAS points. This can be used towards a points offer from a university (for example, 350 points). The EPQ grade cannot be used against a grade offer (such as AAA), but some universities may offer an alternative for candidates studying EPQ (such as ABB instead of AAB, provided that you get at least an A in your EPQ). It would be a good idea to contact universities you have applied to in order to see whether this is the case – they will be glad to hear from you. Universities are also recognising the EPQ as a valuable part of a student's profile on their UCAS application. You can use your EPQ to show your interest in an area of study at a university interview.

**Skills and progression:**

The EPQ will give you the opportunity to develop the following:

- Become more independent and resilient learners;
- Become an 'expert' on your chosen question/topic: this is a great opportunity to pursue in greater depth something about which you are passionate;
- Become more skilled in critical thinking about the world around you;
- Become more confident in your ability to formulate, see through and present in a scholarly manner a more substantial research/creative project than you may ever have undertaken.

# Courses on offer

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## French

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 6 or above (or equivalent) at French GCSE. We think a Grade 7 would give you the edge in preparing for the A Level.

**Course content:**

Study of Themes including Family, Modern Technologies, Voluntary Work, Music, Cinema & Cultural Heritage in the French-Speaking World, A Diverse Society/Immigration, Crime, Young People Rights, Demonstrations and Strikes.

Study of literature and film (or two pieces of literature). Current students are studying:

- No et Moi (Delphine de Vigan)
- La Haine (Mathieu Kassovitz)

Lots of speaking and discussions, presentations, practice of listening, reading and writing skills.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (40%)

Paper 2: Written Response to Work, Grammar and Translation (30%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

All examinations are externally marked. Speaking exams are usually conducted by one of the class teachers.

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**Why choose French:**

French is an excellent A Level to study, because it's a real chance to develop your opinions and analytical skills. Although it's sold as 'French' you actually get a good overview of society, history and literature, as well as achieving an almost fluent level of a foreign language by the end of the course. This makes it an excellent subject for preparing you for further study and you will be the master of university quizzes and have a good knowledge of culture after the A Level. Also many leading universities, including Russell Group, consider MFL as facilitating subjects for entry to all courses.

There are lots of excellent ways to improve your French, and each theme fits nicely with a film to watch and music to listen to, making a change from formal reading and essay-writing which you might be doing a lot of during your A Level Studies.

**Skills and progression:**

Studying French will lead you to a variety of options, whether you'd like to study it at degree level, or not. French study can lead to jobs in the European Union: imagine interpreting for Brexit Negotiations, or translating legal documents. You could work abroad; in any Francophone country, not just France, and it would set you up to learn other languages. You could be posted to other countries working for the government after intensive language courses in lesser-known languages.

If you choose not to study French past A Level, you will have gained skills in debate, essay writing, analysis, interpreting data and statistics and independent research, all of which set you up as a very effective student or colleague for the future.

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# Geography

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Level 6 or above in Geography

Level 6 is also recommended in English and Science.

**Course content:**

- Water and the Carbon Cycle.
- Coastal Environments.
- Hazards
- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Changing Places
- Population and the Environment
- NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) – you are required to undertake an independent investigation which must incorporate a significant element of fieldwork (there will be the opportunity to complete 3 days of fieldwork within school time). This can be based on human or physical aspects of geography, or a combination of both and may incorporate field data from fieldwork collected individually or in groups. You will need to contextualise, analyse and evaluate your work to produce a report that demonstrates required fieldwork knowledge, skills and understanding.

**Assessment:**

**Component 1: Physical Geography – 40% of the A Level – written exam**

Water and carbon cycles, Coastal systems and landscapes and Hazards

**Component 2: Human Geography – 40% of the A Level – written exam**

Global systems and global governance, Changing Places and Population and the Environment

**Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation – Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) – worth 20%**

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**Why choose Geography:**

Geography is all around us every day and everywhere and to be a good global citizen you will need to develop your understanding of the world we live in. Geography is a unique subject because it looks at both the physical structure of the planet and the social structure (i.e. how we affect our environment and how it affects us) in the past, present and future. Employers love the mix of technical and social skills people get from studying geography, which they see as very transferable. Geography A-level is also a facilitating subject, which means that it can be useful for a whole range of university courses and will help you keep your options open. Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data such as town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting. The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop and because geographers learn about human and population development, geography can be useful for jobs in charity and international relations too.

**Skills and progression:**

Across the A Level course you will investigate how the planet influences people and how we are, in turn, having a dramatic influence on the planet. The course includes 4 days of fieldwork to collect data both for the local place study in Hythe and trips to other locations in Kent to collect data for the coursework element of the course. There may also be an opportunity, during the course, to go on a residential trip abroad, in the past we have run this trip to Iceland. Geography will help you develop your communication and teamwork skills and will enable you to develop your research and analysis skills which means you will be able to collect and look for patterns in data.

# Courses on offer

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## Government & Politics

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE level 6 or above in History or a related Humanities subject

**Course content:**

UK Government & Politics

US Government & Politics

Ideologies

**Assessment:**

There are three examined units each worth 33% of the total marks.

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**Why choose Politics:**

Politics is a dynamic and ever-changing topic that will help you better understand and engage with the world around you. The syllabus has been carefully designed to provide a balance of UK and US politics as well as an overview of the political ideas that underpin many parties. You will find out about the origins of our parliamentary system as well as future proposals for reform. You will consider who holds power in our democracy - Parliament or the PM? You will learn how political institutions such as Congress and the Supreme Court function in America and be able to draw comparisons with political systems around the world. In the final unit, you will learn about the origins and practical consequences of core ideologies such as Socialism, Conservatism and Liberalism. Whatever you choose to do in later life, studying Politics at A-level is your passport to becoming a global citizen!

**Skills and progression:**

Students who take A-level Politics come away with excellent research and communication skills. You will quickly learn how to sift 'fake news' from factual truth, and analyse the importance of ideas, institutions and events. In addition, you will be shown how to marshal evidence into cogent and persuasive arguments, a skill that will be equally useful for other A-level subjects such as History and English. And of course, there will be regular opportunities for discussion and debate of the events shaping the news. The department famously offers a range of extra-curricular opportunities, notably visits to Washington and the UK Parliament. You may also wish to attend lectures and talks by academics at local universities. We have a thriving Debating Society which you may wish to join and even take part in public speaking and debating competitions. Politics offers a broad range of skills which can take you into a variety of careers. Apart from following in the footsteps of a former FSG student Tracey Crouch and becoming an MP, many students use their politics qualifications to enter careers such as media and communication, public administration and international relations.

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# BTEC Health and Social Care

**Exam board:** Pearson

**Entry requirements:**

If studied, Level 2 Merit in Health and Social Care.

New to Health and Social Care, GCSE level 5 or above in English

**Course content:**

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (externally assessed unit). We study every age range, from conception through to old age, and consider how different life factors impact on our lives.

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care (externally assessed unit). This unit will help you to understand what it is like to work in the health and social care sector.

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (internally assessed unit). This unit introduces you to the values and issues that need to be considered when planning care and support that meet the needs of an individual in a social care environment.

Unit 14: Physiological Disorders and their Care (internally assessed unit). In this unit, you will explore types of physiological disorders, the procedures for diagnosis, and the development of a treatment plan and provision of support for service users.

**Assessment:**

Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed through written examinations which are both 1½ hours long. The external assessment carries a weighting of 58%. Units 5 and 14 are assessed through internally-marked assignments and carry a combined weighting of 42%.

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**Why choose Health and Social Care:**

Health and Social Care is a very broad subject area. It pulls together many different disciplines to help us understand people and their needs.

It combines biology, sociology, psychology, nutrition, and ethics. If you want to pursue a career in Health and Social Care, you will be working in a sector that is dedicated to helping other people, and improving their lives. It is an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling career path.

Employers and universities highly value the practical, real-world skills BTEC Nationals learners demonstrate. It will lay the foundations for your future career.

**Skills and progression:**

What kind of career can I go into? You will experience a challenging and incredibly rewarding career, where you can go home at the end of the day knowing you have made a real difference to someone's life. Here's a taste of the different careers a BTEC in the sector could lead to:

- Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner
- Physician Assistant • Dental Hygienist
- Social Worker • Paramedic
- Nursery Nurse
- Healthcare Assistant
- Midwife
- Occupational Therapist
- Counsellor

# Courses on offer

## History

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Level 6 or above in History

**Course content:**

Tudors, 1485-1603

Russia, Revolution & Dictatorship, 1917-53

American Civil Rights, 1863-1968

**Assessment:**

There are two examined units (Tudors & Russia) worth 40% of the marks each plus one coursework essay (Civil Rights) worth 20% of the total marks.



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**Why choose History:**

History is an exciting and engaging subject and one that employers and universities all covet. In the course of your studies you will learn about key individuals and events that have shaped our lives today. The syllabus we have chosen is diverse and dynamic in its scope and content. It ranges from the courts of Tudor kings to the palaces of Russian tsars. You will explore world-changing moments, such as the Russian Revolution and the March on Washington, and examine the part played by the great movers and shakers of history, men and women as different as Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, Lenin and Stalin and Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. History is who we are and why we are the way we are!

**Skills and progression:**

Students who take A-level History come away with excellent research and communication skills. They will learn to gather evidence, question it and organise their thoughts in a cohesive and persuasive way. There will be opportunities to conduct original research and visit archives and universities where they will experience the thrill of handling original documents associated with key events and leading players in history. There will be the opportunities to take part in extra-curricular visits, notably Washington, but also the National Archives in Kew and local university lectures. You will also be encouraged to develop your presentation skills, working in groups or individually before presenting your ideas to your peers. You may also want to take part in our highly successful Masterclass series in which students and lecturers discuss ideas relating to their own interests and research. History offers a broad range of skills which can take you into a variety of careers including teaching and education, media and communication, public administration and business. Have a look at the display in the History Department for further examples!

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# BTEC Information Technology

**Exam board:** Pearson

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 6 in GCSE ICT or equivalent. Students that have not taken GCSE ICT will be considered if they have an interest and aptitude in the subject.

**Course content:**

The course covers and develops a wide range of IT areas and skills. There are three compulsory units and one optional unit. The compulsory units cover digital devices, emerging technologies, online communities, databases, and social media as well as investigating the moral and ethical issues around IT. The optional unit will be chosen from Data Modelling or Website Design.

**Assessment:**

Unit 1 - Externally Assessed 120 minute written exam on Information Technology Systems. There is just one re-sit opportunity per exam series and the best score stands.

Unit 2 - Creating Systems to Manage Information. Externally Assessed Controlled Assessment completed on a computer.

Unit 3 - Using Social Media in Business. Internally Assessed Controlled Assessment.

Optional Unit – Internally Assessed Coursework; either Data Modelling or Website Design.

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**Why choose Information Technology:**

BTEC courses have been created in collaboration with businesses and universities to ensure that the content provides high quality preparation for progression into the work place or further education. Much of the Information Technology course is practical, allowing you to develop relevant skills and knowledge required for the latest industry requirements. The BTEC is fundamentally learner-centred, designed to allow you develop your practical, interpersonal and thinking skills. You will also develop your own research skills and ability to work as part of a team. BTEC in Information Technology is widely recognised by industry and higher education and provides an excellent stepping stone to your future. The units are highly relevant to today's modern society and bringing together knowledge and understanding of technology with practical and technical skills.

**Skills and progression:**

Proficiency in Information technology is a well sort after skill in many areas of employment. The demand for ICT skills is higher than ever and many employers look for employees who can combine their technology skills with communication skills. Careers progression into PR, Advertising and Media Communications, Project Management, Social and Digital Media and Marketing are but a few of the areas where the technology skills you learn can support your applications. The BTEC in Information Technology also supports your application onto further education where students have continued to study Business, Computer Arts and Animation, Software Development, Accounting and Management but to name a few. ICT is a versatile and flexible subject which supports you in such a vast range of future options which, in combination with your other subject options, makes you stand out from the rest.

# Courses on offer

## Mathematics

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. However, a grade 7 or above is strongly recommended.

**Course content:**

The course has a Core content which includes: Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry in the  $(x,y)$  plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical Methods, Vectors. A Statistics content which includes: Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Statistical Hypothesis Testing. And a mechanics content which includes: Quantities and Units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws, Moments.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1 – 33% of the A-level. Questions will be on any Core Mathematics content.

Paper 2 – 33% of the A-level. Questions will be on any Core Mathematics content.

Paper 3 – 33% of the A-level. Questions will be on any Statistics and Mechanics content.



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**Why choose Mathematics:**

A-level Mathematics is one of the most widely accepted and respected subject choices by universities and employers and is likely to enhance your options rather than close them down. It paves the way for any degree course and it keeps your options open should you not yet know what you want to do in a few years' time, or if you change your mind. Careers for people with good mathematical skills are vast and often well paid. A-level Mathematics will also be of great benefit if you are taking any of these A-levels: Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Economics, Business Studies, Computing or Psychology as it will support your learning in these subjects. If you study A-level Mathematics you will develop skills that make you more employable and more sought after and it will open the door to more careers.

**Skills and progression:**

Throughout the A-level Mathematics programme, students are encouraged to think logically and analytically and you will develop skills to think creatively and strategically, as well as gaining excellent numeracy skills and the ability to interpret data. These fundamental mathematics skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines and careers, and are highly valued by employers. A-level Mathematics can lead on to an enormous number of career choices and is actually listed as either essential, or useful, for most universities in the following courses and is therefore useful for these careers:

Actuarial science, all branches of engineering, economics, mathematics, physics, statistics, accountancy, chemistry, computer science, management studies, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, dentistry, environmental studies, geology, earth science, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, psychology, sports science, teacher training, veterinary science, architecture, geography, dietetics, law, nursing, midwifery, philosophy, planning, surveying and orthoptics.

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## Further Mathematics

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**Entry requirements:**

Level 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

You must also have opted to study A-level Mathematics.

**Course content:**

Compulsory content: Proof; Complex Numbers; Matrices; Further Algebra and Functions; Further Calculus; Further Vectors; Polar Coordinates; Hyperbolic Functions; Differential Equations; Trigonometry; Coordinate Geometry. In addition to the compulsory content, students will study two of the following options:

1. Mechanics (dimensional analysis; momentum; energy and power; circular motion; mass and moments).
2. Statistics (discrete random variables; Poisson distribution; type 1 and type 2 errors; continuous random variables; chi tests; exponential distribution).
3. Discrete (graphs; networks; linear programming; critical path analysis; game theory; binary operation).
- 4.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1 –33% of the A-level. Any content from the compulsory content.

Paper 2 –33% of the A-level. Any content from the compulsory content.

Paper 3 –33% of the A-level. Any content from the two chosen options.

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**Why choose Further Mathematics:**

If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc., or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics, at least to AS level. AS Further Mathematics introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward. Studying Further Mathematics also consolidates and reinforces your standard A-level Mathematics work, helping you to achieve your best possible grades in A-level Mathematics.

Students who are considering applying for Oxford or Cambridge may also benefit from studying Further Mathematics as it will help your application to stand out.

**Skills and progression:**

Further Mathematics will provide you with skills that extend and deepen your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A-level Mathematics course. Further Mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are warmly welcomed by universities and employers. The following degree courses, and therefore careers, list A-level Further Mathematics as useful:

Actuarial science, aeronautical engineering, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, dentistry, electrical engineering, general engineering, law, materials science, mathematics, mechanical engineering, medicine, optometry, physics and veterinary science.

# Courses on offer

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## Music

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Music, or Grade 4-5 standard on an instrument or voice

**Course content:**

Course content:

Develop your skills through performing;

Develop musical ideas through composition;

Gain a depth of understanding of the development of music in specific areas;

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions

**Assessment:**

Unit 1: Performing: Solo/Ensemble Performances – 8 minutes. (30%).

Unit 2: Composing: 1 Free Composition & 1 Composition to a Brief Assessing Compositional Technique. (30%).

Unit 3: 2 Hour Examination that includes listening and essay writing (40%).

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**Why choose Music:**

Choose music if you want to perform, compose and are interested in the development of music over the centuries. If you are planning a career in music – be that in teaching, performance or composition, then this course will give you the grounding you need to move on to a specialist degree course. However, it's also suited to those that simply love the subject, enjoy performance and want to develop their skills in this area. The course has a large amount of course-work, enabling you to explore different ways of working. You will mix classroom time with listening, practical sessions and composition seminars. There are many opportunities at FSG to perform in a variety of choirs and ensembles and alongside professional musicians.

**Skills and progression:**

This course encourages students to develop a range of musical skills, knowledge and understanding. It will broaden experience, foster creativity and promote personal and social development through musical communication. Students who have studied A level music at FSG in recent years have gone on to pursue musical careers in music therapy, music education, arts administration, playing in London Orchestras, singing with an opera company, travelling the world performing on cruise ships, music studios, theatre music and many different performance roles. Those taking a non-music route after A level have found the skills learnt useful to pursue study in broadcasting, publishing, law and politics.

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# Photography

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in any Art and Design endorsement OR a Portfolio of own photographs.

**Course content:**

Our approach allows for a flexible structure and an excellent choice of experiences tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of each individual student.

The emphasis is on achieving a balance of technical skill, personal expression and contextual knowledge, with the first half of each topic being taught, and then further developed by each student's own aspirations.

**Assessment:**

The work will be internally marked during the course with External Moderation by a Visiting Examiner occurring at the end of the course.

The units that are studied are:

Component 1 "Personal Investigation" - This starts as a general introductory course experimenting with a range of media and approaches, then each student generates a topic of their choice to explore in detail worth 60% of the overall marks.

Component 2 "Externally Set Assignment" is the exam paper with 8 starting points. Students choose one to develop ideas during the preparatory stage and then complete a final piece in 15 hours of supervised study worth 40% of the overall marks.

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**Photography Overview:**

Having your own camera would be an advantage but not compulsory for this course (as long as you have a camera phone), but as you will be learning darkroom photography as well as digital photography then it is highly recommended that you look into purchasing a 35mm SLR camera (Praktica BX20 is good and relatively cheap option that can be found second-hand) and a Digital SLR camera (again a decent reconditioned camera is fine). The school will supply and develop black and white film and supply all printing materials.

**Skills and progression:**

As a distinct subject, Art and Design is unique. The skills learned in Art disciplines are entirely transferrable to many situations due to the focus upon creative learning, experimentation and independent thinking. Stand-alone workshops/ events also play a part in widening the student's range of experiences. A wide range of photographic disciplines is available to each student from which to construct an individual programme. These include Experimental Imagery, Portraiture, Landscape, Still-life, Documentary, Photojournalism, Photographic Installation. Critical/Historical/Contextual studies permeate all areas and visits to Visual Art Exhibitions are an essential element and a site-specific visit is used as a starting point for one of the projects.

# Courses on offer

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## Physics

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Physics or GCSE Combined Science Grade 6-6 or above. If you are taking GCSE Combined Science, you must have scored a grade 6 in the Physics units. However, a Grade 7 or 8 in Physics and a Grade 7 or above in Mathematics is also strongly recommended.

**Course content:**

AQA Physics gives you the opportunity to study a core of key concepts in greater detail, with many topics from GCSE being revisited in greater detail. Topics include: Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Energy, Electricity, Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics, Fields, and Nuclear Physics.

There is also a selection of optional units, one of which must be taken. These include: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering, Turning Points in Physics, and Electronics. We currently teach Astrophysics as the optional unit, however, if a class has a particular interest in another topic, this can be catered for. There is also a greater emphasis on practical work and developing skills to work as a Physicist.

**Assessment:**

A2 Level Paper 1 – Units 1-5 and 6.1.

A2 Level Paper 2 – Units 6.2, 7 and 8.

A2 Level Paper 3 – Practical Skills and Option Unit.

You will also undertake a number of Core Practicals throughout the year to gain a separate 'Practical Endorsement'

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**Why choose Physics:**

Choosing A-level Physics will enable you to expand your future options, opening up many pathways post FSG. Choosing to study at FSG, will enable you to answer the big questions raised from your GCSE physics. If you are interested in finding the solutions to some of the world's future problems, then with a strong focus on problem solving skills and practical techniques linked to real world context, you can equip yourself to be a person with outstanding academic and practical skills.

**Skills and progression:**

Studying physics at FSG will enable you to develop your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. Pupils will develop their resilience and their ability to understand new concepts. You will gain skills enabling you to test out new ideas, plus question and investigate other people's theories. This will be useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate.

Future careers are broad, and can range from nuclear physics, astrophysics, engineering, the armed forces and game design.

These skills will also complement other sciences, enabling a higher achievement in other subjects, which can lead to careers such as geophysics or medical physics.

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# Psychology

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in Biology (or Biology equivalent) and Grade 6 or above in Maths.

**Course content:**

Paper 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology.

Paper 2: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods.

Paper 3: Issues and Debates in Psychology and then 1 option from Relationships, Gender or Cognition and Development, 1 option from Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour or Stress, and 1 option from Aggression, Forensic Psychology or Addiction.

**Assessment:**

Papers 1, 2 and 3: all assessed through individual written examination of 2 hours each

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**Why choose Psychology:**

Psychology has historically always been one of the most popular A level subjects that FSG offers. With a long history of outstanding results, we are extremely proud of how well our students have achieved in this subject.

Psychology looks at the fundamental aspects of human behaviour, with such a wide range of topics that there is always something to interest everyone. For example, key and influential studies into conformity and obedience, such as Milgram's work, Offender profiling in Forensic Psychology or explanations and treatments of phobias – there tends to be something for everyone. Students often comment that this is their favourite subject and their love, interest and enthusiasm for it is evident as it is also a popular subject for our students to choose to continue further at degree level.

**Skills and progression:**

Psychology covers fundamental skills useful for any employment or course and is well suited to 'all rounders' as English, Science and Maths skills are all encompassed within the course. There are a vast amount of opportunities to take Psychology further, many study Psychology or Criminology degrees but it also has close ties with fields of nursing, social work, law, forensics, teaching, physiotherapy, biology to name a few. Those who specialise in Psychology can also take their interest further and go into careers such as clinical psychology, educational psychology, counselling, occupational therapy, sport psychology and research.

# Courses on offer

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## Sociology

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language

**Course content:**

Components studied in Year 12

Education, Methods in context; Research methods; Families and households.

Components studied for A Level

- 1. Education with theory and methods;
- 2. Families and Households and Mass Media;
- 3. Crime and Deviance with theory and methods.

**Assessment:**

The A-level is assessed by three written exam papers at the end of the course:

The A-level is assessed by three written exam papers at the end of the course:

Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods (two hours)

Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology (two hours) Mass Media and Families and Households

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (two hours).

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**Why choose Sociology:**

Sociology is an immensely challenging and exciting discipline. Its aim is to understand how societies work. The study of sociology fosters a critical awareness of contemporary social processes and change. It investigates the structures, relations and cultures of different societies throughout the world and throughout history.

You will explore specific examples of social action, social processes and institutions such as media and education; compare different types of social life; examine theories about the nature of social existence and change and study different methods of social research.

In developing your sociological imagination you will analyse the various patterns found in a society; observe the day-to-day experiences of people in groups - workers, gangs, pupils, teachers, and seek to explain them. You will investigate substantive problems. What explains the persistence of gender inequality? Why do social norms change? What is the meaning and what are the causes of crime and ideas about criminals?

Sociology raises critical philosophical issues about how a society can ever be studied, and it charts social trends which may help us understand the dilemmas of modern life.

**Skills and progression:**

In addition to developing a deep understanding of modern society and the changes that occur, you will acquire a wide range of transferable skills such as the ability to write clearly and analytically about complex issues and to engage effectively in argument and debate.

As subject Sociology has a highly regarded reputation with employers and universities.

Sociology is an excellent springboard to a wide range of professional careers. Graduates go on to work in fields such as the media; law; politics; management; research and the Civil Service.

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# Spanish

**Exam board:** AQA

**Entry requirements:**

Grade 6 or above (or equivalent) at Spanish GCSE. We think a Grade 7 would give you the edge in preparing for the A Level.

**Course content:**

Study of Themes including Family, Modern Technologies, Equal Rights, Immigration, Racism, Integration, Celebrities, Spanish National Identity, Cultural Heritage in the Spanish-Speaking World, Young People and Politics, Popular Movements, Monarchy and Dictatorship.

Study of literature and film (or two pieces of literature). Current students are studying:

- Volver (Pedro Almodóvar)
- La casa de Bernada Alba (Federico García Lorca)

Lots of speaking and discussions, presentations, practice of listening, reading and writing skills.

**Assessment:**

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (50%)

Paper 2: Written Response to Work (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

All examinations are externally marked. Speaking exams are usually conducted by one of the class teachers.

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**Why choose Spanish:**

Spanish is an excellent A Level to study, because it's a real chance to develop your opinions and analytical skills. Although it's sold as 'Spanish' you actually get a good overview of society, history and literature, as well as achieving an almost fluent level of a foreign language by the end of the course. This makes it an excellent subject for preparing you for further study, and you will be the master of university quizzes and have a good knowledge of culture after the A Level. Also many leading universities, including Russell Group, consider MFL as facilitating subjects for entry to all courses.

There are lots of excellent ways to improve your Spanish and each theme fits nicely with a film to watch and music to listen to, making a change from formal reading and essay-writing which you might be doing a lot of during your A Level Studies.

**Skills and progression:**

Studying Spanish will lead you to a variety of options, whether you'd like to study it at degree level, or not. Spanish study can lead to jobs in the European Union: imagine interpreting or translating legal documents. You could work abroad; in any Spanish speaking country, not just Spain, and it would set you up to learn other languages. You could be posted to other countries working for the government after intensive language courses in lesser-known languages.

If you choose not to study Spanish past A Level, you will have gained skills in debate, essay writing, analysis, interpreting data and statistics and independent research, all of which set you up as a very effective student or colleague for the future.

# Additional Subjects

Subjects on offer in partnership with The Harvey Grammar School

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## Art & Design: Graphic Communication

**Exam board:** OCR

**Course content:**

This subject aims to allow you to extend and further develop your abilities gained through GCSE Art and Design and encourages you to experiment with a variety of different processes and methods. It also asks you to consider the work of professional artists in relation to your own work, and to form an understanding of the nature of art and design by developing a body of work that is personal and expressive.

The course offers the opportunity to gain a fundamental understanding of visual communication, encouraging you to identify your own strengths and interests in the subject as the course progresses. You will explore a variety of image making techniques, incorporating computer based Graphics, Illustration, Printmaking and Photography. Alongside drawing, you will develop an appreciation of Graphic Arts including Typography, Calligraphy and the use of signs and symbols. Audience and the professional context of Graphic Communication form the focus for the projects. In the Design Studio, you will work to strict deadlines and take part in regular group critiques. In addition, you will be encouraged to attend Life-Drawing classes and aim to spend some of your private study time working in the Art department.

**Futher Information:**

In Graphics, trips to galleries and museums form an important part of your project and exam work.

Your coursework will be assessed on manipulative and analytical skills, aesthetic qualities, knowledge and critical understanding. There are clearly defined assessment objectives for each of these areas, through which your teacher will guide you.

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## Design & Technology: Product Design

**Exam board:** Edexcel

**Course content:**

This course aims to equip students with the skills to recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impacts on today's world.

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology: Written Examination 2 hours 30 minutes 50% of the qualification. This Component covers: Materials, Performance characteristics of materials, Processes and techniques, Digital technologies, Factors influencing the development of products, Effects of technological developments, Potential hazards and risk assessment, Features of manufacturing industries, Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment, Current legislation, Information handling, Modelling and forward planning, Further processes and techniques.

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project Coursework Centre assessed 50% of the qualification. This component covers: Students individually and/or in consultation with a client/end user identify a problem and design context.

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## Film Studies

**Exam board:** WJEC

**Course content:**

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking including a focus on Hollywood, American film and documentaries. (Examined unit: 35%)

Component 2: Global Filmmaking perspectives, including modern British Film, Global Film and various film movements. (Examined Unit: 35%)

Component 3: Practical Production (Coursework) - a creative and task with self-evaluation. (30%). This might require students to write a screenplay or make their own film.

**Why take an A Level in Film Studies:**

For well over a century, film has represented one of the most powerful global means of communicating the local, national, and transnational stories that matter to humankind. Understanding the power of films to reflect reality is part of being a culturally literate and engaged citizen in the fullest sense. The study of cinema is important on a microcosmic and a macrocosmic scale: it allows you to explore the interconnectedness of personal visions, artistic and technological developments, social changes, as well as processes by which cultures and nations are defined through audio-visual means.

The Film Studies A-Level is designed to develop students' critical thinking, evaluative and analytical skills as well as deepening their understanding of how different cultures express themselves through the medium of film.

Students will be exposed to a wide range of film genres and students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film will be greatly enhanced as well as expanding their creativity and practical skills. A variety of forms of assessment are used, with the intention of shaping the students into independent, active learners.

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## Sport

**Exam board:** Pearson

**Course content:**

A BTEC National Diploma is a Level 3 practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. As well as learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start a career.

This qualification is equivalent to two A Levels.

**What is the course structure?**

The course is made up of nine units covering a large range of sports related topics. In Year 1 of the course, the students complete four units, which make up the Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level). In year 2, they complete an additional 5 units to complete the Diploma.

1 Anatomy and Physiology Written Exam

2 Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being Task set and marked by exam board

3 Professional Development in the Sports Industry Assignment set and marked internally

4 Sports Leadership Assignment set and marked internally

22 Business for Sport Task set and marked by exam board

23 Skill Acquisition Assignment set and marked internally

9 Practical Sports Performance Assignment set and marked internally

10 Sports Event Organisation Assignment set and marked internally

18 Work Experience in Active Leisure Assignment set and marked internally

**How is the course assessed?**

One unit is assessed via external examinations; two through a controlled assessment task and the remainder are assessed and graded via coursework activities.

# Additional Subjects

Subjects on offer in partnership with The Harvey Grammar School

## Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)

**Exam board:** OCR

### **Course content:**

Philosophy and Ethics is exponentially one of the fastest growing A level courses in the UK. This is due to the disciplines that are learned and recognised by many Higher Education institutions, including Medical College, the most acclaimed Universities and employers. This course is for those who enjoy abstract thought and intellectual reasoning. It involves serious thinking of a reflective and critical nature about questions asked by almost every human being at some point in their lives. These questions have to do with the meaning and purpose of life, how we define truth and respond to ultimate questions. To embark on such a course is to 'do philosophy'. You do not have to be religious to do this course, but do need to be able to accept that some questions can be answered from more than one view point.

The Advanced GCE will develop the candidate's skills of research, interpretation, critical thinking, reasoning, analysis and debate. The course is essay based and consists of three modules that are assessed purely by examination:

- Module 1: H573/01 Philosophy of Religion - students will be assessed by their knowledge of the Ancient Greek philosophers; the Judaeo Christian influences on Religious Philosophy. Students will engage in the debate that surrounds the mind/body problem and assess arguments for and against the belief in life after death. The course develops students' knowledge and understanding of the philosophical arguments for the existence of God, the challenges to religious belief, including the problem of evil and suffering, and philosophical debates from psychological and sociological perspectives. It arms candidates with the necessary tools to discuss critically traditional views on religious belief as well as the status of religious and philosophical debate in the 21st Century.

- Module 2: H573/02 Religion and Ethics - studies the ethical theories of Absolute and Relativist morality. Candidates will develop a knowledge and understanding of Natural Law, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism, including the classical forms from Bentham and Mill. Students will also critique of the links between religion and morality, ethical theories including Meta Ethics, the Nature and Role of Conscience, Virtue Ethics. They will learn how we may apply these ethical theories to complex issues such as sex and sexuality in the 21st Century, this includes the application and different approaches to sexual ethics, extramarital sex, contraception and homosexuality. Students will also engage in the debate surrounding Euthanasia and the right to die. It is for this reason that the study of Philosophy and Ethics is valued by the medical profession.

- Module 3: H573/03 Developments in Christian Thought – this module develops students' ability to systematically study religious thought both ancient and modern. Students will engage in debates that have shaped Christianity and Christian practice throughout the centuries and continue to challenge Christians and Christian thinkers today. Students will have the opportunity to study and critique Christian responses to the questions of human nature, the self, immortality and the possibility of divine revelation. Students will critique the nature of the Bible and assess modern approaches to Bible study. Students will also be assessing the depiction of Jesus in different cultural and denominational communities and the development of the theology surrounding the status of Jesus. The module also allows students to engage in the most challenging and flourishing debates in modern British society. Students will critique the role Christianity plays in modern British life, the rise of secularism and pluralism within British life, the changing gender roles both within the Church and in wider society.

### **Why study Philosophy and Ethics?**

This course is essential for anyone with a conscience about the future which is influenced by the past. This course discusses the morality of issues that are at the core of many modern debates both in the UK and around the world. Along with the art of debate, it develops "essay-based" skills which will enhance a wide range of other subjects. With this course you could go on to higher education and university. R.S. Philosophy and Ethics will compliment many other courses including English, History, Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Science, Medicine, Law and Politics. The skills developed would be particularly useful for careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media. It is taught with a variety of media which includes film, radio, newspapers and topical debating programmes that compliment a thorough knowledge of the recommended reading text.



The  
**Folkestone**  
School for Girls



Principal: Mr Mark Lester  
The Folkestone School for Girls  
Coolinge Lane  
Folkestone  
Kent CT20 3RB

Tel: 01303 251125  
[principal@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:principal@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk)  
[www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk](http://www.folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk)