

OPTIONS BOOKLET

2027

Ashby Sixth Form

Anything is Possible

ASHBY SIXTH FORM - ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

WELCOME

From

Ashby Sixth Form

Welcome to the next stage of your education.

Our vision is to have a fully inclusive Sixth Form where ALL students are empowered to become independent, self-motivated learners, ready to thrive in life beyond Ashby Sixth Form.

We feel that Ashby Sixth Form offers wonderful opportunities for the next stage of your education. We have a passion for learning and our students agree that we create a fantastic culture in which this can happen. Many of our students go on to university but others use us as a successful stepping stone to apprenticeships and amazing jobs. We provide a caring pastoral environment and have an incredibly supportive team of teachers who have proven skills teaching students at Post-16.

As one of the top attaining Sixth Form's in the county and offering 31 different level 3 subjects we strive to give students a great experience. Our Sixth Form welcomes students who have been in our Year 11 as well as students who wish to join us from other schools.

We have an impressive enrichment package, a high quality personal development programme and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Combined with a supportive environment and a range of examination courses with something to suit everyone, we set young people on the road to success in their future careers.

If you have any queries please contact the Sixth Form office

sixthform@ashbyschool.org.uk

Mr Matt Talbot

Director of Sixth Form

MEET THE SIXTH FORM TEAM



Matt Talbot
Director of Sixth Form



Aiden Chamberlain
Raising Standards Leader (Post 16)



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Year Team Leader



Alice Clapton
Year Team Leader



Liz Carney
Assistant Year Team Leader



Jo Warriner
Post 16 Administrator

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INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. HOWEVER, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO OUR OFFER PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEW YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 28th JUNE 2027 SO PLEASE TRY AND KEEP THIS DATE FREE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Nationally, A levels are now linear, and most students will take all their exams at the end of Year 13. Most students study 3 subjects in Year 12 but in some cases, this will be 4 subjects, particularly if choosing Further Mathematics (this is a double option including A Level Mathematics). As the year progresses, if it becomes clear that students will only be with us for Year 12, they will have the option to take examinations at the end of that year (if possible in that subject).

Advanced Level courses are demanding. Experience shows that students with fewer than 5 GCSE Grades 9-4 (including English Language OR English Literature AND Mathematics) are unlikely to succeed in our Sixth Form.

The admission criteria for Ashby Sixth Form is as follows:

1. A minimum of 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) Grade 4 or above, including at least a Grade 4 at GCSE Level in English Language **(*)** OR English Literature AND Mathematics. If there are special circumstances why this will not happen, please talk to the Head of School. **(*If students do not achieve a Grade 4 in English Language, then they will be required to re-sit this and attend additional English lessons until this happens.)**

2. Individual subject requirements as outlined on the course information sheets must be met.

3. Students selecting more than one from the following list: Maths (including Further Maths which is a double option subject), Biology, Chemistry and Physics should consider the following guidance as well as individual subject requirements:
   a. **One of the above subjects** – Individual subject requirements
   b. **Two of the above subjects** – An average GCSE points score of 4.9 points or higher
   c. **Three or more of the above subjects** – An average GCSE points score of 6 points or higher

**The Director of Sixth Form reserves the right to make exceptions when appropriate*

More information regarding Average Points Scores can be found on page 2

4. A satisfactory interview and references.

5. Attendance of at least 95%.

THERE MAY BE SOME EXCEPTIONS TO THESE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH YOU BY THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

AVERAGE POINTS SCORE AT GCSE (APS)



Average points score is calculated as follows:

GCSE grades expressed as numbers:

9 = 9 points
8 = 8 points
7 = 7 points
6 = 6 points
5 = 5 points
4 = 4 points
3 = 3 points
2 = 2 points
1 = 1 point

Worked Example

Subject	Grade achieved	Points
Mathematics	6	6
English Lang	5	5
English Lit	4	4
French	7	7
Product Design	3	3
History	3	3
Science	5	5
Science	5	5
Total	-	38
Average points score	38 ÿ 8 =	4.75 points

In this example the student would be advised to only select one subject from the list detailed on the previous page.

SELECTING ADVANCED LEVEL SUBJECTS

One of the best ways of choosing the right course is to seek advice from a number of sources, such as your family and the staff in school (particularly those who teach you). They will be able to give you help based on knowledge of your strengths and weaknesses.

How do you choose?

Sixth Form courses are more specialised, and you need to make your choice on the basis of interest, ability and future aspirations.

Before making your choice of Sixth Form subjects you should consider the following points very carefully:

a. Choose subjects that you enjoy

Interest in the subjects is of prime importance. You will need to devote many hours of study to each of your subjects. Unless you are interested, you will find it hard to maintain the motivation necessary to achieve your best possible grades. The grades you achieve will have a direct effect on your future plans and decisions.

b. Choose subjects in which you can succeed

You should have the ability to carry on studying your subjects to a high level. Therefore, it is sensible to choose subjects in which you have already succeeded and are confident. When choosing new subjects look carefully at their requirements; do they match your strengths?

c. Choose subjects that are relevant to future plans

If you have a clear idea of your future aspirations at Post 18, choose subjects which are required by Higher Education Institutions or employers in order to fulfil those intentions. Investigate the various options and choose relevant and useful combinations of subjects. Make use of the Careers section in the Library. Consider having a careers interview.

d. Choose subjects which suit your style of working

Think whether you prefer more or less coursework, examinations etc. Look carefully at the skills, study patterns and styles of work required by each subject.

e. Choose subjects which are compatible with each other

Ensure your subjects fit well together and appear a sensible grouping for your future career or education.
More information regarding combination of subjects can be found on Pages 40 & 41.

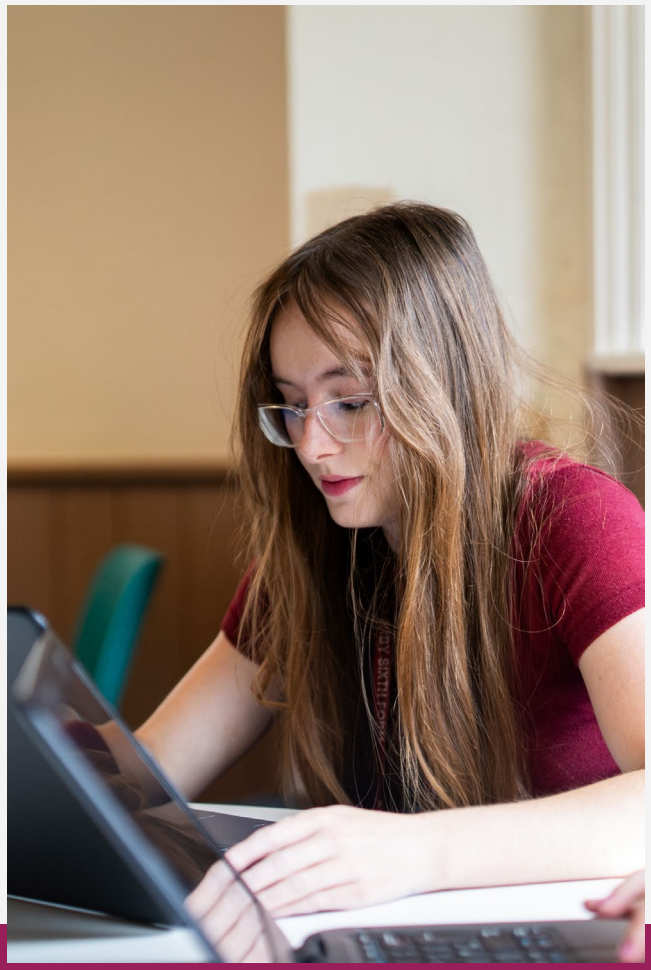
INDEPENDENT STUDY REQUIREMENTS

The workload in our Sixth Form is challenging and substantial and requires self-discipline, resilience, independence and organisation. At Ashby Sixth Form all students select **3** subjects and in some exceptional cases 4 subjects - Particularly those choosing Further Mathematics (this is a double option including A Level Mathematics).

A few students may also choose to undertake the Extended Project Qualification and/or Core Maths.

In Year 13 students are expected to continue with at least 3 subjects.

All subjects will have **9 hours of lessons** a fortnight. In addition to this, Year 12 students will have **3 lessons** a fortnight of compulsory study, which is supervised and will be timetabled in the Sixth Form Area. This increases to **6 lessons** a fortnight in Year 13.



Since University applications are made very early in Year 13, your attainment in Year 12 is very important and will influence your reference and UCAS prediction.

It is essential that you join the Sixth Form prepared to work hard and independently. You MUST utilise non-timetabled sessions for personal study and wider reading.

Please note part time paid work should NOT be undertaken during school hours whilst in our sixth form.

SIXTH FORM OPPORTUNITIES

- Senior Team of Head Students and Deputy Head Students
- Student Council President, Deputy President & representatives
- Wellbeing Lead & Team of Wellbeing Prefects
- Senior Prefects
- CREW Captains
- Faculty Prefects
- Peer Mentoring Programme
- Community Volunteering Work (In local primary schools, nurseries & care homes)
- Duke of Edinburgh
- National Competitions in Yearbook different subjects
- Skills for Success 2 Day Conference
- Career Ready Program
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities (PE/Music/Drama)
- Curriculum trips in a number of different subjects
- Theatre trips
- Various Trips abroad
- Ski & Snowboard trips
- Quizzes
- Fancy dress days & Non-Uniform Days
- Charity work & Cake sales
- School concerts
- Medic group meetings
- High achievers support (including students undertaking MOOC qualifications)
- Links with major companies e.g. Ashfield, Rolls Royce, KP, Land Rover, Siemens, Dyson, EON, David Wilson Homes, Pladis
- Regular work placements & 1 week work experience in Year 12
- Strong university links & University visits
- Guest speakers & student workshops
- Drama productions
- Leavers Ball & Yearbook
- Awards evening
- UCAS Fair at NEC Birmingham

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

FOR ALL SIXTH FORM COURSES 5 x 9-4 at GCSE or Equivalent – Including Mathematics AND Eng-lish Language OR English Literature at Grade 4 or above	PLUS, MINIMUM EXTRA GCSE REQUIREMENTS…
Applied Science	EITHER a 4-4 in Trilogy OR 4, 4, 4 in separate sciences
Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design)	4 in Art (if taken)
Art and Design (Textiles)	4 in either Textiles OR Art
Biology *	EITHER a 6-6 in Trilogy OR 6, 6, 5 in separate sciences (with a 6 in Biol-ogy) AND a 5 in Mathematics
Business	4 in Business (if taken)
Chemistry *	EITHER a 6-6 in Trilogy OR 6, 6, 5 in separate sciences (with a 6 in Chemistry) AND a 5 in Mathematics
Computer Science	4 in Computing (if taken) and a 5 in Mathematics
Drama & Theatre Studies	4 in Drama (if taken)
Engineering	4 in a Design subject or P2 in Level 2 Qualification (if taken) and a 5 in GCSE Mathematics is desirable
English – Language	5 in English Language & 5 in English Literature
English – Literature	5 in English Language & 5 in English Literature
Film	4 in Film (if taken)
Food Science and Nutrition - Level 3 Diploma	4 in Food (if taken)
French	5 in French
Further Mathematics* (this is a 2-option subject)	8 in Mathematics
Geography	4 in Geography (if taken)
Health & Social Care	P2 in Level 2 Health & Social Care (if taken). If not taken a Grade 4 in an essay-based subject (such as History or Psychology) is essential and a Grade 4 in Science in desirable
History	4 in History (if taken) and a 5 in English Language/Literature
Mathematics *	6 in Mathematics
Media Studies	4 in Media (if taken)
Music	4 in Music and/or achieved Grade 5 standard
Philosophy Religion & Ethics	4 in Philosophy & Ethics (if taken) and a 5 in English Language/Literature
Photography (Art & Design)	4 in Art is desirable but not essential (if taken)
Physical Education	4 in Physical Education (if taken) and 4 in Science is desirable
Physics *	EITHER a 6-6 in Trilogy OR 6, 6, 6 in separate sciences (with a 6 in Physics) AND a 6 in Mathematics
Psychology	4 in Psychology if taken or if not taken a 5 in English Language
Sport - Cambridge Technical Level 3: Extended Certificate	4 in Physical Education (if taken) or P2 in Level 2 Qualification (if taken)
Additional Subjects:	
Core Mathematics	4 in Mathematics
Extended Project Qualification	A GCSE APS of 6 is desirable

Please note that the above information is correct at the time of going to press, but may change due to staffing and budgetary considerations

* See additional information re APS Scores for entry to these subjects on Pages 1 & 2 of the options booklet

2026 LEAVERS DESITINATIONS

DESTINATIONS 2026	%
Higher Education Course (including those taking year out)	66%
Employment or Training	17%
Other Education	1%
Art Foundation Course	1%
Apprenticeship	10%
Gap Year	4%
Forces	1%
TOTAL	**100%**

SUBJECT OPTIONS

All students are to select three subjects from the following options



APPLIED SCIENCE

EXAMINATION BOARD	Pearson
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4. Students must also have: • EITHER a minimum of grades 4-4 in GCSE 'Trilogy Combined Science' OR a minimum of 4, 4, 4 in Separate Sciences • GCSE maths at grade 4 or above • English Language/Literature at grade 4 or above. If you do not select A-level Maths as one of your other options, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to study Core Maths alongside Applied Science as an additional subject in Year 12.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course focuses on a broad range of topics across the three science disciplines. The first year will cover content in the following areas: Biological molecules Cells Cellular transport and enzyme activity Atomic Structure Bonding and structure Periodicity Physical chemistry Organic chemistry Waves and optical fibres Forces and laws of motion Electrical circuits and energy transfer
ASSESSMENT METHOD	**Year 1:** 3 external exams for application of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (including the option to re-sit in Year 2). **Year 2:** Internally assessed coursework modules on practical skill application and contemporary issues in science.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Applied Science fits well with a range of subjects as it develops your skills in areas such as problem-solving, research, analysing data, and presenting ideas. It particularly support the scientific elements of Geography, PE, Psychology and Health and Social Care.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	The skills developed during this course are much sought-after by employers. Applied Science students can choose from a variety of career options, such as careers in medicine, teaching or entering another Science-related profession. The Applied science AAQ shows not only academic ability but also skills in presentation, workload management and practical application of knowledge. It is a great stepping stone into university or the workplace.

ART & DESIGN (ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN)

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics AND English Language/Literature at a grade 4 or above. Students will also require a grade 4 in Art if taken at GCSE. If no previous Art experience, students will need to show the Head of Subject a sample of design work and/or artwork they have done recently.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course enables students to develop personal visual responses to ideas stemming from a range of stimuli. This is through the medium of Art, Craft & Design. Craft and Design involves a range of two dimensional and three-dimensional ways of making. They will learn about communicating to the public visually, by visiting displays of works of art in order to appreciate, understand and create work inspired by artists, designers and craftspeople.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: NEA (coursework) 60% Component 2: EXTERNALLY SET TASK (exam) 40%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to compliment many other advanced level subjects. This could lead to Higher Education in areas of Art and Design or more general or combined Higher Education courses. Students may choose a career related to Art and Design, of which there are a vast number to choose from in this multi-billion-pound creative industry. Art will take time to complete due to the practical nature of the subject; you need to consider what other courses you are taking as students can find it challenging balancing two or more practical subjects. You will need to be organised and focused and use your study periods effectively. The GCE is a recognised qualification that will encourage students to explore a number of transferable skills of creativity, communication, research, debate, constructive criticism, time management, planning, negotiation and problem-solving skills. Students will utilise an understanding and knowledge of skills that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Students who study Art could go on to be artists, architects, designers, fashion designers, set designers, inventors, interior designers, involved in film making and television sets/ props/costumes, links to design in theatre, writers, journalists, reviewers, illustrators, teachers and more, becoming a part of a multibillion-pound creative industry both UK wide and abroad.

ART & DESIGN (TEXTILES)

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. Students must also have EITHER a Grade 4 in Textile Technology or a Grade 4 in Art.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Do you enjoy working with fabric, colour, texture, pattern and stitch? A Level Textiles is a creative, hands-on course where you'll explore a wide range of textile techniques through Art & Design. You'll experiment with printing, dyeing, embroidery, fabric manipulation, construction and mixed media, developing your skills through creative projects and specialist workshops. Your work could take many forms, including sculptural textiles, wearable art, fashion, interior products and expressive textile artwork. You'll explore the work of artists, designers and makers, using their ideas to inspire and develop your own creative thinking. You'll learn to experiment, refine ideas, solve creative problems and think critically about your work. Most importantly, you'll develop your own personal style and creative voice, building an exciting portfolio that reflects your interests, ideas and imagination. If you are creative, curious and enjoy making, experimenting and developing your own ideas, A Level Textiles could be for you.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Personal investigation worth 60% of your final A level grade Component 2: Externally set assignment worth 40% of your final grade.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	A Level Textiles provides an excellent foundation for further study and a wide range of creative careers. After completing the course, you could progress to a Foundation Art & Design course or specialise in areas such as: Fashion Design/ Textile Design/ Surface Pattern Design/ Costume Design/ Fashion & Retail Management/ Fashion Buying & Merchandising. The creative and practical skills you develop — including design development, experimentation, problem-solving, research and portfolio building — can prepare you for further study and careers across the wider fashion, textiles and creative industries.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	With further training, students may choose a career related to Design and Technology with a wide variety of options available such as textile art, interior design, fashion design, stage and costume design, fabric or garment technologist, buyer or merchandiser.

BIOLOGY

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4. Students must also have: • EITHER a minimum of grades 6-6 in GCSE 'Trilogy Combined Science' OR a minimum of 6, 6, 5 in Separate Sciences (with a 6 in Biology) • GCSE maths at grade 5 or above • English Language/Literature at grade 4 or above. If you do not select A-level Maths as one of your other options it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to study Core Maths alongside Biology as an additional subject in Year 12.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Biology is a popular A-level subject. It builds on the biological knowledge you developed at GCSE, while enhancing your practical, maths and problem-solving skills. You will gain the knowledge and skills to enable you to understand, and critically analyse, new scientific developments and current global issues in areas such as medicine, the environment and biotechnology. The two-year programme includes study of: Biological molecules Cells Organisms exchanging substances with their environment Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms Energy transfer in and between organisms How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems The control of gene expression
ASSESSMENT METHOD	There are three written exam papers to take at the end of year 13. Paper 1 is based on Year 12 work, paper 2 is based on Year 13 work and paper 3 can cover questions from both years. Practical endorsement is a separately reported result on the students A-level certificate. It is assessed by teachers and is based on successfully completing a range of practical skills and tasks.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Biology is an excellent match with other science-based subjects such as Chemistry and Physics. Many students also take Maths. Lots of other subjects also fit well with Biology. For example, Biology helps with the scientific elements of Geography, PE and Psychology.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Biology A-level is held in high regard by universities. It opens doors to further study in a wide variety of areas such as medicine, physiotherapy, nursing, food science, biochemistry, food science and zoology. Students can also go on to apprenticeship programmes and directly into jobs because A-level Biology equips students with a range of skills that employers value.

BUSINESS

EXAMINATION BOARD	Edexcel
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. There is no need for any prior knowledge of the subject. Students who have studied Business at GCSE are expected to have achieved a Grade 4 or above. The right attitude to the subject is vital along with an interest in current affairs, politics, industry and enthusiasm to know more.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	A level Business Studies aims to look at the questions arising in business and how decisions are made in business. The Edexcel syllabus covers 4 themes which are assessed in 3 external exams at the end of the two-year course. Themes 1) Marketing and people 2) Managing business activities 3) Business decisions and strategy 4) Global Business
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses 35% of the qualification Paper 2: Business activities, decisions & strategy 35% of the qualification Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment 30% of the qualification
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other Advanced Level courses. This could lead to Higher Education in areas of business studies, marketing, accounting or more general Higher Education courses. With further training, students may choose a career related to business studies, such as marketing, finance and accounting, human resources or public relations. This is a recognised qualification that would support a trainee management course within a company and helps students to develop the skills, understanding and experience to work towards management level. Students can go on to degree courses with either BA or BSC qualifications.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	This course gives students an opportunity to choose from a wide range of professions including law, finance, the Stock Market, insurance or management.

CHEMISTRY

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4. Students must also have: • EITHER a minimum of grades 6-6 in GCSE 'Trilogy Combined Science' OR a minimum of 6, 6, 5 in Separate Sciences (with a 6 in Chemistry) • GCSE maths at grade 5 or above • English Language/Literature at grade 4 or above. If you do not select Maths as one of your other A-level options, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to study Core Maths alongside Chemistry as an additional subject in Year 12.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The course develops the skills and knowledge covered at GCSE whilst challenging students with more advanced material designed to give them a broad range of expertise. The course is split into the three pillars of chemistry: • Physical Chemistry - students will explore how electrons are organised within atoms and how particle interactions can lead to wildly different outcomes. More time is dedicated to the rationale and techniques used to support the current ideas of atomic arrangement. Topics include: Atomic Structure, Amount of Substance, Kinetics, Equilibria, Energetics and Thermodynamics • Inorganic Chemistry - whilst only briefly covered at GCSE, transition metals are discussed in great detail in terms of their structure, properties and reactions. Students will also start to look at the Periodic Table in more detail by identifying and justifying patterns across a period as opposed to simply down a group. Topics include: Periodicity, Group 2, Group 7 and Transition Metals • Organic Chemistry – what is only one unit at GCSE now makes up approximately one third of the material at A-level. Students will make their own samples of Aspirin whilst getting to grips with exactly what a molecule of 3,5-difluoro-2-hydroxybenzenecarboxylic acid looks like! Topics include: Organic nomenclature, Organic Reaction Mechanism Systems, Organic Synthesis and Organic Analysis
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 13. Question styles and length are similar to that of GCSE where the majority of content is assessed in short-answer questions between 1-6 marks. The final part of Paper 3 has a multiple-choice section that really tests students ability to think quickly and identify key parts of a question without being distracted by extraneous detail. Throughout their time studying the A-level, students will work towards achieving a practical endorsement certificate that demonstrates their proficiency with a wide-range of analytical skills . Students will be assessed, by their teachers, at completing new and exciting techniques including titrations, variable temperature reflux and complex, multi-step chemical identification processes.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Chemistry is complementary to a range of subjects, but fits particularly well with Maths, Biology, Physics and Computer Science.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Chemistry is highly regarded by universities and employers. It indicates that a student is a problem solver, can handle complex systems with lots of moving parts and is a multifaceted learner with a wide range of strengths. Chemistry is normally an essential A-level for degree courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAMINATION BOARD	OCR
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students wishing to study A Level Computer Science should have achieved at least a Grade 5 in Mathematics. Students who have studied GCSE Computer Science should have achieved at least a Grade 4 in Computer Science. You do not need to have studied Computer Science at GCSE to take the A Level. However, you should enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking and working through challenging problems. A willingness to develop your programming skills and work independently is essential.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	**Computer Science is about much more than using computers — it is about understanding how technology works and learning how to create it.** During the course, you will develop your programming and problem-solving skills while exploring the computer science behind many of the technologies that shape the modern world. You will study topics including programming, algorithms, artificial intelligence, computer hardware, networks, cybersecurity, databases, data structures, Boolean logic and the legal and ethical impact of technology. You will also investigate how computers represent and process data and how large, complex problems can be broken down into solutions that a computer can execute. A major part of the course is practical programming. You will develop increasingly sophisticated programs using Python and learn how professional programmers design, test and improve software. You will also complete an independent programming project, giving you the opportunity to design and develop a video game.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	**Computer Systems – 40%** 2 hour 30-minute written examination. **Algorithms and Programming – 40%** 2 hour 30-minute written examination. **Programming Project – 20%**
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	A Level Computer Science combines particularly well with subjects such as Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Business, and Design & Technology, but it can complement almost any combination of A Levels. It provides an excellent foundation for university study, degree apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships in areas including Computer Science, Software Engineering, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Games Development and Engineering.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	**Computer Science opens the door to one of the widest and fastest-changing areas of the modern economy.** The skills developed through the course — programming, logical thinking, problem-solving, analysis and computational thinking — are valuable across a huge range of industries. Computer Science can lead to careers such as Software Engineer, Cybersecurity Analyst, Data Scientist, Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning Engineer, Games Developer, Web or App Developer, Cloud Engineer, Network Engineer, Database Developer, Robotics Engineer and Digital Forensics Specialist. Computing skills are also increasingly important in industries such as finance, engineering, medicine, science, entertainment, defence and business, meaning that studying Computer Science does not restrict you to working for a technology company. Students may progress through university, degree apprenticeships or higher apprenticeships, with opportunities available in both established global organisations and emerging technology companies.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a grade 4 or above. Students who have taken Drama at GCSE are expected to have achieved a grade 4 or above.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course places an emphasis on Drama and Theatre Studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. We explore the theatre process and develop our understanding of acting and design through practical workshops. These are focused around the exploration of theatrical play text and developing original devised drama. We consider a variety of theatre practitioners' work and often work physically within an ensemble. The ability to provide written evidence and produce analytical essays is essential. Performance within live productions is an essential part of the course and there are opportunities to develop your skills both on and off stage. Students can achieve marks through design or technical theatre. There is an expectation to fully participate in the rehearsal process.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: NEA practical – 20% Component2 : NEA practical – 40% Component 3: Written exam – 40%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement any other Advanced Level courses, in particular ones that may be related to the Performing Arts. With further training, students may choose a career related to the performing arts such as working in the theatre, film or television industries. Students may also consider joining a theatre group to increase their drama and theatre experience. The course provides students with invaluable skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers from lots of industries are looking for.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Students who have followed the Drama and Theatre Studies course go on to study Acting, Journalism, Film and Television Production, Set/Costume/Props/Make Up/Visual Effects Design, working within the Gaming Industry, Advertising and Marketing, Event Promotion, Directing, Producing, Camera Operators, Lighting/Sound Technicians, Magazine Column-ists/Editors, Event Organisers, Short/Feature Film Makers, Teachers, Stage Management, Program Coordinators.

ENGINEERING

EXAMINATION BOARD	OCR
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, for this course this must include English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above and a Grade 5 or above in Mathematics is desirable. Students wishing to study this course at Advanced Level must also have a Grade 4 in a Design & Technology subject. If you do not select Mathematics as one of your other options, it is RECOMMENDED to study Core Maths alongside Engineering as an additional subject in Year 12.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Learning about Engineering and Design and Technology as a Level 3 qualification strengthens learners' critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment. It enables them to develop and make prototypes/products that solve real-world problems whilst considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. This qualification requires learners to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/ products. Learners will acquire subject knowledge in Engineering and Design and Technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	50% NEA Paper 1: Principles of Design Exam 26.7% Paper 2: Problem Solving Exam 23.3%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	This course is ideal for students looking for a career in Engineering. Combined with Mathematics or Physics, it gives students an extensive understanding of the subject. Combined with Design and Technology, it provides an excellent springboard for a range of careers.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	This could lead to all levels of higher education, which equips students with the skills to succeed in professions such as: • Aeronautical Engineering • Agricultural Engineering • Mechanical Engineering • Civil Engineering • Architecture • Teaching • Automotive Engineering • Chemical Engineering • Electrical Engineering

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAMINATION BOARD	Edexcel
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics. For this course both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature must be at a Grade 5 or above.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The English Language course enables students to develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language. Students explore an exciting and varied range of written, spoken and multimodal data, allowing them to understand how and why we use language in different situations to create different effects. The varied and interesting components encourage students to engage creatively and critically with our language. Students will explore how children acquire language and how language choices can help to create personal identities. Learners will also explore language variation from Early Modern English to the present day. As well as developing their ability to interpret different forms of language, students have the opportunity to demonstrate their creative writing skills in the independent coursework unit.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Language Variation (Exam) 35% Component 2: Child Language (Exam) 20% Component 3: Investigating Language (Exam) 25% Component 4: Crafting Language (C/W) 20%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement any other Advanced Level courses in either Arts or Science subjects. Psychology can complement the Child Language module and History can complement the Language Change Over Time module.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Both English courses are highly valued A levels, opening doors into a whole range of careers such as publishing, journalism, law, teaching and the media. **A few students may be sure they wish to study English at university and both English courses may be chosen**

ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAMINATION BOARD	Edexcel
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics. For this course both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature must be at a Grade 5 or above.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The English Literature course aims to encourage learners to develop their interest in literature and expose them to a wide range of genres and texts to allow all students to find their own personal area of enjoyment. Students will engage critically and creatively with a substantial and exciting body of texts which includes plays, poetry and prose by influential writers such as William Shakespeare, Margaret Atwood and Mary Shelley. Students are required to study a minimum of seven texts on this course so a passion for reading is a must! Learners will develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation in writing and explore the contexts of the texts they are reading in order to better understand the intentions of the authors. As well as studying texts for exams, students will have the opportunity to complete an analytical coursework choosing from a variety of texts.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Drama: Shakespeare and Webster 30% Component 2: Prose: Science and Society 20% Component 3: Poetry: Rossetti and Post-2000 30% Component 4: NEA: Comparison
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement any other Advanced Level courses in either Arts or Science subjects.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Both English courses are highly valued A levels opening doors into a whole range of careers such as publishing, journalism, the law, teaching, the arts and media in general. **A few students may be sure they wish to study English at university and both English courses may be chosen**

FILM STUDIES

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a grade 4 or above. Film Studies is very similar to English as a subject, focusing on your ability to analyse and discuss the meaning created by filmic texts. It is also a highly creative subject so having a passion for film and audio-visual media will be an asset.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Students develop their knowledge of how filmmakers use a range of elements to construct their films, often expressing complex ideas and emotions through them. Including ideas of how cinema can be used to express comments of political, historical and social issues. The key elements of film form consist of cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance and they provide an important starting point for learners' study of film at A-Level. This in turn will help students to appreciate the aesthetic of film, in essence the 'look and feel' of a film. A significant aspect of narrative study is based on how narrative construction aligns spectators with characters and issues and how it positions spectators to adopt particular values, attitudes and points of view conveyed in the film. The way filmmakers select and construct visual elements will then manipulate and position the audience into a specific and focused viewpoint. In making sense of film, learners explore how films create meaning and generate response through all aspects of film form (both its key elements and its structural elements). This includes the possibility that some films give rise to several possible meanings, which in turn generate a wide variety of responses. Some of these different meanings and responses will relate to a film's representation of, for example, gender, ethnicity, age and other aspects of culture and society and to the ideological nature of those representations. These ideas and issues can then be explored further through the creative aspect of the course, where students develop their own short films and evaluate their success at creating a specific response in an audience.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Variety of Films and Film Making 35% Component 2 : Global Film Making Perspectives 35% Component 3: NEA Coursework 30%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students will have the opportunity to film on location, as well as consider other industry roles such as costume, make up, lighting, script writing and directing. Students also have the skills required to take part in the school's performances, create promotional films and work in a multi-media way to explore the possibilities of audio visual and digital art.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	People who study film go on to Film and Television Production, Journalism, Set/Costume/ Props/Make Up/Visual effects design, Directing, Producing, Acting, Camera Operators, Lighting/Sound Technicians, Event Organisers, Short/Feature Film Makers.

LEVEL 3 AAQ
FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION

EXAMINATION BOARD	WJEC
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Students should meet the Sixth Form entry requirements of five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9–4, including English Language/Literature and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above. Students who have studied GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition or a related food qualification will find this useful, but **previous study of Food is not essential**. Students should have an interest in food, nutrition, science and health.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course explores the science behind food and nutrition and how the food we eat affects health and wellbeing. You will develop knowledge of nutrients, nutritional needs throughout life, food safety and hygiene, food science and food production. You will also develop practical food preparation skills and learn how to plan, produce and evaluate high-quality food products. The course combines scientific understanding with practical application. You will investigate why ingredients behave as they do, apply nutrition knowledge to different groups of people and develop your ability to analyse, justify and evaluate your decisions.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and consists of four units: Unit 1 – Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages Externally assessed examination – 25% Unit 2 – Developing Practical Food Production Skills Internally assessed NEA – 25% Unit 3 – Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety in Food Production Externally assessed examination – 25% Unit 4 – Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition Internally assessed NEA – 25% 50% of the course is assessed through examinations and 50% through Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Food Science and Nutrition works particularly well alongside subjects such as Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry, PE, Psychology, Health & Social Care and Business. It is an excellent choice for students interested in food, health, science, sport or the food industry, particularly those considering further study in a related area.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	The qualification can support progression to university, apprenticeships or employment in a wide range of food, health and science-related areas. Possible pathways include dietetics, nutrition, food science, food technology, new product development, public health, food safety and quality, sports nutrition, environmental health, teaching and careers within the food industry. It can also provide a strong foundation for degree courses such as Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics, Public Health, Food Technology and related health or science courses.

FRENCH

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. For this course, students should also have a Grade 5 or above in GCSE French AND must have sat the Higher Tier Qualification
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The course teaches students to communicate in the written and spoken language. There is also a strong emphasis on developing an understanding of the social, cultural and commercial background of France and other French speaking countries. As well as timetabled French lessons, students are also required to spend up to 30 minutes each week with a French language assistant to improve confidence in the oral element of the examination. Lessons are interactive with a strong emphasis on speaking and writing skills. Extended writing tasks are frequently set for homework, relating strongly to work covered in class. Students are also encouraged to read and listen to French independently and travel to France, if possible.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1 (speaking) NEA - 30% Component 2 (reading, listening and translation) exam - 50% Component 3 (writing - novel and film) - 20%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other A level courses. This could lead onto Higher Education in French, other languages or more general Higher Education courses.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	An A level language may lead to further study at university level as a pure or combined language degree. Many universities offer combined courses such as French with Business/Management, English, other languages, Law, Accountancy, Engineering and Sciences. Living in the European and Global community, languages are highly sought after by employers across a wide spectrum of careers. Languages are particularly useful in Business, Teaching, The Travel and Tourism Industry, Marketing, Translation, Law, Civil Service, Exports, Work abroad or Bilingual Secretarial work.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have 5 GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4. For this course this must include Mathematics at a Grade 8 or above and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. Further Maths must be taken as a fourth subject.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course is very challenging but enjoyable. Students who study Further Mathematics have to also study Mathematics. The A Level is linear being assessed in three exams at the end of Year 13. Full A Level content includes Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Paper 1 – Pure 33% Paper 2 – Pure 33% Paper 3 – Applied 33%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to support entry to Higher Education in Mathematics and is now almost universally a requirement at top universities for Mathematic degrees. Related areas such as Engineering, Economics and Science or more general Higher Education courses find it highly desirable. With further training, students may enter a career related to Mathematics covering a wide spectrum of modern jobs in almost every field. This is a recognised qualification that will help students to develop the skills, understanding and knowledge sought by employers across many industries, especially in the science, technology, economic and engineering sectors.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	An A level qualification in Mathematics is highly regarded by prospective employers and universities alike, as being a good indicator of a logical and analytical mind. Mathematics and Further Mathematics are almost essential for students wishing to follow a Mathematical degree course, but both A levels are valuable for all Science and Engineering courses. Mathematics A levels are applicable for the following career areas: engineering, actuarial work, meteorology, finance, medicine, nursing, sports, the transport industry, computing, including writing games, accountancy, economics, business, banking, air traffic control, retail management, architecture, surveying, cartography, Psychology, teaching and more.

GEOGRAPHY

EXAMINATION BOARD	OCR
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. For this course, students should also have a Grade 4 in Geography (if taken). Geography students are generally more successful if they are interested in places, fieldwork, sustainability and the interaction of physical and human geographical systems.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	OCR A Level Geography is a dynamic and relevant course that explores some of the biggest challenges facing our planet. It combines physical and human geography and encourages you to think critically, analyse evidence and develop your own views about complex global issues. In **Physical Systems**, you will study Coastal Landscapes, exploring erosion, transportation, deposition, coastal landforms and management. You will also study Earth's Life Support Systems, focusing on the global water and carbon cycles and how human activity and climate change affect them. In **Human Geography**, Changing Spaces; Making Places explores how places develop different identities and why they change over time. You will also study Global Connections, examining issues such as globalisation, migration, human rights and international relationships. The course also includes **geographical debates** such as Hazardous Earth, Disease Dilemmas, Climate Change, Future of Food and Exploring Oceans, with selected topics studied in depth. A major highlight is the **four-day field trip.** This gives you the opportunity to investigate real environments, collect primary data and use a range of fieldwork techniques. It also prepares you for the Independent Investigation (NEA), worth 20% of the final A Level, where you research a geographical issue of your own choice. Geography develops valuable skills including data analysis, research, problem solving, essay writing, evaluation and communication. It is an excellent choice for students who are curious about the world and want to understand the major environmental, social and economic issues shaping our future.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Physical Systems 22% Human Interactions 22% Geographical Debates 36% Independent Investigation NEA 20%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Additional learning can be undertaken by keeping yourself updated with local and global events, reading geographical articles and joining the Geographical Association as examples
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	A Level Geography gives you numerous skills including research techniques, statistical and analytical abilities and essay writing to name three. This leads to a variety of career paths including, but not exclusively Cartographer, Commercial/residential surveyor, Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer and planning and development.

GERMAN

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. For this course, students should also have a Grade 5 or above in GCSE German AND must have sat the Higher Tier Qualification
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The course teaches students to communicate in the written and spoken language. There is also a strong emphasis on developing an understanding of the social, cultural and commercial background of Germany and other German speaking countries. Lessons are interactive with a strong emphasis on speaking and writing skills. Extended writing tasks are frequently set for homework, relating strongly to work covered in class. Students are also encouraged to read and listen to German independently and travel to Germany, Austria or Switzerland if possible.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1 (speaking) NEA - 30% Component 2 (reading, listening and translation) exam - 50% Component 3 (writing - novel and film) - 20%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other A level courses. This could lead onto Higher Education in German, other languages or more general Higher Education courses.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	An A level language may lead to further study at university level as a pure or combined language degree. Many universities offer combined courses such as German with Business/Management, English, other languages, Law, Accountancy, Engineering and Sciences. Living in the European and Global community, languages are highly sought after by employers across a wide spectrum of careers. Languages are particularly useful in Business, Teaching, The Travel and Tourism Industry, Marketing, Translation, Law, Civil Service, Exports, Work abroad or Bilingual Secretarial work.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

EXAMINATION BOARD	Pearson
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. If students have taken Level 2 Health & Social Care, they must have attained a P2 or higher. If they have not, they must have a Grade 4 in an essay-based subject such as History or Psychology and a Grade 4 in Science is desirable
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	You will learn about how humans develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially throughout their lives, as well as how different factors can influence this development. You'll explore how health and social care services operate, including the principles, values, and legislation that guide practice. You'll also study the biological systems of the human body and how they function in relation to health and well-being. Throughout the course, you'll develop key transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and the ability to apply theory to real-life care situations.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Externally assessed units test your understanding of key concepts and application of knowledge (e.g., through written exams and set tasks). Internally assessed units are based on assignments, case studies, and practical applications, allowing you to demonstrate understanding in realistic health and social care contexts. This balance helps you build both academic knowledge and vocational skills. Exams/coursework will take place in both years.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Higher education such as degrees in Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Psychology, Education, or Public Health. Further vocational qualifications such as a Higher National Diploma (HND) or apprenticeships in related fields like health care support, early years, or community work. You may also combine this qualification with A Levels to broaden your options for university or employment.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	This qualification supports progression into a wide range of health and social care careers, such as: Nursing and Midwifery, Social Work, Health Care Support Worker, Occupational Therapy, Teaching or Educational Support, Youth Work, Public Health and Community Care Roles It provides an excellent foundation for anyone wanting to make a difference in people's lives through health, education, or social care.

HISTORY

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. Students also require a Grade 4 in History (if taken) and a Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Students who study A Level History at Ashby School focus on the following periods: Breadth Study: Unit 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975 A Depth Study: 2B The Wars of the Roses, 1450–1499 In Year 13 students will also have the opportunity to complete an NEA (Non-Examined Assessment), which is a piece of coursework analysing change and continuity over a 100-year period. This will be undertaken towards the end of Year 12 and focuses on British social and political history c 1890s-1990s.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Unit 1K The Making of a Superpower: the USA 1865-1970s, Examination 40% Component 2: Unit 2B The Wars of the Roses 1450-1499, Examination 40% Component 3: Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) on British History c1897-1997 20%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other Advanced Level courses. This could lead to a degree in History or related subjects such as Archaeology, American Studies, English, Law, Politics, Sociology or more general degree courses. With further training, History provides an excellent foundation for careers in Archaeology and Conservation, Business, Education, Law, Politics and the Media. As the respected 'Which?' consumer guide commented in 'Which Subject? Which Career?' Historians are regarded as having an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present fact and opinion and this is a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers … History is an excellent preparation for very many jobs and careers.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	A History A Level is a valuable qualification, highly regarded by university admissions tutors and employers. It provides an excellent foundation for careers as diverse as Architecture, Broadcasting, Business, Conservation, Education, Law, Management and the Media.

MATHEMATICS

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4. For this course this must include Mathematics at a Grade 6 or above and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course is challenging and enjoyable. The A Level course is linear and approximately two thirds of content is pure mathematics, one sixth mechanics and one sixth statistics. Pupils will sit three exams at the end of Year 13. Full A level content includes Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods, Vectors, Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing, Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws and Moments.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Paper 1 - Pure - 33% Paper 2 - Pure and Mechanics - 33% Paper 3 - Pure and Statistics - 33%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other A level courses which in turn could lead onto Higher Education in Mathematics-related areas such as Engineering, Economics, Physics or more general Higher Education courses
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	A level qualifications in Mathematics are highly regarded by prospective employers and universities alike as being good indicators of a logical and analytical mind. Mathematics is useful for any university course involving Mathematics, Science, Business, Technology or Engineering. It is also useful for Arts and Humanities subjects as it teaches some techniques used in these subjects and indicates a breadth of study. Mathematics is applicable for the following career areas: engineering, actuarial work, meteorology, finance, medicine, nursing, sports, the transport industry, computing, including writing games, accountancy, economics, business, banking, air traffic control, retail management, architecture, surveying, cartography, Psychology, teaching and many more.

MEDIA STUDIES

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language, audio-visual at a grade 4 or above. Media Studies is very similar to English as a subject, focusing on your ability to analyse and discuss the meaning created by Media texts. It is also a highly creative subject so having a passion for media products such as magazines, gaming, radio, digital media and audio-visual media such as television and film will be an asset.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Media Studies will provide students with the tools to engage in critical understanding and analysis of the media. The framework consists of four interrelated areas: • **Media Language**: how the media communicates meaning through their forms, codes, conventions and techniques. • **Representations**: how the media portrays events, issues, individuals and social groups. • **Media Industries**: how the processes of production, distribution and circulation engaged in by the media affect media forms and platforms. • **Audiences**: how media forms target, reach and addresses audience. How audiences respond to media forms and how audience members become producers themselves. Students will learn to understand how products constructed with encoded messages are decoded by the audience. They will discover how media products present versions of reality and reflect a dominant ideology of the creators of the product. Students will produce an individual cross-media production in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas, applying their knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, industry and audiences. The forms that learners can work in include television, magazine, film marketing, music marketing and online options. The intended audience and industry context are specified in the brief.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Media Products, Industry and Audiences 35% Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth 35% Component 3: NEA Coursework 30%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students will have the opportunity to film on location, as well as specialise in the area of the media they feel most passionate about. Media Studies can lead to careers in journalism, fashion, news reporting, editing, directing, cinematography, web design and other creative media jobs. The possibilities are endless!
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	People who study Media go on to, Journalism, Film and Television Production, Radio Production, Set/Costume/Props/Make Up/Visual effects design, working within the Gaming industry, Advertising and Marketing, Event Promotion, Directing, Producing, Acting, Camera Operators, Lighting/Sound Technicians, Magazine Columnists/Editors, Event Organisers, Short/Feature Film Makers.

MUSIC

EXAMINATION BOARD	Edexcel
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a grade 4 or above. To study Music at A-Level, students should have a Grade 4 in GCSE Music and/or have achieved Grade 5 standard in performance and the ability to read music.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	Students follow 3 components, which include Performing, Composing, and Appraising Music. Students will be assessed on their practical, interpretative, creative and aural skills, as well as their knowledge and understanding of the subject.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: Performance 30% Component 2: Composition 30% Component 3: Appraising 40%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other Advanced Level courses, which could lead onto Higher Education to study Music related courses or more general Higher Education courses. With further training, students may choose a career related to Music. Alternatively, students may wish to use their music ability for recreational purposes. This is a recognised qualification that will provide students with skills, understanding and knowledge that employers in various industries may be looking for.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	People who study Music go on to performing, Creating Soundtracks for Film and Television, working on sound in Theatres, Radio DJ, Conducting, Composing, Sound Technicians, Producing, Mixing, Events Organisers, Musical Journalist, Teacher, or Instrumental Teacher.

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS

EXAMINATION BOARD	OCR
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 5 or above. Students also require a Grade 4 in GCSE Religious Studies (if taken).
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The OCR A Level RS course is divided into three key components: **1. Philosophy of Religion** Explore classical and modern philosophical arguments about the existence of God, the nature of religious experience, the problem of evil, and the relationship between religion and science. **2. Religion and Ethics** Examine ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics, and Natural Law, and apply them to contemporary moral issues like euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics. **3. Developments in Christian Thought** Focus on Christianity, studying key theological concepts, the role of religion in society, gender and theology, and how beliefs have evolved over time.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1 (Philosophy of Religion) 2hr exam 33.3% Component 2 (Religion and Ethics) 2hr exam 33.3% Component 3 (Developments in Christian Thought) 2hr exam 33.3%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other A level courses. This could lead to Higher Education to study Philosophy, Psychology, Politics, Law, Medicine, Business, Theology, or other courses that require similar academic skills. Some students opt to go straight into employment. This is a recognised qualification that will help students to develop the skills, understanding and knowledge sought by many employers across a range of industries, especially in sectors where people are the main focus. A qualification in this subject is a valuable qualification widely recognised in Higher and Further Education as well as by professional training bodies.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	A qualification at this level can help students to progress to a wide range of degree courses and careers, in areas such as law, medicine, business, care and social work, journalism, the civil service, the police force and teaching.

PHOTOGRAPHY (ART & DESIGN)

EXAMINATION BOARD	Eduqas
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a grade 4 or above. A grade 4 in Art is desirable but not essential (if taken at GCSE). If no previous creative experience, students will need to show the Head of Subject a sample of their photography work they have done recently.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course enables students to develop personal visual responses and technical knowledge using ideas stemming from a range of stimuli. This is through the medium of photography. Photography involves a range of unedited and software manipulated imagery. They will learn about how to effectively take a photograph, the skills required to do so with lighting, staging and camera techniques and how they can experiment and display them in a variety of traditional and modern ways. They would learn about portrait, landscape and still life photography, documentary and photojournalism photography, photo manipulation, fashion photography and still and moving image.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 1: NEA (coursework) 60% Component 2: EXTERNALLY SET TASK (Exam) 40%
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement many other Advanced Level subjects. This could lead to Higher Education in areas of Photography, Art and Design or more general or combined Higher Education courses. Students may choose a career related to Photography, of which there are a vast number. Photography will take time to complete due to the practical nature of the subject; you need to consider what other courses you are taking as students can find it challenging balancing two or more practical subjects. You will need to be organised and focused and use your study periods effectively. The GCE is a recognised qualification that will encourage students to explore a number of transferable skills of creativity, communication, liaising with clients, research, debate, constructive criticism, time management, planning, negotiation and problem-solving skills. Students will utilise an understanding and knowledge of skills that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Students who study Photography could go on to be photojournalists, portrait, wedding, landscape, fashion photographers, involved in film making and television, promotional materials, design companies, independent photographers, underwater photographers, marine photography, photography for books, teaching, computer aided designers and more; becoming a part of the multibillion-pound creative industry both UK wide and abroad.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXAMINATION BOARD	OCR
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	To study A Level PE, a Grade 4 or above in GCSE Science is desirable. Students must be able to demonstrate regular participation in sporting activities as this will contribute towards there final grade. A list of assessed sports can be found on the link; https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234840-as-and-a-level-guide-to-non-exam-assessment.pdf . Students do not have to have taken GCSE PE but, if so, should have achieved a Grade 4. Where students have taken a Level 2 qualification at Key Stage 4 you will normally be expected to opt for the Cambridge Technical course at Key Stage 5.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Component 01 – Physiological Factors Affecting Performance (Exam) - 30% Component 02 – Psychological Factors Affecting Performance (Exam) - 20% Component 03 – Socio-Cultural Issues In Physical Activity & Sport (Exam) - 20% Component 04 – Performance In Physical Education (oral and practical assessment) 30%
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	This course provides in depth study of many factors surrounding sport and Physical Education. Theoretical modules that will be covered (and total 70% of the final marks) include; Applied Anatomy & Exercise Physiology, Biomechanical Movement, Skill Acquisition, Sport Psychology, Sport & Society and The Role of Technology in Physical Activity & Sport. The practical and coursework element is worth 30 per cent of the final marks. Students will be assessed in one practical activity (either performing or coaching) and they will have to complete an evaluation & analysis of performance for improvement.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Students can take this course to complement other A level courses such as Biology. The course could lead to Higher Education in areas of Sport Studies, Recreation, Exercise and Science or more general Higher Education courses.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	With further training, students may choose a career related to Physical Education such as becoming a physiotherapist, teacher or exercise and fitness trainer. Some students choose to go straight into employment. This is a recognised qualification that will help students to develop the skills, understanding and knowledge sought by many employers across a range of industries, especially in the sporting and health sectors.

PHYSICS

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4. Students must also have: • EITHER a minimum of grades 6-6 in GCSE 'Trilogy Combined Science' OR a minimum of 6, 6, 6 in Separate Sciences • GCSE maths at grade 6 or above • English Language/Literature at grade 4 or above. If you do not select Mathematics as one of your other options, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to study Core Maths alongside Physics as an additional subject in Year 12.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The Physics curriculum develops a deep understanding of how the universe works, from the behaviour of sub-atomic particles to the motion of galaxies. Students build strong analytical and mathematical skills through topics such as mechanics, electricity, fields and thermal physics, while also exploring some of the most fascinating areas of modern science. These include special relativity, where they learn how time dilates for fast-moving objects; quantum physics, which reveals the probabilistic nature of matter; and nuclear physics, covering radioactivity, fission, fusion and the structure of the atom. Throughout the course, students learn to model physical systems, interpret data, evaluate evidence and solve complex problems. Year 12 includes study of: Measurements and their errors , Particles and radiation , Waves , Mechanics and materials , and Electricity Year 13 includes study of : Further mechanics and thermal physics, Fields and their consequences, Nuclear physics, and Astrophysics
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Assessment for A Level Physics is completed at the end of Year 13 through three written exam papers. These include multiple-choice questions that require students to apply concepts and solve problems quickly, alongside short-answer and extended calculations. Students will also work to complete the Practical Endorsement, where students will develop practical skills and have a chance to carry out new techniques such as Laser diffraction and discover the inverse square law of ionizing radiation. The Practical Endorsement is well regarded by universities, especially for science courses with a strong practical element.
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	Physics works well alongside a range of other A-levels that build analytical thinking. Maths A-level is not essential, but it strongly supports Physics and there is significant crossover in the methods and problem-solving skills used. Many students find that taking Maths makes the Physics content clearer and more intuitive. Other subjects such as Further Maths, Chemistry, Computer Science and Engineering also complement Physics and broaden future study options.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Physics A-level is very highly regarded by universities and employers. It provides a direct route into studying science and engineering disciplines. Physics also supports progression into any career that requires you to analyse complex data and solve problems including technology, finance, medical sciences, architecture and business.

PSYCHOLOGY

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. For this course students also require a Grade 4 in Psychology if taken or if not taken a Grade 5 in English Language is required. If you do not select Mathematics as one of your other options, it is HIGHLY RECOM-MENDED to study Core Maths alongside Psychology as an additional subject in Year 12
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	A Level Psychology explore how and why people think and behave in the ways they do. Students will investigate a range of fascinating topics, including memory, attachment, clinical psychology, schizophrenia, aggression and relationships. The course combines scientific research with real-world applications, helping students develop critical thinking, analytical and research skills. Through studying theories, experiments and contemporary issues, students will gain a deeper understanding of human behaviour, and the methods psychologists use to investigate it.
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Paper 1 exam- Introductory topics in psychology 33.3% Paper 2 exam- Psychology in context 33.3% Paper 3 exam- Issues and options in psychology 33.3% *All 2 hours long and sat at the end of year13*
WHAT OTHER LEARNING COULD YOU DO?	This course complements subjects such as Biology, Sociology, Health and Social Care and English, and provides an excellent foundation for careers in psychology, healthcare, education, business, law and many other fields. With further training, students may choose a career related to Psychology such as becoming an occupational psychologist, educational psychologist, a counsellor, nurse and many more. This is a recognised qualification that will help students to develop the skills, understanding and knowledge sought by many employers across a range of industries.
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Psychology opens up many career and Further Education opportunities. Psychology complements any career that involves people, as well as more specific careers such as those in Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology and Educational Psychology.

SPORT - CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

EXAMINATION BOARD	OCR
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	When you apply your teachers will be able to guide you as to which PE course you would be more suited to. Students do not have to have taken PE GCSE or a Level 2 Sport qualification previously but if they have, students must have a Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or a level 2 Pass in a Level 2 qualification.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate offers a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the appropriate vocational sector. The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate is a qualification, which can extend a learner's programme of study, and it gives vocational emphasis. The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate is broadly equivalent to one A Level. Over the two years learners will cover five units three of which are stated below (the other two will be decided once the course is underway): Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity Sports Coaching and Leadership Sports Organisation and Development
ASSESSMENT METHOD	Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity (Examined unit-Yr12) Sports Coaching and Leadership (Coursework unit-Yr12) Sports Organisation and Development (Examined unit-Yr13). Current additional units: Performance Analysis in Sport and Exercise (Coursework). Organisation of Sports Events (Coursework)
ASSESSMENT	The assessment approach for the Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport allows learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment and grading criteria. Students will be continually assessed through a variety of methods depending on the module. These include; coursework, a case study and a written exam. Students will be rewarded with either a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* for each module.

CORE MATHS

EXAMINATION BORD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/ Literature at a Grade 4 or above.
WHAT IS CORE MATHEMATICS?	Core Mathematics is a course for those who want to keep up their valuable maths skills but are not planning to take A Level Mathematics. At the end of the one-year course, you will come out with a level 3 qualification – similar to an AS. The qualification is assessed by two final examinations.
WHY SHOULD I STUDY CORE MATHEMATICS?	Core Maths has been designed to maintain and develop real-life maths skills. What you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and includes a financial maths element. It will also help to support the mathematical content of some other A-level subjects. The skills developed in the study of Mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; studying Core Mathematics will help you keep up these essential skills. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR > Biology, Geography & Psychology RECOMMENDED FOR > Design Subjects, Business, PE
WILL IT BE RECOGNISED BY UNIVERSITIES & EMPLOYERS?	Core Mathematics is a recognised Level 3 qualification equivalent to an AS. A growing number of universities will give lower offers for certain courses if candidates are studying Core Maths.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

EXAMINATION BOARD	AQA
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	For all Sixth Form courses, students must have five GCSE (or equivalent) passes at Grades 9-4, which must include Mathematics and English Language/Literature at a Grade 4 or above. To study the Extended Project Qualification in Year 12 it is desirable that students have a GCSE APS points score of at least 6.
WHAT WILL YOU BE LEARNING?	The Level 3 Extended Project gives students more control over their studies. Students can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject they are studying, or a topic linked to a hobby or future career. Students will produce a 5000-word dissertation style report, which is externally assessed (so it is 100% coursework based). Students will also complete a production log, working log, reading log and presentation throughout the year of study. The finished project can be a written report, a performance, a piece of art, a community project, a CD or DVD, or even computer software. Most students opt to write a traditional 5000-word report. Students must show that they can identify, design, plan, and complete their project. They must also demonstrate effective research and use of resources and skills, including new technologies. Students must be able to evaluate outcomes. This is a course suited to students who are looking to study at Oxbridge or any of the Russell Group Universities. It is an academically challenging qualification and is held in very high regard by all of the top institutions. The qualification can be worth up to 28 UCAS points. Candidates who achieve a Grade A or above at EPQ could receive a reduced offer by one grade from some universities
WHAT CAREER OPTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	Students can use the learning experiences gained during the Extended Project to support their aspirations for Higher Education and career development.

PACKAGES

All packages will include a block of work experience, the opportunity to visit local industries/ businesses and guest speakers coming in to speak to students. There will also be the opportunity to apply for the Career Ready Programme.

In 2026-28 we are planning to offer 3 packages as follows

- A Design Package
- A Healthcare Package

Students who are determined to pursue a career in one of these three areas would be strongly encouraged to sign up to one of these packages.

DESIGN PACKAGE
Students must be confident that they want to pursue a career in Design
As a minimum requirement students must select a Design subject
In addition to this students would be encouraged to select subjects such as Art, Engineering, Photography, Product Design or Textiles

HEALTHCARE PACKAGE
Students must be confident that they want to pursue a career in Healthcare
EITHER > Students select Biology, Chemistry and either Mathematics or Physics
OR > Students select a combination of subjects that should include at least one from Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry, English Language, Physical Education, Physics or Psychology.



ENRICHMENT

All students will be asked to select at least one enrichment activity from a list of approximately 20 options (current options listed below are correct at time of going to press, but may change due to staffing and budgetary considerations). Students will take part in a minimum of one hour of enrichment a week. Options include:

- Regular Work Placement
- Community Volunteering Work (Care home / Local Secondary Schools / Primary Schools / Nurseries)
- MOOC (targeted at High Achieving students) & UNIFROG Courses
- Faculty Prefecting
- SEND support
- Alternative Provision support
- Well-being support
- Library Prefecting
- Student council
- Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors
- Lunchtime / After School Clubs
- Media support for Sixth Form
- Extra-Curricular PE support
- Volunteer reading scheme (with KS3&4 students who have a low reading age)
- DofE
- Mentoring
- Local Volunteering



COMBINATION OF SUBJECTS

An ‘A’ level combination does not have to be all Arts or Sciences. Choosing a mixture of subjects can show flexibility and may avoid over-specialisation. There are a wide variety of combinations available to enable broader study. Generally, students will be expected to continue at least three courses to completion in Y13.

MIX AND MATCH

Don't forget, you may wish to combine Level 3 courses and Advanced GCE subjects. Advanced GCE subjects are more teacher led courses (plus independent study) with a lot of examinations and sometimes some coursework. Level 3 courses are more coursework based. You must be able to organise yourself and your work and meet tight deadlines.
There are fewer examination marks. A combination of the two can be ideal training for university, apprenticeships and life!



ARTS/HUMANITIES ROUTES

a) Non-Language
The combination of subjects is often not crucial for a career or course, therefore could be chosen because:

I. They are a means to an end (obtaining approved subjects)
I. You enjoyed them pre-16
II. You want to take ‘new’ subjects

b) Languages
Courses and careers including languages usually specify the particular language(s) required. Some courses allow the study of a language from scratch.

c) Arts/Humanities used as a Science
Geography ‘A’ level can be used as an alternative to a Science subject in some geology, agriculture and environmental science courses.

d) Arts/Humanities
Subjects used where Science ‘A’ levels are normally required. It is possible to get onto science courses with Arts ‘A’ levels, although the first Year is normally in addition to the main degree and is used to bring candidates up to ‘A’ level standard in Mathematics and other required science subjects.

COMBINATION OF SUBJECTS CONTINUED

ENGINEERING/DESIGN TECHNOLOGY ROUTES

Design and Technology is a very versatile course keeping options very much open. Combined with Mathematics and Physics, it is the ideal combination for an Engineering degree. An alternative is to combine it with other courses and progress into careers such as Architecture, Product Design or Graphic Design.

For example:

ENGINEERING/DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Some Engineering & Technology courses or apprenticeships will have requirements for previous qualifications in certain subjects such as Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics or Product Design

SCIENCE ROUTES

a) Generally, the combination of subjects is very important if it is to be used to get into Scientific or Technical Careers.

b) The best combination for keeping open as many options as possible is Biology, Chemistry and either Mathematics or Physics

Some examples where combination is important:

BIOLOGY	At least 2 subjects from Science or Science related subjects—Most usually request Biology as one of these
PHYSICS	Usually Physics and/or Mathematics is required
CHEMISTRY	Most require Chemistry with another Science / Maths related subject
MEDICINE PHARMACY DENTISTRY VETERINARY	Most require Biology, Chemistry and either Mathematics or Physics

Please note:

Students selecting more than one from the following list: Maths (including Further Mathematics), Biology, Chemistry and Physics should consider the guidance as detailed on pages 1 & 2.

COMBINATION OF SUBJECTS CONTINUED

Admissions tutors and employers look first at a candidate's GCSE results for evidence of breadth and depth of ability. Grade 4s in English and Mathematics are mandatory for most degree courses but some require higher. Students are advised to use the UCAS website for other specific course requirements, especially if they already have particular degree courses or careers in mind. Oxbridge applicants would be expected to have obtained a combination of grades 7, 8 and 9 at GCSE as a minimum.

Some additional resources are given below but obviously students would be strongly advised to thoroughly research course requirements in several ways.

"The Times Good University Guide"
"University Degree Course offers" by Brian Heap
www.prospects.ac.uk
www.ucas.com - Gives access to all universities' individual websites





Ashby Sixth Form

Ashby School

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