

SIXTH

FORM PROSPECTUS



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Justus et Tenax Propositi - Just and Firm of Purpose

Apply online at www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk.

For more information contact enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk FOA: Sixth Form

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Welcome

At Archbishop Ilsley we ask our students to "Catch the Fire," In the spirit of our Patron, Saint Dominic.

Our goal is to build faith and strengthen student's commitment to God, themselves, community and family; to teaching and learning and to social justice.



Message from the Head Boy and Girl

As students of Archbishop Ilsley School we were able to experience first-hand professional pastoral and academic care throughout our five years in attendance of the school. As a result, there was no reluctance in choosing to come back to join the Sixth Form. The step from GCSE to A Levels is one that cannot be underestimated. However, being a student at Archbishop Ilsley Sixth Form gives you the best possible chance to succeed. This is because of the welcoming family environment the Sixth Form shares as well as an extremely supportive staff network that is consistently there to support us. As well as enhanced academic studies, our Sixth Form also allows students to become more independent and mature. Such skills are not only paramount for this stage of your life but also your future.

As a member of PiXL6 (Sixth Form Partners in Excellence), Archbishop Ilsley Sixth Form is committed to ensuring progress is made consistently throughout the year however, one of the many attributes that makes Archbishop Ilsley Sixth Form unique is our Catholic ethos. It is something that is always prominent as Christ is the centre of our school community. The main focus of Sixth Form is academic studies, although, there are many opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular clubs and internal and external events to help with personal development and growth, both in the Sixth Form and our wider school community. These opportunities allow both Year 12 and 13 students to flourish as individuals, working together more closely and building a strong sense of belonging.

Many of the courses that the Sixth Form has to offer you include field trips to enhance learning and understanding. There are also field trips to further your cultural understanding. For example, the Sixth Form offers a student exchange programme with Sahuarita High School, Arizona as well as trips to Krakow, to visit the site of Auschwitz.

We wish you the best in your academic pursuits. We both highly recommend Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form as the next step in your education and believe you would be making a fantastic decision in choosing to continue your education with us.



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"The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds the most discoveries, is not "Eureka!" but "That's funny.....""

Isaac Asimov

Biology

A Level

Is this course for me?

Are you...

- Aiming to be a doctor, nurse or vet?
- Thinking of a career in research?
- Interested in the environment and the world around you?
- A problem solver?
- Interested in science?
- Keen on practical work?
- Studying other sciences or maths?

If so, A Level Biology A is for You.

Areas of Study

Content is in six modules, each divided into key topics:

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology. Practical skills assessed in a written examination Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2: Foundations in biology
Cell structure, Biological molecules
cell diversity and cellular organisation

Module 3: Exchange and transport
Surfaces, Transport in animals & plants

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Future Opportunities

A Level Biology A is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science. Biology can also complement sports science, psychology, sociology and many more. A Level Biology A can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication.

The transferable skills you will learn, such as problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.



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"It is not the employer who pays the wages. He only handles the money. It is the product that pays the wages"

Henry Ford, 1922

Business Studies

L3 OCR National

Is this course for me?

The Cambridge Technical is a hands-on practical course accepted by Russell Group Universities: an ideal Choice for budding entrepreneurs and aspiring business students. You will be introduced to the real world business environment and will compare the UK to other economies around the globe. The Extended Certificate is a two year course equivalent to one A level qualification. Assessment is 60% coursework and 20% examination assessed throughout the year

Areas of Study

The Business Environment - You will develop an understanding of how and why businesses operate in the way they do.

Working in Business— skills and understanding needed to work effectively within a business environment.

Customers and communication— you will learn the purpose, methods and importance of communication.

Accounting concepts— an introduction to the foundations of business accounting.

Business Events—The ability to organise an event is an important skill needed by people working in business.

Future Opportunities

Progression into Higher Education and /or into employment such as Apprenticeships. In previous years students have been successful with BAE, Civil Service, Siemens & KPMG. Accountant, Advertising accountant, Chartered management accountant, Company Secretary, Commodity / Futures Broker, Corporate investment banker, Management consultant, Marketing, Risk manager, Retail manager, systems analyst, Sales executive, Stockbroker, Systems Analyst.



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"Every aspect of the world today – even politics and international relations – is affected by chemistry"

Linus Pauling, 1901 to 1994

Chemistry

A Level

Is this course for me?

Chemistry is exciting and challenging. Studying A Level Chemistry is a route for some fantastic career opportunities in the areas of Science, Medicine and Engineering. Challenges facing society today can often be overcome with the work of chemists. Chemistry helps us to live more sustainably, contributing towards the development of renewable and low carbon energy sources.

Synthesis of organic molecules can help us to develop pharmaceuticals and improve human health in a changing world

Areas of Study

The curriculum will contain a broad balance of biology, chemistry and physics, with a wide range of practical activities. These will develop knowledge and understanding of the science used by organisations, business and industry.

They will develop your interest in science and its practical applications through exploring and experiencing science in a vocational context.

They will prepare you for further study on a course in science or in a science-related subject or for training in a science-related occupation.

Unit 1 Key Concepts in Science. (33% Exam)

Unit 2 Applied experimental techniques. Portfolio. (33% internally assessed portfolio)

Unit 3 Science in the Modern World. (33% Exam)

Future Opportunities

Chemistry can open so many doors for you in the future. It is seen as a challenging, academic and rigorous A level that will impress a lot of universities / employers. A level chemistry can lead to many careers in Healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry but is also extremely useful in careers in the biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry. Chemistry is also taken by many law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts.



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"Viewed freely, the English language is the accretion and growth of every dialect, race, and range of time, and is both the free and compacted composition of all"

Walt Whitman

English Language with Literature A Level

Is this course for me?

If you enjoy reading and discussing literature but also have an interest in linguistic approaches to language, you will enjoy this course. English Language and Literature is a two year linear course that allows you to engage with all three literary genres (poetry, prose and drama) but also allows you to be creative and investigative.

Areas of Study

On the combined English Language & Literature course, students will study a range of writing from a variety of genres, including the main literary types: novels, poetry and drama.

Students will also study a wide selection of non-fiction texts, ranging from newspaper journalism to autobiographies and travel writing.

Texts are studied from both literary and linguistic viewpoints. The language of speech and conversation will also form part of this course and students will examine the way speech is used in everyday life and in literary dialogue.

Future Opportunities

Overall, the course aims to foster a deeper understanding of how the English language is used in particular contexts and for different purposes and audiences. It is excellent preparation for undergraduate study on a range of English-related courses at university.

English is a core subject and as such a valuable A level for any student considering an academic course at university. Many students who do A level English go on to study for degrees in English, History, Law, Theology as well as a range of subjects relating to the media/creative industries, the social sciences and education.

English is also valued by employers; the core skills required to succeed in the subject, such as written/oral communication, writing for a range of audiences and purposes and analytical interpretation are essential skills in most workplaces.



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"It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression"

Alfred North Whitehead

English Literature

A Level

Is this course for me?

By choosing Literature, you will embark on exciting, excellent reading opportunities, exposing you to literature from a multitude of genres, forms and time periods.

However, English Literature is not 'just' about reading books; it opens doors to a plethora of cultures, philosophies and emotions, allowing you to explore subjects beyond that which you expect to find in a literary classic

Areas of Study

Examination 80%, coursework 20% in second year.

Across your two years of study, you will read and explore modern day literature as well as the classics. It will be an unforgettable journey as you explore your own, and others' interpretations of these literary texts!

Future Opportunities

Popular degree courses chosen by past students have included English Literature, Linguistics, Creative Writing and Drama. Students who have studied English Literature at A Level have gone on to a broad range of careers including teaching, journalism, marketing, law, psychology, business, politics, maths and medicine to name just a few!

Please note: English A-Levels are widely accepted as an additional subject to sciences and maths for students who wish to go into health, veterinary care, and medicine. English is considered to be a traditional and well-respected A-Level by Universities and can therefore act as a passport to a wide variety of non-related courses.



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SIXTH FORM

"If there's an area of study you really love whether it's engineering, languages, sport or art-based – an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) gives you the chance to develop your skills and knowledge AND impress universities at the same time"

Birmingham University 2018

Extended Project EPQ AS Level

Is this course for me?

The level 3 Project provides opportunities for the development of critical, reflective and problem-solving skills through the planning, research and evaluation of a self-selected Project topic. Students also develop independent learning skills, which lay down excellent foundation for when they go into further education or into the world of work.

Through independent study, students develop and apply skills creatively resulting in a project outcome in either a Dissertation, Performance or Fieldwork.

Areas of Study

What do I do?

- Choose a topic to study
- Complete a production log to document the project process
- Plan, research and carry out your project and prepare a presentation

You will have regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss your progress and development.

You have to produce a written report on your findings of 5000 words or create an artefact and 1000 word written report. This report/artefact is then assessed by your supervisor who grades it.

You will also present your findings to a non-specialists group and take questions on your project. This will also be assessed by your supervisor.

Future Opportunities

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a free-standing qualification, which is highly valued by universities and is worth 28 UCAS points:

An increasing number of universities are including the EPQ in their offers.

The EPQ will set you apart from other candidates who may be applying for a place at a competitive university courses or Apprenticeship/Employment as it shows you are a student who is self-motivated, imaginative and committed to studying.



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"I want my children and my grandchildren to live in a world with clean air, pure drinking water, and an abundance of wildlife, so I've chosen to dedicate my life to wildlife conservation so I can make the world just a little bit better"

Bindi Irwin

Environmental Science A Level

Is this course for me?

This subject is for you if you: have a real interest in the environment and its sustainable management; enjoy science and want to apply your understanding in real-world contexts; want to develop your skills in researching and evaluating information and analysing data; like debate and problem solving. You are most likely to succeed if you are a self-motivated independent learner. Lessons are interactive and build upon independent study. You should be willing to participate in topical discussions and debates, be able to structure well-balanced arguments in essay-style questions and use data from different sources to analyse results. Good with Biology, Chemistry, English, Geography, Maths, Psychology, Politics

Areas of Study

You will explore the key challenges facing our planet and how the environment supports us, how we threaten these support systems and strategies for a more sustainable lifestyle. Studying wildlife conservation, resource management, energy use, pollution and food production you will develop in-depth understanding of the problems... and the solutions. The new specification covers many aspects of the world around us, including conservation methods, land use conflict, global climate change, pollution, energy resources, sustainable biological resources, evolution, biotechnology and ecosystems and population dynamics – it's a really good range of topics so that everyone will find areas that interest them! It is also very contextualised to relate it to how the world works around you.

Future Opportunities

Your interest in the environment and ethical issues could lead you into a diverse world of career paths. If you are interested in sustainability, world resources or conservation then this could be the course that takes you towards a rewarding career. Possible related sectors include ecology and wildlife conservation, environmental science, agriculture, geography, geology or climatology. Students wishing to study this subject at degree level may also consider: Zoology, Marine Biology, Biotechnology, Animal Science, Sustainable Civil Engineering, Journalism, Urban Landscape Design etc. Environmental experts are needed in business, industry and government as well as estate management, land reclamation, countryside management and conservation.



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"I think it's fair to say that personal computers have become the most empowering tool we've ever created. They're tools of communication, they're tools of creativity, and they can be shaped by their user".

Bill Gates

Computing & ICT L3 OCR National

Is this course for me?

This course has been designed to give students an in depth understanding of the fundamental concepts of computer Science. If you have a real interest in the use of computers to develop software and you enjoy the challenge of problem solving, you might be looking for a career in games development or Systems analysis. You will develop the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

Areas of Study

The qualifications aim to develop students' knowledge, understanding and skills of the principles of IT and Global Information Systems. Students will gain an insight into the IT sector as they investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale, and the importance of legal and security considerations.

Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in IT focus on the requirements that today's universities and employers demand.

A wide range of centre assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on the Fundamentals of IT, Global Information, Cyber Security, and Cloud Technology has resulted in focused qualifications.

Future Opportunities

Computing opens the door to a wide range of careers both with IT companies and those who use computers in industry, commerce, government service and the universities. Programming and Software Development, Telecommunications and Networking, Scientific Research, Web and Internet Services Computer Science, Software Engineering or Games Development.

With Computing being a science based subject it complements other subjects well and is recognised by universities.



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"Fine art is knowledge made visible"

Gustave Courbet

Fine Art

A Level

Is this course for me?

Fine art is the making and study of visual art such as painting printmaking and sculpture. The course covers a wide variety of processors and skills, which can be developed on a specialist Art and Design degree course.

Analytical and observational skills can be utilised in a wide range of creative environments.

The specification studied is the OCR Fine Art.

You will study a core curriculum covering; drawing, mixed media and painting, skills and theory: line, tone, texture, colour etc., and working from primary sources. You then have the opportunity to study sculpture, painting or printmaking as appropriate.

During the second year you will have the opportunity to focus in one or more of these areas.

Areas of Study

Students will cover a full range of art techniques using a variety of materials and developing ideas creatively. Through the investigation of artists students will learn how to develop an individual approach and style to art. The course will direct students through the realms of paintings and drawing, printmaking, sculpture and lens-based image making. Extensive research using a wide range of techniques will be used at all times in the course. Developmental work is a critical part of this course and the ability to annotate the progressive stages of the work are essential within this component. Component Two is externally set assignment incorporates two major elements – preparatory studies and the 15 hour period of sustained focus. During the 15 hour period of sustained focus students will produce the final outcome(s) extending from your preparatory studies in response to the question set by the examination board.

Future Opportunities

Students' progress onto careers in the creative industries such as architecture, illustration, product design, web design, fashion design, photo journalism and commercial photography, film and animation. Creative careers are diverse and students may not have heard of some of the roles that they can progress to after taking a Fine Art A Level.

Careers can range from a Cartoonist to an Art Valuer; from a Museum Curator to an Advertising Art Director. There are routes into many of these professions via university, art foundation and through Apprenticeships. Taking a creative course can open a range of opportunities to you and the expansion of apprenticeships means that students now have wider choice of career options available to them



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"The study of Geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It is about understanding the complexities of the world."

Barack Obama

Geography

A Level

Is this course for me?

Geography is about the study of people and places. You will discover how the human and physical worlds interact, how people affect their environment and how the environment affects them. A Level Geography develops a range of transferable skills, including numeracy and statistics, graphical and cartographic skills. This course helps you to improve vital literacy skills when reading source material and communicating arguments through essay based responses. You will explore the idea of 'place' and interpret how different groups of people understand places from the local to the global.

Areas of Study

This exciting course is designed to equally combine the human and physical aspects of Geography. Topics include coastal systems, contemporary urban environments, changing places, water and carbon cycles, hazards and global systems and global governance.

Coastal systems, contemporary urban environments and changing places. You will conduct a minimum of two days fieldwork. Throughout the first year you develop geographical skills including: investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical.

The course is 80% exam and 20% coursework. In the second year you study three further topics: water and carbon cycles, global systems and global governance and hazards. You will spend 4 days in the field, where you will collect data to write up a 3000-4000 word report that will account for 20% of your A Level

Future Opportunities

You will be able to follow any Geography, Environmental or Social Science degree course. Statistically, Geography graduates enjoy the lowest unemployment figures. Geography will support an application to almost any other degree area. A Level Geography is highly valued by employers in all sectors, from the civil service and public sector, to the military and scientific research, to travel and tourism and the growing green economy and environmental sectors.

Careers include H.R., management, marketing, retail and financial services



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"The best way to find yourself is in the service of others".

Mahatma Gandhi

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 3

Is this course for me?

This course is ideal for students planning on a career within health and social care. The BTEC Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A level (2 years) and students must have a commitment to continued assessment via course work. Work experience will be required of all students regardless of level of study. The elements that usually supply the greatest areas of challenge are the unit on Anatomy and Physiology and the sheer amount of coursework.

You must be very organised. Students will need to manage multiple assignments for possibly 1-3 teachers at the same time so being organised is very important. There will be at least 2 exams plus coursework.

Complementary subjects are Psychology, Sociology, Biology.

Areas of Study

You will study human lifespan development and meeting individual needs and support needs; also physiological disorders and their care.

You will learn the theoretical basis for providing good quality care, examining how practitioners use legislation, policies, and communication to implement professional practice.

Coursework is based around applying knowledge learnt to a Health and Social Care setting so is very vocational. The School will support students in work experience placements.

Future Opportunities

There is a growing demand within this sector and there are a diverse range of opportunities where students can make a real difference to the lives of others including adults, young people and children. Studying Health and Social care can take students in a wide range of directions depending on where their interests lie. Future related careers available in the healthcare and education sectors could include Nurse, Midwife, Social Worker, Mental Health Worker, Counsellor, Personal Assistant, Early Years Teacher and Play Therapist.

There are opportunities to progress into management of services and continue training with additional qualifications in the workplace. This subject is ideal for progression onto vocational degrees at university and also provides an excellent foundation for anyone going wanting to go directly into an apprenticeship or employment.



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*"We are not makers of history.
We are made by history"*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

History

A Level

Is this course for me?

Do you enjoy learning about the past and want to develop a more in-depth understanding of how our past has, and continues to shape our future? A Level History offers a way of making sense of our collective pasts, through methodical enquiry and the critical use of evidence.

Areas of Study

The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975. How did government, political authority and political parties change and develop? In what ways did the economy and society of the USA change and develop how the role of the USA in world affairs change did? How important were ideas and ideology? How united was the USA during this period? How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments? The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007. The key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.

Future Opportunities

Many of our History students continue on to Higher Education. The subject is highly valued by Russell Group universities as it develops skills such as critical reasoning and analysis, intellectual rigour and independence, along with the ability to construct an argument and communicate findings in a clear and persuasive manner.

It is also equally valued by employers and career pages include: Law, Education, Media, Management, Logistics, Personnel, Marketing, Research, Administration, Government, Finance, Accountancy, Retail, Public services. Heritage, Archaeology, Politics, Health



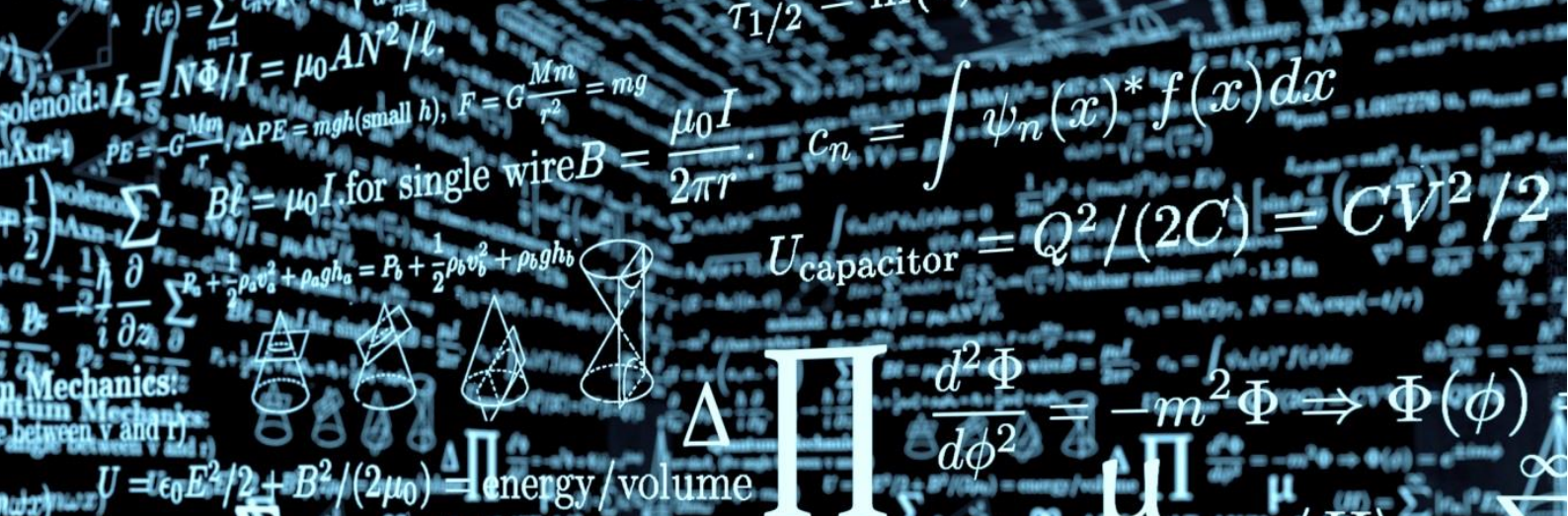
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*The study of mathematics, like the Nile,
begins in minuteness but ends in
magnificence.*

Charles Caleb Colton

Mathematics

A Level

Is this course for me?

Mathematics is a fascinating and rewarding area of study. At Archbishop Ilsley each student works in an atmosphere that is both challenging and supportive.

Knowledge of mathematics is fundamental to many areas of higher education; there is a national shortage of trained mathematicians.

Mathematics complements studies in many areas such as the sciences, finance, economics and business, computer studies and engineering.

Areas of Study

The A level is examined synoptically at the end of Year 13.

Teachers use a range of collaborative learning methods where students are encouraged to discuss concepts and problems. A level maths consists of Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. Pure Mathematics consists of Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical Methods and Vectors. Statistics consists of Statistical Sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing. Mechanics consists of Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws, Moments.

Future Opportunities

With an A-level in Maths you can do practically anything! Past students have gone on to follow university courses in subjects such as Maths, Physics, Medicine, Architecture, Aeronautical Engineering, Finance, Business, Economics, Computing, Law and Psychology; however, there are many other diverse areas where mathematical skills are recognised as invaluable and essential e.g. internet security, quantity surveyor, project manager. Employers highly value an A Level in Maths and on average, students who have an A Level in Maths can earn between 7% - 11% more than those who don't have the qualification.



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*"For the things of this world cannot
be made known without knowledge
of mathematics"*

Roger Bacon

Core Mathematics

AS Level

Is this course for me?

Our Mathematics in Context course is designed for you if you're aged 16+ and have achieved a grade 9-4 in GCSE Mathematics, but you've chosen not to continue your maths studies at AS or A level. This engaging and relevant qualification will improve your mathematical knowledge and show you how to apply it in real-world contexts. Mathematics in Context will help you to build a learning programme that suits you. It can be chosen as part of a selection of Level 3 qualifications which may be academic, Applied General, Technical Level or a mixture, to complement and support your other subjects.

Areas of Study

What will the course be like?
Mathematics in Context is different from GCSE Maths. During your studies, you'll look at how to use and apply maths in many different situations. You'll read articles that involve interpreting data and Mathematical information, all from relevant and interesting sources.

The content has been carefully selected to support the mathematical needs of a range of A level and BTEC Level 3 qualifications, and to provide a progression from GCSE Mathematics

Future Opportunities

It will prepare you for professional training or higher education courses, or equip you to apply for employment or higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors.



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"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change"

Wayne Dyer

Media Studies

A Level

Is this course for me?

Media studies is for students who like to think for themselves and argue their point of view. Have you ever wondered how TV companies guarantee the success of their latest show or why different newspapers discuss the same news story but in different ways? It trains you to analyse the media you see every day. How would you like to make your own music video or a trailer for a new TV show?

Media studies moves you from a consumer of Media products to a critical reader.

Areas of Study

Students study nine media forms and associated set products using a theoretical framework covering media language, media representations, media industries and media audiences. They also consider the social, cultural, economic, political and historical contexts of media products.

01: Media messages: Students study news and online, social and participatory media

02: Evolving media: Students consider how media industries are evolving and using technology to reach, target and address audiences

03/04: Creating media: Students create a cross-media product for an intended audience in response to a set brief.

Future Opportunities

The course is a good foundation for either further study in media and communication studies or ICT related industries such as system/network design, web design programming, software design, television or journalism. The programme of study is so beneficial for students aiming to read Criminology, English, Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology at University.



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY
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"As you begin to realize that every different type of music, everybody's individual music, has its own rhythm, life, language and heritage, you realize how life changes and you learn how to be more open and adaptive to what is around us"

Yo-Yo Ma

Music BTEC Level 3

Is this course for me?

BTEC Level 3 Music will give you the opportunity to formalise and deepen your knowledge, experience and understanding of the contemporary music industry. You will analyse performance practice and incorporate current trends into your own music making in both solo and ensemble settings as well as strengthening your knowledge of the rudiments of music.

This knowledge will then be put into practical use in vocational contexts to deepen your awareness of relationships within the organisations found in today's ever evolving music industry.

Although the course is largely practical, and mostly focused on performance of contemporary music, 2 units have externally assessed written exams

Areas of Study

The course focuses on performance in ensemble and solo settings, general musicianship as well as researching and investigating professional practice in the pop music industry and the range of opportunities for solo performance. You will be expected to respond to set performance briefs alongside developing your knowledge of the fundamental rudiments of musical language. The course comprises 4 units which are: Ensemble Music Performance; Practical Music: Theory and Harmony; Professional Practice in the Music Industry; Solo Performance.

Although there is no requirement to have Grade 5 Theory you will have to learn about music theory on the course – it's not entirely practical!

Future Opportunities

Performing, composing, music production, music/event management, music broadcasting/journalism and the wider creative industries. The rigour of the course will provide the learner with the relevant qualification base to study at university or music conservatoire.

Students can choose to apply for university courses, conservatoires or start an apprenticeship/job in the sector after completing their studies. Careers where music is directly related to the job could include Music Therapist, Musician, Teacher and Sound Technician. Jobs where studying Music could be helpful are: Arts Administrator, Event Manager, Theatre Stage Manager, Sales, Tour Manager, Merchandiser and Public Relations Officer.



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"You need three things to win: discipline, hard work and, before everything maybe, commitment. No one will make it without those three. Sport teaches you that"

Haile Gebrselassie

Physical Education L3 OCR National

Is this course for me?

To study this subject you need to be a keen sports person who has an interest in the theoretical content of sport as the subject covers a wide range of these concepts.

Areas of Study

Areas studied are applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition, sports psychology, sport and society and contemporary issues in physical activity and sport. This course will be assessed via one exam assessment at the end of the second year to cover all of the modules taught. Practically you will also be assessed in one sporting activity, alongside an oral analysis of sporting activity performance.

Future Opportunities

Physical Education isn't just about sports, it is about developing a knowledge of the impact sport can have on health, well-being and the human body. Whilst studying a Physical Education A Level you will learn a range of skills that will help you in your future career, for example, teamwork, resilience, competitive spirit, social, communication and analytical skills.

Physical Education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries, for example, nutrition, physiotherapy and chiropractic practice. Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include: Sports Scientist, PE teacher, Physiotherapist, Professional Sports person, Sports Coach/Consultant, Sports Policy Adviser at local and national level, Diet and Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer.



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"I tend to approach things from a physics framework. And physics teaches you to reason from first principles rather than by analogy"

Elon Musk

Physics A Level

Is this course for me?

Physics is a subject without limits – everything in your life, on this planet, other planets, to the far reaches of the universe and beyond is in physics. Physics deals with the big questions: Is there order in the chaos of the universe?

Are there parallel universes? Will we ever travel back in time? What holds matter together? What is dark matter? Is there a single model that explains everything from atoms to universes? Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

Areas of Study

Assessment of the course is 100% examination with no coursework Component. However practical skills are a key component of the course. There are 12 required practical activities that have to be completed over 2 years. Successful completion of this leads to the award of the Practical Endorsement. In addition practical skills are tested in the examinations. Students investigate; Measurement and uncertainty in Physics.

Waves and the modern ideas about the Quantum world. Predicting motion. Materials, properties and electricity. How physicists use the concept of fields to explain the basic forces acting around us. The physics of the nucleus and consequences of its power. How producing models of the world around us provides explanations for the orbit of planets about suns and has driven the industrial revolution and beyond.

Future Opportunities

Physicists find employment in careers as diverse as lawyers to astronauts, web designers to architects, engineers to pilots.

Physics is a highly sought after qualification and can be a passport to many different careers and challenges.

Are you up to the challenge of continuing your interest in Physics and the rewards your hard work can provide?



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"Design is a fundamental human activity, relevant and useful to everyone. Anything humans create - be it product, communication or system - is a result of the process of making inspiration real"

Maggie Macnab

Product Design

A Level

Is this course for me?

Design goes well with other subjects. If you want a career in design you might also consider Art & Design, Business Studies and Computing as companion A Levels. It's a 3D world. Think about the objects that you love. Your mobile phone with its delicious curves was designed on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced size clay model. A building that you admire sprang from the drawing board of an architect.

Areas of Study

Your A Level studies cover four main topics, and you'll study two of these each year.

In 'Materials, components and application' - you will look at materials, production processes and the impact of cost and design. In 'Learning through designing and making' you will produce some coursework using your own design with a range of materials and media.

In the second year you will get to grips with 'Design and manufacture' - helping you to appreciate the relationship between design and technology, or form and function. 'Design and making in practice' is the practical, coursework part. You'll make an object and record the processes that you went through.

Future Opportunities

3D design could take you into a number of exciting career paths. Of course there's product or automotive design.

What about computer generated cartoons? Or maybe CAD for industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into architecture, teaching, manufacturing, advertising or engineering.



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"Psychology is the field of vital phenomena; they deal with the facts of life at large and in particular with the facts of human life"

Wilhelm Wundt

Psychology

A Level

Is this course for me?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. If you're interested in learning about different types of behaviour and the explanations for these behaviours, Psychology might be for you. It helps us to understand why people behave the way they do and how the brain works. A - Level Psychology is designed to give you a basic introduction into the science of Psychology and focuses on using scientific knowledge to help explain the world around us. Within the course you will get the opportunity to look at the five main areas of modern psychology and carry out your own practical investigations based around these areas.

Areas of Study

The course covers the five areas of human psychology:

Cognitive, biological, developmental and social psychology plus individual differences.

By applying the knowledge gained from these key areas you will be able to answer such questions as 'Are we born male or do we become male?', 'Why do we obey some teachers and ignore others?', 'Why do some people have an irrational fear of cotton wool?', 'Is there a criminal gene?'

Future Opportunities

Psychology is useful for any job that requires lots of interaction or an understanding of human behaviour and development. As a science, Psychology is a thriving academic discipline dedicated to the study of human behaviour and the connected thoughts, feelings, and motivations behind it.

People with skills in Psychology are sought after in business, management, sport, teaching, research, social work and careers in counselling and healthcare. Jobs directly related to your degree could include: Psychologist (various specialisms), Teacher, Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioner. Jobs where your degree would be useful include: Advice Worker, Human Resources Officer, Market Researcher and Play Therapist.



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SIXTH FORM

"I didn't study theology out of piety. I studied it because I wanted to know"

Mary Daly

Religious Studies (Theology) A Level

Is this course for me?

A level Theology helps students develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a rigorous study of Religious and Philosophical ideas and their relation to the wider world. The course offers plenty of opportunity for reflection and growth, allowing students the freedom to develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning. If you are someone who wants the chance to examine the fundamental life questions that have exercised human beings over centuries, and to develop your own approach to these questions, then Theology A Level is for you!

Skills developed by the course include the analysis of texts and complex issues, reasoned decision-making and problem-solving, analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically, sensitivity to cultural and religious diversity and the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively.

Areas of Study

All examinations will be taken at the end of the two year course. The Theology course is divided into the three separate but compatible disciplines of Philosophy, Ethics and Theology.

Within Philosophy, key content includes: Philosophies of Plato and Aristotle on Soul, Body and Mind; Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God; the nature of religious experience and the problem of evil. Within Ethics, key content includes: Ethical theories including Aquinas' Natural Law and Fletcher's Situation Ethics; Applying ethical theory to issues such as euthanasia, business, and sexual matters. Within Theology, key content includes:

Augustine's teaching on human nature, death and the afterlife; the origins and development of Christianity; moral principles and justice issues within Christianity; attitudes to other religions and attitudes to gender.

Future Opportunities

Theology students tend to have an inquisitive nature, and are willing to question just about anything and everything. Theology is a subject that has a very wide application in future careers. Due to its concentration on thinking about difficult ideas and challenging concepts, you will be able to use these transferable skills in a wide range of progression contexts. There are a number of transferable skills that can be gained from studying Theology. These include: logical and analytical thinking and reasoning, problem solving, able to interpret, condense and clarify information, able to formulate your own opinions and defend them in debate and the ability to interpret and analyse a variety of different information. Industry sectors where a Theology qualification may be considered an advantage are: journalism, law, social services, business, education, IT and The Civil Service.



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*"Science without religion is lame,
religion without science is blind"*

Albert Einstein

Core Religious Studies

Is this course for me?

In addition to your chosen three subjects, students follow a Catholic Life (Core Religious Studies) enrichment programme.

Areas of Study

Autumn Term: Aid to the Church in Need #to Mass for Someone Who Can't is a project to promote peace and tolerance by highlighting the plight of persecuted Christians (and all people of faith) whilst teaching you about Mass, the Eucharist and the power of prayer.

Spring Term: Explore issues of human trafficking in light of Catholic Social Teaching on Dignity. We study the social and moral implications of loving neighbours as oneself. The signs of the influence of Christian values in social situations; the meaning of the Gospel 'option for the poor'. We also look at

the Church as a 'sign of contradiction' (e.g speaking out on contemporary issues of justice);

Summer Term: Science and the Catholic Faith

Here we study the Roles of Science and Faith and ask if there is there a conflict between faith and science? To understand the concept of ex Nihilo as it applies to Theology and Science. Is Evolution compatible with Church teaching? Does the universe need a creator? We explore the feelings of awe and wonder in both the context of Catholicism and science; and evaluate awe and wonder from the Catholic and Scientific standpoint.

Future Opportunities

The skills developed throughout Catholic Life and PSHE Programme are particularly suited to further study in Theology, Ethics, Politics, Law, Sociology, Social Sciences, Journalism, Politics and English. The course provides a strong foundation for careers in (among others): national and local government, finance, law, schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions), charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations and social services.



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"The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden"

Pierre Bourdieu

Sociology

A Level

Is this course for me?

Are you interested in how people behave? How society is changing and why conflicts occur? Do you wonder why there are more men than women in prison? Are you concerned that the media controls what people believe and how they act? Do you want to understand why girls outperform boys at school? Topics such as the modern family, the education system, the media and crime and deviance will be studied in A-Level Sociology, whilst studying theoretical perspectives such as Feminism, Marxism and Functionalism. Sociology is a highly regarded by universities (including Oxford and Cambridge) and employers, as it helps to develop skills of critical evaluation, analysis and communication

Areas of Study

A Level Sociology is examined by three written exams at the end of Year 13.

In the first year, you will study:

- Education with methods in context
- Research methods, families and households

In the second year, you will study:

- Education with theory and methods
- Families and households
- Beliefs and Values
- Crime and deviance
- Sociological theories

Future Opportunities

Sociology links closely with Theology Psychology, Economics, History, Law, English and even Geography (through Globalisation and consideration of different cultures). Sociologists can expect to find employment in a wide variety of fields, including government, the media, law (including criminal justice), marketing & advertising, PR, journalism, law, the police, social work, the probation service, youth work, nursing or medicine and education.

Many sociology graduates work as community relations advisers for banks, insurance companies, and even in advertising and other commercial organisations through public opinion polls, motivational research and customer/employee relations. Sociology is a relevant qualification for any career that involves working with the public.



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*"My thoughts, my feelings, my spirit,
they are all in Spanish"*

Juan Gabriel

Spanish A Level

Is this course for me?

Spanish is a fantastic and important language to learn. With more than 500 million speakers worldwide in Spain, Latin America, the United States and even the Philippines, knowledge of Spanish is a definite advantage in today's competitive job market. Spanish is useful as one of the top five languages for business. The Spanish department's mission is to instil a passion for this exciting language and to provide you with an invaluable tool for your future, making you highly **competitive** and employable.

Areas of Study

The course involves a range of topics focussing on Aspects of Hispanic society, Multiculturalism in Hispanic society, Artistic culture in the Hispanic world and Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world. You will also undertake an in-depth study of either one literary text and one film, or two literary texts.

In addition, you will research a topic of your choice for the speaking exam. Studying Spanish at A level promotes greater fluency, grammatical accuracy and confidence in all forms of language.

You will develop your knowledge through reading and listening to authentic source materials and learning how to extract information, initiate conversations and respond to questions both orally and in writing.

Future Opportunities

Spanish is seen as an academic subject by universities and at degree level combines well with almost any subject.

A successful grade in this course offers valuable skills for foreign travel, further education and employment. Example careers are: translator or interpreter (United Nations, European Union, NATO), tourism, business, the airline industry, finance, e-commerce, teaching and the Foreign Service, among many other career paths.



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A DofE Award, particularly at Gold level, is an enormously valuable achievement and is recognised and valued by employers, colleges and universities worldwide.

Highlighting the activities pupils have undertaken as part of your DofE programme on your UCAS or employment application form tells the institution that you have an ambitious and positive attitude as well as a range of interests.

Many top universities are now looking for much more than good grades and extra-curricular activities; they are interested in young people who can evidence a genuine and committed interest in their desired area of study.

The Gold award consists of 5 parts, volunteering, physical activity, skills, the expedition, and a residential. Each section requires students to spend time during or after school (around an hour a week). The expedition section will be run by a company called Badger Adventures. The practice expedition will be around Easter in year 13 and the assessment will be in July of year 13 to avoid examinations and revision. The reason to have the expeditions in the second year of sixth form is because the pupils can focus on achieving their other sections first including their new section the residential.



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A safe and secure environment to pursue academic success.

- Ethan, Year 13

We are like a big family

- Molly, Year 12

The teachers provide lots of support and encouragement.

- Jakub, Year 13



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Ensure you are as happy as these students on results day!



You can openly speak about your problems and receive help.

- Roseann, Year 13

The Sixth Form has a healthy environment in which we can all succeed.

- Qasim, Year 13

The Head of Sixth Form is always encouraging, supportive and willing to help.

- Tegan, Year 13



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Entry Requirements

Five GCSE's at Grade 4 (including English and Mathematics) and the Additional Subject Entry Requirements as follows: (NB all the following courses are subject to demand).

Level and Subject	Additional Subject Requirements
Level 3 OCR National in Business Studies	GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics
A Level Fine Art	GCSE grade 6 in Art
A Level Biology	GCSE grade 6 in Biology
A Level Chemistry	GCSE grade 6 in Chemistry
Level 3 OCR National in Computer Science/Programming Scripting	GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics and a science (which could be Computer Science)
A Level English Language and Literature	GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
A Level English Literature	GCSE grade 6 in English Literature
A Level Environmental Science	GCSE grade 5 in Science
A Level Geography	GCSE grade 6 in Geography
BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care	GCSE grade 4 in science and grade 6 or Merit in HSC
A Level History	GCSE grade 6 in History
A Level Mathematics	GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics or grade 6 and successful completion of an initial assessment at enrolment
A Level Media Studies	Grade 6 at GCSE Media Studies
Level 3 BTEC in Music	GCSE grade 6 or Merit in Music (or equivalent music performance grades)
Level 3 OCR National Physical Education	GCSE grade 6 in PE or Equivalent
A Level Physics	GCSE grade 7 in Physics or grade 6 and successful completion of an initial assessment at enrolment.
A Level Product Design	GCSE grade 6 in DT
A Level Psychology	GCSE grade 5 in English language, Mathematics and Science.
A Level Theology	GCSE grade 6 in Religious Studies
A Level Spanish	GCSE grade 6 in Spanish
A Level Sociology	GCSE grade 6 in English



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“Catch the Fire.” In the spirit of our Patron, Saint Dominic, our goal is to build faith and strengthen student’s commitment to God, themselves, community and family; to teaching and learning and to social justice.

This is done through raising awareness of Charities and to raise funds for them.

This year our Sixth Formers have started to 'give blood' as part of understanding of what it means to serve God by loving our neighbour

Our Sixth Form Charities are:

- Alzheimer’s Society (we intend to become an Alzheimer’s Friendly Sixth Form by 2021)
- Breast, Ovarian and Prostate Cancer
- Students fund raise each year to organize an OAP Christmas Dinner in school for our local community and
- Create Christmas Hampers to be distributed by the local SVP
- Be part of and fundraise for HCPT Lourdes

We seek to develop students’ spiritual and moral development within the context of respecting the rights and values of our society (including celebrating Armistice Day).

- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

The Sixth Form team is tasked with developing the Sixth Form students’ spiritual, moral, social, cultural (SMSC) and Vocational (SMV) development. The Sixth Form experience assists to develop students’ social skills and also addresses many moral issues. Our assemblies and Tutor sessions also enhance our cultural understanding of the country we live in. As part of our PSHE programme, students must learn how to be resilient and cope in unfamiliar circumstances.



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