Introduction

We are a specialist A Level centre, dedicated to helping Sixth Form students achieve their academic potential. To ensure that this happens, we provide a supportive bridge to help young people move from GCSE success to become confident adults, embarking upon an independent life.

Sixth Form students become increasingly responsible for their own learning and begin to manage their own time, setting their own high standards and making choices regarding their future careers. With this in mind, we not only include support to develop the skills needed for this increased independence, we also ensure that their time is effectively used by providing excellent and extensive study facilities and a dedicated team of staff within our Sixth Form Centre.
Care, guidance and support

We guarantee that all students are provided with support and guidance by our committed team of academic and pastoral staff.

All students have their own Personal Tutor who will work with them throughout their time in Sixth Form, tailoring the support that each individual needs. Along with helping them to settle into Sixth Form life, they act as the first point of contact for parents, and will support students in times of personal difficulty. They also help students with regular achievement reviews, tracking targets and helping with the planning of university or job applications.

It is a big step up from GCSE to A Level and all of our A Level subject specialist teachers understand the GCSE backgrounds of students and know exactly how to help them with this transition through their lesson planning and feedback they provide. Ofsted wrote “students receive good feedback on their work and this enables them to make progress in most subjects which is above the national average.”

Our Sixth Form also has a dedicated Centre Manager and an Academic Tutor who ensure that individual support is available to help students manage their work load and independent study. Careers advice is provided by our Tutors, our specialist careers advisor who runs interview appointments, as well as through our Careers Fair and the UCAS Fair.

Financial support is also available through our bursary scheme, details of which are available on our website: www.wvacademy.org/general-information/sixth-form/
Resources

The Sixth Form has a range of group study zones, quiet study zones, ICT zones, a well-stocked library and careers library where students can work independently. There are also a number of supervised study areas and a dedicated office and classroom for individuals and groups to work with the Sixth Form Academic Tutor. Students also have their own café, dining room and social area where they can relax with friends. Along with using the school’s sports facilities, students often take out membership for South Charnwood Leisure Centre which is on an adjoining site.

Student Voice

There are a number of ways that students can influence their experience of Sixth Form life. As well as being involved in focus groups and completing questionnaires, we have a very active Student Council. The Student Council meets every week with the Sixth Form Assistant Principal and Centre Manager and is chaired by the Head Girl and Head Boy. They also meet with the link Governor for the Sixth Form in order to express their views on issues important to them.

Transport

Our Sixth Form is well placed in Syston as it is on regular bus routes from Melton Mowbray (Arriva 5a) and Leicester (Arriva 6), and is situated close to the train station. Students can also catch the school buses that go to Rearsby, Gaddesby, Thrussington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Thurcaston and Hamilton. Students can apply to their local authority for a bus pass if they live further than 3 miles away and are studying subject combinations not available nearer to their home address.
Enrichment

Opportunities are available for all students to become involved in our wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Through the extensive volunteering programme, students have the chance to take on a role of responsibility and to support younger learners. Ofsted wrote “students are excellent role models for younger students and they take a lead role in supporting the academy and local community activities such as library assistants, mentoring younger students and primary school transition.” Each department runs additional trips and events for students to take part in, including:

- Sharman Scientists
- Chemistry Cambridge Challenge
- Science Conference
- Science Ambassadors
- Biology Olympiad
- Physics Olympiad
- Debate Club
- Film Club
- Creative writing
- Business and Finance Club
- Maths Challenge
- Sports clubs
- Drama and Dance clubs
- Music clubs
- Charity groups
Residential Trips

To extend the learning beyond the classroom, a number of departments run various residential trips where students get the chance to complement their studies and to expand their cultural and social experiences. The Science Department take students to Cern in Switzerland to learn about the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, have a guided tour and see the exhibitions and speakers. The Humanities Department offer students the opportunity to visit Auschwitz in Poland and on their return they share what they have learnt with other learners through assemblies and classroom activities. Geography students get the opportunity to spend a week in Iceland, where they visit the Thingvellir National Park, the site where the rift valley of the Mid Atlantic Ridge can be seen, the impressive waterfall of Gullfoss, the geysers, the Myrdalsjokull glacier, the basalt cliffs at Vik on the south shore, an imploded volcano and lava fields. Students also get a taste of how Icelanders lived in this harsh climate and landscape in centuries past and the importance of geothermal energy on the economy of Iceland today. Students swim in the natural geothermal pools and see the Northern Lights. PE students go
skiing in Switzerland whilst Business Studies students visit Disneyland Paris to learn about the tourism industry. More locally, Drama students get to visit the theatres of London and Social Science students also stay in the capital to learn about phobias and to research crime and deviance in the museums, exhibitions and the Old Bailey. We are also committed to carrying out humanitarian work in the Volta region of Ghana. For the past few years, groups of students have completed fund raising events to enable them to go out to help build the Eugemont Orphanage and provide villagers in Ve Koloenu with clean drinking water. When this project is completed, we intend to continue visiting the villages in the region to aid school building projects and extend the access for local children and their parents to purified water.

Achievement
Our well established Sixth Form ensures that students regularly achieve good results and progress on to top University places. Ofsted wrote that students “develop good skills which enable them to learn by themselves and co-operatively in groups. They engage very purposefully in learning activities and are determined to do well”.

We are an inclusive Sixth Form and the successes of all of our learners are extremely important. This was recognised by Ofsted who wrote “disadvantaged, disabled and students who have special educational needs make progress in line with expectations and in line with their peers, due to the careful planning by teachers to meet their needs and deliver activities which engage and challenge them.”

Other achievements of students are recognised at our celebration awards evening. Each year we are impressed with the sporting and musical successes of our learners. Over 80% of our students progress on to University and whilst many choose to attend the local universities, others are successful in their applications to Russell Group Universities and Oxbridge. Students also progress onto Level 3 Apprenticeships or secure full time employment.
Courses from September

A Level subjects

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Plus GCSE English or Mathematics (for students on a full time A Level programme of study who have not already achieved a good GCSE pass). Please be aware that due to regular exam board changes the course specifications may be subject to change.
Entry Criteria

To be accepted into the Sixth Form, all students must be able to demonstrate a good record of attendance and a positive attitude to learning as well as the following academic entry requirement.

Students must have good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.

A student wishing to continue the study of any GCSE subject at A Level must have gained at least a grade C in that subject, and in some cases a grade B will be required.

Additional Entry Criteria will be set for some subjects. Please see the school website for current additional criteria.
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Why study the subject?

Studying A Level Art and Design gives you the opportunities to develop your own personal responses to projects which will form your portfolio of artwork. By studying Art and Design you will be able to experience a wide range of different materials and techniques to build your skills in a variety of ways.

Art and Design at this level is a challenging but rewarding subject that combines the intellectual with the practical and requires a high level of energy and commitment. There is a lot of fun amidst the independent thinking and the creative effort!

This is an essential subject for those wishing to pursue a career in any of the creative industries.

The course will involve you:

- Developing your skills through painting, drawing, textiles and mixed media.
- Exploring drawing using a variety of methods and scales.
- Looking at contemporary and historical art styles to form the basis for critical studies alongside your own practical work.
- Making use of sketchbooks/workbooks to show the development of your ideas.

How will I be assessed?

You will develop the skills to create a portfolio of coursework and an externally set project both of which will make up your A Level qualification.

Where can this subject lead?

- Art and Design Foundation courses.
- Directly to Art and/or Textiles degree courses.
- A wide range of other creative degree courses.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Please see current additional entry criteria.
Why study the subject?

Biology is the study of living organisms and the effects of their surroundings. It is a challenging subject that covers many aspects of life from molecules to animal behaviour, genetics to biodiversity and gives you a deeper understanding of yourself and life around you. It is an important subject to choose if you want to go on to study many science courses at university, including Medicine, Midwifery and Veterinary Sciences. It is also considered to be a facilitating subject by the Russell Group universities.

How will I be assessed?

Throughout Year 12 and Year 13 as you are developing your biological knowledge you will be tested regularly with exam style questions. You will also complete end of unit tests to monitor how you’re progressing as well as formal mock exams in Year 12 and Year 13. There will be regular practical skills assessments throughout the year.

External Assessment: Your final A Level Biology grade is based on three external exams.

Where can this subject lead?

Students who study A Level Biology often go on to study science at a higher level at university. It is often an essential subject if you want to go onto be a healthcare professional such as a doctor, dentist, midwife or work in veterinary sciences. Having a good A Level in Biology shows that you have an aptitude for problem solving as well as being practical – all attributes suited to many jobs.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Please see current additional entry criteria.
I am studying Maths, Chemistry and Biology and I am going to the University of Nottingham to study Molecular Medicine, Biology and Chemistry. I look forward to my biology and chemistry lessons because they are fun and the teachers are really helpful. They have supported me throughout the UCAS application process and are interested in my progress in all of my subjects.

Taking part in our Science Conference was useful as getting to do a presentation in front of a large audience helped increase my confidence. Being a member of the Sharma Scientists group involved visiting primary schools, helping younger learners to conduct experiments which was rewarding as the children were excited by their success, and the fact that the experiments worked!
Why study the subject?

Business is the study of how the internal departments of a business operate together and how each of these departments is affected by national and international events. Studying Business will give you a greater awareness of the many different actions involved in bringing goods and services to the market.

This subject will also raise your awareness of the many job roles involved in the day to day running of a business. As part of the course you will gain the opportunity to complete some of the tasks done by these different workers, from acting as an accountant to making marketing decisions.

How will I be assessed?

During lessons you will be using quantitative techniques and models to assess and analyse different business problems and decisions. The information will then be used to justify a course of action for the given business under investigation. You will also prepare for mock exams taken during Year 12 and Year 13.

External assessment: Your final Business Studies grade is based on three external exams, and two coursework units.

Where can this subject lead?

Students completing a Cambridge Technical in Business Studies often go on to further education to study Business or Management related degrees. This is a subject which is closely linked with Management and also Accountancy.

Business Studies is particularly valued by employers who are looking for workers with strong analytical and number skills. Business Studies students have also entered the world of work in a variety of different fields including, Accountancy, Marketing and Banking.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
I am studying Business, English and Media and I am planning on doing a Business Management and Accounting degree. One of the best things about Sixth Form is that they offer lots of extra-curricular activities that help with the subjects that you are studying and general life skills. For example with English and Drama we got to visit the Pineapple Dance Studio, Drury Lane Theatre and the Fortune Theatre where we met West End actors and dancers, watched A Woman in Black and Wicked.

With Business, we went to Disneyland Paris to learn about how the company was set up and how it has adapted and expanded. Earlier this year I went to Ghana with the Sixth Form to assist with the building of an orphanage. This was an eye opening experience, seeing the contrast between their lives and ours. We take for granted much of what we have got and yet they are so happy even though they have nothing; this taught me to appreciate things a lot more. This has made me determined to achieve more as I want to go back to Ghana to do more charitable work and learn more about their culture.
Why study the subject?
Chemistry is the study of elements, compounds and their behaviour. It is a challenging subject that will build on your existing knowledge of chemistry and explains how the world around you works. It is an important subject to choose if you want to go on to study many of the sciences at university, including veterinary science, medicine, and professions allied to medicine, and is considered to be a facilitating subject by the Russell Group universities.

How will I be assessed?
Throughout Year 12 and Year 13 Chemistry, you will develop your chemical knowledge. This will be tested regularly by practicing exam style questions. In addition you can expect regular end of unit tests to monitor how you’re progressing, as well as more formal mock exams in Year 12 and Year 13.

You will also be assessed on the development of your practical skills at regular intervals.

External assessment: Your final A Level Chemistry grade is based on three external exams.

Where can this subject lead?
Students who study A Level Chemistry often go on to study science at a higher level at university, however, the subject does not limit you to studying a science. A good A Level in Chemistry shows that you are practical, have an aptitude for problem solving and are good with handling numbers, so are suited to a wide range of jobs. It is often an essential subject if you want to go onto be a healthcare professional such as a doctor, dentist or pharmacist.

Entry Criteria
Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Please see current additional entry criteria.
I am studying Maths, Chemistry and Business and I am going to The University of Loughborough to study Chemical Engineering. I feel as though everyone here has really helped me with the UCAS application process, from the Sixth Form staff, my tutor and my chemistry teachers who have all co-ordinated their support for me.

I was inspired to study Chemical Engineering after attending the Sixth Form Careers Fair where I met STEM ambassadors during the networking session. This was really helpful in raising my aspirations as I got to meet a large number of professionals at the event who spoke to me about their career paths. I then researched the different universities, attended the UCAS Fair, spoke to advisors at the Sixth Form before finally choosing Loughborough and I am really happy with the choice that I have made.
Why study the subject?
If you enjoyed studying Drama at GCSE and achieved a C or above then A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is for you. The course is vibrant, energetic, enjoyable and challenging. It is a creative, stimulating course that explores and develops all aspects of the theatre, theatre practitioners, plays and contrasting styles and genres. It is complimented with a lively programme of live theatre - in London’s West End, Stratford and the Curve in Leicester - students can expect to analyse a wide range of plays. The course involves working collaboratively and creatively in practical work and using analytical and research skills in approaching written responses to play texts. The course encourages you to perform, analyse, discuss and research.

Drama and Theatre Studies A Level is an opportunity to gain an important qualification in a subject you enjoy!

What will I study?
During the course you will explore the following aspects of theatre:
Practitioners in practice
Exploring texts for performance
Analysing performance
Deconstructing text for performance

How will I be assessed?
This course is assessed through 60% practical coursework and 40% external written exam.

Where can this subject lead?
Most students go on to follow a course at Drama School or take a degree in Drama. Some students combine drama with other subjects such as English or Media to lead to a combined honours degree. This A Level can also provide you with transferable skills such as communication skills, improved presentation skills, how to research, evaluate and analyse information, evaluating your own and others work, an ability to work alone and as a part of a team.

This course can provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to follow a career within the entertainment industry. Possible careers include: Stage Manager, Arts Administration, Theatre
I am studying Drama, History, Media and English and my favourite subject is Drama. This is a practical, fun subject with a very enthusiastic teacher. She really cares about her course, but also about you as an actor. I am looking forward to the end of year show (Thoroughly Modern Millie) and I was fortunate to get the lead male role, ‘Jimmy’. The rehearsals are hard work, everyone gets to contribute ideas and are not restricted in what they can do.

My strength is my acting, I’m not such a strong singer or dancer, but this has really helped my confidence and I am making great progress. Drama has also helped me with my other subjects because of the broader skills such as writing and presenting ideas. I am hoping to go to The University of East London to study Performing Arts and then maybe work in The West End.

Entry Criteria
Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.

Manager, professional freelance performer or Set/Costume Designer.

Mason Gibbard

I am studying Drama, History, Media and English and my favourite subject is Drama. This is a practical, fun subject with a very enthusiastic teacher. She really cares about her course, but also about you as an actor. I am looking forward to the end of year show (Thoroughly Modern Millie) and I was fortunate to get the lead male role, ‘Jimmy’. The rehearsals are hard work, everyone gets to contribute ideas and are not restricted in what they can do.

My strength is my acting, I’m not such a strong singer or dancer, but this has really helped my confidence and I am making great progress. Drama has also helped me with my other subjects because of the broader skills such as writing and presenting ideas. I am hoping to go to The University of East London to study Performing Arts and then maybe work in The West End.
Why study the subject?
Economics is the study of how people make decisions in their everyday world. We study how individuals make rational decisions on what to buy and where to go and how organisations make decisions as to what to produce. These Economics tools are then used to explain the problems that we see in the daily news. Problems such as why are footballers paid so much money and what can we do to help the world’s poorer nations improve their lives.

How will I be assessed?
During lessons you will be using the economics toolkit of diagrams and calculations to analyse a number of problems.

You will also prepare for the external exams by taking mock exams during Year 12 and Year 13.

External assessment: Your final A Level Economics grade is based on 100% external exams.

Where can this subject lead?
Students completing an A Level in Economics often go on to further education to study Economics or Business related degrees. This is a subject which is closely linked with Geography, History and also Mathematics.

Economics is particularly valued by employers who are looking for workers with strong analytical and number skills. Economics students have entered the world of work in a variety of different fields including Accountancy, Banking, the Stock Market, Law and Management analysis.

Entry Criteria
Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Language. Please see current additional entry criteria.
Gemma Horsley

I am studying Economics, Maths and Geography and I have an unconditional offer from The University of Leicester to study Economics. My favourite thing about Economics is how it combines my other subjects, for example, I study development in geography and economics and apply maths in economics lessons. My teacher is good at drawing on examples from the other subjects and she is knowledgeable about the cross curricular links which is helpful when I come to write essays as I have a good understanding of the points already. Economics lessons are made contemporary as we discuss government policies and political reforms as they are happening and reported in the news. My teacher encourages me to read around the subject, subscribing to The Economist, and recommending news items and texts which helps me use specific examples to back up my arguments in essays. I’ve definitely become a more independent learner while I’ve been here as I do additional research in both Geography and Economics which has helped prepare me for university. I’ve really enjoyed being at the Sixth Form and I feel prepared for the next step because of the support and advice I have had from my teachers.
Why study the subject?

If you are interested in how English 'works' then English Language is for you!

English Language is the study of how English is used both by the individual and in society as a whole. You will have the opportunity to discover how children learn language and how they are able to understand and express themselves through language. You will explore how language changes through time, society and place. You will study a range of written texts looking at how writers use language for different purposes and audiences. You will also have the opportunity to work on a language based investigation of your choice and a piece of creative writing.

If you want to develop your skills of observation, analysis, deduction, communication and creativity then English Language is definitely for you.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a combination of exam and non-exam assessments. Exams are worth 80% of your final grade and non-exam 20%.

Over the course you will develop your knowledge of different aspects of English Language and your ability to apply those skills in the final assessments. Lessons will include opportunities for group work, whole class discussions, research projects and the development of your writing skills. You will prepare for external exams by taking end of unit tests and mock exams in Year 12 and Year 13.

Where can this subject lead?

Students completing A Level English Language often go on to university to study Linguistics where the areas studied at A Level are continued in greater depth.

Because it covers such a wide spectrum of areas it is a useful subject to have if you are interested in the fields of education, journalism or advertising. There are links with Sociology (sociolinguistics), Psychology (psycholinguistics) and History (archives).

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
Lek Edgeley

I am studying Maths, English and History A Levels and I am going to the University of Central Lancashire to study Asia Pacific Studies with Japanese. It’s a four year degree with a year in Japan where I will study and have opportunities to get work experience.

The skills that I have developed from English and History will help me because I will be looking at politics and the history of the regions. I eventually want to teach English in Japan, Korea or Thailand, or become a translator for international businesses.
Why study the subject?

English Literature is a highly regarded, academic subject, which will help you to continue to develop your writing, reading and debating skills. You will be given the opportunity to explore a wide range of texts (prose, poetry and drama) and will be encouraged to consider different interpretations of these texts. You will be expected to consider how each text has been influenced by the historical period and culture in which it was written; indeed, “it takes a great deal of history to produce a little literature” (Henry James).

English Literature is the perfect subject for anyone who has an enthusiasm for reading and writing and is interested in studying a range of both traditional and contemporary literary texts. It would also help you to develop your essay writing skills, ensuring that you can create and sustain an effective and well-balanced argument. If you enjoy being challenged and would like to develop your understanding of a cultural heritage, then you should consider studying English Literature.

How will I be assessed?

You will become confident at essay writing and will be expected to write informed and critical responses to set texts and also unseen extracts. You will be expected to support your answers, with reference to the writer’s use of language, form and structure, your independent wider reading and historical context/cultural influence.

During the course, you will complete a number of essays and end of unit tests. You will also prepare for the external exams by taking mock exams in Year 12 and Year 13. In Year 13 you will also complete a piece of coursework.

Where can this subject lead?

Students who study English Literature often go on to university to study English Literature or another English degree, such as Creative Writing, Journalism or English Language. Students can go on to careers in teaching, journalism, the media or law.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
Annie Grant

Head Girl

I really enjoy being part of the Sixth Form community. The teachers are really supportive here and care about you as an individual and you can talk to them about your subjects but also about any personal issues you have. I am studying English Literature, Chemistry and Biology and enjoy the way we are encouraged to work in groups and to express our views, and the good relationships we have with teachers makes it easier to learn. All of my teachers are really passionate about their subject which makes me enjoy them even more.

I have accepted a place to study English Literature at Reading and being at Sixth Form has made me feel confident about going on to university. I have been taught how to take responsibility for my own learning and I have learnt how to make the best of my own time.

Being Head Girl has given me the opportunity to put forward the views of other students and work closely with staff here. This role has made me become more articulate and able to talk to different audiences, again, increasing my confidence.
Why study the subject?

If you enjoyed studying Maths at GCSE and achieved a grade 7 or above, you should consider studying this course. Students considering this course must also study A Level Maths. It provides an excellent option at A Level if you are considering going on to study a Maths related course at university. It makes the transition from Sixth Form to university courses which are maths rich, that much easier as more of the first year course content will be familiar.

It is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A Level Maths. For someone who enjoys maths, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

How will I be assessed?

You will attend five lessons a week and the delivery of the course is usually shared between two members of staff. There is no coursework in A Level Further Maths.

You are required to keep organised folders containing work on the different areas covered. These will be regularly checked by staff in order to monitor progress and effort.

In lessons progress will be monitored through regular assessments and homework as well as using ICT.

At the end of Year 13 you will sit the three exams, each lasting two hours. There are two pure maths papers and one applied maths paper.

Each of these will contribute to the overall grade.

Where can this subject lead?

Further Maths is now becoming an entry requirement at many universities for a widening variety of subjects. The Russell Group of universities lists Further Mathematics as a facilitating subject.

The skills you will develop on this course can lead onto: higher education options in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Engineering, Economics, Medicine, Psychology, Archaeology, Careers in Engineering, Accountancy, Actuary, Teaching, Weather Forecasting, Genetics, Insurance, Music Composer, Project Manager, Lawyer, Computer Programmer.
Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Please see additional entry criteria.

I am studying Maths, Further Maths and Economics and I am going to The University of Leicester to study Maths and Actuarial Science. My love of maths has been developed while I’ve been at Sixth Form because the teachers have stretched me. They have given me extra work because they know I can do it and they test me with harder work. You can tell that all of the Maths teachers really love their subject and this comes across in the way that they teach it. They put on extra revision sessions and workshops for Maths Challenge where you can work on specific skills to get the best out of yourself.

I genuinely enjoy studying Maths; the lessons are fun as when you suddenly understand something, you overcome a barrier of knowledge, and you feel great because you know that you can do this. The teachers help you get this sense of achievement through the varied approaches that they use to help you solve problems.
Why study the subject?

Geography is a very relevant subject - just watch the news. The topics you study will certainly feature. During the course you will develop an understanding of local, national and international issues and how conflicts can be resolved.

Geography is the perfect subject for anyone who is interested in the human and physical world around them and is a bridge between science and arts subjects. Topics studied include Tectonic Hazards, Water, Energy, Superpowers and Regenerating Places.

Fieldwork and research are important elements of the course and there are trips to study rebranding in the town centre as well as a residential to Hunstanton to research coasts.

How will I be assessed?

You will develop the skills to answer a combination of short answer questions and more detailed essay responses throughout the course. You will have to analyse resources and apply your knowledge and understanding.

During the course you will complete essays and end of unit tests. You will also prepare for the external exams by taking mock exams during Year 12 and Year 13.

A Level Geography is formally assessed through coursework (20%) and external written exams (80%).

Where can this subject lead?

Students completing A Level Geography enjoy it so much they often go on to university to study it further. There are a large number of places where you can study Geography and the highlights of the course usually involve fieldtrips to foreign locations! A number of university courses have a year abroad. One ex-student studied earthquakes at a university in California.

Geography is a subject which can offer a range of opportunities in the civil service, construction, mining, armed forces, hazard management and education. There are many more…

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
I am studying Economics, English and Geography and I am going to do a Law Degree at Nottingham. I like Geography because it involves a lot of thinking and developing your answers in essays, I also enjoy writing. I like doing my own research which allows me to follow my own ideas and using lots of different sources helps me to widen my knowledge.

Because they know me really well, the teachers give me one to one advice and tell me what I need to improve on and I am doing a lot better than I ever thought I would as I am exceeding most of my original targets.
Why study the subject?

Health and Social Care is the study of people and factors that influence health and development. By studying Health and Social Care you will develop an understanding of human development, how care values are used and the impact disease and illness can have on people. You will also develop your communication and presentation skills which are a vital part everyday life and employment.

Health and Social Care is the perfect subject for anyone who is interested in people and how as a society we support individual’s rights in every stage of our life.

How will I be assessed?

Class based assessment:

You will develop planning and research skills to enable you to compete the internal assessments that are assignment based. You will be expected to deliver presentations as part of the internal assessments and all knowledge is based on real life.

Through group work, discussions, practical tasks and independent research you will become fluent in the language of Health and Social Care and become confident in your ability to analyse and evaluate your findings.

During the course you will complete unit assignments and end of unit tests. You will also prepare for the external exams by taking mock exams during Year 12 and Year 13.

External assessment:

There are two external examinations which contribute to 50% of your overall mark.

Where can this subject lead?

Students completing Health and Social Care often go on to university to study nursing, childcare studies or other Social Science degrees.

It is a useful qualification to have if you are interested in a career working in the health and social care sector (Nurse, Midwifery, Health Visitor), or with vulnerable groups (Social Worker,
Family Support Worker). Health and Social Care also provides a good background for people interested in going into the Police or Armed Forces.

Entry Criteria
Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.

Previously attended Rushey Mead School I am studying Biology, Maths, Health and Social Care and Psychology and I am applying to do a Law Degree after A Levels. Attending Sixth Form has been good because teachers really care about you; you are not just a number. I have restarted Year 12 here having attended a different college last year where teachers didn’t have time to follow up on your work.

Teachers weren’t available for help whereas here you can see teachers during your study periods, they run extra revision classes and you are treated like an individual. Teachers know who you are and your tutor is interested in how you are getting on. Here I feel that I know where to go for help which wasn’t the case last year. My favourite subject is Health and Social Care which surprisingly has got me more into law as we have to look at legislation and the medical side of law which is something that I find interesting.
A Level History

Why study the subject?

A Level History encourages you to question and interpret different accounts of historical events and justify your own points of view. It also develops your ability to read critically, to write persuasively so that you can sustain an argument and evaluate evidence. If you enjoy reading, problem-solving and discussion, then History should appeal to you.

How will I be assessed?

You will need to develop the skills necessary for the style of questions offered by AQA at A Level. This will largely be in the form of essay style questions, which will familiarise you with the criteria used in the exam papers. You will also be expected to undertake independent research, both individually and in groups. There will be discussion work to analyse and evaluate your understanding of the key themes on the course, as well as end of unit tests to test specific knowledge.

There will also be mock exams in Years 12 and Year 13.

External assessment:

For the A Level qualification you will study Tsarist and Communist Russia (1855-1964) and the Tudors and the Church in England (1529-C1570).

In Year 13 you will also complete an Historical Investigation of 3000-3500 words on The Fight for Irish Independence (1790-1922).

The exams and coursework are completed at the end of Year 13.

Where can this subject lead?

Studying History gives you skills that are highly prized in higher education and by employers. The subject has many applications, particularly if you consider the skills gained from the study of History, and its reputation as a strong academic qualification. Many students study History because they want to understand the present through knowledge of the past. Others choose History simply because they enjoy the subject and the challenges it presents!
Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.

I am studying Sociology, History and Geography and will be doing a History Degree at the University of Sheffield next year. I have enjoyed studying all of these subjects at A Level and I have found them challenging and I have been pushed to reach my potential. I struggled at GCSE as I didn’t find school to suit my way of learning and found the bigger classes distracting. Where as in the Sixth Form I prefer the way classes are taught because of the small group sizes and you have a better relationship with the teachers. You can go and ask them for help outside of the lessons.

Throughout Year 12, I worked with the Academic Tutor who provided me with the support needed to be able to take on the work load given and the step up from GCSE to A Level. Sixth Form has helped me to prepare for university, especially with the aspect of studying independently.
Why study the subject?

If you enjoyed studying Maths at GCSE and achieved a grade 6 or above, you should consider studying this course.

An A Level in Maths can help you immensely with your other A Level subjects. Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Business Studies all now contain mathematical elements, so it may support you in the study of your other subjects. Maths teaches you to think in a logical way, something which is vital when putting across your argument, so can also help with essay based subjects.

How will I be assessed?

You will attend five lessons a week and the delivery of the course is shared between two members of staff. There is no coursework in A Level Maths.

You are required to keep organised folders containing work on the different areas covered. These will be regularly checked by staff in order to monitor progress and effort.

In lessons progress will be monitored through regular assessments and homework as well as using ICT.

At the end Year 13 you will sit three exams, each lasting two hours. These are exams in pure maths, mechanics and statistics. These will contribute to your overall grade.

Where can this subject lead?

Maths is an A Level entry requirement at university for a widening variety of subjects. Not only that, admissions tutors and employers all give huge amount of kudos to prospective students and employees who have studied Maths, as it has a number of transferable skills including logical skills, problem solving and analytical skills. The Russell Group of universities lists Mathematics as a facilitating subject.

The skills you will develop on this course can lead onto: Higher education options in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Engineering, Economics, Medicine, Psychology, Archaeology, Veterinary Science, Forensic Science Careers in Engineering, Accountancy, Actuary, Teaching, Weather
Forecasting, Genetics, Insurance, Music Composer, Project Manager, Lawyer, Computer Programmer.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Please see current additional entry criteria.
Why study this subject?

Media Studies is an exciting, well established contemporary, academic subject. The aim of the course is to encourage students to think critically about the media and produce media products themselves.

Media Studies seeks to develop students’ knowledge of a range of different media platforms from the areas of print, broadcast and digital media. Students will gain the knowledge and skills to be able to analyse media texts, explore their context and the historical, political, economic and social factors that shape the world. Students will also have the opportunity to produce a variety of media texts during the course.

This qualification is aimed at students who possess good ICT skills, show evidence of creativity and are interested in understanding the way media makes meaning in our lives.

Students do not need to have studied a media related course at GCSE in order to join this course. The main requirement is an interest in the media, creativity and a willingness to work hard.

Media Studies involves the building of a range of transferrable analytical and practical skills that make Media graduates among the most employable in the country.

How will I be assessed?

A Level Media Studies involves a combination of theoretical and practical lessons. You will analyse films, TV programmes, magazines and websites. You will also create exciting video, print and digital media products. There will be group discussions, debates, individual research and essay writing. Sessions will also include practical workshops and technical demonstrations.

Assessment is 50% coursework and 50% written examination.

Where can this subject lead?

This course will prepare you for a wide range of media related careers; it will prepare you as you produce and evaluate your own media production. You will gain an ability to analyse media products and their construction and know how to produce media products across different platforms.
This course equips you in any humanities based degree such as English, Sociology and Film. As we live in a media saturated and dominated world an understanding of how the media works is essential for modern life.

Media Studies can lead to careers in journalism, marketing, advertising or public relations. Media can also support other careers such as social work, law, medicine and education.

**Entry Criteria**

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
Why study the subject?
If you have a genuine interest in studying the theory behind sport, including, historical issues, psychology of sports performance and understanding the physiology of the body, then this course is for you.
You will need to have a genuine interest and ability in practical activities, coaching or officiating sports.
Physical Education complements a number of other subjects such as Biology and Physics, or art subjects such as History, Geography and English.
You will develop your research skills, engage in group discussions and debates, have lessons with fun practical links to the theory you will learn, but most of all, you will enjoy it!

How will I be assessed?
You will be assessed through a combination of external written exams as well as practical assessments.

Where can this subject lead?
This course can help lead you onto any of the following university courses: Sports and Exercise Science, Sports Management, Physiotherapy, Primary/Secondary Education, Sport and Business Management, Psychology, Biochemistry, Nursing etc.
It could also lead you into the work of sports development officers, gym instructors and private health care.

Entry Criteria
Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
Competing regularly in competitive sports. At least one sport must be from the official specified list.
A Level Physics

Why study the subject?
Physics is the study of energy and matter and the interaction between the two. Students will develop a broad range of analytical and experimental skills as we try to answer fundamental questions about the interaction of matter and energy through both experiments and observations. Students studying Physics will gain necessary skills and experience that will give insight into applications of sciences such as engineering, astronomy and medicine; support applications to other science related degrees at university; develop further skills to support their entry to employment.

How will I be assessed?
Throughout Year 12 and Year 13 Physics, you will be tested regularly by practicing exam style questions.
You will have three exams, all at the end of Year 13. The exams consist of short answer style questions, extended response questions and stretch and challenge. You will be expected to demonstrate practical ability throughout the course and should aspire to be awarded a practical endorsement, which is awarded separately. Your final A Level grade is based on 100% external exams.

Where can this subject lead?
Physics provides students with a wealth of theoretical and experimental experience, as well as mathematical applications to a variety of physical scenarios. Many students choose to apply for science-based courses at university where their physics background will provide opportunities to study any higher level science. Other students apply for higher level entry into employment, supported by their skills.

Entry Criteria
Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths. Please see current additional entry criteria.
George Sutton

Head Boy

I am studying Physics, Maths and Economics in my second year at Sixth Form. I originally planned to do a Physics Degree, but have been successful in gaining an apprenticeship at Jaguar Land Rover in technical engineering where I will be put on block release to study for an Engineering Degree at the University of Warwick.

Sixth Form has supported me throughout my A Level experience with a welcoming feel and has helped me all the way through my studies. The teachers are very passionate about their subjects and this comes across in lessons making studying more enjoyable.

Becoming Head Boy has been a privilege as I have acted as an ambassador for the school and gained presentational and life skills which will help me in the future. Through chairing student council meetings I have had the opportunity to promote student voice whilst gaining leadership skills.

Sixth Form has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and has prepared me for the big world of work.
**Why study the subject?**

A Level Product Design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. It allows you to communicate through design.

Product Design emphasises two key factors: creativity and sustainability. The structure allows you to develop a range of skills, demonstrate your creativity, apply these to a design and make a project.

You will be encouraged to explore ideas of originality and value, to question and challenge, and to envisage what could be. Alongside your knowledge and understanding, you will develop your research, analysis, product development, project planning and evaluation skills.

**How will I be assessed?**

Coursework is internally set, marked by the centre and externally moderated by the exam board. You are given the opportunity to design and make a product. This unit results in the development of an appropriate product supported by a design folder. The product should be complete, expertly made and well finished.

There is a two hour external written exam paper. The paper will be a question and answer booklet, consisting of short-answer and extended-writing type questions, all of which are compulsory.

The Product Design A Level is assessed by 50% coursework and 50% external written exam.

**Where can this subject lead?**

A Level Design is accepted as an entry requirement for many degree and other higher courses in a range of design and engineering disciplines.

It is particularly appropriate for Architecture, Industrial or Product Design, Theatre Design and Teaching to name but a few.

**Entry Criteria**

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
I am studying Physics, Maths, Chemistry and Design (Resistant Materials). One of the things that I have enjoyed so far is the way that teachers treat you with respect. You have more freedom to learn in ways that suit you, as teachers understand that you are intelligent and they support you in your studies, helping you achieve your full potential.

I have enjoyed the extra opportunities Sixth Form provide you with, for example I went to Cern in Geneva and got to see contemporary physics in action. Being part of the Student Council has also given me the chance to take on a lead role in decision making across the Sixth Form which is rewarding as you are contributing to the process but also developing employability skills.
Why study the subject?

Psychology is a unique and challenging subject that will engage any learner who is interested in understanding why people behave the way they do. Many students find Psychology a challenging but rewarding subject. It is a rigorous subject where candidates are expected to formulate theoretical arguments, substantiate claims through research and establish causes of human behaviour. Students find Psychology enjoyable and many continue their study of the subject at university. This course will look at the varying theories for why we behave the way we do e.g. nature versus nurture. We also apply psychological theory to a range of topics, for example Forensic Psychology, which explores why we commit crime, to how we profile an offender and Abnormality, which explores how we develop and treat schizophrenia and depression.

How will I be assessed?

This course will be 100% examined with exam papers consisting of multiple choice, small mark and essay based questions. However, throughout the term of your course, your knowledge and ability to apply this knowledge to psychological topics will be assessed using a variety of tasks ranging from essays to research based tasks. You will also prepare for the external exams by taking mock exams during Year 12 and Year 13.

Where can this subject lead?

Psychology students can go onto specialise in a particular area such as Educational Psychology, Sport Psychology, Therapy or Occupational Psychology. You do not have to go onto be a Psychologist. Employers are aware of the benefits of studying Psychology at A Level. Whichever career you choose Psychology arms you with a variety of skills which help you to relate to and understand many different types of people. The study of Psychology can lead to careers in education, health, marketing, management, human resources and government services including the Police.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
Pooja Modhvadiya

Previously attended Rushey Mead School

I chose to come to this Sixth Form because it was recommended to me by friends who had attended and because of its good results. I like it here because it is a small friendly Sixth Form and less intimidating than bigger colleges. I have found it to be a comfortable environment and even though I am quiet I have quickly got to know everyone and feel settled here. The smaller class sizes mean that the teachers have time for everyone and you are never over looked and as a result I have done much better in my A Levels than I thought I would. I study Biology, Maths, Psychology and Sociology and have been offered a place at Leicester University to study Psychology.
Why study the subject?

Sociology is the study of society, people and behaviour. By studying Sociology you will develop theories and explanations regarding social life and human behaviour. You will be able to explain patterns of behaviour and understand what motivates individuals and groups to act the way they do. When you can explain human action, it becomes possible to offer solutions to social problems and anti-social behaviour, and you can begin to help to improve the lives of individuals.

Sociology is the perfect subject for anyone who is interested in the world around them and is keen to make a difference to society. If you enjoy being challenged, like to question evidence and to present your views on real life events, then maybe you should be studying Sociology.

How will I be assessed?

Class based assessment: you will develop the skills to answer a combination of small mark questions and more detailed essay responses throughout the course. You will be expected to apply evidence from your own small-scale research projects completed in class, along with examples from real life and sociological theories.

Through group work, discussions, practical tasks and independent research you will become fluent in the language of Sociology and become confident in your ability to analyse and evaluate theories both verbally and within essays.

During the course you will complete a number of small research projects, essays and end of unit tests. You will also prepare for the external exams by taking mock exams during Year 12 and Year 13.

External assessment: your final A Level Sociology grade is based on 100% external exams.

Where can this subject lead?

Students completing A Level Sociology often go on to university to study Sociology or another Social Science degree.

It is a useful A Level to have if you are interested in a career working with criminals (Lawyer, Social Worker, Probation Officer, Criminologist) or people generally (Politics, Nursing, Teaching, Journalism,
Marketing, Retail, Human Resources, Social Policy). Sociology also provides a good background for people interested in going into different types of research (historical or scientific) or the Police or Armed Forces.

Entry Criteria

Good passes at GCSE in at least five separate subjects including English or Maths.
**GCSE English**

**Why study the subject?**

Students should take this course in order to improve their current GCSE grade.

The government guidelines now state that if you are in full time education you must continue studying English up to the age of 18 or until you have achieved a good pass in GCSE English. This course can be studied alongside your A Level options.

**What will I study?**

This will be a condensed course on everything you have covered previously in Year 10 and Year 11.

You will complete preparation units for the Reading and Writing exams in fiction and non-fiction.

**How will I be assessed?**

The course is linear with exams in reading and writing. These will contribute to your overall GCSE grade.

You will attend three lessons a week. In lessons, progress will be monitored through regular assessments and homework.

**Where can it lead?**

GCSE English is important and an entry requirement to many places of further education, places of employment and for some apprenticeships.
Why study the subject?
Students should take this course in order to improve their current GCSE grade. The government guidelines now state that if you are in full time education you must continue studying Maths up to the age of 18 or until you have achieved the required standard of a good pass in GCSE Maths. This course can be studied alongside your A Level options.

What will I study?
This will be a condensed course on everything you have covered previously in Years 9, 10 and 11.
Topics covered will include:
• Number
• Algebra
• Ratio and Proportion

• Shape, Space and Measure
• Data Handling
There is a lot of emphasis placed on the problem solving aspect of Maths as well as methods of solution, with some marks awarded for the quality of written communication. This means that students must show and explain all working in a logical order.

How will I be assessed?
There will be an opportunity for you to sit the GCSE Maths exam in November and a further opportunity in June. The course is a linear course with three exams, two calculator and one non-calculator. Each exam will be 1½ hours in length and can be sat at either Foundation or Higher tier.

All these will contribute to your overall GCSE grade.
There is no coursework in GCSE Maths.
Students will attend two lessons a week. In lessons, progress will be monitored through regular assessments and homeworks as well as using ICT.

Where can it lead?
GCSE Maths is important and an entry requirement to many places of further education, places of employment and for some apprenticeships.
How to apply

Careers Guidance:
Through your school, arrange a careers interview to learn about the various pathways open to you.

Open Day:
Visit the school open day in October; speak to subject teachers and pick up the detailed subject fliers to help you select your subjects. If you are unable to attend the open day, contact us and we will be able to arrange a visit for you.

Applications are received November to February:
1. On line through UCAS Progress
2. Complete the application form available on the school website and return to:
   Wreake Valley Academy,
   Parkstone Road,
   Syston,
   Leicester,
   LE7 1LY
   Clearly mark the envelope ‘Sixth Form Application’.

Interviews and offers during March:
1. Applicants receive a letter inviting them to attend an interview in March.
2. Successful applicants are usually made a conditional offer during the interview or shortly afterwards if references have not been previously received.
3. Confirmation letters are sent out, and you will be invited to attend our induction days which take place at the end of June and enrolment takes place at the end of August.

Contact us:
Tel: 0116 264 1080
e-mail: admin@wvacademy.org
Visit our web site: www.wvacademy.org
Follow us on @WVASixthForm