



# Prospectus and Course Guide 2023 - 2024



Waltham Toll Bar  
Academy



Lincolnshire Gateway  
Academies Trust



# Welcome to our Sixth Form

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Our Sixth Form offers students an outstanding environment in which to study A Levels, the gold standard academic qualification for entry to university, higher apprenticeships and other career opportunities. Our college provides unrivalled access to outstanding teachers, excellent facilities, superb pastoral support and a track record of delivering academic success. We are immensely proud of the fact that upon completion of their A Level courses, our students routinely proceed to their first choice destination, whether that be a degree course, a quality apprenticeship, or other employment.

We encourage all of our students to become pro-active learners and researchers, critically reflecting upon taught material, asking challenging questions of teachers and helping to generate good academic discussion. This commitment to developing academic potential extends to all aspects of our students' lives, as we seek to enable them to become better decision makers through our pastoral programme. We firmly believe that all of our students leave our Sixth Form as more inquiring, knowledgeable and caring citizens, with much to contribute to society. We wish you every success with your further studies and we are sure that your time with us will be engaging, rewarding and enjoyable.

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# The Academic Choice

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Our Sixth Form is proud to offer students a rigorous academic education. Through dedication and commitment, our students consistently achieve excellent results that enable them to progress to their desired destinations, including elite universities and highly competitive higher apprenticeships.

All of our students benefit from the comprehensive academic support of our expert staff, additional taught periods, access to our online learning platform, and a supportive and focused learning environment.





# Outstanding Facilities

Our separate Sixth Form site is immaculately presented and maintained, providing the perfect environment for learning and enjoying wider Sixth Form life. Boasting state-of-the-art equipment for learning, specialist classrooms, quiet study areas, pleasant communal spaces and our own café, we have everything our students need to feel safe, comfortable and confident in their studies.

Studying for my A Levels has been a real challenge, but the support I have received every step of the way has made it so much easier. My teachers expect me to fulfil certain academic obligations, such as completing independent study and meeting deadlines, but they are also very friendly and approachable. This certainly helped make the transition from school to college more manageable.



# Support and Guidance

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All of our students benefit from the support of a pastoral head, a personal tutor, peer mentors, a student council, a specialist careers advisor, highly experienced teaching staff, and the wider Sixth Form Leadership Team. Students also have access to an independent counselling service which provides one-to-one support meetings as required. We are committed to meeting the individual needs of all of our students, and encourage you to contact the college should you have any queries related to how we may be able to support you.

Running alongside our academic timetable is a tutorial programme that is themed to respond to the needs of our 16-19 year old students. The programme provides encounters with a wide range of external stakeholders, including universities, apprenticeship providers, employers, and other local and national organisations. It also provides opportunities for students to explore critical issues such as mental health, alcohol use, study skills, careers, personal finance, and online safety. Our aim is not only to prepare our students for A Level success, but also to enable them to make better decisions in all aspects of their lives.

**Students who may experience financial hardship can apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund, to assist them with the costs of their studies. Eligible students are also able to claim free school meals whilst they are studying with us.**

There genuinely is a community feel to the Sixth Form, and I have learned a lot from our Tutorial Programme, especially our guest speakers. I am now beginning to feel much better prepared for life after A Levels.





# Beyond The Classroom

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Learning outside the classroom is an integral part of every student's learning journey. We provide many opportunities for students to participate in educational, engaging and enjoyable excursions, both locally and nationally. This ranges from the A Level Politics visit to the House of Commons and the Geography residential to Malham Tarn, to the A Level Business tour of the Amazon distribution facility and the English Literature trip to the theatre for Othello.

We also encourage all of our students to develop a broader set of life skills through participation in a variety of enrichment activities within Sixth Form and beyond. Activities such as volunteering, sports coaching, work experience or fundraising are invaluable in preparing students for the wider world, whilst making a valuable contribution to society. In addition to this, students are supported in learning how to manage with the demands of advanced level study. Students may wish to complete the Bloom course delivered by the Sixth Form Leadership Team and supported by Mental Health UK. The six session scheme offers a range of strategies to support mental health resilience and wellbeing.

# Our Ambassador programme provides opportunities for students to take an active lead in supporting the Sixth Form community.

## Aurelia Pearson

Lead Ambassador for the Charities and Events Committee

“As a lead ambassador for our Charities and Events committee I am actively involved in planning and delivering events which support our Sixth Form values. Our role seeks to encourage students to unite behind worthy causes, participate in fundraising activities and in doing so create an environment where everyone recognises they belong and play a valuable role.”

## Abbie Gurnhill

Lead Ambassador for Academic and Peer Mentoring

“The ambassador role has provided me with the responsibility to help make the Sixth Form a great place to learn for all students. The Academic and Peer Mentoring ambassadors use our knowledge and experience to help the year 12s transition from GCSE to A-Levels as smoothly as possible. The ambassador programme has really given the students a great opportunity to voice their ideas to continually improve the A-Level experience.”

## Malakai Hammond

Lead Ambassador for Wellbeing, Student Voice and Enrichment

“As an ambassador, working as part of the wellbeing committee, I am committed to reassuring the student body that they have a strong supportive network amongst their peers, alongside that offered by staff. We encourage students to take a pro-active role in creating a caring Sixth Form community that supports students to discuss, and confidently prepare for, life beyond A Levels.”

# Life After A Levels

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When choosing your A Level subjects, it is important to think carefully about what you might want to do in the future, as your choice of subjects may affect the options that are available to you later on. Staff at the Sixth Form are always happy to discuss your future plans so that we can support you in making the right choices.

As a student, you will receive extensive support to help plan your next steps during your time with us. This includes:

- **Access to an experienced, independent Careers Advisor;**
- **Visits to universities and higher education conventions;**
- **Frequent encounters with professionals from a range of sectors and industries;**
- **Educational and Careers based Workshops;**
- **Visits from Outreach Teams representing a wide range of universities;**
- **Guidance through all aspects of the UCAS application process;**
- **Specialist support for students applying to Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine courses;**
- **Support in applying for Widening Participation schemes and summer schools;**
- **Assistance with writing CVs and submitting applications for jobs and apprenticeships;**
- **Mock Interviews.**

The vast majority of our students progress to university or to higher apprenticeships, and our students have fantastic success in securing their first-choice options. We are immensely proud of the destinations that our students have moved on to over the years - the following pages will give you an idea of where studying A Levels with us could take you.

## William Lonsdale

William left Toll Bar Sixth Form in 2021, progressing to his first choice university, Kings College London to study Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences. Alongside his studies, William competes for Team GB in fencing which is supported by a Kings Sport Performance Scholarship and its Dual Career programme.

**“Tollbar Sixth Form provided me with both the academic and wider support I needed to pursue my ambition to achieve a place at Kings. The personalised support throughout the UCAS application process was particularly helpful, with bespoke guidance from a subject specialist enabling me to confidently submit to such a high ranking university. The structured independence of Sixth Form study also helped to prepare me for the challenge of university life at the heart of our capital city.”**





## Josh Wilkins

Josh Wilkins left Toll Bar Sixth Form in 2022 after completing his A-Levels in Economics, History and Politics. Josh chose to pursue a career in the field of commercial law, succeeding in securing a highly prestigious apprenticeship with the leading international law firm, Allen and Overy. Josh now lives in central London and has embarked on

**“Securing this solicitor apprenticeship will allow me to experience life in the corporate world; liaising with global clients, covering over 40 jurisdictions, under the wing of the finest lawyers delivering innovative legal services. My first seat in Banking Projects sees me work in a team that has closed more project finance deals than any other firm globally every year since 2000. As the only magic circle law firm to offer this opportunity, Allen & Overy both give me the independence of my own desk and fee earner tasks, as well as an extremely vast network of support staff around me, and unbelievable perks and bonuses as part of my role; not to mention a fully paid for degree alongside working.”**



## Sophie Read

Sophie Read left Tollbar Sixth Form in 2021 after completing her A-Levels in Business, Politics and English Literature. Sophie is now studying Marketing and Management (with a placement year) at John Snow College, Durham University.

**The academic rigour of Sixth Form, balanced with its supportive community ethos, helped to prepare me for the collegiate environment of Durham University. The pastoral programme at Sixth Form, and my role as a Sixth Form Ambassador, also helped me to develop the confidence to fully immerse myself in the university experience, join societies and take control of my studies as an independent learner. I am now looking forward to my third year placement and have ambitions to pursue a career in .....**

# The Right Choice

Don't know which subjects to choose at A Level? We have put together some simple guidance as to which A Levels are generally suitable for different job sectors. If you have a specific career or university course in mind, do make sure that you do further research before choosing your A Levels.



Accountancy,  
Banking & Finance

Business  
Economics  
Law  
Maths  
Media Studies  
Politics



Art  
& Design

Art  
Business  
English Literature  
History  
Media Studies



Business, Management  
& Marketing

Business | Economics  
ICT | Law | Maths  
Media Studies  
Politics | Psychology  
Sociology



Computing  
& IT

Business  
Economics  
ICT  
Maths  
Media Studies  
Physics



Education

Art | Biology  
Chemistry | English  
Geography | History  
Maths | Physics  
Psychology  
Languages | Sociology



## Engineering & Manufacturing

Biology  
Business  
Chemistry  
Economics  
Maths  
Physics



## Healthcare & Medicine

Biology  
Chemistry  
Mathematics  
PE  
Philosophy  
Psychology



## Law, Criminology & Politics

Business  
Economics  
English | Law | Politics  
History | Media Studies  
Philosophy  
Psychology | Sociology



## Leisure, Sport & Tourism

Business  
Geography  
Media Studies  
PE  
Psychology



## Media & The Internet

Art  
Business  
English  
Media Studies  
Music  
Sociology



## Public Services

Business  
Economics  
Geography  
Politics  
History | Law  
Philosophy | Psychology



## Retail & Sales

Business  
Economics  
ICT  
Maths  
Media Studies  
Psychology



## Science & Research

Biology  
Business  
Chemistry  
Economics  
Geography | Maths  
Physics | Psychology



## Writing & Linguistics

English  
History  
Media Studies  
Philosophy  
Languages

# Art & Design

## Course Overview

A Level Art and Design is intended to deepen your understanding of art practice and extend the creative skills developed at GCSE. You will have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of media and will be encouraged to be adventurous in expressing your own thoughts, observations and ideas. Observational drawing is fundamental to art practice and will form the keystone for each project. You will work to set themes and be expected to explore, analyse and investigate the work of other artists, craft persons and designers to develop personal final outcomes.

## Endorsements

A Level Art and Design can also be endorsed by either photography, fine art or textile design at the end of y13. Students entering A level art from either a photography or textiles background can continue with these areas in their studies during the course and choose to opt for either Art and design, Photography or textiles endorsements at the end of y12. Students would need to have a bias in their work in these areas and y13 personal investigation to secure understanding and research based around each discipline. Opting to choose either endorsements would lead to specific examination paper for each subject.

## Assessment & Examination

**Unit 1 - Personal Investigation (60%)** A practical unit with written elements in which candidates are expected to develop a personal

investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a range of outcomes. Integrated into the project is an illustrated written Personal Investigation, of approximately 1000 to 3000 words that explains their development and inspiration.

## Unit 2 - External Set Assignment

**(40%)** A controlled test consisting of a range of questions to be used as starting points. Candidates are required to select one question and show evidence of development whilst responding to artists to create a personal outcome.

## The Controlled Test is in Two Parts

- A preparatory period.
- A timed fifteen hour unaided test.

Assessment objectives for both units are as follows: AO1 Artist Research, AO2 Development and Exploration of Ideas and Media, AO3 Observational studies and AO4 Personal Outcomes.

## Prior Knowledge

As Art and Design A Level builds on the skills and knowledge developed at GCSE, a GCSE qualification from an art based subject is preferable.

## Beyond The Course

If you would like to pursue a career in the Arts, this course can form the first stepping stone of your career path. If you wish to take your interest further, we would advise going on to take an Art Foundation Course.



## Course Title

Art and Design

## Examination Board

AQA

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in Art, Graphics, Photography or Textiles

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5
- Photography

## Resources

Although the College does provide basic art equipment, you will benefit from collecting your own range of art equipment and materials.

# Biology

## Course Overview

A Level Biology enables you to develop relevant practical skills alongside essential knowledge and understanding of a range of biological concepts and scientific methods. Topics explore key concepts in biology including: genetics, evolution and ecosystems; biodiversity, evolution and disease; communication, homeostasis and energy and exchange and transport. Topic knowledge is assessed in the written examinations and in the practical endorsement, which will allow you to develop a good set of skills in the laboratory through experimental activities that support the teaching of each topic. Biological mathematics and problem-solving skills are fully integrated into teaching and learning.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three examinations at the end of your two years of study.

### Paper 1 - Biological Processes

A 2 hour 15 minute written exam contributing 37% to your final A Level grade.

### Paper 2 - Biological Diversity

A 2 hour 15 minute written exam contributing 37% to your final A Level grade.

### Paper 3 - Unified Biology

A 1 hour 30-minute written exam contributing 26% to your final A Level grade.

## Practical Endorsement in Biology

- A set of practical experiments are covered during the course.
- A pass/fail grade is achieved and is reported separately from the final A Level grade.

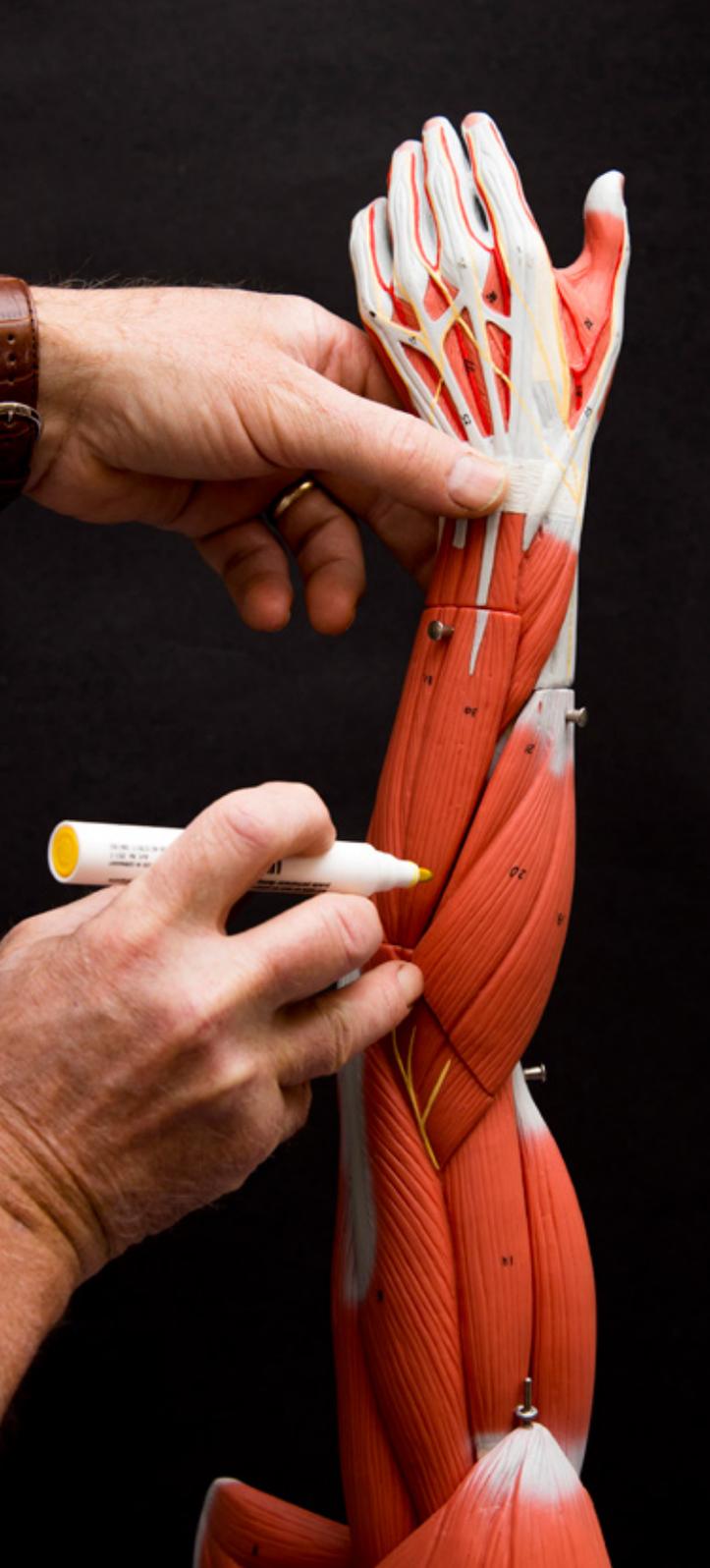
## Prior Knowledge

A Level Biology is aimed at students who really enjoy the subject and need it in their future career. Good mathematical knowledge is also required to effectively complete the course.

## Beyond The Course

Many A Level Biology students go on to university to study medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, biochemistry or other biology based courses.

**“Studying A Level Biology has provided me with a solid grounding in key biological concepts such as biodiversity, evolution and disease and delivered a fascinating insight into our living planet. My practical skills have also really developed and I look forward to applying them in a future career.”**



### **Course Title**

Biology

### **Examination Board**

OCR A

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in  
Biology or Combined  
Science Level 66

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

You will have access to resources in college, however you will require a scientific calculator as well as basic stationery.

# Business

## Course Overview

A Level Business supports a critical understanding of the functional and strategic decision-making within a wide variety of business contexts. Beginning with foundation units that explore the purpose and nature of business, their structural forms and management styles, the course goes on to look at performance in the four functional areas of marketing, finance, operations and human resources. Year two takes a more strategic perspective, analysing how businesses evaluate their position to plan appropriate strategies for pursuing aims and objectives. Throughout, students are encouraged to consider the ever-changing challenges facing businesses in pursuit of corporate objectives, creating links to contemporary business issues and case studies.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three 2 hour examinations at the end of your two years of study, each being worth 100 marks, 33% of the A Level.

### Paper 1 – Business 1

A synoptic paper with no case study material. Contains 15 multiple choice questions, 35 marks worth of short quantitative and qualitative questions and two essay questions worth 25 marks.

### Paper 2 – Business 2

A synoptic paper with three short case studies each followed by a series of general and contextualised questions ranging from calculations to essays.

### Paper 3 – Business 3

A synoptic paper with one large case study followed by a series of contextualised questions.

### Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of business studies. It is preferable, however, that you are already active in engaging with contemporary business and economic news stories, across a wide range of media sources.

### Beyond The Course

This qualification is well respected as a strong foundation for careers in a wide range of business and management roles. It is also useful for students who might wish to run their own business in the future. The qualification will help you to access university courses in a wide range of disciplines, including accountancy, economics, business management and marketing.

**“Business A Level provides a fascinating insight into so many of the contemporary issues that shape our lives, like digital technology, globalisation and ethics. It gives me great confidence in my ability to pursue a whole range of career options.”**



## Course Title

Business

## Examination Board

AQA

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in either Business, Economics or another suitable subject

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

You will only need basic stationery and a non-scientific calculator. There are, however, a number of academic text books which are recommended reading, and we would encourage you to purchase copies.

# Chemistry

## Course Overview

The OCR Salters Chemistry B course is a 'context-led' approach to chemical concepts based on contemporary issues in chemistry. Some of the ideas that you will explore include the development of fuels, industrial processes and the environmental impact of obtaining and using chemicals. These ideas are fundamental in understanding the ways that society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences can contribute to the success of the economy and society. The practical endorsement aspect of the course will allow you to develop competence in the laboratory, through experimental activities that support the teaching of each topic.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three examinations at the end of your two years of study.

### Paper 1 - Fundamentals of Chemistry

A 2 hour 15 minute written exam contributing 41% to your final A Level grade, which contains a multiple choice section and a written answer section.

### Paper 2 - Scientific Literacy in Chemistry

A 2 hour 15-minute written exam contributing 37% to your final A Level grade, which contains written answer questions and a section of questions based on a pre-release article.

### Paper 3 - Practical Skills in Chemistry

A 1 hour 30 minute written exam contributing 22% to your final A Level grade, which contains written answer questions about the experiments covered in each topic of the course.

## Practical Endorsement in Chemistry

- A set of practical experiments are covered during the course;
- A pass/fail grade is achieved and is reported separately from the final A Level grade.

## Prior Knowledge

In addition to a solid GCSE knowledge from either Chemistry or Combined Science, a good understanding of mathematics is necessary.

## Beyond The Course

Many students go on to university to study medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, biochemistry, chemical engineering, and other courses related to chemistry.

**“Chemistry A Level provides lots of opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of the world around you. It enables you to explore new concepts and skills theoretically whilst exploring their practical application in industry.”**



### **Course Title**

Chemistry B (Salters)

### **Examination Board**

OCR B

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in  
Chemistry or  
Combined Science  
Level 66

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

You will have access to resources in college, however you will require a scientific calculator as well as basic stationery.

# Economics

## Course Overview

In studying A Level Economics, you will explore the relationship between an individual's decisions and wider economic systems, looking at different viewpoints and perspectives to better understand the difficult choices we have to make in society. You will also begin to appreciate how policy makers try to solve economic problems caused by our actions, by intervening to correct market failure. You will acquire competence in quantitative skills and hone your analytical thinking and problem solving skills to better evaluate arguments and support judgements relating to economic issues.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three 2 hour examinations at the end of your two years of study, each being worth 80 marks, 33% of the A Level.

### Paper 1 - Markets and market failure

A microeconomic paper featuring data response questions requiring written answers, plus a choice of essay questions.

### Paper 2 - National and international economy

A macroeconomic paper featuring data response questions requiring written answers, plus a choice of essay questions.

### Paper 3 - Economic principles and issues

A synoptic paper with 30 multiple-choice questions followed by one large case study accompanied by a series of contextualised questions.

## Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of economics. It is preferable, however, that you are already active in engaging with contemporary business and economic news stories, across a wide range of media sources.

## Beyond The Course

A Level Economics is well respected, and Economics is one of the fastest growing A Level subjects. The course can provide a strong foundation for careers in a wide range of business and management roles, or indeed as preparation for a career as an economist. The qualification will help you to access university courses in a wide range of disciplines including accountancy, economics, business management and marketing.

**“My studies have helped me better understand the current economic problems and issues we face at a local, national and global level. It’s really rewarding to apply economic theory and perspectives to the challenges facing our generation. I also recognise the value so many employers see in an Economics A Level.”**



## Course Title

Economics

## Examination Board

AQA

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in either Business, Economics or another suitable subject

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

You will only need basic stationery and a non-scientific calculator. However, there are a number of academic text books which are recommended reading and we would encourage you to purchase copies.

# English Language

## Course Overview

Studying English Language at A Level will enable you to develop your skills as a writer. You will explore a variety of texts produced for different purposes across different time periods. You will study how contextual factors shape and influence text production and how a range of linguistic frameworks is used to meet the function and purpose of a text. Additionally, you will explore how children acquire and develop their skills as communicators, how language has changed over time and you'll debate a range of issues relating to sociolect, dialect and attitudes towards language use.

## Assessment & Examination

80% of the overall qualification will be formally assessed through examination at the end of the course, with non-examined assessment making up the remaining 20%.

## Paper 1 - Language, the Individual and Society

(2 hours 30 minutes) – section A explores a similar topic across two different time periods, requiring students to compare how attitudes and language use has changed over time. Section B explores how children acquire language through the use of a spoken, written or multimodal language extract.

## Paper 2 - Language, Diversity and Change

(2 hours 30 mins) – section A requires students to respond to and evaluate perceptions of language and its changing nature. Section B is a comparative response and piece of original writing.

## Non-Examined Assessment

The independent coursework is separated into two sections: a language investigation (2000 words); a piece of original writing and commentary (1500 words).

## Prior Knowledge

You should be prepared to build on your knowledge and skills from GCSE English Language. Applying these skills to a range of texts from different time periods and contexts will help you to develop the sophistication and coherence of your analytical comments.

## Beyond The Course

A Level English Language provides a foundation for a wide range of career paths, whether that be tertiary study, apprenticeships or the workforce. Students will enter the next phase of their lives with a strong foundation in critical thinking, analysis, independent research skills and interesting and accurate written communication. Journalism, education, speech and language therapy and other such industries value the abilities language students bring to the workplace.

**“A Level English Language has really helped me to understand and appreciate how people use language to communicate and interact with one another. I’ve developed my own skills as a writer and communicator, and I now recognise just how powerful a tool our language system is.”**



### **Course Title**

English Language

### **Examination Board**

AQA

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in English Language or English Literature

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

The college will provide you with a copy of the course textbook to support you with your studies.

# English Literature

## Course Overview

In studying English Literature at A Level you will participate actively in discussions inspired by some of the most popular texts in the literary canon. Shakespeare, Fitzgerald and Williams will feature, as you consider drama, poetry and prose from the classical period to the present day. Honing your analytical and critical thinking skills, you will produce written work which is considerate, concise and sophisticated. Role-play, dramatic recreations, discussion and group learning will all feature actively in lessons, allowing you to formulate ideas independently and consider findings from critical research. Ultimately, you will develop the ability to question not just literature, but the world around you.

## Assessment & Examination

80% of the overall qualification will be formally assessed through examination at the end of the course, with non-examined assessment making up the remaining 20%.

### Paper 1 - Love through the ages: Shakespeare and poetry

(3 hours) - three questions of equal weighting in response to: an extract from Shakespeare's Othello; two unseen poems; a comparison of a selection of poems from the Pre-1900 Anthology with The Great Gatsby.

### Paper 2 - Texts in shared contexts

(2 hours 30 mins) - three equally weighted questions on: Feminine Gospels; an extract of unseen prose; a comparison of A Streetcar Named Desire with One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

## Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time

Independent coursework in which you will research, compile secondary reading and formulate an essay focus which you will then develop into a 2500-word response. You may focus on any two texts of literary significance, one being written pre-1900, and the other post-1900.

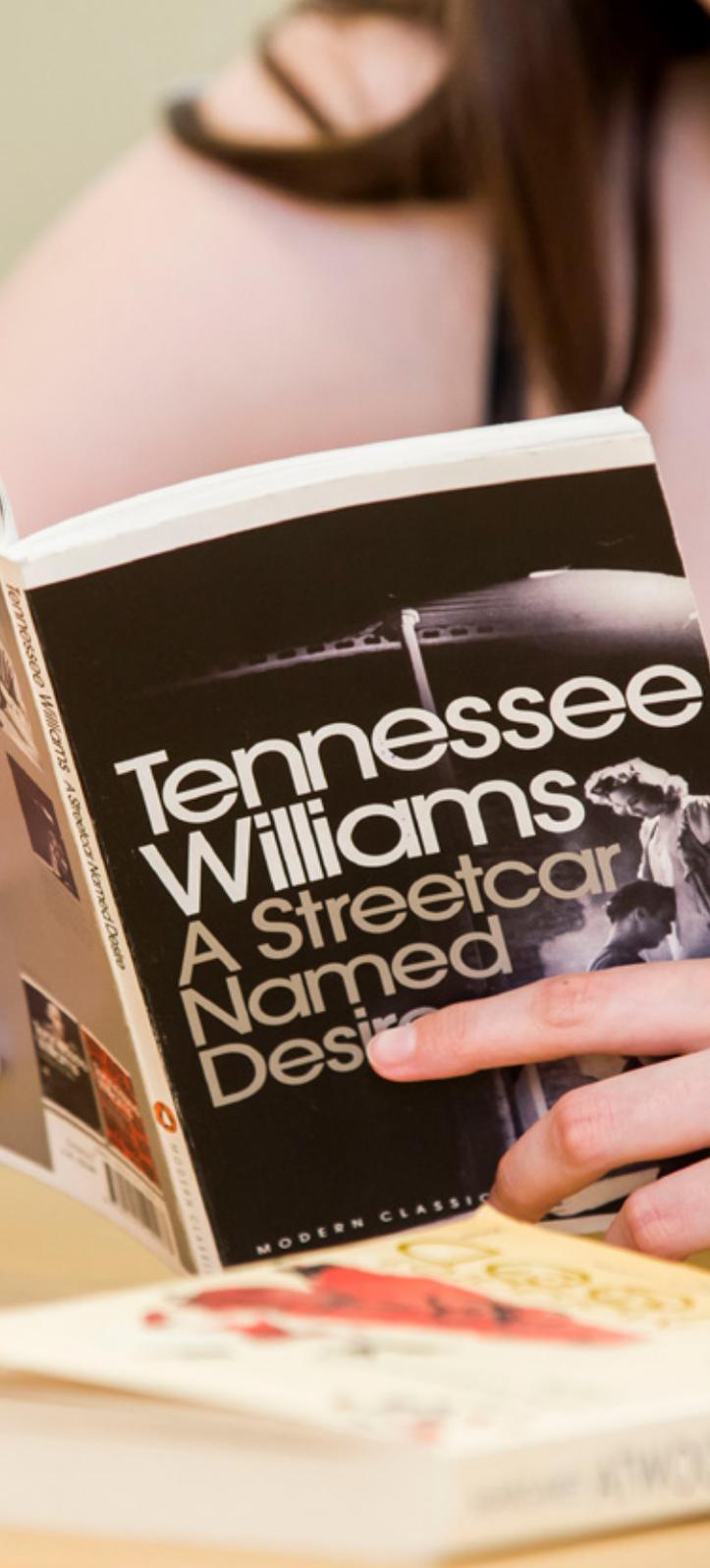
## Prior Knowledge

You should be prepared to build on your knowledge of genre, contexts and ideas from the GCSE English Literature Course. Applying these skills to a range of texts from the literary canon will help you to develop the sophistication and coherence of your analytical comments.

## Beyond The Course

A Level English Literature provides a foundation for a wide range of career paths, whether that be tertiary study, apprenticeships or the workforce. Students will enter the next phase of their lives with a strong foundation in critical thinking, analysis and independent research skills. Journalism, education, travel and tourism and other such industries value the abilities literature students bring to the workplace.

**“English Literature A Level has encouraged me to engage with texts I usually wouldn't have read and broadened my understanding of the techniques and methods used by different writers from different generations. This has really added to my enjoyment of everyday reading.”**



### **Course Title**

English Literature

### **Examination Board**

AQA

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in English Language or English Literature

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

The college will provide you with copies of the set texts and the AQA Anthology: Love Through the Ages Pre1900. It is, however, recommended that you purchase your own copies of the course texts.

# French

## Course Overview

In studying A Level French you will explore a variety of topics, including Francophone music and cinema, cultural heritage in the French-speaking world, crime, and immigration, whilst honing your four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. You will read two literary texts, one a contemporary French novel, learning to discuss and analyse these in essays. The speaking exam, as well as featuring the topics covered over the two years, also includes a presentation by you on a Francophone topic of your choice.

## Assessment & Examination

A Level French is assessed by three examinations.

### Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing (2 hours 30 minutes) 50% of A Level

- Listening and responding to questions in the target language.
- Reading and responding to questions in the target language.
- Translations from and into the target language.

### Paper 2 - Writing (2 hours) 20% of A Level

- Answer 2 essay questions on 2 texts that you will have studied.

### Paper 3 - Speaking 30% of A Level

- Discussion of one of the themes studied based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of individual research project.

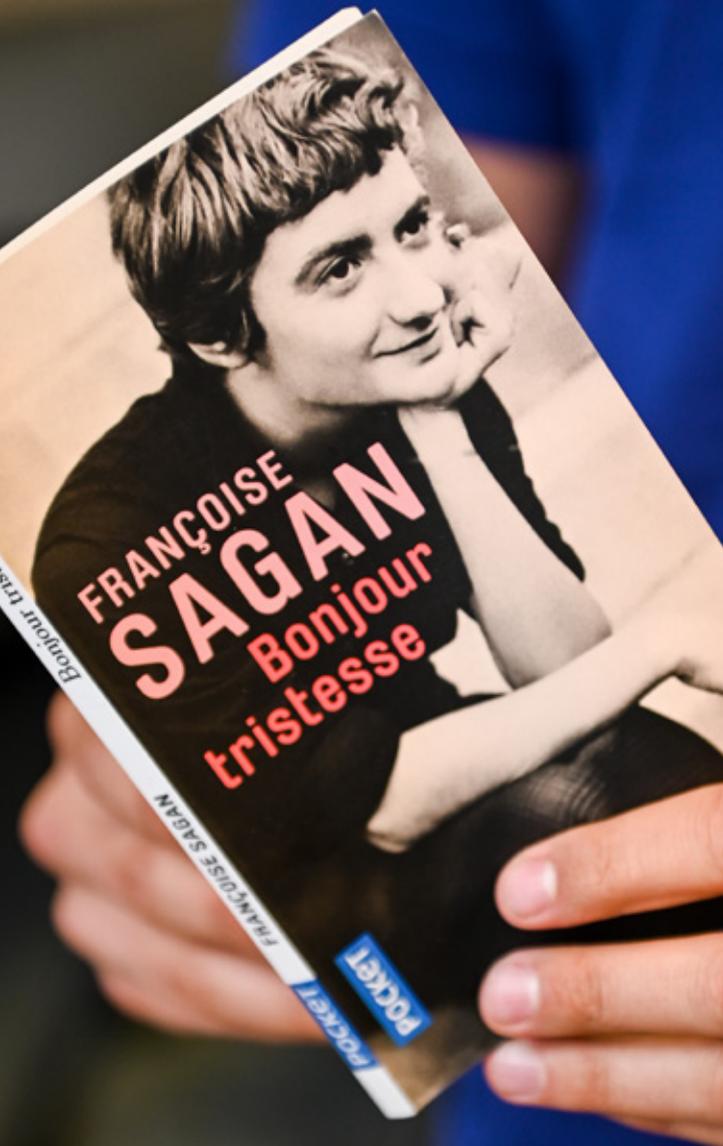
## Prior Knowledge

You should have a keen interest in languages and an ability to learn vocabulary and grammar rules in class and independently.

## Beyond The Course

A Level languages students can go on to study languages at university - one or more, possibly alongside another subject. Universities often offer options to keep a language going as a minor subject alongside others, such as business or law. Travelling or working abroad is also a possibility. The ability to speak another language is a skill greatly valued by employers in many industries, opening up opportunities locally and further afield.

**“Studying French has allowed me to not only enhance my language skills, but also to learn more about the French-speaking world. The Independent Research Project has involved exploring aspects of France and French culture in detail. It’s such a rewarding course if you have a passion for languages.”**



### Course Title

French

### Examination Board

AQA

### Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in French

### Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### Resources

You will be provided with a wide variety of target language materials and resources to enhance your learning outside of lessons, including textbooks and literary texts. We also encourage you to purchase a good French-English dictionary and grammar books.

# Geography

## Course Overview

This course explores the dynamics of both human and physical geography and how they interact over space and time. In physical geography, you will study the key processes that drive our atmospheric and land-related systems of water and carbon, and consequent changes to our rainforests, rivers and climates. You will also examine the dynamic nature of coastal systems, processes and landscapes and strategies to manage these. Finally, you will look at tectonic and climatic hazards, the origin and nature of these events, and how people respond to them. In human geography, you will study the growth of key urban areas and environmental challenges posed to ensure cities are as sustainable as possible. There is a focus on changing places and how people's experiences shape their lives, behaviours and consequent geographies, including character of place and social, economic and demographic change. Finally, you will explore the broad dynamics of globalisation, with a particular focus on the impacts and responses to inequalities.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit two 2.5 hour examinations at the end of your two years of study. In addition, you will undertake your own independent investigation, based on one of your field trips.

## Paper 1 - Physical Geography

2 hour 30-minute exam worth 40% of the total A Level.

## Paper 2 - Human Geography

2 hour 30-minute exam worth 40% of the total A Level.

## Geographical Investigation

A 4000 word submitted fieldwork investigation worth 20% of the total A Level.

## Prior Knowledge

It is preferable that you are already active in engaging with contemporary geographical issues and news stories across a wide range of media sources. You will also need to demonstrate good levels of competence in English (for producing extended responses) and Maths (for processing data and statistically testing for patterns).

## Beyond The Course

Geography A Level is well-regarded across a range of industries and provides access to a diversity of degree programmes. The global dimensions and skills associated with the subject provide strong foundations in a whole range of careers, such as conservation, coastal management, education, digital mapping, finance, information technology, management, tourism, transport, surveying, law, the police and many more.

**“Geography is such a dynamic and relevant subject. It has helped me to understand a range of current issues that have both local and global impact. In doing so I feel I am able to make much better informed choices and decisions that hopefully will make a difference to our futures.”**



### **Course Title**

Geography

### **Examination Board**

AQA

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in  
Geography

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

You will only need basic stationery and a calculator. However, there are a number of academic text books which are recommended reading and we would encourage you to purchase copies.

# History

## Course Overview

The A Level History course is designed to foster critical and reflective thinking, whilst enabling you to develop a deep knowledge and insight into a broad range of historical topics, concepts and issues. In doing so, you will enhance your understanding of the importance of historical awareness in explaining contemporary events and current affairs. Our aim is to create independent learners, critical thinkers and skilled decision-makers, enabling them to access a wide range of options for future study.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three examinations at the end of the course and complete a topic based essay.

### **Paper 1 - British period study and enquiry (England 1485-1558 Early Tudors)**

This paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 25% of the total A Level.

### **Paper 2 - Non British period study (International Relations 1890-1941)**

This paper is 1 hour and is worth 15% of the total A Level.

### **Paper 3 - Thematic study and historical interpretations (Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992)**

This paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 40% of the total A Level.

## Unit 4 - Topic based essay

This is an internally assessed essay and is worth 20% of the total A Level. You will complete a 3000-4000 word essay on a topic of your choice.

## Prior Knowledge

You will be expected to build upon the skills and understanding you have developed studying this subject at GCSE level. It is also important that you have a keen interest in history and a good level of competence in English, due to the necessity to produce extended written responses.

## Beyond The Course

The study of history develops a multitude of skills that are valued in many different careers. Students of history often go on to study the subject at degree level, and pursue careers in areas such as law, medicine, business, accountancy, politics, journalism, media, teaching and research.

**“A Level History has allowed me to see some of the parallels between our past and the present day. From the comparison of Henry VIII’s Break with Rome and Brexit to the actions of previous Presidents of the USA, studying history has given me sharper insights into the modern world.”**



### Course Title

History

### Examination Board

OCR

### Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in History

### Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### Resources

You do not require anything other than basic stationery, although there are a number of academic text books which are recommended reading, and we would encourage you to purchase copies to support you with the course.

# Information Technology

## Course Overview

This course will provide you with the opportunity through applied learning to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the IT sector. There are two mandatory units that are externally assessed. These are the Fundamentals of IT and Global Information. The first two mandatory units provide learners with an insight into the IT sector, as you investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale, and important legal and security considerations. You will also complete three coursework units, which will be internally assessed and each based on a different brief. The coursework units include Internet of Everything which provides the learners with an awareness of how different technologies are repurposed to extend their scope to be used in the world today. The Virtual Reality coursework unit allows the learners to extend their knowledge on the creation of VR products.

## Assessment & Examination

The course is comprised of two external examinations, which can be taken in either January or June, and three coursework units.

### Paper 1 - Fundamentals of IT

A 1 hour 30 minute written examination, comprising multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. A calculator may be used.

### Paper 2 - Global Information

A 1 hour 30 minute written examination, comprising short answer and extended response questions

You must then complete three units of coursework that are internally assessed and moderated by OCR.

### Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you will have any prior knowledge of IT. It is preferable, however, that you have an active interest in IT and digital technology.

### Beyond The Course

This is ideal for students who:

- are looking to develop an advanced understanding of IT
- are looking at a computing orientated degree
- are aiming to work in the computing industry

This IT qualification is equivalent to an A-Level and can lead to further studies in IT, games design, computer science and digital media or apprenticeships in the technology industry.

**“IT is a huge part of everyday life and understanding the ever-changing technologies can only benefit students in the future. This course will equip you with skills transferrable to all other forms of studying and develop a love for an industry which is constantly evolving and one of the highest earning incomes in the UK.”**



## Course Title

Information Technology  
(Cambridge Technical  
Level 3)

## Examination Board

OCR

## Entry Requirements

Level 5 in Mathematics  
and four other GCSEs  
at Level 5

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5  
in English and  
Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs  
at Level 5

## Resources

You will only need  
basic stationary.

# Law

## Course Overview

The Eduqas A level in law enables learners to develop an understanding of both public and private law within the law of England and Wales and develop skills which will prepare them for further undergraduate study and future careers. This specification enables learners to develop their ability to analyse both legal rules and principles and factual issues. It enables learners to construct persuasive legal arguments and to evaluate the strength of such arguments. It also enables learners to develop the ability to think critically about the role of law in society.

At Tollbar we are confident students will enjoy this specification with its in depth look at how the legal system works, the Criminal Justice system and the rights we have as citizens and consumers in the UK. Included are many contemporary case studies and theories to keep content fresh, relevant and engaging.

Topics are clearly structured and include:

- The Legal System
- Criminal Law
- Law Making
- The Law of Tort
- Human Rights Law

## Assessment & Examination

### Component 1: The Nature of Law and the English Legal System

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes  
25% of qualification

### Section A: Law making and the nature of law

Two short answers and one scenario based question

### Section B: The English legal system and the nature of law

#### Component 2: Substantive Law in Practice

Written Examination: 2 hour 15 minutes  
37.5% of qualification

#### Component 3: Substantive Law in Practice

Written Examination: 2 hour 15 minutes  
37.5% of qualification

#### Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of Law. It is preferable, however, that you are already active in engaging with contemporary news stories, especially covering the areas of crime, politics and are aware of how the legal system works to at least a basic level in the UK.

#### Beyond The Course

This course develops transferrable skills to many subjects and careers. Examples of careers related to Law include: Law, Social work, Policing, Education, Politics, Criminology, Charity management, the Media and the Civil Service. As the Law encroaches on all aspects of the commercial world, the links to Business and Economics are clearly very strong.

**“Studying law offers the opportunity to develop a range of skills and explore many aspects of life. It gives you the chance to sharpen your mind, strengthen your understanding and deepen your experience across the full range of humanities and social sciences.”**



## Course Title

Law

## Examination Board

Eduqas

## Entry Requirements

A grade 6 in English Language and a grade 6 in one Humanities based subject (History, Geography or R.E)

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

Staff will recommend suggested core texts to purchase but copies will be available in the College. Otherwise you will just need basic stationery.

# Mathematics

## Course Overview

A Level Mathematics will build on your prior knowledge of algebraic, numerical and geometrical processes, further applying them in areas of statistics and mechanics. You will learn how to apply these techniques in context, and develop an appreciation of the fundamental importance of maths in the world around us. The pure maths element of the course covers mostly algebraic techniques, including trigonometry and calculus. The statistics element of the course covers data collection, processing, interpretation and representation of results. The mechanics element is the study of the geometry of movement, known as kinematics. Students who are also interested in pursuing Further Maths are encouraged to discuss options that may be available to them with staff.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three 2 hour examinations at the end of the course, each being worth 100 marks, and counting for one third of the A Level.

### Papers 1 and 2 - Pure mathematics (1) and (2)

These are synoptic papers that could contain any topic from the pure maths content.

### Paper 3 - Statistics and Mechanics

This is a synoptic paper which may cover any topic from the Statistics content in section A, and covering any topic from the Mechanics content in section B.

A permitted calculator may be used for each paper.

## Prior Knowledge

You will need very good knowledge and understanding of the GCSE mathematics content in order to access the A Level Mathematics course. Upon acceptance on to the course, you will be provided with a prior knowledge booklet which should be completed prior to and during the first few weeks of your A Level studies.

## Beyond The Course

The reformed A Level in Mathematics will prepare you to apply mathematical techniques in many different fields. Mathematics is useful in all careers, especially those related to engineering, business, economics, accountancy and the sciences. The destinations that can be accessed by those who have achieved a good qualification in this subject are as vast as they are exciting.

**“Maths A Level has helped me to better understand how mathematical rules influence our lives and how mathematical solutions can help solve some of our biggest challenges. The skills I have developed will help me to access a wide range of careers in industries as diverse as engineering, medicine or IT.”**



### Course Title

Mathematics

### Examination Board

Edexcel

### Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in  
Mathematics

### Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### Resources

It is essential that you have an appropriate calculator to study this maths course (one such example is the Casio fx-991EX Classwiz). In addition, you will need basic maths stationery to complete tasks set both in lesson and as homework assignments.

# Media Studies

## Course Overview

This A Level Media Studies qualification is based on the theoretical framework for analysing and creating media, which provides you with the tools to develop a critical understanding and appreciation of the media. The framework consists of four inter-related areas:

**Media language:** how the media through their forms, codes, conventions and techniques communicate meanings;

**Representation:** how the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups;

**Media industries:** how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms;

**Audiences:** how media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves.

## Assessment & Examination

The Media course is comprised of three separate elements.

### Paper 1 - Meaning and Representations in the Media

A 2 hour exam worth 35% of the qualification and covering the following media forms: music videos; video games; advertising; film marketing; newspapers and radio news/current affairs programmes.

### Paper 2 - Media Forms and Products in Depth

A 3 hour exam worth 35% of the qualification, assessing knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

### Coursework - Media Production

A non-exam assessment worth 30% of the qualification, and comprising an individual media production in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board.

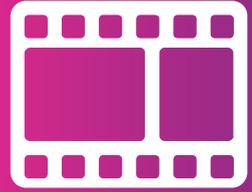
### Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of Media Studies. However, it is expected that you have a keen interest in different areas of media, and keep up to date with different sectors such as television, film, music, radio, newspapers, magazines and online media.

### Beyond The Course

This course provides a suitable foundation for a media studies degree, or related courses, or for employment in a number of media industries. These might include broadcasting, journalism, new media, video games, animation, production and research.

**“Media Studies is actively helping me to prepare me for a career in industry. We explore key aspects of the creative industries from both a practical and theoretical perspective, and are taught with a hands on approach using industry standard equipment and software.”**



## Course Title

Media Studies

## Examination Board

Eduqas

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in English

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in Mathematics
- Four other GCSE's at Level 5

## Resources

You will only need to bring basic stationery and paper to lessons. All equipment for production is provided on a loan basis by the College, on the understanding that equipment will be looked after properly.

# Music

## Course Overview

The Music A Level covers four main disciplines - Performance, Composition/ Technical Skills, Listening and Analysis. You will study the following core genres: Baroque Solo Concerti; Mozart Operas: Marriage of Figaro and Romantic Piano Works.

You will also choose to study two genres from:

- Popular Music (Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyonce, Daft Punk and Labrinth);
- Music for Media (Bernard Hermann, Hans Zimmer, Michael Giacchino and Thomas Newman);
- Music for Theatre (Kurt Weill, Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim and Claude-Michel Schönberg);
- Jazz (Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis and Pat Metheny);
- Contemporary Traditional Music (Astor Piazzolla, Anoushka Shankar and Bellowhead);
- Art music since 1910 (Dmitri Shostakovich, Olivier Messiaen, Steve Reich and James Macmillan).

## Assessment & Examination

You will be assessed based on three different modules.

### Listening and Analysis

You will complete a written examination lasting 2 hours 30 minutes. This involves listening to unfamiliar extracts based on the areas of study, and answering questions regarding the excerpts.

### Performance

This involves at least ten minutes of repertoire, and can include purely solo material or some ensemble work as well. The expected standard of performance for this module is approximately Grade 7.

## Composition

You have a choice of either Composition or Technical Skills. Composition requires you to compose one free composition and another based on briefs set by the exam board. Both compositions need to total at least four and half minutes.

## Prior Knowledge

It is essential that you have a firm understanding of score reading skills, as this is particularly important for analysis. We also recommend that you have achieved at least Grade 6 on your principal instrument, and Grade 5 Theory.

## Beyond The Course

Many students choose to study music at a higher level, and aspire to a career within the music industry, whilst others may choose a different pathway entirely. Some of our students have progressed on to conservatoire study, likewise at university, or have continued musical practice as additional studies at university.

**“Whilst studying A Level Music, I have been exposed to music as early as the Baroque period right up to current Popular music. The breadth of music studied has really allowed me to develop.”**



### **Course Title**

Music

### **Examination Board**

AQA

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in Music or Grade 5 Music Theory. Students must have at least Grade 6 in their chosen instrument

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

You will be expected to bring your instrument into college on the days that you have your performance lessons. Additionally, manuscript paper is used frequently, so your own supply would be useful. Sibelius software at home would be beneficial, although is not essential.

# Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

## Course Overview

The Philosophy course enables you to develop a broad spectrum of knowledge, understanding and skills, through the exploration of ethics, philosophy of religion and Christian beliefs and teachings. The course aims to engage learners thoroughly, developing an interest which extends beyond the classroom and into the wider world. You will enhance your academic skills of critical analysis, evaluation and extended written argument, all crucial for anyone seeking to enter into higher education, as well as those wishing to pursue alternative career pathways.

## Assessment & Examination

The course is comprised of three separate, equally weighted components.

### Paper 1 - Philosophy

You will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering.

### Paper 2 - Ethical issues

You will study ethical language and thought, with exploration of key concepts and the works of influential thinkers. Ethical theory will also be applied to issues of importance; namely euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

### Paper 3 - Theology

You will undertake a systematic study of Christian theology. This will include the exploration of the history of Christian

thought, as well as contemporary Christian teachings on issues such as Gender, Secularism, Pluralism and Liberation Theology.

## Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of philosophy or religious studies, although some aspects of the course do link to GCSE courses in these areas. You will, however, need to demonstrate an interest in different viewpoints, and a willingness to engage in class discussions and debates.

## Beyond The Course

Philosophy is a highly academic subject that supports applications into many careers, including law, medicine and politics. The course complements other subject areas, particularly English, history, psychology and politics, through the development of a variety of essential skills.

**“Studying Philosophy A Level has provided me with new and interesting ways of looking at the world. By challenging a lot of what I believe, it has broadened my perspective in many areas, particularly in relation to complex modern day issues, such as gender roles, globalisation and secularisation.”**



## Course Title

Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

## Examination Board

OCR

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in English, RE or a similar Humanities based subject

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

You do not require any specific resources to take this course, although you will find it extremely useful to purchase a recommended textbook and revision guide to support your learning in the subject.

# Physical Education

## Course Overview

The content of the A Level P.E. course includes: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics, Sports Psychology, Sport in Society and Technology in Sport. You will learn to apply your knowledge to the competitive sporting context in which you are performing. The students that most enjoy and flourish on the course are those who are heavily involved in sport and physical activity, and those who have a genuine interest in all aspects of the sporting world.

## Assessment & Examination

You will be assessed through two exams of 2 hours in length and a non-examined assessment.

### **Paper 1 - Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport - 35% of the total A Level**

This paper includes three sections on applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition and sport in society.

### **Paper 2 - Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport - 35% of the total A Level**

This paper includes three sections on exercise physiology and biomechanics, sport psychology and sport in society and technology in sport.

### **Non-Examined Assessment -Practical performance in physical activity and sport - 30% of the total A Level**

In addition to video evidence, you will be required to complete a written analysis of your performance.

## Prior Knowledge

It is expected that you regularly compete and/or coach in at least one sport. There is no expectation to have studied Physical Education previously, although this would be an advantage.

## Beyond The Course

Students who study A Level Physical Education can access many opportunities after the course. This includes careers in sports science, physiotherapy, PE teaching, personal training, sports development and management, as well as professional sport. This qualification can also help you to access university courses including sports science, nutrition, sports marketing, teacher training, performing arts, dance and psychology.

**“Studying Physical Education at A Level has helped me to apply an understanding of anatomy and physiology to my own training. Our study of sports psychology and training methods will improve my coaching skills and I now feel more confident in helping younger athletes progress.”**



### **Course Title**

Physical Education

### **Examination Board**

AQA

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in PE

Students who have not studied GCSE PE will need to have a Level 6 in GCSE Science

All students taking PE must be playing competitively in one of the sports on the A Level specification, and must understand that it is their responsibility to provide video evidence of themselves competing in their sport for assessment purposes

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

You will only need basic stationery and a non-scientific calculator. There is also an expectation that you will be able to supply a visual recording of yourself taking part in your sport in a competitive situation.

# Physics

## Course Overview

The A Level in Physics B (Advancing Physics) takes a structured context-led approach to learning about physics in everyday and technological settings. Areas studied include the mechanical properties of materials, communication and signalling, waves, electric, magnetic and gravitational fields, quantum behaviour and fundamental particles. Practical skills are embedded throughout the course, and you are expected to carry out practical work in preparation for a written examination that will specifically test these skills.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three examinations at the end of your two years of study.

### Paper 1 - Fundamentals of Physics

This is a 2 hour 15-minute written examination, that contributes 41% to the total A Level.

### Paper 2 - Scientific literacy in Physics

This is a 2 hour 15-minute written examination, that contributes 37% to the total A Level.

### Paper 3 - Practical skills in Physics

This is a 1 hour 30-minute written examination, that contributes 22% to the total A Level.

### Practical Endorsement in Physics

You are also required to complete the Practical Endorsement in Physics, which is a set of practical experiments conducted during the course. A pass/fail grade is achieved and is reported separately from the final A Level grade.

## Prior Knowledge

In addition to a solid knowledge from either GCSE Physics or GCSE Combined Science, a good understanding of mathematics is necessary. For this reason, it is expected that should you opt to study A Level Physics, you will also choose A Level Mathematics.

## Beyond The Course

The A Level course is highly recommended for students that really enjoy physics and those who possibly need it to access certain university courses. Students who study physics may go on to enjoy careers in a variety of sectors, including engineering, technology and other STEM related industries. Many students also join the Institute of Physics, in order to gain access to additional support as they begin careers related to physics.

**“Studying Physics at A Level has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the science involved in everyday life. From the study of quantum theories to forces and mechanics, Physics is a highly varied and engaging subject that is applicable in a multitude of careers.”**



## Course Title

Physics

## Examination Board

OCR B

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in  
Physics or Combined  
Science Level 66

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

You will have access to scientific resources in college, but you will be expected to provide a scientific calculator as well as basic stationery.

# Politics

## Course Overview

The Politics A Level course explores three topic areas; politics in the UK, politics in the USA and political ideas. In politics in the UK, you will cover a range of structural aspects of British politics, such as the way in which parliament works, as well as practical politics such as the importance of pressure groups. In politics in the USA, you will cover a range of structural aspects of politics of the USA, such as the power of the president, as well as practical politics such as the importance of decisions made by the Supreme Court. You will also be required to compare politics in the UK and USA. In political ideas, you will study ideologies including: conservatism, socialism and feminism.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three 2 hour examinations at the end of your two years of study, each being worth 77 marks, and comprising 33% of the A Level.

### Paper 1 - Politics of the UK

This paper contains three mandatory short written questions, a mandatory source based question and an extended essay question.

### Paper 2 - Politics of the USA

This paper contains three mandatory short written questions, a mandatory source-based question and a comparative extended essay question comparing and contrasting UK and USA politics.

### Paper 3 - Political Ideas

This paper contains three mandatory short written questions, a mandatory source based question and an extended essay question.

### Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you will have any prior knowledge of politics. It is preferable, however, that you are already active in engaging with current affairs and events, across a wide range of media sources. You may also benefit from researching and investigating specific political parties.

### Beyond The Course

This is a well-respected, academic course which prepares you for a wide range of courses in Higher Education, such as politics, history, law, international relations, journalism and marketing. It can lead to careers in a variety of fields such as public service, teaching, civil service and the media.

**“My study of politics has helped me to better appreciate both the challenges facing today’s society and the difficulties facing leaders and governments seeking solutions. I now feel more confident in expressing my opinion and making informed contributions to discussions about a whole range of contemporary and political issues.”**



### **Course Title**

Politics

### **Examination Board**

AQA

### **Entry Requirements**

GCSE Level 6 in English, History or a similar Humanities based subject

### **Sixth Form Entry Also Requires**

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### **Resources**

You will be required to provide basic stationery. There are a number of academic text books which are recommended reading, and we would encourage you to purchase copies of these.

# Psychology

## Course Overview

A Level Psychology explores a variety of topics in order to better understand human behaviour. In year one, you will study topics including social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology and biopsychology. In year two, you will study topics including aggression, relationships and eating behaviour. Your mathematical skills will be tested throughout your studies and you will develop skills of critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

## Assessment & Examination

You will sit three 2 hour examinations at the end of the course, each being worth 96 marks, and comprising 33% of the A Level.

### Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology

This paper has four sections, with each section containing a range of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions. It covers Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

### Paper 2 - Psychology in Context

This paper has three sections, each containing a range of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions. It covers Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.

### Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology

This paper has four sections, with each section containing a range of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions. It covers Issues and Debates in Psychology, and

three optional modules, from a choice including Relationships, Eating Behaviour and Aggression.

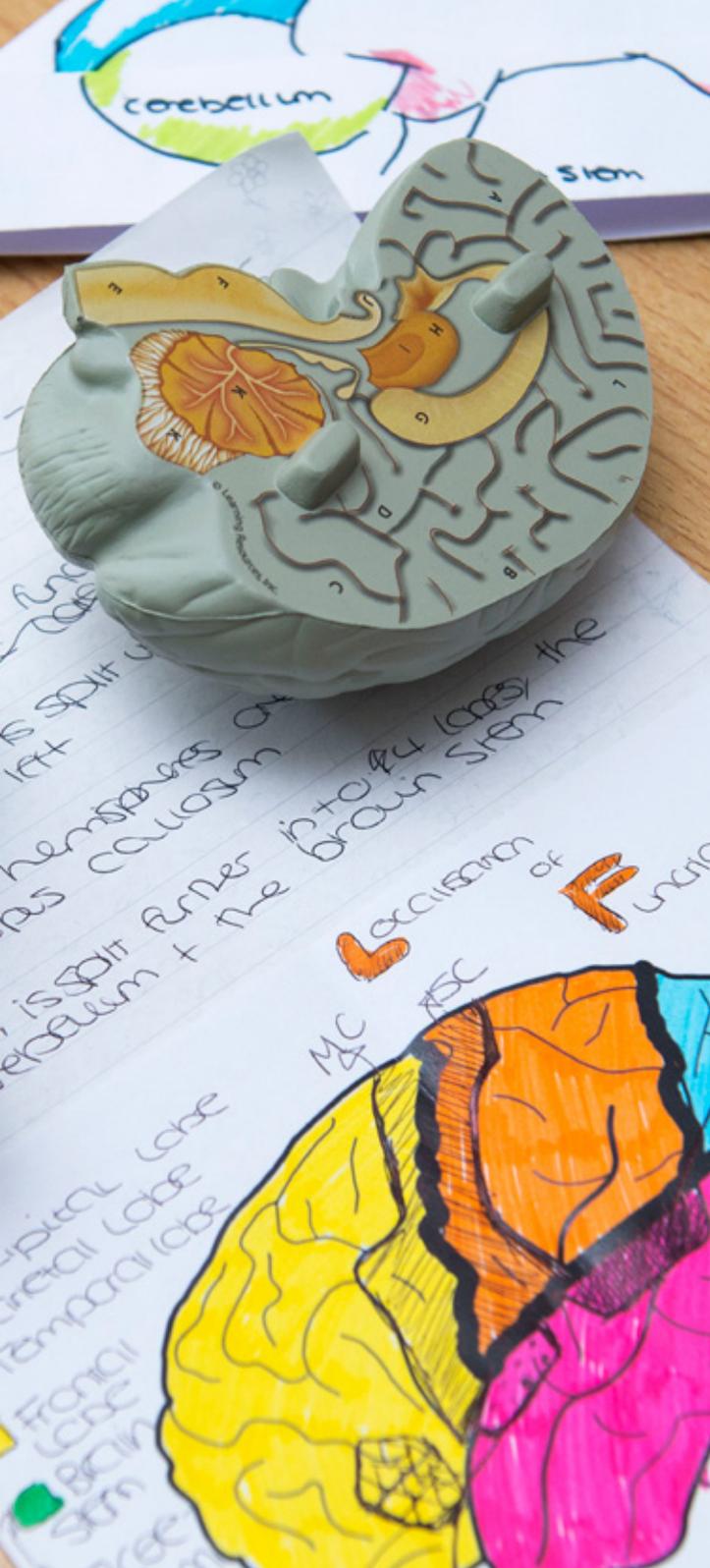
## Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of psychology, but you should have an inquiring mind and a genuine interest in understanding why people behave in the way that they do.

## Beyond The Course

This course develops skills that can be applied to many different subjects and careers. Many universities now view psychology as a science, and it is a well-respected academic subject. Examples of careers related to psychology include counselling, criminal/forensic psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology, management roles, human resources, art therapy, sports psychology and neurology.

**“Psychology A Level has provided me with an amazing insight into human behaviour and the complexity of the human mind. The combination of disciplines, like essay writing, scientific theory, research and data gathering, makes me confident I am prepared for lots of different careers.”**



## Course Title

Psychology

## Examination Board

AQA

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in  
Science and English

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

You will only need basic stationery and a non-scientific calculator. However, there are a number of academic text books which are recommended reading, and we would encourage you to purchase copies.

# Sociology

## Course Overview

As a student on this course, you will explore a variety of topics in order for you to understand how we developed into the society we are today. In year one, students will study the topics of the Education System, Culture and Identity, Theory and Methods and Methods in Context. These topics will allow students to question theories such as the role of the education system and its relationship to social class, gender and ethnicity. The relationship between identity to age, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality and social class in contemporary society will also be explored. Students will examine the different ways Sociologists collect and analyse data. In year two students will study the topic of Crime and Deviance. Students will debate various viewpoints on the causes of crime and the role of the criminal justice system. Students will study the topic of Media whereby they will become familiar with sociological explanations for the process and selection of the news, the relationship between ownership and control of the media and the different ways minority groups are represented in the media. Each area of the course will consider various perspectives on our world, from Marxism to Feminism, to a post-modern society.

## Assessment & Examination

There is no coursework in Sociology. Students will sit three 2 hour examinations at the end of the course, each being worth 80 marks, and comprising 33% of the A Level qualification.

**Paper 1** - a three section paper covering Education, Methods in Context and

Theory and Methods. Questions are a mixture of short answers and extended responses

**Paper 2** - a paper covering the two optional units that are studied, Media and Culture and Identity. The questions are a mixture of 10 mark and 20 mark questions.

**Paper 3** - a paper covering the topics of crime and deviance, theory and methods. The questions are a mixture of short answers and extended responses.

## Prior Knowledge

There is no expectation that you have any prior knowledge of Sociology. It is preferable, however, that you are already active in engaging with contemporary news stories, especially covering the areas of crime, media and education.

## Beyond The Course

This course develops transferrable skills to many subjects and careers. Examples of careers related to Sociology include: law, social work, human resources, policing, education, politics, philosophy, psychology, the media and marketing.

**“Studying Sociology will provide you with an understanding of social relationships and institutions. The study of culture, crime, education and the role of the media will enable you to understand the influence of society on human behaviour.”**



### Course Title

Sociology

### Examination Board

AQA

### Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in an English qualification  
Four other GCSEs at Level 5.

### Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in an English qualification
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

### Resources

You will only need basic stationery. However, there are a number of academic text books which are recommended reading, and we would encourage you to purchase copies.

# Spanish

## Course Overview

The A Level in Spanish will see you study a variety of topics including Hispanic music and cinema, regional identity within Spain, racism, and dictatorships in the Spanish-speaking world, whilst honing your four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. You will also read two literary texts, one a contemporary Spanish novel, learning to discuss and analyse these in essays. The speaking exam, as well as featuring the topics covered over the two years, also includes a presentation by you on a Hispanic topic of your choice.

## Assessment & Examination

The Spanish course is assessed by three examinations at the end of the course.

### Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing

This examination is 2 hours 30 minutes in duration and comprises 50% of the A Level. It requires you to listen and respond to questions in the target language, read and respond to questions in the target language, and translations from and into the target language.

### Paper 2 - Writing

This examination is 2 hours in duration and comprises 20% of the A Level. It requires you to answer two essay questions on two texts that you will have studied.

### Paper 3 - Speaking

The speaking component comprises 30% of the A Level. It involves discussion of one of the themes studied based on a stimulus card, lasting 5-6 minutes. It also involves a presentation lasting

2 minutes, and discussion, lasting 9-10 minutes, based on the individual research project.

## Prior Knowledge

You should have a keen interest in languages and an ability to learn vocabulary and grammar rules in class and independently.

## Beyond The Course

A Level languages students can go on to study languages at university - one or more, possibly alongside another subject. Universities often offer options to keep a language going as a minor subject alongside others, such as business or law. Travelling or working abroad is also a possibility. The ability to speak another language is a skill greatly valued by employers in many industries, opening up opportunities locally and further afield.

**“Studying Spanish has allowed me to develop my fluency and range of vocabulary, while also becoming more aware of the history of Spain, opening my eyes further to the issues challenging the Hispanic world.”**



## Course Title

Spanish

## Examination Board

AQA

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Level 6 in Spanish

## Sixth Form Entry Also Requires

- GCSE Level 5 in English and Mathematics
- Four other GCSEs at Level 5

## Resources

You will be provided with a wide variety of target language materials and resources to enhance your learning outside of lessons, including textbooks and literary texts. We also encourage you to purchase a good Spanish-English dictionary and grammar books.

# Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

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At Toll Bar Sixth Form, we are committed to playing our part in trying to help create a greener and more sustainable future for everyone.

That's why this year we have, once again, chosen to make our prospectus available as a virtual document only.

This helps ensure that all students are still able to receive all of the information they need to make an informed decision, whilst not producing unnecessary waste.

Together we can reduce our carbon footprint.

**#OurCollegeOurCommunity**



We very much welcome applications from any student committed to achieving their full academic potential. You may submit an application to us by post, e-mail or directly to the College. You can also apply through the Lincs2 portal.

Details of all courses offered, including entry requirements, can be found in the course section of this booklet and on our website.

**If you have any questions about the application process, subject options or A Level study in general, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Sixth Form team on:**

**T:** 01472 500 505

**E:** [enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk)

**W:** [www.tollbarmatsixthform.co.uk](http://www.tollbarmatsixthform.co.uk)





“

Applying to Sixth Form was really easy. Having provided my subject choices and some contact details, the Sixth Form Team did the rest. I was kept informed about open evenings and enrolment and was able to speak with A Level teachers, which helped confirm my options for study. By the time we started lessons in September, I already felt a part of the Sixth Form and settling into my new courses didn't take any time at all.

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# Student Applications

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**T:** 01472 500 505  
**E:** [enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk)  
**W:** [www.tollbarmatsixthform.co.uk](http://www.tollbarmatsixthform.co.uk)

**Toll Bar Sixth Form**

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