YARM
SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form Subject Guide

2027-28

Educating for life

yarmschool.org

Yarm Sixth Form

Our students consistently achieve exceptional A Level results and are supported to flourish as young adults beyond the Sixth Form. All of this is possible in a well-structured and supportive environment. In short: educating for life.

With wide subject choice, academic excellence, student ambition and an exceptional breadth of extracurricular opportunity, Yarm's Sixth Form is a vibrant community where students thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Contents

04 Art & Design
05 Biology
06 Business
07 Chemistry
08 Classics
09 Computer Science
10 Design & Technology
11 Drama & Theatre
12 Economics
13 English Literature
14 ExCEL
15 Geography
16 History
17 Mathematics & Further Mathematics
18 Modern Languages
19 Music
20 Physical Education
21 Physics
22 Politics
23 Psychology
24 Religious Studies
25 Textiles

Art & Design

Edexcel 9FA0

Staff:
I R Buchanan, BA (Head of Department)
G Thompson, Cert. Ed.

Why Study this subject?
Students choose to study Art at A Level for a variety of reasons, but they all have one thing in common; a passion for the subject. Some of our talented students have already set their sights on a creative career path, such as Architecture, Product Design, Art History, Fashion, Film and Fine Art and our track record for getting our students onto these Degree courses is high. Architecture in particular is a popular choice with our students and many of the reputable Schools of Architecture state that they are particularly interested in candidates who have studied Fine Art as the course develops an innovative approach and creative thinking, which is a fundamental element in the study of Architecture. There are other students, however, who are highly creative and love the subject, but who ultimately want to follow a science based career or have their heart set on studying another academic subject at university. For these individuals, Art can provide the creative outlet they yearn for, whilst providing academic breadth. Our recent A Level Art alumni who chose not to study Art and Design at Degree level, have gone on to study Medicine, Dentistry, Chemistry, English Literature, Psychology, Marketing, Modern Languages and Anthropology.

Entry Qualifications
This demanding yet highly rewarding Fine Art course requires a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art. We are looking for creative individuals with confident drawing and visual language skills. The ability to be self-motivated and act on your own initiative is essential, as is the willingness to explore a variety of media and respond enthusiastically to assignments. Students will be encouraged to develop their own interests using a variety of techniques, media and subject matter.

What is this course like?
The Fine Art course at Yarm School is a two year reformed linear course. It is fundamentally a drawing and painting based course, however, experimentation is key and our students have the opportunity to venture into printmaking, sculpture, installation, textiles, filmmaking and photography. All of this takes place in our spacious Attic Art Studio. Students will have their own working space within this chic studio, which can be used as a base to work in during lunchtimes and after school, in addition to lesson times. Students will be encouraged to develop a personal identity, exploring exciting and imaginative ideas informed by their research of other artists. Their own studio practice needs to reflect the vast array of creative influences that on a daily basis will be feeding into their ideas, such as literature, politics, philosophy, film and music. Students will learn how to express their emerging independent judgments of the more complex issues through gallery visits and artists' workshops. We also run holiday and after school studio sessions for those who are keen to make the most of the extra tuition and every year we run a life drawing workshop. An exciting and enjoyable course!

Biology

AQA 7402

Staff:
T E Newman, BSc, MA (Head of Department)
B Harker, BSc, MRes, PhD
K T McLean, BSc
K W Perry, BSc, PhD
E J Russell, BSc
J E Waters, BSc

Why study this subject?
Biology is the study of life: why not delve deeper into exactly how humans work?

Increasingly popular, Biology represents one of the largest A Level groups at Sixth Form level. It is an important prerequisite subject for many university courses, but some students will study Biology purely for interest and enjoyment. It is a fascinating subject improving students' knowledge of everyday, biologically relevant topics such as how the human body works, the causes and progression of diseases and genetic engineering, including the integral part they play in today's fast-moving society.

Careers for which Biology would be valuable include: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Pharmacy, as well as the Biomedical, Biotechnology and Food Industries.

Entry Qualifications
Primarily, pupils need to have an avid interest in Biology as this is an academically demanding course. Grade 7 or better in GCSE Biology would provide the best foundation for the course; students with a Grade 6 may be considered. Students gaining 7-7 in Combined Science could similarly progress to study A Level Biology. It can be an advantage if A Level Biology students also study A Level Chemistry as parts of the courses complement each other, however, Biology has also been successfully studied alongside other related subjects such as Psychology, P.E. and Geography; or as the lone science in a student's A Level profile.

What is the course like?
Biology is a popular, well-established, challenging yet accessible A Level course for those students who are willing to work hard. Although the course covers concepts key to the understanding of all aspects of life including plant, microbial and ecological topics; its main focus is directed towards the study of human biology.

From the basics of biology, for example in the understanding of the structure and function of both biological molecules such as DNA and of cells, the course builds the students' knowledge and scientific skills leading to exploration of topics such as ecological issues, genetic engineering and how human body organs/systems function in normal and diseased states.The students gain their knowledge of biological principles through theory work supported by regular practical work which is assessed as the course progresses and enhances the students' learning processes. The Department has excellent facilities to encourage and develop these practical skills which are viewed by both the Yarm Science faculty and the examination boards alike as very important in the development of good scientists. Gene cloning/ gene manipulation, dissection and exploring the factors affecting the rates of enzyme activity, photosynthesis and respiration are just a small flavour of the numerous practical opportunities experienced throughout the course. External fieldwork opportunities also included in the course allow students to discover first hand the complex relationships between organisms and their natural environment in different ecosystems.

With potential future careers in the medical and dental field being uppermost in many students' minds, this course provides a very good grounding in the normal functioning of the main organs in the human body - essential to understand before learning of the problems when they go wrong. The biological basis of diseases such as heart and lung diseases, cancer and infectious diseases such as cholera; the role of antibiotics and the dangers of antibiotic resistance in the treatment of infections, are all valuable insights gained into the modern world of human diseases.

Business

OCR H431

Staff:
D McCartie, BA, MSc, PhD (Head of Department)
D Gratton, BSc
C E Rhodes, BSc

Why study this subject?
A Level Business will give students an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. It is not just a theoretical subject, it is about real life. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Business highly appealing. Students will learn about businesses and the way they operate in today's society. They will investigate problems which real businesses are currently facing and use their initiative to develop possible solutions. At the heart of the subject will be its relevance to the modern world; its topicality will engage students and facilitate an understanding of their role in society. The stimulating specification content will encourage them to develop their skills as independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal assets that can make them stand out as they progress to higher education and/or the workplace.

History, Geography, Economics, Mathematics and the Sciences can be taught cohesively and also complement the study of Business. The study of any of these subjects can stand students in a good position to progress to higher education and employment.

Entry Qualifications
A Grade 6 or better in English and Mathematics. Although no prior study of Business is required for taking the A Level qualification, a Grade 6 or better would be expected if GCSE Business has been studied.

What is the course like?
Central to the A Level qualification will be developing knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of business decision-making and the impacts these have on the business and its stakeholders. The course will look at different types of business ranging from small and medium enterprises to national and international organisations. The emphasis will be on what is important for businesses, what are the consequences of their actions and why these differ depending on size. The A Level course is assessed entirely through written examinations that are externally marked and take place at the end of the course.

The units covered are: Business Activity, Marketing, People, Finance, Operations, External Influences; Strategy, Risk and Managing Change.

Chemistry

AQA 7405

Staff:
E R Baker, MNatSc (Head of Department)
A D Law, MA, MRSC, FCCT
S M Thompson, BSc
L A Tucker, MSci
A A D Tulloch, MChem, PhD

Why study this subject?
Chemistry is an exciting and wide-ranging subject which occupies the central position amongst the sciences. Chemistry is concerned with all aspects of molecules, their physical and chemical properties, their composition and structure, their synthesis and use in the 21st century. Chemists are also looking to the future: investigating alternative energies such as bio-diesel and fuel cells, safe and environmentally-friendly disposal of plastics and using their understanding of how CFCs react in the upper atmosphere to try to address the issues affecting the depletion of the ozone layer.

A study of Chemistry at A Level can give insight into the importance of chemists and the chemical industry to our own lives. Chemistry at this level is an essential subject for students who wish to go on to study at degree level in other areas such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy and Chemical Engineering.

Entry qualifications
The time schedule required to complete the course is very tight and will require consistent application from day one. The course is demanding and only students who have a strong commitment should consider it. Grade 7 or better at GCSE (or IGCSE) Chemistry would provide the best foundation for the course, although Grade 6 may be considered. Students who have gained GCSEs in Combined Science require at least 7-7 grades to progress successfully to A Level. Many aspects of Chemistry depend on a facility in Maths, (at least 20% of the formally assessed work), so a good grade at GCSE in Maths is also essential; a good GCSE pass in Physics is also an advantage. A GCSE in Science only or GCSE in Applied Science is not suitable preparation for this course.

What is the course like?
Chemistry is a popular but demanding A Level choice, and the course consists of a study over a range of Chemical ideas and concepts from the three branches of Chemistry: Physical, Inorganic and Organic. This is backed up with practical work which compliments the theory.

Throughout the course, students will explore some of the fundamental principles that form the basis of Chemistry including the ideas of chemical bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and pH. Students will develop a great understanding of Organic Chemistry through the study of further functional groups including alkenes, alcohols, halogenoalkanes, carbonyl compounds and amino acids. Further Inorganic Chemistry is also explored; in particular the chemistry of transition metals, as well as that of at least one other group of elements.

Recently there has been much media attention about the potential decline of practical work within science A Levels. At Yarm School, we strongly believe that developing good practical skills is an essential part to the development of a good Chemist, and we remain fully committed to this aspect of the subject. The department has excellent facilities for the development of these skills and we would expect students to gain experience of using a wide range of practical apparatus in varied contexts throughout the course. This will enable them to meet the criteria for practical competence required at this level which include the ability to follow instructions, work safely and make and record observations. These competencies are monitored and assessed over the two year course and are reported as part of the endorsement of practical skills. Wherever possible students will use practical work to help support the theory; at A Level, practical work is a key component of the course and a set of required practical activities are completed individually by each student throughout the duration of the course - understanding of some of these may be assessed on the final written papers. These might include, measuring an enthalpy change, the preparation and purification of an organic compound such as aspirin and completing a series of test tube reactions to identify unknown organic or inorganic compounds.

Classics

Latin & Classical Civilisation

Latin: OCR H443
Classical Civilisation: OCR H408

Staff:
J S Hall, MA (Head of Department)
S V Tucker, MA

Why study this subject?
Classics is a broad subject, incorporating the subjects of Latin, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek and Ancient History. Study of the ancient world introduces pupils to a world hugely influential on their own culture, but also different in important and intriguing ways. There is a strong focus on the study and appreciation of ancient literature, either in the original language or in translation, and on the importance of the material's cultural and historical context. Students studying Latin will also have the opportunity to strengthen their linguistic and grammatical skills, as well as their vocabulary. Latin can encourage students to tackle problems in a systematic and rigorous way.

Entry qualifications
Latin: To study Latin at A Level it is expected that pupils have achieved at least a 6 in the language at GCSE.

Classical Civilisation: To study Classical Civilisation at A Level, it is not necessary to have studied the subject previously. Those who have studied the subject at GCSE should have achieved at least a 6 if they wish to study it at A Level, and those who have not studied the subject before should have achieved at least a 6 in English.

What is the course like?
Students of Latin will build on their successes at GCSE, continuing to broaden their vocabulary and improve their grammatical confidence. The focus in the language work moves from simple accuracy and comprehension towards producing clear and fluent translations in good English. Students will also study literature in the original language, and will read these works with a view to gaining an understanding of their historical context and an appreciation of the writing and the author's careful use of language.

Works commonly studied include the Aeneid, Virgil's epic poem describing the origins of Rome, the speeches of the great political and legal orator Cicero, and the writings of Roman historians such as Tacitus and Livy.

Students of Classical Civilisation will get the opportunity to study literature from the ancient world, in particular Homer's epic tale of tragic war, the Iliad, and its Roman successor, the Aeneid, the mythic tale of the origins of the Roman people from the out of Homer's mythic world. Students will also get to study ancient Greek Theatre and the origins of tragedy and comedy, as well as study these formative plays in detail, with particular focus on Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Euridpides' Bacchae, and Aristophanes' Frogs. Finally students will learn about the nature of love and relationships in ancient Greek and Roman culture, through the philosophy of Plato and Seneca, the love poetry of Sappho and Ovid, and more.

Computer Science

OCR H446

Staff:
M Clarkson, BSc (Head of Department)
P D Collins, BSc

Why study this subject?
Embark on a journey into the world of A Level Computer Science, a captivating and dynamic course designed to nurture logical thinking and problem-solving skills. This programme empowers students to craft efficient algorithmic solutions, setting the stage for a future in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Practical Proficiency: In Computer Science, students will immerse themselves in hands-on experiences, building systems using a variety of programming languages. This practical element serves as a launchpad for creating real-world applications and understanding the nuances of software development.
Theoretical Insights: Delve into the intricate workings of computer systems. Explore how they store and transfer data and the profound impact they have on our world. This theoretical foundation equips students with a holistic understanding of the digital realm.
The Art of Problem Solving: At its core, Computer Science revolves around problem-solving, a skill that extends far beyond the classroom. Our students study the art of designing, developing, and analysing software and hardware to tackle diverse challenges in the realms of business, science, and society.
Diverse Horizons: Computer Science is an all-encompassing discipline that welcomes individuals from diverse backgrounds and interests. It nurtures the innate ability to solve multifaceted problems, fostering creativity, imagination, and sensitivity to a wide range of issues.
Real-World Application: This practical subject bridges the gap between academic principles and real-world systems. It cultivates a dynamic blend of invention and critical thinking, laying the foundation for a thriving career in a world driven by technology.
Industry Prowess: The United Kingdom boasts the largest tech sector in Europe, valued at a staggering $1 trillion. Virtually every industry today relies on computer technology, opening up a plethora of opportunities for computer scientists. From revolutionising science, engineering, and healthcare to addressing complex societal challenges, computer scientists play a pivotal role in shaping the future.

Join us in the realm of A Level Computer Science, where you'll unlock your potential, conquer challenges, and pave the way for an exciting future.

Entry qualifications
You need a minimum of grade 6 in GCSE Maths and a 6 in GCSE Computer Science, if you have taken it. To succeed in Computer Science you also need to think logically, be analytical and have a creative approach to work.
If Computer Science has not been studied before at GCSE, then you will need to demonstrate a keen and active interest in programming.

What is the course like?
The key features of this specification emphasise problem-solving using computers; computer programming and algorithms and the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes, e.g. Boolean algebra/ logic and algorithm comparison. You will develop your ability to analyse problems in computational terms, through practical experience and including writing programs to do so. You will increase your capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
All students will be expected to do additional reading outside of lesson times to help develop a wider understanding of the applications of computers and the effects of their use. Students will also need to be committed to independently developing their programming skills outside of lesson times.
The content of this course is divided into three areas:

Computer Systems (Component 1)
Computer Systems covers data representation, computer organisation and architecture, communication and networking, and databases. You will learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to analyse problems in computational terms.
Algorithms and Programming (Component 2)
Algorithms and Programming develops problem solving skills needed by learners to apply the fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms and the theory of computation.
Non-Exam Assessment-Programming Project (Component 3)
You will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.
Analysis of the problem, Design of the solution, Developing the solution, Evaluation

The A Level in Computer Science is a linear qualification with 100% terminal external assessment. This qualification consists of two exam components (01 and 02), externally assessed by OCR and one internally assessed and moderated non-exam assessment component (03). Both examinations are of 2 hours and 30 minutes duration, each with a 40% weighting. The non-exam assessment (coursework unit) has a weighting of 20%.

As well as supporting applications to a wide range of degrees and future careers, studying Computer Science at A Level could lead to further study in Computer Science, Information Systems and Artificial Intelligence. Future career areas could include Cyber Security, Systems Analysis, Games Development, Supply Chain Management, Data Engineering, Software Engineering and Network Administration.

Design & Technology

AQA 7552

Staff:
D J Spence, BSc (Head of Department)
A J Monk, BSc
A Jackson, BSc
A F Street, BA

Why study this subject?
There can be few other courses at this level which allow a student such opportunities to link current interests to career ambitions. A student looking to engineering, design, architecture, manufacturing or business, as a possible career will find this subject challenging, relevant, rewarding and a desirable/essential gateway to success at university. Students interested in teaching and marketing would also find that the course prepares them thoroughly for university. For students who are ambitious to run their own business; whether it is in systems electronics, hi-tec manufacturing, CAD/CAM, musical instrument making, furniture design and construction or general engineering, the experience gained over the two year course is an invaluable grounding. Creative and technical project opportunities are supplemented with a strong knowledge element.

Entry qualifications
Ideally you will have studied Design and Technology at GCSE. Where students have not had the opportunity to take D&T, then a merit or Grade 6 in Engineering, or 6/6 in Combined Science is a good indicator of potential. The course is also suited to students who have a strong Art and Design background.

What is the course like?
The course offers candidates opportunities to acquire and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the 'made world' and focuses on the key roles that design / engineering / architecture play in shaping change. The attributes and the responsibilities of those working in these exciting professions are also explored.

Candidates are afforded exciting opportunities to demonstrate technological capability through designing and making products. There are a number of exploratory projects undertaken in Lower Sixth, before a major project is chosen to work on throughout Upper Sixth. Candidates can look forward to short courses in advanced graphic techniques, advanced CAD, advanced CAM, metal casting, injection moulding and others, such as silversmithing and welding in Lower Sixth. Each is linked to a small practical challenge such as a pewter cast key fob for aspiring drivers and a CNC plasma cut steel, fantasy door handle.

In Upper Sixth, theory topics include; computer integrated manufacture, intellectual property, and the micro structure of metal, woods and plastics, amongst others. Typical projects undertaken recently in Upper Sixth include electric guitars, medical equipment, wind turbines, contemporary furniture and passive solar heating units. The opportunities are endless, but final selection is often directed by university ambitions, serious past-times such as playing guitar in a band and designing for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The course is exciting, rewarding and enables candidates to apply their understanding. This is important as it takes individuals beyond simply knowing 'what to do' to 'how to do'.

Drama & Theatre

AQA 7262

Staff:
H R Charlton, BA (Head of Department)
D Boddy, BA, MSc

Why study this subject?
Drama and Theatre places demands on a diversity of skills, both academic and practical. Over the course, students develop an understanding of how performers, designers and directors communicate meaning to an audience.

They use this to work collaboratively to achieve shared dramatic intentions in the realisation of their own dramatic productions, and they learn how to convey ideas coherently in performance and in writing.

Whilst the course is creative and rewarding, it offers a genuine academic challenge that includes essay writing skills, and so supports university applications in not only drama, but a wide range of subjects.

As well as providing students with a strong academic qualification, people who are involved in drama acquire poise, presence, confidence and verbal fluency. Working as part of a team on multi-disciplinary projects, students learn the organisation and communication skills to get the best out of others and meet deadlines. They explore complex moral and political conundrums, and are prompted to investigate motive and power. The subject matter is fiction but the process is about the real world, and this offers a rich and intense educational experience.

Entry qualifications
Students considering this subject should have enjoyed some success at GCSE English and ideally have some previous involvement in drama, although there have been successful students in the past whose genuine willingness to participate in practical work has compensated for their inexperience.

What is the course like?
The course is a very practical one where you can expect to be up on your feet a great deal of the time. Lessons are an exploration of characters, context, writers and practitioners through collaborative physical approaches. After discussion and sharing of discoveries, work continues on either improvisation or rehearsing with a script. If this sounds like a drama rehearsal, then that is what it is.

A key part of the course is going to the theatre, and you can expect a number of visits or streamed digital media experiences across the course; this is an opportunity to absorb and immerse yourself through experiencing new and unusual productions, as well as the more conventional. The ideas encountered here drive the rest of the course.

Ultimately, you will learn to write about plays that you have both seen and studied, and you will be taught the vocabulary and skills to do this effectively. This will be assessed by a written exam and portfolio. Over the course, you will also be assessed for your contribution as a performer or designer, in productions of a published script and an original devised drama. This is an opportunity to be involved in high quality and thought-provoking performances.

Drama and Theatre offers varied learning activities that differ from conventional subjects, and it is an opportunity to take something that you enjoy outside of the classroom and turn into part of your timetable.

Economics

AQA 7136

Staff:
C E Rhodes, BSc (Head of Department)
D Gratton, BSc

Why study this subject?
Knowledge of Economics is a sound preparation for citizenship as it includes a study of consumers and firms, money and interest rates and unemployment and inflation; much of the current political debate concerns economic issues. Students develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand and analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions. They will also build upon their quantitative skills and appreciate that, when evaluating arguments, both qualitative and quantitative evidence are important.

It provides a thorough intellectual training involving a wide range of academic skills. Economics can be effectively combined with many A Levels or university courses. Examples include Maths and science subjects (Economics and Engineering, Economics and Maths), modern languages (Economics and French, Economics and German) and social sciences (PPE, Economic History and Law courses).

Entry qualifications
6 or better in GCSE Maths and English.

What is the course like?
Central to A Level Economics is the investigation into:

- Microeconomics (the individual components in an economy)
- Macroeconomics (the economy as a whole)

This involves examining the interdependence of economic agents such as the government, consumers, firms and employees; as well as studying the factors which influence the whole economy such as inflation, interest rates and exchange rates. Emphasis is placed on the ability to understand and analyse the causes, significance and implications of these factors. This necessarily involves the use of some theory, but at all times the theory is related to specific economic applications. Real world illustrations, project work and presentations form an important part of the course. The course is assessed entirely through written examinations that are externally marked and take place at the end of the course.

English Literature

OCR H472

Staff:
L J Gilbert, BA (Head of Department)
H Blakemore, BA, MA
D Boddy, BA, MSc
A M V Breslin, BSc, MLegSc
S Dugdale, BA
S J Leighton, BA, MEd
I H Morgan, BA, MA
D K Morton, MA

Why study this subject?
The best reason to study English Literature at A Level is because you enjoy reading, discussing and thinking about ideas, people, relationships and books. Nearly all university departments - Science and Medicine very definitely included - view a good grade in English A Level as evidence of a broad, well-trained mind, capable of precise communication, and interested in cultural affairs. Naturally, it combines well with other arts and humanities subjects.

There is a strong emphasis on independent judgement and thought, along with opportunities for creative writing. The texts you read will vary greatly; some will be recent, some ancient. All will have been chosen to interest anyone inclined to want to know more about life. Our students go on to a wide range of wonderful courses and careers. English is an excellent qualification to have, for a wide range of university courses and future careers.

Entry qualifications
Usually, Grade 6 in English and English Literature are expected. However, in exceptional cases, we can accept students with a Grade 5, subject to teacher recommendation.

What is the course like?
In a single word, varied.

Sometimes, an English group will study texts in very concentrated ways, looking to assess aspects such as a poet's techniques and effects in subtle detail. This approach is rewarding because it reveals the astonishing craft, skill and commitment of so many great writers over the centuries.

At other times, a much broader appreciation of a particular kind of literature will be the aim. A period (e.g. 'American Literature, 1860-1940'), a genre (e.g. the Gothic), or even a shared subject area (e.g. Dystopian fiction) will provide the context for wider reading and cultural research. There will be a coursework component, which will provide exciting opportunities to develop your own ideas and reading, and allow you, should you wish, to pursue your own particular interests.

At some stage, you will definitely get to study a play by Shakespeare in really satisfying depth. It is also a feature of the course that some very contemporary writing will be considered, as well as some from many decades or even centuries ago.

In addition to class discussion, individual research, reading and written work, we also like to go out! Theatre visits and other cultural outings are offered to students studying English. These are always great fun, and can provide the stimulus for further interest beyond A Levels.

For those who are passionate, who may for example come to consider studying English as part or all of their degree, we offer extra opportunities in the form of literary visits and after-school discussion groups. These are not meant to be exclusive, however, and are open to all.

ExCEL

Extension, Culture, Enrichment and Learning

AQA 7993

Staff:
P D Prideaux, BSc, PhD (Head of ExCEL/EPQ)

The Extension, Culture, Enrichment and Learning course is an internally constructed programme of study for Sixth Form students. It provides students with the opportunity to maintain curiosity and intellectual breadth having specialised in a small number of academic subjects at A Level. Here, students will pursue an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in a discipline of their choice, learn key thinking skills, hear expert lectures on major issues, gain confidence in presenting, and take part in debates. The course co-ordinator is Dr Paul Prideaux, who has been in post since 2010. These lessons take place in all parts of the School campus, including the Friarage Lecture Theatre and the Princess Alexandra Auditorium.

The EPQ provides the opportunity to pursue a topic of real personal interest – be it in an academic or extra-curricular field – and to produce a project product that is authentic to the topic studied. The EPQ, which is graded from A* to E, is at Level 3 and is 'worth' half an A Level. Universities have welcomed it because the skills required to complete a successful EPQ are the same as those they look for in potential undergraduates; evidence of project management and presentation skills account for 70% of the marks making it qualitatively different to other subjects. Admissions Tutors value the qualification enormously; some courses and institutions with highly competitive entry (such as medicine, dentistry and law; Oxbridge, London and red-brick universities) are likely to look at a candidate offering EPQ more favourably. Some universities are now also making EPQ part of their entrance offers.

Geography

AQA 7037

Staff:
K Baines, BSc (Head of Department)
J J Alexander, BA
R A Ivey, BSc, PDip

Why study this subject?
Geography is a subject which essentially seeks to explain the physical nature of our environment and its intimate relationship with human society. It fosters a unique understanding of the nature of some of our most topical current affairs, for example environmental concerns and human behaviour in society, and as such is increasingly relevant to the age.

In the context of the wider range of subject choice in the Sixth Form, the range of skills developed, along with the high level of scholarship, make Geography a particularly versatile choice. It delivers the academic skills of extended essay writing, evaluation and source-based reasoning as well as more subject-specific skills such as map and photograph interpretation and statistical analysis. Highly transferable skills such as group work, guided research and presentation are an integral part of the new course.

Geography develops strengths in both the subject matter and the skills involved which are highly regarded by university admissions tutors and employers in a wide range of fields. It can be relevant in careers such as surveying, architecture, town planning, teaching, industrial and estate management, law, medicine, banking, accountancy and, of course, environmental management. Studies show that, with only 10% of graduates directly using the academic subjects in which they are qualified in their employment, Geographers are among the least likely to be unemployed on leaving higher education.

Entry qualifications
Good performance at GCSE, plus energy, enthusiasm and an enquiring approach, are requisites for A Level study.

What is the course like?
Students study a range of topics which include natural hazards, changing place and global governance.

Over the two year course a wide range of Physical and Human Geography topics are studied. In preparation for the Physical Geography examination students study Water and Carbon cycles, Coastal systems and Hazards. The Human topics studied are global systems and global governance, changing places and contemporary urban environments.

Fieldwork is an intrinsic part of the course, during the Summer Term of Lower Sixth, students take part in four days compulsory fieldwork enabling them to get out in the field and apply the concepts they have studied to the world around them.

The non examined element constitutes 20% of the course.

There are also opportunities to participate in Geography Society trips to the Geographical Association lectures in York and a variety of trips to help enrich the curriculum.

History

AQA 7042

Staff:
T Taylor, BA (Head of Department)
T Grimwood, BA
E L Pinkham, MA
R K J Preece, BA, MA

Why study this subject?
History is a popular, interesting and challenging A Level choice, which may lead to University admission to read for a History or related degree. It is also a facilitating subject for many other degree courses, including Law and Medicine. The intellectual training provided by the study of History allows entry into a wide range of careers. Those careers which allow the continued use of expertise and information obtained in a History course include all levels of teaching, archive administration, art gallery and museum curatorship and, for those qualified in archaeology, senior positions in excavation units and in local government planning offices. In addition, those with History A Level (or degree level) are highly regarded and it is sometimes almost essential as a foundation subject for many other careers, including law, journalism, librarianship, management, business and administration, banking, the civil service, valuation surveying and the Armed Forces.

Entry qualifications
It is generally expected that students who wish to study History at A Level will have a minimum of a Grade 6 at GCSE History. It is strongly advisable that students have taken History at GCSE but this is not essential and in exceptional circumstances it may be possible to take History at A Level without having studied it at GCSE. In such cases it is expected that students will have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English.

What is the course like?
The A Level History course allows for the study of a broad range of historical periods enabling pupils to experience new and exciting topic areas. The History Department aim to offer a combination of early modern and modern periods in order to give students a broad and diverse historical education.

For component one, students study The Tudors: England from 1485-1603. This is complemented by studying the Transformation of China from 1936-1997 for component two. The A Level History course also retains coursework and the coursework unit allows pupils the opportunity to select their own question and to study a period of personal interest, which is excellent preparation for university study. To enrich and supplement the taught curriculum. the department offer a wide range of additional opportunities for pupils from visits to university libraries through to lectures and overseas visits.

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

Mathematics: Edexcel 9MA0
Further Maths: Edexcel 9FM0

Staff:
D Yates, MA (Head of Department)
G Addison, BSc (Second in Department)
K Barnett, MMath, PhD
A C Beer, BSc
D Brown, BEng
L Brown, BEng
T Brown, BSc
S J Perks, BSc
D Skirving, BEng, MDA

Why study this subject?
In addition to being an interesting discipline in its own right, A Level Maths is helpful, and sometimes essential, to those studying the sciences. It is also useful for those doing Economics and Geography. Careers for which Maths is a desirable A Level are numerous and include engineering, medicine, surveying, computing, accountancy, economics, business, banking, retail management, architecture, surveying and psychology to name but a few. If you want to go on to study at university then A Level Maths will open more doors than any other subject. This is probably the most marketable A Level in terms of acceptability. It is not just the content of the course but the skills that A Level Maths allows you to develop that are advantageous and sought after; these include problem solving, logic and analytical skills. Combine this advanced numerical aptitude and the creativity needed to solve maths problems and you've got yourself a set of skills which would make you desirable for any job!

Entry qualifications
A good natural ability in Mathematics is essential before embarking on an A Level course. A firm foundation of a Grade 7 or better, obtained from Higher Level GCSE/ IGCSE papers, has in the past proved to be a reliable indicator of success at A Level.

A Grade 8 is a minimum requirement for those choosing to study Further Maths. The pace, volume and complexity of the material studied means that Further Mathematics is only possible for the most able mathematicians.

What is the course like?
While studying Mathematics you will be expected to:
- Use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Construct proofs for important formulae and results
- Model real-life situations using mathematics to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances
- Analyse data using statistical techniques to obtain an overview
- Use calculator technology and other resources (such as formulae booklets or statistical tables) effectively and appropriately; understand calculator limitations and when it is inappropriate to use such technology.

When studying Pure Mathematics at A Level, you will be extending your knowledge of topics such as Algebra and Geometry, as well as learning some brand new ideas within Calculus. If you enjoyed the challenge of problem solving at GCSE/ IGCSE using such mathematical techniques, then you should find the prospect of this course very appealing.

Although many of the ideas you will meet in Pure Mathematics are interesting in their own right, they also serve as an important foundation for the other branches of Mathematics studied in this course - namely Mechanics and Statistics.

Mechanics
When you study Mechanics, you will learn how to mathematically describe the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them, from moving vehicles to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

Statistics
When you study Statistics, you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions about it. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started for (I)GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the Pure Mathematics course.

Sixth Form mathematicians are encouraged to take part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and four of our strongest mathematicians will be entered for the team challenge. We want our students to experience Maths in a variety of settings and to appreciate its place in the real world; the Newcastle Outreach enrichment and Maths Inspiration lecture series have proved very popular in the past.

Students with an interest in Maths beyond the curriculum will particularly enjoy being a part of the Oxbridge maths activity where we will look at advanced problem solving as well focussed training for STEP and TMUA type entrance papers. The Maths and Finance activity also shines a light specifically on the maths of the financial world with a foray into trading simulations, pricing models and algorithm development. We also enjoy an annual maths residential in the March of Upper Sixth which provides an intensive revision consolidation program for the course leading to optimal preparedness for the final exams.

Modern Languages

French, German & Spanish

French: Edexcel 9FR0
German: Edexcel 9GN0
Spanish: Edexcel 9SP0

Staff:
A J W Bridges, MA (Head of Department)
T E Fellows, MA, MSt (Head of German)
B Addison, BA (Head of Spanish)
A C G Kingsbury, BA
G A Leary, BA
A Salahshouri, BA, BA, BTS
S J F Tomlinson, BA
T M Troya, BA

Why study this subject?

With the continued importance of Europe and the development of the world economy, international communication is at a premium. By studying a language in the Sixth Form you better qualify yourself for dealing with French, Spanish or German speaking regions of the world. Moreover you acquire greater insight into the workings of language itself – an important basis for the development of your ability to learn new languages in the future.

We have the lower floor of one of the newest school buildings at our disposal – a suite of five classrooms with full audio-visual equipment, internet connections and extensive library facilities for students. Up-to-date, authentic material in the languages concerned is used; individual student exchanges are promoted. The department is staffed by eight enthusiastic and committed linguists and two language assistants. The A Level teaching teams have extensive experience as external examiners at this level.

Entry qualifications

A Grade 7 at GCSE in the relevant language.

What is the course like?

You will study the Pearson Edexcel A Level. This is a linear two-year course with examination at the end of Upper Sixth. Features of the course include:

- Set literature, assessed through a target language essay.
- Independent research project assessed in the speaking exam.
- Understanding of target language culture – you will need to demonstrate this in the speaking and writing components.

You will study different topic areas that develop your linguistic and cultural knowledge from GCSE. Areas covered may include:

- Media and modern technology
- Culture – music, film, literature
- Education and careers
- Health and fitness
- Relationships and family
- Environment
- Contemporary society

You will be expected to show interest in and knowledge of these areas in target-language countries, making the step beyond GCSE. It is no longer sufficient to talk about yourself with reference to, say, media – you need to talk about the latest developments, how tastes have changed and will evolve in the future.

Your knowledge will be tested through listening and reading comprehension, and you will have to develop the ability to talk about the topic areas. In writing, you will work on structuring arguments and analysis in a clear and coherent manner.

With reference to vocabulary and grammar, you will need to build a wide range of topic specific language and expand your grasp of the grammar of the language in order to become truly articulate.

Music

AQA 7272

Staff:
L Miller, BA (Director of Music)
R Williams, BA (Assistant Director of Music)
A McIntyre, BMus

Why study this subject?

The study of Music at A Level is stimulating and rewarding and explores practical and academic aspects of the subject. It is suitable for all styles of musicians from classical to pop. Students are required to perform, study musical techniques and compose, analyse musical extracts and undertake in-depth studies of a wide variety of set works and topic areas.

Music is considered an academic subject by universities. The A Level Music course will appeal to students interested in a variety of musical styles and keen to focus on extending their musical skills. It is a fascinating subject in its own right as well as providing the building blocks for those wishing to study Music at university or conservatoire. It is also a great contrast to science based subject choices and many A level Music students often go on to study in this area after School: the broad range of skills required to succeed are wholly transferable.

Entry qualifications

Most students who take A Level Music will have a good GCSE pass along with a high standard of instrumental / vocal performance at approximately Grade 5-6 standard or above. Pupils should have a pass in Grade 5 theory or should be willing to work towards this qualification. We will also take on students who have not taken the GCSE course if a high level of musical attainment has been achieved outside of the classroom. Appropriate pre-course summer holiday work will be set for students who have not taken GCSE Music.

What is the course like?

The course builds on the students' skills acquired at GCSE level, namely listening and appraising, analysing, performing and composing. The choices available enable individuals to focus on their musical strengths and interests. Students will analyse a number of set works in depth and study specific musical genres. From classical to contemporary composers, musical theatre, jazz and pop, the music covered is extensive and varied. They will gain a greater insight into musical styles and techniques whilst developing their understanding of theoretical principles. Composing and performing are both important elements of the AQA course, totalling 60% of the final A Level. With the enhanced facilities available in Music School, students will be able to make extensive use of the Music Studio for the composition and performance components of the course.

A state of the art recording facility will enable top quality recordings of solo and ensemble performances as well as engaging students with an interest in recording and sound production. The designated Music Technology Suite will allow students to utilise industry standard software for their composition and performance work. Our Sixth Form students will be able to use the sound-proofed practice facilities during breaks and after school. The vast array of extra-curricular musical activities on offer in school means students can extend their skills outside of the classroom and there are many opportunities for our Sixth Form students to take on the responsibility of running and conducting ensembles.

Physical Education

AQA 7582

Staff:
G Ferguson, BEd (Director of Sport)
P A Cummins, BSc, MSc(Head of Academic PE)
N Hodgson, BSc (Head of Games)
S J L Cottrell, BEd
K A Gratton, BEd
E M Howell, BSc
L M Shanahan, BA
C A C Webb, BA

Why study this subject?
This course is suitable for a diverse range of candidates who wish to develop their interest in sport and physical education, fostering its value in lifelong learning thus providing a transition for those intending to study related courses in higher education and, for those not wishing to follow further study, it provides a balanced, broad–based course, worthwhile in its own right.

Entry qualifications
Entry requirements are a minimum of a good Grade 6 at GCSE, with an emphasis on the theoretical component. It is not necessary for candidates to have studied GCSE physical education although it is an advantage. If GCSE PE is not offered then pupils are required to have achieved at least Grade 6 in Biology or Grade 6-6 in Combined Science. Candidates are expected to be able to demonstrate a high level of performance in one specific sport and demonstrate a willingness to coach and/or officiate. Independently, they would be expected to continue the development of these skills throughout the duration of the course. It is worth noting that there is far more theoretical work and less emphasis on practical performance than at GCSE. A Level PE combines well with A Level Biology and Psychology. No matter what your career ambition, if you are passionate about sport, this course is great to take alongside other topics.

What is the course like?
Students enjoy the course as it gives them the opportunity to do fitness and training in lessons. The course also involves a theoretical aspect, covering topics such as the short-term effect of exercise/performance and the long-term effects of training, or the analysis of movement across a range of sporting actions. The theoretical work helps you to answer crucial questions. What happens when we compete? From studying the ways in which the body moves, how can I improve my performance? In addition, if coaching is an area of interest, we look at how we learn skills and the psychology behind performances. We also explore the effect sport has on the community, considering the barriers faced and the opportunities available to get involved, which is ideal for those interested in sports development.

Practical involvement is the essence of any PE course. We analyse and evaluate you and others, both as a performer and as a coach/official. Self-evaluation is a crucial skill: how we can apply what we learn theoretically in a practical context to improve you as a performer.

As the course develops in the second year, we highlight the elite performer and how theoretical knowledge is used to build elite training programs, tapering preparation formaximum performance, which includes the latest specialised training techniques and focus on sports injuries. As a coach and a performer, we explore how we use psychological theories and techniques to optimise performance. Equally, we review the development and impact of sports technology on performers, equipment and facilities. In conclusion, we look at the World and Olympic Games, considering the role they will have in the life of an elite performer.

In a practical context, students focus on one major sport, trying to optimize performance; they evaluate their own performances, identifying weaknesses and suggesting appropriate corrective measures.

In choosing this course, students will develop knowledge which will equip them for undergraduate study in areas of physiology, bio-mechanics, psychology and nutrition. The variety of practical roles leads to a development of their leadership skills, as well as moral and social development.

Physics

AQA 7408

Staff:
P D Prideaux, BSc, PhD (Head of Department)
G Addison, BSc
D Brown, BEng
L Brown, BEng
I H Burns, BSc
T J Craig, MPhys, PhD
H Gamble, BSc
A M Goodall, MA, PhD, CPhys, MInstP

Why study this subject?
Physics examines the basic questions of "how" and "why" producing theories to explain what happens, while developing new and worthwhile applications. What is matter made of? Is an electron a particle or a wave? Why is the sky blue? What exactly is a CT or MRI scan?

A Level Physics is one of the most useful qualifications for a student intending to pursue a scientific career, and is essential for disciplines such as engineering. Physicists need to be naturally curious, able to adapt easily to new, unique – and sometimes complex – problems. A Level Physics gives an insight into recent scientific thinking, including the latest developments in particle physics, and also provides a worthwhile and challenging course of study.

Entry qualifications
A minimum Grade 7 is normally required in GCSE/IGCSE Physics although a Grade 6 may be acceptable. Pupils who have taken Combined Science would be expected to gain 7-7. We would normally expect pupils to also have achieved a Grade 7 in Mathematics. In the Sixth Form, Physics has a high mathematical content and anyone weak in mathematics should think seriously before taking up Physics at A Level. Students who are also studying Mathematics at A Level usually find that they have an advantage in Physics.

What is the course like?
In Lower Sixth, the emphasis is on developing skills from GCSE and building on them so that the course raises the pupil's awareness of the standards expected at Sixth Form level in both theoretical and practical work. Work covered includes electrical circuits, mechanics, waves and particle physics.

The second year of the course is of a higher standard than that expected in the Lower Sixth, although there should not be too much of a shock as the first year has built up skills well above GCSE level. Some of the topics we cover in Upper Sixth include fields and nuclear physics. In practical sessions we introduce logarithmic relationships and examine the behaviour of nuclear decay using sealed sources. An option is offered in the Upper Sixth course - normally Engineering Physics.

Politics

Edexcel 9PL0

Staff:
R K J Preece, BA, MA (Head of Department)
T C Grimwood, BA

Why study this subject?
Politics is ever-changing and fascinating. It is a subject that grabs your attention, inspires debate and broadens your horizons. Students have achieved wonderful things in Politics and immersing yourself in the course can lead to a host of rewarding, useful, and versatile choices at university. It is highly regarded and even desirable as a foundation subject for many professional careers, notably law, journalism, management, business and administration, banking and the Civil Service. Politics at A Level combines well with all subjects, but in particular History, English, Modern Languages, Economics, Psychology, Geography and Mathematics. Though already a well-established and well-respected academic subject, Politics is also one of the fastest growing subjects in the UK. The reasons are clear: the course content is fascinating and ever-relevant; the discussions thought-provoking and engrossing; and the skills learned are both highly relevant and varied. The dynamic Politics Society will also provide an opportunity for students to meet and discuss ideas with leading politicians and political thinkers. Last year we questioned Boris Johnson and, of course, so many more. At the risk of drifting into hyperbole, the Politics Department is a glorious community of those who are interesting and interested!

Entry qualifications
Students arrive in Politics from a range of different backgrounds and interests and it can be studied with a range of different A Level combinations. The subject requires a commitment to rigorous thought and effective analysis and as such a proficiency in written and oral skills is vital. A willingness to engage in reading and research, as well as commitment to maintaining a healthy knowledge of current affairs is essential. A Grade 6 at GCSE English would be a minimum requirement for Politics. It is not expected for students to be 'party political' animals or indeed to hold strong political points of view, however, a willingness to engage, in all aspects of the life of the Department, is essential.

What is the course like?
Politics will provide an insightful, eye-opening and enriching educational experience. Being a 'new' subject, in terms of students not having previously studied the discipline, provides for an exciting fresh start, free from assumptions and preconceived ideas.

Politics lessons will provide innumerable opportunities for students to shape and develop their own voice and opinions, yielding greater levels of self-confidence and self- esteem. Lessons are arranged around principles of inclusion, debate and exploration.

Topics studied allow for a full exploration of the politics and government of the British political system: electoral systems, pressure groups, powers of the prime minister, the constitution, referendums, political parties, and much more. Later study explores a diverse range of ideologies: socialism, anarchism, liberalism, and conservatism. We ask, what are the core values of these ideologies? What do they argue with themselves about? Students will also study 'Global Politics' exploring bodies such as the UN, NATO and the EU as well as considering the nature and location of 'power' in the 21st century. So from areas of intelligent general knowledge about the 'nuts and bolts' or mechanics of the British political system, to in depth exploration of political philosophy, Politics will be certain to confront, question and challenge every single student.

The Politics Society also allows a unique opportunity to become more aware and more involved in an understanding and appreciation of politics in the very broadest sense. A regular weekly, lunchtime series of visiting speakers provides students with invaluable exposure to issues including Westminster machinations, international relations, community activism, European politics and much more besides. The Society has had great success in attracting some of the most significant and prominent speakers from the political and academic world. Also, recent Politics trips have included Oslo, California, Istanbul, Rwanda, the Baltics, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Israel-Palestine and Vietnam. And, of course, there is our annual London residential.

Psychology

AQA 7182

Staff:
K T McLean, BSc (Head of Department)
H Guy, BSc

Why study this subject?
Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It looks at how we think, why we act in the way we do and the way in which we are influenced by our social surroundings, our biological make-up and our upbringing. Psychology fascinates students, challenging their preconceptions about our mental life and equipping them with a deep understanding of why humans behave in the way they do. Additionally, the subject is rooted in the rigour of experimental research and scientific discovery.

An A Level in Psychology can complement a wide variety of areas and subjects for further study. For medicine, biomedical science and dentistry it can be the ideal complementary subject for expanding a student's skill-set, such as critical thinking, which is extremely useful for further study, as well as the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT).

For some students, it awakens an interest, of which they were previously unaware, and they go on to study Psychology in all its various forms (e.g. Developmental, Social, Forensic and Cognitive Neuroscience) at University. These degrees can lead students on to careers in Clinical Psychology, the media, health or sports science. For others, an A Level in Psychology instils academic abilities in research, analysis, communication and organisation that can provide an excellent foundation for University courses such as Law, History and Politics.

Entry qualifications
Psychology A Level will offer you a challenging, yet unique, academic experience. Students need to be able to apply scientific knowledge to psychological research in addition to critically evaluating and discussing the psychological theories, on which this research is based. Therefore, an interest in, and a willingness to commit to, the subject is essential.

In terms of academic entry requirements, a Grade 6 in GCSE English would provide the best platform on which to develop the evaluation and critical analysis skills essential for the course. As a science the subject has a focus on experimental research, along with some biological content, and so a 6 in GCSE Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science is also recommended.

What is the course like?
Psychology A Level will enable you to develop a wide-ranging set of key skills, whilst studying psychological themes and issues. You will discover how psychologists conduct their own research through a range of experimental and non- experimental methodologies and techniques.

Topics you will cover are vast and interesting, ranging from why people obey, to why they commit crime. You will look at the prevalence of mental health issues in modern society, as well as considering contemporary issues like gender, aggression and stress. Fundamentally, Psychology tries to explain why humans are the way we are.

In addition to the formal study of A Level Psychology, the department in itself has a lot to offer. There is a well-stocked library that can develop your knowledge of the subject beyond that of the specification. Furthermore, you will learn about how Psychology impacts our day-to-day life in weekly articles and media reports. The department also hosts visits from a range of professionals working in areas as diverse as prisons, forensics and healthcare to broaden your knowledge and offer career advice.

Religious Studies

Staff:
S Lodge MA, BA (Head of Department)
N Lyle, MA, BA

OCR H573

Why study this subject?
The study of Religion Studies at A Level is a popular and fascinating choice. It is a highly complementary subject for pupils wishing to study degrees in a variety of fields, including Medicine, Law, History and PPE.

Religious Studies gives pupils the opportunities to engage and respond critically with contemporary issues, philosophical, ethical and religious concepts. The course aims to develop transferable skills, such as analytic thinking, a disciplined approach to problem solving, investigative and critical thinking. It is a subject which is accessible to pupils of any religious persuasion or none.

If you are someone who seeks challenge in a scholarly and supportive environment, which offers the opportunity for intellectual growth and an impressive academic qualification, which is highly regarded by leading universities, and leading employers, the course will definitely suit you.

Entry qualifications
You would be expected to have achieved at least a Grade 6 in English. Beyond this, an open, questioning mind and mature work ethic are essential. You do not have to have studied Religious Studies or Philosophy at GCSE.

What is the course like?
The course consists of three papers: Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Thought.

Philosophy: From Plato and Aristotle to William James and Ludwig Wittgenstein, we study the work of great minds have thought about the philosophical questions surrounding our humanity: Does life have a purpose? What happens at death? Does natural evil have a purpose?

Ethics: From theory to practice, we compare the world's most influential ethical approaches, ranging from Thomas Aquinas to Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham. We then apply their theories to ethical issues of significant importance, including euthanasia, business and relationships. This includes questions such as 'How ought we behave?' 'Is voluntary euthanasia morally acceptable?' 'Are good business decisions always good ethical decisions?'

Christian Thought: We examine a wide-range of topics from a Christian perspective, such as secularisation, gender theology, and the thought of St Augustine and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This paper includes questions such as 'Is God male?' 'Is Bonhoeffer's theology still relevant today?' 'Was Freud right that we would be happier without Christianity?'

The course is examined by means of three two-hour examinations, designed to assess understanding and analysis of religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

Textiles

Staff:
A Jackson, BSc (i/c of Textiles)

AQA 7562

Why study this subject?
"We are privileged to live in a society which appreciates, educates and nurtures the innovative qualities of the young". It is no coincidence that the British Textile and Fashion Industry is experiencing international recognition and a renaissance in its global positioning. Why, because we believe and invest in comprehensive technology programmes which harness the skills of the young. Yarm School's two year Textiles course offers an extensive range of fashion and textiles experiences. The course provides an excellent grounding for any student aiming to go into the world of fashion, buying or design. Equally the value of knowledge and skills gained and the discipline of managing complex design projects to a high level, are recognised and appreciated by other areas of learning.

Past students have progressed to study dentistry, medicine and architecture as well as the Textile related courses, at London College of Fashion, Manchester and Newcastle, to name but a few. Typical related career opportunities are; fashion designer, buyer, interior designer, fabric designer, pattern maker, merchandiser, visual merchandiser, technician, marketing, teacher, Art Foundation courses and many more.

Entry qualifications
The course offers students a natural progression from the current AQA GCSE Design and Technology Syllabus. Although it is a great advantage to have studied GCSE Technology, it is not essential to qualify for this course.

What is the course like?
The course is taught through a combination of practical, theory, and experimental work. This gives students the opportunity to produce a unique, individual portfolio of work focusing on fashion, accessories and furnishing products. Students will be introduced to the broad perspective of the design world. They have the opportunity to work with a wide variety of fabrics and components used in the designing and making of textile products. There is a particular focus on pattern cutting and garment development which is demanding on skill yet rewarding on achievement. Students gain an extensive insight into the past and present Textile and Fashion Industry including aspects of modern marketing practice. The two year course looks in detail at the business and manufacturing world, 20th century history, global and sustainable issues and expects a high competence of design, modelling and making of innovative and commercial concepts which can be evaluated and assessed against complex design briefs.

“

I will forever be grateful for the opportunities I had at Yarm School. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. *Yarm taught me the importance of being more than just a student with good grades, a lesson I carry with me today.*

Valerie Fiamavle
Medicine at Queen's University Belfast

”

YARM
SIXTH FORM

Bring Your Passion.
Together, we'll find your path.

Yarm School, The Friarage, Yarm TS15 9EJ
01642 786023 | yarmschool.org