HILLVIEW
SIXTH FORM

Course Guide
2027 - 2028

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The Hillview Sixth Form is a highly successful, all-inclusive centre of study, consistently performing in the top 10% nationally based on progress for students.

At Hillview, we strive to ensure that our innovative and comprehensive KS5 programme extends beyond the classroom, into preparation or life after school. We believe that our students have the Pure Potential to achieve exceptional standards and develop the essential skills and qualities required to be successful and happy in their future lives. Our Sixth Form is highly popular to students from academic, creative and performance backgrounds due to our record of high achievement, supportive ethos and the wide range of subjects we offer. We also invest heavily in careers and in supporting our students to make the right choices and secure the best possible next steps when moving to universities, apprenticeships or the world of work.

Whether you are an existing student or are currently studying in a different educational establishment I would recommend that you visit the Hillview Sixth form on the open days and look through the virtual resources available to you and if you have any further questions, contact the Hillview Sixth Form team.

Mrs Hilary Burkett
Headteacher

For us, the development of the whole student is key to their wider success and happiness in the future. Pastoral care is paramount to the success of our students and the individual student support and safeguarding at KS5, ensures that students build resilience and are well equipped to engage with the challenges and opportunities Sixth Form brings. We encourage our students to recognise that they have a part to play in building our local community and they enthusiastically engage with a range of events both within the school and volunteering in the wider community. High levels of quality assurance of teaching and learning support the team in ensuring we maintain the consistently high results that have placed us in the top 10% of schools.

Ms Hollie Dunn
Assistant Headteacher for KS5

Hillview School for Girls offers a Sixth Form pathway that we are extremely proud of, and it is one that caters for the widest range of student choices in the local area. Our diverse programme of study is supported by excellent subject specialists, a strong and experienced team of Mentors and a dedicated Sixth Form Team. This provides a perfect hub from which students can develop, from their early days as a student starting out on their KS5 studies, to the point where they move on: to university, an apprenticeship or to the world of work.To support our students we deliver a growth mindset programme which helps them acquire the characteristics and attributes that are required to succeed in Sixth Form and beyond.

Our facilities are tailored to the needs of our students and were designed by our sixth formers to create an ideal environment in which to study and flourish. We offer a range of IT suites, a large study centre, a café/social space, full use of the school library as well as a school cinema and a gym. The Hillview Sixth Form has a fantastic atmosphere and represents a dynamic, stimulating and supportive learning environment that we are proud to offer the young people of Tonbridge and beyond.

Mr Ken Burkett
Director of Sixth Form

WELCOME

Our long-established Sixth Form offers one of the widest ranges of courses locally, with access to stimulating, purpose-built facilities and a supportive learning environment. Our satellite hub, The View @ Avebury provides an exciting alternative provision for post-16 study for those who would like to either boost their Level 2 qualifications before embarking on a Level 3 course or follow a work-related learning pathway – please see entry criteria for both provisions on our 'How to Apply' page (Page 11).

OUR STUDENT LEADERS & STUDENT VOICE

Isabella Ball
Head Student

Esther Burton
Head Student

Neli thapa
KS5 Transition Leader

Mylo Reynolds - Eva Howden - Scarlett Chew - Holly Ransley
Deputy Head Students

Daisy Lewis - Anna Large
Inclusion Champions

Fraya Ransley

Studying:
Sociology, Media and Religious Studies

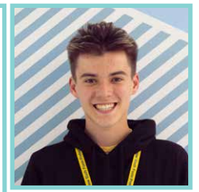
Joining Hillview in year 9, I was an awkward girl who had just come out of two lockdowns and had moved almost two hours away to start fresh. During my time, I found my people, people who understood me and have pushed me to be the person I am today; they have watched me grow up, go through all my highs and lows, but most importantly, have cheered me on every step of the way. Hillview has given me so many opportunities I would never have imagined, from being a peer mentor to head of wellbeing. It has provided me with the skill set and opportunities to prepare me for my future and life outside of Sixth Form. I honestly would not be the person I am today if it weren't for the staff and people at Hillview, and I am proud to be a student here.

Madeleine Evans

Studying:
English Language & Literature, Government & Politics and Classical Civilisation

Since joining Hillview, I've grown, not only as a student, but as a member of society. From Year 7 all the way to Year 13, I've felt consistently supported hroughout my seven-year journey. After being diagnosed with dyslexia, school wasn't always easy, but it never felt like my dyslexia held me back. I was always encouraged, never made to feel less for not achieving top grades, and continuously supported until I reached my goals. Hillview didn't just teach me Maths and English;
it taught me resilience, confidence, and compassion. The teachers believed in me even when I doubted myself. They saw potential beyond the grades and nurtured the person I was becoming. Their patience and understanding made all the difference. Hillview gave me the tools to face challenges, the courage to speak up, and the strength to keep going. I'll carry these lessons with me for the rest of my life.

George Beasley



Studying:
Chemistry, Musical Theatre and Geography

Hillview has offered me an amazing opportunity to not only develop my academic skills but to also shape myself as a person in preparation for my future. Hillview welcomes all new students and even though the school is predominantly female. I have felt supported by all the staff from the moment I joined. Coming into a school where I knew nobody and wasn't familiar with the area was initially daunting, but right from the first week I found some great friends. Choosing Musical Theatre at Hillview has boosted my confidence and technique, making me realize how much I wish to pursue a career in Performing Arts. The teachers at Hillview are consistently pushing you to be the best you can and are extremely encouraging, making lessons enjoyable and creating a wonderful learning environment. The passion that the teachers have for their subjects and the confidence I have gained has inspired me to complete my work experience helping children in Nepal this summer.

STUDENT WELFARE

Student Support

At Hillview, our dedicated Student Support Manager is central to creating a 6th Form community where every student feels known, supported and able to thrive. With specialist expertise in teenage mental health, they work in close partnership with the SENCO, parents and students to ensure that each young person's pastoral, emotional and wellbeing needs are met with care and professionalism.

Further Support

At Hillview we also have 2 in-house counsellors and work closely with the other agencies including the Emotional Wellbeing Teams, a government initiative to support emotional wellbeing and mental health.

SEND Support

Hillview offers comprehensive support for learners transitioning from KS4 to KS5. To minimize disruption, these learners are assigned the same keyworker. External candidates receive assistance through regular meetings between the SEND team and the KS5 Student Support Manager.

We provide support for normal working procedures and exam access arrangements, in addition to academic mentoring to enhance executive function. Our gardening group is available to promote emotional well-being, along with other tailored support as needed.

Bursary

Financial support is available through the 16–19 Bursary Fund for eligible students, including those from low-income families and young people in care. The fund helps students meet the costs associated with their studies and ensures that financial circumstances do not become a barrier to success.

Details of eligibility and the application process are provided at enrolment. Information is also available online by scanning this QR code.

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Future Pathways is our Hillview school wide careers provision which is embedded across the 16 to 19 study programmes and supports pupils to make informed decisions about their next steps and support decision making outside of and beyond school life. The programme provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to engage with employers, colleges, training providers, universities and to experience workplaces; as well as to develop those essential transferable work-based skills (Skill Builder) such as communication, teamwork, adaption and problem solving. This is developed through Mentor based activities, workshops, guest speaks, careers events, trips to UCAS events and/or Universities

Key to this support is the offer of independent careers guidance where each pupil has the opportunity to receive impartial advice and guidance from a qualified careers adviser. This opportunity for advice and guidance will support the pupils' readiness to transition successfully Post 16 to their preferred next phase of education, training or employment. We encourage our learners to have high aspirations with 65% of 2025 leavers attending the University of their choice, however we recognitive and tailor our support to the needs and interest of our learners supporting all destination routes such as University, Apprenticeships and the world of work

Using the Unifrog platform, students can explore career pathways, research university courses, apprenticeships and employment opportunities, and make informed decisions about their futures. Unifrog also allows you to keep a record of your areas/sectors you are interested in, research training pathways, and have conversations with mentors and the Future Pathways Teams to enable a personalised approach to your career journey.

Careers should also preparing learners with encounters of employers and employees. This is offered through school trips, guest speaks and most importantly out dedicated work experience week for our Year 12 students.

The Future Pathways Team is Also available to help with the following:

- Help with CV building
- Interview skills/practice
- Suggested research for universities, apprenticeships, colleges, and the world of work
- Support through the application
- Part-time work/voluntary experience/gap year
- Building online presence

Future Pathways

Students are also always welcome to email the careers team if they have any questions at careers@hillview.kent.sch.uk

PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS SPECIALISM

Our Performing and Visual Arts specialism is a cornerstone of what makes Hillview the creative and dynamic place it is. We work with students to industry standards' across all disciplines.

We currently hold Arts Mark Platinum and have held the highest level of this award from its first introduction seventeen years ago. This is testament to the quality of the Performing and Visual Arts at Hillview. We offer an outstanding range of inclusive curricular and extra-curricular provision across all art forms. This is taught and led by highly skilled and dedicated staff who boast a range of specialisms and excellent links with creative professionals in the industry and local community.

Our assessed curriculum and wider super-curriculum provide our students with countless opportunities to develop a wide range of skills within Performing Arts, Production Arts and Arts Administration. We are extremely proud of being able to offer a wide range of arts courses in the Sixth Form including A Levels in: Art, Dance, Drama, Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles and Music and Performing Arts BTEC. Our specialist curriculum offers Hillview students much more than just academic success. Feedback from industry tells us that qualifications alone do not prepare students to enter into the work place. Great importance is also placed on industry standard experiences and a holistic understanding of the performing and visual arts sector.

Our curriculum aims to take an innovative approach to teaching and learning, involving enterprise projects and close associations with employers. This curriculum offers qualifications which are endorsed and valued by the employment community and Higher Education. The focus is firmly on equipping young people not only with key qualifications, but also with the broad range of employability and life skills they need for a sustained career with the option to continue their studies in Higher Education.

FACILITIES

1

2

3

4

5

Our exceptional facilities are designed to support both academic success and personal growth. From specialist creative spaces to comfortable areas for independent study and socialising, every environment has been thoughtfully developed to meet the needs of our students. Becasue believe our students deserve the very best learning environment and Hillview Sixth Form has the facilities that make it a unique and exciting place to study.

1

We offer exceptional visual arts facilities designed to inspire creativity and independent learning. The spacious, industry-standard Film and Media Studies areas include a fully equipped cinema, as well as high-quality darkroom and photography facilities. Alongside these, students benefit from state-of-the-art Fashion rooms and bright, open Art studios that provide a stimulating and imaginative environment. Together, these facilities enable students to develop their practical skills, explore their creativity, and thrive in a professional and supportive setting.

2

The Sixth Form Common Room provides a spacious and welcoming environment for all students to focus on their studies. Designed with productivity in mind, the room offers ample space for individuals and groups to work comfortably, whether using laptops or traditional pen and paper. This flexible and supportive setting encourages independent study while also giving students a place to collaborate and make the most of their study time.

3

The on-site Sixth Form café is a bright, spacious and comfortable space where students can relax, socialise, and study. Open before school and throughout the day, it provides a welcoming environment for meeting friends or catching up on work between lessons. With its own small kitchen, the café offers a range of refreshments, including tea, coffee, light snacks, and lunch options, making it a convenient and enjoyable hub for Sixth Form students.

4

The library, although not exclusive to Sixth Form students, is a welcoming and inclusive space for all learners. It provides a calm environment where students can focus on their studies, conduct research, or simply take a quiet moment to read and reflect. With its peaceful atmosphere and range of resources, the library supports both independent learning and personal wellbeing for students across the school.

5

For our performing Arts students, we offer an Drama Studio, equipped with the latest computerised lighting and sound systems, sits alongside a fantastic Dance Studio, a fully equipped Music recording studio, and a dedicated workshop for set construction. Together, these exceptional facilities provide students with access to every aspect of the performing arts, offering an unrivalled learning environment within the local area.

HOW TO APPLY

Scan here for more details on the Hillview Sixth Form website.

Hillview offers one of the broadest curricula in the local area. The entry requirements ensure students are on the right courses so that they can be successful over the two years of study.

How to apply

In order to apply for Hillview Sixth Form students must complete an online application through the Kent Choices website: www.kentprospectus.co.uk

Click on the 'Find a course' button, then select 'Sixth/College Courses'. In the 'What do you want to study?' box, enter the name of the course you are looking for and search for the one offered by Hillview School for Girls. Please ensure that you have the correct course before clicking 'Apply'.

Contact us

if you have any questions about joining our Sixth Form please contact the Sixth Form Administrator, Mrs Lisa Mole, via email at molel@hillview.kent.sch.uk or phone 01732 778894/01732 352793

Scan here for more information on applications to The View.

The View @ Avebury

There is no minimum entry requirement but we do expect a positive approach to learning. Please refer to the TV@AV booklet for more details.

To apply please visit: *www.kentprospectus.co.uk*

If you any further questions, please contact: Mrs Witherspoon at The View @ Avebury via e-mail: *tv-es@hillview.kent.sch.uk*

*TV@AV reserves the right to withdraw unviable courses or amend study programmes.

EXTENDED CURRICULUM

What is Enrichment?

Enrichment activities aim to contribute to students' wider knowledge, skills development and personal growth. They are important because students can demonstrate to employers and universities that they have more than academic qualifications.

Certificated (award-bearing) enrichment courses are those which lead to a certificate and carry UCAS points. These include Core Maths (Mc), the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Gold Arts Award. Beyond certified enrichment, students have the opportunity to explore a range of super curricular activities both in and out of school in subjects such as: Personal Finance, Fitness and Mindfulness. The suite of enrichment options alters each year. In addition, Sixth Form students can elect to participate in leadership schemes, shows, clubs and workshops.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

The Gold DofE Award is a prestigious and internationally recognised programme that encourages students to challenge themselves, develop new skills and make a positive contribution to their communities. Participants complete sections in volunteering, physical activity and skill development, as well as undertaking an adventurous expedition and a residential experience. Along the way, students build confidence, resilience, independence and leadership skills while creating lasting memories and friendships. The Gold Award is highly regarded by universities and employers as evidence of commitment, initiative and personal growth beyond the classroom.

Where will it lead?

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award can open doors to a wide range of opportunities. The experiences, skills and confidence you gain are valued by universities, employers and apprenticeship providers, helping you stand out from other applicants. More importantly, it gives you the chance to challenge yourself, meet new people and develop skills that will benefit you long after you leave sixth form.

Extended Project (EPQ)

This qualification offers students a unique opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge by producing an extended piece of work either in an area they are studying, or in which they have a particular interest. It requires a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working as students decide the title and the format of their project. Time is spent planning, researching, organising and writing with regular support from the student supervisor. For dissertation-based projects, students submit a written report of up to 5000 words for assessment. Artefact and performance-based projects require a slightly shorter written report, which is submitted alongside the project outcome.

Where will it lead?

The Extended Project qualification is equivalent to half an A Level and is graded in the same way. Universities are very keen to see EPQ in students' applications to show they have the skills of project management, independence and research aptitude.

Core Maths (AQA Mathematical Studies)

Core Maths is a Level 3 qualification designed for students who want to continue developing their mathematical skills alongside their A Levels, without taking A Level Mathematics. The course focuses on applying maths to real-world situations, including personal finance, statistics, probability, data analysis and critical interpretation of information. Students develop valuable problem-solving and quantitative reasoning skills that support subjects such as Science, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, while building confidence in using maths in everyday life, higher education and future careers.

Where will it lead?

Core Maths supports progression to university courses and careers that require confidence with data, problem-solving and numerical reasoning. It is particularly valuable alongside subjects such as Science, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, while also developing practical mathematical skills for everyday life and employment.

Sustainability (OCR Level 3)

This course is designed for those looking to enhance their knowledge and skills in sustainability, addressing key environmental, social, and economic challenges. Some of the concepts students will learn are the different types of sustainability, stakeholders involved in the decision-making, and the actions being made towards reducing the impacts of climate change, aswell as resource management. It's ideal for those preparing for careers or apprenticeships in any industry as sustainability is now the foundation of future decisions for any business

Where will it lead?

The Sustainability qualification is equivalent to half an A-Level and carries UCAS points. It prepares students for university, apprenticeships, or employment by developing critical thinking, problemsolving, and project management skills in real-world sustainability challenges. This qualification can lead to further study in areas such as Business and Sustainability, Business Management, and Environmental Sustainability.

Clubs

The extracurricular clubs at Hillview offer students invaluable opportunities to cultivate skills beyond the classroom, such as leadership, teamwork, and time management. With over 80 hours of clubs available each week, students can choose from a diverse range of activities, including Photography, Trampolining, Poetry, Lego Robotics, Cheerleading, Drama, Orchestra, Textiles, and many more.

Each session encourages students to explore their interests, build self-confidence, and develop a sense of discipline and responsibility. Being part of the Hillview community allows students to pursue their passions even further, with many of them performing and competing across the country and continent. We encourage all students to get involved, as it is a vital part of their educational experience at Hillview.

UNDERSTANDING GRADES

Artsmark Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

A Level - Gold Award
Alps Top 25% 2024

A Level - Platinum Award
Alps Top 10% 2025

OLD GRADING SYSTEM	NEW GRADING SYSTEM	BTEC GRADING SYSTEM	GRADE ACHIEVED AT GCSE	PROGRESSION ROUTE	PROVISIONS AVAILABLE
A** (Equivalent)	9	Level 2 Distinction*	**6** Achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade 4 or above, inc. Maths & English language.	**Level 3 Qualification** (Check each course as many have their own entrance requirements)	Students can study a range of A-Levels & Level 3 qualifications at the Hillview Sixth Form
A*	8	Level 2 Distinction*			
A	7	Level 2 Distinction			
B	6	Level 2 Merit			
	5 (Strong Pass)				
C	4 (Standard Pass)	Level 2 Pass			
D	3	Level 1 Distinction	Did not Achieve 5+ GCSEs at grade 4 or above, inc. English Language & Maths.	**Level 2 Qualification**	The View @ Avebury provides a range of Level 1 & 2 qualifications inc. work placement. TV@AV provides English and Maths Resit opportunities. **No entry requirements**
E	2	Level 1 Merit			
F	1	Level 1 Pass	No qualifications OR a handful of 1s or 2s	**Level 1 Qualification**	
U	U	U			

PATHWAYS & INFORMATION

When you join the Sixth Form, you will receive a timetable that includes several components. Some of these elements will be selected by you, while others will be assigned. The majority of your timetable will consist of the three subjects you chose when you applied to the Sixth Form. Please ensure that you meet both the school's general entrance requirements and the specific requirements for each subject. More information on Entry Requirements on the next page.

The remainder of your timetable will include a series of assessment hours free study periods, options for the extended curriculum (for more information, see page 13), and finally, Personal Development Learning (PDL).

Our Sixth Form offers complete flexibility in choosing your courses*

Students can opt for a selection of Academic A-level Courses (such as English, Maths, and Science), Applied and Technical Courses (like Health & Social Care and Applied Food Preparation & Nutrition), or a combination of both.

Students are expected to manage their time and workload effectively while at Sixth Form. This is particularly important for those who choose only Applied and Technical courses, as these programs involve a significant amount of coursework and Non-Exam Assessments (NEAs).

1st Option	Assessment Hours
2nd Option	Extended Curriculum
3rd Option	PDL

Scan this QR Code to see the Options Blocks and Entrance Requirements for the 2026-2027 academic year.

*Unfortunately, students are not allowed to take more than three subjects at a time during their studies at the Hillview Sixth Form.

Colour Coding

In our course guide, we have colour-coded the courses to help you easily identify them: Academic/A-Level courses are highlighted in **blue**, while Applied/Technical courses are highlighted in **red**.

Entry Requirements

General Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in English Language and Maths together with 3 other GCSE grades at grade 4 or above is the minimum requirement to enter Hillview Sixth Form.

Subject Entry Requirements

Please note that all subjects have different entry requirements. This is to ensure that students can embark on the most appropriate courses and succeed in their studies. Please consult our Course Guide for individual subject criteria.

NB: Entry requirements are subject to change and entry to the Sixth Form may be considered subject to agreed conditions. Hillview Sixth Form reserves the right to tailor an individual student's programme of study based on their average GCSE point score and results in specific subjects. The school decision in these matters is final. Hillview Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw unavailable courses.

What is PDL?

PDL (Personal Development Learning) is compulsory for Sixth Form students. Lessons once a fortnight give our young people the opportunity to explore some of the joys and trials of adult life.

Our topics are drawn from the PSHEE and Citizenship curricula and include applying for jobs, budgeting, credit and debt, leaving home, democracy and voting as well as Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

Lessons encourage the recognition and management of risk, taking personal responsibility and the importance of respect and tolerance within personal relationships and the wider community.

"PDL sets you up for life, gives you tips and tricks to help you through some of the more difficult bits"

-Year 12 student

Assessment Hours

The assessment hour for the sixth form course provides each student with one hour of supervised time per subject every fortnight. This dedicated hour is intended for completing set tasks, such as exam questions or essays, under timed conditions outside of regular lesson time. At the end of the hour, students submit their work for feedback from their teachers. This structure ensures students gain regular experience in exam conditions while also allowing for focused feedback and additional learning opportunities in the classroom.

ART & DESIGN: FINE ART

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Fine Art	AR	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.5 GCSE Art & Design: 5+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

A Level Fine Art provides an exciting opportunity for students to develop their identity as a creative practitioner through exploration of a range skills such as painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture and lens-based image making / installation. Students are encouraged to explore personal and meaningful ideas through a range of creative practices to develop a portfolio of work that embeds the skills required for a future in creative careers.

The course requires students to make in-depth personal and imaginative responses to a chosen theme and has a strong academic element through the critical evaluation of the work of artists. Students learn how to develop ideas in response to contextual studies through exploration of media, techniques and processes.

This course consists of two components.

Component 1:

Personal Investigation (60%) The coursework includes a 'Personal Investigation' through sketchbooks and outcomes, and a written 'Personal Study'.

Component 2:

Externally Set Assignment (40%) The examination includes sketchbooks and outcomes completed from January to April with a 15 hour exam to produce final outcomes.

Both components involve creative problem solving which requires students to undertake investigative and research work in addition to experimental exploration, looking at alternative ways of finding a solution. Sketchbook work needs to be informed, purposeful and extensive. Students must work with independence carrying out in-depth research from a range of primary sources, critiquing and referencing their experimentation before developing their final responses. The independent and open nature of work is demanding. Therefore, students must be prepared to be committed, self-motivated, and innovative risk takers.

Where will it lead?

This course enables students to move on to a wide range of Art and Design courses at Foundation and Degree level e.g. Fine Art, Textiles, Interior and Graphic Design, or a combination of Art with English, Journalism, Drama and Set Design. An Art & Design portfolio is a requirement for most Architecture courses and useful for any qualifications involving technical drawing.

The creativity, problem-solving skills and personal resilience that students develop through completing this course are highly sought after across many sectors.

Super Curricular Opportunities

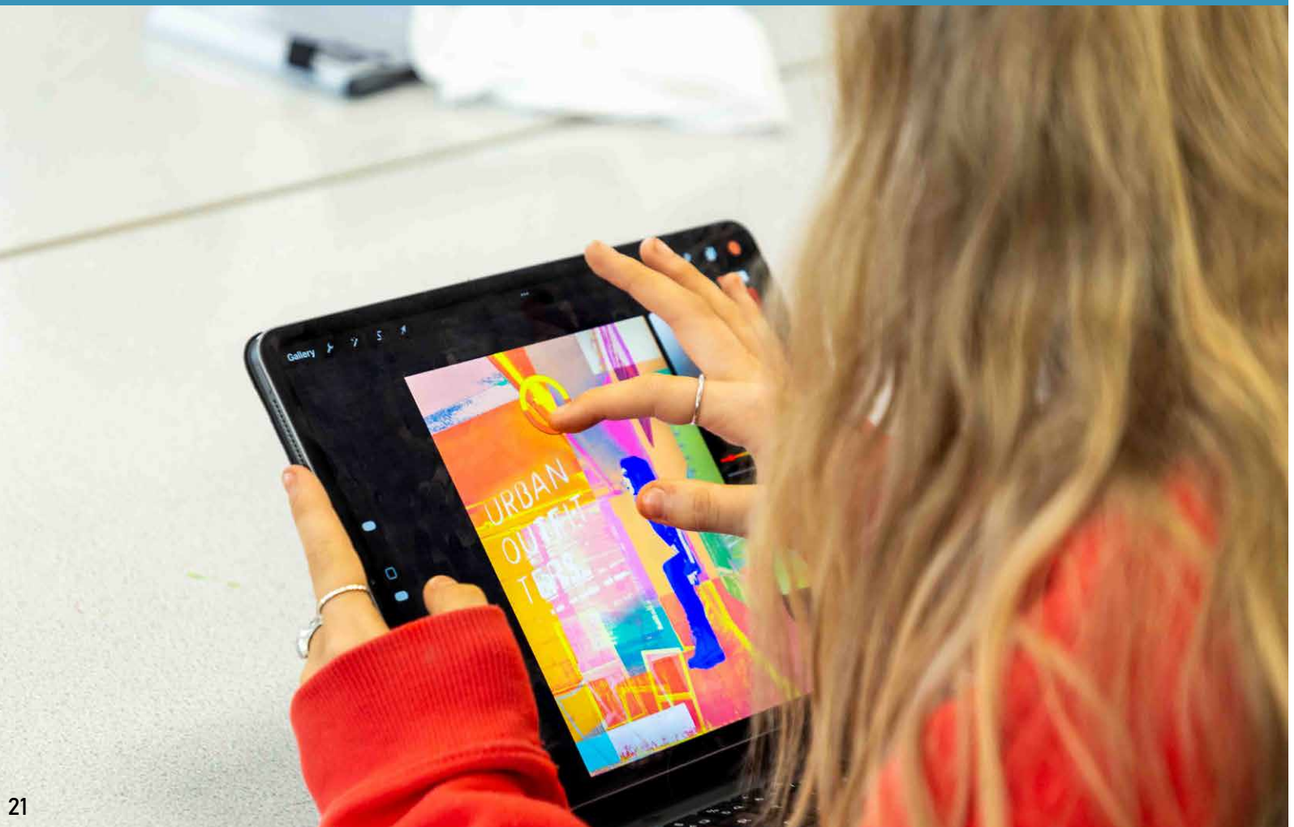
- Visits to University Open Days
- Regular Life drawing opportunities
- Visiting practitioners for Q&A, talks and workshops
- Trips for exhibitions, inspiration and visual research
- Hillview Visual Arts exhibition
- Portfolio and Careers preparation workshops from Alumni and Teachers

Links to other courses

Art and Design: Fine Art is complementary to most subjects but in particular; Media, Film Studies, Classical Civilisation, English, Psychology, History, Drama, Graphics, Textiles and Photography.

ART & DESIGN: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Graphic Communication	Gr	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.5 GCSE Art & Design Subject: 5+ GCSE English Language: 4+ GCSE Maths: 4+



What will I study?

A Level Graphic Communication engages students in creative industry practice to prepare students for client based work within creative careers. Students explore a range of media both traditional and digital to respond to briefs within advertising, illustration, branding, information design, user interface design, concept art and animation.

The course requires students to make in-depth personal and imaginative responses to chosen briefs and has a strong academic element through the critical evaluation of the work of creative practitioners. Students learn how to develop ideas in response to contextual studies through exploration of media, echniques and processes.

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The independent and open nature of work is demanding. Therefore, students must be prepared to be committed, self-motivated, and innovative risk takers.

Where will it lead?

This course enables students to move on to a wide range of Art and Design courses at Foundation and Degree level e.g. Graphic Design, Games Art & Design, Illustration, Design for film or theatre, Fashion, Creative Advertising, Animation, or a combination of Graphic Communication with English, Journalism, Business or Marketing. An Art & Design portfolio is a requirement for most Architecture courses and useful for any qualifications involving technical drawing. The creativity, problem-solving skills and personal resilience that students develop through completing this course are highly sought after across many sectors.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Visits to University Open Days
- Regular Life drawing opportunities
- Visiting practitioners for Q&A, talks and workshops
- Trips for exhibitions, inspiration and visual research
- Hillview Visual Arts exhibition
- Portfolio and Careers preparation workshops from Alumni and Teachers

Links to other courses

Art and Design: Graphic Communication is complementary to most subjects but in particular; Media, English, Psychology, Business, Film Studies, History, Drama, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Textiles, Fine Art and Photography.

ART & DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Photography	Ap	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.5 GCSE Art & Design: 5+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

A Level Photography provides the opportunity for students to develop a broad range of photographic skills using traditional analogue methods, digital editing and fine art outcomes such as sculpture and installation. The course requires students to make in-depth personal and imaginative responses to a chosen theme. Students use research and problem-solving to independently develop ideas. Analysis of visual imagery helps students to interpret visual language and use it to communicate complex and personal concepts.

The course requires students to make in-depth personal and imaginative responses to chosen themes and has a strong academic element through the critical evaluation of the work of photographers. Students learn how to develop ideas in response to contextual studies through exploration of media, techniques and processes.

This course consists of two components.

Component 1:

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Super Curricular Opportunities

- Visits to University Open Days
- Regular Life drawing opportunities Visiting practitioners for Q&A, talks and workshops
- Trips for exhibitions, inspiration and visual research
- Hillview Visual Arts exhibition
- Portfolio and Careers preparation workshops from Alumni and Teachers

Links to other courses

Art and Design: Photography is complementary to most subjects but in particular; Media, English, Psychology, Film Studies, History, Drama, Classical Civilisation, Fine Art, Textiles and Graphics.

ART & DESIGN: TEXTILE DESIGN

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Textiles	Tx	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.5 GCSE Art & Design: 5+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

Textiles aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to successfully progress onto higher or further education courses in Fashion, Textiles or other Art disciplines. Students have access to an exciting array of equipment and technologies to refine their ideas towards producing a personal outcome. Over the duration of the course students will develop fashion design ideas, which may include digital designs with Photoshop. Students use research and problem-solving to independently develop ideas. Analysis of visual imagery helps students to interpret visual language and use it to communicate complex and personal concepts.

The course requires students to make in-depth personal and imaginative responses to chosen themes and has a strong academic element through the critical evaluation of the work of artists and designers. Students learn how to develop ideas in response to contextual studies through exploration of media, techniques and processes.

Component 1:

Personal Investigation (60%) The coursework includes a 'Personal Investigation' through sketchbooks and outcomes, and a written 'Personal Study'.

Component 2 - Externally Set:

Assignment (40%) The examination includes sketchbooks and outcomes completed from January to April with a 15 hour exam to produce final outcomes.

Both components involve creative problem solving which requires students to undertake investigative and research work in addition to experimental exploration, looking at alternative ways of finding a solution. Sketchbook work needs to be informed, purposeful and extensive. Students must work with independence carrying out in-depth research from a range of primary sources, critiquing and referencing their experimentation before developing their final responses. The independent and open nature of work is demanding. Therefore, students must be prepared to be committed, self-motivated, and innovative risk takers.

Where will it lead?

This course enables students to move on to a wide range of Art and Design courses at Foundation and Degree level e.g. Fashion, Interior Design, Surface Design, Photography, Film & Media, Fashion buying, Styling, Design for Theatre & Film or a combination of Textiles with Business or Marketing. The creativity, problem-solving skills and personal resilience that students develop through completing this course are highly sought after across many sectors.

Super Curricular Opportunities

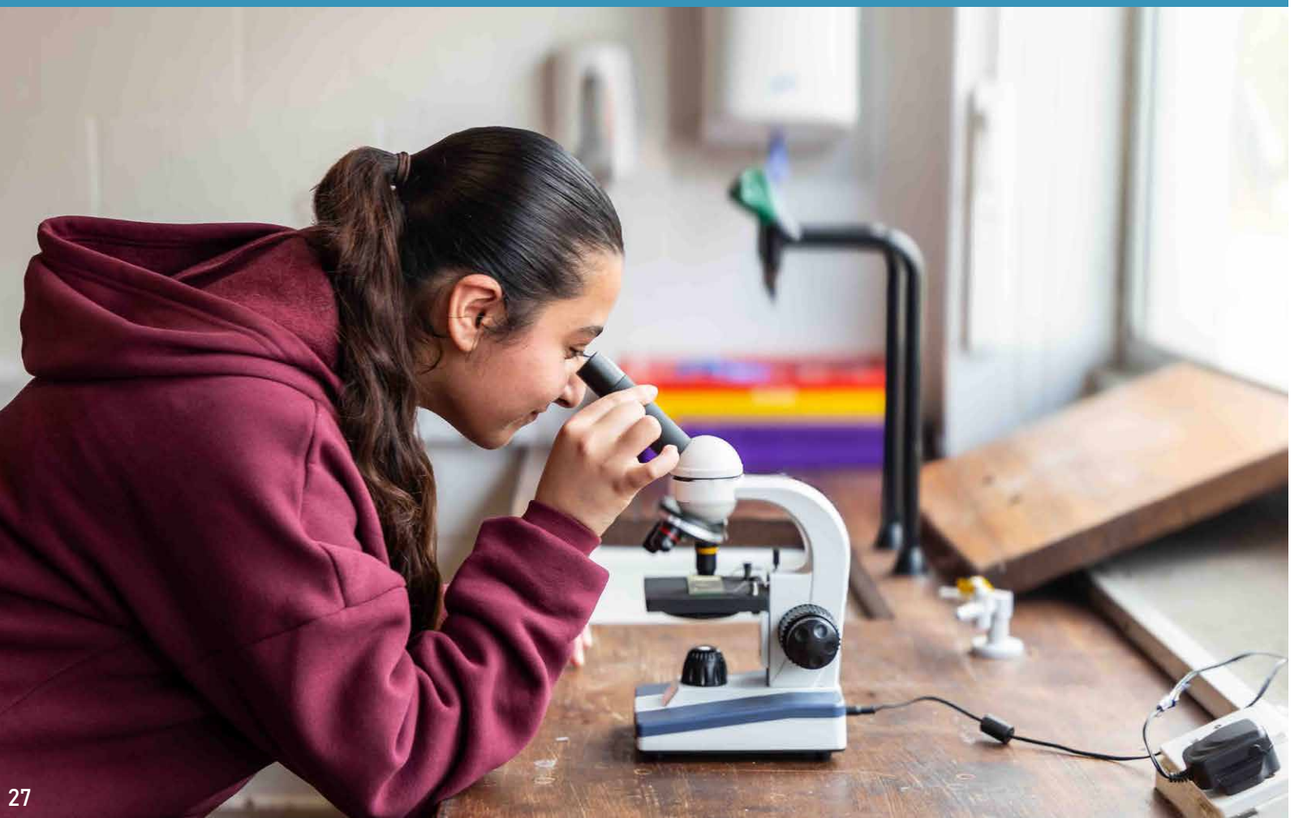
- Visits to University Open Days
- Regular Life drawing opportunities
- Visiting practitioners for Q&A, talks and workshops
- Trips for exhibitions, inspiration and visual research
- Hillview Visual Arts exhibition
- Portfolio and Careers preparation worshops from Alumni and Teachers

Links to other courses

Art and Design: Textiles is complementary to most subjects but in particular; Media, English, Psychology, Film Studies, History, Drama, Classical Civilisation, Fine Art, Photography and Graphics.

BIOLOGY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Biology	Bi	Level 3	AQA	APS: 5.5 GCSE English Language: 4+ GCSE Biology 6+ & GCSE Chemistry 6+ or Combined Science 7/6+ GCSE Maths: 6+



What will I study?

To study Biology at A Level is to begin your journey to study life. From plants and animals to genes and evolution, this is the study of all living organisms and how they live and die. Biology is a natural science which covers how living organisms interact with each other and with their environments.

The study of biology builds highly versatile, analytical, and problem-solving skills that are crucial for a range of rewarding careers. It allows humanity to develop treatments for genetic diseases, improve crop yields, and create solutions for global environmental challenges.

Examinations

Paper 1 (2 hours)
Covers content from required practicals 1-6, and Units 1-4 i.e. Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms exchanging substances with their environment, and Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

Paper 2 (2 hours)
Covers content from required practicals 7-12, and Units 5-8 i.e. Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms responding to internal and external environmental changes, Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, and The control of gene expression.

Paper 3 (2 hours)
A synoptic paper which covers content from Units 1-8, and all required practicals. This paper also includes an essay.

Where will it lead?

Studying biology provides a deep understanding of life and nature, fuelling curiosity about living organisms. It can lead to career opportunities including fields like Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacology, Research, Clinical Scientist, Genomics, Biotechnology and Environmental science. It also empowers you to make informed decisions about your health and actively contribute to global conservation.

- **Career Versatility:** Biology opens doors to diverse paths such as healthcare, genetics, pharmaceuticals, and environmental consultancy.
- **Real-World Impact:** You can directly contribute to solving global challenges, from disease research and vaccine development to combating climate change.
- **Transferable Skills:** Beyond subject knowledge, you will develop crucial skills in data analysis, research, teamwork, and communication highly valued by employers across all sectors.
- **Personal Health & Wellness:** A background in human anatomy and biology empowers you to make better, science-backed lifestyle choices regarding diet, exercise, and preventative healthcare.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Biology bridges the gap between traditional classrooms, hands-on lab experiments, and exciting outdoor fieldwork.
- **Fosters Curiosity:** It constantly asks the "why" and "how" regarding living organisms, giving you a greater appreciation for the diversity of the natural world.

Super Curricular Opportunities

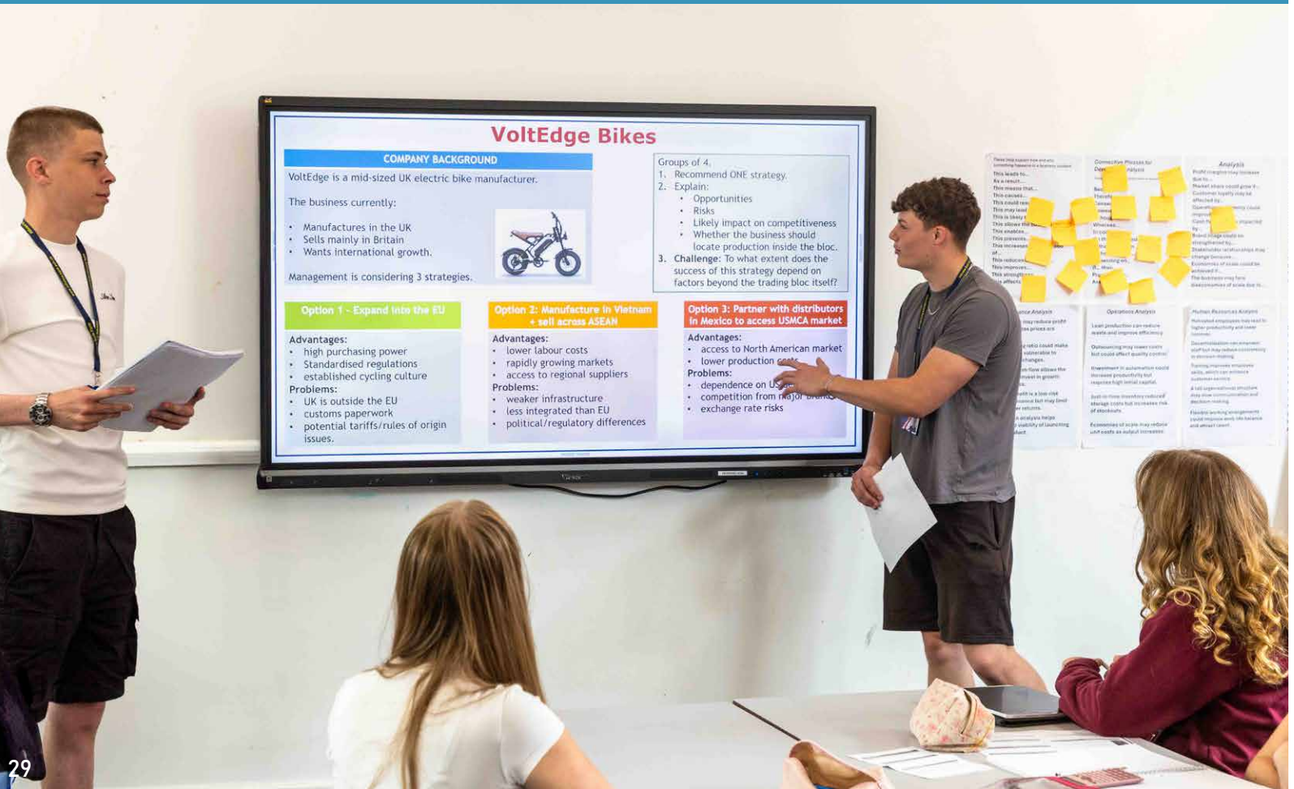
- Attend annual Biology conference
- Local university outreach workshops
- Regular online presentations from guest speakers
- Off-site fieldwork opportunities

Links to other courses

Chemistry, Maths, Psychology, Geography, and Physical Education

BUSINESS STUDIES

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Business Studies	Bs	Level 3	Edexcel	APS: 4.5 GCSE Maths: 5+ GCSE English Language: 5+ GCSE Business Studies qualification preferred but not essential. Taking Core Maths as an Enrichment is recommended for students taking this course.



What will I study?

Students will develop an understanding of the conceptsandtechniquesusedinmanagingabusiness.

Students are introduced to business in Year 12 by looking at the themes of Marketing and People and Managing Business Activities, helping to build knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work.

During this year topics such as the marketing mix, entrepreneurs and leaders and financial planning will be covered.

In Year 13, the course develops greater depth of knowledge and understanding, investigating more complex business information around the themes of Business Decisions and strategy and Global Business, requiring students to take a strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

The A Level itself, is made up of three 2-hour papers, the last of which has a pre-release which is industry focused students will research this in advance.

Examinations

Paper 1 (2 hours)
Covers content from Theme 1, on Marketing and People and Theme 4, on Global Business looking at the impact of Multinational Corporations.

Paper 2 (2 hours)
Covers content from Theme 2 looking at Managing Business activities and Theme 3 on Business Decisions and Strategy. This paper has a heavier emphasis on the financial elements of the course.

Paper 3 (2 hours)
Covers content from all four Themes in Paper 1 and 2 and is based on a pre-release looking at a specific industry such as the Confectionary or Fashion industries.

Where will it lead?

There are many business-based university courses available. Business students often progress onto Business Management courses or specialise in an aspect of business such as Marketing. They may also choose to pursue an apprenticeship degree programme.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Guest speakers from the business world
- Students take part in a number of external business and entrepreneurial chellenges during the course
- Year 12 students take part in regional business challenges

Links to other courses

Psychology and Sociology. A Level Business is also a valuable qualification for any student aspiring to reach management level in the public or private sector.

CHEMISTRY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Chemistry	Ch	Level 3	OCR	APS: 5.5 GCSE Chemistry: 6+ or Combined Science 7/6+ GCSE Maths: 6+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

A Level Chemistry develops critical problem-solving, analytical, and practical skills. It gives students the opportunity to study key concepts in greater depth. Many of the ideas first covered at GCSE will be revisited but with a greater emphasis on explaining rather than simply describing the behaviour of molecules. While studying A Level Chemistry students will develop their understanding of Chemistry along with their practical skills which include making observations, collecting data, analysing experimental results and formulating conclusions.

Examinations

Students will sit two 2hr 15 min papers and one 1hr 30min paper covering the following topics:

Physical Chemistry Topics Include:

- Atomic structure
- Bonding
- Kinetics
- Chemical equilibrium
- Redox reactions
- Rates of reactions
- Electrochemical cells
- Acids and Bases

Inorganic Chemistry Topics Include:

- Periodicity
- Group 2 elements
- Group 7 elements
- Properties of Group 3 elements
- Transition elements
- Reactions of ions.

Organic Chemistry Topics Include:

- Alkanes
- Halogenoalkanes
- Alkenes
- Alcohols
- Aldehydes
- Ketones
- Carboxylic acids
- Amines
- Chromatography

Where will it lead

A Level Chemistry acts as an essential gateway qualification for competitive university pathways—such as Medicine, Dentistry, and Engineering. It can also lead to careers as Forensic Scientist, Pathologist, Clinical Scientist, Analytical Chemist, and Chemical Engineer.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Attend annual Chemistry conference
- Regular online presentations from guest speakers
- Local university outreach workshops

Links to other courses

A Level Biology, Maths, and Geography

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Classical Civilisation	Cc	Level 3	OCR	APS: 4.75 GCSE English Literature: 6+ GCSE History or Ancient History: 6+

What will I study?

The Classical Civilisation A Level course gives students the opportunity to study a range of significant individuals, societies and events which will inspire and motivate them to engage further with the classical world.

The course offers a range of options, and covers both the study of Roman and Greek societies.

The course consists of:

Unit 1: The World of the Hero

This unitexplores both the Greek and Roman epic through the study of Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aenied. With their unique composition and exciting tales of gods and heroes, these works of literature form an excellent grounding for exploration of the classical world.

Unit 2: Culture and Arts

The Invention of Barbarian, involves the study of physical remains of the ancient world to explore how the Greeks saw themselves as distinct from their 'barbarian' neighbours.

Unit 3: Beliefs and Ideas

Greek Religion. In this unit students study classical thought, exploring the nature of the gods and their relationship with mortals alongside the role that religion played in the creation of local and Panhellenic identities.

Where will it lead?

There are many university courses available to students who have studied History at A Level, such as Ancient History, Classical Civilisation, History and Archaeology, which could lead to a range of career possibilities from Museum Curator to Law and Journalism.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Visits to British Museum
- London History Conferences
- Trips to local important historical sites

Links to other courses

English, Religious Studies and History

DANCE

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Dance	Da	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.25 GCSE English Language: 4+ GCSE Dance (or Equivalent): 5+

What will I study?

The A Level Dance course extends students' knowledge and understanding of performance, choreography and appreciation. The specification reflects both historical and current dance practices making it interesting and relevant.

This course provides a well-rounded Dance education and opens doors to a wide range of careers and pathways.

Component One: Performance and Choreography (Practical Examination)

Students will learn a variety of solos in a range of styles based on the features of a practitioner including Matthew Bourne, Bob Fosse and Jerome Robbins to name a few. As well as this, students will learn, contribute to and perform a quartet in a modern style. Choreographically, students will create an original piece for three to five dancers in response to an externally set task.

Component Two: Critical Engagement (Written Examination)

Students will develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of 'Rooster' by Christopher Bruce and 'Sutra' by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, as well as their corresponding areas of study, Rambert Dance Company and The Independent Contemporary Dance Scene in Britain.

Where will it lead?

A-level Dance encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

The course also prepares students for professional dance training and university study, which could lead to a variety of careers such as dancer/performer, choreographer, director, stage manager, dance critic, physiotherapist, movement therapist, dance teacher and many more. which could lead to a range of career possibilities from Museum Curator to Law and Journalism.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Performance opportunities including the biennial Dance Platform event and summer show at the EM Forster Theatre
- Biennial Dance trip to New York
- Biennial trip to 'Move It'
- Theatre trips
- Workshops from industry professionals
- Accelerate and Momentum Dance Companies
- Dance Ambassador programme
  - Lead workshops and clubs for KS3 students
  - Support KS4 students in GCSE preparation
  - Social media opportunities
  - Costume and wardrobe opportunities

Links to other courses

A Level Dance complements many other subjects, most notably; Art, Biology, Drama, English, History, Music and PE.

DRAMA

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Drama	Dr	Level 3	Edexcel	APS: 4.25 GCSE English Language: 4+ GCSE Drama (or Equivalent): 5+

What will I study?

Students will develop their acting skills and the ability to work creatively with others. Students will study different theatre practitioners as well as modern and classical texts through practical exploration and research.

There are three main performances during the course; a directed role in a play, a monologue and a group-devised piece of theatre. Students usually choose to act but it is possible to complete units as a designer.

The A Level Drama qualification has two assessed components:

Component 1: 40% Devising

Students will devise a performance based on an extract from a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner.

Component 2: 40% Theatre Makers in Practice

This is a written examination and includes reviewing a live theatre performance and writing about contrasting texts as a performer, designer and director.

Where will it lead?

There are many university or drama school courses available. Students taking A Level Drama develop the skills to progress into performing, stage management, journalism, teaching, law and the caring professions. Theatre Studies improve students' confidence, communication and presentation skills which are vital for success in many careers.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- We actively look for opportunities to engage with a range of professional practitioners within the Performing Arts Industry. Previous examples have included: Frantic Assembly, The Stanislavski Experience, Kate Griffiths, a make-up artist who has a wealth of experience in stage, television and special effects and True Edge, who train students in stage combat.
- Theatre productions at school and at professional venues where students have the opportunity to both perform and work backstage
- Trips to see live theatre performances

Links to other courses

Dance, English Literature, Film Studies, Music and Media Studies

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
English Language and Literature	Li	Level 3	OCR	APS: 4.75 GCSE English Language: GCSE English Literature: Minimum grade 6+ and 5+ (in any combination)

What will I study?

This course will enable students to develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language. This is done through analysing and evaluating a broad range of texts, including the study of non-fiction spoken and written texts, novels, poetry and plays, as well as including opportunities for original writing. It also features independent study and wider reading in an area of particular personal interest, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level. The breadth of study allows students to investigate the links between language and literature and the connections between texts and the context in which they are created and received.

Why study English?

The breadth of skills developed through the study of English at A Level provides excellent preparation for a wide range of careers, post-16 pathways and Higher Education courses. You will learn to develop a logical and convincing line of argument, interpret independently and think critically. English is also highly regarded as an academic discipline that demonstrates your ability to read widely and produce articulate, cohesive written responses.

The texts studied for examination include:

- An anthology of creative non-fiction, spoken and digital texts
- One literary drama text
- One prose fiction text
- One poetry collection

Assessment:

- Paper 1 - Non-fiction spoken and written texts
- Paper 2 - Poetry and drama
- Paper 3 - Reading as a Writer, Writing as a Reader

For coursework, students will create two pieces of work: an analytical comparative essay with some choice of text, and a creative non-fiction piece with an evaluative commentary.

Where will it lead?

The qualities of oral and written communication that are gained through the course, combined with the high level of skills acquired in self-reliant study, provide a firm basis for future employment.

Those who study English go on to a variety of different careers including:
Broadcast and Print Journalism, Multimedia, Arts Administration, Advertising and Marketing, Primary and Secondary Teaching and Law.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- The study of Shakespeare is supported by visiting the Globe theatre and taking part in a theatre workshop
- Theatre visits allow students to attend productions of the drama texts studied
- Visits from guest speakers who talk to our students about careers relevant to English, including publishing, journalism and fiction writing

Links to other courses

Drama, History, Sociology, Film Studies, Media.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
English Literature	Li	Level 3	Edexcel	APS: 4.75 GCSE English Literature: 6+ GCSE English Language: 5+

What will I study?

This course encourages students to develop an interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. Students will experience an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them and will investigate the wider social and historical context of their production and reception.

The course focuses on close textual analysis, the relationship between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood, and how groupsof texts fit into themes.

For examination, the set texts studied across the three papers will include two collections of poetry, two pieces of prose, one Shakespeare and one modern drama text.

Students will also analyse and respond to one unseen poem, comparing it to a known poem.For the coursework element, students are required to produce a comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900, on a theme of your choice.

This aspect of the course encourages autonomous personal reading, with teacher guidance on appropriate text choices and combinations, providing a challenging and wide-ranging opportunity for independent study.

Where will it lead?

The qualities of oral and written communication that are gained through the course, combined with the extensive skills acquired through self-reliant study, provide a firm basis for future employment.

Those who study English go on to a variety of different careers, including:
Broadcast and Print Journalism, Multimedia, Arts Administration, Advertising and Marketing, Primary and Secondary Teaching and Law.

Super Curricular Opportunities

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Links to other courses

Dance, Film Studies, Music and Media Studies

FILM STUDIES

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Film Studies	Fs	Level 3	WJEC / EDUQAS	APS: 4.5 GCSE English Literature: 5+ GCSE English Language: 5+

What will I study?

Film Studies utilises many of the critical skills developed through the study of English Literature and allows students to express these through a visual medium.

Students are introduced to a wide variety offilms originating from diverse cultures and communities, with the aim of both enhancing their critical appreciation of such art forms as well as honing their ability to critically analyse texts.

Assessment: 70% written exam, 30% coursework.

The two-year course is divided into three components:

Component 1

- Hollywood 1930 – 1990
- American Film since 2005
- British Film since 1995

Component 2

- Global Film
- Documentary Film
- Silent Cinema
- Experimental Film

Component 3

The practical coursework elements givestudents the opportunity to make their own films, develop their own screenplays and storyboards whilst also requiring them to undertake research on a topic/ aspect of film of their own choosing.

Film Studies include:

oker, Shaun of the Dead and Promising Young Woman.

Where will it lead?

Film Studies students can progress into a wide range of careers such as journalism, marketing, graphic design, film production, public relations and publishing.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Industry experts as guest speakers
- External competition
- Access to the Hillview cinema
- Trips to the British Film Institute
- Departmental blog, YouTube channel and internal social networking

Links to other courses

English Literature, History, Psychology, Sociology, Art and Photography

FRENCH

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
French	Fr	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.75 GCSE French: 6+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

A Level French is an exciting and intellectually stimulating course that builds on the language skills developed at GCSE, while offering a deeper understanding of French-speaking cultures. It equips students with the ability to communicate fluently and confidently in French, and explore the rich cultural, social, political, and artistic heritage of the Francophone world.

Why choose French?

Studying French at A Level not only opens the door to mastering a global language, but also develops highly transferable skills such as critical thinking, analysis, communication, and intercultural awareness. Whether you are passionate about languages, keen on travel, or simply looking for a subject that complements both arts and science pathways, French offers a versatile and respected option that stands out on university and job applications.

Top universities such as the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University College London (UCL), the University of Edinburgh, and Durham University highly value A Level French as part of their modern languages and humanities admissions.

What does the course involve?

The AQA French A Level covers a wide range of engaging themes, including social issues, cultural topics, political trends, and artistic expression in French-speaking countries.

You will study two works of French literature or cinema, learn how to present and defend your ideas in discussions and essays, and undertake an Independent Research Project on a topic of your choice.

Assessments

This course includes two exams testing listening, reading, translation, and essay writing, plus an oral exam that includes a discussion and a presentation based on their research.

Where will it lead?

A Level French can lead to a wide variety of university courses, including joint honours or specialist degrees in languages, European studies, international relations, or business. It is also highly valued in careers such as law, journalism, teaching, translation, diplomacy, tourism, and international business. Proficiency in French can set you apart in the global job market and equip you for work across Europe, Africa, and beyond.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- French Cultural Club (film and music sessions)
- Courses taken though Institut Français

Links to other courses

Business Studies, Travel and Tourism, French, English Literature and Drama

GEOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Geography	Gg	Level 3	Edexcel	APS: 4.75 GCSE Geography: 5+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

This is an issues-based approach to studying Geography, enabling students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and challenges facing the world today.

Over the duration of the A Level Geography course students will develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human Geography, the complexity of people and environmental questions and issues, and become critical, reflective and independent learners.

The course consists of four compulsory elements, including three examinations: Physical paper, Human paper, Synoptic paper.

Students also complete an Independent Investigation (coursework) - students will be required to attend a minimum of four days of fieldwork, which will support geographical understanding in both human and physical geography. A 3000 – 4000 word investigation report will be produced.

Key issues include: the local and global impacts of globalisation, responses to hazards, managing water insecurity and climate change. Students will be required to read widely and undertake independent research.

Where will it lead?

Geography can take you anywhere! There are many university courses available that link to Geography; from Accountancy, Travel, Conservation, Ecology, Geology, Town Planning, Management and European Studies, Resource Management and Retail Management - the list is endless!

Students can of course study a variety of Human and/or Physical Geography courses too.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Students will go in year 13 on a week-long residential trip to a location in the UK for the Non-Examined Assessment Unit (NEA) and carry out an investigation of their choice linked to the specification. In the past, students have completed NEAs linked to the coast and urban areas. They can choose to do anything geographical that interests them in those locations. It is a chance to see the geography they learn about in a real-world context.

Links to other courses

Business Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, History, Media Studies, PE, Drama, ICT, Health and Social Care, RS and Languages, Sustainability (Enrichment).

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Government and Politics	Go	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.75 GCSE English Language: 6+ GCSE Humanities subject: 6+

What will I study?

A-Level Politics will develop sharp critical thinking, enable you to debate real-world issues, and understand how power truly works. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how politics and society really works, which will be enlightening and empowering. By studying both UK and US political systems through news and current affairs, this A Level will enhance skills of analysis and evaluation. A challenging yet rewarding course.

The A Level consists of three units, each with a 2-hour exam and each is worth 33.3% of the total grade.

Paper 1: Government & Politics of the UK

This unit explores the relationship between power and democracy in the UK through elections, parties and pressure groups with the apparatus of governing the UK, which includes parliament, the judiciary, prime minister and cabinet.

Paper 2: USA & Comparative Politics

This unit explores the nature and sources of the US political system as a comparative study to the UK exploring issues such as civil rights, pressure groups and electoral systems.

Paper 3: Political ideas

This unit will teach the underlying ideologies that have shaped political thought. We cover liberalism, socialism, conservatism and feminism.

Where will it lead?

This course is ideal for students considering studying Politics, Sociology, Ethics, Advertising or Journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the Civil Service.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Trips to parliament
- Attending A level political conferences
- Potential work experience opportunities with local MP
- Guest speakers including local politicians

Links to other courses

History, Sociology, Geography, Media.

HISTORY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
History	Hi	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.75 GCSE History or Ancient History: 6+ GCSE English Language: 5+

What will I study?

History develops students' independent thought and analytical skills and requires excellent communication skills. Students will be required to present the results of research both in independent work and in the context of group discussions. Wider reading is essential. The course comprises of three units. Two units are assessed by final examination, each worth 40% of the total A Level. The third unit is assessed by an historical investigation of 4000 words.

Unit 1: The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

This unit allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
- In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
- How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
- How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups?

Unit 2: Revolution to Dictatorship Russia 1917-1953

This option provides for the in-depth study of a period of Russian history during which students will the Russian Revolutions, Bolshevik consolidation, the rise of Stalin and his consolidation of power and control.

It explores political concepts such as 'communism' and 'socialism', the nature of Stalin's dictatorship and his famous purges. It also encourages reflection on how governments work and the problems of totalitarian rule as well as the impact of Russia within wider world events.

Unit 3: Historical Investigation

An independent research project in which students explore a case study that spans 100 years for the non examined component.

Where will it lead?

There are many university courses available to students who have studied History at A Level, such as History, Ancient History, Classical Civilisation and Archaeology which could lead to a range of career possibilities from Museum Curator to Law and Journalism.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Study trips
- On-line Modern History Journals
- Visits to local historical sites

Links to other courses

Politics, English, Religious Studies and Classical Civilisation.

MATHS

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Maths	Ma	Level 3	AQA	APS: 5.5 GCSE Mathematics: 7+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

The Mathematics A Level course covers Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. The syllabus is divided in a simple 2:1 ratio of Pure to Applied content.

The Pure Mathematics elements of the course include algebra, geometry, calculus, series and trigonometry.

The Applied Mathematics elements are split between Statistics and Mechanics. Statistics is the study of the collection, presentation and analysis of data. Mechanics is a study of the mathematics of movement, including Newton's laws of motions, the formulae concerned with acceleration, velocity and displacement, vectors and force diagrams.

It will be examined through three examination papers at the end of year 13. The first paper is Pure Mathematics, the second paper is Pure and Mechanics and the third paper is Pure and Statistics. High levels of problem solving and mathematical logic will be required throughout the course.

Where will it lead?

Mathematics is fundamental for a wide variety of Higher Education courses and careers. Mathematics is essential if you wish to study Mathematics or Engineering and is advisable for Economics, Business, Computing, I.T. and Sciences. Mathematics is also very much welcomed for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Architecture.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Managing the budget for the Sixth Form Prom
- Mentoring younger students
- Sitting on the school's Charities Committee with budgeting and financial planning

Links to other courses

Mathematics combines well with most other subjects, particularly the Sciences, Social Sciences, Business Studies and ICT.

MEDIA STUDIES

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Media Studies	Ms	Level 3	EDUQAS / WJEC	APS: 4.5 GCSE English Language/Literature 5+

What will I study?

How can we interpret the world around us? Whether that be through access to the digital innovations of the last thirty years or through the traditional channels of print and broadcast, we are bombarded with thousands of messages on a daily basis.

The A Level Media Studies course aims to equip students with the critical and practical skills to allow them to make sense of the increasingly complex times in which we live.

Assessment: 70% written exam, 30% coursework. The two-year course is divided into 3 components.

Component 1: Media Products, Industries & Audiences

Component 2: Television in the Global Age, Magazines: Mainstream & Alternative, Online Media

Component 3: A Cross-Media Production

From a choice of briefs set by the awarding body, applying knowledge and understanding of the key concepts studied.

Where will it lead?

Media Studies students can progress into a wide range of careers such as journalism, marketing, graphic design, film production, public relations and publishing.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Trips to the British Film Institute Workshops run by external professionals
- Industry experts as guest speakers
- Cross-curricular and key stage projects
- External competitions Departmental blog, YouTube channel and internal social networking

Links to other courses

English Literature, Film Studies, History, Psychology, Sociology, Art and Photography.

MUSIC

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
WJEC Eduqas GCE A Level in Music	Mu	Level 3	Eduqas	GCSE Music - Grade 6 or above Instrumental and vocal standard to be equivalent to Grade 4 ABRSM/Guildhall/Trinity etc. and above. To be able to read from a stave in treble and bass clefs. GCSE Mathmatics 4+ GCSE English Language 5+

What will I study?

The Eduqas A Level Music course has three components: Performing, Composing and Appraising (Listening.)

Performing

Performing on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice, including band and orchestral instruments.

Composing

Exploring how great pieces of music were put together, then applying some of these techniques when composing your own music. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc.

Appraising

Listening to a variety of music and analysing what you hear, making connections between different pieces and describing how styles have evolved.

Where will it lead?

Music A level is valued by many universities because of its academic rigour and the ability of candidates to work creatively; you will demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life.

Eduqas music teachers have reported that many of their former A-level Music students continued to study Music at Music College, or Universities including Cambridge, Derby, Durham, Huddersfield, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle, Oxford, Sheffield, Surrey and York and others had gone on to universities (including Russell Group) to read a plethora of subjects of which some include Acting, Art, Arts Journalism, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classics, Computer Science, English and Drama.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- The Music Department runs several ensembles and provides opportunities to perform in a variety of contexts including our biennial events of the Music Tour to Belgium and a Musical Production at the E.M Forster Theatre. Ensembles include the Hillview **Community Choir, Orchestra, Chamber Group** (by audition or invitation) and **Record Label**, where students form bands, cover existing songs and write and record their own music in the recording studio.

Links to other courses

A-Level Music is a natural fit with Drama and Dance and Media Studies and because it is highly regarded by top universities for its mix of creative and analytical skills, it can also act as a strong contrasting subject alongside STEM subjects for traditional degrees like Medicine or Law.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Physical Education	Pe	Level 3	Edexcel	APS: 4.75 GCSE Maths: 6+ and/or GCSE Science: 6+ GCSE PE (or Equivalent*): 6+

What will I study?

The PE A level encourages a holistic understanding of PE. The qualifications will further develop students' understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical sport whilst also engaging with key issues and themes relating to contemporary global influences on physical education and sport.

The course Is assessed through externally assessed exams and internally assessed coursework and practical performance in one sport.

Paper 1. Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes. 40% of the qualification 140 marks.

- Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology
- Topic 2: Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis Biomechanics is embedded within the content of Topics 1 and 2.

Paper 2. Written examination: 2 hours. 30% of the qualification 100 marks.

- Topic 3: Skill acquisition
- Topic 4: Sport psychology
- Topic 5: Sport and society

Practical performance. Internally assessed, externally moderated. 15% of the qualification 40 marks.

- Skills performed in one physical activity as a player/performer **OR** Skills performed in one physical activity as a coach. Students MUST be taking part in at least one sport In the role of a performer or coach outside of school. The sports that are available for assessment must be from the prescribed list available from the PE dept, the sports available are the same for all courses at all Institutions.
- Performance Analysis and Performance Development Programme.

Non-examined assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 15% of the qualification 40 marks.

- In the role of player/performer or coach analyse two components of a physical activity (one physiological component and either a tactical or technical component).
- In the role of player/performer or coach analyse, implement and evaluate a Peformance Development Programme.

Where will it lead?

A level PE is an excellent route to further education to study Sports, Science or Social Science courses. A level PE can be a basis for pursuing careers in teaching, medical and psychological fields in addition to roles in coaching and the leisure industry.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- The PE department offers a range of activities for students to maintain their health and fitness.
- There is a fitness suite with cardio and weight based equipment open for the students' use.
- Trampolining, football netball, handball and cheerleading clubs.

Links to other courses

Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Art and Photography.

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Psychology	Py	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.75 GCSE Maths: 6+ and/or GCSE Science 6+ GCSE English Language/Literature 5+

What will I study?

Psychology is the study of the brain and human behaviour and is directly relevant to everyday life. It focuses on why people behave as they do. For example, what makes people obey, what happens inside our brain and how much of our behaviour is caused by either nature or nurture?

Students will follow the following units:

- Unit 1: Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Unit 2: Psychology in Context (Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods)
- Unit 3: Issues and Options in, Psychology (Issues and debates in Psychology, Gender, Schizophrenia and Aggression)

All exams are taken at the end of Year 13 and have equal weighting. The A Level is assessed by exam only.

Where will it lead?

Psychology provides a useful foundation or any job, as you will nearly always be working with people, whatever career path you follow. However, it is particularly valuable as preparation for a career in Teaching, Journalism, Health, Business, Social Work, Law and Medicine.

In order to work as a Chartered Psychologist, you will need to gain a degree in Psychology and then undertake post-graduate study to PhD level.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Tailored additional projects to suit career ambitions
- Annual trip to London Zoo to focus on learning and also the treatment of phobias
- A programme of external events to attend, sourced by the Psychology Subject Ambassadors
- Opportunity to participate in the National Psychology competition at Royal Holloway University

Links to other courses

Biology, Sociology, Media Studies, Health & Social Care, Religious Studies and Maths.

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Religious Studies	Rs	Level 3	Eduqas	APS: 4.5 GCSE English Language: 4+ There is no requirement to have studied the subject previously.

"How do you know you are real?"
"Is it really wrong to kill?"
"Why are zombies the go-to idea about the end of the world?"
"Is God made up by humans just to make them feel better about themselves?"

Welcome to Religious Studies A-Level, where these ideas and more are considered as part of the Eduqas course.

What will I study?

Two thirds of the course is focused on Philosophy and Ethics; considering Cartesian concepts of self, whether there is an objective morality, differences between 'good' and 'right', does belief in religion inhibit human flourishing.

The final part is a study of Christianity: If God exists is it reasonable to ascribe gender? Was Jesus just a social revolutionary rather than God made flesh? Does belief in resurrection of the body mean we all come back as zombies?

Why choose this course?

This is very much a skills focused course giving opportunities for critical analysis, reading and interpreting source material, relaying complex information, constructing coherent, persuasive arguments, developing empathy and understanding for differing worldviews, weighing moral dilemmas and making reasoned judgements.

Assessment

3 x 2 hour exams:

- Philosophy
- Ethics
- Study of a World Religion: Christianity

Where can it lead?

Careers:

- Civil service and government e.g. Policy Advisor
- Diplomatic service or International Relations
- Media and Journalism
- Law
- Financial Services
- Security Services such as MI5 or GCHQ
- Charity worker or working with NGO's
- Museum curator/archivist/researcher
- Essentially anything that involves dealing with people.

Ultimately the subject encourages empathy and understanding of others – not agreement or simple toleration, but engagement, dialogue, and a way of making society better.

Super Curricular Opportunities

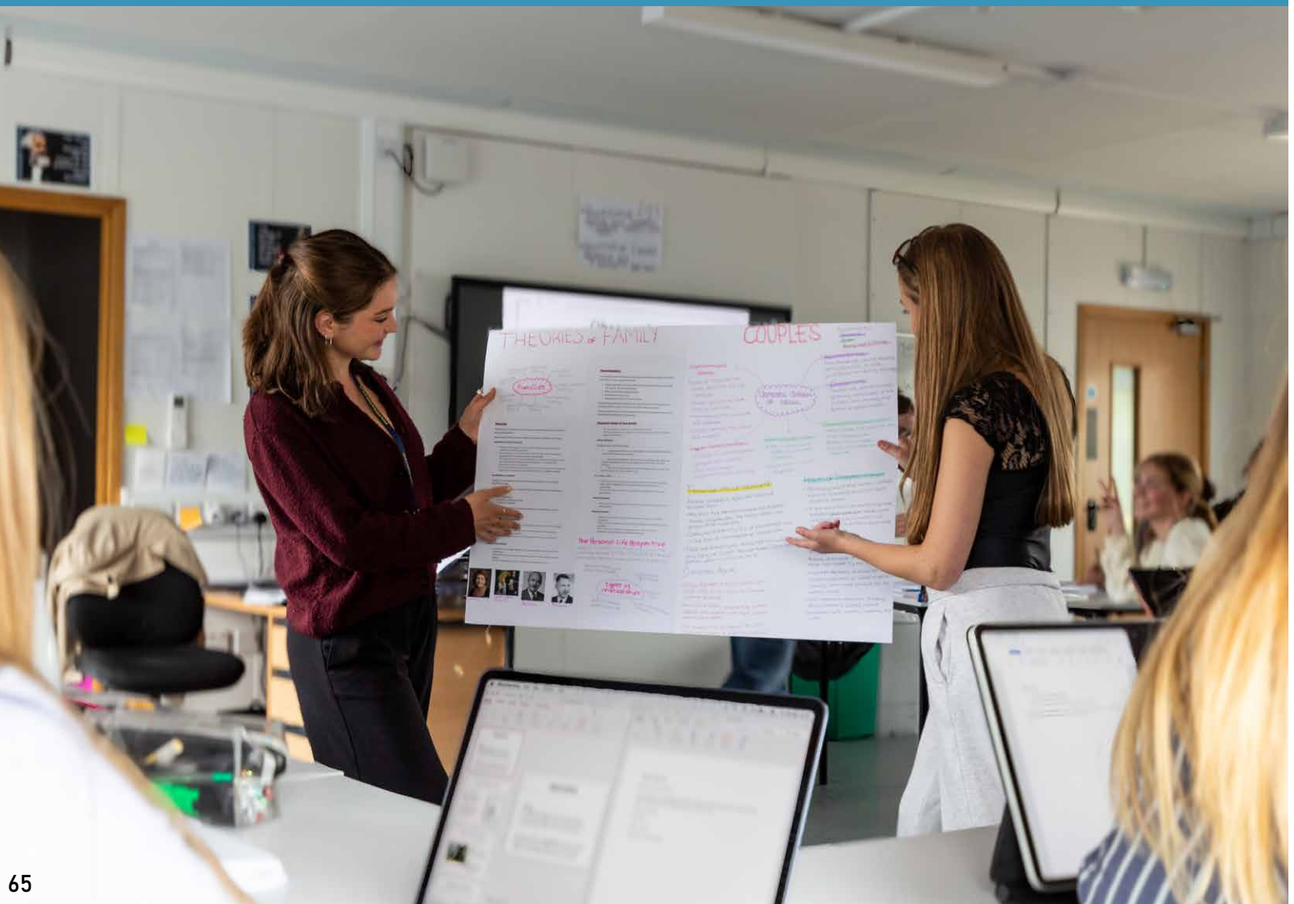
- Lectures and talks given by some
- renowned religious leaders and current philosophers, such as Richard Dawkins, Stephen Law, Keith Ward and Rowan Williams
- Many university philosophy departments hold regular essay competitions for A Level students to enter
- Visits to key places of worship in London, as well as the National Gallery and British Museum

Links to other courses

English Literature, Sociology, Psychology and History.

SOCIOLOGY

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Sociology	So	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.75 GCSE English Language: 5+



What will I study?

Sociology is the study of society and social behaviour. It is a social science that uses data from various sources to analyse trends in the way that societies are organised, including how groups in societies interact and the roles that institutions play in society.

Sociology also involves thinking critically and forming reasoned arguments using philosophical perspectives that attempt to explain social behaviour.

The A Level Sociology course covers:

- Education, including the role of education, social policy and educational attainment of different genders, ethnicities and social classes
- Families and households, including demographic trends in UK families, changes in the nature of family, childhood and the position of women
- Crime and deviance, including perspectives on why crimes are committed, types of crime and criminological research
- Media including representations in the Media, edffact of media on audiences and impact of Globalisation
- Sociological theory and research methods, including perspectives such as feminism and Marxism, as well as factors influencing choices in sociological research design
- Current affairs and issues in society today, such as globalisation, social differentiation, culture and identity

Assessment takes place at the end of Year 13 and is 100% external exam (three exams of two hours each).

Where will it lead?

There are numerous Sociology and Criminology related university courses.Sociology is also an extremely valuable subject for anyone thinking of working in the “people centred” professions e.g. teaching, social work, academic research, the police, law and Civil Service.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Trips to Sociology conferences
- Visits e.g. courts of Law, places of worship, universities etc
- Subject specialist as guest speakers
- Trip to Bethlem Museum of the Mind

Links to other courses

Media Studies, Geography, English, Religious Studies and Psychology.

SPANISH

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Spanish	Sp	Level 3	AQA	APS: 4.75 GCSE Spanish: 6+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

What is A Level Spanish?

A Level Spanish is a dynamic and rewarding course that builds on the language skills developed at GCSE, while offering a deeper understanding of the cultures, politics, and societies of the Spanish-speaking world. It enables students to communicate confidently and fluently in Spanish and to engage critically with a range of contemporary and cultural topics.

Why choose Spanish?

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, used across Europe, the Americas, and beyond. Studying Spanish at A Level develops valuable skills such as communication, analysis, cultural awareness, and adaptability. It pairs well with subjects like English, History, Politics, and Business, and is highly regarded by leading universities including the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University College London (UCL), the University of Manchester, and King's College London.

What does the course involve?

The AQA Spanish A Level covers a broad range of topics including social issues, artistic culture, political life, and multiculturalism in Spanish-speaking countries. Students study two cultural works — a film and a literary text — and undertake an Independent Research Project on a topic of their choice.

Assessment includes two exams testing listening, reading, translation, and essay writing, plus an oral exam that includes a discussion and a presentation based on their research.

Where will it lead?

A Level Spanish opens the door to degree courses in Spanish, Modern Languages, International Relations, or Law with Languages. It is also a strong asset in careers such as diplomacy, translation, journalism, international business, education, travel and tourism, and intelligence services. Spanish speakers are in demand in global organisations, and fluency can set students apart in the competitive international job market.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Spanish Cultural Club (film and music sessions)
- Courses taken though Instituto Cervantes of London

Links to other courses

Business Studies, Travel and Tourism, Spanish, English Literature and Drama

APPLIED FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Course Title: The WJEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Food Science and Nutrition (Extended Certificate)	Fc	Level 3	WJEC (Eduquas)	APS: 4.25 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and DT or related subjects: 5+ GCSE Maths and/or GCSE Science: 4+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

Food Science and Nutrition is an exciting course if you're interested in understanding the science behind food production, dietary health and how nutrition impacts well-being, this qualification is a great fit for you. It blends academic knowledge with practical application, helping you develop valuable real-world skills while building a solid academic foundation.

This qualification is especially beneficial if you're looking to continue your education at university and pursue careers in areas such as dietetics, food science, nutrition consultancy, public health or food product development.

UNIT 1: Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages (mandatory)
Provides in-depth understanding of the properties and functions of nutrients, the impact of food production on nutritional value and how dietary requirements vary across different life stages. You will be assessed through a written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 25% of qualification - 80 marks

UNIT 2: Developing Practical Food Production Skills (mandatory)
You will apply theoretical knowledge in a hands-on environment, learning advanced food preparation techniques while considering nutritional value and dietary needs. These skills mirror practical elements found in undergraduate

laboratory-based / practical food science modules. Non-examination assessment (NEA) 9 hours 30 minutes - 25% of qualification - 100 marks

UNIT 3: Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety (mandatory)
Particularly relevant if you intend to pursue a career involving food technology, quality control and food safety management as it introduces fundamental concepts related to foodborne illnesses, hazard analysis and industry standards. Written examination -1 hours 30 minutes - 25% of qualification - 80marks

UNIT 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems (optional)
You will develop research and investigative skills, mirroring scientific methodologies used in university-level courses. You will learn how to formulate hypotheses, design and conduct experiments and analyse results. Non-examination assessment (NEA). 12 hours - 25% of qualification - 100marks

UNIT 5: Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition (optional)
This unit encourages critical thinking and research into contemporary food science challenges, preparing students for research-focused university programmes Non-examination assessment (NEA) 12 hours - 25% of qualification - 100marks

Where will it lead

This course will enable learners to move on to a wide range of Food and Nutrition courses at Foundation and Degree level and will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as:

- BSc Food and Nutrition
- BSc Food Science
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc Nutrition and Dietetics
- BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition
- BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Trips to hotels, food markets, street food and other food facilities
- Presentation and workshops with Industry Partners, Nutritionist and Dieticians
- Food Science Lab experiments
- London Food Tours

Links to other courses

Biology, Business, Chemistry, Health and Social Care, Mathematics, Physical Education and Psychology

APPLIED SCIENCE

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (AAQ)	St	Level 3	Edexcel	APS: 5.25 Any combination of two GCSE Sciences 4+ GCSE Maths: 4+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

Studying an AAQ (Alternative Academic Qualification) in Applied Science offers a practical, career-focused alternative to traditional A-Levels. The Extended certificate is equivalent to one A-Level, it combines rigorous scientific theory with hands-on laboratory experience and project-based assessment. The course is suitable for students who are interested in learning about the Applied Science sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in Applied Science related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes A-Levels.

Examinations

Students will study five units over the two years and sit three externally assessed 1hr exams in each of the three Sciences along with submitting coursework in two other units.

Unit 1: Principles & Applications of Biology
Structure and function of cells and tissues, biological molecules, enzymes and their role in organisms

Unit 2: Principles & Applications of Chemistry
Structure of the Periodic Table and its implications on physical and chemical properties of substances, through analysis of different bonding methods

Unit 3: Principles & Applications of Physics
Waves and their applications; force principles and their application in transportation and construction of electrical circuits

Unit 4: Practical Scientific Procedures & Techniques
Practical applications across the sciences, including chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits.

Students have a choice from two optional units covering the following topics:

Unit 5: Scientific Investigation Skills
Investigative research, including planning, data collection, analysis and evaluation.

Unit 6: Contemporary Issues in Science
Contemporary scientific issues including the reliability of sources of scientific information and their associated validity.

Where will it lead

Studying the AAQ in Applied Science prepares you for a broad spectrum of STEM careers and higher education pathways. It provides rigorous practical lab training combined with academic theory, equipping you for university degrees, higher apprenticeships, and specialised technical roles in healthcare, research, and Biotechnology.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Regular online presentations from guest speakers
- Local university outreach workshops
- Off-site fieldwork opportunities

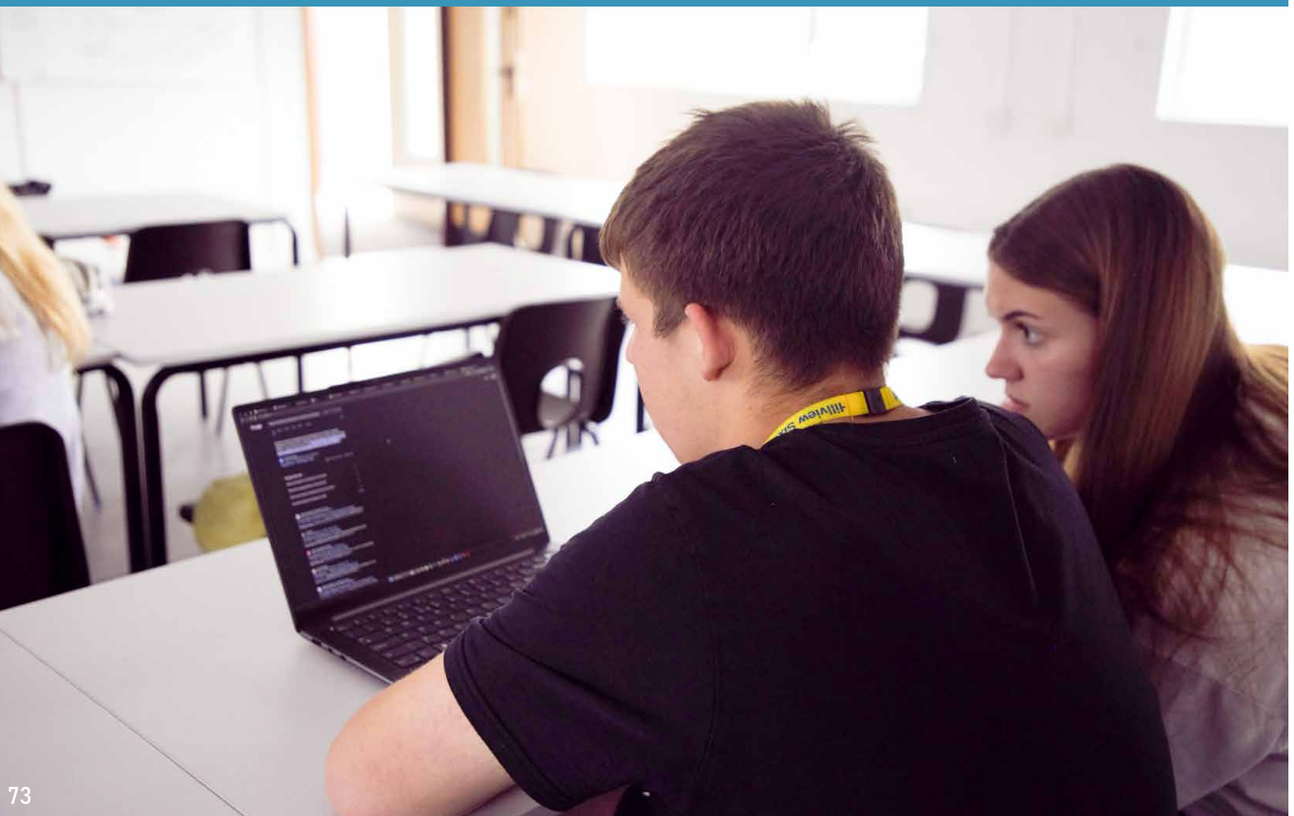
Links to other courses

Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physical Education, Health and Social Care, Childcare Psychology, Sociology, and ICT.

DIGITAL SYSTEMS & DATA

New Course! *

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
V Level in Digital Systems & Data	Cs	Level 3	Edexcel (Subject to Change)	APS: 4.50 GCSE Maths and English Language: Grade 4 GCSE Computer Science or Computing/ Programming Equivalent: Grade 4 **(Entry requirements subject to change)**



The new V Level Digital Systems & Data course replaces vocational Computer Science and ICT specifications in 2027.

The detail around this course has not been released but we expect to be able to offer information on the structure and content of the course by the end of September 2026.

EDUCATION

New Course! *

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
V Level in Eduction (Subject to change)	Ce	Level 3	Pearson (Subject to change)	Any student meeting the Sixth Form entrance criteria is eligible for this course. GCSE Maths: 4+ GCSE English Language: 4+ **(Entry requirements subject to change)**

The new V Level Education course replaces vocational Childcare and Education specifications in 2027.

The detail around this course has not been released but we expect to be able to offer information on the structure and content of the course by the end of September 2026.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate	Hc	Level 3	Edexcel	Any student meeting the Sixth Form entrance criteria is eligible for this course. GCSE Maths: 4+ GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

The Extended Certificate is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector alongside other fields of study. The course provides robust opportunities for learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of subject areas relating to health and social care provision such as responsibilities, legislation as well a development and common illness and diseases.

This knowledge supports progression to a wide range of higher education courses, not only in health and social care-related subjects, but in any area of employment which involves working with people.

Learners will study 4 units over the 2 years: 3 mandatory and 1 optional unit.

Assessment

- All units are weighted the same: 25% of the total grade.
- External assessment 50%; Coursework 50%.

Mandatory Units

Human Lifespan & Development (external exam)
Students examine physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, the interaction between biological and social factors in health and wellbeing and how health care professionals provide effective care.

Human Biology & Health (external exam)
Students explore the organisation, structure and normal physiological functioning of the human body, and the effect on health of common disorders of the body systems.

Principles of Health and Social Care Practice (coursework unit)

Final Optional Coursework Unit

BTEC National qualifications are graded using a scale of P to D*

Where will it lead?

Students can progress into both employment and further study in all types of care – social, health, child or public services. In the past, Hillview students have elected to study Child, Mental and Adult Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedical Science, Youth Work, Social Work, Primary School Teaching, Forensic Science, Child Studies, Human Resource and many other interesting courses at university.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Additional First Aid qualification
- Trips to various industry work settings
- Guest speakers from a variety of backgrounds –nurses, social workers, paramedics, Age UK, carers and many more

Links to other courses

Biology, Applied Science, Childcare, Dance, Drama, Sport, Art, Applied Business, Psychology, Sociology and English.

MENTAL HEALTH

New Course! *

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
Cambridge OCR Level 3 AAQ Cambridge Advanced National in Mental Health: Individuals & Society (Extended Certificate)	Mh	Level 3	OCR	APS: 4.25 GCSE English Language: 4+ GCSE Maths: 4+ GCSE Any Science: 4+

What will I study?

This is an exciting new AAQ for those interested in the field of Mental Health which is a growth area and the content would be applicable both at a professional level as well as on a personal level. Some of the topics covered include: Introducing mental health and wellbeing, the brain and body, factors influencing mental health and wellbeing, current practice around mental health, evolving perceptions of mental health in society and investigating activities for therapeutic purposes to support mental health

Examinations

Learners will study 5 units over the two year course. This includes 2 mandatory exam units, 2 mandatory coursework (or NEA) units as well as a final optional coursework unit.

Exam 1: F400: Fundamentals of mental health and the individual (1hr 45min)
Topics include: Introducing mental health and wellbeing, the brain and body, factors influencing mental health and wellbeing, models of mental health, mental health issues and disorders and strategies for managing mental health and wellbeing

Exam 2: F401: Mental health, wellbeing and society (1hr 15min)
Topics include: Evolving perceptions of mental health in society, societal developments and mental health, society today, current influences on the mental health and wellbeing of society

Where will it lead?

Student can progress into the world of work to study apprenticeships at Level 3 and above in health or social care type industries such working for charities, local authorities or the NHS. They would also be able to progress to university to study areas such as:

- BSc (Hons) Mental Health and Wellbeing
- BA (Hons) Counselling, Mental Health and wellbeing
- BSc (Hons) Mental Health and Wellbeing Coaching
- BSc (Hons) Health and Wellbeing
- BSc (Hons) Health Studies

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Taught by specialist in Psychology
- Guest speaker

Links to other courses

Psychology, Sociology, Business, Health and social care, biology

MUSICAL THEATRE

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Performance (Musical Theatre)	Pm	Level 3	Edexcel	Any student meeting the Sixth Form entrance criteria is eligible for this course. However, applicants must be able to demonstrate significant experience in 2 from the following Acting/ Dancing/Singing - this could include GCSE Drama/ Dance or Music at Grade 5+ or equivalents. GCSE English Language: 4+

What will I study?

This course provides an excellent stepping stone for those wishing to pursue future studies and careers in Performing Arts.

Unlike many institutions, the nature of the Musical Theatre course offered at Hillview allows students to study other A Levels or Vocational qualifications alongside their Musical Theatre training, resulting in a well-rounded experience leading to many opportunities.

Likewise, students can choose complementary courses which lend more focus to pursuing a Performing Arts career, including A level Dance, Drama and Music.

Students will learn, develop, and combine singing, dancing and acting to a professional standard through the following Units:

- Unit 3 – Group Performance Workshop
- Unit 27 – Musical Theatre Techniques
- Unit 34 – Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance
- Unit 10 – Jazz Dance Technique
- Unit 23 – Singing Techniques for Performers

Students will take part in many performances and benefit from our excellent facilities, including our own studio theatre with professional lighting rig.

Where will it lead?

This course prepares students for a career in Music, Entertainment, Performance Support and Musical Theatre Performance. Many students also progress into Higher Education to study Music Performance, Musical Theatre and Performing Arts.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Performance opportunities including the biennial Dance Platform event and summer show at the EM Forster Theatre
- Theatre trips
- Workshops from industry professionals
- Accelerate and Momentum Dance Companies
- Opportunities to lead sessions at our Musical Theatre club for KS3/4 students

Links to other courses

Drama, Dance and Music.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

COURSE TITLE	COURSE CODE	COURSE LEVEL	EXAMINATION BOARD	SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRANCE CRITERIA
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism	Tt	Level 3	Edexcel	Any student meeting the Sixth Form entrance criteria is eligible for this course. GCSE English Language: 4+ GCSE Maths: 4+

What will I study?

This vocational qualification is designed to support students who are interested in learning about the travel and tourism industry. It gives students a broad introduction to the travel and tourism industry, with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills that are transferable across other sectors. Transferable skills include communication, teamwork and research and analysis, which are valued in both higher education and the workplace.

The course consists of four units, two ofwhich are externally assessed (58%) and two that are internally assessed (42%).

Unit 1 – The world of travel and tourism (externally assessed)

A 90 minute written examination. This unit provides the foundation for students to study other units in travel and tourism. They will explore the key components and scale of the industry, using data to analyse key trends and their impact.

Unit 2 – Global destinations (externally assessed)

- A task is set and completed under supervised conditions. Students are given information two weeks before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research. The supervised assessment period is undertaken in a single session of three hours.
- Students investigate and analyse information regarding: the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting their appeal.

Unit 3 – Principles of marketing in travel & tourism (internally assessed)

Students investigate the use of marketing in travel and tourism organisations and how to meet customer expectations in order to inform a promotional campaign of their own design. This is a synoptic assessment requiring students to apply learning from across the qualification.

Unit 9 – Visitor attractions (internally assessed)

Students develop analytical skills as they investigate the nature and role of both built and natural visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience. Students will complete a number of defined vocational written tasks.

Where will it lead?

Students can progress into higher-education courses such as degrees in Tourism, Leisure or Business Studies. The wide range of skills and knowledge developed during the course will help students progress towards careers within the travel and tourism industry.

Super Curricular Opportunities

- Students are encouraged to actively engage with the travel and tourism sector. For example, they should visit a wide range of visitor attractions. They should take an active interest in developments within travel and tourism industry, both domestically and globally.

Links to other courses

Geography, ICT, Health and Social Care, Business Studies, Media Studies.

ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

LOTTIE LESTER

Studied Psychology, Dance & Drama
2017-2019

"Since leaving Hillview, I went on to study professionally at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where I received a First Class Honours. I then went on to work as a Singer/Dancer onboard P&O cruises and since then have had career highlights such as Mabel in the European Tour of 'Fame', and most recently Resident Director/Ensemble/Cover in the No.1 hit UK Tour of 'Friends the Musical Parody'. Hillview was the perfect stepping stone for me to go into the theatre industry. The opportunities to perform in various shows and concerts gave me the experiences I needed before going on to professional theatre training. For me my experience was made by the teachers, their knowledge, kindness and encouragement has really shaped who I am today. It is always a genuine pleasure returning to Hillview and to see the school still thriving."

ISABELLA FASSNIDGE

Studied Geography, PE & Psychology
2021-2022

"I have been competing for GB as a Skeleton athlete since leaving Hillview. I started my sport whilst in my A levels, and all the teachers were so accommodating, letting me fit my studies around sport. I always felt very supported at Hillview, like everyone was rooting for me, and genuinely had an interest in what I was doing! Without the PE department specifically, I wouldn't have had the confidence to sign up to try skeleton, so I have them to thank for the journey I'm now on!

When I get to the Olympics, Hillview will be one of the first I thank for getting me there. Alongside skeleton, I am also now studying for a psychology degree; I loved learning about it at school. Not just because I love the subject, but also because the classroom environment was fantastic, and again my teachers were incredibly helpful and kind"

PHILIPPA EDWARDS

Studied Media Studies
2004-2012

"I'm Philippa Edwards, a film editor and proud former Hillview pupil. My journey into filmmaking began in Year 8 when I joined a filmmaking club that allowed me to team up with friends and explore our creative ideas. Working with the school's editing software on an iMac ignited a passion in me, and I went on to create many short films. After taking Media Studies as one of my A Levels, I pursued a degree in Film and Television Production, which ultimately led me to my current role as a documentary editor specializing in natural history and wildlife films.

Recently, I had the privilege of editing the documentary "Ocean" with Sir David Attenborough, which showcases the beauty of marine life while addressing pressing environmental issues. The film has achieved remarkable success, influencing global marine protection policies and receiving several awards, including Best Editing at the British Film Editors Awards. For anyone considering a career in film and television, my advice is to prioritize building relationships and maintaining a positive attitude. While the path can be challenging, I encourage you to embrace your passion, as filmmaking is a deeply rewarding and creatively fulfilling career."

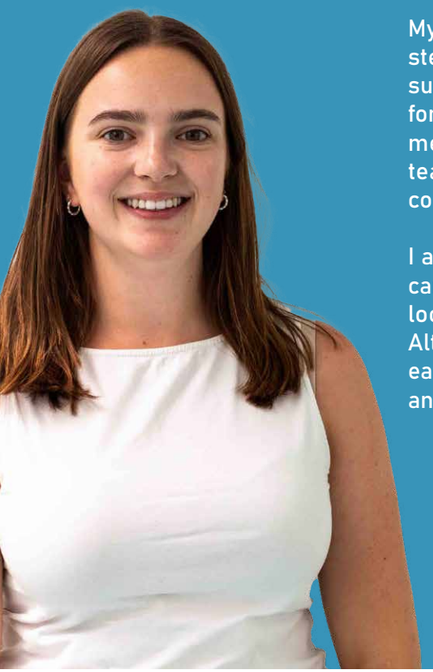
HARRISON HARD

Studied Film, Media and English Literature
2021-2022

"Hi my name is Harrison, I studied Film, Media and English Literature during my time at Hillview Sixth Form. Since leaving Sixth Form in 2022 I completed a Level 4 course at the London Screen Academy which led to me securing work on The Magic Faraway Tree film within the props department, from which I landed a place within the Disney Crew Academy. Since then I have been lucky enough to work on some upcoming films such as Highlander, Elden Ring and Avengers: Doomsday. Hillview is where I was able to pursue my passion for film and without the amazing staff and students at Hillview Sixth Form around me to help foster it, I wouldn't be where I am today."

ABI PETTICAN

Studied Dance, Business, Psychology & PMQ
2016- 2023



"Since leaving Hillview, I have started a Degree Apprenticeship in Project Management. Since beginning my apprenticeship, I have achieved my project management qualification, taken part in the Outward Bound programme alongside other apprentices, and gained valuable experience working across a wide range of project teams. These opportunities have helped me build both my professional skills and confidence in the workplace.

My time at Hillview played an important role in preparing me for this next step. The careers guidance I received helped me explore my options and supported my transition into my current role. The subjects I studied in sixth form continue to be relevant in my work today, with Business introducing me to leadership theories, Psychology gave me an understanding of team motivation, and Dance helped me develop confidence and strong communication skills.

I am proud of what I have achieved so far and excited to see where my career will take me. I would recommend a degree apprenticeship to anyone looking to gain practical experience while continuing their education. Although balancing work and study can be challenging, the opportunity to earn a salary, develop professional skills, and begin building a career from an early stage is incredibly rewarding."

WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI

We are incredibly proud of our former students and all they have gone on to achieve. Our alumni represent a wide range of pathways and successes, from higher education and apprenticeships to careers in business, healthcare, the creative industries, public services, and many other fields.

Although students leave Hillview, they remain an important part of our school community. We value staying connected with our alumni, celebrating their achievements, and sharing their experiences with current students to inspire the next generation.

Our alumni can make a real difference by supporting the school through:

- Delivering career talks
- Participating in careers fairs
- Offering mentoring opportunities
- Providing workplace visits
- Supporting mock interviews
- Sharing apprenticeship, college, university, or career experiences
- We also welcome updates from former students about their education, careers, achievements, and experiences since leaving Hillview. These stories help inspire current students and showcase the many different pathways available after school.

To keep in touch, share your story, or express an interest in supporting our students, please complete our Alumni Contact Form. We would love to hear from you and celebrate your future successes.

Scan this QR Code to join our Alumni Group

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SIXTH FORM

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Hillview School For Girls
Brionne Gardens,
Tonbridge,
Kent,
TN9 2HE, (SAT NAV: TN9 2DQ)

T: 01732 352793
E: admin@hillview.kent.sch.uk

Hillview School For Girls

@hillviewschoolforgirls

www.hillview.kent.sch.uk/public/sixth-form