

SUPPORTIVE POPULAR CHOICE
ASPIRATIONAL CHOICE
EXCEPTIONAL
HAPPY QUALITY KNOWLEDGEABLE
MULTICULTURAL MOTIVATIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATIONAL
NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS
2017

The application process

It's not all about the grades. But here's what you will need:

Two year A Level study

- 6 A*-C or Level 4 and above pass grades at GCSE, including English and Mathematics
- Subject specific requirements (see course pages)

One year Prep Course

- A minimum of Ds and Es in most GCSE subjects

Applications to Northgate are welcome as soon as you have an application form

- We will acknowledge and process applications as soon as we can
- Offers of provisional places will be made from December 2016 to April 2017
- The closing date for applications is 13th January 2017

Key dates

20th October 2016
Open Evening 6.00 – 8.30pm

7th December 2016
Information Evening 6.00 – 8.30pm

13th January 2017
Closing date for applications

Thursday 1st December 2016
Monday 12th December 2016

Thursday 19th January 2017
Monday 6th March 2017

Thursday 16th March 2017
Interview dates 6.00 – 8.30pm

Thursday 6th July 2017
Induction Day

July 2017
Details about confirmation of place and Enrolment Day sent out

24th August 2017
GCSE Results published

24th/25th August 2017
Interviews for those not achieving expected grades

25th August 2017
Final date for return of Confirmation of Acceptance slips

30th August 2017
Sixth Form Enrolment Day

6th September 2017
Term Starts

The Russell Group Universities (and what they look for).

This group is made up of twenty four universities that undertake the very best academic research, provide outstanding teaching and resources and have unrivalled links with business and the public sector. In short, they are usually the most competitive universities to get an offer from.

We understand most of you are yet to think this far ahead, however, in order to maximise your application success rate, it is recommended that you have at least two A Levels from the following: Mathematics, English (Literature), History, Geography, a Modern Foreign Language (French, German, Spanish) or any of the three main Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics).

“We pride ourselves on getting the best out of our students. They leave well-rounded and confident, fully prepared for the challenges ahead.”

Planning for your future

This is an exciting time for you and provides an opportunity for you to decide where you wish to continue with the next step of your education. At Northgate Sixth Form we're here to help you make sound decisions at this important time. We hope you enjoy reading our prospectus and use it as a guide to access your options.

September 2017 will see the third and final stage of the changes to the structure of A Levels. These changes mean that all A Levels will no longer be modular but assessed at the end of the course, linear assessment. In order to maintain breadth of choice, we will be offering three level 3 qualifications other than A Levels, so there should be an opportunity for you to find a suitable choice.

...a little about us.

Northgate Sixth Form is a friendly, welcoming community. Here you'll find outstanding specialist teaching and excellent facilities. There's challenging learning and extra-curricular programmes, parent/student support and a respectful culture, all geared at getting the best out of our students, ensuring they are fully prepared for higher education and the world of work.

To find out more there is an Open Evening on Thursday 20th October 2016 (6.00 to 8.30pm) and for those who cannot make that event we also have an Information Evening in the Sixth Form Centre on Wednesday 7th December (6.00 to 8.30pm). For those of you who would like to see the Sixth Form during a normal working day we offer tours of the site on a Thursday morning 9.00am, lasting about an hour, which can be booked by contacting the school on 01473 210123.



Mr Elmy
Head of Sixth Form

“ I’m going to study English Literature at University. Once I have graduated, I hope to have the opportunity to go travelling and broaden my knowledge of other cultures.

Outside school, I play the soprano saxophone and I’m currently preparing for my grade 8 exam. I have also taken my first steps on the employment ladder by gaining a part time job, which will hopefully stand me in good stead for later in life and my future career! ”

Natasha
Previous School – Hadleigh High School
Subjects studied – A Levels in Early Modern History, English Literature, Religious Studies and Economics



Welcome to Sixth Form		Film Studies	18	Two year Double A Level	
The application process	2	French	18	Further Mathematics	32
Welcome	3	General Studies	19	Two year Level 3 Qualifications	
Why choose us?	6	Geography	19	Business	32
Your options	8	German	20	Health & Social Care	34
What to expect in Sixth Form	9	Government & Politics	20	ICT	34
Two year A Level		Graphics (Art & Design)	22	One year GCSE	
Accounting	11	History (Early Modern)	22	English	35
Art	11	History (Modern)	23	Film Studies	35
Biology	12	Law	23	ICT	36
Business Studies	12	Mathematics	24	General Studies	36
Chemistry	13	Media Studies	24	Mathematics	37
Computer Science	13	Music	25	Psychology	37
Dance	14	Philosophy	25	Science	38
Design & Technology (Product Design)	14	Photography	27	There's help at hand	
Drama	16	Physical Education	27	Your questions answered	40
Economics	16	Physics	28	Summary of results	41
English Language	17	Psychology	28		
English Literature	17	Sociology	30		
		Spanish	30		
		Textile Design	31		
		Extended Project Qualification	31		

Why choose us?

We have a track record of success and over 300 students from more than 20 schools choose Northgate Sixth Form every year. From excellent exam results to flourishing personalities, here are some reasons for our widespread appeal:

High quality

- Excellent results – Summer of 2016 saw 80% of A Level and EPQ entries graded A* to C.
- The official Government 'Level 3 Value Added Report' confirms that Northgate students make significantly better progress than others nationally in AS Levels, A Levels and the Extended Project Qualification.
- Specialist staff – students are taught by teachers that are specialists in their subject.
- First-rate IT and study facilities with a high standard of specialist teaching areas.
- Arts Centre: home to modern dance and drama studios.
- Sports Centre: excellent sports facilities including a 400m athletics track and a fitness centre.

Lots of choice

- Wide range of subjects and possible combinations of subjects – 34 A/AS Levels, 3 other level 3 qualifications and 7 GCSE's.
- Variety of challenging and fun extra-curricular opportunities: from sports to music to theatre.

Advice and support

- Supportive pastoral system.
- Approachable and caring staff.
- High quality guidance and careers advice. During their time at Northgate, students gain experience in a broad range of areas and prepare for life beyond sixth form, exploring areas such as finance, enterprise, personal safety, fitness and health.

We aim to provide the complete education, meaning our students leave academically successful, well-rounded and mature, ready for whatever the future may hold.

“ I would like to study Chemistry at University and go on to a career in research.

I enjoy taking part in varied hobbies from reading both fiction and non-fiction texts to going to the gym and playing football. I also undertake volunteer work for Cancer Research UK in my spare time.”

Max

Previous School – Northgate
Subjects studied – A Levels in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Economics



Your options

More choice than you think.

A Levels, GCSE courses and beyond.

Two year Advanced Course

These courses lead to degrees and diplomas at university and to professional, managerial and commercial careers.

Students choose 4 subjects, at least 3 of which will initially be at AS Level, continuing with 3 or 4 of these subjects at A Level. Students will also be given the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Students who have not achieved GCSE grade 4 in English or Mathematics must take these.

One-year Prep Course

Leading to advanced level study, training or employment. This is a course for those students who have not achieved the six GCSEs needed for the two year advanced course.

The course comprises:

- **Four subjects at GCSE level or equivalent, which may be re-takes or new subjects. Students who have not achieved GCSE grade 4 in English, Mathematics or Science will be expected to take these**
- GCSE General Studies
- Gateway Level 2 Certificate of Progression, equivalent to 1 GCSE
- Careers education and guidance



What to expect in Sixth Form

You start at 8:45am and finish at 3.10pm. There's time for a morning snack, a spot of lunch and endless opportunities.

Do more

Life at Northgate doesn't end with the bell. Instead of lessons, lunch, lessons and home, we provide a wide range of further opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular. From football to dance, there's something for everyone. There's even the opportunity for students to take part in community service within school and work-related activities out of school.

Your own space

Sit back, relax and socialise in the Sixth Form common room, a grown up environment for students to eat, catch up and make new friends.

Students, have your say!

The Student Union, with voting members from each tutor group, plays a leading role in promoting and organising student activities. So if you have a good idea, let it out. Make a difference and help shape your Sixth Form.

...and you too parents

Co-operation between students, parents and the Sixth Form is essential if students are to maximise their learning experience. We therefore arrange for parents to meet form tutors early in the Autumn term and for subsequent meetings with subject teachers in Years 12 and 13. Parents/carers are also welcome to write to or telephone the form tutor or a member of the Sixth Form office team at other times to discuss student progress or other matters of concern.

A bit of advice

Careers education and guidance is provided for all students. There's encouragement to take increasing responsibility for work in order to develop the skills needed at university and in employment. There's also support on hand for when times get hectic, especially during exam periods.

“ I’m looking forward to going to University and taking my next steps towards my ultimate goal of becoming a solicitor.

I spend my free time participating in many different hobbies. I’m a keen pianist (currently at grade 8 level), have a passion for portraiture and pencil drawing and I’m first on the track for any athletics tournaments. I also play netball and love attending music festivals. ”

Annabelle

Previous School – Holbrook Academy
Subjects studied – A Levels in Art, French, Modern History and Philosophy & Ethics/Religious Studies



Accounting

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr T Faiers

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Maths.

In the first year you study an ‘Introduction to Financial Accounting’ which helps you develop essential skills in double-entry book keeping. These are then applied to the second topic which is based on how employees in business use this financial information to make decisions. The second year develops both of these financial and management accounting areas further with the application of them to larger business.

Teaching and learning

Learning in lessons is varied but due to the nature of the assessment the use of past exam questions and case studies are common. Students will use the 5 R’s independent learning support to help complete their 5 hours per week private study. There are two weekly extra Business, Economics and Accounting sessions to support students.

Progression

An Accounting A Level is the perfect way to build your financial skills and can lead on to a degree level Accounting course. It is also an asset if you’re looking to go straight into accounting jobs or School Leavers Programmes.

Note: This subject should not be taken with A Level Business Studies due to the large overlap between them.

It could be considered with A Level Economics but this is not recommended as it may narrow University options.

Art (Fine Art Endorsement)

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mr D Beattie

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in Art is anticipated although a grade B or above in related subjects such as Graphics or Textiles could be accepted together with the inspection of a portfolio of work. A task can also be set for those with no GCSE in Art.

Drawing from direct observation; recording and communicating ideas, experiences, insights and information in visual and written form; gallery, museum, media and traditional research; technical instruction and media experimentation; development of ideas and concepts; production of artefacts; analysis and evaluation of the interrelationships between the above.

Work is internally assessed throughout the course and externally assessed by EDEXCEL at Final Exhibition.

Teaching and learning

Teaching is workshop-based and student-centred and aims to develop each student’s intellectual, aesthetic and creative potential and to teach appropriate skills and techniques. There are many opportunities to visit galleries and engage with artworks first-hand. There are Life Drawing sessions and an Open Studio policy throughout the day and after school.

Progression

Careers in the Visual Arts, Architecture, Art History, Museum and Gallery work, Curating, Illustration, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Website Design, Games Design, Animation, Set Design, Film and Fashion Design and Events Management.

Biology

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Miss H Mosley & Miss R Mitchell

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in Biology or Double Science.

AS Level consists of 4 modules:

Development of practical skills in Biology; Foundations in Biology; Exchange and Transport; Biodiversity; Evolution and Disease.

A Level students also study:

Communication, Homeostasis and Energy; Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems.

Teaching and learning

A variety of teaching methods are used. Practical work is important and involves carrying out detailed procedures, recording results, making conclusions as well as evaluating data and experimental methods. Study skills tasks are set in order to develop these skills.

Progression

Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Forensics, Biological Sciences, Botany, Ecology, Marine Biology, Physiotherapy, Paramedics, Nursing, Environmental Health and other careers where a Science A Level would be an advantage.

Business Studies

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr T Faiers

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade C in Business Studies or GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language if Business Studies not studied at GCSE.

In the first year we start with business objectives and the main legal types of business, then move on to study managers, leadership, finance and decision making. In the second year you will build on that solid knowledge by learning topics that give you an insight into larger, multinational business organisations.

Learning

Learning in lessons is varied but due to the nature of the assessment the use of case studies is common. The emphasis is upon you contributing to your own learning by your involvement in lessons. Students will use the 5 R's independent learning support to help complete their 5 hours per week private study. There are two weekly extra Business & Economics sessions to support students.

Progression

Business Studies is highly valuable for both university and School Leaver Programmes as it delivers an understanding of the ways organisations and economies work.

Note: This subject should not be taken with A Level Accounting due to the large overlap between them. It could be considered with A Level Economics but this is not recommended as it may narrow University options.

Chemistry

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mrs H Rojek

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in Chemistry or Double Science.

AS Level consists of 4 modules:

1. Development of practical skills in Chemistry
2. Foundations in Chemistry
3. Periodic table and energy
4. Core organic Chemistry

A Level students study AS Chemistry and then complete a further 2 modules in year 13:

5. Physical Chemistry and transition elements
6. Organic Chemistry and analysis

Assessment

Assessment at AS Level consists of two examinations at the end of year 12.

Assessment for the full A Level consists of three examinations at the end of year 13 that cover content and skills from the six modules.

Progression

Chemistry is a valued subject which sits centrally within the Sciences to support a wide range of careers and degree courses such as medicine, forensic science, law, financial services, dietetics, environmental health and chemical engineering.

Computer Science

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr C Cartmel

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Maths, or GCSE grade C in Computer Science.

AS Level consists of 2 units:

1. Problem Solving, Programming, Data Representation and Practical Exercise
2. Computer Architecture, Computer Languages, Hardware & Software and Internet

A2 Level consists of 2 units:

1. Programming Concepts, Problem Solving, Algorithms, Databases and Networks
2. A computing practical problem
3. A computer science project

Teaching and learning

Classes are taught a mix of practical and theory lessons.

A variety of computer programs are used to help students develop their knowledge of the fundamental principles of computing, focusing on programming through a number of tasks and a problem solving scenario using pre-released material from the exam board.

The course will go on to build up knowledge about computational thinking, communication and networking, what can be computed, programming and problem solving.

Progression

Computer Science or Engineering at degree level. Employment in business and finance.

Dance

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Miss H Patrick

Subject specific entry requirements

Grade 4 in English Language. It is useful to have taken Dance at GCSE level but not essential.

The course requires students to develop, demonstrate and articulate practical and theoretical knowledge of:

AS Component 1 Performance and Choreography

Practical exam: The choreography and performance of a solo is assessed, along with a performance in a duet/trio.

AS Component 2 Critical Engagement 2 hour written exam: Students reflect on their own understanding and practice.

A Level Component 1 Performance and Choreography

Practical exam: A solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study, a performance in a quartet and the choreography of a group.

A Level Component 2 Critical Engagement 2 hour 30 minute written exam: Students are assessed on knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of set work.

Teaching and learning

Practical work, formal teaching of theory and critical appreciation, individual student research and choreography discussion.

Progression

With other A/AS subjects for entry to Dance and Performing Arts at degree or HND level. Careers relating to performing and teaching at both primary and secondary level.

Design & Technology (Product Design)

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mrs S Day

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in a Design & Technology subject.

AS Level consists of:

Modular projects based on Product Investigation, Product Design and Product Manufacture. This section involves students creating an example from each section.

Design and Technology in Practice examines the knowledge and understanding of Product Design.

A2 Level students take AS and then 2 further units:

Designing for the Future: this unit includes further study of the theory of Product Design and how manufacturing and design systems are developed.

Commercial Design: a project chosen by the student, designed and made by them.

Teaching and learning

There are two practical/design sessions and one theory session each week. A large percentage of the theory work will be delivered during practical and design stages of the course.

Progression

With other A/AS subjects for entry to degree level.

“ I am planning on taking a gap year after Sixth Form to go travelling and gain work experience. I will also use this time to consider my different career options.

In my free time I enjoy visiting different parts of the UK and I'm particularly fond of London. I'm also an avid follower of beauty and fashion blogs and enjoy socialising with my friends and family. ”

Bethany

Previous School – Claydon High School
Subjects studied – A Levels in Psychology, Law, Sociology and General Studies

Drama

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Miss H Patrick

Subject specific entry requirements

Grade C or above in Drama, or for those students who have not studied GCSE Drama, grade 4 in GCSE English Language.

Course specifications require students to demonstrate a **practical understanding** of: at AS one complete and substantial text and a minimum of two key extracts from two different texts and at A Level two complete and substantial texts and a minimum of three key extracts from three different texts. Students must study one influential theatre practitioner at AS and two practitioners at A Level. Students are required to **participate in**: at AS one performance from a text, which has been studied as part of the course and at A Level two performances, one devised and one from a performance text which has been studied as part of the course.

Teaching and learning

Practical work, formal teaching of theory, live theatre, individual student research, discussion and rehearsal.

Progression

With other A/AS subjects for entry to Drama and Performing Arts at degree or HND level. Careers relating to the theatre including lighting, stage management, performing and teaching at both primary and secondary level.

Economics

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr T Faiers

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics.

In Economics you'll look at the fundamental forces which affect our lives, such as employment, prices, international trade and poverty. In the first year you will study microeconomics which introduces how demand and supply combine to give prices and output for markets. In Unit Two we introduce how to measure macroeconomic performance, for example through economic growth, inflation, and unemployment. In the second year you will build on your economic knowledge of these key areas.

Teaching and learning

Learning in lessons is varied but due to the nature of the assessment the use of real-world economic data, articles, and case studies are all common. Students will use the 5 R's independent learning support to help complete their 5 hours per week private study. There are two weekly extra Business & Economics sessions to support students.

Progression

Economics is highly regarded by both universities and employers as it helps you develop the ability to assimilate, analyse, and recall a large amount of complex information.

Note: This subject could be considered with A Level Accounting, or A Level Business Studies but this is not recommended as it may narrow University options.

English Language

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs C Wright & Miss G Smy

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English Language.

At AS Level, students will be required to study a diverse range of texts and analyse how language is used to create meaning and representation. There will be a strong focus on the impacts of contextual factors on language and students will study the impact of occupation, gender and technology on the use of our language.

During A Level studies, students will build on skills acquired at AS Level. Students will learn about child language acquisition and language change. During their second year, students will undertake non-examination assessment in the form of an investigation and a piece of original writing.

Teaching and learning

Discussion, study and close analysis of a range of written and spoken texts. The workshop style of teaching and learning gives students academic confidence as well as knowledge about the English language. The course is designed to encourage students to progress their study skills to prepare them for further study or work based endeavours.

Progression

Degrees in English Language and Linguistics will generally require English Language A Level study. Potential career paths include journalism, publishing, print media, P.R, broadcasting and law based work.

English Literature

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs C Wright & Miss G Smy

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature.

The Year 12 course focus is 'Love Through the Ages', looking at poems, a Shakespeare play, two novels and an unseen prose passage.

English Literature AS is assessed by two exams, each lasting an hour and a half. There is no coursework element in English Literature at AS Level.

For the A Level there are also two exams, as well as a piece of coursework (20% of your overall grade), comparing an idea, theme or character in two texts that you have chosen, one of which must have been written before 1900.

A Level Paper One (three hours), returns to the theme of 'Love Through the Ages', while Paper Two has the new focus (and new books) of Modern Literature since 1945. In the latter you will write on poetry, a play and a novel (one written since 2000).

Teaching and Learning

Close reading, discussion and activities around the texts in pairs, groups or as a whole class, sharing about your favourite books, creative writing, research on writers and texts, and theatre visits.

Progression

A Level English Literature supports a wide range of university courses and careers, including journalism, marketing, teaching, publishing, public relations and the Civil Service.

Film Studies

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

WJEC

Curriculum Leader

Mr I Bailey

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in English Language or English Literature.

The course is assessed by a mixture of examined and coursework components.

Teaching and learning

Students will closely analyse six films set by WJEC. Three films will be on the topic of American Mainstream and Independent Film, both past and present. Three further films will be under the umbrella of British and European Cinema, again, both past and present. These topics will consider the relationship between film production and audiences, narrative and genre.

Students will also have an opportunity to create a film extract or write a screenplay as part of their coursework.

Progression

Suitable for those interested in further education in many subjects including Literature, Language, History, Sociology, Art, Photography, and Media and Cultural Studies courses at a degree level. It may be useful for a career in television, film, radio and journalism.

French

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Ms M Jarrett

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in French.

The course focuses on developing student's linguistic skills (including the acquisition of vocabulary, structures and grammar), alongside their understanding of the culture and society of countries where French is spoken. Topics include social issues and trends, and French-speaking artistic culture. The A Level course also covers political engagement in the French-speaking world.

Assessment tasks will be varied and will cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Teaching and learning

The purpose-built Northgate Language Centre provides excellent language learning facilities with access to a full range of resources including the Internet, language-specific software and audio-visual equipment. Lessons are conducted for the most part in French.

Study is supported and enriched through links with our partner school, the Lycée Saint Louis in Saint Etienne, near Lyon. Students are encouraged to live and study here for a week in the spring term of Year 12.

Progression

Degree in French or International/European Studies. With other A/AS subjects for entry to other degree courses, careers in the business world, civil service, diplomatic Service, education, tourism, interpreting and translating.

General Studies

Course

One year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mr J Alexander

Subject specific entry requirements

This is available to Year 13 students who wish to take the A Level during their second year of A Level study.

AS Level consists of 4 units:

1. Challenges for Society- studying the scientific, technological and moral issues facing our world.
2. The Individual in Society- what influences our behaviour and where values and opinions come from.
3. Change and Progress- how art, science and technology influence our society.
4. Beliefs, Values and Responsibilities – how societies develop behaviourally and morally.

Teaching and learning

A student-centred approach is adopted through exercises designed to assist learning and improve study skills. General Studies has links with most subjects and encourages the student to develop independent thinking. The subject is available for Year 13 students with a commitment of 2 lessons per week.

Progression

The subject can assist students with applications for degree courses and will provide an enhancement to C.V.s to improve employment prospects.

Geography

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Ms A Turner

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in Geography, or for students who have not studied GCSE Geography, grade 6 in English Language.

AS Level consists of 2 units:

Landscape and Place – Coastal Landscapes and Changing Spaces and **Geographical Debates** – one from the following: Climate Change, Disease Dilemmas, Exploring Oceans, Future of Food or Hazardous Earth.

AS Level consists of 2 units:

Physical Systems – Coastal Landscapes and Earth's Life Support Systems; **Human Interactions** – Changing Spaces and Global Migration & Human Rights; **Geographical Debates** – two from the following: Climate Change, Disease Dilemmas, Exploring Oceans, Future of Food or Hazardous Earth and **Investigative Geography** – an independent investigation in the form of a written report.

Teaching and learning

A wide range of resources are used to create an interesting and varied learning environment. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and there is the opportunity to participate in a residential fieldtrip as well a number of day visits.

Progression

Degrees in Geography, Bio-geography, Planning, Environmental Science, Conservation, Meteorology and Development Studies, leading to careers in a wide and varied number of professions.

German

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr A Cobbold

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in German.

The course focuses on language skills and the acquisition of vocabulary, structures and grammar. Topics covered include: Youth Culture; The Digital World; Family; Multiculturalism; Art; Cultural Life in Berlin; Literary Texts; Films; Political Life in the German-speaking World.

Students will be assessed on Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Teaching and learning

The purpose-built Northgate Language Centre provides excellent language learning facilities with access to a full range of resources including the Internet, language-specific software and audio visual equipment. Lessons are conducted for the most part in German.

Study is supported and enriched through a joint trip with History to Berlin in Year 12.

Progression

Degree in German or International/European Studies. With other A/AS subjects for entry to other degree courses, careers in the business world, civil service, diplomatic Service, education, tourism, interpreting and translating.

Government & Politics

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mrs E Higgins & Mr S Evans

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

AS Level consists of:

People and Politics

Governing the UK

A Level students take AS and then study:

Introducing Political Ideologies

Other Ideological Traditions

Teaching and learning

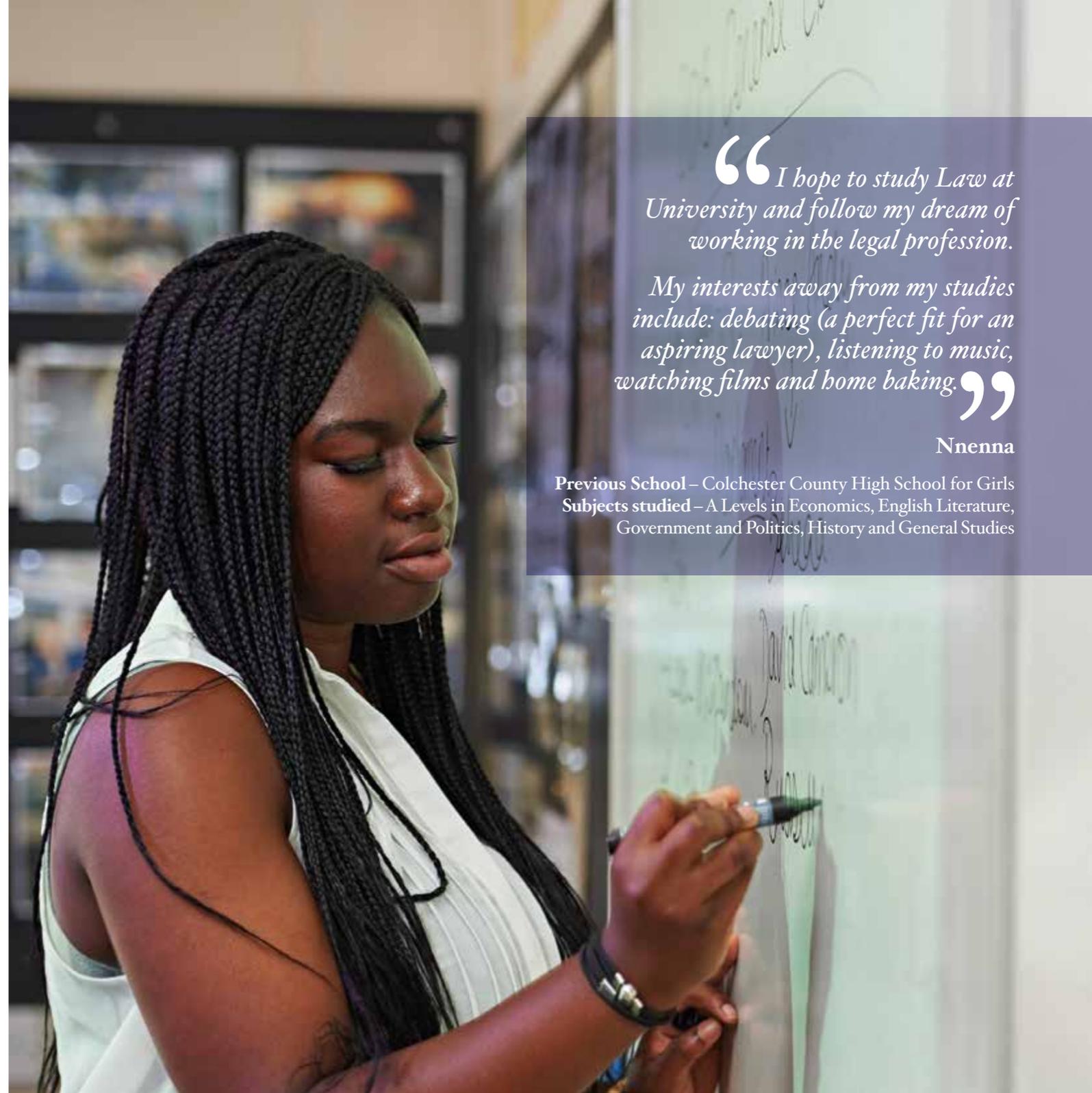
Topic booklets, group work, debate, discussions, documentaries, essay writing and trips.

Complements Economics, Modern History, English Language, English Literature and Law.

Alex's experience: 'Politics has been responsible for some of the most interesting and exciting lessons of my time at Northgate. From induction day alone it was clear that the teachers were passionate about the subject, with this one of the reasons I moved to Northgate'.

Progression

A well respected A Level which will help to gain access to a variety of degree courses. Many students go on to study politics related courses at university level.



“I hope to study Law at University and follow my dream of working in the legal profession.

My interests away from my studies include: debating (a perfect fit for an aspiring lawyer), listening to music, watching films and home baking.”

Nnenna

Previous School – Colchester County High School for Girls
Subjects studied – A Levels in Economics, English Literature, Government and Politics, History and General Studies

Graphics *(Art & Design)*

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr S Day

Subject specific entry requirements

Grade B in Design Technology or Art.

This course progresses naturally from GCSE and is intended to meet the needs of students who have an interest and aptitude in graphics and would like to undertake further study in design or take up careers for which design is relevant.

The candidates are encouraged to demonstrate their abilities through projects that can be developed according to individual interests. The areas for study include: Advertising and Design Layout, Illustration, Computer Graphics, Typography and Packaging Design. The use of technology to aid graphic design and word processing will be encouraged and expected where appropriate.

Teaching and learning

AS Level consists of 2 units:

Component 1 is a coursework unit and component 2 is an externally set assignment worth 40% of the AS marks. Students will pick from a choice of design briefs. The designing element will be carried out under controlled conditions for 10 hours.

A Level students:

Component 1 is a coursework unit and component 2 is a controlled test of 15 hours. Students will pick from a choice of design briefs, have preparation time and then produce the final piece in the 15 hours.

Progression

As with other A/AS subjects for entry to degree level.

History *(Early Modern)*

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Miss Z Quinton

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in History or GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature if History not studied at GCSE.

Y12 Course Content

1. England 1509-1603 (Authority, Nation, and Religion)
2. Luther and the German Reformation

Y13 Course Content

1. Witchcraze 1580-1750 (Britain, Europe and North America)
2. Work of the Historian

Teaching and learning

Independent and group research and presentations, formal teaching, use of written and non-written sources, discussion, peer teaching, essay writing, opportunities for review and reflection.

Progression

History is useful for degrees such as Law and Politics and can, with other A/AS Levels, also contribute to careers in archaeology, architecture, economics, town planning, journalism etc.

History *(Modern)*

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Miss Z Quinton

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in History or GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature if History not studied at GCSE.

Y12 Course Content

1. Germany and West Germany 1918-1989
2. The Rise and Fall of Fascism in Italy 1911-1946

Y13 Course Content

1. The British Experience of War 1790-1914
2. Work of the Historian

Teaching and learning

Independent and group research and presentations, formal teaching, use of written and non-written sources, discussion, peer teaching, essay writing, opportunities for review and reflection.

Progression

History is useful for degrees such as Law and Politics and can, with other A/AS Levels, also contribute to careers in archaeology, architecture, economics, town planning, journalism etc.

Law

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mrs K Whittingham

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English Language or Literature.

AS Level consists of:

This will include a study of the nature of law and the workings of the English Legal System as well as a topic from both public and private law. These will be the Law of Tort and Criminal Law.

A Level consists of:

This will include a study of the nature of law and the English Legal System as well as the study of the Law of Tort, Criminal Law and Human rights Law.

The course is aimed at helping to apply the law to factual scenarios, formulate legal arguments whilst critically evaluating and analysing legal issues.

Teaching and learning

A variety of teaching methods are used and students are encouraged to do independent research. The course includes trips to the Crown Court and visits by outside speakers.

Progression

Many A Level students have gone on to study Law or Criminology at university and have found the A Level course invaluable in their first few years of study. Other students have gained apprenticeships at local legal practices. The course is also relevant for those wishing to join the Police Force or Crown Prosecution Service. It can also be used with other subjects for entry to university courses.

Mathematics

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mr C Dawson

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics.

At the end of Year 12 students will take two AS examinations:

- Paper 1 - Pure Mathematics and Statistics
- Paper 2 - Pure Mathematics and Mechanics

The full A Level course is examined terminally by three 2 hour papers:

- Paper 1 - Pure Mathematics
- Paper 2 - Pure Mathematics and Statistics
- Paper 3 - Pure Mathematics and Mechanics

Teaching and learning

Include traditional and investigational methods. Students will do both individual and group work. Regular homework assignments will be set and students will be expected to own a graphics calculator.

Progression

A university course or employment in the science, computing or business world would benefit from a qualification in A Level Mathematics. A good grade in A Level Mathematics is needed for a degree in Mathematics (Further Mathematics would be expected for Oxford or Cambridge).

Media Studies

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr I Bailey

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in English Language or English Literature or grade in C Media Studies.

At A Level, students investigate the media in order to understand and evaluate how meanings and responses are created. The media landscape and its changing contexts are studied in terms of products, platforms and technologies.

Students are encouraged to demonstrate, develop and formulate their understanding of the media and its influential role in society as well as debating contemporary media issues.

Students will be assessed by a mixture of examination and practical tasks.

Teaching and learning

Group work, discussion, debate and research. Also, essay writing, presentations, analysis and creative productions using Mac Mini suite.

Progression

Suitable for students interested in further education in Art and Photography, English, History, Film Studies at degree level. It may also be useful for a career in television, film, radio and journalism.

Music

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mrs C Rutter

Subject specific entry requirements

Grade B or above in GCSE Music, plus grade 5 or above Associated Board theory qualification or equivalent standard. Performance standard should be the equivalent of grade 5 Associated Board/ Trinity Board or above by the Easter of the AS examination year.

Assessment is by performance, composition and appraisal. All units for AS and A Level qualifications are 100% externally assessed and must be completed in May/June in the year of certification. Students will perform live in front of a visiting examiner for their performing unit.

Students have the option to specialise in performing or composing in their second year.

Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music and 20th/21st Century Music are the three main areas of study.

Teaching and learning

Students will learn to perform, compose, investigate, analyse and evaluate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural and aesthetic awareness through practical methods.

Progression

The content allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of music, enabling them to progress into undergraduate music or music related degree courses.

Philosophy

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr C Hopton

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in English Language.

A-level philosophy provides students with a broad introduction to the subject and is designed to enable students to develop a range of transferable skills which they can employ beyond the subject. It will help students gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques. Students will develop the ability to reason and form their own judgements whilst considering philosophical problems through the study of a key text.

We expect the new specification to cover Philosophy of Knowledge, Moral Philosophy, aspects of the Philosophy of Reason and Philosophy of Mind. The course integrates with and complements many other A Level courses such as Psychology.

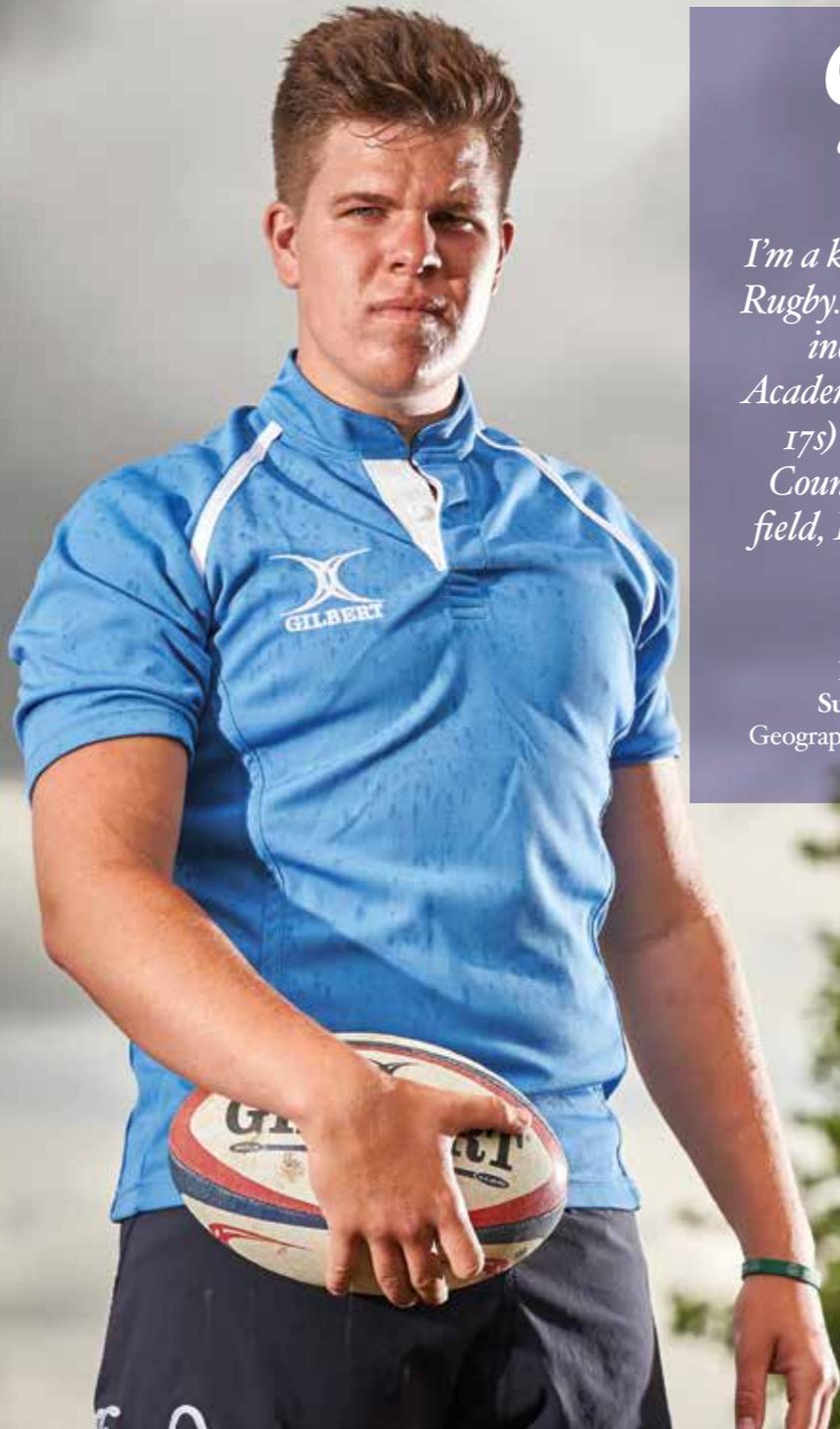
Teaching and learning

We have rigorous discussions. We provide tailor-made study materials including highly-informative bespoke DVDs.

We teach students to write technically accomplished, argumentative essays.

Progression

Our goal is to teach the skills needed for our students to achieve excellent A Level grades and also to develop the academic stamina to thrive on degree courses at top universities. Our course is especially valuable for those who will pursue Medicine or Law.



“ I hope to study Business at either the University of Bath or Loughborough University.

I'm a keen sportsman and I love playing Rugby. I represent many different teams including Bury St Edmunds Junior Academy, my county (for Suffolk Under 17s) and East Anglia (for the Eastern Counties U18s). Away from the rugby field, I also enjoy playing tennis!

”

Edward

Previous School – Debenham High School
Subjects studied – A Levels in Product Design, Geography, Law, Business Studies and General Studies

Photography

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Miss A Gladding

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade C in Art. Each student will need to obtain a 35mm SLR camera with manual facilities and purchase paper for darkroom and digital printing. They will also need access to a digital camera – this does not need to be a DSLR. A task can be set for those without GCSE Art. For a copy of the task, please contact Miss Gladding.

Study will fall into three main areas: Lens-based Photography, Experimental Darkroom Practice and Digital Imaging, predominantly using Photoshop.

Maintaining visual work journals is an integral part of the course. All necessary technical aspects of the course will be taught, but students are expected to develop personal ideas through research and investigation, including demonstrating an understanding of the context of their own work and the work of others.

Teaching and learning

The majority of lessons will be practical workshops with regular tutorials. There are many opportunities to visit galleries and engage with photography first-hand. There are guest speakers and an Open Studio policy throughout the day and after school.

Progression

Careers in the Visual Arts, Website Design, Fashion Photography, Photo Journalism, Advertising, Media and Performing Arts, Illustration, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Website Design, Games Design, Animation and Film.

Physical Education

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr S Smith

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Grade B in any GCSE Science qualification or merit in a BTEC Science qualification. If students are unlikely to meet the entry requirements but can demonstrate they perform to an exceptional physical standard in a sport, they should contact Mr Smith.

The course consists of three topic areas; Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Skill Acquisition and Sports Psychology and Sport in Society and Technology in Sport that equate to 70% of the course. The practical performance in one sport/activity as performer or coach equates to 30%.

Teaching and learning

3x75 minute lessons of theoretical study, in which staff will utilise a variety of approaches. 1x75 minute lesson of practical which will support the completion and collation of performance evidence.

Progression

Degree level study, which could lead to employment within physiotherapy, sports science, sports medicine and teaching professions.

Physics

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

OCR (A)

Curriculum Leader

Mr S Snowden

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in Physics or Double Science and GCSE grade 5 in Maths.

The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of physics.

Topics covered include:

Waves, Materials, Quantum Physics, Thermal Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology, Electromagnetism, Nuclear and Particle Physics and Medical imaging.

Teaching and learning

There is a substantial amount of learning through practical work – we believe that seeing something first-hand is always a more useful teaching tool, and we are lucky to have very well equipped physics labs. We offer opportunities to attend outside lectures and exhibitions and are a host school for a regular series of talks, where speakers from a wide range of physics disciplines come and talk about their area of expertise.

Progression

To careers in physics, engineering disciplines such as civil, mechanical, electrical, aeronautical, automotive etc. It is a very useful qualification for those going into medicine and affords entry into law, economics, mathematics, accountancy and a multitude of other degree subjects.

Psychology

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA (A)

Curriculum Leader

Mr S Wootton

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language or English Literature or GCSE grade B in Psychology.

The course consists of 11 topics: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in Psychology, Research Methods, Biopsychology, Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Addiction.

Teaching and learning

A range of approaches will be used including discussion, debate, individual and group work as well as formal teaching. Students will also be encouraged to carry out their own investigations and research.

Progression

Careers in Psychology include educational psychologist, clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist, occupational psychologist and health psychologist. Psychology also lends itself to careers in teaching, advertising, police work, social work or any other profession which involves working with other people.

“After spending the summer at AXA, I am looking to secure a spot on the leavers programme in Finance and gain a permanent role in the industry.

Away from my school life, I have a real passion for music and I'm currently at grade 8 for my drumming. I perform in a band and love playing gigs. I also enjoy a good musical!”

Elliot

Previous School – Local 11 to 18 High School
Subjects studied – A Levels in Business Studies, Economics, Sociology and Psychology

Sociology

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs E Higgins & Mr S Evans

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade C in Sociology, or for students who have not studied Sociology, GCSE grade 4 English Language or English Literature.

AS Level consists of:

- Families and Households
- Education
- Sociological Research Methods

A Level students take AS and then study:

- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance
- Sociological Theories and Methods

Teaching and learning

Discussion, debate, group work, individual research, videos, presentations and essay writing.

Sociology complements Psychology, Government and Politics, Modern History and Media Studies.

Progression

A well respected A Level which will help to gain access to a variety of degree courses and professional qualifications. It is particularly useful for those considering a career in teaching, law, media, health, criminology and social research.

Spanish

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Miss T Jensingh

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade B in Spanish.

The course focuses on language skills and the acquisition of vocabulary, structures and grammar. Topics covered include: aspects of Hispanic society; artistic culture in the Hispanic world; multiculturalism in Hispanic Society; aspects of political life in Hispanic society.

As well as the above, students will study one film and one literary work. In addition to this, students will also undertake an IRP (Independent Research Project) on a topic of their choice.

Students will be assessed on Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing and Translating Spanish.

Teaching and learning

The purpose-built Northgate Language Centre provides excellent language learning facilities with access to a full range of resources including the Internet, language-specific software and audio visual equipment. Lessons are conducted for the most part in Spanish.

Progression

Degree in Spanish or International/European Studies. In combination with other subjects, entry to other degree courses, careers in the business world, Civil Service, Diplomatic Service, education, tourism, interpreting and translating.

Textile Design

Course

Two year A Level

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs A Fisk

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade C in Art and/or Textiles and GCSE grade 4 in English Language.

Students are required to work in one or more areas of textile design such as fashion design or printed fabrics amongst others. They will be expected to demonstrate skills in their chosen area, such as awareness of audience or purpose, appreciation of form and function, working to a brief and textile methods.

Teaching and learning

Students will explore a range of textile media, processes and techniques. They will use drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media. Relevant image, artefacts and resources will be integral to the investigating and making processes. A mix of practical and critical activities will be undertaken.

The theory is taught by structured lessons, research, problem solving, investigations and group work.

Progression

A wide variety of careers in the fashion industry and other related areas from management to designing and journalism.

Extended Project Qualification

It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A Level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. It can also be used to earn extra UCAS points.

What is the Extended Project?

Students work with a supervisor to research and write a 5,000 word essay on a topic of their choice, normally closely linked to their chosen degree course or career. They are taught higher level research and essay writing skills, not only to help them with their project, but also with the transition to higher education. The qualification allows students to develop a level of expertise in their chosen field beyond what they have been taught, and also to demonstrate academic curiosity and enthusiasm.

Assessment

The Extended Project is assessed using three main sources of evidence:-

1. **The extended essay**
2. **The production log which details their EPQ journey**
3. **A short presentation to staff, parents and students at the end of the course.**

How can it support university applications?

The Extended Project is awarded a mark from A* to E, and can be worth up to 70 UCAS points. As the project is well underway by the time students make their UCAS.

Application, students can use it as an important part of their personal statement, and then as a focus for discussion at possible interviews.

“The university recognises that some A Level students may also choose to offer the Extended Project. In such cases, some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (for example, either AAA at A Level or AAB at A Level plus Extended Project).” – University of Bristol.

The qualification is available to students who gain a grade C or above in their AS Levels at the end of Year 12.

Further Mathematics

Course
A Level

Exam Board
OCR

Curriculum Leader
Mr C Dawson

Subject specific entry requirements
GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.

Students complete their A Level Mathematics course in Year 12 and embark on their Further Mathematics course after the summer modules in Year 12.

The full further maths A Level course consists of four components (but more can be taken):

- Two mandatory pure mathematics components (Pure core 1 & 2).

There will also need to be at least two components chosen from:

- Statistics including the Poisson Distribution.
- One Mechanics module including Projectiles, Energy, Work and Power and Centres of Mass.
- One further module on either Statistics or Mechanics.

Teaching and learning

Include traditional and investigational methods. Students will do both individual and group work. There is no coursework element, but regular homework assignments will be set.

Progression

Further Mathematics is required for students hoping to study Mathematics at Oxford or Cambridge and is advantageous to those wishing to study Computer Science, Economics or Engineering. Further Mathematics is desirable, but not essential, for a Mathematics degree at any other university.

Business

Course
BTEC National Level 3

Exam Board
EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader
Mr T Faiers

Subject specific entry requirements
GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics or English Language.

In the first year you will have two main units, both of which need successfully completing to pass the qualification.

Unit 1 involves a coursework assignment investigating local, national and international businesses, whereas Unit 2 is an examined unit on marketing campaigns. In the second year, students are required to complete two further units on personal and business finance, then recruitment and selection.

Learning

Learning in lessons is varied but due to the nature of the assessment there is a lot of coursework to be completed. Students will use the 5 R's independent learning support to help complete their 5 hours per week private study. There are two weekly extra Business & Economics sessions to support students.

Progression:

The BTEC Business qualification is nationally recognised and accepted by employers as well as universities.

Note: This subject cannot be taken with A Level Business Studies, or A Level Accounting due to the large overlap between them.

“ I hope to take languages at University but I am still keeping my options open for after I graduate.

Away from school, I'm part of the New Wolsey Theatre's Young Company Group, following a successful year being part of their youth theatre. It is my intention to travel the world later in life, especially to places where I can put my language skills to good use! ”

Harald

Previous School – Local 11 to 18 High School
Subjects studied – A Levels in French, German, English Language and Media Studies



Health & Social Care

Course

Two year Diploma (A Level equivalent)

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mrs H Anderson

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade C in Health and Social Care, or for students who have not studied Health and Social Care, grade 4 in GCSE English Language.

AS Units

Unit 1: Promoting Quality Care – the study of equal opportunities legislation and services.

Unit 2: Communications in Care Settings – considers theories and interactions with service users.

Unit 3: Promoting Good Health – studies different perspectives in health and wellbeing.

A2 Units

Unit 4: Care Practice and Provision – the study of services and multi-disciplinary teams.

Unit 5: Child Development – the study of the development of children from birth to eight years.

Unit 6: Social Trends – the study of the family/social trends.

Teaching and learning

The style of learning is different to most A Levels as students will have the main responsibility for completing the work, allowing for independent learning in the form of research and essay writing, along with some practical work experience.

Progression

University progression: – nursing, paramedic degree, social work, occupational therapy, speech therapy, teaching, policing, midwifery, radiology, psychology and many more.

ICT

Course

Two year Level 3 Extended Certificate (A Level equivalent)

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mrs M Frost

Subject specific entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in English Language and in Mathematics. No Information Technology qualifications are needed.

Year 1 - Technical Certificate:

1. Fundamentals of IT.
2. Global Information Systems.

Year 2 - Extended Certificate consists of one mandatory unit and two optional units:

3. Cyber Security
4. Two optional units from:
 - Project Management
 - Product Development
 - Systems Analysis and Design
 - Internet of Everything

Teaching and learning

Lessons will be taught through use of practical application and theory based teaching.

Progression

Achievement of this qualification can support progression to go on and study on relevant IT degrees such as computer science, software engineering and business information systems, amongst others. It could also lead to employment in business, computing, IT or project management.

English

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Miss G Smy & Mrs C Wright

Subject specific entry requirements

None.

Students will be expected to read and respond to a variety of text types, including fiction and non-fiction. Writing in a number of different styles including descriptive, narrative and argumentative will also form an important part of the final assessments.

Teaching and learning

Talks, discussion, individual and group work.

Progression

GCSE grade C (grade 4 in the new system) in English is essential for almost all employment and further/higher education at 17+ or 18+.

Film Studies

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

WJEC

Curriculum Leader

Mr I Bailey

Subject specific entry requirements

None.

At GCSE students will closely analyse six films set by WJEC. Three films will be on the topic of American Mainstream and Independent cinema and three covering British and European Cinema, both past and present. These topics will consider the relationship between film production and audiences, narrative and genre.

Students will have the opportunity to create a film extract or write a screenplay as part of their coursework.

Teaching and learning

GCSE Film Studies encourages candidates to:

- Develop their interest and enjoyment of film and begin to develop an appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Recognise the ways in which films represent people, places, ideas, issues and events to different audiences.
- Recognise and explore the creative possibilities of film and film products.

Progression

This course is suitable for students interested in further education in many subjects including those students intending to study Literature, Language, History, Sociology, Film Studies, Art, Photography, and Media and Cultural Studies courses at A Level. It may also be useful for a career in television, film, radio and journalism.

ICT

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mrs M Frost

Subject specific entry requirements

None.

The course will cover two main areas:

Practical work: You will use a range of exciting software to choose, use and design information and communication systems to solve problems set by the exam board.

Theory work: You will investigate a range of information and communication systems and their applications as well as developing an understanding of how well they work and the problems with them.

60% of the marks: Coursework – the exam board set a scenario with a number of assignments that can be solved using ICT. The tasks will require the use of a number of software packages in order to complete successfully.

40% of the marks: Written paper – the examination consists of a variety of questions types – short and multiple choice answer questions, extended answer questions and an extended essay question.

Teaching and learning

Three lessons per week, you will spend most of the time extending your skills with software you are already familiar with as well as learning how to use a number of new ones.

Progression

The course provides an excellent basis for the study of ICT or Computing at AS/A Level.

General Studies

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr J Alexander

Subject specific entry requirements

This course is taken by all Year 12 students taking the Prep Course.

Students study a range of contemporary issues within and across the following areas:

1. Political and Economic
2. Spiritual and Cultural
3. Scientific and Technological
4. Aesthetic and Communicative

Topics such as EU membership, online technology and environmental issues have been studied in the past.

Teaching and learning

Students will attend one lesson a week and are encouraged to examine a range of contemporary issues through research, case studies and debate. Assessment is by two written examinations, one of which uses pre-release material, which is studied in class.

Progression

With other GCSE subjects to further education or employment.

Mathematics

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Curriculum Leader

Mr C Dawson

Subject specific entry requirements

This one year GCSE course is provided for students who aim to improve on their previous GCSE Mathematics grades 3 or 4. It is not suitable for anyone who already has a grade 5 or above.

The course consists of 3 written papers (equally weighted) and will follow the Foundation Programme of Study of the National Curriculum which has a grade 5 as the highest attainable grade.

Assessment

Paper 1 Non-calculator

Paper 2 Calculator

Paper 3 Calculator

Teaching and learning

These include traditional and investigational methods. Students will do both individual and group work. There is no coursework element but regular homework assignments will be set. They are expected to have the use of a scientific calculator and will be taught how to use it effectively.

Mental or written methods of calculation will be revisited frequently for the non-calculator paper.

Progression

A GCSE grade C in Mathematics (grade 4 in the new system) is essential for teaching and many other careers and greatly extends opportunities in employment and further/higher education at 17+ and 18+.

Psychology

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

AQA

Curriculum Leader

Mr S Wootton

Subject specific entry requirements

None.

Unit 1 – Making Sense of Other People

Memory: How we remember and why we forget.

Non-Verbal Communication: Body language and facial expressions.

Personality Development: Personality type and temperament.

Stereotyping, Prejudice & Discrimination: How negative stereotypes arise.

Research Methods & Ethical Issues are also covered.

Unit 2 – Understanding Other People's Learning

Learning: How we learn behaviour.

Social Influence: Why we are so willing to obey some people, even if what they ask us to do is clearly wrong.

Gender Development: Why males and females have such different interests and behaviours.

Aggression: Explanations for aggression.

Research Methods: How experiments, questionnaires, interviews, observations and case studies can be used to carry out research.

Assessment

Unit 1 and 2 are both 1½ hour short answer written papers.

Teaching and learning

A range of approaches will be used including formal written work, group work, discussion, debate and role play. Use will also be made of DVDs and the internet.

Science

Course

GCSE (One year course)

Exam Board

OCR

Curriculum Leader

Mr R Grainger

Subject specific entry requirements

None. This course is designed for those who achieved grade C or below in GCSE Science, or the separate sciences.

This GCSE Science course covers the national curriculum for Key Stage 4 Science, including an even mix of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. There are 2 units of work per subject area (6 in total), all of which are examined at the end of the academic year. The theory examinations will contribute 75% of the final grade. The remaining 25% consists of a controlled assessment task, where students research, plan, conduct, analyse and evaluate a scientific investigation. This is conducted during lesson time.

Teaching and learning

Students will benefit from three specialist teachers. One of these teachers will also prepare for and conduct the controlled assessment task. Teachers will use a wide range of resources, techniques and strategies to help students to understand the scientific concepts, catering for a variety of learning styles. Revision skills and exam technique will be taught as recurring themes.

Progression

Students can use this opportunity to improve their GCSE grades, providing entry to A Level or other Level 3 courses of study in the sciences, such as Applied Science, Forensic Science, Nursing, Veterinary Nursing and Medical Science.



There's help at hand

We're not going to spoon feed you, but we don't expect you to do it all alone.
Here are the many ways we support you:

Tutors

You'll be part of a tutor group that meets daily for registration. During this time there will be an opportunity to discuss your academic and personal development.

The Office

Any questions or concerns can be discussed in the Sixth Form Office. Mr Elmy is the Head of Sixth Form, with three Assistant Heads; Mr Alexander, Miss Fowler, Mr Watson, Mrs Spindley, the HLTA with Sixth Form responsibility and Mrs Peck, our Clerical Assistant are all happy to help.

Study Support Officers

Located in the Study Centre, Ms O'Donnell and Mrs Elmy advise on study practices and revision skills.

Confidential Support

We understand the sensitive nature of some things. This is why there's an on-site counsellor and school nurse who are always available and anything discussed is confidential.

Careers Team

Your future is our priority. Mrs Gray (Head of Careers) and Mrs Smith (specialist Post-16 Advisor) visit lessons and explore your options for the future. Appointments can be made to discuss issues on an individual basis.

Group Size

Most groups are taught in groups of 18 or less. This allows our teachers to provide a more personal learning experience.

Learning Support Department

Around the clock support for students with specific needs. If you have specific needs please contact Mrs Spindley for an informal discussion. She is also happy to arrange individual visits where necessary.

Your questions answered Students

Where do the students that attend Northgate Sixth Form come from?

Everywhere. Many have stayed after attending Northgate High School whilst more come from over twenty schools across Suffolk. In total over 50% of the students come from other schools. And there's even new movers to the area. All in all, a fantastic mix of people for you to meet.

Is it possible to take a subject at A Level that I have not taken at GCSE?

Yes and no. For some it is not necessary, for others it is more important. Please see the subject entry requirements for more details.

Is it possible to take any combination of subjects?

No. But we'll listen to suggestions. We work tirelessly to offer a wide range of subject combinations. The timetable blocking system shows what combinations are available, however if there's a popular, unavailable combination we'll try and fit it in. Please make this clear on your application.

How can I get more detailed information on a course?

At our Open Evening on 20th October 2016 (6pm to 8:30pm) and Information Evening on 7th December 2016 (6pm to 8:30pm). If you still have questions feel free to contact the curriculum leader – details are given at the top of each subject page.

What happens if I don't get the grades that I need?

We have to be fair to everyone and stick to the requirements published. If you don't get the grades needed, we recommend you make an appointment as soon as you have your results to meet one of our team, where we can advise on an alternative programme.

Your questions answered Parents

What contact will I have with the Sixth Form?

There's the Introductory Parents' Evening in September where you'll learn more about the Sixth Form and meet your child's tutor. You'll be issued with a parents' handbook containing key dates and procedures. We also ask you to help monitor attendance. Please call us to report absence and we'll contact you if there are concerns over your child's attendance or well being.

What transport options are available?

Those living nearby walk or cycle. Those living further afield take advantage of the local bus services. Many students drive and there is a car park allocated to Sixth Form students.

What do students do when they're not in lessons?

They study. Year 12 students have little free time (typically between three and five lessons a week), however they are encouraged to take advantage of the study facilities on site. If students don't have an afternoon lesson they can leave the site, enabling them to work from home.

What financial support is available?

There is now a 16-19 Bursary Fund available to students where household income is below £21,000 pa. Students will need to apply at the start of the Autumn term. Forms can be downloaded from the Northgate High School website, www.northgate.suffolk.sch.uk

Further details are available from Mr T Elmy (Head of Sixth Form).

For those in particular financial need, in relation to events such as school trips or university visits, there is a fund for economically disadvantaged students; further information is available upon request.

Summary of results 2016

We had 228 Year 13 A Level students
taking 838 A Levels,
across 42 different subjects.
80% of A Level and EPQ entries graded A* to C.

Northgate Sixth Form

Sidegate Lane West, Ipswich, IP4 3DL

Tel: 01473 210123

Fax: 01473 281084

Email: sixthform@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk

Visit: www.northgatesixthform.co.uk



NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM **PROSPECTUS**
2017
