

**NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM
CENTRE** IPSWICH

SIXTH FORM CENTR

Prospectus

2027-2028

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“ Students in the Sixth Form are able to achieve the very highest outcomes because teachers have excellent subject knowledge. After Sixth Form, high proportions of students enter further education, employment or training successfully. Students in the Sixth Form appreciate the opportunities they have to succeed and appreciate that leaders listen to their views.

Ofsted, December 2024 ”

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 your options.

...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 we have our Open Evening on Wednesday 7th October 2026 and for those who cannot make that event the website contains information related to subjects and the Sixth Form as a whole.

Mr Alexander,
Head of Sixth Form

Sadia

Subjects Studying: English Literature, Spanish, Sociology

Previous School: Westbourne Academy

Zuzanna

Subjects Studying: English Literature, History, Politics

Previous School: St Albans



The application process

Our application process is designed to help you make the right decisions for your future. Every applicant is interviewed and below is what our offer requirements will consist of:

Two year A Level study

- At least 5 GCSEs, or equivalent qualifications, at grade 4 or above, including English Language and Mathematics
- Subject specific requirements (see course pages)

Applications to Northgate are welcome from the beginning of October 2026

- We will invite you for an interview once we have received your application
- Offers of provisional places will be made from December 2026 to April 2027
- The closing date for applications is Friday 29th January 2027

Key dates

Open evening

Wednesday 7th October 2026

Closing date for applications

Friday 29th January 2027

Induction

Thursday 1st July 2027

Parent/Tutor Evening

September 2027

GCSE results day is

Thursday 19th August 2027

Why choose us?

We have a track record of success, in 2026, over 290 students from more than 30 different schools chose Northgate Sixth Form. From excellent exam results to flourishing personalities, here are some reasons for our widespread appeal:

High quality

- In the summer, at 19th August 2026, 148 students held an unconditional firm offer of a place at university; 29% of those were at Russell Group universities. 1 student secured an Oxbridge place.
- Most classes are taught in groups of 20 or less. This allows our teachers to provide a more personal learning experience.
- 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. Sixth Form students have access to Northgate Gym free of charge.
- Cafe 6 – is exclusively for Sixth Form students, located in our common room and open between 8am - 2pm everyday.

Lots of choice

- Wide range of subjects and possible combinations of subjects – 31 A Level and four Level 3 qualifications.
- Variety of challenging and fun extra-curricular opportunities: from sports to music to theatre.

As we are a large Sixth Form Centre, it is very rare for us to be in a position where we cannot run a subject that is advertised in the prospectus. However, if there are insufficient numbers of students to make a course viable we will contact students and let them know as soon as possible. A member of the Sixth Form Team will talk through other options and offer advice and support.

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).

What to expect

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 debating to dance, there's something for everyone. There's the opportunity for students to take part in Enrichment 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 Personal Tutor or a member of the Sixth Form office team at other times to discuss student progress or other matters of concern.

Northgate Sixth Form Ambassador Scheme

The Northgate Sixth Form Student Ambassador Scheme is highly successful, with a record 90 students applying to take part, reflecting strong pride in and enthusiasm for the Sixth Form community. Ambassadors play an important role in promoting the school, supporting prospective students, and helping younger pupils, while feedback shows they have a very positive impact on students and parents alike. Being part of the scheme also benefits the ambassadors themselves by developing key skills such as communication, organisation, and confidence, which are valuable for future university applications, employment, and apprenticeships.



The Aspire Programme

Places at universities, on degree apprenticeship programmes and in the workplace are increasingly competitive. It is therefore important that young people gain the knowledge, skills and experiences that they need to thrive and be successful in life.

What is the Aspire Programme?

The Aspire Programme provides students with opportunities to take part in a number of varied activities throughout Year 12 to help equip and support you to realise your ambitions with regards to moving on at the end of your time at Northgate Sixth Form. Whether you are thinking of university, an apprenticeship or entering the workforce, this programme will help prepare you for your next steps.

There's help at hand

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 Alexander is the Head of Sixth Form, with three Assistant Heads; Miss Fowler, Mr Watson, Mrs Pope, and Miss Smith, our Admissions Officer are all happy to help.

Sixth Form Support Officer

Mrs Newbold is our Sixth Form Support Officer who manages attendance and is available to give emotional support when our learners face challenges. She is always on hand to advise students when they are facing difficulties and give advice on study practices and revision skills.

Confidential Support

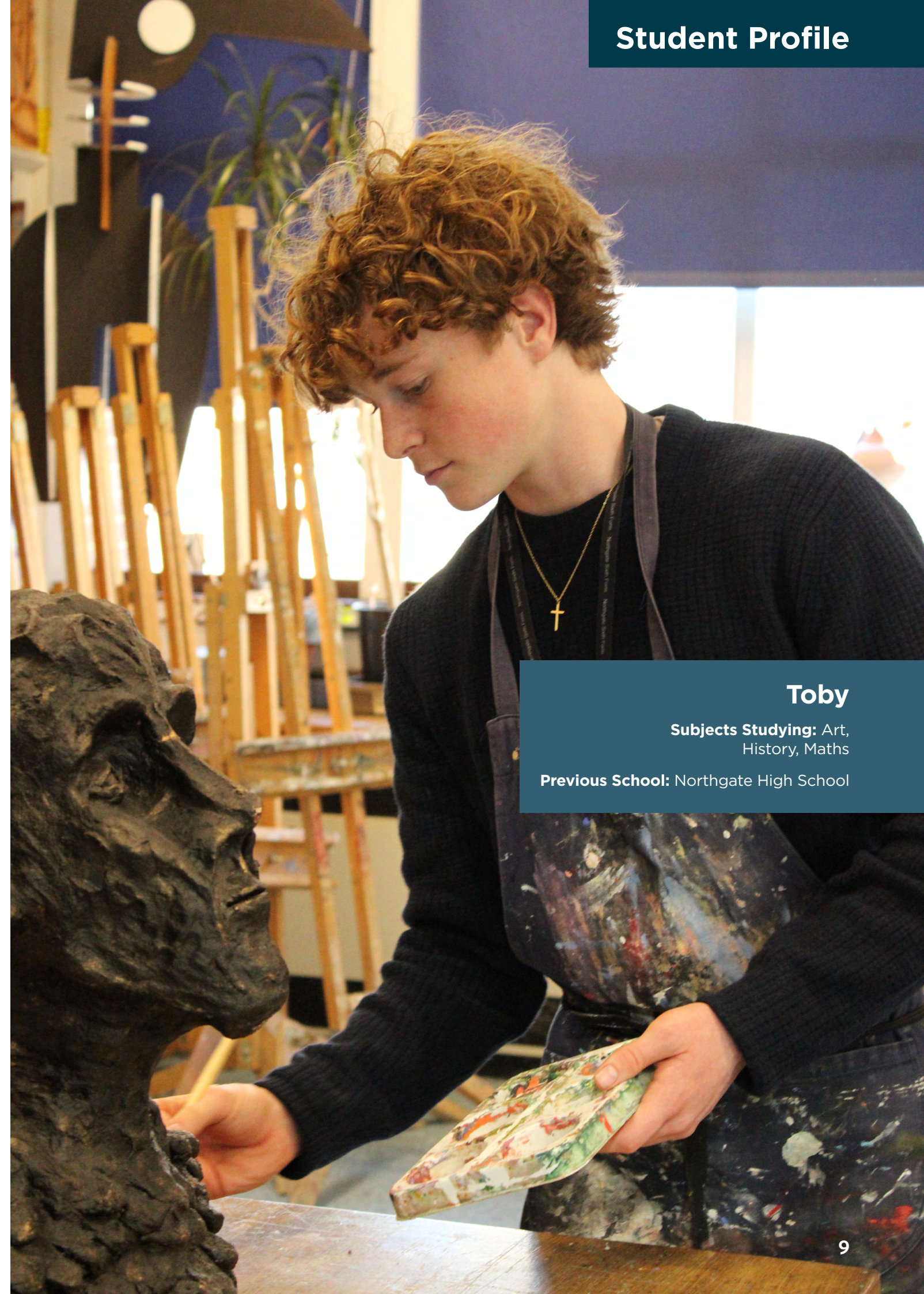
We understand the sensitive nature of some things. This is why there is on-site counselling, community mentors and a caring pastoral team who are available and anything discussed is confidential.

Careers Team

The Careers Team at Northgate Sixth Form supports students in preparing for life after school by offering guidance on options such as university, college, apprenticeships, employment, and volunteering. Based in the Careers Suite opposite the library, students can access resources like prospectuses, careers books, and computers, as well as speak directly with staff about their plans. The Careers Leader, Mrs Calder, also visits lessons to highlight opportunities and provide advice. Students can attend weekly drop-in sessions or book individual appointments for more personalised support. Throughout their time in Sixth Form, they can take part in various careers and enterprise activities, including university and employer talks, exhibitions, conferences, open days, and a dedicated Careers Day.

Learning Support Department

If you have specific needs please contact Mrs Nunn, the Learning Support Team Leader with Sixth Form responsibility, at: LNunn@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk for an informal discussion.



Toby

Subjects Studying: Art,
History, Maths

Previous School: Northgate High School

Art (Fine Art Endorsement)

Course Overview

A Level Art & Design allows you to progress an exciting and extensive range of creative and technical skills. It prepares you for a range of courses, but particularly those that demand problem solving skills and technical dexterity.

Over the two-year course, you will be introduced to a range of working methods and materials which can be used to develop project work. You will also be introduced to a range of artists and movements to further your contextual understanding. Following the workshops, we ask students to start developing individual projects.

You will also complete a range of substantial main pieces in response to the lively and rich set of project work in your sketchbook. This project will form the Personal Investigation and will be accompanied by a 3000-word research essay.

In February of your second year, you will receive an exam paper that contains a range of stimuli to begin a second practical project. This will build towards an outcome that will be completed under timed conditions (15 hours).

Why Choose this Course?

The creative industries in the UK and further afield are thriving and an A Level in Art & Design has transferable skills that are valued in many professions. Art A Level also allows for self-expression and an opportunity to personalise your work, developing your own unique style and vision.

Skills You Gain

Art students develop a diverse range of practical skills alongside an ability to evaluate and interpret the work of others. Increasingly, students are also developing new media technology as a chosen media to work in.

A strong Art training can also develop highly valuable transferable skills, including creative ideas development, problem-solving, contextual interpretation, and visual communication, as well as organisational, presentation, and team-working skills.

After Northgate

Many of our students continue a foundation course and then follow degrees and careers in a wide range of areas. These include 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, Landscape Architecture and Events Management.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Art & Design
- A set task if Art not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 60% Coursework
- 40% Exam (Externally Set Assignment)

Exam Board

Edexcel

Subject Lead

Mr D Beattie

Year 1 Components

- The Formal Elements
- Self-directed Personal Investigation

Year 2 Components

- Self-directed Personal Investigation
- Personal Study
- Externally Set Assignment

Biology

Course Overview

A Level Biology will give you an exciting insight into the contemporary world of biology. It covers the key concepts of biology with practical skills integrated throughout the course. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying Biology at A Level highly appealing.

You will learn about the core concepts of biology and about the impact of biological research and how it links to everyday life. You will also learn to apply your knowledge, investigate and solve problems in a range of contexts.

Emphasis throughout the course is on increasing knowledge, developing competence and confidence in practical skills and developing problem solving. We will also discuss how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how science contributes to the success of the economy and society.

Why Choose this Course?

Studying biology is an interesting and challenging learning experience, linking key biological ideas and understanding how they relate to each other.

It opens up a range of possibilities for further study and careers associated with the subject.

Skills You Gain

You will develop many transferable skills including investigative, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical skills and analytical skills.

By carrying out a range of practical tasks, you will become competent in:

- Following procedures
- Applying an investigative approach when using instruments and equipment
- Working safely
- Making and recording observations
- Researching, referencing and reporting.

After Northgate

Biology is an excellent base for a degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science.

Biology leads to many career opportunities including biological research, medical, environmental, sports and science communication. The transferable skills you will learn are useful for many other areas, such as law.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Biology
- Or 6/6 in Combined Science

Assessment

- 100% Exam
- A practical endorsement (based on a series of practical tasks completed in lessons)

Exam Board

OCR Specification A

Subject Lead

Miss H Mosley & Miss R Mitchell

Year 1 Components

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Foundations in biology
- Exchange and transport
- Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Year 2 Components

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Business

Course Overview

This course explores real world business issues and contemporary themes such as digital technology, sustainability, ethics, globalisation and modern workplace practices.

You will develop an understanding of the core functions of business including marketing, operations, finance and human resources before progressing to strategy, decision making and business growth in Year 2. Alongside this, you will build key skills in data analysis, critical thinking and decision making.

Lessons are interactive and based on real life case studies. You will take an active role in your learning, with around five hours of independent study per week. Support sessions are available throughout the course.

Why Choose this Course?

This course helps you understand how businesses operate in a fast changing world, responding to technological change, sustainability, ethical issues and global competition.

You will learn to think like a business decision maker by analysing data, evaluating options and making justified recommendations, while developing a clear understanding of how different areas of a business work together.

With a consistent exam structure and real world contexts, you will gain confidence in applying your knowledge. This course is ideal if you are interested in current affairs, enjoy problem solving and want to develop skills relevant to the modern workplace.

Skills You Gain

- Analyse financial data and assess business performance
- Make and justify decisions using evidence
- Apply financial and business formulae in context
- Develop written and verbal communication skills
- Apply knowledge to real life case studies
- Think critically about contemporary business issues

After Northgate

A Level Business supports progression to university courses such as Business, Marketing, Finance and Management, as well as apprenticeships. It can lead to careers in banking, retail, consultancy, administration and entrepreneurship.

You will also develop transferable skills in analysis, decision making, problem solving and communication, which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Business or Economics if taken OR
- GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics and grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 100% Exam

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Miss J Hyland

Year 1 & Year 2 Components

3.1 What is Business? Managing Marketing and Finance

- Business objectives and stakeholders
- Forms of business
- Marketing management
- Financial management

3.2 Managing People and Operations

- People management
- Operations management
- Business culture

3.3 Business Strategy and the External Environment

- Business in society
- External environment
- Strategy
- Change

Chemistry

Course Overview

Have you ever wondered how many atoms there are in a drop of water? Or how do different molecules interact with each other? Would you be interested to know what is inside the medicine you take? Our A-Level Chemistry course will help you discover answers to questions like these and transform your appreciation of the world around you.

Our course will develop your understanding of unimaginably tiny particles like atoms, molecules and ions that you cannot directly experience whilst, revealing how the structure and arrangement of these particles affects the properties of materials. You will also learn how to describe and represent the structures and substances that will allow effective communication with other chemists.

Practical work is integrated into every topic, and you will have plenty of opportunities to develop your experimental skills using extensive equipment and materials and collaborating with other students.

Why Choose this Course?

You will enjoy this course if...

- You are curious about the nature of materials and how they interact
- If you like imagining extremely tiny particles and how this will affect macroscopic objects
- You are good at visualising objects in three dimensions
- If you enjoy collaborating with other students on practical tasks and analysing data obtained in experiments.

Skills You Gain

You will begin by developing your understanding of the fundamental concepts in Chemistry. You will also encounter many completely new ideas for the first time, such as the angles between bonds in small molecules and the information that can be determined about structures by analysis of their interaction with radiation. You will also gain significant experience at applying maths to solve chemical problems. Your practical skills will be developed throughout the course. You will also learn how to describe and represent the structures and substances you encounter in a way that will allow effective communication with other chemists.

After Northgate

A Level Chemistry will be excellent preparation for university courses in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Pharmacy and Engineering and a significant proportion of our students' progress onto courses such as these. Chemistry is also an essential course for careers and university courses in Medicine and Veterinary Science. A Level Chemistry is also highly valued for entry onto other courses such as Law and Finance. There are also many non-university progression routes for example, apprenticeships or degree-apprenticeships in the pharmaceutical industry.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Chemistry
- Or 6/6 in Combined Science

Assessment

- 100% Exam – 3 exams at the end of Year 13.

Exam Board

OCR A

Subject Lead

Mr P Silvester

Components

- Development of practical skills in Chemistry
- Foundations in Chemistry
- Periodic table and energy
- Core organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry and transition elements
- Organic Chemistry and analysis

Computer Science

Course Overview

Computer Science is a practical subject where academic principles meet real-world systems. It is an intensely creative discipline that combines invention with the excitement of seeing your ideas come to life.

The aims of this qualification are to enable you to develop:

- A deep understanding of fundamental concepts including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience and writing your own programs.
- The capacity for thinking creatively, analytically and critically.
- A strong grasp of the relationships between different aspects of computer science and mathematical skills.
- The ability to articulate the individual, social, legal and cultural risks and opportunities of digital technology.

Why Choose this Course?

The demand for skilled computer scientists is vast, especially for professionals with expertise in AI, machine learning, cybersecurity, data science, and cloud computing.

Whether you want to command a high wage, change the world through medical innovation or raise global standards of living, this is the course for you.

If you enjoy a challenge and want to solve problems that people do not even realise exist yet, choose Computer Science. Be the person in control of technology rather than being controlled by it. Be the future.

Skills You Gain

You will become a consummate problem solver. You will learn to think logically and develop sophisticated solutions for complex systems. You will gain the most sought after attributes in the modern job market: the ability to deconstruct a complicated issue and make it simple, solvable and robust.

After Northgate

After your time at Northgate, you can progress to degree level studies at university or undertake a degree apprenticeship with a global company. This allows you to learn a profession while the company pays for your degree and provides a salary at the same time. You could even launch your own startup! Wherever you want to go, the logical mindset and technical grit you develop in Computer Science at Northgate will get you there.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Computer Science
- Or GCSE grade 4 in Maths if Computer Science not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 80% Exam
- 20% Coursework

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Ms S Calow

Components

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

You will also choose a computing problem to solve.

Dance

Course Overview

Dance at A Level aims to develop technical skill, deepen creative exploration and widen analytical and reflective practice through written and practical study.

Over the two-year course, you will study a minimum of 11 professional works ranging from the pieces that were created during the emergence of modern dance in Britain in 1966 through to the most current contemporary works from leading practitioners and beyond. You will gain an in-depth knowledge of specific study areas as well as connecting areas of practice with your own developing skill and understanding.

You will need a passion for dance and an interest in the mechanics and development of professional dance works including use of movement, theme, and features of production such as costume, lighting, aural setting and set design.

Why Choose this Course?

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages you to develop your creative and intellectual capacity through a range of dance styles. The course provides the opportunity to acquire experience of performance and choreography and to engage in critical thinking about dance. The specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it relevant and inspiring, while at the same time promoting a healthy lifestyle through an awareness of the importance of exercise and training.

A Level Dance is a healthy blend of coursework and examination, both practical and written. There is an expectation that much of the performance work is undertaken through rehearsal outside of the curriculum lesson.

Skills You Gain

Dance at A Level helps develop a number of skills;

- Visual appreciation of dance and choreography
- Balanced judgement
- Information gathering and assessment

Along with 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 you stand out in the workplace whatever your choice of career.

After Northgate

A Level Dance is suitable for anyone wanting to pursue arts or dance in higher education, or as support for any course requiring good communication or team-work skills. In addition to performing, choreographing and teaching, this course might lead to such diverse careers as dance therapy, events management, dance marketing or journalism.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 50% Exam
- 50% Coursework

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Miss H Patrick

Year 1 & Year 2 Components

Performance and Choreography

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography

Critical Engagement

- Area of study - Rambert Dance Company 1966-2002
- Set work: Rooster, Christopher Bruce
- Area of study - Independent contemporary dance scene in Britain 2000 - current
- Set work: Sutra, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Design & Technology

Course Overview

An A level in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject.

This course encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. The course enables students to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes. Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.

Why Choose this Course?

This course enables students to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Students will develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products and systems, and their impact on daily life, responding to feedback from users, peers and expert practitioners. Students will gain an insight into the creative, engineering and/or manufacturing industries and develop the capacity to think creatively, innovatively and critically through focused research and the exploration of design opportunities arising from the needs, wants and values of users and clients.

Skills You Gain

During their time at Northgate students will undertake a series of focused practical elements of Design and Technology, that will help to build a greater understanding of the materials and processes involved in the manufacture of everyday objects. This will be delivered alongside theory sessions that allow students to develop a critical understanding of the wider influences on design and technology, including cultural, economic, environmental, historical and social factors.

After Northgate

Design and Technology fits in well with several different subjects. Students follow a range of different routes following their time with us. This could include avenues such as directly into employment or undertaking an engineering-based apprenticeship. In the past we have had students enter university to follow a wide range of design disciplines that lead directly to employment in associated fields.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in a Design & Technology subject

Assessment

- 50% Exam
- 50% Coursework

Exam Board

Eduqas

Subject Lead

Mr J Jenner

Year 1 Components

- Students take a single examination in product design. The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learner's knowledge and understanding of:
 - technical principles
 - designing and making principles

Year 2 Components

- A sustained design and make project assessing the candidate's ability to identify, investigate design, make and evaluate design prototypes.

Esme

Subjects Studying: Graphics, Physics, Maths

Previous School: Northgate High School

Tillie

Subjects Studying: Business, Sociology, Textiles

Previous School: St Joseph's College

Drama & Theatre

Course Overview

Drama and Theatre at A Level aims to develop performance skill, deepen creative exploration and widen analytical and reflective practice through written and practical study.

Over the two-year course, you will study a range of texts and practitioners which will provide you with the knowledge and understanding to explore drama as a practical art form, in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. You will create, perform and respond to drama, while also exploring relationships between theory and practice in a range of theatrical styles, periods and historical, social and cultural contexts.

You will need a passion for drama and an interest in theatre as you will analyse live theatre and experience ways in which theatre makers contribute to create theatre.

Why Choose this Course?

If you are keen on acting and interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work or are curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama then this is the course for you. You will extend your ability to create drama through adopting a performing role, write about drama and develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic.

The course is a healthy blend of coursework and examination, both practical and written. There is an expectation that much of the performance work is undertaken through rehearsal outside of the curriculum lesson.

Skills You Gain

Drama allows for personal development and emotional understanding. Activities help to build essential skills for success in wider studies, future pursuits and life in general.

- Communication ■ Confidence ■ Teamwork and Leadership
- Listening and Responding ■ Creativity ■ Critical thinking and Problem Solving

All are sought after skills by higher education and employers that will help you stand out in the workplace whatever your choice of career.

After Northgate

A Level Drama and Theatre is suitable for anyone wanting to pursue arts or drama in Higher Education, or as support for any course requiring good communication or team-work skills. In addition to performing, directing and teaching, this course might lead to employment in drama therapy, arts organisations, media companies, hospitality and leisure or educational institutions.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 in Drama
- Or GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature if Drama not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 40% Exam
- 60% Coursework

Exam Board

Pearson

Subject Lead

Miss H Patrick

Year 1 & Year 2 Components

- Devising – Performance of an original piece of drama, supported by a portfolio
- Text in Performance – Externally assessed monologue/duologue and group performance
- Theatre makers in practice – Written exam

Economics

Course Overview

Economics at A Level is an exciting and dynamic course, appealing to students who are interested in understanding the world we live in. It is both challenging and exceptionally rewarding and opens many doors.

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied economics before. You might have an interest in economics and want to know more about the impact economics has on the world around you. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news – Why do some economies grow and others don't? How to global events impact our daily lives? Why are some people exceptionally wealthy and others are not? This course will help you to understand all this and much more.

The A Level in Economics covers a broad range of issues on both a local and global level. Areas include: Financial Economics, Development Economics, International Trade Economics, and Business Economics.

Why Choose this Course?

Studying Economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. It is held in very high regard by universities (including Russell Group) and by many employers. Not only will the study of economics enrich your understanding of the world and current affairs, but it will enhance and support your study of many other subjects. Economics often appeals to students who have an inquisitive mind, an ability in mathematics and interested society – Economics is classified as a Social Science or Humanity subject.

Skills You Gain

Economics is a highly analytical course, challenging students to use and interpret current data to corroborate and justify choices. It is also discursive, with debates around economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for health care. Economists will often discuss a range of alternative courses of action to solve complex problems (although we don't claim to have all the answers).

After Northgate

Economics students can follow a vast range of careers in industry, commerce, finance, journalism, politics, and the civil service. Suitable higher education courses include economics degrees or degrees in applied economics such as environmental economics, labour economics, public sector economics or development economics. Economics will also open the door to many opportunities to enrol on a degree level apprenticeship scheme, including in the field of accountancy.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Business or Economics
- Or GCSE grade 5 in Maths and grade 5 in either English Language or Literature if Business or Economics not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 100% exam

Exam Board

Edexcel (Economics A)

Subject Lead

Mr W Pierce

Year 1 Components

- Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
- Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

Year 2 Components

- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective

English Language

Course Overview

English Language at A Level provides students with a unique opportunity to see their own language and methods of communication in a completely different light whilst developing essential critical thinking skills. Within the context of its long history of development we look at how our language creates, reflects and represents our identity and culture through analytical and sociolinguistic study.

Over the two-year course you will explore a wide range of genres, texts and discourses to consider how language constructs and conveys ideas about the world around you. You will also study how we acquire language as children, how it is influenced by geography, ethnicity, gender, age and class and how it has changed over time and continues to change here, and throughout the world.

Why Choose this Course?

We are exposed to language and the effects of its use in every aspect of our lives; it is so self-evident we are barely aware of just how important it is. The words we choose, the topics we discuss, the things we read or are exposed to, consciously and subconsciously, have a direct influence on our thoughts, perceptions and actions, and our attitudes to other English language users. This course allows you to fully explore the ways language is used in all its forms to create meaning whilst developing your own critical thinking, communication, and original writing skills.

Skills You Gain

You will understand how to communicate effectively, engage with how language creates meaning and representation, critically assess information and challenge assumptions and become aware of the wider context and subtext of language. In a world where communication is increasingly key to understanding wider issues and discourses, you will develop both critical and practical communication skills useful in all aspects of life.

After Northgate

A-Level English Language can help you to develop a wide range of highly respected transferable skills for both work and further study. These include analytical skills, critical thinking, research skills and communication skills, making it a highly valued qualification. English Language combines well with many other areas of future study and can lead to a huge variety of further study programmes and career paths, including Journalism, Teaching, Marketing, Human Resources and Advertising.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 80% Exam
- 20% Coursework

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mrs C Wright & Miss G Smy

Year 1 Components

- Introduction to methods of language analysis
- Analysis of how texts use language
- Study of language and diversity, wider discourses
- Directed critical writing
- NEA 1: Original Writing and Commentary

Year 2 Components

- NEA 2: Language Investigation
- Children's language development, history of language change, language and technology
- Study of English as a global language
- Study of World Englishes

English Literature

Course Overview

A Level English Literature gives students the opportunity to delve into a range of different texts from literature throughout time. We use independent work, group work, presentations and class discussions to expose students to an array of contexts, interpretations and reader responses.

Over the two-year course, you will study a range of prose, drama and poetry texts from literature across time. You will get to know six core texts in depth and learn how to consider the contexts in which they were written and received as well as how different readers and audiences have responded over time. You will discover critical theory and how experts have responded to the texts as well as weigh up whether you agree with them or not.

English Literature will not only give you an in depth understanding of literature through the ages but it will also give you the opportunity to improve your planning, writing and analytical skills.

Why Choose this Course?

If you enjoy reading or studying a range of different texts, English Literature is for you. The A Level course gives us time to study texts in more time and greater depth than at GCSE, so you can really get to the know the texts and their contexts. However, you don't have to have a love of reading to enjoy this course, an interest in history, psychology, sociology or drama can be just as valuable in the English Literature classroom. The NEA coursework element gives you the chance to choose your own texts to read, research and write about and is a great opportunity for you to take your study in a direction that interests you.

Skills You Gain

English Literature embeds the skills that are essential for communicating in the modern world. With textual analysis, inferred meanings and academic style increasingly more important in making you stand out from others, English Literature is just as relevant today as it always has been. You will gain skills in working independently and in groups as well as developing confidence in airing your own opinions in front of others and building your confidence in both the spoken and written word. You will learn key analytical skills so that you will be able to read any text and be aware of how meaning is generated and how readers might respond.

After Northgate

Any university will recognise and value an A Level in English Literature and it is suitable for any area of further education, with alumni going on to study everything from journalism to biochemistry. English Literature goes well with many combinations of other subjects you may go on to study, including History, Sociology, Psychology, Drama, Media, Criminology, Law, Business – the list really is endless.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 80% Exam
- 20% Coursework

Exam Board

AQA Specification A

Subject Lead

Mrs C Wright & Miss G Smy

Year 1 Components

- An introduction modern literature
- The Great Gatsby, Othello, pre 1900 poetry
- Unseen poetry comparison
- Start the NEA – coursework unit

Year 2 Components

- Finish the NEA – coursework unit
- All My Sons, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Feminine Gospels
- Unseen prose

Film Studies

Course Overview

Film Studies at A Level provides students with an overview of film over the last 100 years. We take both an analytical and practical approach that looks at all aspects of cinema, spectatorship and meaning.

Over the two-year course, you will study 15 films including texts ranging from American blockbusters to independent British film and beyond. You will consider your role as spectator in the construction of meaning and examine film as an aesthetic art form, a storytelling medium and how films reflect their social and political contexts

Film Studies not only enables you to understand how films both make meaning and reflect wider societal values, but will also develop your own filmmaking skills and put theory into practise. We also study a range of short films in preparation for your own short film production.

Why Choose this course?

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the last 100 years and an increasingly important part of our society. If you are enthusiastic and excited by cinema then this course is for you. Whether it be a passion for mainstream Hollywood or a love of experimental world cinema, Film Studies offers a breadth of learning experiences. You will study a highly diverse series of films which reflect global, ethnic and cultural experiences.

Production work is an integral part of the course and you will have an opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed as you will create your own five minute piece of cinema.

Skills You Gain

It will enhance your understanding of critical approaches to film and how to apply them. Films are studied within their key contexts, including social political and industrial influences.

You will learn key analytical skills so that you will be able to freely 'read' films and be aware of how meaning is generated and how spectators respond to film.

After Northgate

Film Studies is a well-regarded A level that is suitable for those interested in further education in many subjects including English Literature, English Language, History, Sociology, Art, Photography and Media and Cultural studies at a degree level. It may also be useful for a career in television, film, radio or journalism.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 70% Exam
- 30% Coursework

Exam Board

Eduqas

Subject Lead

Mr I Bailey

Year 1 Components

- American Film since 2005
- Hollywood Film 1930-1990
- British Film since 1995
- Global Film (European)

Year 2 Components

- Global Film (outside Europe)
- Documentary Film
- Silent Film
- Experimental Film
- Short Film Production

Geography

Course Overview

A Level Geography investigates a range of current pressing global issues and looks at how society can mitigate against and have adapted to these. It offers a selection of interesting topics not covered at GCSE and is underpinned by the following four key themes; water and carbon cycles; landscape systems; changing places; global systems and governance.

The A Level Geography course is divided into two main branches; Human Geography which is a social science that studies how humans interact with the planet and Physical Geography which is a branch of earth science and looks at the natural elements of the world, including the atmosphere, land and oceans.

We are living in a globalised world where people, places and environments are increasingly connected and through which there is a rapid global movement of goods, people, and technology. You will investigate the social, political, economic, cultural and environmental consequences of this highly interconnected world and the role of global governance in regulating it.

Why Choose this course?

You will have the opportunity to learn in a variety of ways, including using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos and documentaries. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and develop a grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Fieldwork is integral to this course and will take part in at least 4 fieldwork days which will form the basis of your coursework. We also run at least one optional residential field trip; in previous years, we have visited Iceland, Sorrento, Barcelona and Cornwall.

Skills You Gain

Working both independently and collaboratively you will develop valuable skills that can be transferred and used across other subject areas and in everyday life. These include investigative, graphical and statistical skills as well as the ability to effectively research and present balanced arguments that demonstrate critical and scientific reasoning.

After Northgate

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice as it combines well with both arts and science subjects. Students have progressed to study and/or have careers in a wide range of areas including, Meteorology, Climatology, Earth Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law, International Relations, Urban Planning & Architecture, Civil Engineering and Crime Analysis.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Geography
- Or GCSE grade 6 in English Language or Literature if Geography not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 80% Exam
- 20% Coursework

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Ms A Turner

Year 1 Components

- Coastal Landscape Systems
- Changing Spaces; Making Places
- Hazardous Earth
- Climate Change

Year 2 Components

- Earth's Life Support Systems
- Migration
- Human Rights
- Investigative Geography Coursework

Charlie

Subjects Studying: Maths, Physics, Physical Education

Previous School: Kesgrave High School

German

Course Overview

German at A Level is an exciting opportunity to achieve a high proficiency in one of the most widely spoken modern languages worldwide.

Northgate Sixth Form's purpose-built Language Centre provides our students with access to the latest ICT facilities to support their language learning and their need to stay in touch with the latest international issues. Study is also supported and enriched through a joint trip with History to Berlin in Year 12.

At the start of the first year the emphasis will be primarily on language skills and the acquisition of vocabulary, structures and grammar; we will then focus more on the in-depth study of the society, culture and heritage of the societies where the language is spoken.

Lessons are conducted for the most part in German. The textbooks AQA A Level, Kerboodle and authentic German materials are used. The units will be assessed at the end of Year 13.

Why Choose this course?

Germany is the biggest economy within the European Union and the fourth largest worldwide. It is home to numerous international corporations and is on the front line of new technologies.

94% of people DO NOT speak English as a first language.

German is the second most commonly used scientific language

Skills You Gain

Alongside the language development, interpersonal skills, and cultural awareness, German at A-Level helps you to broaden your understanding and view of the world because it allows you to look at life from a different perspective.

After Northgate

Continue your study with a degree in German or International/European Studies. Or join up German with other A Level subjects for entry to other degree courses. Careers in the business world, sciences, civil service, education, tourism, cyber security, interpreting, translating, gaming, fashion and the arts – the choices are endless!

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in German

Assessment

- 50% Unit 1 Listening, Reading and Writing
- 20% Unit 2 Writing
- 30% Unit 3 Speaking

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mr A Cobbold

Year 1 & Year 2 Components

- Aspects of German Society: family life, the digital world, youth culture
- Artistic Culture in the German-speaking: world festivals and traditions, art and architecture, cultural life in Berlin
- Multiculturalism: immigration, integration and racism
- Aspects of Political Life in German-speaking Society: Germany and the EU, politics and youth, German Reunification
- One Text and one Film

Graphics (Art & Design)

Course Overview

Graphics at A Level gives students an opportunity to apply their artistic and technical creativity to specific assignments that reflect the real world of design for print, publishing, packaging and many other creative industries.

Over the two-year course, you will complete three main projects, two set by your teacher and one set by the exam board. The first project will introduce you to many skills and media including illustration and printing techniques using both traditional and digital media. The second will be a personal investigation project developed around your interests and main skills and will form the coursework element. The third will be one of 7 possible projects set by the exam board, you choose just one.

Graphics at Northgate will give you the chance to work on realistic tasks under the guidance of staff that have worked in the real world of graphics and illustration and using professional facilities for both CAD and CAM. You can also specialise within areas of interest including architecture design, fashion design, children's book illustration and more.

Why Choose this course?

Design for print and advertising is a huge and vital part of every business in today's world and allows you to demonstrate the creative problem solving and technology utilising skills desired by employers of all industries.

The course allows you to develop your creativity and skills by applying them to a range of situations that includes developing and researching areas of particular interest to you.

Skills You Gain

You will be given tuition in the use of print techniques, computer aided design and illustration as well as many other design skills by staff who have worked as professionals in graphics and illustration.

After Northgate

Graphics prepares you for any creative course or employment but most of our students go on to study at degree level in areas including illustration, graphic design and architecture. Others go straight to employment in businesses requiring designers able to utilise technology in a creative way.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in any Art or Design and Technology based GCSE

Assessment

- 60% Coursework
- 40% Externally set assignment
- All teacher assessed and moderated by the exam board, no written exam.

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Mr M Gaffney

Year 1 Components

Personal Investigation (coursework)

- A project based on your personal interests and strengths.
- This will include a written element of 1000 words or more.

Year 2 Components

Externally Set Assignment

- A project chosen from a set of 7 starting points set by the exam board.
- The final outcome for this project will be completed in 15 hours of supervised time.

History

Course Overview

Just as history has made our world what it is, history can also be a key part of your future. Learn how studying history informs the present and gives you the skills you need to prepare for the future. Our A Level History course provides students with an interesting and challenging course that helps us understand the modern world and develops highly valued employability skills.

Over the two-year course, you will complete four units.

- The key political changes experienced in a unified Germany (1918-45) and then in West Germany (1945-89), and the impact of these changes.
- The rise and fall of fascism in Italy (1911-46) - the turbulent years in that saw the collapse of the liberal state, the creation of a fascist dictatorship and a return to democracy.
- The British experience of warfare (c1790-1918) - Britain's involvement in major overseas conflicts and the changing relationship between the state and the people.
- The Cold War - this coursework unit focusses on either the Vietnam War or the end of the Cold War. Both events still have a profound impact on the modern world.

Why Choose this course?

History is both interesting and useful! As a history student, you will never experience the events that you study; instead you must build up a picture from the evidence that has been left. Historians are trained to look for bias and prejudice in all the evidence they study. History helps you to decide if you trust what they say. You will learn about countries, societies, and cultures. So many of today's conflicts have their roots in the past; how can you understand, trade successfully with, or report on a country if you know nothing of its culture or history?

Skills You Gain

History is very practical and teaches you vital skills that employers want because it involves:

- Learning to locate and sift facts - in today's internet-based, information overloaded world, employers really appreciate someone who can sift through the evidence to find the vital information.
- Handling evidence to make informed decisions - to identify truth and recognise myth, propaganda and downright lies (useful in every aspect of life!)
- Communicating your ideas and thoughts in a way that makes sense to others and having the confidence to defend your findings.

After Northgate

History is a well-regarded A level that is suitable for those interested in further education in many subjects including Law and Politics and can contribute to careers in archaeology, business, economics, local government, journalism, publishing, the civil service, tourism and our thriving heritage industry.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in History
- Or GCSE grade 6 in English Literature or English Language if History not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 80% Exam
- 20% Coursework

Exam Board

Edexcel

Subject Lead

Miss Z Quinton

Year 1 Components

- Germany and West Germany, 1918-1989
- The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, 1911-1946

Year 2 Components

- The British experience of warfare, C1790-1918
- Coursework: The work of the historian, looking at either why the Americans failed in Vietnam or why the Cold War ended.

Law

Course Overview

A level law will enable you to develop your communication, analytical and evaluation skills. You will also learn about some of the key principles of English law as well as the workings of both our legal system and the law making process.

Why Choose this course?

Law is an increasingly popular course at university. The A level gives you an insight into the content of a Law degree, including a head start with some of the main topics studied in the first year. It will also give you a feel for whether law is right for you at university. Places to study Law are also highly competitive and being able to demonstrate an early interest at A level may give you the edge.

You will have the opportunity to take part in Mock Trials at both the University of Suffolk as well as the national Mock Trial Competition.

We also work with Ashtons Legal and Attwells Solicitors.

Skills You Gain

You will gain the ability to apply the law to real life scenarios as well as critically evaluate the current state of the law. You will develop your written and verbal communication skills as well as your independent research skills throughout the course.

After Northgate

The majority of students have gone on to study Law or related subjects such as Criminology at a range of universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Leeds, Durham and UEA. Many are now practising as solicitors.

Others have gone on to join the police force or have joined national firms as solicitor apprentices.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- A Level Law is assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Mrs K Whittingham
Solicitor (non-practising)

Year 1 Components

- Criminal Law – murder, manslaughter, non-fatal offences and property offences as well as all major defences.
- Law Making – from parliamentary law making to judge made law.
- English legal system – learning about the different institutions and roles within our legal system.

Year 2 Components

- Tort – responsibility for civil wrongs.
- Contract – all elements of a binding contract.
- The interaction between law, morality, justice and society

Mathematics

Course Overview

Mathematics is of central importance to society – underpinning the Sciences, Technology, Computing and the Financial World. It possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty. Mathematics is therefore a vital subject, opening the doors to many careers.

You begin the course by studying a range of topics in Pure Maths including Proof, Polynomials, Graphs, Binomial Expansions, Trigonometry, Logarithms, Calculus and 2D vectors. You will also study Mechanics, focusing on motion and the forces producing motion, and Statistics which is all about analysing data, probability and an introduction to hypothesis testing. In your second year you will explore a further selection of Pure Maths and continue to develop your skills and knowledge of Statistics and Mechanics.

You will be encouraged to enter the Senior Maths Challenge and have an opportunity to enter the National Cipher Challenge. Studying Maths at A Level will open doors to a range of degree courses and apprenticeships.

Why Choose this course?

Mathematics provides the tools that allows the modern world to function and on an individual level it provides the satisfaction of working things out. It will help to develop your logical thinking skills and your ability to solve quite complex problems – allowing you to see how different aspects of mathematics fit together.

Maths is challenging, but lots of support is available via maths workshops, our bespoke NorthgateMaths website and the use of OneNote which enables you to view all teacher notes at any time.

Skills You Gain

Mathematics remains one of the most popular A Levels and is very well thought of by universities and employers.

There are good reasons to study Mathematics even if you don't want to do Maths or Science at University. It provides excellent training for the mind, requiring precise and accurate work, clear logical thought and problem-solving skills.

Maths is the ideal subject to teach you these skills, and it will serve you well in the future.

After Northgate

The study of Maths helps to keep doors open for future (well-paid!) careers. Mathematics at this level looks good on your CV and can lead to a range of careers including Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, Electronics, Architecture, Finance and Computing.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Maths

Assessment

- 100% Exam consisting of 3 two-hour papers

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Miss C King

Year 1 Components

- Pure Mathematics
- Statistics and Mechanics

Year 2 Components

- Pure Mathematics (2hr paper)
- Pure Mathematics and Statistics (2hr paper)
- Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (2hr paper)

Media Studies

Course Overview

Media Studies at A Level provides students with an opportunity to develop a thorough and in depth understanding of key issues, using a comprehensive theoretical framework to support critical exploration and reflection, analysis and debate.

Over the two-year course, you will study many topics, including texts ranging from Black Panther film marketing to BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour; The Daily Mirror newspaper to the Assassins Creed computer game franchise; TV's Peaky Blinders to Vogue magazine and much more. You will engage with the dynamic relationships between media products, media industries and audiences, whether it be social influencers, large multi-media corporations or independent companies.

There is a coursework component where students will work from a chosen brief. It is an exciting opportunity to develop media production skills in different forms, apply your knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework to media forms and products, and become creators of meaning yourselves.

Why Choose this course?

The media has become the most dynamic and influential method of mass communication of modern times. Media Studies is a vital tool necessary to understanding the media's significance and its power. The media impacts on our everyday lives – it influences how we think, feel and behave. Media representations can affect our perceptions of ourselves and the world around us – it has become integral to the way we live. There has never been a better time to become a Media Studies student.

Production work is an integral part of the course and you will have an opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding of how media artefacts are constructed as you will create your own media products.

Skills You Gain

Media Studies will help you to develop valuable transferable skills. It will enhance your understanding of critical approaches to media issues and how to apply them. You will demonstrate skills of critical thinking and analysis which will further your appreciation of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy. Your course of study will help with your knowledge and understanding of the global nature of the media..

After Northgate

Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies in the UK. An A Level in Media Studies helps you to progress to these courses, as well as to those in other areas. Media Studies is a well-regarded A Level and it may also be useful for a career in television, film, radio or journalism.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 70% Exam
- 30% Coursework

Exam Board

Eduqas

Subject Lead

Mr I Bailey

Year 1 Components (continuing into Year 2)

- Advertising and Marketing
- Film Marketing
- Newspapers
- Radio
- Music Videos
- Computer Games
- Media Theory and Contexts

Year 2 Components

- Television in the Global Age
- Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media
- Media in the Online Age

Zoe

Subjects Studying: Maths, Physics, Sociology

Previous School: Northgate High School



David

Subjects Studying: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Previous School: Northgate High School

Music

Course Overview

Music at A Level has three components: Performing, Composing and Appraising (Listening). Taking part in ensemble performances, practising for solo performances, and creating music are integral parts of the course. Students can choose to specialise in either performance or composition in their second year of study.

Why Choose this course?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work. Business leaders have voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of the school's wider community. The word music covers a huge range of styles and genres, and each one of us has our own preferences. This course recognises this through the study of a broad range of different styles.

Skills You Gain

You will be given opportunities to perform on your own or as a group and enhance your existing performance skills. The Eduqas board is the only specification that uses a visiting examiner, allowing you to develop the art of good communication skills within your performance. If you already enjoy writing your own music, you can use this to develop your ideas into successful pieces and develop your composing skills. You will have the opportunity to compose using music software such as Sibelius, Logic and Garageband. Appraisal skills will be developed by listening to a variety of music and analysing what you hear, making connections between different pieces and describing how styles have evolved.

After Northgate

The possibilities are endless! Music will enable you to 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.

After Northgate, many students continue to study Music at Music College, or Universities. Others have gone on to various universities to read other subjects, for example, Forensic Science, Law, English and Engineering. Some have gone on to have successful careers in the music industry and students have gone on to perform in theatres all over the world as well as the West End. Others have started careers in composing, performing, music tuition and teaching

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Music
- Or the ability to perform a grade 4/5 standard piece on your main instrument including voice

Assessment

- 40% Exam
- 60% Coursework

Exam Board

Eduqas

Subject Lead

Mrs C Rutter &
Miss J Tournay-Godfrey

Year 1 Components

- The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)
- Rock and Pop Music 1960-2000
- Into the Twentieth Century

Year 2 Components

- The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)
- Rock and Pop Music 1960-2000
- Into the Twentieth Century

Philosophy

Course Overview

Philosophy offers an intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking exploration into the fundamental questions of human existence, knowledge, ethics and the nature of reality.

Over the two year course you will study a wide range of philosophical theories, concepts and arguments put forward by influential thinkers from Plato to Descartes, Hypatia to Foot and many more in between. You will consider arguments relating to the nature of reality, our ability to perceive it accurately, how we should make moral decision, questions and arguments relating to the existence of God and the problem of evil, and finally an exploration of the philosophy mind. You will also have the chance to apply these theories to practical examples including the question of how we should treat animals, whether robots and AI can ever be considered to be persons. You will also gain experience in developing your own arguments through an evaluation of the philosophers we study.

Why Choose this Course?

Throughout human history there is evidence of us asking why things are the way they are, whether things have to be this way, how we create change and how to live a good life. In studying Philosophy, you have the chance to engage in the challenge of answering these questions. Studying Philosophy will cultivate your intellectual curiosity, foster a deeper understanding of complex ideas and encourage you to challenge the way things are or appear to be. Studying Philosophy will nurture empathy as it exposes you to and develops your ability to take part in respectful dialogue.

Skills You Gain

Studying A Level Philosophy develops critical thinking skills enabling students to analyse arguments evaluate evidence and construct logical reasoning. It enhances analytical skills allowing you to break down complex concepts and understand intricate ideas. Philosophy also fosters effective communication, both written and verbal, enabling you to articulate your thoughts clearly and engage in thoughtful discussions. Studying Philosophy will encourage to seek out different perspectives, engage with philosophical texts and critically evaluate theories. Overall it will equip you with valuable skills applicable to various academic and real-life contexts.

After Northgate

Students who study Philosophy find success in a wide range of careers, including law, academia, journalism, consulting, public service, teaching and many more. The skills you develop through your studies are highly valued in fields that require critical thinking, problem solving and effective communication.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in English Language

Assessment

- 100% exam
- 2 x 3 hr written papers

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mrs F Smith

Year 1 Components

- Epistemology (the study of knowledge) including:
 - What do we know?
 - How do we know?
- Moral Philosophy including:
 - Utilitarianism
 - Kant

Year 2 Components

- Metaphysics of God including:
 - Arguments for and against God's existence
 - The problem of evil
- Metaphysics of Mind including:
 - Mind and body are separate substances (Descartes)
 - The mind is the brain
 - We are more like complex biological machines.

Photography

Course Overview

Study will fall into three main areas, Darkroom, digital and photo-arts, students will learn how to shoot, develop and make prints from black and white film negatives, there are opportunities to try specialist colour film processes too. Students will explore alternative analogue techniques including salt-printing, cyanotypes, chemigrams and photograms.

The digital aspect of the course includes learning photoshop and other digital editing and manipulation software.

In addition to this students will experiment overlapping photographic work with their other subjects, looking into cross curriculum opportunities to enrich their imagery and embed a narrative into the work.

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

Each student will need to obtain a 35mm SLR camera with manual facilities. They will also need access to a digital camera – this does not have to be a DSLR.

Why Choose this course?

This course is for students who are passionate about photography, art, design and all creative disciplines. Teaching is workshop-based and student-centered and aims to develop each student's intellectual, aesthetic and creative potential and to teach appropriate skills and techniques. There are opportunities to visit galleries and engage with artworks first-hand. There is an open Studio policy throughout the day and after school.

Skills You Gain

Specialist Darkroom skills and an understanding of many analogue techniques and processes. Digital editing skills and experimental photo-arts and craft methods. Students will learn to be reflective and critically analyse their work to refine and improve their image making.

Students will be taught how to effectively research into Art History and the history of Photography. In addition to examining the work of individual photographers and artists and develop skills to help them write eloquently about their own creative practice.

After Northgate

Students have gone onto higher education at some of the country's top universities and studied a range of creative subjects. Careers in Photography, Film, Publishing and Marketing, Press and Editorial Photography, Cinematography, Creative direction, the Visual Arts, Architecture, Museum and Gallery work, Curating, Illustration, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Website Design, Games Design, Animation, Set Design, Film and Fashion Design and Events Management.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE Grade 5 in Art or Photography
- Or a set task if Art or Photography not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 60% coursework
- 40% exam (practical)

Exam Board

Edexcel

Subject Lead

Miss A Gladding

Year 1 Components

- Introduction to analogue techniques
- Introduction to digital photography and studio set up
- Experimental Photo-arts techniques
- Themed project

Year 2 Components

- Self-Negotiated project
- Personal Portfolio
- Personal study Essay
- Externally set assignment

Physical Education

Course Overview

Physical Education at A Level provides students with a broad theoretical understanding of the key topic areas associated with sport, medicine, teaching, coaching and sports technology. We support the acquisition of knowledge in these topic areas and apply, analyse and evaluate our understanding within sporting scenarios.

Physical Education consists of topic areas covering Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics, Skill Acquisition, Sports Psychology, Sports Society and Technology.

Students will use the knowledge they have acquired to analyse and evaluate current topical sports issues.

Physical Education at A-Level will provide students with a knowledge base that will prepare them for higher educational learning experiences and employment in the world of sport, medicine, psychology, exercise, fitness, nutrition and much more.

Why Choose this course?

The world of sports science, exercise and elite sport is changing rapidly and the career opportunities and prospects within the sports field are ever growing.

Physical Education at A-Level provides a broad and detailed knowledge base to inspire further higher educational studies and continued learning in a professional setting.

Whether it be a passion to further understand the anatomy and physiology of the human body, how aspects of physics need to be considered to maximise sporting performance or the role of the mind and how varying psychological factors can effect or enhance performance then Physical Education offers the breadth of study you need.

Skills You Gain

It will enhance your knowledge base through supporting students in developing good effective and efficient study habits and routines. It will develop student's ability to apply their understanding to sporting scenarios and situations.

Students will think more analytically about aspects of sport and be able to evaluate factors that influence performance.

After Northgate

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

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 or equivalent in a Level 2 PE qualification
- Or GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature and GCSE grade 5 in any Science qualification or merit in a BTEC Science equivalent qualification if PE not taken

Assessment

- 70% Exam
- 30% Coursework
 - 15% Practical performance in one chosen sport from the specification
 - 15% Written analysis and evaluation in one chosen sport from the specification

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mr S Smith

Year 1 Components

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society

Year 2 Components

- Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics
- Sport Psychology
- Sport and Society and Technology in Sport

Physics

Course Overview

One of our students summed it up very well: “Physics isn’t about learning a load of facts; it’s about acquiring the skills to tackle the question “how does that work?”

Over the two-year course, we will cover Physics on a range of scales from the very smallest (Quantum, Nuclear and Particle Physics) to the very biggest (Astrophysics and Cosmology), attempting to answer questions from “What is the Universe made from?” to “How old is the Universe?” and looking at the Physics behind a range of technologies, from medical scanners to touch-screen devices.

More broadly, studying A-level Physics develops your critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It will equip you with a versatile range of transferrable skills applicable to problem solving in a wide range of contexts.

Why Choose this course?

Physics will equip you with a large number of “transferrable skills”, which will be useful, no matter what you go on to do in the future

Skills You Gain

It will enhance your analytical and research skills. It will enable you to attack problems and solve them in a methodical and logical way. You will be able to investigate theories, devise experiments and ways of testing theories and explore new ideas. These strong problem-solving skills are highly sought after in the wider world.

After Northgate

What does A-level Physics lead to? As well as the development of transferrable skills, so along with the obvious progression to degrees in Physics or engineering, it’s also a very useful qualification for those going into medicine, law, economics and a multitude of other pathways.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Physics (or 6/6 in Combined Science)
- And GCSE grade 6 in Maths

Assessment

- 3 exams in Year 13 – Papers 1 & 2 are 37% each, and paper 3 is 26%
- A second qualification (the “practical endorsement”) is also attained by the end of Year 13

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Mr S Snowden

Year 1 Components

- Forces & Motion
- Waves
- Quantum Physics
- Electricity

Year 2 Components

- Thermal Physics
- Electric, Magnetic and Gravitational Fields
- Oscillations & Circular Motion
- Cosmology & Astrophysics
- Nuclear & Particle Physics
- Medical Imaging

Politics

Course Overview

Politics has an impact on every aspect of our daily lives; from health, travel and the environment, to education, justice and international relations. By studying Politics, you’ll gain a clearer understanding of how the world works.

The first year of the course focuses on politics in the United Kingdom. We study the differences between the main political parties (Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats), electoral systems, voter behaviour and the media, and democracy and representation in the UK. We also study UK government, namely the Constitution, parliament, the prime minister and the cabinet.

In the second year we study politics in the USA. This includes the US Constitution, the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court. You will also study the ideas that lie behind political action: socialism, conservatism, liberalism and other ideologies.

Why Choose this course?

Politics is drastically rising in popularity and awareness amongst young people. This is largely due to social media and the ability to share information quickly and easily. Young people are becoming more engaged with a range of issues, from climate change to social injustice, and are turning to politics to help change the world they live in.

You will be encouraged to have your own views and to listen to the opinions of others. Politics is constantly changing, and an awareness of current events is vital. If you are interested in the world around you, and debating the issues that will affect your future, then Politics is the subject for you.

Skills You Gain

Studying Politics will help you develop valuable transferable skills, such as independent research and oral communication skills of debate and discussion. You will have the chance to meet your local MP and visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster.

You will gain confidence in essay writing, extended reading and how to answer political questions by carefully analysing sources, considering evidence and coming to balanced and substantial judgements.

After Northgate

Politics is a very well-respected and well-regarded A Level, which will help gain access to a range of degree courses and professional qualifications. Many students combine Politics with History, Sociology or Economics.

The interest sparked by Politics often leads students into journalism, teaching, campaigning organisations, local government and a few have even ended up working in Westminster!

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Assessment

- 100% Exam
- 3x Two-Hour Exams

Exam Board

Edexcel

Subject Lead

Mr S Evans

Year 1 Components

- UK People and Politics
- UK Government

Year 2 Components

- US Politics
- Political Ideologies



Elsie

Subjects Studying: Biology,
Chemistry, Law

Previous School: Ipswich School

Psychology

Course Overview

In A level Psychology you will gain an understanding of the biological and environmental factors that make us think, feel and act in the ways that we do.

In Year 1 we will consider the different ways in which behaviour can be explained. We will look at the importance of early relationships in shaping our development. We will examine the influence of those around us and wider society on our actions and beliefs. We will look at explanations for, and treatments of, OCD, phobias and depression.

In Year 2 we will study explanations of crime and discuss the most appropriate ways of dealing with criminal behaviour. We will look at why we form relationships and why relationships may succeed or fail. We will also study in depth, explanations and treatments of schizophrenia.

Why Choose this course?

Psychology gives us an understanding of our own thoughts and actions and those of others. As an applied subject, Psychology suggests ways to change and adapt behaviour. For example, psychologists provide therapies for mental disorders, improvements in health in education and interventions to reduce offending behaviour.

Psychology is a very popular option at Northgate. Within lessons a range of teaching approaches are used including discussion, debate, individual and group work as well as formal teaching. Students are also encouraged to carry out their own investigations and research.

Skills You Gain

You will learn analytical skills and develop the ability to examine evidence to support different theories and explanations for behaviour. You will also be able to write extended pieces of academic work. You will enhance your skills in communication and critical thinking. Through studying topics such as psychopathology and forensic psychology you will become more understanding of the issues that people face and the effects it has on them and their friends and families. All of these skills will help to prepare you for university or the workplace.

After Northgate

Psychologists play a vital role in all aspects of society, from education to the economy to the criminal justice system. Careers in Psychology include educational psychologist, clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist and health psychologist. Psychology also lends itself to careers in teaching, advertising, police work, social work the media or any other profession which involves working with other people.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Psychology
- Or GCSE grade 5 in English Language or English Literature if Psychology not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 3 x 2 hour exams

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mr S Wootton

Year 1 Components

- Attachment
- Social Influence
- Memory
- Approaches in Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Research Methods

Year 2 Components

- Biopsychology
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology
- Issues and Debates in Psychology

Sociology

Course Overview

Sociology at A Level seeks to understand all aspects of human social behaviour, including the social dynamics of small groups of people, large organisations, communities, institutions and even entire societies.

Sociology is the study of society, and sociologists are motivated by their desire to better understand social life, believing that this will help improve people's lives. If you choose to study Sociology you will discover how to investigate these kinds of questions for yourself and begin to understand more about your own motivations and behaviours.

Over the two-year course, you will develop your sociological imagination and raise awareness of current affairs, contemporary social issues and inequalities in society based on factors such as social class, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.

Why Choose this course?

How do you relate to politicians, celebrities, your teachers or your friends? How do you define yourself, your family and other people? In Sociology we explore the way that society works, what connects people and what divides them.

If you are fascinated by the behaviour of others and why we act the way we do, then Sociology is for you. Sociology gives you the opportunity to study the ways that our world is changing, from the Covid-19 pandemic to the impact of new technologies and the changing nature of personal relationships.

Skills You Gain

Studying Sociology will develop a range of valuable transferable skills, from independent research and oral communication to how to construct a strong written argument.

Sociology will also enhance your understanding of complex ideas and develop your research and analytical skills, including the ability to conduct questionnaires, interviews, focus groups and interpret and challenge numerical data and statistics.

After Northgate

Sociology is a well-respected A Level which will help gain access to a variety of degree courses and professional qualifications. Many students combine Sociology with Psychology, Politics, Media Studies and Health & Social Care. It is particularly useful for those considering a career in social work, the police, law, the media, healthcare, and teaching.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 in Sociology
- Or GCSE 4 in English Language or English Literature if Sociology not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 100% Exam
- 3x Two-Hour Exams

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mr S Evans

Year 1 Components

- Families and Households
- Education
- Research Methods
- Methods in Context

Year 2 Components

- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and Deviance
- Sociological Theories
- Debates in Sociology

Spanish

Course Overview

Spanish at A Level focuses on language skills whilst providing a deeper understanding of the Hispanic world as well as studying a book and film.

The course focuses on language skills and the acquisition of vocabulary, structures and grammar. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the Hispanic world by studying topics such as the artistic and domestic cultures as well as political life and multiculturalism within Spain and Latin America. 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.

Why Choose this course?

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.

Skills You Gain

It will enhance your understanding of the Hispanic world as well as Spanish films and Hispanic literature. It will also develop listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. You will have the opportunity to carry out your own research project, using skills which will be necessary at university level.

After Northgate

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.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in Spanish

Assessment

- 50% Reading, listening and writing exam
- 30% Speaking exam (Individual research project)
- 20% Writing exam (book and film)

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Miss C Martins

Year 1 Components

- Traditional and modern values
- Inequality
- Cyberspace
- Idols
- Cultural heritage
- Spanish regional identity

Year 2 Components

- Immigration
- Racism
- Social harmony in Hispanic countries
- Young people
- Monarchies and dictators
- Current movements

Textiles

Course Overview

Enrich your creativity as an artist or designer through a series of integrated and practical workshops. You will be taught by experienced specialist teachers, with Textile industry experience. Over two years you will collate and present a practical portfolio of specialist work and take one exam. Your work will reflect a personal expression of ideas and feelings through the skilful manipulation of visual and written language.

Why Choose this course?

On the Textile Design course, you will explore, develop, and acquire a wide range of techniques and processes in a range of textile media. You will explore colour, pattern, form and texture through experimentation of materials, gaining knowledge and understanding of traditional and digital textile processes. The emphasis is on individual projects that promote personal interpretation of a specialist area, which shows a depth of study. The course offers a broad opportunity to explore areas of fashion design and illustration, garment construction, printed surface design, constructed textiles and fine art textiles.

Skills You Gain

Textiles gives you many skills in research and analysis of artists and designers. It allows you to develop a personal style and identity and to experiment with materials and techniques. Constant evaluation of your work also allows for self improvement.

After Northgate

A Level Textile Design gives students the potential to progress onto a creative degree course at university, or an Art Foundation Diploma at College. The skills associated with the course are highly commended by universities.

Future career possibilities may include, but are not exclusive to Costume Design, Exhibition Design, Interiors, Product Design, Jewellery Design, Fashion Designer, Fashion Journalism, Make-up Designer, Merchandising and Management.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Art and/or Textiles
- And GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature
- A selection of artwork and sketchbooks, which demonstrates acceptable levels of skill, will be requested for consideration if Art/Textiles not studied at GCSE

Assessment

- 40% Externally set practical exam
- 60% Personal Investigation. Coursework

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Mrs A Fisk

Year 1 Components

- Workshops
- Independent project
- Research into designers

Year 2 Components

- Contextual essay
- Practical work
- Exam- Artist study and practical project

Extended Project Qualification

Course Overview

The EPQ is worth the equivalent of half an A Level. It provides an opportunity for students to stand out to universities and employers by demonstrating their abilities to work independently, manage their time, conduct unique research, and produce a high-quality essay. The EPQ is very highly valued by universities.

Students are supported by a supervisor to research and write a 5,000 word essay on a topic entirely of their choice. This is often closely linked to their chosen degree course or career.

Why Choose this course?

Taking the EPQ gives students the opportunity to build numerous skills which are vital for higher education, while completing a project on a topic they love. They can develop a level of expertise in their chosen field, demonstrating a level of academic curiosity and enthusiasm.

Skills You Gain

Students are taught numerous skills in the course including higher level planning, research, evaluation, and essay writing skills. These skills will not only help them with their project but are essential in the transition to higher education.

After Northgate

The Extended Project is awarded a grade from A* to E. 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 course is highly valued by universities; "The University recognises the benefits of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and the opportunities it provides. Admissions tutors may wish to make an alternative offer to applicants, one of which involves successful completion of the EPQ (eg AAA at A-level or AAB plus the Extended Project at Grade A)."

- The University of Manchester

Minimum Entry Requirements

- The EPQ is completed during year 13. Students will be given more information about the course in the summer term of year 12 after which they can then apply to take the course.
- Students will be accepted onto the course if they have shown good progress during year 12 in their A-Level choices.

Assessment

- The EPQ is assessed using three main sources of evidence:-
 - The extended essay
 - The production log which details their EPQ journey
 - A short presentation to staff and students at the end of the course.

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Miss D Fowler

Further Mathematics

Course Overview

Mathematics is of central importance to society – underpinning the Sciences, Technology, Computing and the Financial World. It possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty. Further Maths acts as a perfect bridge between A Levels and university education, helping you to develop the skills required to work at degree level in many subject areas. For many university courses Further Maths A level is essential.

You will be taught in a dedicated group, taking A Level Maths at the end of year 12 and A Level Further Maths at the end of year 13.

In year 12, you will study the full A Level Maths course. This allows us to complete all of the fundamental A Level skills required before undertaking A Level Further Maths. Topics covered include Proof, Polynomials, Graphs, Binomial Expansions, Trigonometry, Logarithms, Calculus and Vectors in Pure Maths. You will also study Mechanics, focusing on motion and the forces producing motion, and Statistics which is all about analysing data, probability and hypothesis testing.

In year 13 you will study the full Further Maths A Level course. Topics include: complex numbers, roots of polynomials, matrices and applications, proof by induction, series, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions. In Statistics you will be studying more combinatorics, advanced theoretical probability and hypothesis tests. In Mechanics you will be studying elastic strings, collisions in 2D, energy and centres of mass.

Why Choose this Course?

Further Mathematics provides the tools that allows the modern world to function and on an individual level it provides the satisfaction of working things out. It will help to develop your logical thinking skills and your ability to solve complex problems – allowing you to see how different aspects of mathematics fit together.

Maths is challenging, but lots of support is available via maths workshops our bespoke NorthgateMaths website and the use of OneNote which enables you to view all teacher notes at any time.

If you wish to take STEP our highly qualified specialist teachers will support you in doing this. Studying Maths at A Level will open doors to a range of degree courses and apprenticeships.

For the last 10 years 50% of our Further Maths students have gained an A or A* in both Maths and Further Maths A Levels.

After Northgate

Further Maths is required on many degrees with a high Maths content such as Engineering, Physics, Computing and Economics. Even if it's not a requirement for entry, you will find that a lot of students on these degree courses have done Further Maths A Level. If you know this is the route you want to take, it's a good idea to take Further Maths to get ahead with the Maths that will be required at university.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including

- GCSE grade 7 in Maths
- Further Maths is a double A Level and is chosen in 2 subject blocks. You will study 2 other subjects alongside Further Maths

Assessment

- 100% Exam

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Miss C King

Year 1 Components

- Pure Mathematics (2hr paper)
- Pure Mathematics and Statistics (2hr paper)
- Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (2hr paper)

Year 2 Components

- Further Pure Core 1 (90 minute paper)
- Further Pure Core 2 (90 minute paper)
- Further Statistics (90 minute paper)
- Further Mechanics (90 minute paper)

Billy

Subjects Studying: History, Law, Music

Previous School: Northgate High School



Aidan

Subjects Studying: Chemistry, Physics, Psychology

Previous School: Debenham High School

Applied Science

Course Overview

This Applied Science course enables students to study the principles and applications of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as practical scientific procedures and techniques. In addition to this, students will have the opportunity to develop their investigation skills.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A Levels. It can link to learning in a range of A Level subjects such as A Level Psychology and A Level Sociology. The course is an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) designed for post-16 students with an interest in science. Equivalent to one A Level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in science. The course is assessed using 50% external examinations. For the remaining 50% of the qualification, students will research, plan and carry out a detailed scientific investigation. This non-examined assessment is marked internally by teachers.

Why Choose this Course?

This course is perfect for you if you are keen to continue learning about all three sciences whilst also developing your understanding and skills in conducting practical investigations. If you are interested in higher education courses such as Nursing, Secondary Science Teaching, or Sport Science, this could be the right course for you. BTEC Nationals are widely recognised by higher education and industry as the vocational qualification of choice at Level 3. They provide students with meaningful and practical learning experiences to prepare them to progress to higher education as a route to graduate-level employment.

Skills You Gain

- Laboratory techniques
- Problem solving.
- Scientific Research skills
- Critical thinking, taking personal responsibility and written communication
- Digital skills.

After Northgate

This course is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

For example, this qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BSc (Hons) Applied Sport and Exercise Sciences
- BSc (Hons) Nursing
- BSc (Hons) Secondary Science Education

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- 5/4 in Combined Science or a 5 and a 4 in Triple Science subjects
- A GCSE Grade 4 in English and maths

Assessment

- 50% Exam
- 50% Coursework

Exam Board

Pearson

Subject Lead

Mrs H Rojek

Course Components

- Principles and Applications of Biology
- Principles and Applications of Chemistry
- Principles and Applications of Physics
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques.
- Science Investigation Skills

Food Science & Nutrition

Course Overview

The Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition diploma is an academic, creative and innovative course that encourages students to take a broad view of food science and nutrition.

This is an Applied General qualification and is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university. Students will have the opportunity to learn through the acquisition of knowledge about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical cooking and preparing food. The qualification has been designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. The course includes a high practical input and students will be required to develop and enhance their ICT skills.

Why Choose this course?

This course is ideal for students who are creative and enjoy cooking, although you do not need to be Mary Berry or Michel Roux Jnr. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is not essential, although the course builds on previous knowledge. It would help if students had some scientific background, particularly chemistry as the course covers the structure of each nutrient and the chemical changes during cooking processes. An interest in food and food establishments is essential.

Skills You Gain

You will gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. You will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical skills for cooking and preparing food. The practical skills will deal with high level preparation, cooking and presentation skills.

You will solve problems relating to serving food safely, develop the ability to think independently, carry out and analyse case studies, present work and make plans to enhance your time management.

After Northgate

Food Science and Nutrition is not a catering qualification, although it can lead directly to further study in many areas linked to food. The Food Industry continues to expand and is one of the largest employers in the UK. It is recognised by universities as it is awarded UCAS points. Together with other relevant qualifications in Biology, Chemistry, Sociology and Maths and/or Level 3 qualifications in Hospitality or Science, learners will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as:

- BSc Food & Nutrition ■ BSc (Hons) Food Science & Technology
- BSc Human Nutrition ■ BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 6 in a Food qualification.
- 5/5 in Combined Science or a 5 and a 5 in Triple Science if Food not studied at GCSE.

Assessment

- The course is assessed through a combination of written examinations, projects and case studies to cater for different learning styles.

Exam Board

WJEC

Subject Lead

Mrs H Gallagher

Year 12

- Unit 1: Nutritional needs across the life stages (written assessment)
- Unit 2: Developing practical food production skills (controlled assessment)

Year 13

- Unit 3: Principles of food hygiene and food safety in food production (written assessment).

Students complete either Unit 4 or Unit 5

- Unit 4: Experimenting to solve food production problems (controlled assessment)
- Unit 5: Current issues in food science and nutrition (controlled assessment)

Health & Social Care

Course Overview

This Health and Social Care Qualification (AAQ) is designed to provide students with an overview of the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to work in health and social care in today's demanding environment.

You will gain the necessary skills and knowledge to progress onto university or pursue an apprenticeship or employment in a variety of health and social care settings. You will study modules covering topics such as the principles of health and social care, supporting people with mental health conditions as well as anatomy and physiology, whilst building transferable skills such as independent research and interpersonal skills.

Why Choose this course?

The NHS is the largest employer in the UK with over 1.3 million staff in England alone. Studying Health and Social Care, will give you the opportunity to gain a clear insight into possible future careers in this sector. This course will introduce you to careers where you will positively impact individuals' lives and contribute significantly to the well-being of both individuals and communities.

Skills You Gain

You will be encouraged to be an independent learner with research tasks and group work being regularly set. You will undertake written assessments designed to test your critical thinking skills and encouraging you to analyse situations and cultivate a mindset that is open and non-judgmental. You will develop skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation.

After Northgate

This course will provide you with valuable insights into the broader context of care and support services, exploring how care is delivered across a variety of settings. It will help you develop a strong understanding of the sector, empowering you to make well-informed decisions about your future career path. The course is recognised by universities and carries UCAS points. Studied alongside other A Levels or Level 3 qualifications, it equips learners with the knowledge and understanding needed to progress to a wide range of higher education courses. For example, this qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees; Paramedic Science, Nursing (Adult, Paediatric or Mental health) Social work, Speech and Language Therapy, Midwifery or Occupational Therapy.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature
- And GCSE grade 4 in Science (or Biology if triple science was taken)

Assessment

- 40% Exam
- 60% Coursework

Exam Board

OCR

Subject Lead

Ms J Huggins

Year 1 Components

- Principles of health and social care
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care
- Person-centred approach to care

Year 2 Components

- Supporting people with mental health conditions
- Supporting people with long term physiological conditions
- Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health

Music Performance

Course Overview

This Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance will help you develop your practical performance skills and creativity whilst providing a music industry qualification.

There are 4 units of work, made up of three compulsory core units together with 1 optional unit. These provide a strong foundation to progress to higher education and develop a portfolio career.

Why Choose this course?

This course is designed to provide a vocationally relevant education in contemporary music. There are no set works, or genre/repertoire restrictions, which means learners can study the genres they are interested in, allowing deeper focus on content that excites them.

This course would suit those students with a passion for contemporary music and an interest in all aspects of the subject. There will be exciting opportunities to help organise, promote and manage musical performances, experience workshops and lectures from visiting professionals, take part in visits to concerts and performances, and learn through practical music making.

Skills You Gain

During lessons you will develop your skills as a practical musician and the knowledge to use those skills. You will be encouraged to create an attitude of self-reflection which will aid your continuing development as a musician. You will be sure to improve your confidence in live performance, instrumental technique, organisation, and communication and presentation skills.

After Northgate

This course will provide students with tools to progress to higher education courses such as popular music, music technology and music business degrees.

There are many courses in higher education institutes offering degrees in popular music or music technology, enabling students to develop further the knowledge and skills obtained from the course preparing them for work in the music industry.

Examples of types of employment may include:

- Songwriter, recording artist, performer, session musician
- Producer / engineer
- Promotion, management / artist support services
- Live music production promotion and organisation

Minimum Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including:

- GCSE grade 5 in Music
- Or the ability to perform a grade 5 standard piece on your main instrument including voice.

Assessment

- 100% coursework – no written exam.
- 2 externally assessed unit and 2-3 internally assessed units.
- Portfolio of coursework tasks with written and video evidence.
- Performances/concerts

Exam Board

Pearson Edexcel

Subject Lead

Mrs C Rutter &
Miss J Tournay-Godfrey

Core Components

- Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- Professional practice in the music industry
- Ensemble performance

Optional Components

- Composing Music
- Solo Performance
- Improvising Music

English

Course Overview

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 and narrative and writing to express a point of view will also form an important part of the final assessments.

This qualification will require students to take part in a spoken language endorsement in order to qualify for the GCSE.

Why Choose this course?

To aim to secure a grade 4+ at GCSE and improve standards of reading, writing and spoken English.

Skills You Gain

It will enhance your understanding of how texts are put together for a purpose and the ways writer's use language to create meaning and specific effects. Students will develop technical accuracy and confidence in expressing a point of view.

After Northgate

GCSE grade 4 in English is essential for almost all employment and further/higher education at 17+.

Assessment

- 100% Exam
- Spoken Language Endorsement

Exam Board

AQA

Subject Lead

Miss G Smy &
Mrs C Wright

Components

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

- Section A: 4 Questions on one fiction text
- Section B: Writing to describe/narrate

Paper 2 Writer's viewpoints and perspectives

- Section A: 4 Questions on two non-fiction texts (including comparison of attitudes and methods)
- Section B: Writing a viewpoint

Spoken Language Endorsement: Deliver a talk on a topic chosen by the student and answer questions on it following the presentation.

Mathematics

Course Overview

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.

Why Choose this course?

To aim to secure a grade 4+ at GCSE

Skills You Gain

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

After Northgate

A GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics is essential for teaching and many other careers and greatly extends opportunities in employment and further/higher education at 17+ and 18+

Assessment

- Paper 1: Non-calculator
- Paper 2: Calculator
- Paper 3: Calculator

Exam Board

EDEXCEL

Subject Lead

Miss C King



Ciaran

Subjects Studying: Design Technology, Maths and Further Maths, Physics

Previous School: Hadleigh High School

Maisie

Subjects Studying: Biology, Physical Education, Psychology

Previous School: Manningtree High School

Evie

Subjects Studying: Biology, Physical Education, Psychology

Previous School: Debenham High School

Henry

Subjects Studying: History, Graphics, Politics

Previous School: Claydon High School

Ingrid

Subjects Studying: Economics, History, Politics

Previous School: Northgate High School

Post-16 Programme

We are proud to continue providing A Level education to Ipswich Town Foundation's Post-16 Football and Education students.

Students will study for 3 A Levels at the Northgate site, alongside their training and matches. Whilst at Northgate, they will be taught by subject specialists and play a full part in student life. They will also be part of the Northgate community with extensive pastoral support and the chance to take part in the numerous opportunities that are offered here. The students will have all the advantages of being included in the training and games programme based at Portman Road, competing in fixtures against other male and female Club Community Organisations, likeminded programmes, and professional clubs.

The football provision within the Ipswich Town Foundation Post-16 Programme is inclusive to all and is a platform to make professionals within sport. The coaching environment will allow players to reach their potential and showcase their talent in the right settings. The overall programme will lay the foundations for students to progress in either higher education, American Scholarships, employment or apprenticeships. The students will benefit from key partnerships including the University of Suffolk, University of Essex, University of Lincoln, UCFB and U.S Sports Scholarships.



Enrichment Programme

Our Sixth Form students can access an incredibly diverse programme of carefully selected enrichment activities. Being a member of the Sixth Form is not just about academic study. Our Enrichment Programme offers opportunities to develop further as an individual. It is also a great way to meet people and have a lot of fun. Engagement in our Enrichment Programme will be monitored by your Sixth Form Tutor, ensuring that all students actively seek and participate in the fantastic opportunities available.

There are approximately 40 different enrichment activities available, and the programme is expanding all of the time. Whether it be sports teams, helping out younger students or being part of the school show, there will be an activity that you will want to get involved in. If there is something that isn't running currently that you are passionate about, speak to a member of the team and we can set it up!

For up-to-date information on our Enrichment Programme please scan the QR code, or visit our website:
www.northgatesixthform.co.uk



FAQs

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 thirty schools across Suffolk and students joining us from abroad. 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.

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.

Does Sixth Form have a prom?

At the end of Year 13 we have a Prom. Our students love to attend this event to celebrate the end of their journey at Sixth Form. We also offer commemorative items of a Yearbook, Year Photo and a Leavers' Hoodie.



FAQs

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 FREE car park allocated to Sixth Form students. Further details on transport options can be found at www.suffolkonboard.com.

What financial support is available?

The Sixth Form bursary scheme is available to those with a household income below £30,000 or who are experiencing hardship. The help ranges from the provision of IT, books, equipment, travel (including the cost of university visits) and school lunches. Further details are on the website and applications are invited at the point of enrolment to the 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.

How is the Sixth Form different to the high school day?

The Sixth Form centre is open from 8am - 6pm for students to use the designated study facilities before and after lessons. Each student will be given a photographic ID card which they use to enter or leave via their own entrance during the day, if appropriate.

For more frequently asked questions please scan the QR code, or visit our website: www.northgatesixthform.co.uk



Summary of Achievements 2026

We had over 222
Year 13 students



taking

676

A Levels, across
34 DIFFERENT
SUBJECTS

Of these
students...



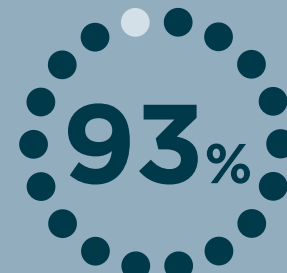
achieved A Levels
graded A* or A



148

Students secured
a place to study
at university

Of these
students...



achieved an offer
from their firm
choice

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