YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Sixth Form Prospectus

2025-2026

WWW.YARMSCHOOL.ORG

Contents

Yarm School Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Yarm School provides a special blend of grammar school traditions with the forward thinking and pioneering spirit of those who founded the School in the late 1970s. Our academic standards are exceptional: we expect the best from our students and they rise to the challenge; on average (5 year average excluding Covid years: 2020-22), 51% A Level grades are A*-A and 77% are at Grade B or above. We believe that the Sixth Form at Yarm School offers students the best possible preparation for Higher or Further Education; our curriculum focuses on traditional A Levels — the qualifications most in demand by universities and employers. Our students go on to secure university places at the country's top institutions, with Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge being popular choices. Students read a broad range of subjects from Maths and Engineering to English, Economics and Modern Languages. Medicine and Dentistry are very popular courses; on average, 10-15% of students secure places on these highly competitive courses. Post A Level opportunities are increasingly diverse and Yarm School students have been successful in securing places on prestigious apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and training programmes with the country's top companies.

We are proud of our facilities, with nearly £40 million of investment over the last few years. We boast many state-of-the-art facilities for teaching as well as extra-curricular activities, such as sports and the performing arts. The Sixth Form Centre has recently been refurbished and offers large and attractive indoor and outdoor spaces that are enjoyed by the students throughout the year. Students have access to two common rooms and a large and comfortable study area, as well as a Sixth Form cafe. The school library has been recently re-developed and offers an attractive modern study space for students.

The School's location is much appreciated, set in an open site under the shade of ancient trees and nestled by a beautiful stretch of the River Tees, yet right in the heart of the historic market town of Yarm. The students enjoy the convenience of having the excellent High Street right on their doorstep.

The Sixth Form at Yarm School is fully co-educational with roughly equal numbers of girls and boys. The friendly atmosphere is tangible with a good mix of students from a wide variety of backgrounds. The majority of Fifth Year (Year 11) pupils elect to remain at Yarm for their Sixth Form studies with typically about a quarter of the Lower Sixth joining us from other schools after GCSE. They all integrate very quickly and successfully. There is a reception for the new Lower Sixth at the beginning of the School year and the Headmaster hosts regular lunches for Sixth Formers. Social events include the Sixth Form Christmas Dinner, House events and the Leavers' Dinner at the end of Upper Sixth.

Life in the Sixth Form is full of opportunities for everyone and students are encouraged to get involved, whatever their previous experience might be. Drama, sport and music are all very well supported and students enjoy success in many fields at national and international level. Our aim is simple: to provide our students with a well-structured and supportive environment where they can thrive academically whilst developing their personal skills and the confidence to move on to university and into the world of work. In short: educating for life.

The A Level System

At Yarm School Sixth Form students take three A Level courses and this forms the core of the curriculum. When A Levels were reformed in 2018 we chose to add almost 20% additional teaching time to each A Level subject, to reflect the greater scope and rigour of these reformed qualifications. In practice, this means that our students have over five and a half hours of teaching in a week for each of their three A Level options. Our aim is to maximise the teaching time available to ensure successful outcomes in the three chosen A Level subjects. Three good A level grades is the requirement of all university courses and we consider that focusing on three subjects from the start of Sixth Form gives our students the best chance of success. Our specialist subject teachers are experienced and enthusiastic. Although our working limit for an A Level class is normally sixteen students, in 2024-25 the average Sixth Form class size is, in fact, only 10.3 students.

We continue to ensure that our students receive the breadth that is rightly expected in a school that 'educates for life' by running an enrichment programme alongside the three A Level choices. All students take part in SPaCE sessions (Social, Personal and Citizenship Education), which aim to ensure our students are prepared fully for the challenges of life.

Students are also supported in completing an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), as part of our ExCEL programme of extension and enrichment. The EPQ is highly valued by

universities and enables students to develop research, planning and presentation skills by pursuing an independent project of their choice, either linked to or contrasting with their A Level studies.

The most able mathematicians have the opportunity to take Further Mathematics A Level alongside their three other Yarm School Sixth Form A Levels. This is a particularly demanding course, aimed at students who are intending to study a degree course with a high mathematical content. It is an option that is only available to those students who are especially gifted at the subject and we give close consideration as to whether students interested in this course will be able to manage the pace, complexity and volume of material studied.

All A Level courses require a high level of student motivation. They all have an element of individual research and background reading; students will be encouraged to become more mature and independent as they progress through the Sixth Form.

Pastoral Care

Each student is allocated a personal tutor who sees them at least twice a day. The tutor has a central role in helping and advising each student throughout their Sixth Form career.

Dr Goodall, who is Head of Sixth Form and Miss Gamble, his Deputy work closely with the tutors in supporting students, monitoring academic progress and advising on career decisions. Parents are kept fully informed about student progress and any concerns there might be. The level of support and encouragement is high; Yarm students are ambitious and we share these ambitions. Students are also allocated to one of the four School Houses. The Houses exist to promote social interaction, charity work, sporting competitions and other events. Sixth Form students play a leading role in the work of the Houses, supporting the Heads of House in encouraging the participation of younger pupils.

Careers Advice

Students in the Sixth Form will be actively shaping their plans for the future in terms of their career decisions. For many this will mean a university course, music or drama school, or an apprenticeship, but will also include such possibilities as the Armed Forces and the world of employment. The Sixth Form team of tutors and pastoral staff work closely with the Careers Department to ensure all students receive the best information, advice and guidance. Students are encouraged to engage in work experience or shadowing opportunities, as well testing and extending their enthusiasm through short online courses (MOOCS). Assistance is provided through all stages of applications, from early research to the writing of personal statements and apprenticeship applications. Various events throughout the year such as Career Cluster events, visiting speakers and bespoke mock interviews offer exciting ways to explore diverse career options. The biennial Career Convention is a highlight of the calendar showcasing around two hundred professions and around forty universities and centres of higher education. Also In Lower Sixth all students will have meetings with a dedicated mentor, helping them to research their future options. There is also a dedicated team of Careers Ambassadors to assist students in their choices. The school maintains excellent links with the wider community, including school alumni, who offer advice and guidance, as well as shadowing opportunities.

Co-Curricular

All students are expected to take part in a wide range of co-curricular pursuits. Two afternoons each week are set aside for students to take part in physical activity. Team sports are particularly popular and there is a well-established programme of fixtures against other schools.

Musicians are well catered for with many ensembles, which vary in size from the orchestra to smaller groups tailored to the musical interests of the students. The School benefits from a superb Music School as well as the Princess Alexandra Auditorium, the stage for major events and performances. The School puts on a number of exciting musical events both in and out of school from large scale musical theatre productions and choral performances with our Community Choir to performances by small instrumental and vocal ensembles at concerts throughout the year. Dance is also a popular activity with the Sixth Form, culminating in our annual Dance Showcase with over two hundred pupils involved.

Yarm School has a talented group of Visiting Music Teachers who offer individual music tuition on all main instruments and voice. ABRSM, Rockschool and LCM exams take place in school on a termly basis.

Whether experienced actors or newcomers to performing, Sixth Form students have many opportunities to get involved with drama. From large whole school productions to the Sixth Form play, House Drama and annual Duologues competitions, Sixth Form students are able to impress on the stage or behind the scenes.

The School's Combined Cadet Force is a popular activity with cadets learning a range of team-working and leadership skills as they take part in varied pursuits such as rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, signaling, field craft and survival skills.

Many students engage in our Outdoor Education programme under the direction of our two full-time and highly qualified specialists. The activities range from walking, camping, climbing, skiing, caving and canoeing to leadership skills and take place in the local environment, in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors or further afield to Scotland, France, the USA and Peru.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Gold Award level is open to students joining the Sixth Form whether they have previously taken the Bronze or Silver Award or if they are new to the Scheme. Many students complete their Gold Award during their time in the Sixth Form – an achievement which is very highly regarded by universities and employers. In addition to the above, fifty or so different activities take place each week: chess, debating, cheerleading, knitting, climbing, electronics, music appreciation and table tennis are just a few examples.

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Entry Requirments

The Sixth Form at Yarm School has a strong academic ethos. The pace of work is rapid and both good academic ability and an industrious approach are required if a pupil is to succeed.

Pupils must meet our General Requirement and the Specific Requirements for the subjects they wish to pursue at A Level (see pages 5 and 6).

All pupils wishing to transfer to the Sixth Form from Yarm School Fifth Year (Year 11) must have demonstrated the good work habits required for them to achieve their potential in the Sixth Form and that they are supportive of the Yarm School ethos.

Sixth Form Entry for External Applicants

There is a healthy intake of new pupils into Yarm School Sixth Form each year. Those who wish to be considered are required to apply for a place whilst in Year 11 using the Application Form. All applicants will be invited to a personal consultation with The Headmaster and Head of Sixth Form.

Applicants will be asked to bring along a sample of GCSE work in subjects relevant to their chosen A Level subjects and a recent school report or Record of Achievement. A written reference will also be requested from the applicant's present school. Appointments for consultations can be made after the September Open Morning held on Saturday, 28th September 2024 and consultations commence from November onwards. Places will be offered after most of the consultations have taken place, around mid-February. Consultations are arranged at a mutually convenient time. If a place in the Sixth Form is offered then this is conditional on meeting the GCSE performance requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday, 14th November 2024.

General Entry Requirements

Pupils who have followed GCSE courses are normally required to have:

- taken at least 8 subjects
- achieved Grade 5 or better in Mathematics and English (Language).
- achieved the entry standard for their chosen A Level subjects available to him/her in the option groups.

Music Scholarship

Prospective Sixth Form pupils may apply for a Music Scholarship. Candidates for these awards must, in the first instance, show reasonable all-round academic ability in the Entrance Assessment. A high standard of achievement for the age of the pupil is expected on one or more instruments or voice; candidates may also offer composition at 16+.

A separate Music Audition is given to candidates. Retention of such an award is subject to excellent musical progress and a high level of involvement in the musical life of the School; in addition, the pupil must make sound academic progress and display high standards of behaviour. Applications must be received as soon as possible, no later than Wednesday, 11th December 2024.
For further information about any of the above or application forms, please do not hesitate to contact the Headmaster's PA, Mrs Jane Herbert, on 01642 786023 or email head@yarmschool.org.

Arkwright Scholarships

Yarm School is one of a limited number of schools which have been selected to offer Arkwright Scholarships for Design and Technology. These scholarships are awarded for the two Sixth Form years. Applications must be made by the end of January in the year the Sixth Form studies are to commence. Further details are available from Mr D Spence (dan.spence@yarmschool.org), Head of Design Technology.

Sixth Form Scholarships

Yarm School is pleased to offer up to four, fully funded Sixth Form Scholarships to outstanding candidates new to the School. These scholarships are means-tested and candidates must secure a minimum of eight 7/8/9 grades at GCSE.

Application forms are available from the School and must be submitted by Wednesday, 11th December 2024 along with the Supplementary Information Form and a copy of a recent school report. We will then request a reference from the student's current school.

Candidates for scholarships will be required to sit a special assessment in the subjects to be studied at A Level on the morning of Saturday, 18th January 2025. The performance in these assessments, and information from school reports and references will be used to shortlist applicants who will then be called to an interview with the Headmaster and Head of Sixth Form.

Please contact the Headmaster's PA, Mrs Jane Herbert, on 01642 786023 or email head@yarmschool.org for information about any of the above or application forms. All application forms must be received by Wednesday, 11th December 2024.

Bursaries

Yarm School wishes to make it possible for bright, promising children to be able to attend the School regardless of domestic circumstances. Means-tested bursaries are available for bright children entering the Senior School.

A Bursary is a fee reduction to take account of limited parental resources, funded from deposits set aside for this purpose and from the general income of the School. As a guide, assistance is given on a sliding scale, linked to family income. The School will consider making an award where the total gross family income is less than £55,000 per annum. In some cases the School will also offer financial support for extras such as lunch, trips and uniform.

All applications are dealt with on the understanding that enquiry will be made as a matter of routine into the financial resources (including assets) of any family making a Bursary application. All details made in the application are kept confidential. Bursaries are always offered for 12 months at a time. The family is required to provide fresh information about their circumstances for every year that their child attends the School.

Parents wishing to understand more about Bursaries should refer to the School's Bursary Policy, a copy of which is available on our website or by request via Mrs Herbert (head@yarmschool.org). A Bursary application form is available and applications must be submitted to the School as soon as possible and before Wednesday, 11th December 2024 at the latest. Bursary applications which are received later than this are unlikely to be successful as the funds are likely to have been allocated. It is likely that there will be more Bursary applications than there are funds available therefore not all applications will be successful.

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SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Needed to have studied before	Minimum Grade Required in Subject	Other Requirements
Art	A	6	Sample of pupil's artwork if no GCSE Art
Biology	Y	6	7/7 in Combined Science if separate Biology not taken
Business	N	6 if taken	6 in Maths and 6 in English
Chemistry	Y	6	7/7 in Combined Science if separate Chemistry not taken
Classical Civilisation	N	6 if taken	At least a 6 in English, History or Classics
Computer Science	A	6 if taken	6 in Maths and 6 in GCSE Computer Science (if taken)
Design & Technology	A	6	6 in Physics or 6/6 in Combined Science if no D&T
Design & Technology (Textiles)	A	6	6 in Art if no D&T
Drama & Theatre	N	6 if taken	6 in English
Economics	N		6 in Business Studies or 6 in Maths and 6 in English
English	Y	6	
French	Y	7	
Geography	A	6	6 in English and Maths if no Geography GCSE
German	Y	7	
History	A	6	6 in English if not taken History GCSE
Latin	Y	6	
Mathematics	Y	7	
Further Mathematics	Y	8	
Music	Y	6	Grade 5/6 ABRSM/LCM in one or more instruments or voice. Grade 5 Theory of Music
Physical Education	N	6 if taken	6/6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology if no GCSE PE
Physics	Y	6	7/7 in Combined Science if separate Physics not taken
Politics	N		6 in History (or 6 in English if History not taken)
Psychology	N		6/6 in Combined Science if separate Biology not taken) and 6 in English
Religious Studies	N	6 if taken	6 in English
Spanish	Y	7	

Notes
Y = Must have studied this subject to GCSE.
A = Strongly advisable to have taken the subject to GCSE but in exceptional circumstances it may be possible to take it without this.
N = Not necessary to have studied the subject previously, however students need to ensure they are fully aware of what they are opting for.

Edexcel 9FA0

Art & Design

Staff

E Stebbings, BA (Head of Department)

G Thompson, Cert. Ed.

Why Study this subject?

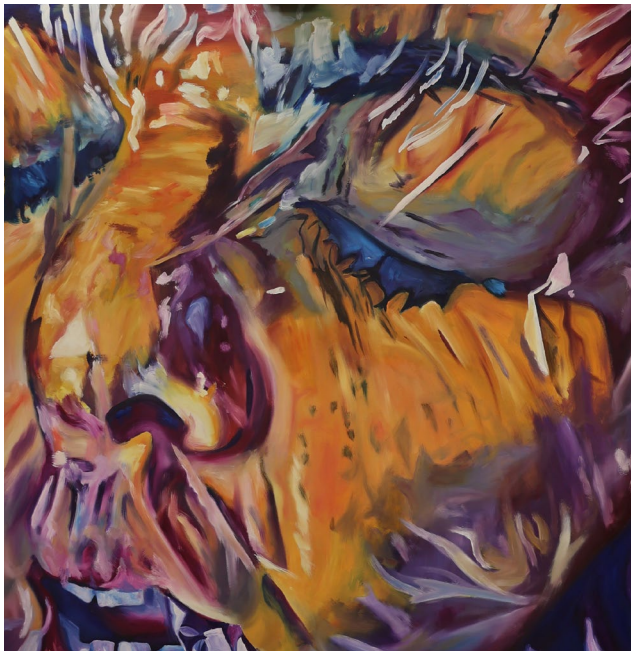
Students choose to study Art at A Level for a variety of reasons, but they all have one thing in common; a passion for the subject. Some of our talented students have already set their sights on a creative career path, such as Architecture, Product Design, Art History, Fashion, Film and Fine Art and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

Entry Qualifications

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

What is this course like?

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



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AQA 7402

Biology

Staff

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

Why study this subject?

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

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

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

Entry Qualifications

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

What is the course like?

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

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

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

OCR H431

Business

Staff

C E Rhodes, BSc (Head of Department)

J C Ankers, BA

D Gratton, BSc

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry Qualifications

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

WHAT IS THE COURSE LIKE?

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

The units covered are: Business Objective and Strategic Decisions, External Influences, Marketing and Marketing Strategies, Operational Strategy, Human Resources and Accounting and Financial Considerations.

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AQA 7405

Chemistry

STAFF

E R Baker, MNatSc (Head of Department)

A D Law, MA, MRSC, FCCT

S M Thompson, BSc

L A Tucker, MSci

A A D Tulloch, MChem, PhD

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

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

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

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

Latin: OCR H443
Classical Civilisation: OCR H408

Classics

Latin & Classical Civilisation

STAFF

J S Hall, MA (Head of Department)

S V Tucker, MA

Why study this subject?

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

Entry qualifications

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

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

What is the course like?

Students of Latin will build on their successes at GCSE, continuing to broaden their vocabulary and improve their grammatical confidence. The focus in the language work moves from simple accuracy and comprehension towards producing clear and fluent translations in good English.
Students will also study literature in the original language, and will read these works with a view to gaining an understanding of their historical context and an appreciation of the writing and the author's careful use of language.
Works commonly studied include the Aeneid, Virgil's epic poem describing the origins of Rome, the speeches of the great political and legal orator Cicero, and the writings of Roman historians such as Tacitus and Livy.

Students of Classical Civilisation will get the opportunity to study literature from the ancient world, in particular Homer's epic tale of tragic war, the Iliad, and its Roman successor, the Aeneid, the mythic tale of the origins of the Roman people from the out of Homer's mythic world. Students will also get to study the culture in which the Aeneid was written, as they learn about the first emperor Augustus and his use of culture to establish himself in this new position, as well as the political intrigues of late republican Rome which eventually leads to Augustus.

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OCR H446

Computer Science

STAFF

M E Bridle, BSc, MA (Head of Department)

P D Collins, BSc

Why study this subject?

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

Practical Proficiency: In Computer Science, students will immerse themselves in hands-on experiences, building systems using a variety of programming languages. This practical element serves as a launchpad for creating real-world applications and understanding the nuances of software development.

Theoretical Insights: Delve into the intricate workings of computer systems. Explore how they store and transfer data and the profound impact they have on our world. This theoretical foundation equips students with a holistic understanding of the digital realm.

The Art of Problem Solving: At its core, Computer Science revolves around problem-solving, a skill that extends far beyond the classroom. Our students study the art of designing, developing, and analysing software and hardware to tackle diverse challenges in the realms of business, science, and society.

Diverse Horizons: Computer Science is an all-encompassing discipline that welcomes individuals from diverse backgrounds and interests. It nurtures the innate ability to solve multifaceted problems, fostering creativity, imagination, and sensitivity to a wide range of issues.

Real-World Application: This practical subject bridges the gap between academic principles and real-world systems. It cultivates a dynamic blend of invention and critical thinking, laying the foundation for a thriving career in a world driven by technology.

Industry Prowess: The United Kingdom boasts the largest tech sector in Europe, valued at a staggering $1 trillion. Virtually every industry today relies on computer technology, opening up a plethora of opportunities for computer scientists. From revolutionising science, engineering, and healthcare to addressing complex societal challenges, computer scientists play a pivotal role in shaping the future.

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

The key features of this specification emphasise problem-solving using computers; computer programming and algorithms and the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes, e.g. Boolean algebra/logic and algorithm comparison. You will develop your ability to analyse problems in computational terms, through practical experience and including writing programs to do so. You will increase your capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

All students will be expected to do additional reading outside of lesson times to help develop a wider understanding of the applications of computers and the effects of their use. Students will also need to be committed to independently developing their programming skills outside of lesson times.

The content of this course is divided into three areas:

Computer Systems (Component 1)

Computer Systems covers data representation, computer organisation and architecture, communication and networking, and databases. You will learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to analyse problems in computational terms.

Algorithms and Programming (Component 2)

Algorithms and Programming develops problem solving skills needed by learners to apply the fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms and the theory of computation.

Non-Exam Assessment-Programming Project (Component 3)

You will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.
Analysis of the problem, Design of the solution, Developing the solution, Evaluation

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

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

AQA 7552

Design & Technology

STAFF

D J Spence, BSc (Head of Department)

A J Monk, BSc

A Jackson, BSc

A F Street, BA

Why study this subject?

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

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

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

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

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

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

AQA 7262

Drama & Theatre

STAFF

T Pender, BA (Head of Theatre Studies)

Why study this subject?

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

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

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

The course is a very practical one where you can expect to be up on your feet a great deal of the time. Lessons often start with a physical warm up and structured games that lead into the state of creativity that is required. Learning then takes place by exploring ideas in a physical way. After discussion and sharing of discoveries, work continues on either improvisation or rehearsing with a script. If this sounds like a drama rehearsal, then that is what it is.

A key part of the course is going to the theatre, and you can expect four visits or streamed digital media experiences in the first term alone; this is a real highlight and you will experience new and unusual productions, as well as the more conventional. The ideas encountered here drive the rest of the course.

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

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

AQA 7136

Economics

STAFF

C E Rhodes, BSc (Head of Department)

D Gratton, BSc

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry qualifications

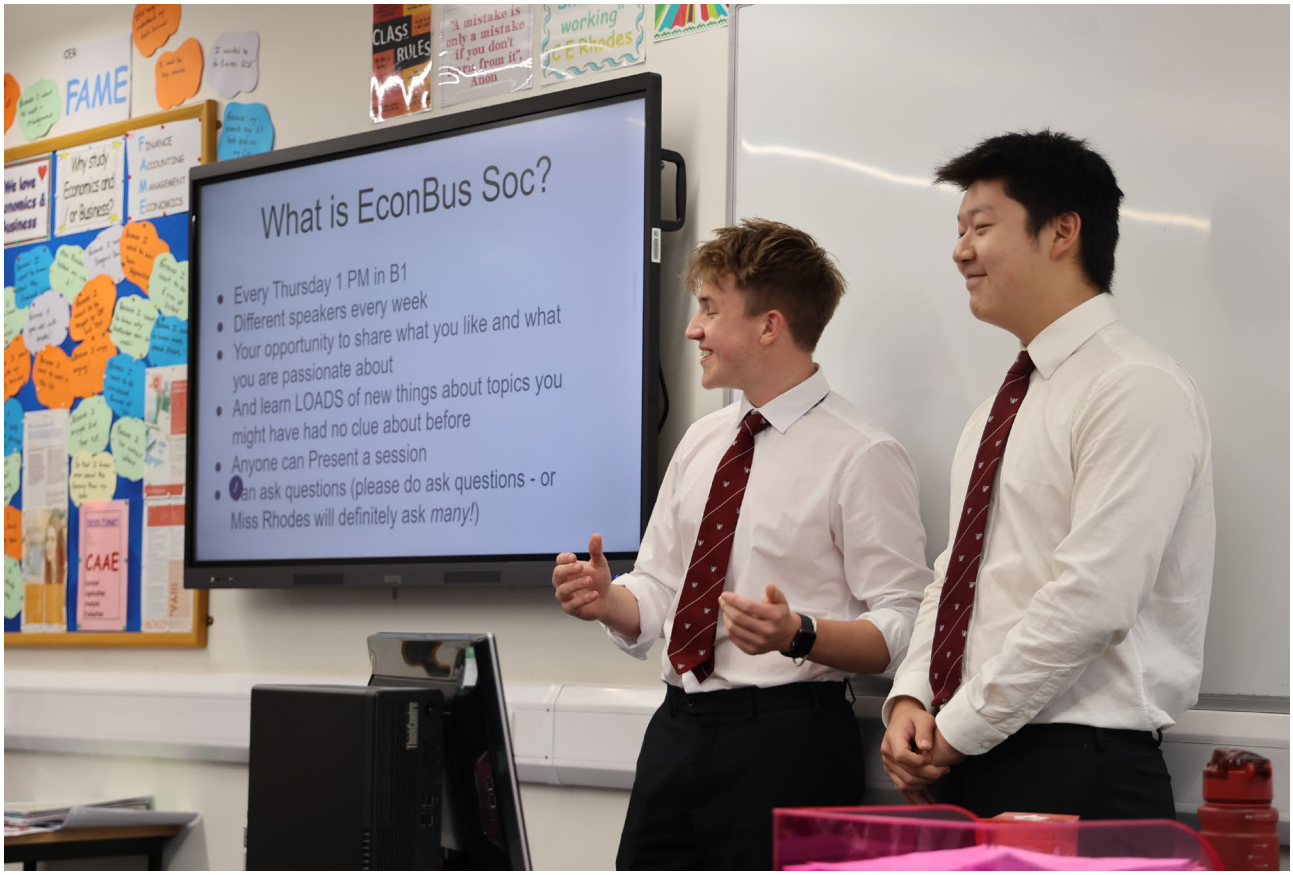
6 or better in GCSE Maths and English.

What is the course like?

Central to A Level Economics is the investigation into:

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

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



YARM SCHOOL
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OCR H472

English

STAFF

L J Gilbert, BA (Head of Department)
H Blakemore, BA, MA
D Boddy, BA, MSc
A M V Breslin, BSc, MLegSc
S Dugdale, BA
I H Morgan, BA, MA
D K Morton, MA
T Pender, BA
P Telfer, BA

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

In a single word, varied.

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

At other times, a much broader appreciation of a particular kind of literature will be the aim. A period (e.g. 'American Literature, 1860-1940'), a genre (e.g. the Gothic), or even a shared subject area (e.g. Dystopian fiction) will provide the context for wider reading and cultural research.

There will be a coursework component, which will provide exciting opportunities to develop your own ideas and reading, and allow you, should you wish, to pursue your own particular interests.

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

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

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

AQA 7993

ExCEL

Extension, Culture, Enrichment and Learning

STAFF

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

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

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

YARM SCHOOL
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AQA 7037

Geography

STAFF

K Baines, BSc (Head of Department)

J J Alexander, BA

D R Glen, BSc

R A Ivey, BSc, PDip

Why study this subject?

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

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

Students study a range of topics which include natural hazards, changing place and global governance.

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

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

The non examined element constitutes 20% of the course.

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

AQA 7042

History

STAFF

T Taylor, BA (Head of Department)
S Edwards, BA, MPhil
T Grimwood, BA
A J Morrison, BA
E L Pinkham, MA

Why study this subject?

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

The A Level History course allows for the study of a broad range of historical periods enabling pupils to experience new and exciting topic areas. The History Department aim to offer a combination of early modern and modern periods in order to give students a broad and diverse historical education.
For component one, students study The Tudors: England from 1485-1603. This is complemented by studying the Transformation of China from 1936-1997 for component two. The A Level History course also retains coursework and the coursework unit allows pupils the opportunity to select their own question and to study a period of personal interest, which is excellent preparation for university study. To enrich and supplement the taught curriculum. the department offer a wide range of additional opportunities for pupils from visits to university libraries through to lectures and overseas visits.

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Mathematics: Edexcel 9MA0
Further Maths: Edexcel 9FM0

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

STAFF

D Yates, MA (Head of Department)
G Addison, BSc
K Barnett, MMath, PhD
A C Beer, BSc
S R Bell, BA, MA (Ed)
D Brown, BEng
L Brown, BEng
T Brown, BSc
S J Perks, BSc
D Skirving, BEng, MDA

Why study this subject?

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

Entry qualifications

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

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

What is the course like?

While studying Mathematics you will be expected to:

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

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

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

Mechanics

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

Statistics

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

Sixth Form mathematicians are encouraged to take part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and four of our strongest mathematicians will be entered for the team challenge. We want our students to experience Maths in a variety of settings and to appreciate its place in the real world; the yearly Sixth Formers trip to Newcastle Theatre Royal to listen to, and interact with, a variety of speakers delivering 'Inspirational Maths Lectures' has proved very popular.

Students with an interest in Maths beyond the curriculum will particularly enjoy being a part of the (pupil led) Maths Society where mathematical issues are discussed; Maths dinner where guest speakers share their passion for Maths; The famous annual maths residential trip takes place in March and provides an intensive revision program for our Upper Sixth students.

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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

Modern Languages

French, German & Spanish

STAFF

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

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry qualifications

A Grade 7 at GCSE in the relevant language.

What is the course like?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eduqas A660

Music

STAFF

R Williams, BA (Acting Head of Music)

R Pawluk, Prof. Cert. (RAM), LTCL, ALCM

R Gooding, MA

A McIntyre, BMus

Why study this subject?

The study of Music at A Level is stimulating and rewarding and explores practical and academic aspects of the subject. It is suitable for all styles of musicians from classical to pop. Students are required to perform, study musical techniques and compose, analyse musical extracts and undertake in-depth studies of a wide variety of set works and topic areas.
Music is considered an academic subject by universities. The A Level Music course will appeal to students interested in a variety of musical styles and keen to focus on extending their musical skills. It is a fascinating subject in its own right as well as providing the building blocks for those wishing to study Music at university or conservatoire.

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

The course builds on the students' skills acquired at GCSE level, namely listening and appraising, analysing, performing and composing. The choices available enable individuals to focus on their musical strengths and interests. Students will analyse a number of set works in depth and study specific musical genres. From classical to contemporary composers, musical theatre, jazz and pop, the music covered is extensive and varied. They will gain a greater insight into musical styles and techniques whilst developing their understanding of theoretical principles. Composing and performing are both important elements of the AQA course, totalling 60% of the final A Level. With the enhanced facilities available in Music School, students will be able to make extensive use of the Music Studio for the composition and performance components of the course. A state of the art recording facility will enable top quality recordings of solo and ensemble performances as well as engaging students with an interest in recording and sound production. The designated Music Technology Suite will allow students to utilise industry standard software for their composition and performance work. Our Sixth Form students will be able to use the sound-proofed practice facilities during breaks and after school. Where possible, students' compositions will be rehearsed and performed by musicians at school. The vast array of extra-curricular musical activities on offer in school means students can extend their skills outside of the classroom and there are many opportunities for our Sixth Form students to take on the responsibility of running and conducting ensembles.

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

AQA 7582

Physical Education

STAFF

G Ferguson, BEd (Director of Sport)
N Hodgson, BSc (Head of Girls' Games)
C A C Webb, BA (Head of Boys' Games)
S J L Cottrell, BEd
K A Gratton, BEd
L Hodgson, BSc
E M Howell, BSc
L M Shanahan, BA

Why study this subject?

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

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

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

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

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

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

AQA 7408

Physics

STAFF

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

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

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

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

Politics

STAFF

S Edwards, BA, M.Phil (Head of Department)

T C Grimwood, BA

Why study this subject?

Politics is a very successful and interesting option at A Level. It can lead to University admission to read a Politics, PPE, International Relations or International Development degree or as part of a combined honours degree. The intellectual training afforded by Politics at A Level facilitates entry into the wide range of careers open to all graduates. It is highly regarded and even desirable as a foundation subject for many professional careers, notably law, journalism, management, business and administration, banking and the Civil Service. Politics at A Level combines well with all subjects, but in particular History, English, Modern Languages, Economics, Psychology, Geography and Mathematics. It is a traditional, mainstream, academic subject, recognized as an excellent discipline by universities and employers alike. The subject is questioning, stimulating, challenging and thought-provoking and allows for the development of a mature 'voice' for all pupils. The dynamic Politics Society will also provide an opportunity for students to meet and discuss ideas with leading political thinkers and campaigners, locally, nationally and internationally.

Entry qualifications

Students arrive in Politics from a range of different backgrounds and interests and it can be studied with a range of different A Level combinations. The subject requires a commitment to rigorous thought and effective analysis and as such a proficiency in written and oral skills is vital. A willingness to engage in reading and research, as well as commitment to maintaining a healthy knowledge of current affairs is helpful. It is expected that a Grade 6 at GCSE English would be a minimum requirement for Politics. Other strengths could be derived from a range of GCSE subjects. It is not expected or necessary for students to be 'party political' animals, or to hold strong political points of view.

What is the course like?

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

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

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

The Politics Society also allows a unique opportunity to become more aware and more involved in an understanding and appreciation of politics in the very broadest sense. A regular weekly, lunchtime series of visiting speakers provides students with invaluable exposure to issues including immigration, international relations, community activism, European politics and much more besides. The Society has been successful in attracting some significant and prominent speakers from the political and academic world. Additionally the Politics Department organises a number of additional gatherings, including the International Relations group exploring contemporary global issues. Many Politics students also take advantage of shadowing, intern and volunteering experiences organised by the department. Recent Politics trips have included Oslo, California, Istanbul, Rwanda, the Baltics, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Israel-Palestine and Vietnam.

AQA 7182

Psychology

STAFF

K T McLean, BSc (Acting Head of Department)

H Guy, BSv

Why study this subject?

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

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

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

What is the course like?

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

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

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

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OCR H573

Religious Studies

STAFF

S Lodge MA, BA (Head of Department)

N Lyle, MA, BA

Why study this subject?

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

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

The course consists of three papers: Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Thought.

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

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

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

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

AQA 7562

Textiles

STAFF

A Jackson, BSc (i/c of Textiles)

Why study this subject?

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

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

Entry qualifications

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

What is the course like?

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

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