



Manshead CE Academy Sixth Form Prospectus 2019-20



In collaboration with:

The Performing Arts Depot





CONTENTS

Letter from the Headteacher [1](#)
 For Students [2](#)
 For Parents [3](#)
 Working with The Performing Arts Depot [4](#)
 Glossary of Terms [5](#)
 Programme Structure [6](#)
 Personal Development and Enrichment [7](#)
 Student Enrichment and choices [8](#)
 General Entry Requirements and Subject Choice Guidance [9](#)
 Timetable for Entry [10](#)
 A Student's View [11](#)
 Pastoral Support and Private Study [13](#)
 Choosing A-Levels for University [16](#)
 Contact Information [18](#)
 Course Information..... In alphabetical order following p19

Course	A Level	Vocational
Art – Fine Art	M	
Biology	M	
Business	M	
Chemistry	M	
Computing	M	
Economics	M	
English Literature	M	
Finance	M	
Geography	M	
History	M	
Law	M	
Mathematics	M	
Performing Arts		The Pad
Philosophy & Ethics	M	
Photography	M	
Physics	M	
3D Design	M	
Psychology	M	
Sociology	M	
Spanish	M	
Sport	M	
Textiles – Art-based	M	



Dear Student



Manshead CE Academy has a long established and very successful Sixth Form, with the key aim of supporting all students in achieving the success they need to pursue their chosen goals. Students are challenged to achieve the ambitious and demanding goals we set through a combination of excellent teaching and extremely close monitoring and support.

As part of the Sixth Form experience, every student at Manshead CE Academy can expect:

- An individual learning programme bespoke to your needs
- Opportunity to develop key study skills required for A Level and beyond
- Access to Information, Advice and Guidance to inform the next stage in your career development
- Opportunity to participate in a well-established work experience programme
- Opportunities to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities

The Sixth Form is housed in a dedicated Sixth Form block which is designed to help and guide independent learning as well as providing a base for information and guidance about all aspects of Post 16 education. Exciting and valuable enrichment activities are designed to help develop each student's skill set and prepare them for the next stage of their life. There is also the chance for them to take up positions of responsibility and make contributions to the wider community.

We are extremely proud of the quality of pastoral support and careers guidance we provide for each and every student which has enabled students to successfully reach the next rung of their career ladder be it university, an apprenticeship or work.

Underpinning everything we do is a strong sense of togetherness where the positive relationships we build between students, staff and our parents/carers mean that we are all working together to achieve the level of success that we all strive for. If you are already a member of the Manshead Community you will already recognise the environment I have described. For those thinking of joining from other institutions, I hope this prospectus gives you a taste of our Sixth Form.

Andrew McBurnie
Headteacher



FOR STUDENTS.....

Manshead is a Sixth Form that prides itself in helping students achieve 'personal excellence' in an environment that feels like a close community. Knowing the students and their needs drives everything that we do to ensure that they can do their very best.

In a sixth form such as Manshead you won't just benefit from leaving with only academic qualifications, you will also be supported in developing a good work ethic, organisational skills and the ability to work and think for yourself. We have a dedicated sixth form leadership team who are committed to ensuring that each of you reaches your potential, and a first class team of dedicated Sixth Form Personal Tutors to support them in this.

If you are successful this year to finish Year 11 with five grade 5's, or equivalent then you will be able to join us to study Level 3 qualifications in over 20 different A Level and BTEC options. Highly respected by universities, the Armed Forces and employers, Level 3 qualifications allow you to enter the next stage of your journey to your future career at a higher level and with greater opportunities. These courses are one of the best ways for you to prepare yourself for your future. You will be able to choose from a range of subjects that you may already be passionate about, and some that will be new but just as exciting.

This is a very important next step, so since you are in control of what you do next, you need to make the right choice. Fortunately at Manshead there are a large group of staff who are really keen to help you with that decision. Make now the time to begin your research, to talk to your Form Tutor, subject teachers, Miss Taylor and the Sixth Form Team. If you are a student that does not currently attend Manshead School please feel free to come and visit the school during the working day to see some lessons, talk to the Sixth Form team and the students.

The most informed people you could talk to about sixth form opportunities are the students who are there already. They can describe first-hand what they enjoy about their studies and why they are achieving so well. Read all the information in this prospectus to find out just how different and rewarding our sixth form could be.



Mrs Debbie Chivers
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Heather Murray
Head of Year 12 and Year 13



.....AND FOR PARENTS

The end of Year 11 in schools is often much awaited by students. It marks the end of one phase of life and the beginning of a set of new learning experiences. Some students will be keen to advance further up the academic ladder, to enter a University or College of Higher Education. The most common route to this is via an 'A' level course. 'A' levels also provide those seeking employment at 18 with greatly increased prospects and wider choices.

Life in the Sixth Form marks a change for all students. They have to learn to work more independently and to make good use of private study time. Teaching groups are smaller. It is essential to have a good working relationship with staff, and to seek help and guidance from them. The continuity provided by moving to Sixth Form studies at Manshead helps to smooth this transition. We are already familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of students and students may know subject staff. But perhaps above all we attract the vast majority of our best Year 11 students and they create a social and working environment in which all can thrive.

Students and their parents will receive at least three detailed progress reports in each academic year. However, if any of the Sixth Form Team has any concerns over incomplete work, poor attendance, or underachievement we will be in contact more regularly. We believe that our close communication with home helps us to offer the most effective student support of any sixth form in the area.

We particularly ask that you work alongside the staff here in reinforcing the following four musts:

- ❖ Students having 100% attendance on all of their courses
- ❖ Students completing work independently and using study time effectively at school
- ❖ Students being organised and prepared for each day, including meeting deadlines for homework and assessments
- ❖ Students feeling happy and supported, in the full knowledge that they or you can come and talk to any one of us

We hope that you do find the information you need in this prospectus, but should you require any further help or guidance you can speak to any one of us on Sixth Form Open Evening. Contact details for the sixth form leadership team are given below; please feel welcome to email us with any questions.

We look forward to working with you.



WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PERFORMING ARTS DEPOT

To ensure that all students in Dunstable and Houghton Regis have the opportunity to study the widest range of courses it is important that we work together with other providers in the area. This is why we work particularly closely with The Performing Arts Depot. This collaboration gives students access to a broader curriculum choice by allowing them to study for a Performing Arts qualification and more specialised teaching and support in this subject area.

Students will be based at Manshead CE Academy, but will attend the PAD for their Performing Arts lessons. Transport between both sites is free and movement between the sites happens before the school day, at break time and at lunchtime. Our individual programme at the start of your course will include familiarisation with all of this.

Data is shared across both providers, so that reports show progress irrelevant of where a subject is studied. We have common reporting procedures, attendance procedures and parents evenings, to ensure that all students in Dunstable and Houghton Regis can achieve their very best, studying the subjects they want close to home.

Mrs Heather Murray

Head of Year 12 and 13, Manshead CE Academy

Mr Daniel Keating

Course Director, The Performing Arts Depot



I believe that Manshead Sixth Form gives its students with a unique opportunity to do the very best they can in an environment which is both professional and accommodating. I currently study English Literature, History and Economics. Throughout my studies, I have been supported and encouraged to shoot high and know that, at Manshead, I can aspire to be the best I can be. Manshead Sixth Form succeeds in allowing its students more independence whilst keeping the familiarity and student-teacher relationships which have been built and developed over the years. This gives Manshead an important advantage; teachers already know your strengths and

weaknesses and A-Levels are not very long, so it really helps that teachers know you and you can really hit the ground running post- A-Levels.

It is true that the jump from GCSE to A-Level is a daunting one, however the support and encouragement the staff offer at Manshead Sixth Form mean that no matter how much you struggle, if you put the work, in you won't be left behind and everything that can be done will be done to ensure you enjoy and, eventually, pass your A-Levels.

Being a Sixth Form student means learning how to manage time, how to work effectively independently and how to organise yourself to get the best out of your day, every day. These skills you will carry with you for the rest of your life, and Manshead is great at helping you understand and develop these skills, ready for the outside world.

Ryan Gemmell

Head Boy



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

'A' Levels To complete this qualification students study a course over the period of two years. Suitable 'A' level qualifications enable students to progress to University and other institutions of Higher Education. They are also required for higher level apprenticeships and certain levels of employment. They are graded A* – E or U (fail).

Level 3 BTEC Nationals are more vocationally based but are equivalent to 'A' levels if studied over two years or AS levels if studied over one year. They are graded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass (equivalent to A*, A, C and E at A level). Even though these courses are mostly assessed through coursework, most now have external examinations and assessment.

Level 3 Diploma For this students will study for the certificate level of the qualification in Year 12 and have examinations during year 12. They will then go to complete the Diploma in the year 13. The Diploma leads to the equivalent of an A level .

Independent Study: Students and parents will hear this expression frequently during sixth form. Independent study refers to the need for students to use time outside of lessons to complete work for each of their subjects. This will take many different forms, including reading lesson notes, textbooks or information on the portal; completing homework assignments against deadlines; carrying out research; making purposeful notes following lessons; and continuous review.

Students will have 4 lessons of timetabled independent study on their timetable in the option block they have not chosen a subject. There will also be an opportunity for students to have a further 3 hours of independent study. This may be directed or if student has gained a more flexible study programme then it will be of their choice.

Independent study is a skill and a discipline that has to be learned and developed. Teachers and Personal Tutors will both tutor and challenge students in the art!

NB Independent Study is **not** failing to attend lessons or switching off in lessons because you can 'catch up later'. Our expectation of sixth form students is 100% attendance and active engagement.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

We believe we have a truly all round Sixth Form Study Programme for our students. This programme will enable student to develop both academically and personally.

All students will opt for 3 courses they wish to study for 2 years. Students will then achieve an A level or BTEC/Vocational equivalent in these subjects. Most of these subjects will have four hours of contact time per week.

All students are required to also select 2 reserve choices.

All students will be required to select an enrichment subject that will allow them to develop their personal and life skills that will be required for when they leave school. This enrichment subject will have one hour of curriculum time and details of which can be found on page 8 of this prospectus. Activities on offer for this enrichment hour are First Aid, Developing skills required for the medical profession, boosting your maths grade, student magazine, Arts Award, Sports Leader Award, Young Enterprise, the Extended Project Qualification, Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and Self Defence.

All students will follow a PSHE programme of one hour per week that will develop life skills for life beyond Sixth Form. This programme will have elements of safe driving, budgeting, cooking, mental and physical health, resilience, political participation and being independent as well as many other elements that will help upskill our young people to be active members of society.

Our tutorship structure will enable students to have a Careers hour each half term, a personal 15 minute Tutorial with their tutor each half term and exposure to an outside speaker through our new exciting lecture programme where we will invite inspirational speakers to come and talk to them about their life and experiences.

All students will also have the opportunity to use the school sport facilities on a Wednesday afternoon and we would like to encourage all students in participating in a sports match against another Sixth Form in the county. We will also offer Mindfulness, Pilates and Yoga during this time. This hour the students will be supported by our PE and recreation team.

All students will carry out a week of work experience in Year 12 and there may be opportunities to develop this further in to Year 13. All students will further develop their employability skills by carrying out a period of voluntary work. This work will either be in school or outside school with opportunities such as being a teaching assistant in a subject of study, helping younger students to develop their reading skills, working on a community based project, offering their services to a local voluntary sector organisation or working in one of our local feeder schools.

From the above we hope you can see that the Sixth Form Study Programme is one of endless opportunity and will enable our young people to truly become even more incredible!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

It is often at the point in the year when students in Year 13 are applying for University places, Apprenticeships or work that they realise that 'all work and no play can make for a dull applicant'. It has never been more important to show that as a student you have had a balanced diet of academic and non-academic involvement in or out of school.

Employers and Admissions tutors have become more demanding in what they are looking for in terms of a good application, because they can afford to be. The job market is a competitive one and good university places are still hard fought over. Students need to recognise early on in their school career that those who have taken part in the wider activities in a school or who have outside interests will stand out as stronger applicants. They need to recognise the breadth of skills that are developed through outside interests and hobbies, and how it can distinguish them from other candidates who have the same level of qualifications as. Students often return from interviews where they have been surprised that there have been so many questions around 'other interests'.

Alongside our Study Programme there are many other ways students can develop these required skills

- ❖ Aspiring to sixth form leadership positions, e.g. Student Principals and Senior Prefects
- ❖ The Music, and Drama departments offer an extensive program of performances and concerts through the academic year
- ❖ Organising events by joining the Sixth Form Social Committee, including fundraising and 'Socials'
- ❖ Becoming a Sixth Form Buddy and mentoring students lower down the school
- ❖ Enrichment Days
- ❖ The UCAS convention, the opportunity to shadow a university student and Q&A sessions with current under-graduates and college students
- ❖ Assemblies and Open Days on subjects as varied as 'Alternatives to University', 'Finance', 'Careers Fairs' etc



Student Enrichment Choices

Students will choose one of the following options to develop their own personal skills. They will have one hour a week to participate in this area of enrichment and each area will be led by a member of staff.

Enrichment Choice	Information
Student Magazine	This activity is suitable for students wishing to develop their journalistic and artistic skills. This does not mean that you have to be an English or Art student, but you may want to develop skills that you may not be able to in your core curriculum.
First Aid and Medical Career Development	This activity is suitable for those students wanting to go on to study medicine, pharmacy and other medical based courses. This choice will give students access to work experience/ volunteering experience at the L&D hospital and other providers in the area.
LAMBDA Communication And Performance	This activity is suitable for students who are interested in running a business, going into law, journalism, teaching, the public sector as it will allow students to develop both verbal and performance skills. It will also allow students to develop self-confidence.
Arts Award – Art and Design	This activity is suitable for students who do not study Art or a design as their core curriculum but wish to pursue or develop skills within this area of the Arts.
Sports Leader Award	This activity is suitable for students who do not study PE as their core curriculum but wish to pursue or develop skills within the area of Sport and leadership.
Young Enterprise	This activity is suitable for students who want to develop their entrepreneurial skills through the development of a business idea. If you want to be the next Alan Sugar or Steve Jobs this activity may be for you.
Maths Booster GCSE Award	This activity is for students who have achieved a grade 5 in Maths but require a higher grade for their university/occupation of choice. Students will sit their GCSE in Maths following this as the end of Year 12.
Extended Project Qualification AS Level Award	This activity is suitable for students who wish to develop their writing skills to be able to answer a personally set question of 5000 words. If you are a History, Geography, English, Art, Science or Maths student it will develop the skills required for NEA or not covered in your core curriculum. It is a perfect opportunity to prepare for that 10,000 word dissertation you will complete at university too.
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award	This activity leads students to develop their personal skills through the 3 areas that the Duke of Edinburgh offer. These include voluntary work, skill development and the expedition. A truly incredible opportunity to develop your interpersonal and team working skills.
Self Defence	This activity will allow students to develop personal self-confidence as well as their physical and mental wellbeing. We would hope that the students will never need to use the techniques learnt but it is an excellent opportunity for personal self-development.



GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SUBJECT CHOICE GUIDANCE

The basic entry requirement to study at Manshead Sixth Form is for students to achieve five grade 5 or higher grades in five different subjects. These five subjects must include English and Maths. If a BTEC Level 2 qualification contributes to this total it must be a Merit or Distinction.

Students in Manshead Sixth Form study for Level 3 qualifications. These qualifications will either be a BTEC or an A level.

The table below outlines the subject specific entry requirements.

All subjects are A level except where mentioned as BTEC or Vocational.

To study a subject at Level 3 that you have studied in Key Stage 4 then you need to have achieved at least a grade 5 or a Merit in that subject.

Maths and English Grade 5	Maths Grade 7	English Grade 5	Two Science Grades 7 and Maths Grade 6	Other Grade Entry Requirements
Sociology Psychology Business Economics Geography Finance	Maths	History Law Ethics English	Biology Physics Chemistry If you have studied Triple Science you must have a grade 7 at GCSE in the subject you wish to study at A level	Art (Grade 5 in Art) Photography, 3D Design and Textiles (Grade 5 in an Art or Design subject) Sport (Grade 5 in PE / Merit in BTEC Sport and Grade 5 in Science) Spanish (Grade 5 in Spanish) Computing (Grade 5 in Computing and Grade 5 in Maths) BTEC Performing Arts (Grade 5 in Dance, Drama or Music)



TIMETABLE FOR ENTRY

November

Thursday 15th November 2018

- Prospectus and Option forms issued

**Week Beginning 12th & 26th
November 2018**

- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Opportunity to discuss options with teachers

- Manshead CE Academy Pre Public Examination Week

**Week Beginning 3rd December
2018**

- Taster Sessions in subjects not available in Key Stage 4

Monday 10th December 2018

- Deadline for all applications

Tuesday 18th December 2018

- Sixth Form Experience Day

Monday 7th January 2019

- Manshead CE Academy Pre Public Examination Results

January-February 2019

- Interviews with Senior Staff to discuss student's chosen courses
- Sixth Form Taster Day
- Options finalised

May – June 2019

- GCSE Examinations

June 2019

- Sixth Form Induction Course

Thursday 22nd August 2019

- Examination results
- Staff available for advice on options

September 2019

- Enrol for courses
- AS / BTEC courses start



A STUDENT'S VIEW OF LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

"It has been harder and easier than I thought. The work is definitely harder than GCSE and there is so much of it; this was a real shock to the system. However the atmosphere is really great and the teachers treat you more like adults, they are really good at both pushing and pulling you along. I did end up socialising too much in the first half term, but then I saw my grades in the October assessment and it gave me the shock I needed. Once you learn to manage your time, it is possible to meet deadlines and have a balance between work and being with friends. Also, I wasn't looking forward to wearing smart dress this year, but actually I like it now. Everyone looks more grown up and ready to study. It is far better than having a uniform too, because there is a lot of flexibility in what you can wear."

"It's much harder than the Year 11 - the homework seems to be more demanding and I have been asked to do it again if it is of too low a standard."

"There's a lot of homework, but you're given plenty of opportunities to do it - and lots of time."

"The classes are usually a lot smaller, so it's easier to learn. It brings you out of yourself in lessons - you're not worried that someone will laugh at you."

"The teachers seem much more like people in the Sixth Form - they're actually interested in your ideas as a person, rather than in a joint opinion of the class."

"I have made new friends, since quite a few students join Manshead sixth form from other schools"

"I think we have good facilities at Manshead, with our own area in the library, which is full of computers and workstations. We also have a canteen that is only for sixth formers (although some teachers choose to use it too which is a bit cheeky!) and opens through most of the day. You can buy a frothy coffee and pie day is one of the highlights of the week. It can get busy during break and lunch times and you have to be quick if you want to sit on the leather sofas. All of the sixth form staff are in that area too since the offices are next to the social area, so it is easy to speak to them throughout the day, although it is also easy for them to find us! We all laugh and nudge each other when one of them looks like they are heading in our direction, because you regularly see students whisked off 'for a chat'!"

"When you are not doing assessments (which seem to happen every other week!) There are other things to get involved in. The social committee organise 'socials' and we also raise money for charity through fundraisers. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with other college activities around the school and whole school activities like the School Production and School Band."



"In addition, there are the chances to be a Senior Prefect offering a great experience as a role model for younger students and taking on additional responsibilities across the school (you get to wear a cool badge too). One of these responsibilities is mentoring younger students in subjects they are having difficulty in. I remember having a sixth form student helping me in Science and I remember wanting to mentor myself one day as it really helped me to raise my grades.

I hope you can see that we enjoy being here, as you see us walking around the school. It is way better than I expected, come and see for yourself."



Manshead Sixth Form is a happy environment, allowing me to flourish and has made me more aspirational whilst also providing emotional support if needed. Staff and older students are always happy to help with difficult subject concepts or provide guidance on your future after Sixth Form, they also help during free lessons if you feel you are struggling. I study Maths, Chemistry and Physics, which are very challenging subjects, and I have found the step up from GCSEs tough, but with teachers support I feel confident in my knowledge and ready for the next chapter in life.

Along with the academic side of Sixth Form, there are also many opportunities to become part of the student body. Personally, I have loved raising money for charities, leading school council meeting, helping reading with the lower years and taking part in whole school activities, such as culture week and school concerts. This has taught me to be more confident and organised, whilst also taking on extra responsibilities. Our Sixth Form's social committee is another great opportunity to help the Sixth Form. They have events such as BBQ's and sweet sales raising money to implement extra facilities in our social area and towards the end of year prom. Manshead has been a wonderful community where I have learned and grown as a person and had fun doing it. If Manshead Sixth Form is your choice, I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Mia London
Head Girl



PASTORAL SUPPORT

Year 12 and 13 are in their own Personal Tutor groups. Year 12 will have a dedicated sixth form Personal Tutor who will form close relationships with those in the group through tutorial time and during 1:1 mentoring. They will monitor every student's progress and will be available for information and guidance on all aspects of studying.

Year 13 Personal Tutors continue this close support and also work closely with their students as they prepare personal statements for UCAS, develop CV's or prepare application forms.

To help with the transition between year 11 and year 12, we operate a number of transition days in the summer term after the GCSE examinations. We also expect students to complete summer homework that prepares them for their year 12 studies. On these days students will receive induction booklets both for Manshead CE Academy Sixth Form and for each subject.

Reports are sent home three times a year following three key assessment points, where student performance will be monitored against their Indicator Grades. A Sixth Form Parent Consultation evening is held twice a year in Sixth form. In Year 12 they are held in December and March and November and February for Year 13.



Manshead Sixth Form is like my second family. Both students and teachers constantly work together to ensure that we have the best chance of achieving the grades we deserve whilst ensuring we have an enjoyable time whilst studying.

Personally, I study Maths, Economics and Business A-level which is a challenging combination I have used all the resources provided to me to ensure I achieve my target grades. You are also able to visit teachers during free periods to ask any questions you may have about something you've covered in a previous lesson. The step up from GCSE to A-level is a big one, however if you make sure you keep on track

and keep organised as you go along, it makes it a lot easier. I was given this advice by year 13's when I joined Manshead Sixth Form and I am glad I listened to them!

Manshead Sixth Form's caring nature allows each individual to feel comfortable and grow into young adults prepared for future endeavours. If you wish to get involved with the school body, we have Prefects which help organise charity events, as well as a student voice that take on the opinions of the Sixth Form and discusses these with Senior Leadership Team. We also have a social committee which help raise money for the Year 13 prom, charities and improvements in the social area by hosting socials, barbecues and sweet sales. There are many more roles in the Sixth Form so whatever you're interested in you will be able to express this at Manshead! I really hope you enjoy the sixth form as much as I have; it's an experience you'll never forget.

Tristan Randolph
Deputy Head Boy



PRIVATE STUDY

Moving into the Sixth Form will place different demands on studying for many students. They will be expected to become more independent and responsible in their approach to their work, and to this end they are given a fair amount of private study time. To help students to manage this transition some private study time is structured, supervised and timetabled, and some is left to students to organise for themselves.

Manshead Sixth Form students will find that they have study facilities that are unlikely to be bettered in any other sixth form. The impressive Library has a dedicated sixth form PC area, study booths and larger tables for (quiet) group work; it is open from 8.30am until 4.30pm (4.00pm on Fridays). The students also carry out their Sixth Form Study in the dedicated Independent Study Rooms for students that is fully staffed. One of these rooms is a dedicated IT suite with 60 computers. On sunny days right throughout the year our covered outside areas are also very popular for group work and even for tutor group activities.

Students often ask 'What is the difference between Private Study and Homework?' Homework is a specific task against a specific deadline, and it is completed at home or perhaps at school in social time and at after-school clubs. Private Study in the Sixth Form includes all of that but also embraces more general background research and investigation, 'reading around' the subject and developing a broader general perspective on the world. Also, as we have explained above, there is an allocation of timetabled hours for Private Study within the school day in the Sixth Form, both structured and un-structured.



SOME ADVICE ON CHOOSING 'A' LEVELS FOR UNIVERSITY

While these notes are meant as a guide for future University applicants, much of the advice offered applies equally to those intending to seek employment in the top professions, civil service, banking etc.

Careful choice of 'A' levels improves your chance of securing a place at University or embarking upon a worthwhile career. Read carefully the 'A' level subject descriptions in this prospectus. Talk with your Personal Tutor and ask questions of subject teachers. Look at University Entrance: the Official Guide to find preferred or required entrance qualifications - there is a bewildering array of courses and course requirements so read carefully. The choice of 'A' levels is equally varied, so follow these simple guidelines:

1. Combinations of "standard" academic subjects (English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Languages, History, Geography, RE and also Psychology, Business Studies, Economics and Computing) lead to the widest range of possibilities.
2. Many of the Russell Group Universities (the self-appointed "top" 20 universities) now expect students to study at least two of the "standard" academic subjects listed in point one. It is well worth taking this into account if you may be considering applying to one of these universities.
3. Think of appropriate combinations: choose at least two supportive subjects, wherever possible, as this will make studying easier and more effective. Do not be tempted to go for a broad range of subjects unless you are very able and have a good reason for this.
4. The best combination for keeping your options open in Science-based courses is Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Biology is an acceptable alternatives.
5. University departments prefer applicants for Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to have some grounding in Natural Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology). You must have Advanced Level Chemistry to study Medicine.
6. It is best not to choose only 'A' level subjects which involve predominantly practical skills, unless you are certain that you wish to pursue a career in a related area. It is often best not to choose more than one practical based subject due to the high demands on practical coursework.
7. Don't base subject choices on the teachers you think might teach you.

Remember, University Admission Tutors look for enthusiasm, success and high grades in at least three 'A' levels. Their basic concern is that you will make a success of your University course. The Sixth Form leadership team will be prepared to speak to University or College admissions tutors on your behalf to seek their advice on combinations of 'A' level subjects.



Finally, consult the University Entrance Guide or visit www.ucas.com and read individual University prospectuses. Mrs Hawkins, the Sixth Form leadership team or your Personal Tutor can help you with this.



Currently, I am studying English Literature, Media Studies and History and so far, the experiences I have had have really shaped me into someone who is prepared for the outer world. I feel well-bonded to all of my teachers and never hesitate to ask for their assistance in any aspect of school life. Their expertise goes beyond their subjects, as they are eager to assist you with personal statements, careers advice and any extra-curricular opportunities that you're interested in. You will find all members of staff and pupils to be approachable and helpful with any enquiries or

concerns that you may have moving up to Sixth Form.

The feeling of unity that runs throughout Manshead is something quite unique about us - rather than being a hindrance, being attached to a school acts as a huge positive here because it broadens your opportunities to further develop your natural skills as you're able to mentor younger pupils, be a part of student voice and take the lead role in charity projects. These factors will come together to formulate a highly employable young person.

I wish you the best and hope that you choose Manshead Sixth Form as your next step.

Courtney Alnaggar
Deputy Head Girl



CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The following pages give information about the courses we offer. For further subject specific information see the following members of staff, or visit the exam board's website.

Art	Mr M Dervish
Biology	Mrs S Clarke/Mr S Koyes
Business Studies	Mr S Trotter
Chemistry	Mr A Birring
Computing	Mr K Guehi
Economics	Mrs D Chivers
English	Mr N Brownlie
Finance	Miss Beeton
Geography	Mrs J Niblock
History	Mr P Thomas
Law	Miss C Connolly
Mathematics	Mrs F Wood
Performing Arts	Mr Keating at The PAD
Physics	Mr S Tripathi
Product Design: 3D Textiles	Mr M Dervish Miss E Barry
Photography	Mr K Brooks Buckingham
Psychology	Mrs S Lombardi
R.E. (Ethics & Philosophy)	Mrs D Smith
Sociology	Miss S Hardacre
Spanish	Mr A Bargiela
Sport	Mr K Gordon
Textiles	Miss E Barry



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 or above in Art

Course summary

Year 12 and 13: Art at A-Level encourages students to think about using art as a platform for their ideas. They will generate their own responses to being political artists in which they challenge issues that they feel strongly about. These will be contextualised with the work of other artists and thinkers from a wide variety of backgrounds. The realisation of their project will be executed on an A1 canvas using mixed media. You will be encouraged to think in depth and critically about your response, which will also be the basis for a 3000 word essay.

Course content

Year 12 and Year 13:

- Political Art - Coursework Unit
- Externally Set Exam Unit 2
- Personal Study

Progression

Art is a visual/conceptual driver within society. It defines and manipulates meanings and signifiers through the interaction of cultures across a plethora of interactive communication platforms and exhibitions. It can also be the basis for a stimulating career within a number of professions including; Curator, Lecturer, Graphic Designer, Fashion designer/journalist, project manager, teacher, web designer etc.

Student comments

A Level Art combines the enjoyment of creative freedom, with the ability to express your feelings on certain aspects of life. It starts with a mark-making project, that encourages the exploration of different media and techniques that help you expand your personal level of skill. Some examples of topics previously expressed in political art are communism, gun crime and feminism. Our interpretation of political art focuses on using portraiture as a metaphor to express emotions such as anger. This enables students to express their creative ability and create future artwork based on the techniques learnt throughout the year.

A Level Art is not just about creating, it also helps develop important life skills, such as time management, dedication and the ability to think outside the box.

Art is a subject I would highly recommend if you love any form of art and wish to pursue it as a hobby or a future career.



Lydia Gibbs

Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Two Grade 7's or higher in Science and Grade 6 or higher in Maths

Course summary

The A level biology course are designed to build upon the concepts that have been studied at GCSE. The course encourages students to develop a thirst for knowledge and understanding of the subject with practical elements being a key focus throughout the course. There is both a breadth and depth of skills and knowledge covered which allows students to explore their passion in biology and consider where they might like to take this in the future.

Course content

Year 12:

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

Year 13:

- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics and ecosystem

Progression

Biology is an excellent subject to study for those considering higher education because it leaves open a wide range of options for university study. It is therefore recognised as a 'facilitating' subject by the leading universities. Previous students have gone on to study a wide range of degree subjects including Medicine, Biomedicine, Veterinary, Nursing and marine Engineering.

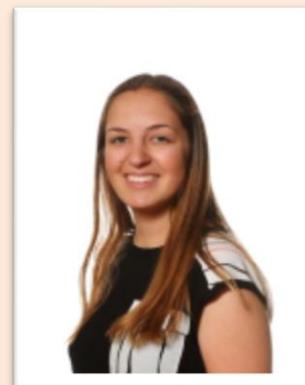
Student comments

Biology, despite it being a challenge, is one of the most fascinating and engaging subjects available to you at A level. It covers a wide range of interesting topics including, genetics, biodiversity, disease and plants.

There are also a variety of practical experiments completed over the course of the two years, enhancing your skills as well as your knowledge and understanding of the theory behind it.

The teachers are extremely encouraging and supportive. They are very knowledgeable and are always willing to help with anything you might be struggling with.

This course is a very good stepping stone into further study at degree level with a variety of possible careers.



Carys Hopkin
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

Content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society – they will study key contemporary developments such as digital technology and business ethics, and globalisation is covered throughout topics. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

Course content

Year 12:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve: marketing, operational, financial and human resource performance

Year 13:

- Analysing the business' strategic position
- Choosing strategic direction
- Managing strategic change

Progression

Business Studies can be studied successfully alongside many other subjects and, as a result, career opportunities open to those who have studied the subject can be wide ranging. Students can follow many degree-based courses or alternatively they may choose business apprenticeships or enter advertising, banking, accounting and marketing.

Student comments

Business is a very interesting subject to study with many connections to the real world. It teaches you skills that can be related in numerous areas of work and gives you a wide understanding of what the world offers to the business industry.

The course gives you an overall wider perspective and understanding, I especially like learning the different departments that make up a business and what they offer to allow the business to expand and succeed.

I strongly recommend taking Business as it is a helpful subject that helps us understand how the world is shaped around each individual.



Tayla Lawes
Year 13 Student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Two Grade 7's or higher in Science and Grade 6 or higher in Maths

Course summary

Chemistry is everywhere in the world around you! It's in the food you eat, clothes you wear, water you drink, medicines, air, cleaners ... you name it. In this course we build on the knowledge the students developed at GCSE introducing students to analytical techniques like mass spectrometry, concepts like entropy and enthalpy and the applications of chemistry in a range of industries.

Course content

Year 12:

- Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Foundation of chemistry
- Periodic table and energy
- Core organic chemistry

Year 13:

- Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Organic chemistry and analysis

Progression

Chemistry is an excellent subject to study for those considering higher education. It is considered a 'facilitating' subject by the leading universities because choosing chemistry at A-level leaves open a wide range of options for university study. Previous students have gone on to study a wide range of degree subjects including Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Aerospace Engineering and Construction Management.

Student comments

Chemistry is a challenging yet rewarding subject to study at A Level. It has the potential to lead into many professional areas of employment, whether it develops problem-solving skills during practical's or inspires you to take science to the next level at university.

The areas of study are fascinating and gives you an insight into an unknown chemical world which allows you to discover more about areas such as energy, pH and chemical reactions as well as having cross-curricular links with physics and biology. The practical element is combined with the theoretical element throughout the course, enabling you to put your knowledge to the test and experiment with what you have learnt.

Chemistry is an excellent A Level that will stand out to employers or universities and will improve your independent academic learning, as it is a demanding course.



Hannah Meadows
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 in Computing and in Maths

Course summary

Our Computer Science course will above all else be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. Students will be assessed through a combination of two examined units, one pre-released/examined unit and a practical project (A2).

Course content

Year 12:

- Computing principles
- Algorithms and problem solving

Year 13:

- Computer principles
- Programming project
- Algorithms and problem solving

Progression

Computer Science is a very creative subject and skills such as problem solving and analytical thinking make it an excellent subject to continue to higher education. This qualification will provide learners with a range of transferable skills which will facilitate personal growth and foster cross curriculum links in areas such as maths, science and design and technology. It is suitable for learners intending to pursue any career in which an understanding of technology is needed.

Student comments

AS Computer Science allows the inquisitive mind to learn and understand key concepts that make up computers and the way they work. The subject feeds well from GCSE whilst being accessible for people who have never studied computer science before.

The first year of A Level Computer Science will comprise of studying basic principles such as fundamental programming skills and algorithms as well as solving small programming problems. The second year introduces new topic areas such as object oriented programming and compiler design. Your coursework will make up 20% of your overall A Level, combining skills you have learnt into one assignment.

I thoroughly recommend Computer Science and I hope you enjoy studying it as much as I do.



TJ ODU

Year 13 Student 2018-19



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

The Economic course looks at how an economy works, from an individual market to a fully functioning country. It looks at the 'flow of money' within a country and the elements that influence that. We never use the term money and therefore have an 'economic language' of our own to express how it all works. The subject looks at prices, costs, inflation, income, exchange rates, taxation and jobseekers allowance to quote just a sample of the concepts used and modelled.

Course content

Year 12:

- The economic problem
- Individual markets and the market system
- The national economy
- Government intervention/policy

Year 13:

- Business economics
- The labour market
- Income, wealth and poverty
- The National and International Economy
- Government Intervention

Progression

Economics is a subject that is as old as time! Therefore, many of the markets still work in the way that the models teach us. This subject prepares you very well for the world of finance, business, banking and local or central government. However as it is a broad social science, it prepares students for many other fields of work.

Student comments

Economics is the study of the core fundamentals and principles that decisions from consumers, producers and governments are built upon. The course is split up into two parts, microeconomics which is the study of businesses and consumers, and macroeconomics which focuses on the national and international economy. The teaching of the course allows you to gain a wide range of advantageous skills that can easily be applied into a vast range of careers. Economics combines a wide range of subjects that allows you to have a wider understanding during your studies. Economics works very closely with other social sciences like business studies as well as maths and history, for example we use history to analyse how past events may shape our future. Economics is the perfect A-level to take into later life due to the respect it is given and transferable skills it gives you that can be taken into an undergraduate degree, an apprenticeship or the world of work.



Ollie Cornish
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in: Language

Course summary

This is a stimulating and inspiring course that encourages students to study a variety of texts across the spectrum of time. The focus of this course is the analysis of fictional texts, enabling students to develop their own interpretation skills as well as to contemplate and study the views of critics.

To succeed in this course it is essential that you enjoy reading a range of texts. You will be someone who enjoys debating ideas and not be afraid to challenge the writers' approaches and established ways of thinking about texts.

Course content

Year 12:

- Othello
- Pre-1900 poetry anthology
- Atonement (prose)

Year 13:

- A Streetcar Named Desire (drama)
- The Handmaid's Tale (prose)
- Feminine Gospels (poetry)
- Non-examined assessment (NEA): 2500 word essay comparing two texts

Progression

All careers welcome English as a subject which develops analytical and written communicational skills. It is a versatile qualification that is recognised by all universities for its rigour and relevance to the skills required in the workplace.

Student comments

English as a core subject possibly embodies a piece of all other subjects. It allows us to gain a perspective of anyone throughout history, giving us a rich context of cultures, times, psychology and human history. Literature allows language to be immortalized, it gives words the ability to transcend time and transport us. Therefore the comprehension of literature is, I believe, a vital skill in development not just as a student, as a well-rounded being.

The literature department here at Manshead is fantastic at delivering both a depth and breadth of understanding in the art. The teachers are well equipped and fantastic at delivering not just the knowledge of the subject, but also the passion for it. The subject will give you the ability to analyse, to argue and to explain yourself, but more importantly it will give you works of art that can stay with you a lifetime.

English opens up doors to areas of knowledge you would never have thought of exploring before.



Erica Armstrong
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English

Course summary

The Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Religious Thought.

Course content

Year 12:

- The nature of soul, mind and body
- Religious Experience
- The problem of evil
- Normative ethical theories
- Application of ethical theories
- Ethical language
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority

Year 13:

- Physical chemistry and transition elements
- The nature of religious language
- The nature of God
- Free will and determinism
- Conscience
- The relationship between religion and society
- Social and historical developments in theological and religious thought

Progression

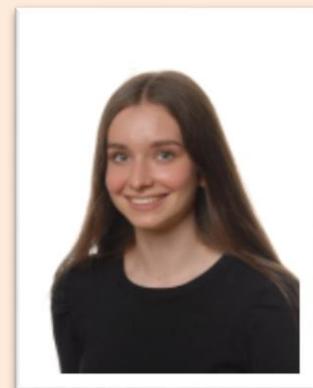
A powerful entry into University. The 'A' level enhances students' abilities to think and express themselves. Self-confidence is, therefore, a bi-product of the two-year course and, as such, the students can enter a whole range of careers including personnel, banking, the economy, law, nursing etc

Student comments

I find Ethics and Philosophy a subject which highly enthuses me due to its diverse topics and scholars involved within the subject. It involves looking at a range of theories and beliefs from all different eras of the world. The diversity of it ranges from looking at Ancient Greek philosophical influences such as Plato and Aristotle, theories on moral decision making, arguing for and against God's existence as well as the person of Jesus.

Not only does the subject make you more knowledgeable about the world but helps you to have an open mind about different topics therefore no longer making you dismiss things but helping to give insight into both sides of an argument and evaluating which one is better for each situation or question.

Ethics and Philosophy helps to understand challenges of the real world as well as helping to understand the roots of some of today's culture and society.



Hannah Dunford
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

The London Institute of Banking & Finance

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

Finance introduces students to the impact of finance on the economy and encourages them to consider how this can affect businesses and individuals. Through this it develops knowledge and a valuable range of applied and transferable skills. It provides a foundation for further study in business and finance-related disciplines.

Course content

Year 12

Unit 1

- Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term

Unit 2

- Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term

Year 13

Unit 3

- Sustainability of an Individual's Finances

Unit 4

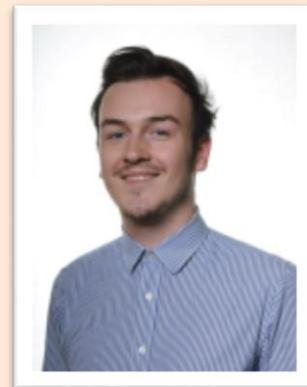
- Sustainability of the Financial Services System

Progression

Finance can be studied alongside any other course of study, and offers an enriched knowledge of how the world of finance works. For this reason it can lead to a further qualification such as Diploma or it can offer foundation knowledge for a degree in Banking and Finance (with the same institute) or other Business related courses. The Diploma would offer the full A level equivalent.

Student comments

Finance is a broad subject which stretches into many aspects of the financial world from short term finance such as payday loans and overdrafts to long term such as mortgages. Finance isn't a single minded subject, by this I mean it discusses different religious takes on borrowing and finance, allowing the student to have an expanded view on the subject. Choosing Finance was a no brainer for me! I've always wanted to branch off into the finance industry, and this course has allowed me to gain knowledge and maturity in the subject. Another benefit of the course is that it can be applied to all aspects in life, whether you want to go into finance, business, and management or even to help you in life. The finance course is distinguished in the eyes of universities and future employers, as it shows them that you have knowledge on financial aspects, evidently showing your flexibility to learn. And of course, Finance is the perfect way to channel your love for the subject and to progress in it.



Sam Ryan

Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

PEARSON/EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

This Geography qualification enables students to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply their own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around them, and to help prepare them to succeed in their chosen pathway.

Course content

- **Topic 1:** Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- **Topic 2:** Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – including optional sub-topics from which students choose one from two:
2A: Glaciated Landscapes and Change
2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change
- **Topic 3:** The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- **Topic 4:** The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Progression

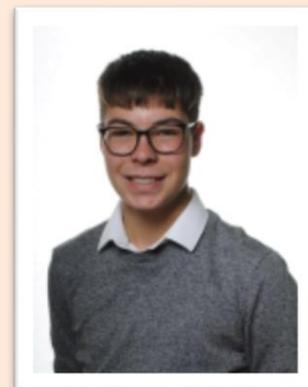
Geography is a broad based subject that really fits well for your future progression. For example, for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change, geography is an obvious choice.

This specification content gives students the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography, the complexity of people and environment questions and issues, and to become critical, reflective and independent learners.

Student comments

Geography is a subject that allows you to draw information from all aspects of life, the course comprises of human, physical and global geography, including geo-politics. This all applies to the world around us and the state of it, in which we live in.

This A-Level not only develops your understanding of Geography as you know it, but allows you to develop skills beyond the subject, which will be advantageous to you in later life. I believe Geography to be a crucial and fundamental part of education as the pathways it opens are limitless.



Scott Nathan
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English

Course summary

The History course covers a range of topics from the Tudors to the modern world, giving students an exceptional breadth of perspective.

Students will be assessed through a combination of two exam-based units and one coursework unit.

Course content

Year 12:

Exam units

- The Tudors 1485-1547
- Modern America 1945-1963

Year 13:

Exam units

- The Tudors 1547-1603
- Modern America 1963-1980

Coursework across Years 12 & 13:

A historical investigation into one of:

- The History of Medicine & Surgery
- The History of Crime & Punishment
- Germany 1869-1949
- Women's Rights in the UK

Progression

History is an excellent subject to study within Higher Education. Students who study History are recognised as being capable of detailed analysis and effective communication. History often takes students into careers in fields such as teaching, archaeology, journalism, the law, the Police, the care professions and the Civil Service.

Student comments

I am currently studying History A-Level at Manshead. Here, we study two different time periods, The Tudors and the USA post-WW2, as well as a topic of our choice. This variation in time periods means we don't only study history, but we study different societies and how the world has changed over centuries.

History enables you to become accustomed to deep analysis and research skills, as well as how to present information and make your point clearly. All of these abilities are highly regarded by employers and universities alike.

The History department at Manshead is a reliable and dedicated department, with teachers who won't hesitate to support you and inspire you to do the best you can.



Ryan Gemmell
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English

Course summary

The Law course covers a variety of topics ranging from Law making to Murder, to give students a breadth of knowledge. Studying Law gives students an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

Course content

Year 12:

- English Legal System
- Parliamentary Law Making
- Criminal Law
- Tort

Year 13:

- Tort (continued)
- Contract
- Nature of Law

Progression

Law is an excellent subject to take in to higher education. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. All these skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers. This can progress on to University degrees in and around the subject of Law as well as a pathway into law based apprenticeship.

Student comments

Law is an eye opening subject, you'll cover everything from how to convict a criminal, the ins and outs of forming a contract and how a bill is passed within the UK government. Not only have I been able to apply this to my other subjects I have applied my knowledge within day to day life.

I initially chose Law because the concept of digging deeper to solve issues appealed to me, and I wasn't let down!

Law can be very demanding but it is very achievable. It has helped me develop high quality sophistication in my essay writing, problem solving and analytical abilities.

This course is very reputable to employers and further education and is perfect for anyone considering a career involving Law.



Maria Clarke

Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 7 or higher in Maths

Course summary

The key aim of the course is to encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of Mathematics, to promote confidence and foster enjoyment of the subject for its own intrinsic value. It will develop students' ability to reason logically, to generalise and to develop mathematical models.

Course content

Year 12: Begins by developing familiar topics from GCSE, such as equations of lines, quadratics, trigonometry and circles then extending these ideas to include calculus. Statistics begins with representation and summary of data, and then continues with introductions to probability distributions, correlation and regression, and hypothesis testing. Mechanics studies forces, and particles under constant and variable acceleration.

Year 13: Extends ideas on trigonometry, calculus, vectors, sequences, properties of functions and functions defined using a single parameter. Statistics extends ideas of probability, including the normal distribution. Mechanics looks at moments, resolving forces, and extends ideas of statics and dynamics.

Progression

If you are considering University courses 'A' level Mathematics is essential for some degree options such as Physics, Computing and Engineering. Possible employment from the study of Math includes; Accountant, Engineering, Surveyor, Risk Analyst, Economist and Teaching.

Student comments

If you are still unsure what you want to study at A level, then maths would be an excellent choice for you.

Maths is such a widely applicable subject that it will help you no matter where you go; science, history, psychology, sociology, textiles, politics, all of these subjects make use of maths in one way or another.

It is also one of the most sought after A Levels so it will definitely be an incredible boon going forward, both to a university or apprenticeship or into the world of work.

You also learn so many fantastic things throughout this course, including trigonometry, mechanics, statistics and calculus as well as many other topics.

The levels of satisfaction from solving a problem which you are found with, is absolutely beyond compare.

Maths is a fantastic subject to study at A Level and I hope that you enjoy studying it as much as I have.



Michael Bordiak
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in Drama, Dance or Music if studied previously yet not exclusive. All students will be required to take an audition at The PAD.

Course summary

The BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts gives an engaging and stimulating introduction to study of the sector. It is intended as an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners with an interest in performing arts who wish to continue their education through applied learning. It aims to equip learners with transferable knowledge and skills for progression to higher education. It will be assessed through both internally and externally set assessments.

Course content

- Human lifespan development
- Investigating Practitioners' Work
- Developing Skills and Techniques
- Group Performance Workshop
- Performing Arts in the Community
- Individual Performance Commission
- Final Live Performance to an Audience

Other units will be selected depending on the cohort of students. Some units focus on drama whereas others focus on the dance aspect.

Progression

The course will develop a deeper understanding of a wide range of Performing Arts and help those students hoping to study Performing Arts in Higher Education. It gives experience to those who wish to pursue a vocation in Performing Arts.

Student comments

Studying Performing Arts at the PAD is a unique subject that differs from the usual teaching of learning. The PAD is where you expand your knowledge, and express your passion for dance, singing and acting through practical learning. This makes it different to any other A-Level subject, due to the fact there is a substantial practical element. Since taking Performing Arts, I have performed in a number of their showcases, giving me valuable performance techniques for after I leave Sixth Form. This subject has given me the confidence to speak and perform in front of my peers which is a skill I thoroughly believe will be useful in the 'real world'.

I strongly recommend taking this subject as it increases confidence and social skills.



Morgan White

Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

PEARSON/EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 in an Art or Design Subject

Course summary

Photographic images, used by the mass media and the visual arts reflect some of the most complex ideas within society. By taking this course, students develop the ability to understand and communicate this visual information whilst learning skills and techniques needed to express themselves through the medium of Photography.

The course enables students to explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. Students will cover the areas of: portraiture, landscape photography, still-life, documentary photography, photo journalism, experimental imagery and moving image before choosing one or more of these areas to focus on.

Course content

Photography consists of two components; the Personal Investigation (worth 60%) and an Externally Set Assignment (worth 40%). In year 12 students begin the Personal Investigation but have the time to explore and experiment with different techniques. They complete this in year 13 and complete the course with the Externally Set Assignment.

Progression

This course can lead to a Foundation course in Art or Photography; with a very good portfolio, you can progress to a Degree in Photography or a related course. Photography provides useful skills and knowledge relevant to a wide variety of

careers in areas including the Arts, Media and Advertising, in roles such as: freelance photographer, assistant, picture editor, teacher, cinematography or work in related fields such as print media, film or journalism.

Student comments

Photography is a very independent, vocational course which allows you to explore into the world of photography. This subject has a high workload but the outcomes are worth the effort. Most of the work is done outside of the classroom (around 20% in the classroom and 80% outside the classroom). You will be able to show your creative side in as much depth as you wish.

While taking this course, you will have a new view of photography and discover that it is not just taking pictures. Photographer research, image analysis and editing are all key elements of this course. It is interesting to learn how certain photographs were taken, what settings were used and then having the chance to recreate these images.

I would definitely recommend this course to anyone who is unsure as I was once in that position and do not regret the decision.



Autumn Peacock
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Two Grade 7's or higher in Science and Grade 6 or higher in Maths

Course summary

The A level Physics course is designed to build upon the concepts that have been studied at GCSE. The course encourages students to develop a thirst for knowledge and understanding of the subject with practical elements being a key focus throughout the course. There is both a breadth and depth of skills and knowledge covered which allows students to explore their passion in Physics and consider where they might like to take this in the future.

Course content

Year 12:

- Development of practical skills in physics
- Foundation of physics
- Electrons, waves and photons
- Forces and motion

Year 13:

- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Particles and medical physics

Progression

Physics is an excellent subject to study for those considering higher education because it leaves open a wide range of options for university study. It is therefore, recognised as a 'facilitating' subject by the leading universities. Previous students have gone on to study a wide range of degree subjects including Chemistry, Maths and Software development as well as Physics and Engineering.

Student comments

Physics is one of the most interesting and thought provoking subjects you can take; discovering information about the workings of the universe really broadens the mind. In A Level Physics, you will be able to grasp the fundamentals of physics and be able to spot this in everyday life, and apply knowledge learnt in class to the world around us.

This course offers valuable practical and theoretical research skills as well as developing maths skills.

I believe Physics is immensely beneficial as a subject.



Francesca Morris
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 in an Art or Design subject

Course summary

A level Art 3D encourages students to think about using art as a platform for their ideas. They will generate their own responses in 2D and 3D based on the theme of apocalyptic dystopia. Students will be contextualising their work with other artists and thinkers from a wide variety of backgrounds. The realisation of their project will be executed through the exploration of 3D outcomes. Students will be encouraged to think in depth and critically about their response, which will also be the basis for a 3000 word essay.

Course content

Year 12 and 13:

- Mood boards
- Artist research
- Sculpting techniques
- Casting techniques
- Carving techniques
- Photoshop techniques
- Traditional and modern 3D techniques
- Ceramic and sculpture projects

Students will also explore a range of 2D techniques including printmaking, painting and observational drawing.

- External set project

Progression

This course will allow students to leave with an excellent understanding of Three-dimensional design, and a huge variety of craft techniques that will form a varied portfolio to take into higher education. Students who study Three-dimensional design at A-level will be competent in designing, making, independent working, problem solving, working with clients and effectively working to deadlines.





Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind which is the source of all thought and behaviour. This course will introduce you to psychological theories and methods, and will offer you the opportunity to investigate some of the explanations psychologists have used to understand humans and their interaction.

Course content

Year 12:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

Year 13:

- Further Approaches
- Schizophrenia
- Addiction

Progression

Psychology 'A' level is flexible and will equip you with the skills to study just about any subject or enter a job requiring some level of understanding about human behaviour. As well as becoming a chartered Psychologist, careers such as Teaching, Social Work, Law, Business, Healthcare and many more will benefit from psychological knowledge and understanding.

Student comments

Psychology helps you to understand human behaviour, mental processes and allows you to gain a better understanding of how we think, act and feel. It can increase our understanding of mental illnesses and how to treat them, relationships and the human development. It is not just a study of the brain, but one that looks at human nature and examines our routines and obsessions.

At Manshead I have been able to delve into this subject as I have such a passionate and interesting teacher who shows her attributes through the style in which she teaches. She has made it evident that Psychology is a universal subject that is applicable in everyday life, particularly in decision making and problem solving, and that every unique person can be studied in one way or another.

Psychology also has many roles in jobs in the real world, with ones closer to the specific subject like counselling and psychiatrists, or ones further away from the subject like probation and parole officers and criminologists.



Holly Cartwright
Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

If you are fascinated by the behaviour of others and why we act the way we do, then Sociology is for you! Students will learn about the main theories in Sociology and the themes which run throughout the course, such as stratification, socialisation, culture and identity. This is a new linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

Course content

Year 12:

- Education
- Research methods
- Families and households

Year 13:

- Methods in context
- Crime and Deviance
- Beliefs in society

Progression

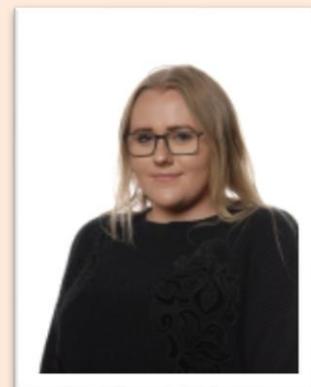
Research shows people entering the job market will change careers several times over the course of their working life. Sociology trains you to answer the 'what, 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving you a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students considering careers in the professions and business.

Student comments

Sociology is an extremely interesting and engaging subject, particularly if you are intrigued with the views that different perspectives such as feminists and Marxists possess on topics within society.

I enjoy the subject as it allows me to be well educated on the differing views that many groups of people within society hold upon certain topics such as their view on crime and on education.

One interesting topic that is covered is families and households. This topic allows the exploration into the importance of families and how the roles within the family have changed throughout time. It also allows you to be educated on the differing views that different perspectives, such as feminists, have in connection to families.



Grace Galbraith

Year 13 student 2018-19



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in Spanish

Course summary

The History course covers four themes to give students a breadth of knowledge of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. There is also a comprehensive list of grammar to be covered as well as a film and a literature book. Students will be assessed through a combination of three examined units i.e. a Listening, Reading and Writing paper, a Writing paper and a Speaking exam.

Course content

Year 12:

- Aspects of Hispanic Society
- Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World
- Film
- Grammar

Year 13:

- Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society
- Aspects of Political Life in the Hispanic World
- Literature
- Grammar

Progression

Spanish is an excellent subject to take in to higher education. If you are interested in other cultures, communication, entertainment, critical thinking, problem solving, linguistics or simply want to boost your employability then this is the subject for you.

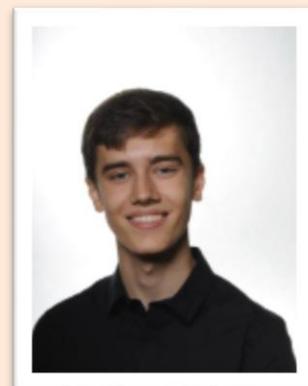
Student comments

To me Spanish is not just a subject; it is a way to learn about the culture and traditions of the country and the Hispanic world. You delve into many different topics ranging from cyberspace to festivals to literature and film. It is interesting to see what traditions happen within these topics and why they happen.

My favourite part of this course is the literature and film section. This is because I love films and part of the course is to watch and review a film. It requires looking at the context and symbolism in a film that is layered and layered with metaphors and other meanings. It really brings out your creative side and makes you think about many of the topics that are based on real life problems.

Having a language A-level opens up a wide variety of opportunities for the future.

I would highly recommend this subject.



Jak Evans

Year 12 student 2018-19



Exam board

EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in PE or Level 2 Merit in Sport and a Grade 5 or higher in GCSE Science.

Course summary

The BTEC Sport course is based on the interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education. The majority of the course involves applying the varied theoretical aspects to the performer and performance. There is no practical assessment and is mainly coursework based with one exam. This course is more suited to those with an interest in sport without the practical element.

Course content

Year 12:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well Being Professional

Year 13:

- Development in the Sports Industry
- Practical Sports Performance

Progression

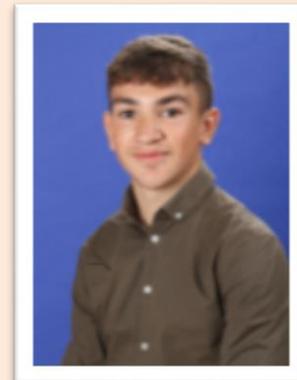
The course provides an excellent foundation for candidates intending to pursue further education or careers in sports marketing, sports psychology, sports science and medicine, sports journalism, sports training, officiating, coaching and education.

Student comments

BTEC Sport is a very enthralling subject to study, the course covers mainly the physiological elements within sport, with topics such as the skeletal system and mechanics of breathing included.

You will be asked to select two sports on which your practical skills will be assessed, one team sport and an individual sport. You will also create a fitness training program where the aim is to increase a person's health and well-being. This allows the learner to incorporate their previous learnings from the course into their fitness program.

This course is ideal if you are looking to study sports science at University.



Daniel Fitt
Year 13 student 2017-18



Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 in an Art or Design subject

Course summary

This is a Textile Art course which allows students to explore techniques and processes such as Drawing, Printing, Fabric Manipulation, Garment Construction, Textile Sculpture and Design Illustration. They will learn this through mainly Surface Pattern, Fashion Construction and Interior Design projects. The course will build on skills learnt through any Art based GCSE course (Textiles, Art, 3D or Graphics). Students will learn how to work independently and creatively build the knowledge and understanding of the design process through experimenting with their own ideas and looking at the work of others.

Course content

Year 12:

- Skills block
- White project – developing shape and texture using different materials
- Internal set project

Year 13:

- Refinement of techniques
- Personal response
- Related study – essay based
- External set project

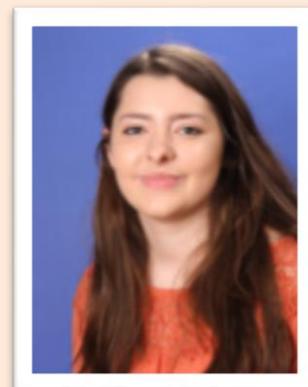
Progression

This course will allow students to leave with an excellent understanding of surface design and fabric techniques. Examples of employment will range from Fashion design, Marketing, Fashion photography to working as a designer independently or for companies.

Student comments

Starting this course, it was really challenging for me having studied the technology rather than art side of textiles at GCSE. Over the year, however I have come to like this side of the subject as it has allowed me more freedom to choose the direction of my own work and to use the themes that inspire me the most. Our teacher has been really supportive in the transition from GCSE to A-level and has helped me to think more like an artist and develop my work from simple to more complex and developed samples and designs. We have explored a range of techniques from machine and hand embroidery, to screen and mono printing whilst learning how to contextualise our work and show links between all of our research, samples and designs.

I have really enjoyed this course and would recommend it to anyone thinking of studying textiles at A-level.



Olivia Jeffs

Year 13 Student 2018-19