



Manshead CE Academy



*Sixth Form Prospectus
2021-22*



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Manshead CE Academy

Sixth Form Prospectus 2020-21

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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
- Opportunities 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
- Opportunities 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 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 5s, 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, Mr Jeffs and the Sixth Form Team (Miss Taylor and Mrs Murray). 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 already here. 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 for you.



Miss Rachael Taylor
Key Stage 5 Leader



Mrs Heather Murray
Pastoral Head of Year 12 and 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 independent 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, Form Time, Enrichment and Tutorship
- 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. 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.

Miss R Taylor – email: taylorr@mansheadschoo.co.uk

Mrs H Murray – email: murrayh@mansheadschoo.co.uk

Mrs J Lynam – email: lynamj@mansheadschoo.co.uk



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. They are graded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass (equivalent to A*, A, C and E at A level). These courses are assessed through coursework, and external examinations and assessment.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

We believe we have a truly all round Sixth Form Study Programme for our students. This programme enables students 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, details of which can be found on page 5 of this prospectus. Activities on offer for this enrichment hour are Sports Leader Award, Finance Qualification, the Extended Project Qualification, and Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

All students will follow a PDE 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.

All students will have the opportunity to use the school sport facilities for a dedicated hour session per week and we would like to encourage all students to participate 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.

TUTORSHIP

In addition to the pastoral support provided through their form tutor in tutor time, students also have one timetabled hour per week of Tutorship with an allocated teacher. The aims of tutorship are to provide support and guidance to students on a one-to-one basis. Through the Tutorship programme students are encouraged to identify any barriers hindering their wellbeing and progress and to enhance their personal development, progress and outcomes.

WORK EXPERIENCE

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 be encouraged to 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 project, offering their services to a local voluntary sector or working in one of our local feeder schools.

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!



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; preparation and research for lessons. Specific work is set by teachers to be completed in study time.

The expectation of students is to utilise this time effectively and teachers are to be setting work specifically for this time that will either extend from the lesson they have just completed or contribute to upcoming lessons. We aspire to stretch and challenge students with their knowledge in their subject(s) this will prove to be a benefit to their progress and subsequently their grades.

Manshead Sixth Form students will carry out their Sixth Form study in their own Sixth Form block. Students will find that they have study facilities that are unlikely to be bettered in any other Sixth Form. Within this block they have 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.

Our impressive library has a dedicated Sixth Form PC area, study booths and larger tables for (quiet) group work.

Students often ask 'What is the difference between Independent Study and Homework?' Homework is a specific task against a specific deadline, and it is completed at home or perhaps at school. Independent 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. There is an allocation of timetabled hours for Independent Study within the school day in the Sixth Form.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, ENRICHMENT AND UCAS

Often at the point in the year when students in Year 13 are applying for University places, Apprenticeships or work 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 them. 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 programme 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
- Attending the UCAS convention and virtual opportunities and Q&A sessions with current under-graduates and college students
- Engaging with Assemblies and Open Days on subjects as varied as 'Alternatives to University', 'Finance', 'Careers Fairs'
- MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses)
- TED Talks

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
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.
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.
Finance	Finance introduces students to the impact of finance on the economy and encourages them to consider how this can affect businesses and individuals. 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.

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.

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	Maths Further Maths (Grade 8)	History Law Ethics English Lit Health & Social Care (BTEC)	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)	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) Music (Grade 5 or above in Music)

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

TIMETABLE FOR ENTRY

November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospectus and Option forms issued
Monday 30th November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixth Form Open Evening/Insight into Sixth Form • Opportunity to view subjects from a teacher's perspective along with subject content
Friday 8th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for all applications
W/C 18th January 2021 25th January 2021 1st February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with Senior Staff to discuss student's chosen courses • Sixth Form Taster Day • Options finalised
W/C 9th February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer Letters
June– July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Examinations
28th June 2021 (Provisional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixth Form Induction Course including taster experience lessons
Friday 27th August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination results • Staff available for advice on options
Wednesday 1st September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post results interview and enrolment
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level / BTEC courses start

A STUDENT'S VIEW OF LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

"It has been both 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 block which is full of computers and workstations.. All of the sixth form staff are in that area too since the offices are situated in the block, so it is easy to speak to them throughout the day, although it is also easy for them to find us! "



"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 activities around the school and whole school activities like the School Production and School Band. "

"In addition, there is the chance to be a Senior Prefect offering a great experience as a role model for younger students and taking on additional responsibilities across the school. 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 become a mentor myself one day as it really helped me to raise my grades.

I hope you can see that we enjoy being here, it is way better than I expected, come and see for yourself."

Entering Manshead CE Academy's Sixth Form as an external student was a nerve-racking experience. However my nerves were soon nullified by the staff and pupils who were very welcoming and kind towards me. During my first year of Sixth Form I was presented with opportunities to get involved with extra circular activities. Some of these were choosing between completing an EPQ, First Aid or Sports Leader. Additionally I was involved in the Sixth Form football team who reached the semi-final of the school county cup, however we were not able to complete this game due to Covid-19. Being given these chances as an external student shows how accepting the Sixth Form is. If I ever need any help the teachers are always freeing up time to ensure they help me.

I study A-levels in Business Studies and Geography and a Level 3 in Financial Studies. In the first couple of weeks at Sixth Form you are able to change your subjects if you are unhappy with your current choices. I have spoken to hold great passion for their subject and teach with an enthusiastic attitude, to help ensure students that their targets and goals are achieved.

Altogether the Sixth Form helps you develop in many ways, especially as an external student being placed in a new environment with little to no familiar faces. This prepares you for future life, like university and employment where the situation will be the same. You are also prepared for the future by being allocated "free periods" where you have to independently manage your work load, improving time management and decision making skills.

I wish the best Sixth Form experience for all new applicants and hope that it is just as brilliant as the time I have spent here.



Joshua Harding
Yr13 Student 2020-21





PASTORAL SUPPORT AND TRANSITION

Year 12 and 13 are in their own Year group 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 students' 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 CVs 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. On these days students will receive induction booklets both for Manshead CE Academy Sixth Form and for each subject. We also expect students to complete summer homework that prepares them for their year 12 studies.

Manshead Sixth Form is a great environment for further education, somewhere where good relationships with both students and teachers can blossom. We all work as a team here making sure we support one another to achieve to the best of our ability, both academically and socially.

We believe the community here at Manshead strives for personal excellence, providing equal opportunities for everyone. As a collective we study English, Sport, Law, Sociology, and Psychology. After covering such a range of subjects we can confidently say that Manshead has a strong team of A-Level teachers that are always available to help, especially as the jump between GCSE's and A-Level can be daunting at first. By keeping organised, continuing to work hard, using the help that is on offer to you, you will be able to achieve high. The Year 12s and Year 13s act as a whole year group here, so don't be afraid to look to the year above for help.

*They are always there to support the new Year 12s whether it is with revision techniques or just settling in. We have recently moved to a new block entirely dedicated to Sixth Form. It is a peaceful environment to study, with new toilets and a social area in which we stock teas and coffees. The pastoral support for Sixth Form is heavily involved in your experience and are always more than happy for you to pop in for a chat and have been immensely helpful to us Year 13's currently going through the University Application process. Life as a student at Manshead sixth form has been highly enjoyable and the experience of growing into a young adult here is one you will never forget. We really can't recommend it enough! **Amy, Emi***



Emilia Cox,
Yr13 Students 2020/2021



Amy Price
Yr13 Student 2020-21

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.

Careful choice of 'A' levels improves your chance of securing a place at University or embarking upon a professional career. Read carefully the 'A' level subject descriptions in this prospectus. Talk with your Tutor and ask questions of subject teachers. Look at University Entrance: the Official Guide to find preferred or required entrance qualifications - there is an 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. 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, or follow UCAS on facebook and read individual University prospectuses. Mrs Hawkins, the Sixth Form leadership team or your Personal Tutor can help you with this.

Manshead Sixth Form is a great place to stay involved in a close community whilst gaining much needed independence. The step from GCSE to A-Level is a difficult one but the subject teachers and sixth form team are dedicated to ensuring students transition as smoothly as possible. With this support, you are able to adapt and progress without becoming overwhelmed.

I study Law, History and Economics which are all challenging yet engaging and fascinating. A-Levels are challenging, which I found has improved my motivation to improve and excel. I have gained valuable skills such as time management and organisation which are vital for success.

As well as the academic side of Sixth form, I have enjoyed the extra-curricular activities such as joining the Sixth Form football team, which are crucial to make sure that students can balance working hard with enjoying themselves. Additionally, the new facilities in the sixth form areas have vastly improved my experience. There is more space to work on computers and the new kitchen area gives students much needed freedom and opportunity to be more sociable.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Manshead Sixth Form and I am sure anyone who chooses to come here will too.

Henry Dilkes

Yr13 Student 2020-21

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	Miss K Helling
Chemistry	Mr A Birring
Computing	Mr K Guehi
Economics	Miss K Helling
English	Mr N Brownlie/Miss L Timoney
Further Mathematics	Miss J Kingham
Geography	Mrs J Niblock
Government & Politics	Mr T Darby
Health & Social Care	Mr L James/Miss S Hardacre
History	Mr P Thomas
Law	Miss C Connolly
Mathematics	Miss J Kingham
Music	Mr T Weed
Physics	Mr S Tripathi
Product Design 3D	Mr M Dervish
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





Course	A Level	Vocational
Art – Fine Art	✓	
3D Design	✓	
Biology	✓	
Business	✓	
Chemistry	✓	
Computing	✓	
Economics	✓	
English Literature	✓	
Further Mathematics	✓	
Geography	✓	
Government & Politics	✓	
Health & Social Care		BTEC L3
History	✓	
Law	✓	
Mathematics	✓	
Music	✓	
Philosophy & Ethics	✓	
Physics	✓	
Psychology	✓	
Sociology	✓	
Spanish	✓	
Sport		BTEC L3

ART: FINE ART

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. 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 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.

Student comments

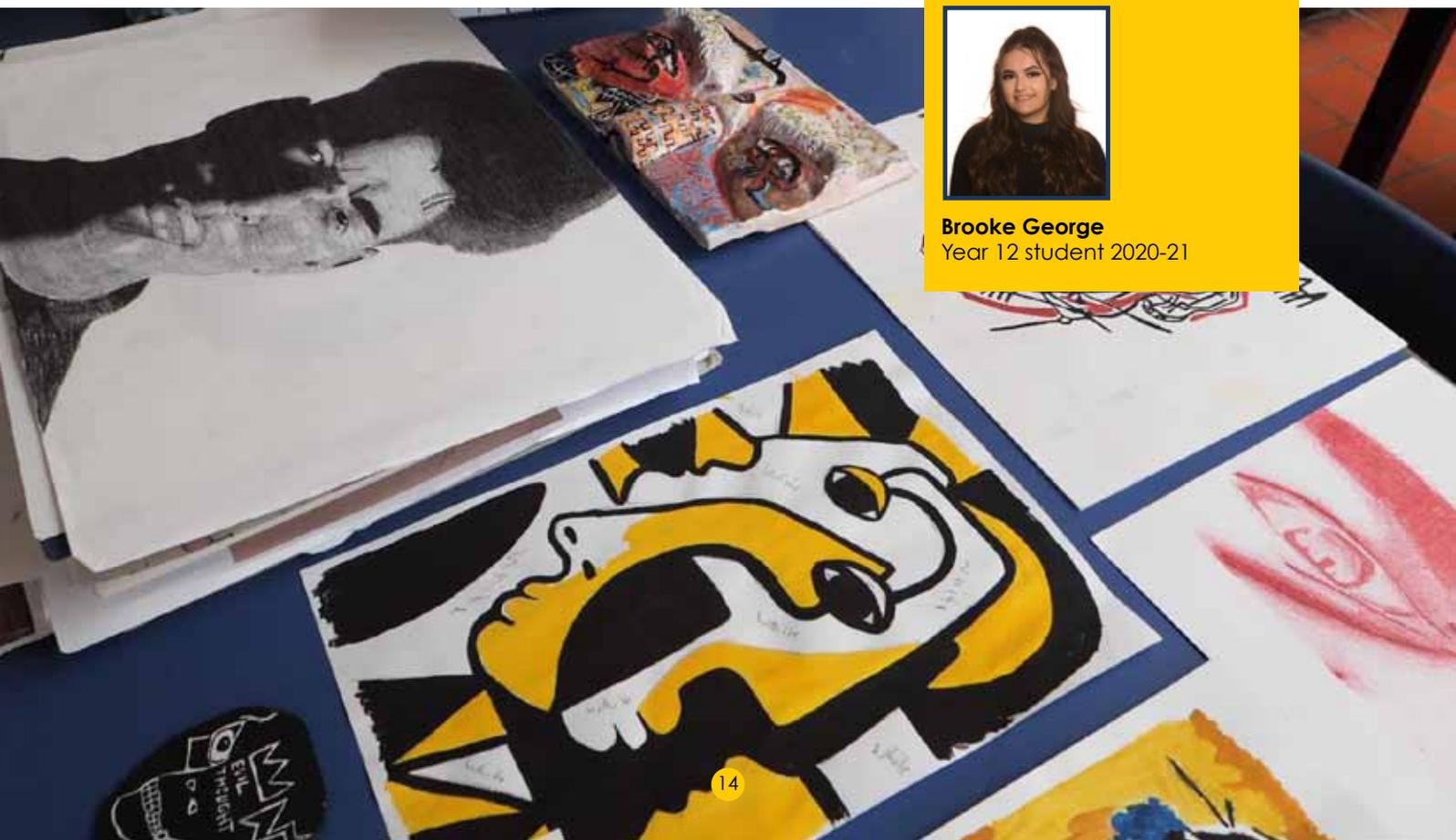
A Level Art combines the enjoyment of creative freedom, with the ability to express your feelings on certain aspects of life. It starts with a mark-making project, that encourages the exploration of different media and techniques that help you expand your personal level of skill. Some examples of topics 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.



Brooke George
Year 12 student 2020-21



BIOLOGY

Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

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

Course summary

The A level Biology 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 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, Biomedical Science, Veterinary Science, Midwifery and Nursing.

Student comments

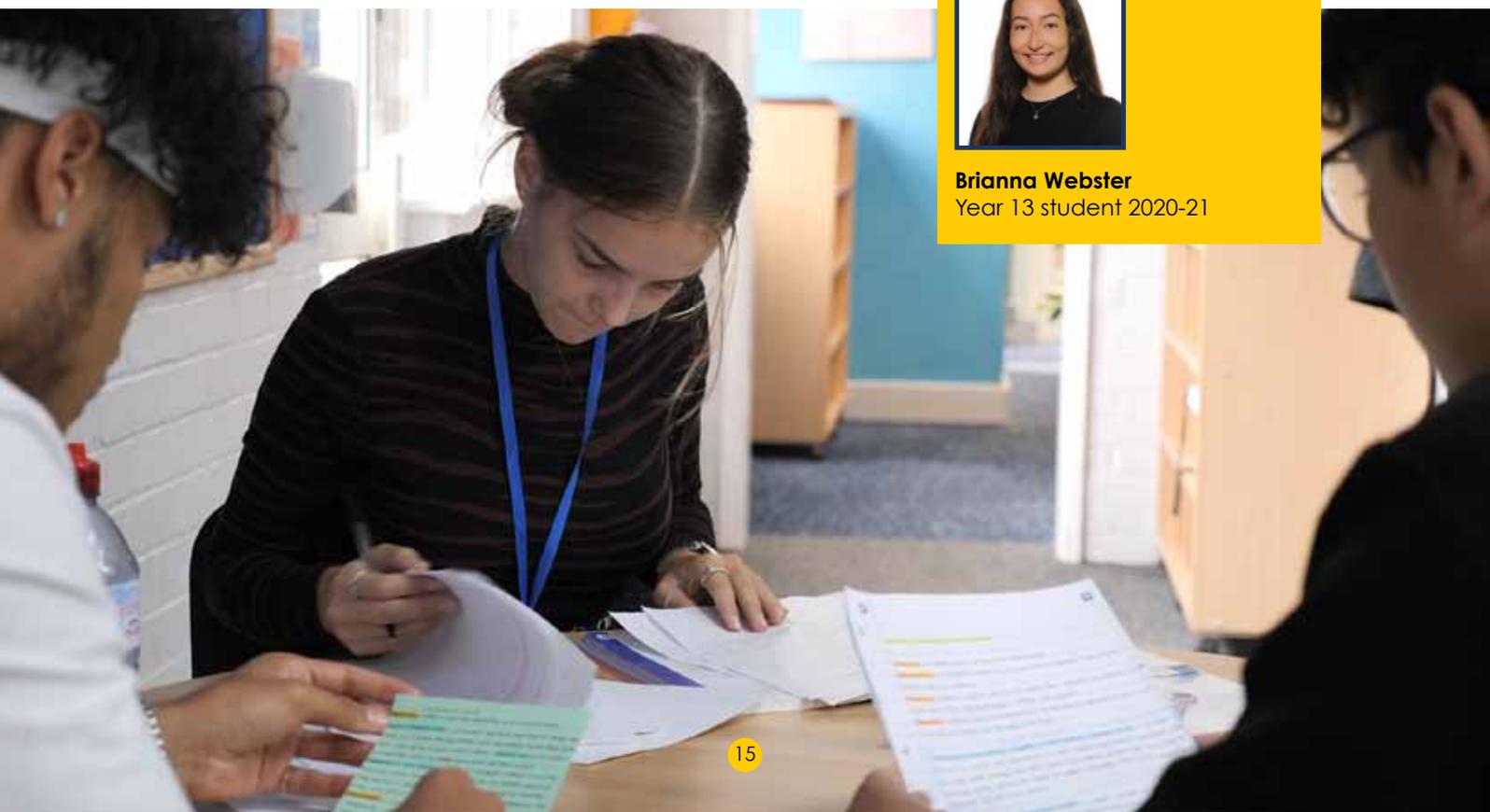
A Level Biology has provided me with a solid grounding in good communication and analytical thinking, which are also life skills. By undertaking lab and field experiments I have gained great teamwork skills. It is an incredibly interesting subject to study as it provides a much more in-depth analysis of natural science than that studied at GCSE level.

The teachers I have had over the 2 year course have been nothing but supportive and encouraging. It is great to know they are just an email away if I have any queries about any part of the course. Lessons are enjoyable and contain a variety of methods of teaching that ensure we are all as engaged as possible.

It is a brilliant subject to study if you have a fascination with animals, plants, humans and the environment. It also opens many doors into a vast range of science subjects at University.



Brianna Webster
Year 13 student 2020-21



BUSINESS

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.

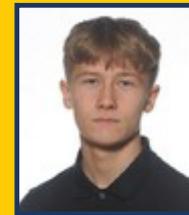
Student comments

Business is an excellent subject to study as it is so versatile. It pairs very well with a wide range of other A level courses.

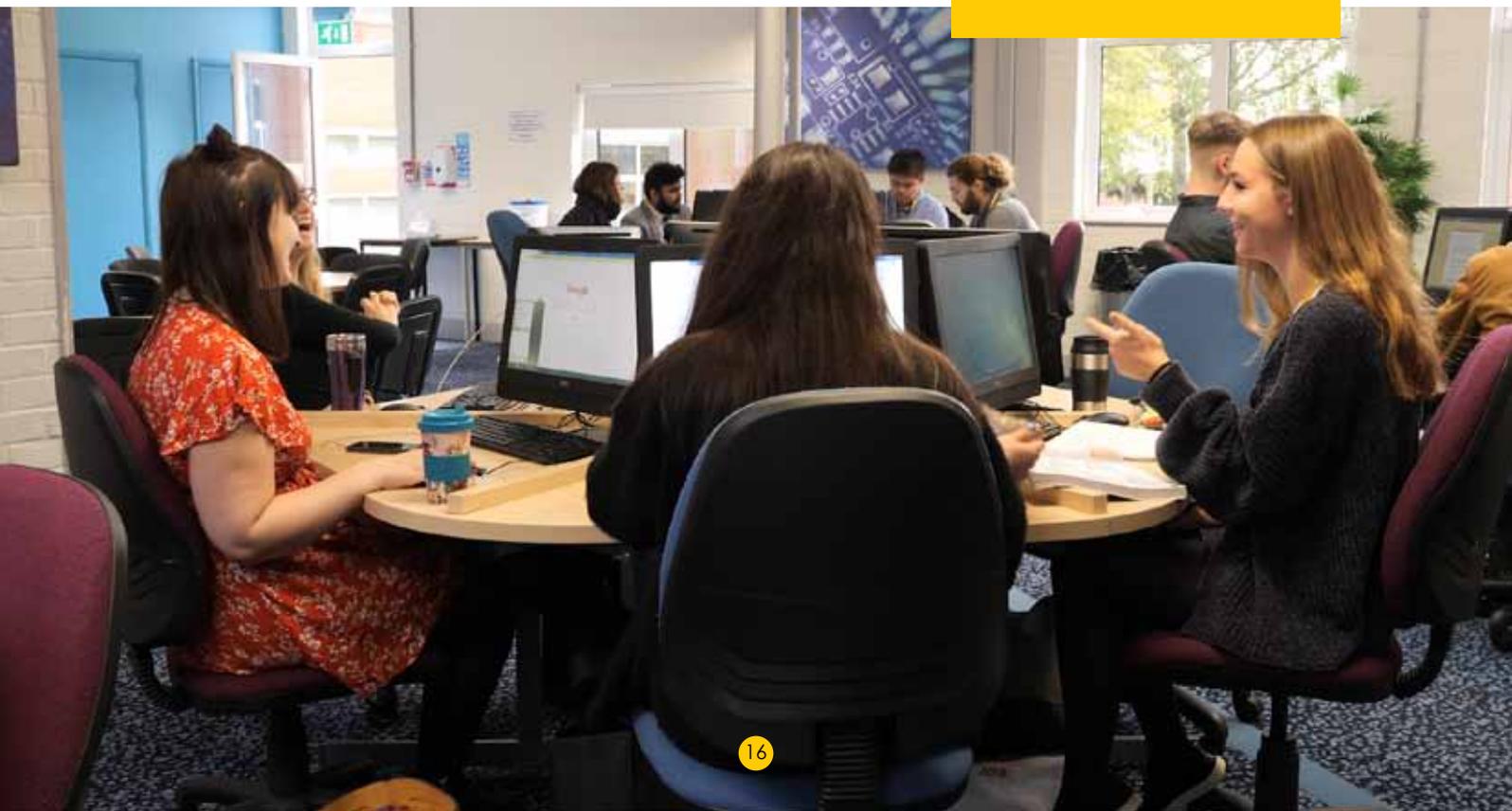
The course covers a well-rounded curriculum of content that connects to industry, business situations and daily operations.

I particularly enjoyed the operational decision-making unit in year 12, where you study operational efficiency and productivity to see how this can impact unit costs as well as other factors.

I strongly recommend students study Business at A Level as it applies perfectly to the real world of Business. It helps to improve crucial skills that are vital for success in the world of work and further education.



James Armstrong
Year 13 Student 2020-21



CHEMISTRY

Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Two Grade 7s 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 and interesting subject to study. The skills that this course offers can lead to employment in almost any field you choose.

The areas of study give a fascinating insight into an unknown chemical world which allows you to discover more about areas such as medicine, pH and chemical reactions, as well as having cross-curricular links with Maths, due to the equations involved in the first and second years. The practical element is combined with the theoretical element throughout the course through Practical Assessment Groups, enabling you to put your knowledge to the test and experiment with what you have learnt in a safe environment where team building and use of experimental data is employed.

I have really enjoyed studying A Level Chemistry this year. I have no doubt that you will too.



Charlie Nash

Year 13 student 2020-21

COMPUTING

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

A Level Computer Science allows people who are interested in either the field of computer hardware, software or both to learn and understand key concepts related to their field of interest. While it builds upon the knowledge from GCSE Computer Science, the course explains the concepts well enough for people that haven't studied Computer Science before.

In my first year of A Level Computer Science my knowledge from GCSE was built upon. I learnt more about programming skills for procedural and assembly language and improved my knowledge about computer principles and architecture. In my second year I started to learn new ideas such as object-orientated programming which is commonly used in high level programming language. I also improved my knowledge on algorithms to help me complete the programme in the coursework.

The coursework is worth 20% of your overall A Level and utilises all you have learnt to produce an appropriate programme to make, or a solution to a real life problem, solvable by a computational approach.



Alex Reyes

Year 13 Student 2020-21



Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths

Course summary

The Economics 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 a system of core principals and theories that explain how individuals, firms and the government make fundamental decisions. The course is split up into two elements: microeconomics and macroeconomics.

The micro section of the course focuses on individual markets, whereas the macro portion looks at the economy on a national scale.

This course will provide you with a vast range of skills that would be applicable within many career paths. Economics covers a number of topics that can be intertwined with other subjects. It can work well with A levels, including Social Sciences, Math or History.

The knowledge gained within economics can be used across many University courses.

This is a brilliant A Level to undertake as it provides a greater understanding and many transferable skills for both higher education or career paths after Sixth Form.



Freya Cann
Year 13 Student 2020-21

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in: English 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

Having the ability to consider a multitude of different perspectives is a valuable skill that can be applied throughout a lifetime, and studying English Literature is a great way to not only hear others voices but have your own heard too. It will also provide you with an understanding of a wide range of cultures and intellectual traditions throughout history and how these have shaped the world into what we know it to be now. The team at Manshead are passionate about what they teach and are always interested in the different interpretations held by students. Their passion is something that will heavily influence your own readings of texts, encouraging you to think outside of the box, and read outside of it, too.



Amy Price
Year 13 student
2020-21

Literature is an eye-opening subject which not only focuses on your own view of literature, but also how cultures, individuals and history have shaped products of literature through time. You will enjoy Literature if you enjoy considering multiple interpretations of texts, questions with no definite answers and you must enjoy reading. It gives you the skills to be able to build strong arguments, acquire amazing essay writing skills and develop a further understanding of the world to help you as a student, and as a person. I would recommend it to anyone who may be considering it.



Emilia Cox
Year 13 Student
2020-21



ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English

Course summary

Religious Studies.

Course content

Year 12:

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Religious Experience
- Evil and Suffering
- Normative ethical theories
- Application of ethical theories
- Self, death and afterlife
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority

Year 13:

- Religious Language
- Miracles
- Self and Life after death
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Religion and Science
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and secularisation

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

Ethics and Philosophy is a subject which exposes you to an amazing range of beliefs and concepts.

It involves looking at a range of theories and beliefs from different viewpoints over time and between religions. This ranges from looking at ancient Greek philosophers, goodness and the definition of God.

The subject has given me the ability to participate in debates and understand other people's moral and religious viewpoints. This has made me an overall more open minded and understanding person.

This A Level is one I strongly recommend studying as it can be applied to the majority of care orientated careers, since you will be working within a multicultural society, encountering a diverse range of people from all religions and backgrounds.

I have found the course really interesting, as well as being taught by passionate staff here at Manshead.



Maya Robinson
Year 13 Student 2020-21



FURTHER MATHS

Exam board

EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 8 or higher in Maths GCSE

Course summary

This is a course for students who relish the challenge of studying maths to a very high level and want to gain a greater depth and breadth of understanding than can be gained from A-Level Maths alone. A-Level Further Maths can be a very valuable qualification for students considering Mathematics, the Physical Sciences or Engineering at a top University.

Course content

Year 12: The Core Pure 1 module includes complex numbers; series; roots of polynomials; volumes of revolution; matrices; proof and vectors. An additional module will also be studied – most likely Decision 1 (which includes the study of various algorithms; linear programming; networks; the 'travelling salesman problem' and critical path analysis).

Year 13: The Core Pure 2 module covers complex numbers, series and volumes of revolution in more detail. Polar coordinates are also studied, alongside other topics such as differential equations and hyperbolic functions, which build on the trigonometry and calculus studied in A-Level Maths. An additional module (either Further Pure Mathematics 1, Statistics 1, Mechanics 1 or Decision 2) will also be studied.

Progression

A level Maths is essential for some degree options such as Maths, Physics, Computing and Engineering, with A Level Further Maths being a highly desirable addition to this. Possible employment from the study of Mathematics could be as an accountant; engineer; surveyor; risk analyst or an economist.

Student comments

Further Maths is an exciting part of mathematics which introduces a range of new topics which can be extremely rewarding, but still quite challenging.

The course can help you develop confidence in facing new problems and strengthen key maths related topics in other subjects such as science and computing.

Further Maths is a well respected subject which universities will recognise if you apply and will recognise it as a fourth subject.

There are many career options that Further Maths will prove to be useful for, such as a career in accounting, software development, physician or as an engineer.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time studying the course and would recommend Further Maths to anyone thinking of taking Physics, Economics or Computer Science as an A Level.



Archie Bartlett
Year 12 student 2020-21



GEOGRAPHY

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: Globalisation
- Topic 3: Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Topic 4: Regenerating Places
- Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Topic 6: Superpowers
- Topic 7: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Topic 8: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

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

There has never been a better or more important time to study A-level Geography. Dealing with important issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, social issues and natural hazards, A-level Geography is one of the most relevant subjects you could choose to study. The course is split into human and physical geography. Human topics such as urbanisation and globalisation are very good for students to apply their knowledge to a worldwide context and form synoptic links. Physical geography looks at topics such as natural hazards and look at how hazards occur and the management that is in place in case one occurs.

Personally I have enjoyed the human topics more because globalisation can be applied to Business Studies, which I also study. These subjects can be cross referenced, the two being a frequent occurrence in this section of learning. Globalisation teaches us how the rapid improvements in technology have increased global interconnectivity and allowed cultural exchange, which can be seen by the process of westernisation in Asia, specifically Japan.

Geography is a highly respected A level with the Russell Group universities selecting it as one of their preferred 'facilitating' A Level subjects to support an application to their degree courses. As well as Geography-based degrees it can support a wide range of other studies such as Biology, Business Studies and Economics. It is also a highly respected degree by employers because of the awareness created through the learning of topics involving global issues and how they affect markets across the globe.



Josh Harding
Year 13 Student
2020-21

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Exam board

PEARSON/EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English Language

Course summary

Students will study units that will allow the development of their knowledge and understanding of the UK political system, core political ideologies and ideas, and global politics. All assessment is carried out through examinations at the end of year 13.

Course content

Year 12:

- Political participation in the UK
- Political ideologies and ideas

Year 13:

- UK government
- Global politics

Progression

Government and Politics is an excellent choice for a wide range of careers. An 'A' level in this subject will equip you for careers not just in politics but also in management, retail, accountancy, banking, and other professions. Its natural partner subjects are History, Philosophy and Ethics, Citizenship, Law and English.

Student comments

Government and Politics allows you to decipher and learn about the political standings within the real world, it allows you to go deeper within a subject that I believe to be a fundamental part of education.

I chose to take an interest in Government and Politics as it is an overlooked subject which not many people are educated on. I was interested in obtaining knowledge to make my own Political choices in the future, as I will know; what will be the best for the country and how we should improve it. Furthermore, I enjoy knowing what is happening in the UK and globally, the best way to do that is through politics as it intertwines with the economies of those countries and the development of them, which I am also very interested in. Therefore, it was the perfect choice to delve deeper into a subject, that I have not done before and widen my knowledge on the UK Government, I can take this into later life to make the best political choices that will improve the country and people's lives within it.



Anna McGroary
Year 13 student 2019-20

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Exam board

PEARSON/EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in English

Course summary

Health, social and early years care is a vast and expanding area with a very wide range of opportunities for employment and further study. This course will give you a good grounding in some of the major aspects of Health and Social Care. It will involve independent research of case studies, practical research skills, giving you a broad introduction to the health, social care and early years' sectors.

Course content

Year 12:

- Human lifespan development (Exam unit)
- Meeting individual care and support needs (Course work unit)

Year 13:

- Working in Health and Social Care (Exam unit)
- Physiological disorders and their care (optional unit will be started in year 12 and finished in year 13)

Progression

This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education. Equally this qualification gives you an ability to practice Health and Social Care and would allow you to secure a job in many Health and Social Care work sectors where you will then be provided with further training.

Student comments

Taking Health and Social care has allowed me to gain an insight into the wide variety of career opportunities that having a qualification in this can achieve.

A key skill I have learnt throughout the course is being able to meet deadlines due to coursework this subject involves. It has also allowed me to identify different needs that different people have and how to overcome any barriers in areas such as communication.

I have the ambition of becoming a social worker and taking this subject is a good starting point for this as it has allowed me to learn the relevant skills and policies required for a social worker role. I have also learnt the importance of following guidelines and legislations in a care setting.



Mairead O'Hara
Year 13 student 2017-18



HISTORY

Exam board

Edexcel

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

- Tudor Rebellions
- Modern America 1917-1980

Year 13:

Exam units

- South Africa 1948-1994

Coursework

A historical investigation into British Foreign Policy 1918 – 1939; Appeasement – Was it a mistake

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 leads students into careers in Teaching, Archaeology, Journalism, Law, Police, Care Professions and the Civil Service.

Student comments

Within the History course we study various different time periods whilst developing a wide range of skills. The course is separated into four main sections: Rebellion under the Tudors, America in the 20th Century, South Africa (from the Apartheid State in a Rainbow nation) along with independent coursework.

By looking at these different periods it helps us to not only gain an understanding of what has happened in the past but also why these circumstances were able to occur.

The studying of this course develops analytical and evaluative abilities that are invaluable. It will develop your essay writing skills, with in-depth levels of knowledge and also enhance your ability to utilise sources. The independent element of the course enables you to become accustomed to organisation and research, both of which are highly regarded skills.

This is an excellent A level to undertake as it is very applicable and will be advantageous in your future, whether that be university, employment or equivalent.



Freya Cann
Year 13 Student
2020-21

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 subject 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 a fascinating subject which covers a wide range of areas including criminal law, formation of a contract, Tort, how bills are created and passed by our government and how they are enforced in our courts. The skills learnt in law are not only easily applied to other subjects but to real life as well. My initial interest in law came from how much of an impact it has on our daily lives, most of the time without us even realising.

It is a challenging subject but a very rewarding one. Studying law has drastically improved my essay writing and time management skills, as well as problem solving and evaluation. The skills learnt during the course will enable any student to make an impact in the next steps of their education or apprenticeship.



Henry Dilkes

Year 13 student 2020-2121

MATHS

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; Accountancy, Engineering, Surveyor, Risk Analyst, Economist and Teaching.

Student comments

If you are a person who enjoys problem solving, Maths would be a great A Level for you. It challenges your 'out of the box' thinking as well as your handling of numbers and data in statistics and applying maths to real life problems in mechanics.

Maths directly relates to many forms of future employment in areas such as business and engineering, as well as being a desirable A Level when looking for universities, apprenticeships or straight into work.

The course covers topics including trigonometry, calculus, mechanics and statistics which helps your quick thinking and ability to learn and use content gained from lessons.

I have gained huge satisfaction from seeing myself progress in maths throughout the last year and it has been a great A Level to study. I would highly recommend studying this subject.



James Orchard
Year 12 student 2020-2121



MUSIC

Exam board

EDEXCEL

Course entry requirements

Students should have gained a grade 9-5 in GCSE music. A good understanding of music theory is essential, as well as a passion for composing and performing.

Course summary

The music course will inspire the students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Course content

- Component 1: Performing 30%
- Component 2: Composing 30%
- Component 3: Appraisal 40%

The units studied are all assessed externally in year 2. Component 1 is assessed based on a live recital in front of an audience. Component 2 is assessed through one free composition and one brief composition. Component 3 is assessed through a written paper lasting two hours

Progression

The course has been designed to give all students the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills of music whatever their previous experience. The course encourages equal performance and composition skills to better support the transition into future music studies.

Student comments

A-level Music is a lot of fun, as well as very compelling; you get to listen to and enjoy a wide range of music, improve and develop your performance skills, and experiment with styles and techniques to create your own pieces of music.

Equally, it forces you to listen to many different genres, to styles you may not typically enjoy or choose to listen to, but this exposure allows you to develop as a musician and further understand the essence of music itself.

These new listening experiences provide inspiration and motivation for your own compositions and the delivery of your performances. The skills learnt in music are invaluable and will last a lifetime!



Ellie Astridge

Year 12 student 2020-2121



PHYSICS

Exam board

OCR

Course entry requirements

Two Grade 7s 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

A level Physics has given me the opportunity to explore natural phenomena in the universe and link it to theoretical studies. I have learnt how to think conceptually and mathematically, and how to apply that to practical investigations. For example, having to apply many different mathematical formulas in exam questions.

You explore a range of topics from Kinematics to Cosmology and learn about recent developments in fascinating topics such as in particle physics. Physics can be a very confusing topic, but the teachers put a lot of effort into ensuring that you understand the individual modules to the best of your ability, in a way that is simple and easy to understand.

Physics is a highly respected A level that creates many different career opportunities, such as Engineering, Medicine, Astronomy and even Finance.



Breeya Hirst
Year 13 student 2020-2121



PRODUCT (3D) DESIGN

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

Students will 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.

Student comments

A level 3D Design is a creative subject which allows you to have freedom within your work. It is very different from your standard exam type subjects as the work you are doing in class is your coursework.

You use a range of techniques and study various artists and their different styles so attention to detail is needed. Art is a very Political subject which addresses current issues happening in the world so it helps you to gain that knowledge of what is currently happening and why. 3D Design is very technical. You get the chance to make models and sculptures that have a good degree of accuracy but you also need to keep track of what you are doing time wise as the quantity of work needs to be produced at high demand.

3D design is a good A Level to have if you are looking at a future career in Art, Design, Construction, History or the Media. If you are artistic, motivated and work well under pressure then I recommend 3D



Kaelah Kavanagh
Year 13 student 2020-2121



PSYCHOLOGY

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 of 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 is a brilliant subject to study as it gives you the ability to understand human behaviour and the processes and states that led to them occurring. It relates to many elements of the human life as it helps students to understand vital concepts such as memory, mental health and relationships. Although there is an element of physical brain study, you will study many abstract and very interesting elements of human nature.

At Manshead you will have a very positive experience with the subject as the department provides you with many useful resources, including a detailed online textbook. The psychology teacher is very passionate about her subject and will put great care into effectively giving you feedback and focussed revision tailored to your needs.

Psychology is very easily applied to many different careers, ranging from the obvious career as a counsellor or psychiatrist, to careers in healthcare, HR, teaching, forensics and law. The applications of Psychology to the world of careers and further education is limitless. I strongly recommend choosing A level Psychology to unlock a range of possibilities for your future.



Maya Robinson
Year 13 student 2020-2121

SOCIOLOGY

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

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 a highly engaging subject that covers an intriguing perspective of topics within society. It looks at how different groups of society like feminists and functionalists will apply their own perspectives onto topics like education or religion. One topic that I found particularly interesting was about family and households where you learn about the importance of the family to society, conflicts it causes and how roles within it have changed overtime.

This subject allows you to be well educated on different identities in society and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in the behaviour of both individuals and social groups. I enjoy this subject as I find it interesting to learn about the different opinions on topics within society but also understanding why different social groups have such differing opinions.



Emilia Cox
Year 13 student 2020-2121



SPANISH

Exam board

AQA

Course entry requirements

Grade 5 or higher in Spanish

Course summary

The Spanish 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

By learning and studying Spanish it enables you to communicate with new people worldwide and opens up a range of opportunities for your future.

The Hispanic world is rich in culture and learning about this is eye-opening. You study a range of diverse topics ranging from cyberspace to customs and festivals to literature and film.

My personal favourite topic in this subject was learning about all the customs and festivals in Spain because it was so fascinating. You will also learn about Spanish literature and film, where you watch and analyse films, books and plays. Studying Spanish boosts your translation skills and allows you to understand the Hispanic world in-depth. I would highly recommend studying this subject.



Holly Carter

Year 13 student 2020-2121

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.



Amy Price

Sport BTEC
Year 13 student 2020-2121





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