

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM 2024

A Level Options at Woodlands



ALLESTREE
WOODLANDS
SCHOOL

Courage | Optimism | Regard | Endeavour

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Art, Craft and Design

A Level / AQA



Contact: Mrs D Smith by email d.smith2@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

This course is for anyone who loves being creative. If you like thinking outside the box and expressing yourself, then this is right up your street. You will be given many opportunities to try out a wide range of techniques and decide which is best suited to your way of working. **Be prepared to work hard, look closely, think deeply and contribute to a very active course.** The first year will be structured in such a way as to ease you into the rigours of A Level. By the time you have reached Year 13 you will be directing your own lines of enquiry and negotiating with your teachers. We aim to create very independent self-motivating students.

Where can Art take me?

The creative industries in Britain is one of the largest sectors and it offers an extremely wide range of careers. Don't take our word for it however, visit these websites and see for yourself.

<http://www.studentartguide.com/articles/art-careers-list>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_artistic_occupations

<http://jobs.lovetoknow.com/career-fields/list-art-careers>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/arts-crafts-and-design>

Extra-Curricular activities

Various gallery visits throughout the course.

Assessment

Portfolio	96 marks 60% of final A Level	no time limit
Externally Set Task	96 marks 40% of final A Level	15 weeks preparation, 15 hour exam

Business Studies

A Level / OCR

Contact: Mrs A Forsyth by email a.forsyth@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Have you ever wondered...

- Why Woolworths went bust even though it was profitable?
- Why the PlayStation4 was launched with bugs in the system?
- Why are more flowers sold on a Monday?

Study A Level Business to get the answers and an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. It is not just a theoretical subject, it is about real life. This combination of academic challenge and practical focus makes the prospect of studying A Level Business highly appealing. You will learn about businesses and the way they operate in today's society. You will investigate problems which real businesses are currently facing and use your initiative to develop possible solutions.

You will study a wide variety of topics including enterprise, human resources, environmental factors, marketing, accounting and finance, production, ethics, international trade, the digital age, law, economics and change management.

Emphasis throughout the entire course is on problem solving and decision-making. You will learn how to use a wide range of contemporary business tools and models and apply them to today's businesses.

Where can Business Studies take me?

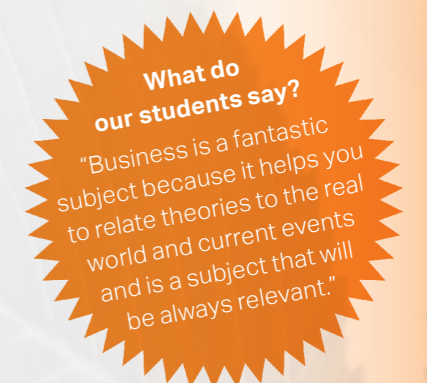
- A level Business is an excellent base for a university degree, especially degrees in business, management, human resources, accountancy, law, finance, philosophy, politics and economics, sociology and psychology. Careers with a business degree are diverse and have high earning potential.
- A range of career possibilities including banking, insurance, advertising, distribution, sales, accounting, law, education, central or local government and business consultancy. Business skills, which touch on every part of our modern society, are in high demand worldwide and are often well paid.
- Entrepreneurship and the benefits of running your own business.

Extra-Curricular activities

BASE accounting competition, Year 12 Enterprise project, curriculum support in Key Stage 4 business lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1	2 hours	33.3%
Paper 2	2 hours	33.3%
Paper 3	2 hours	33.3%



Computer Science

A Level / OCR

Contact: Mr G Duffy by email g.duffy@woodlands.derby.sch.uk or Miss H Grysiuk by email h.grysiuk@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

"The goal of the Web is to serve humanity. We build it now so that those who come to it later will be able to create things that we cannot ourselves imagine."

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Computer Scientist and inventor of the World Wide Web

Computer Science is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. A Level Computer Science involves the application of computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

The course will build on your knowledge from GCSE and develop into new in-depth understanding, including an extended project where you choose problem to be solved. The aim of A Level Computer Science is to enable you to develop;

- an understanding of and application of fundamental principles and concepts of computer science
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology

Where can Computer Science take me?

Can you imagine how digital technology will advance in the next ten years? It is Computer Scientists that will understand the digital possibilities and create innovative solutions to improve peoples' lives. A Level Computer Science could lead to a wide variety of related Level 3 IT courses and on to careers in game development, system, business or data analysis, multimedia programming and many more. A wide variety of professions engage computer scientists to develop solutions to meet specific needs in their fields of study e.g. space science, medicine, geology and engineering.

Extra-Curricular activities

CANSAT competition, Curriculum support in KS3 Computing lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1	Computer Systems	2 hours 30 mins	40%
Paper 2	Algorithms and Programming	2 hours 30 mins	40%
Programming Project	Programming	Extended coursework	20%



Design and Technology – Product Design

A Level / AQA

Contact: Miss E Elson by email e.elson@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Are you passionate about designing, wanting to create, being the next James Dyson or Alexander McQueen? Then Product Design is for you. You are encouraged to become autonomous learners and it is essential that, to gain the highest grades, you will need to be prepared to read around the lesson topics. A variety of teaching styles will be used to deliver course content, including written assignments, case studies, research assignments and practical tasks. You will be expected to devote additional study time to complete their NEA 'design and make' project.

- To develop and sustain innovation, creativity and design and technology capability
- To develop critical understanding of the influence of the processes and products of design and technological activity
- To apply essential knowledge of understanding and skills of design production processes to a range of technological activity
- To recognise the social, moral, spiritual and cultural values inherent in technological activity
- To develop as discerning consumers, able to make an informed choice
- To develop positive attitudes of co-operation and work collaboratively

Where can Product Design take me?

On completion of the course, you will be well placed to study one of the Technology based degree level courses such as Architecture, Product Design, Mechanical Engineering, Industrial or product Design.

Such courses are available subject to entry requirements and will need additional qualifications.

Assessment

Paper 1: Technical Principles: Written exam	2.5 hours	30%
Paper 2: Designing and making principles: Written exam	1.5 hours	20%
Non exam assessment (NEA): A substantial design and make project assessed in school		50%



Drama and Theatre Studies

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mrs H Oldham by email h.oldham@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Do you love going to the theatre? Do you want to perform in a variety of scripted plays? Would you jump at the opportunity to be a part of your own theatre company and devising your own piece of theatre? If you have answered yes to these questions and would love the chance to find out more about the wonderful world of theatre the A Level Theatre Studies is the course for you!

The inspirational course will enable you to develop a broader knowledge of how the theatre works and key people who have influenced the theatre we watch and take part in today. It allows you to be creative practically and develop your own research and theoretical understanding. It introduces you to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as you explore plays practically as well as devise and work on performances.

Where can Drama and Theatre Studies take me?

It can help you prepare for further study and exploration of Drama and Theatre. It is fantastic preparation for budding actors, directors, playwrights and those wanting a career within the Arts Industries.

The course also develop a 'toolkit' skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace for example collaborative skills, analytical thinking and research skills. A Level Theatre Studies students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making.

Extra-Curricular activities

Various theatre visits, school plays and musicals.

Assessment

Component 1:	Drama in the Making	written exam	40%
Component 2:	Creating Original Drama	practical exam	30%
Component 3:	Making Theatre	practical exam	30%

What do our students say?

"Learning about practitioners makes the learning of practical techniques more relevant"

What do our students say?

"The teachers are supportive and so you can go to them with anything. It's also fun and enjoyable, we learn loads and the group feels like a family!"

Performing Arts – Acting

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Contact: Mrs H Oldham by email h.oldham@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Do you enjoy project-based learning? Do you want to focus on the development of practical skills and develop knowledge and understanding about the Performing Arts Sector? Are you interested in developing your use of acting skills alongside your ability to work in a team, communicate, research and analyse acting and performance?

For those interested in developing their skills as a performer and actor BTEC Performing Arts – Acting is the course for you. The qualification gives a broad introduction to the performing arts with an emphasis on acting and performance.

Where can Performing Arts – Acting take me?

The BTEC extended certificate can be a great stepping stone to higher education and apprenticeships. The skills you develop during the course will prepare you for progression to further study, training or higher education by equipping you with practical and technical skills key to your development as a performer. The training and experience will also help prepare you for employment in the performing arts industry as the development of performance skills and techniques is fundamental to all live performance roles.

There are many transferable skills developed during this course including communication, creativity organisational skills, research and analysis

Extra-Curricular activities

School Youth Theatre and School Plays, LAMDA examinations, School Musical Productions, curriculum support in key stage 3 Drama lessons, plus the chance to attend theatre trips and workshops.

Assessment

Unit 1: – Investigating Practitioner's work

Unit 2: – Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

Unit 3: – Group Performance Workshop

Unit 4: – Can be selected from: interpreting Classical Text for Performance, Acting Styles, Developing the Voice for Performance, Improvisation, Movement in Performance

English Language

A Level / AQA

What do our students say?
 'Studying English Language gives me a deeper understanding of the mechanics of how our language works – it is fascinating as it is constantly changing. It allows me to understand why I speak the way I do.'

Contact: Mr P Conroy by email p.conroy@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Year of Study	Module Name	Module Description
12	Language and the Individual	Students will study textual variations and representations and methods of language analysis. This will include the study of texts influenced by society and technology.
12	Language Varieties	Students will study language diversity, writing skills and methods of language analysis. This will include the study of texts influenced by society, gender, occupation, accent and dialect in both written and spoken formats.
13	Language, the Individual representations, and Society	Students will study textual variations and children's language development and methods of language analysis.
13	Language Diversity and Change	Students will study language diversity and change, language discourses, writing skills and methods of language analysis.
13	Language in Action	Students will produce a 2000 word investigation and a piece of original writing which will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

Where can English Language take me?

English Language can send you down a variety of different paths, both academic and practical. English Language equips you with many important skills transferable to Law, Journalism, Broadcasting, Publishing, Editing, Writing, Teaching, Speech Therapy, Educational Psychology, Marketing and Advertising amongst many others. The direction you choose to take is up to you!

Extra-Curricular activities

University lectures.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Language, the Individual and Society	2 hours 30 mins	40%
Paper 2:	Language Diversity and Change	2 hours 30 mins	40%
Coursework:	Language in Action		20%

English Literature

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mr P Conroy by email p.conroy@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

After the constraints of the narrow GCSE syllabus, A Level Literature students have the opportunity to explore a diverse selection of iconic texts produced across a range of cultural and temporal contexts.

The course will enable you to develop a deeper appreciation of literature and how it is both shaped by, and shapes, the world in which we live. You will develop your ability to interpret texts critically from a range of perspectives and construct convincing arguments supported by wider reading.

The course will build on your knowledge from GCSE and add exciting new topics, including Tragedies and works that protest against societal injustice and abuses of power. Over the two-year course, you will cover the following genres and texts.

Tragedy:

- Othello
- Selected poems of John Keats
- Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman

Political & Social Protest:

- Songs of Innocence & Experience – William Blake
- The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood
- The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

What do our students say?
 'As an A Level, it is not only a prestigious qualification but promotes a deeper understanding of the human condition. Every text we've studied contains an undeniable truth.'

Where can English Literature take me?

Far from being a one-destination journey into teaching, English Literature equips you with a myriad of skills transferable to law, journalism, broadcasting, publishing, editing, writing to name but a few. In fact, the world is your oyster!

Extra-Curricular activities

University lectures.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Aspects of Tragedy	2 hours 30 mins	40%
Paper 2:	Aspects of Political & Social Protest	3 hours	40%
Coursework:	Two essays inspired by independent reading		20%

Geography

A Level / OCR

Contact: Mrs J Allen by email J.allen@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Where we come from, what we do, what we eat, how we move about and how we shape our future are all directly the province of the geographer. More than ever we need the geographer's skills and foresight to help us learn about the planet – how we use it and how we abuse it.

Building on the topics and skills of GCSE Geography, the course we follow allows students to engage with other contemporary topics, and to develop and refine their geographical skills, therefore, allowing them to prepare for university or the world of work. Fieldwork is an essential element of the A Level course, and our Geographers visit coastal areas to measure and observe coastal erosion, urban areas such as Birmingham to study urban regeneration in the UK's second largest city, and will have the opportunity to participate in a visit to Iceland – the land of fire and ice to marvel at one of the world's most beautiful and geographically interesting places.

The course will build on your skills and knowledge from GCSE, but will allow students to relish the newer topics which are the foundation of A level Geography

- Changing spaces, making places – People are at the heart of places, living their lives, forming attachments and making connections. Places are dynamic, multi-layered and the history and culture of a nation can be found in its buildings, public spaces and towns and cities. Our environment includes a wide variety of places, and diversity exists not only between but also within all of these places.
- Landscape systems and Earth's life support systems – This topic introduces learners to the integrated study of Earth surface processes, landforms and resultant landscapes within the conceptual framework of a systems approach. An understanding of Earth surface processes, together with their associated transfers of energy and movements of materials underpins the landscape systems topic.
- Geographical debates. Both topics engage learners through an enquiry approach which enables them to articulate opinions and provide evidenced arguments across a range of situations. The concepts of inequality, mitigation and adaptation, sustainability, risk, resilience and threshold underpin the Geographical debates component. The topics focus on disease dilemmas and hazardous earth

Where can Geography take me?

As one of the eight 'key facilitating subjects' Geography opens many doors. It is widely taught in universities, and the skills and knowledge of Geographers make you very attractive to employers. Consistently topping lists of most employable graduates, an A Level in Geography could take you literally anywhere, from town planning to accountancy, engineer to lawyer, teacher to landscape architect, and conservation officer to economic analyst.

Extra-Curricular activities

Iceland trip, field trips, curriculum support in Key Stage 3 geography lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1	Physical Systems	1 hour 30 mins	22%
Paper 2	Human Interactions	1 hour 30 mins	22%
Paper 3	Geographical debates	2 hours 30 mins	36%
Non examined assessment (independent Geographical investigation)			20%



Politics

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mr J Oswald by email j.oswald@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Politics affects every aspect of life and politicians have enormous power that impacts everyone. This course will help you understand why this is so. It will enable you to learn about how the UK and US governments work, and it will give you the opportunity to find out about the different viewpoints held by people involved in politics today. You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE in order to take this subject at A Level. **It is more important that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in politics and current affairs, a desire to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.** The subject is not only about current affairs or what is in the news on any particular day; it will also help you take a balanced view of important issues and show you how to evaluate information and ideas.

The course has three main elements:

1. Politics of the UK – A study of all aspects of British politics from parliament to pressure groups.
2. Politics of the USA and comparative politics – A study of how different America politics is when compared to its British counterpart.
3. Political ideas – An in-depth analysis of the major theories that underpin the course: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism.

Where can Politics take me?

Politics is particularly useful for careers in the Law, Accountancy, Media, Banking, Public Sector Administration, Personnel Management, Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, Information Management, Social Research, Marketing, Uniformed Services, the Police and Teaching. Politics is highly regarded by Universities and combines well with History, Business Studies, English, Languages, Geography and Psychology.

Extra-Curricular activities

Year 12 trip to London and Parliament.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Politics of Britain	2 hours	33%
Paper 2:	Politics of the USA and comparative politics	2 hours	33%
Paper 3:	Political ideas	2 hours	33%



History

A Level / OCR

Contact: Mr J Oswald by email j.oswald@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Among the many benefits, this course is designed to help you to develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, history, and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance. You will acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity through the study of aspects of British and non-British history. You will develop highly effective historical skills such as analysis, comparison, hypotheses creation, verbal reasoning and evaluation.

The course has four main elements:

1. Britain between 1846 and 1918 – Analyses the emergence of free trade, liberalism and Labour.
2. The French Revolution and the Rule of Napoleon – Considers the first modern revolution and how through the chaos a French colossus emerged and then eventually fell.
3. China and its Rulers 1839 to 1989 – Scrutinises the emergence of communism from the centuries of dynastic rule.
4. American and Vietnam – Enables students to research and analyse their own hypotheses on a range of issues surrounding American's involvement in Vietnam, increased commitment and defeat in Vietnam.

Where can History take me?

At first glance, history graduates might appear suited mainly to roles such as museum curators, librarians, information management and archivist careers or history teachers, but the skills studying you get from studying History will prepare you well for numerous careers. A significant number enter the legal profession, where their analytical and critical reasoning skills are highly valued, with others going into politics, publishing, journalism, media and writing in all its forms are similarly suitable, alongside business and commerce, public sector administration and the charity and voluntary sectors. Of course many students study just because of the sheer joy of analysing great historical events, and immersing themselves in the past.

Extra-Curricular activities

Opportunity for two course students to attend Auschwitz (as part of a ballot)

Assessment

Paper 1:	Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour: Britain 1846–1918	1 hour 30 mins	25%
Paper 2:	French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815	1 hour	15%
Paper 3:	China and its Rulers 1839-1989	2 hour 30 mins	40%
Coursework:	America and Vietnam	3000-4000 word essay	20%

What do our students say?

'History has enabled me to broaden my horizons and immerse myself in history and culture from around the world.'

Languages

A Level / AQA and EDEXCEL

Why study Languages?

A language qualification will set you apart from other applicants in many fields such as engineering, social care and public services. An A-Level Language qualification is also essential for traditional roles such as teacher, interpreter and translator. We believe that recognition for your command of a home language is something of which you should be very proud.

For native speakers we offer the opportunity to study for an A-Level in your home language. We offer a tutorial approach to A-level Language study, currently supporting students with A-Levels in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Polish, Persian, Italian, Urdu, and Arabic. Other languages such as Greek, Panjabi, and French can be studied by arrangement. You are expected to complete the majority of your work independently so motivation is key for this full A-Level course.

How will you be assessed?

Although there are differences for some languages, you will be assessed on your listening comprehension, translation skills, literary analysis and presentation of your research project in the spoken language.

Outline of the course:

Year 12:

Study of current affairs, social issues and historical events
Film study from a set list

Year 13:

Study of a literary work from a set list
An independent research project into a topic of personal interest relating to the country where the language is spoken.

What do our students say?

Having another language is so beneficial for travelling or working abroad. It's looked upon really highly by universities and employers and I get a real sense of achievement when I can speak and write in another language!

German

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mrs N Campbell by email n.campbell@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Studying German at A level will enable you to develop your communication skills in the spoken and written language and deepen your understanding of life in German-speaking countries.

An A-level in a language combines language proficiency with cultural and historical studies, as well as politics, literature and social issues. German is an ideal companion to many other A level subjects, building on existing skills such as research and analysis.

The course will build on your knowledge from GCSE and add exciting new topics, including the study of a German film and play. In addition, you will cover topics on the following four themes:

- Aspects of German speaking society, including family life, the digital world, and youth culture;
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society, including immigration, integration and racism;
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world, covering a study of Berlin, festivals and traditions, art and architecture;
- Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world, including Germany and the EU, German reunification and politics and youth.

Where can German take me?

Did you know that German is the most widely-spoken language in Europe? Speaking a foreign language is a fantastic skill and one that employers and universities consider very highly indeed, especially as so few students in the UK have it! Apart from the obvious translating or interpreting, German is proven to improve employability in a whole range of sectors, from engineering, business, teaching, politics, law, banking or science. In short, German will be an invaluable string to your bow.

Extra-Curricular activities

Osnabrück Visit and Film Screenings.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Listening, Reading, Writing & Translation	2 hours 30 mins	50%
Paper 2:	Writing	2 hours	20%
Paper 3:	Speaking exam	23 mins	30%

What do our students say?
 'German is great if you want to travel or work abroad. It's looked upon really highly by universities and employers and the enjoyment we get from A Level classes is off the scale!'

Spanish

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mrs N Campbell by email n.campbell@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Studying Spanish at A level will enable you to develop your communication skills in the spoken and written language and deepen your understanding of life in Spanish-speaking countries.

An A level in a language combines language proficiency with cultural and historical studies, as well as politics, literature and social issues. Spanish is an ideal companion to many other A level subjects, building on existing skills such as research and analysis.

The course will build on your knowledge from GCSE and add exciting new topics, including the study of a Spanish film and play. In addition, you will cover topics on the following four themes:

- Aspects of Spanish speaking society, including family life, the digital world, and youth culture;
- Multiculturalism in Spanish-speaking society, including immigration, integration and racism;
- Artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world, covering a study of South America, festivals and traditions, art and architecture;
- Aspects of political life in the Spanish-speaking world, including Spain and the EU, Franco and politics and youth.

Where can Spanish take me?

Did you know that Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world after Chinese? Speaking a foreign language is a fantastic skill and one that employers and universities consider very highly indeed, especially as so few students in the UK have it! Apart from the obvious translating or interpreting, Spanish is proven to enhance employability in a whole range of sectors, from engineering, business, teaching, politics, law, banking or science. In short, Spanish will be an invaluable string to your bow.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Mallorca Visit and Film Screenings

Assessment

Paper 1:	Listening, Reading, Writing & Translation	2 hours 30 mins	50%
Paper 2:	Writing	2 hours	20%
Paper 3:	Speaking exam	23 mins	30%

Mathematics

A Level / AQA

What do our students say?
 "All the teachers are enthusiastic about their subject and care about your success."

Contact: Miss A Reeve by email a.reeve@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

To take mathematics you will have found the subject interesting and enjoyable, yet challenging. The course builds upon the foundations laid at GCSE, developing rigorous and logical thought processes, and providing pupils with an opportunity to develop problem solving and analytical skills. These are valuable assets in many walks of life, and it is for these reasons that the subject is so highly regarded by employers and universities. The aims of the course are:

- To develop your understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment.
- To develop an appreciation of the nature of mathematics and mathematical processes.
- To develop the skills of modelling, generalisation and interpretation of results relevant to both applications and developments of mathematics.
- To develop an ability to construct logical arguments and understand the nature of rigour.
- To see the intrinsic links between the different areas of mathematics, and to be able to apply your mathematical skills across all content areas.

Where can Mathematics take me?

Pupils with an A Level in Mathematics progress to study a broad range of subjects at university. Although many students do go on to study a range of mathematics and science related subjects, engineering, finance, medicine and veterinary science, an A Level in Mathematics opens numerous doors: indeed A-level Maths is the biggest 'facilitating' subject.

Extra-Curricular activities

Maths surgery every Friday, curriculum support in Key stage 3 lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Content from Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods.	2 hours	100 marks
Paper 2:	May assess any content from paper 1 and: Vectors, Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's law, Moments.	2 hours	100 marks
Paper 3:	May assess any content from paper 1 and: Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing.	2 hours	100 marks

Further Mathematics

A Level / AQA

What do our students say?
 "The classroom environment allows you to discuss and deepen your mathematical knowledge and we are always encouraged to work collaboratively to help solve problems. It really allows you to access and explore more complex mathematical ideas."

Contact: Miss A Reeve by email a.reeve@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

To study further mathematics you need to have a particular strength, enthusiasm and curiosity for the subject. The course develops and strengthens the skills and processes you are fostering in Mathematics and individuals must be highly motivated and willing to read around the subject. The course broadens knowledge into other branches of mathematics and deepens understanding of pure mathematics. The aims of the course are:

- To develop your understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment.
- To develop an appreciation of the nature of mathematics and mathematical processes.
- To develop the skills of modelling, generalisation and interpretation of results relevant to both applications and developments of mathematics.
- To develop an ability to construct logical arguments and understand the nature of rigour.
- To extend knowledge beyond A Level Mathematics and assist the transition to university level.

Where can Further Mathematics take me?

Pupils with an A Level in Mathematics progress to study a broad range of subjects at university. Although many students do go on to study a range of mathematics and science related subjects, engineering, finance, medicine and veterinary science, an A Level in Mathematics opens numerous doors: indeed A-level Maths is the biggest 'facilitating' subject.

Extra-Curricular activities

Maths surgery every Friday, curriculum support in Key stage 3 lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations, Trigonometry, Numerical methods, Coordinate geometry.	2 hours	100 marks
Paper 2:	Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations, Trigonometry, Numerical methods, Coordinate geometry.	2 hours	100 marks
Paper 3:	Mechanics: Dimensional analysis, Momentum and collisions, Work, energy and power, Circular motion. Discrete: Graphs, Networks, Network Flow, Linear programming Critical path analysis, Game theory for zero sum games Binary operations and group theory.	2 hours	100 marks (two sections of 50 marks)

Psychology

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mrs A Aulton by email a.aulton@woodlands.derby.sch.uk
or Mrs P Walker by email p.walker@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

The course will be delivered in a variety of ways, including active and collaborative learning, peer mentoring, creative thinking and teacher-led methods. You will have the opportunity to conduct and participate in practical investigations throughout the course, thereby developing depth of understanding for the scientific procedure and associated ethical issues. You will learn about social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology, biopsychology, research methods and schizophrenia.

You will be expected to indulge your fascination with psychology by conducting wider reading to develop your own breadth of knowledge about this subject.

Where can Psychology take me?

Psychology can lead to a number of professions which are beyond the field of pure psychology. You can of course have a community based career such as an Occupational, Forensic or Social Psychologist, work in mental wellbeing such as Clinical or Counselling Psychologist. If you chose an academic career then you can study various areas of psychology, including social, developmental, cognition, perception, neuroscience, forensic, clinical, educational, occupational, health, and sports.

However there are also opportunities that can lead to careers in physical health and wellbeing such as Health Psychologist, Neuropsychologist, Sport Psychologist or Exercise psychologist. Working with children is also a possibility as a Development Psychologist or Educational Psychologist.

Due to the transferrable skills the course provides, further careers can be found in the private sector, police, military and charitable organizations.

Extra-Curricular activities

University lecture visits.

Assessment

1)	Social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology	2 hours	33.3%
2)	Approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods	2 hours	33.3%
3)	Issues and debates in psychology	2 hours	33.3%

What do our students say?

'The course is a challenge but is so interesting that you'll find that revision just isn't a chore'

What do our students say?

'Psychology is a mix of the best parts of other subjects, like Maths and Biology, but with information you can apply to everyday life'

Religious Studies: Ethics and Philosophy

A Level / OCR

Contact: Mr D. Azzopardi by email d.azzopardi@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Religious Studies A Level is a fascinating world of challenging ideas and uncovering religious and secular presuppositions about life and morality. It enables the student to think critically and consider carefully the views of others whilst discovering their own personal worldview on a range of issues such as euthanasia or what constitutes a soul. The course is geared up for debates and discussion enabling students to question philosophical ideas throughout the ages and to become a philosopher in their own right.

The course will enable you to develop a deep understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Buddhism as well as an excellent understanding of the main philosophical approaches to ultimate questions such as does God exist? Is there a unique and human soul? The course will build on prior knowledge from GCSE and add exciting new topics, including the study of religious language and the conscience.

In addition, you will cover topics on the following areas:

- 1) Ancient philosophical influences
- 2) Arguments for the existence and non-existence of God
- 3) Religious Experience
- 4) The Problem of Evil
- 5) Sexual Ethics
- 6) Meta Ethics

Where can Religious Studies: Ethics and Philosophy take me?

After studying RS at A level, a number of degree courses are available, but RS is usually essential if you wish to study RS, Theology or Philosophy. Some students go into professions directly related to religion, but others choose to go into social care, education, youth work, counseling or jobs in the world of business.

Extra-Curricular activities

Buddhist retreat visit, Auschwitz project trip.

Assessment

Paper 1	Buddhism	2 hours	33.3%
Paper 2	Philosophy of Religion	2 hours	33.3%
Paper 3	Religious Ethics	2 hours	33.3%

What do our students say?

'The underestimated importance of RS is that it helps overcome prejudices and negative stereotypes. If people have a better understanding of other faiths, they're less likely to be dismissive of issues that don't concern them directly. Better still, it promotes integration and a stronger sense of community.'

Science Biology

A Level / OCR

What do our students say?

'Biology is a great subject which covers a broad range of topics, giving you the opportunity to study lots of interesting courses at university. The Biology team are brilliant they are always willing to help and get you through the highs and lows of studying which is topped off with a great field trip to Cumbria!'

Contact: Mr M Ross by email m.ross@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

What is Biology? It is different to each and every one of us. Biology is the subject of life; it is how our body functions and how organisms interact with their environment. Biology looks into the Microscopic detail of how we are made, at animal behaviour and disease epidemiology. A Biology A Level is a good foundation for a variety of jobs such as Medicine, Physiotherapy, Biotechnology, Environmental Health, Pharmacy and Psychology. You could be involved in research into disease, forensic science, crop improvement or conserving endangered species. Biology also develops transferable skills that could lead into Science journalism, wildlife photography and broadcasting, or non-science subjects such as Business and Law.

Where can Biology take me?

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Extra-Curricular activities

Science Live! Events, university lecture visits, CREST Award, Biology field trips, 'Operation Wallacea' trip to Croatia, curriculum support in KS3 Science lessons.

Assessment

Split into 6 teaching modules

1. Development of Practical skills 2. Foundations in Biology 3. Exchange and transport 4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease 5. Communication, homeostasis and energy 6. Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Paper 1:	Biological Processes	(assesses content from 1, 2, 3 and 5)	37%
Paper 2:	Biological Diversity	(assesses content from 1, 2, 4 and 6)	37%
Paper 3:	Unified Biology	(assesses content from 1-6)	26%

Practical Endorsement – 12 specified skill areas assessed (Reported separately)

Science Chemistry

A Level / AQA

What do our students say?

'The teachers expect us to work hard, but they work hard too. They are very approachable and are always willing to answer questions. There's lots of practical as well as theoretical work. We get to work with lots of new equipment and learn many different practical techniques.'

Contact: Dr J Naughton by email j.naughton@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Chemistry is involved in almost every aspect of our daily lives: from the air that we breathe to the clothes that we wear; the food that we eat and fuels to keep us warm. New materials such as plastics, lifesaving medicines and pesticides have all been developed by chemists working in a wide variety of industries. This chemistry course aims to prepare you for study at a higher level in order to understand how materials react, and provides you with the advanced study skills demanded in higher education.

The course consists of the following topics:

- Physical Chemistry: Including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria, thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant (K_c) for homogeneous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells.
- Inorganic Chemistry: Including periodicity, Group 2 (the alkaline earth metals), Group 7 (the halogens), properties of Period 3 elements, transition metals, and reactions of ions in aqueous solution.
- Organic Chemistry: Including alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy and chromatography.

Where can Chemistry take me?

A level Chemistry can open so many doors for you in the future, as it is a challenging but well respected course. It is compulsory study for those who wish to study Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. It is obviously extremely useful for careers in the Biological Sciences, Physics, Mathematics, Pharmacology and Analytical Chemistry. Chemistry is also taken by many Law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts and have an analytical mind.

Extra-Curricular activities

Science Live! Events, university lecture visits, CREST Award, 'Operation Wallacea' trip to Croatia, curriculum support in KS3 Science lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Physical-Inorganic chemistry	2 hours	34%
Paper 2:	Physical-Organic chemistry	2 hours	34%
Paper 3:	Practical/Synoptic elements	2 hours	32%

Science Environmental

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mr M Ross by email m.ross@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Students who enjoy a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and have a keen interest in the sustainability of our planet will find this new specification engaging and thought-provoking. The new course content has kept all the popular material from the previous course that students liked and key topics that include the biophysical environment, energy resources, pollution, circular economy and sustainability. With opportunities to include real life case studies (field trips), this contemporary qualification has never been more relevant. The new assessment structure is clear and straightforward and we've used a mixture of question styles, so that students have the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Where can Environmental Science take me?

The world is becoming more crowded, more consuming, and more connected. Growing populations and higher standards of living put increasing pressure on our environment. Environmental problems are just as real, just as controversial, and just as in need of intelligent solutions as they were when Silent Spring was published over 50 years ago.

An environmental science equips you with essential skills and practical experience that could lead to a career in the environment sector or a range of other occupations such as; Environmental consultant, Environmental education officer, Environmental manager, Nature conservation officer, Recycling officer, Sustainability consultant, Waste management officer, Water quality scientist, Environmental health practitioner, Landscape architect, Town planner, and Transport planner.

Extra-Curricular activities

'Science Live!' events, university lecture visits, CREST Award, environmental science field trips, curriculum support in KS3 science lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1:	The physical environment Energy resources Pollution Research methods	3 hours	50%
Paper 2:	The living environment Biological resources Sustainability Research method	3 hours	50%

What do our students say?

'It covers some very interesting topics, which are very relevant to the world we live in. You can look forward to the field trip and to the opportunities for further studies and exciting careers.'

Science Physics

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mr C Metcalf by email c.metcalf@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Physics is quite simply the study of how our Universe works; if you study Physics our aim is for you to push the boundaries of your knowledge and understanding from the tiniest sub-atomic particle to the extreme. Physics at the edge of the visible Universe. Not only that, but everything in between; the Physics you study will help you understand the mechanics of motion, space, electricity, engineering, satellites, space technology and the IT revolution.

Where can Physics take me?

A level Physics is a subject that will help you to think about the world in a different way. An essential for engineering, Physics can also lead to more varied careers such as geophysicist, cosmologist, radiographer and computer scientist. The subject is well-regarded academically and can open so many doors for you in the future as it shows an ability to think laterally, process mathematically and also be creative when problem solving as many aspects of the course involve abstract ideas.

Extra-Curricular activities

Science Live! Events, university lecture visits, CREST Award, trip to CERN, curriculum support in KS3 Science lessons.

Assessment

Year one content: Measurements and their errors, Particles and radiation, Waves, Mechanics and materials, Electricity.

Year two content: Further mechanics and thermal physics, Fields and their consequences, Nuclear physics, Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics or Turning Points.

The course is assessed by three two-hour long exams at the end of Y13. There is a separate practical skills endorsement which students get a 'pass' for after completing required practical tasks.

Paper 1:	2 hours	34%
Paper 2:	2 hours	34%
Paper 3:	2 hours	32%

What do our students say?

"Physics makes you think and you learn to solve problems that you didn't know existed before. The teachers are always willing to help and it is easier if you do A Level maths too!"

What do our students say?

"We do the astrophysics option, which is really interesting, as well as using lots of practical equipment that you don't see at GCSE!"

Sociology

A Level / AQA

Contact: Mrs A Aulton by email a.aulton@woodlands.derby.sch.uk
or Mrs P Walker by email p.walker@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

You will learn in a variety of interactive ways including teacher-led methods, group work and independent learning. If you like reading about society and the people in it then this is the course for you. Sociology A Level adopts a scientific approach to understanding society and makes special use of the skills developed from studies of English Language, Government and Politics, and Religious Studies. You will study the role and functions of education from a sociological view and you'll be able to apply sociological research to this area. You'll investigate work, poverty and welfare. You'll use research methods to delve deeply into crime, deviance, social control and social order.

Where can Sociology take me?

Sociology graduates are found in a wide range of occupations especially in careers that centre on the challenges and demands that members of a society face. Such as in social services, education, criminal justice, welfare services, government, counselling, charities and the voluntary sector. They include charity fundraiser, community development worker, counsellor, lecturer, housing officer, teacher, probation officer, social researcher, social worker and welfare rights adviser. It gives you a range of transferrable skills and specific skills which include ability to judge and evaluate evidence; understanding the complexity and diversity of situations, including organisations themselves; collecting information; making reasoned and logical arguments.

Assessment

1)	Education with Theory and Methods	2 hours	33.3%
2)	Topics in Sociology – Sociology of Health	2 hours	33.3%
3)	Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	2 hours	33.3%

What do our students say?

'I love it because it gives you a closer, in-depth look into how society works and operates'

What do our students say?

'It allows you to gain a wider view of society and focus on different cultures, beliefs and views. It also allows you to take a view from a different perspective than your own'

Physical Education

A Level / OCR

What do our students say?

'Physical education is really interesting, there are different strands to the theory and you are able to showcase your talent in your main practical activity.'

Contact: Mr T Cleveley by email t.cleveley@woodlands.derby.sch.uk;

Course overview

If you are passionate about sport and have outstanding physical ability in at least one sport, then A level Physical education could be the course for you.

The course will enable you to develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and enable you to use this knowledge to improve your practical performance. You will study units of physiology and psychology and understand how these also affect performance. You will refine your ability to perform effectively by developing skills and techniques as well as selecting and using strategies and tactics.

The course will build on your knowledge from GCSE and add exciting new topics.

- The key socio-cultural factors that influence peoples' involvement in physical activity and sport;
- The role of technology in physical activity and sport;;
- Developing the ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance;
- Understand the contribution that physical activity and sport make to a healthy active lifestyle.

Where can Physical Education take me?

Physical Education is for students that have a good background in sport and a real interest in the theoretical aspects. The course is ideal preparation if you intend to study Physical Education, Sports Science or Sports Coaching at degree level. Equally it is useful if you are intending to study physiotherapy or occupational therapy.

Extra-curricular activities

Various sports clubs, sixth form football, opportunities to work at swimming pool / sports hall, curriculum support in key stage 3 P.E. lessons.

Assessment

Paper 1:	Physiological factors affecting performance	2 hours	30%
Paper 2:	Psychological factors affecting performance	1 hour	20%
Paper 3:	Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport	1 hour	20%
Unit 4:	Practical performance and Evaluation and Analysis (EAPI)		30%

Health and Social Care

BTEC Level 3 National Certificate / Pearson

Contact: Miss E Elson by email e.elson@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

This qualification focuses on different progression routes, allowing learners to choose the one best suited to their aspirations. Learners will develop their knowledge further on Human Lifespan Development as well as looking in to the Individuals needs and the care and the support that they will required. This qualification is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and prepares learners for a range of higher education courses and job roles.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development

You will explore the key aspects of growth and development, and the experience of health and wellbeing. You will learn about factors that can influence human growth, development and human health. Some of these are inherited and some are acquired through environmental, social or financial factors during our lifespan. You will learn about a number of theories and models to explain and interpret behaviour through the human lifespan. In this unit, you will explore the impact of both predictable and unpredictable life events and recognise how they impact on individuals. You will study the interaction between the physical and psychological factors of the ageing process, and how this affects confidence and self-esteem, which in turn may determine how individuals will view their remaining years.

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

In this unit, you will learn about the values and principles of meeting care and support needs and look at some of the ethical issues that arise when personalising care. You will examine factors that can impact the professionals who provide the care and support, and the challenges that must be overcome to allow access to good quality care and health services. You will explore the different methods used by professionals across all care services. You will reflect on these methods when you consider the importance of multi-agency working in providing a package of care and support that meets all the needs of individuals. To complete the assessment task within this unit, you will need to draw on your learning from across your programme.

Assessment

External assessment: Human Lifespan Development:	Written exam for 1.5 hours	50%
Internal assessment: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs:	Two summative assignment	50%

RSL Music

Level 3 Qualification – equivalent of 1 A Level

Contact: Mrs D Smith by email d.smith2@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Course overview

Do you want to build on your knowledge gained from GCSE through a mainly practical approach? Do you want to work on a performance project as well as developing your composition skills? If you would like to look at roles within the music industry and take part in projects tailored to a music industry context then this is the course for you.

Where can Music take me?

There are many options open to you as a music graduate and you can choose to work in a range of professions inside and outside music. If you choose to follow a music career, you may have to take on several roles with different employers and work on both a freelance and contract basis.

Employers include:

- music production companies - creative and administrative roles
- music retailers
- media organisations - including music magazines and licensing bodies
- schools and colleges
- orchestras and touring companies
- travel industry companies, e.g. hotels, summer camps
- mental healthcare providers and charitable organisations
- a range of employers in the cultural and creative industries including film and gaming companies.

Extra-curricular activities

6TH Form Choir, Jazz Band, String group, woodwind group, guitar group, ukulele group.

Assessment

You will choose one pathway to follow and study the units below.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY	COMPOSITION PATHWAY
Session musician	Film and documentaries
Music performance to camera	Adverts and television
Planning a music career	Planning a music career
Lead performer	Chord application
External project – rehearsal skills and live performance	External project – composing styles and music sequencing.

EPQ

BTEC Level 3 National Certificate / Pearson

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an optional qualification that is offered alongside A level choices. It is delivered in Year 12. It provides students a chance to explore an area of personal interest, a topic which builds on prior GCSE knowledge and/or research linked to future career plans. It culminates with a presentation, the completion of a record log and a 5000-word essay or report. We provide a taught programme which is designed to prepare candidates for their EPQ. Learners will be allocated a 'supervisor' member of staff who acts as a guide and sounding board throughout the project. A high degree of independence is required as students are expected to show how they have been able to research, present and write up their findings on chosen focus area.

The EPQ suits those independent learners who have a passion for topics that they will be exploring and it's a great opportunity to develop research skills and further enhance presentation and essay writing skills.

Personal Notes

Use the space to write down important pieces of information or things to remember.

Be part of the Woodlands community

**Go to the school's website at www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk for information about the school,
or for daily updates you can follow us on Twitter [@woodlands_derby](https://twitter.com/woodlands_derby)**

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