

Sixth Form 2027-28 Prospectus

#LoveLipson

#LipsonLife

The Ted Wragg Trust Advantage

An **ambitious** and **inclusive** Trust of schools **strengthening** our **communities** through **excellent education.**



We are thrilled you are considering becoming part of our community and our mission to transform lives, strengthen communities and make the world a better place.

Within our sixth forms we are dedicated to fostering a culture of relentlessly positive collaboration, empowering our students to reach their aspirations and go on to live a life of opportunity.

As part of the Ted Wragg Trust, you will have access to a strong network and wide range of support and opportunities from across our family of schools.

Offering unique opportunities

The Sixth Form Conference - bringing together sixth form students from across our schools for learning opportunities, wellbeing support and fun activities.

The Ted Wragg Awards - an opportunity to recognise and reward the remarkable contributions across our family of schools, shining a light on those who go above and beyond to make a lasting impact.

University application support - high quality support for students going through the university application process. We have strong links to the University of Exeter, University of Plymouth and Plymouth Marjon and regularly partner with these institutions for events and learning opportunities.

Lipson

Cooperative Academy

Four-Day Week

Take a virtual tour

Visit our website

See us on Plymouth Live

6th Form at Lipson

The Class of 2026

Students' Say

Years 12 & 13

Expanding Horizons

Alumni

Contact us at *sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk*

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part of the Ted Wragg Trust

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Jack Reynolds, Head of Sixth Form

Welcome to Lipson Co-operative Academy Sixth Form



I WOULD like to take the time to welcome you to the Sixth Form here at Lipson Cooperative Academy. The choices and decisions made after GCSE results are some of the most important choices that students make during their education careers; helping to prepare students for the world of work, apprenticeships or the world of work. This prospectus outlines the key advice and information to help you explore what Lipson's Sixth Form has to offer during what will be a vital phase of your education and next steps.

Lipson's close knit community provides a fantastic place to learn and study; a place to belong, thrive and graduate to your next step in life, whatever form that may take! The opportunities and support available at Lipson offer not only helps us to retain a large portion of our current students, but also welcome students from different settings across the city.

That, combined with our innovative four-day week, sets us apart from other schools in the city to provide an uncompromising academic offer combined with a forward thinking approach to work and wellbeing.

Academic progress continues to show a positive trend. In 2026, we:

- Secured a 100% pass rate
- 97% of students achieved a place at their first choice university
- Achieved an average grade of a **B-** within A-Level and Distinction for vocational subjects

We recognise that the students' choice of courses in Sixth Form is a decision that will have ramifications for years to come. In choosing Lipson, you will choose the things that are most important to your future and we endeavour to support every student through their individual journey, whatever that may be.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form at Lipson.

Jack Reynolds
Head of Sixth Form

INTERNAL APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

Thursday, November 12th 2026
Lipson Sixth Form Open Evening

↓

Friday, November 27th 2026
Application Form to be completed online

↓

January-February 2027
Confirm One to One interviews with the Sixth Form team

↓

Friday, March 12th 2027
Conditional Offers made dependent on exam results

↓

August 2027
External application deadline

↓

Monday-Wednesday, June 28th -30th 2027
Sixth Form Induction Days

↓

Thursday, August 19th 2027
GCSE Results Day

The Application Process

How many subjects do I choose?
WE recommend that all students study 3 subjects if they are following the academic pathway. In some cases, and based on GCSE results, students can take up to 4 subject choices.

How do I apply?
Students need to apply by completing the online Sixth Form application using the QR codes on page 8, or, alternatively, email us at sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk.

When is the deadline?
All internal applications should be received by Friday, 27th November , 2026. Applications received after the deadline date will be held on the waiting list.

Can I change my courses after the deadline?
Yes, you can still make changes to your application form. All the courses you have selected and your suitability will be discussed at your interview.

When are the interviews?
Interviews will take place during January and February. These will be arranged at a convenient time for internal students during the school day and an open afternoon will be held for any external students in March, if required.

On the day of the interview, both internal and external students will need to bring evidence of their predicted GCSE grades and current attendance percentage.

Academic Qualifications

What are Academic Qualifications?
Academic qualifications are offered by schools and colleges for students aged between 16 and 19. They follow GCSEs and generally focus on academic subjects. There are many different A-Level, BTEC and V-Level subjects that you can take, some will be subjects that you might have studied at GCSEs and others might be new.

Academic qualifications are very highly valued by employers and universities so they can open up lots of doors to further study and careers.

Which careers require A-Levels?
Some careers require you to have a degree, and you need to have specific A-Levels to get a place on that degree.
Some common ones are:
Veterinary Science, which requires Biology and one or two subjects from Chemistry, Maths or Physics
Medicine, which requires Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics
Dentistry, which requires Chemistry Biology and either Maths or Physics

If you have a certain degree or career in mind it's really important that you have a look at the entry requirements to those courses when choosing your A-Levels. Unifrog will support you here.
This will also be checked by the Sixth Form team as part of the interview process so do not panic!

Unsure on which career?
If you have no idea what you want to do next then you're better off choosing a more general subject. There are some A-levels that help you to keep your options open; these are known as facilitating subjects.

The more of these subjects you choose, the more university courses you will find are open to you when you start applying.
If you don't have a certain degree or career in mind it's definitely worth considering these.

What are the entry requirements for Academic Qualifications?
Please see the subject specific entry requirements, but these are usually targeted at students achieving grade 6 and above at GCSE, although some subjects consider grade 5.

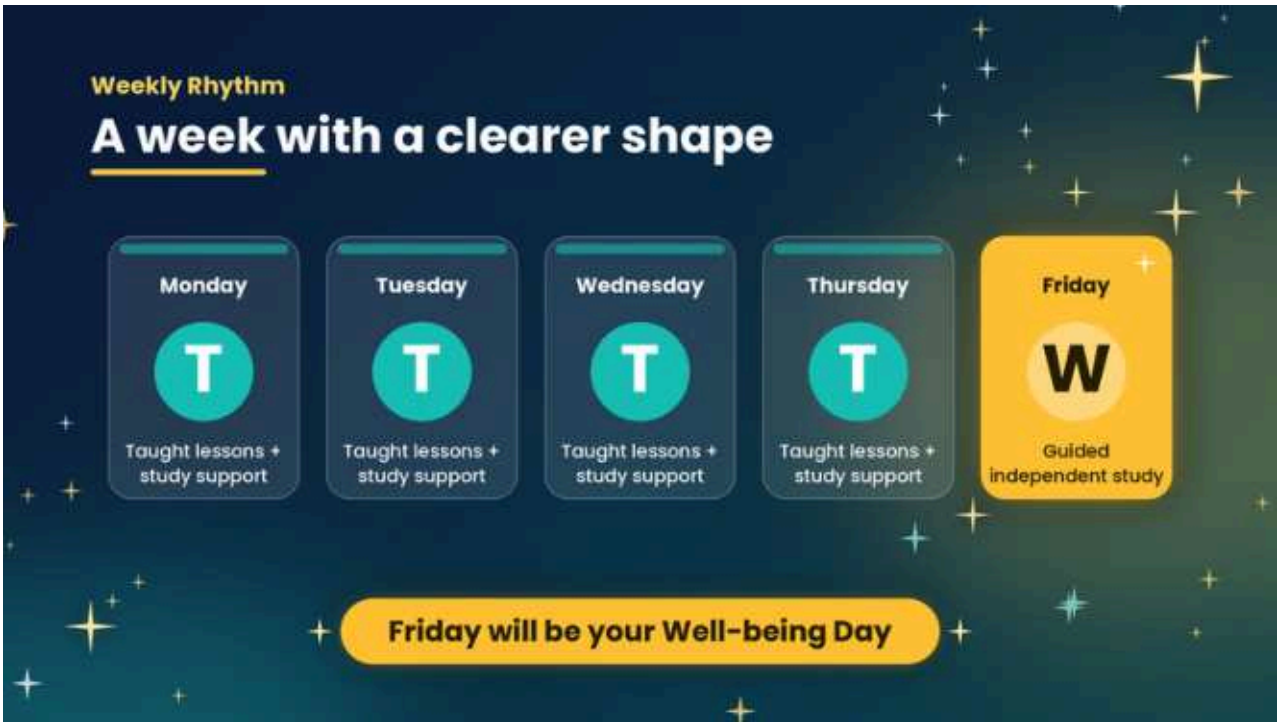
Our Sixth Form and the Four-Day Week

AT Lipson's Sixth Form, we are proud to have adopted the innovative four-day week.

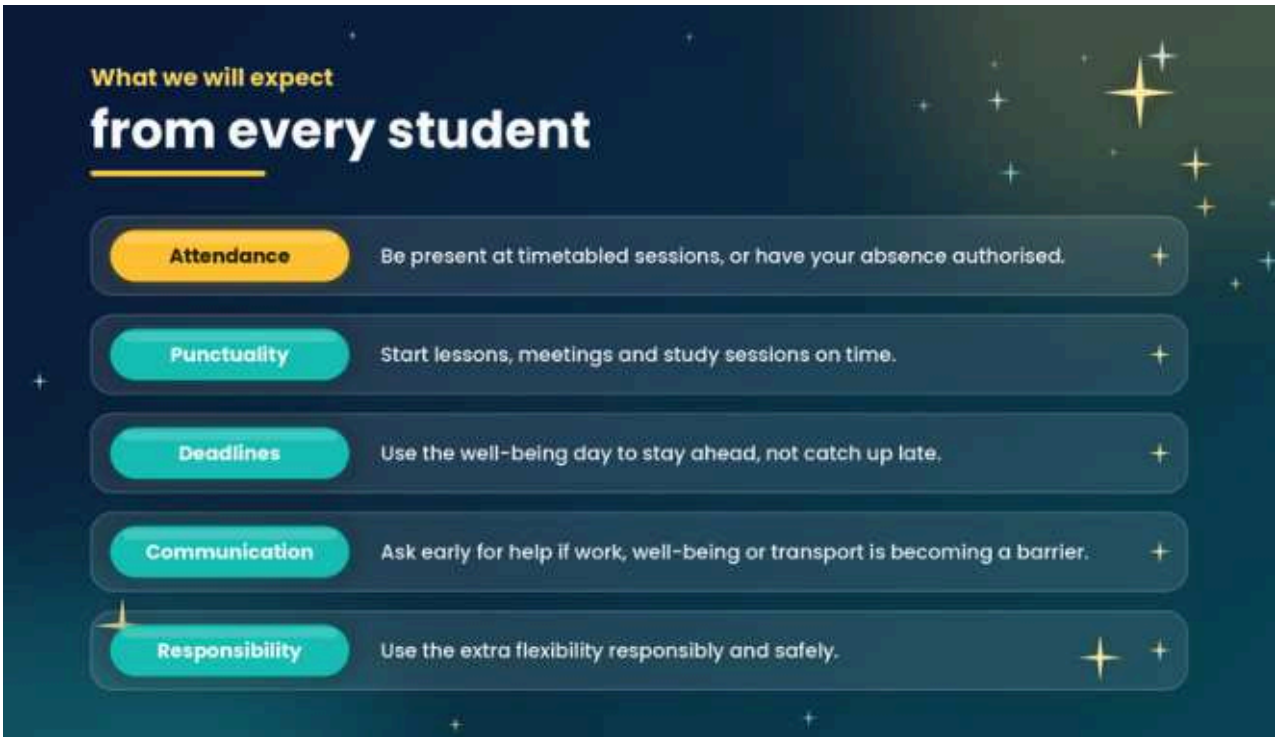
It combines the same high expectations, teaching hours and expert teaching with an additional wellbeing day to support our Sixth Form students' mental health and wellbeing.

This built-in flexibility has been introduced to support our students, as well offering a day to support volunteering or gaining work experience that will be vital to their future opportunities and success.

This approach is also designed to mirror students' future schedules and mirror higher education or modern workplace trends.



Our Sixth Form provisions such as iStudy, Exam Ready room and the Common Room remain open on Fridays, and students are encouraged to come in to catch up on work, revise or to seek support with wellbeing, UCAS applications or careers advice from our expert team.



Careers

STUDENTS receive up to date information, advice and guidance from the Sixth Form Careers Leader, Mrs Lincoln.

The Academy also offers independent careers meetings with a Career Development Consultant from Plymouth City Council. This means that students are able to make informed decisions as to which post 18 pathway is appropriate for them, leading to sustained career destinations.

Students are encouraged to consider all opportunities available to them, ranging from university degrees, higher and degree apprenticeships, gap years and full-time employment, particularly for those who have followed a vocational pathway.

This advice is done in such a way that those students who are not sure of their final destinations in life are helped to keep as many doors open as possible, thus allowing them to progress successfully once completing their studies in the Sixth Form.

The real strength of our Careers Education and Guidance model is its developmental nature, taking into consideration an individual student's ever-changing needs and career aspirations as they progress through Key Stage 4 and on into post 16 education; we endeavour to make these transitions as seamless as possible and students are continually asked to reflect on their learning and progression, thereby preparing them for success in life outside school.

Parents are also invited to be a part of the guidance process, establishing an on-going and effective dialogue between the academy and parents/carers so as to meet the best interest of all students.

In addition, OFSTED's visit in Spring 2026 identified that: "Students are aspirational for their futures, inspired to consider their 'dream job' and work hard to achieve their goals. Alongside academic qualifications, they successfully develop life skills and leave as more confident and resilient individuals. They are well prepared for adulthood."

Please see our Careers Education and Guidance Policy and our Core Careers Education and Guidance Programme on the Academy website for more information.



To see where our students go, check out the back page

Personal Development and Enrichment Opportunities

WE understand that the success of a student does not always just come down to academic outcomes. Students' personal development and the experiences they gain are just as important as the hard work they put into their studies. This is key to being a Lipson student.

By the time students leave Lipson, we want them to be well-rounded individuals who are confident in applying the skills and experiences they have learnt into everyday life. We recognise that every student has their own individual pathway and we want to be able to offer something to every student that will support them on that journey, which is why our offer of personal development and enrichment opportunities is so vast.

On the current curriculum students will have access to:

iStudy - All sixth form students are expected to undertake independent study as part of their Level 3 courses. We have a dedicated supervised area set aside for completion of independent study and homework. We place a great deal of importance on Independent study, with current research showing that this has a great impact on students outcomes.

Study Skills Tutor Programme - All students access our specialist study skills program, which teaches students new skills on how to study.

Uplearn - Students who study Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology all have access to this platform.

Scholar Schemes - University of Exeter, Reading University, Loughborough University and UNIQ.

PHSE provision - All students will have access to the PHSE provisions across Years 12 and 13.
PHSE sessions are intended to support students to succeed in the wider world; covering varied and vital topics such as body image, mental health or life skills necessary for success now and in later life.

To support personal development and wellbeing all students have the opportunity to take part in the following:

Devon Wednesday Football Team
Debate Club
Age UK Work Experience
Pelican of London
InterMed
Sport and Wellbeing
Art Mindfulness
Mensa Club
Design a Business
Volunteering
Board Games Club
Film Club



Team-Building Days

WE always enjoy welcoming our new intake of Sixth Formers to Lipson. As a bit of a getting-to-know-you exercise, we offer them some fun team-building exercises before they begin their new courses. Then, during their time at Lipson Sixth Form, there are plenty of enrichment opportunities.

Proud to welcome them all into the Lipson Family.









Apply to Our Sixth Form

How to Apply
PLEASE follow the simple steps to apply for your place at Lipson Sixth Form:

Identify what subjects that you are interested in – use this prospectus to find out about the subjects we offer that interest you. If you would like any further information about a specific subject please do not hesitate to get in contact with school using the contact information on page 3.

Apply – Applications to Sixth Form for all students can be made electronically by following the QR codes below. Internal candidates (Lipson students), please use your school email to access. External candidates, please following the QR code for External Students or email sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk.

Blocks - Please choose three subjects in different blocks using the table below. Should there be two subjects in the same block that you wish to study, please make a note on the application form and solutions can be discussed at interview.

A	B	C	D	E
Applied Science Engineering French Physics RS Single Sport Sociology	Business Chemistry Geography History Music Photography	Art English HSC ICT Maths Psychology	Biology Core Maths Double Sport Media Performing Arts Politics	Further Maths

Attend an interview – After we receive your application we will invite you to attend an interview with one of the team who will also be able to answer any questions you may have.

We will also be able to check your suitability and check any further aspirations such as university, if needed.

Receive your offer - We will let you know if you've been successful and offer you a conditional place at Lipson Sixth Form subject to achieving the relevant entry requirements.

Results Day - A place in Lipson Sixth Form will be confirmed after GCSE grades. If your results are not what you were expecting, we can discuss your options.

Start of Term
We looking forward to welcoming you to our the Sixth Form in September.

Application form for Internal Students

Any questions?
Thanks for taking the time to read through our Sixth Form Prospectus. If you have any further questions regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please email *sixthform@lipson.plymouth.sch.uk*

Application form for External Students

Academic Courses

Entry Requirements at a Glance
The Grades You Need

ALL Students studying A-Levels will require 5 GCSES at grade 5 or above

Subject	Entry Requirements
Biology A Level	• 6 in Science, English & Maths
Chemistry A Level	• 6 in Science, English & Maths
Physics A Level	• 6 in Science, English & Maths
AAQ BTEC (Applied Science)	• 5 in Science, English and Maths
Psychology A Level	• 6 in Science, English & Maths
Health and Social Care BTEC	• 4 in Science, English & Maths • 5 GCSEs at 4 or above
English Language A Level	• 6 in English Language
English Literature A Level	• 6 in English Literature
French A Level	• 6 in French
Maths A Level	• 7 in Maths • (8 for Further, 5 for Core)
Geography A Level	• Grade 6 in Geography
History A Level	• Grade 6 in History and English
Politics A Level	• 6 in a Humanities or English subject

Subject	Entry Requirements
Religious Studies A Level	• 5 in Humanities subject • 6 in English
Sociology A Level	• 5 in English
Art A Level	• 5 in Art
Photography A Level	• 5 or above in an art-based subject • English GCSE
Creative Media Production BTEC	• GCSE Media or arts based GCSE preferred
Engineering BTEC	• 5 in Maths
Business CTC	• 5 in English
V Level in Digital Systems and Data	• Digital Information Technologies BTEC at L2 Merit or above 5 in English and Maths
Sport (single, double and triple)	• 6 in PE or a Merit and above in Cambridge National or BTEC • 5 in Science and Biology • 5 GCSEs over 4 and above
Music	• Music BTEC at Merit or above or Music GCSE 5 or above
Performing Arts	• 5 in Drama and/or Dance BTEC • Music L2 pass

Biology A Level

IF you are interested in the natural world, the environment, health and the human body and you would like to deepen your understanding of the key processes that enable life to exist, A Level Biology is the course for you.

The structure of the course is designed to instill key skills and promote a fuller understanding of the concepts linking the natural world; in short, to produce skilled scientists.

What you will study in Year 12
Development of practical skills in biology
Foundations in biology
Exchange and transport
Biodiversity, evolution and disease

What you will study in Year 13
Development of practical skills in biology
Communication, homeostasis and energy
Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Where could this take you?
Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of the students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to degrees in law, computing, accounting or teaching. So, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

Potential degree courses supported by Biology A Level: Medicine, Physiotherapy, Biological Sciences, Bachelor of Education-Science, Veterinary courses, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Nursing, Midwifery, Ocean Science, plus many more!



Examinations
Paper 1: Biological processes (2 hours 15 minutes)
Paper 2: Biological diversity (2 hours 15 minutes)
Paper 3: Unified biology (1 hour 30 minutes)

Practical skills
Practical skills will be assessed throughout the two year programme as part core practical activities. Practical work is central to any study of biology. For this reason, the specification includes these activities which form a thread, linking theoretical knowledge and understanding to practical scenarios.

Entry Requirements
- Grade 6 in GCSE Science
- Grade 6 or above in English and Mathematics
- 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above

Chemistry A Level

HAVE you ever wondered; “How do fireworks work?”, “Where does medicine come from?”, “Why is everyone going on about global warming and the ozone?”. Come and find out with this real world, application of knowledge based course.

The structure of the course is designed to promote a love for Chemistry through developing the essential key skills required by the scientists of the future.

Key skills required and developed
Basic and applied maths, data interpretation, problem solving, note taking, research, communication, teamwork, measurement, analysis, evaluation, observation, time management.

Support and guidance given throughout course
Books, folders, lab reports are monitored on a weekly basis with feedback and improvement questions given. All lesson materials are uploaded to Google Classroom and students are encouraged to review these regularly. All Chemistry teachers encourage students to make use of the ’open door’ policy. As A Level students, your teachers expect you to come and ask for help whenever you need it!

What will you study?

Content is in six modules:

Development of practical skills in chemistry

Foundations in chemistry

Periodic table and energy

Core organic chemistry

Physical chemistry and transition elements

Organic chemistry and analysis

Examinations
(all at end of year 13)

Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (2 hour 15 mins)

Paper 2: Synthesis and analytical techniques (2 hour 15 mins)

Paper 3: Unified chemistry (1 hour 30 mins)

Practical skills require a teacher-assessed component, Practical Endorsement in Chemistry, which will be assessed throughout the 2 year programme and reported separately.

Where could this take you?
The successful completion of this course allows you to pursue many careers and higher education choices such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Forensic Science/Investigation, Pharmaceuticals, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Health, Patent Lawyer, Nuclear Industry, Oceanography, Radiography and many more. It also gives you the skills to be a highly sought after recruit in almost all walks of life. High level Chemistry qualifications are well regarded by universities and employers as they demonstrate a good grasp of key transferable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, logical processes and evidence evaluation.

Entry Requirements
- Grade 6 in GCSE Science
- Grade 6 or above in Mathematics and English Language
- 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above



Physics A Level

IF you are interested in learning about our universe, from the smallest entity within it to the universe itself, then A Level Physics is for you. This content led approach allows you to develop your knowledge and understanding of the laws of physics and apply them to solve problems on topics ranging from sub-atomic particles to the universe. This course will also develop your practical skillset, where relationships between quantities defined by laws are investigated and analysed.

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Physics
1.1 Practical skills assessed in a written examination
1.2 Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2 – Foundations of Physics
2.1 Physical quantities and units
2.2 Making measurements and analysing data
2.3 Nature of quantities

Module 3 – Forces and motion
3.1 Motion
3.2 Forces in action
3.3 Work, energy and power
3.4 Materials
3.5 Momentum

Module 4 – Electrons, Waves and Photons
4.1 Charge and current
4.2 Energy, power and resistance
4.3 Electrical circuits
4.4 Waves
4.5 Quantum physics

Module 5 – Newtonian world and Astrophysics
5.1 Thermal physics
5.2 Circular motion
5.3 Oscillations
5.4 Gravitational fields
5.5 Astrophysics and cosmology

Module 6 – Particles and medical Physics
6.1 Capacitors
6.2 Electric fields
6.3 Electromagnetism
6.4 Nuclear and particle physics
6.5 Medical imaging

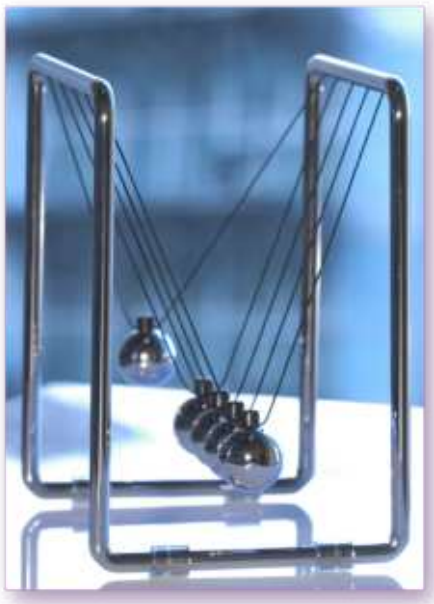
Support
The course is challenging and requires individuals to work hard both inside and outside of the classroom. There will be five hours of direct teaching per week. We expect students to complete at least 1 hour of independent study for every hour taught in class. All teacher resources, homework tasks, tests, and mark schemes are uploaded to Google Classroom. Students should seek support when they need it outside of lessons; the Physics teachers have an open door policy, meaning you can go to them at any time for support, either in person of by email/Google Classroom.

Assessment
As with any A Level course, all assessments will be external (written exam), although performance in practical tasks will also be reported.

There are three examinations
Modelling physics - 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes (written paper)
Exploring physics - 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes (written paper)
Unified physics - 70 marks, 1 hour 30 minutes (written paper)

Progression
Traditionally A Level Physics students' progress to University. Being a facilitating A Level, it can provide entry not just to Science degree courses, but also a wide range of political, economic and engineering based qualifications.

Entry Requirements
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science
- Grade 6 or above in Mathematics and English Language
- **5** GCSEs at grade 5 and above



Applied Science

Pearson Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate

THE Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) BTEC National in Applied Science is a qualification equivalent in size to one A Level. It is designed for students with an interest in science who wish to develop their scientific knowledge, practical skills and understanding alongside other Level 3 qualifications, with progression to higher education and future careers in science-related fields.

Why choose Applied Science?

Develop practical laboratory skills used in industry and higher education.

Build transferable skills including critical thinking, problem solving, independent learning, research and communication.

Study real-world scientific issues and applications.

What will I study?

You will develop knowledge and understanding across Biology, Chemistry and Physics, alongside practical laboratory skills and scientific investigation techniques.



Mandatory Units

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Biology (External exam)
Cell structure and function
Biological molecules and Cellular transport
Enzyme activity homeostasis

Unit 2: Principles and Applications of Chemistry (External exam)
Atomic structure and bonding
Periodicity
Physical and organic chemistry

Unit 3: Principles and Applications of Physics (External exam)
Waves and optical fibres
Forces and motion
Electrical circuits and energy transfer

Unit 4: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (Coursework)
Chemistry: Solution preparation, titration, and purity testing
Biology: Field work, Colorimetry and microscopy
Physics: Cooling curves and energy transfer, Electrical circuits and renewable energy investigations

Students also complete one optional unit:
Unit 5: Science Investigation Skills – practical based, student choose one investigation to research
Unit 6: Contemporary

Skills needed for success

Independence
Organisation
Resilience
Scientific curiosity
Analytical thinking
Problem-solving skills
Effective communication
Good time management
Commitment to meeting deadlines

This qualification supports progression to a wide range of higher education courses and careers, including:
Nursing
Biomedical Science
Forensic Science
Applied Sport and Exercise Science
Secondary Science Education
Laboratory Science
Health-related professions
Scientific and technical careers

It also complements subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Geography.

Support and guidance

Students receive:

- Regular progress reviews
- Assessment feedback
- Exam preparation support
- Coursework guidance
- Intervention and catch-up sessions where required
- Opportunities to develop practical and study skills throughout the course.

Entry requirements

- Grade 5 in English, Maths and Science



Psychology A Level

IF you are interested in the science behind what people do and why they do it, then Psychology is the subject for you! Psychology is 'the science of human mind and behaviour', looking at people as individuals and in groups, and attempting to explain a whole range of thoughts, behaviours and actions.

A Level Psychology is an excellent preparation subject for a degree course in Psychology and for a wide range of careers, including; education, clinical psychology, occupational and forensic psychology, medicine, counselling, criminology, mental health nursing, social work, cognitive science, and advertising. A Level Psychology is a two year course, assessed through examination only. At the end of the second year of study you will sit three exams. You will follow the AQA examination board.

Skills Required to Study Psychology
Science – Psychology is a science and therefore based on scientific principles and research.
Knowledge and retention – within Psychology you will learn about a range of theories. You must be able to recall how these theories work and explain those using key terms.
Application – you will need to apply your learning to unseen material. You will need to have good knowledge of the underpinning theories in order to explain real life behaviour.
Analytical skills – ability to evaluate theories and studies.
Maths – you will have to carry out practical experiments and be able to analyse data using a range of statistical tests.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology
(50% of AS, 33.3% of A Level)
Social influence (conformity, compliance and obedience)
Memory and forgetting (short-term memory, long-term memory, types of memories)
Attachment (attachment types in infants, deprivation and privation studies)
Clinical psychology and mental health (definitions in the field of mental health)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context
(50% of AS, 33.3% of A Level)

Approaches in psychology (biological, behaviourist, psychodynamic, cognitive, humanistic)
Biopsychology (how the brain influences behaviour)
Research methods (psychological studies and experiments and methods used to obtain results).

Paper 3: Issues and Debates in Psychology
(33.3% of A Level) Optional Subjects
Cognitive Development
Schizophrenia (symptoms, causes and treatments)
Forensic psychology (applying psychology to crime)

Where could this take you?
Clinical, health, occupational, developmental (child) and sport psychology; medicine, nursing, midwifery, mental health nursing, social work, teaching, advertising, media, criminology, criminal justice, international relations, research scientist, animal management and behaviour.

Entry Requirements
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science
- Grade 6 or above in Mathematics and English
- 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above



Health and Social Care BTEC
(Extended Certificate)

Who is this qualification for?
THE Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is equivalent in size to one A Level and supports access to a range of higher education courses. The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A Levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A Levels such as Psychology, Biology or English. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

What does this qualification cover?
Four units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.

Breakdown of assessment

The course consists of 4 units

Three mandatory units:
Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (External exam)
Unit 2: Human Biology and Health (External exam)
Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice (Internal assessment)

One optional unit:
Unit 5: Promoting Health Education (Internal assessment)

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed both externally and internally, through externally marked exams or by assignments that are marked in school.
The qualification grade is an aggregation of a learner's unit level performance across the four units of study over the two years. At the end of the course you will be awarded a
PASS
MERIT
DISTINCTION
or DISTINCTION*

What could this qualification lead to?
It should be taken alongside two other subjects such as an A Level in Biology and further Level 3 qualifications, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing or a BTEC National Extended Diploma in Applied Science, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Science, amongst other degree courses such as Primary Teaching and Educational Studies.

What skills do you need to be successful in this course?
- The ability to learn independently and meet deadlines.
- The ability to research actively and methodically.
- To be able to give presentations and work cooperatively.
- The ability to write effectively.
- The ability to communicate effectively.



Entry Requirements
- Grade 4 or above in GCSE Science
- Grade 4 or above in Mathematics and English
- 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above (or BTEC equivalent)

Studying Health and Social Care in Year 11 is not a requirement of the course but it will help.



English Language A Level

STUDYING English Language at Lipson provides you with a natural progression from your GCSE study of English and encourages you to develop your interest in and appreciation of English, through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations. The course allows you to develop your ability to express yourself in speech and writing, producing texts for different audiences, purposes and in different genres. In Year 12 the course focuses on written and spoken language and different contexts of language, looking in particular at gender and power. There is also an element of original writing based on a topical language issue, which is assessed by an internal exam in Year 12, with an external exam in Year 13. Topics in Year 13 are child language acquisition, language in the media and language variety and change over time. The A Level exam will test original writing; and there is a coursework element at A Level – independent language research – an investigation into an area of language and a linked production of an academic poster.

What will you study?
This A Level is a two year option with all of your formal assessments taking place at the end of the second year. The assessments are detailed below.

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society
- Textual variations and representations
- Children's language development (0-11 years)
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities



Paper 2: Language diversity and change
- Language diversity and change
- Language discourses
- Writing skills

Coursework Assessment
- Language Investigation
- Original Writing

Where could this take you?
English Language is a flexible and adaptable subject so future career opportunities are extensive. The subject combines well with many others in both the Arts and Sciences, and is particularly suited to Modern Foreign Language combinations, Sociology and Psychology. University Admission Tutors and employers look favourably upon students who have studied A Level English Language, knowing they will have good oral and written communication ability and have developed useful skills of analysis and interpretation. Careers which can be entered with an English A Level or an English degree are many and varied and include Public Relations, management, research, consultancy, publishing, medicine, teaching, journalism, law, media and advertising.

Entry Requirements
- GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language

English Literature A Level

STUDYING literature at Lipson involves the development of sophisticated reading skills and of an ability to place literary texts in their wider intellectual and historical contexts. It also requires you to consider the critical processes by which you analyse and judge, to learn about literary form and technique, and to evaluate various approaches to literary criticism and theory. You will enhance your knowledge of society and how writers reflect this in their texts.

What will you study?
This A Level is a two year option with all of your formal assessments taking place at the end of the second year.

Exam 1: Love Through The Ages
One poetry collection, one prose text (one written pre 1900), one Shakespeare play and two unseen poems.
3 hours

Open Book for Section C only
Section A: Shakespeare passage based question
Section B: Unseen Poetry (comparing two unseen poems)
Section C:Comparing Texts, one essay question



Exam 2: Texts in Shared Contexts - Modern Times, 1945 to present day
One prose text, one poetry collection and one drama text (one of which is post-2000)
2 hours and 30 minutes

Open book exam
Section A: One essay question on set text.
Section B: One compulsory question on an unseen extract
One essay question linking two texts

Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Critical Study
Comparative critical study of two texts of your own choice; at least one written pre 1900.
One extended essay (2500 words and a bibliography)

Where could this take you?
Many career opportunities are open to you with A Level English Literature, such as Publishing, Media, Public relations, Marketing, Law, Business and Education and Journalism. This course will also enable you to progress onto a degree course in English Literature or related studies.

Entry Requirements
- GCSE grade 6 or above in English Literature

You will read a wide range of texts over the course of the two years, therefore it is important that you enjoy reading and are keen to broaden your literary horizons. Possessing good inference and analytical skills is also central to succeeding in your study of Literature. Finally, the skill of structuring a coherent essay is one that you will develop over the course of the two years.





French A Level

THE lifelong rewards to be gained from learning a modern foreign language are phenomenal and a skill which can be easily built on and honed in this age of communication. Whether in your professional life, in higher education or for practical purposes (holidays etc.), the skill will stand you in good stead.

What will you study?
This A Level is a two year option with all of your formal assessments taking place at the end of the second year across 3 exams:
Paper 1 - Listening, reading & writing. (50%)
Paper 2 - Writing (20%)
Paper 3 - Speaking (30%)

CORE CONTENT
You will cover a variety of topics surrounding the social, political & artistic trends of the French-speaking world as well as more in-depth French language and grammar.

1 Social issues and trends

- **Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends**
  La famille en voie de changement, La « cyber-société » et Le rôle du bénévolat
- **Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues**
  Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse, Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?
  Comment on traite les criminels?



2 Political and artistic culture

- **Artistic culture in the French-speaking world**
  Une culture fière de son patrimoine culturel, La musique francophone contemporaine,
  Cinéma – le septième art
- **Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world**
  Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique, Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir?
  La politique et l'immigration

3 Grammar

4 Works: one French literary text and one French film.

5 Individual Research Project: Research & present, in French, a project on an area of personal interest relating to a country or countries where French is spoken.

Where could this take you?
Language skills can lead directly into a career in translating, interpreting or teaching, but are also hugely in demand in areas such as hospitality, law, publishing and business services. Many big employers are multinational organisations and are keen to recruit candidates who are willing to work overseas and can liaise effectively with international colleagues. Studying modern languages is likely to develop interpersonal and communication skills that graduate recruiters value, as well as other key strengths. This course will also enable you to progress onto a degree course in French or related studies.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE grade 6 or above in French (including English Literature and Maths)



Mathematics A Level

A-LEVELl Mathematics is a mixture of pure (core) mathematics and applied mathematics. The course consists of mathematical thinking, statistics and mechanics and subsequently has clear links with a number of additional A Level courses. Mathematics is a requirement for several university degrees and is a well regarded A Level choice across many Russell Group universities including Oxbridge. With mathematics A Level you will be benefitting from:

- a stimulating and challenging course that develops logical thinking;
- opportunities to develop key employability skills;
- excellent preparation for a wide range of university courses and a versatile qualification that is well-respected by employers and higher education.

Skills Required

A resilient, inquiring mind that thrives on problem solving and is confident with playing with numbers.

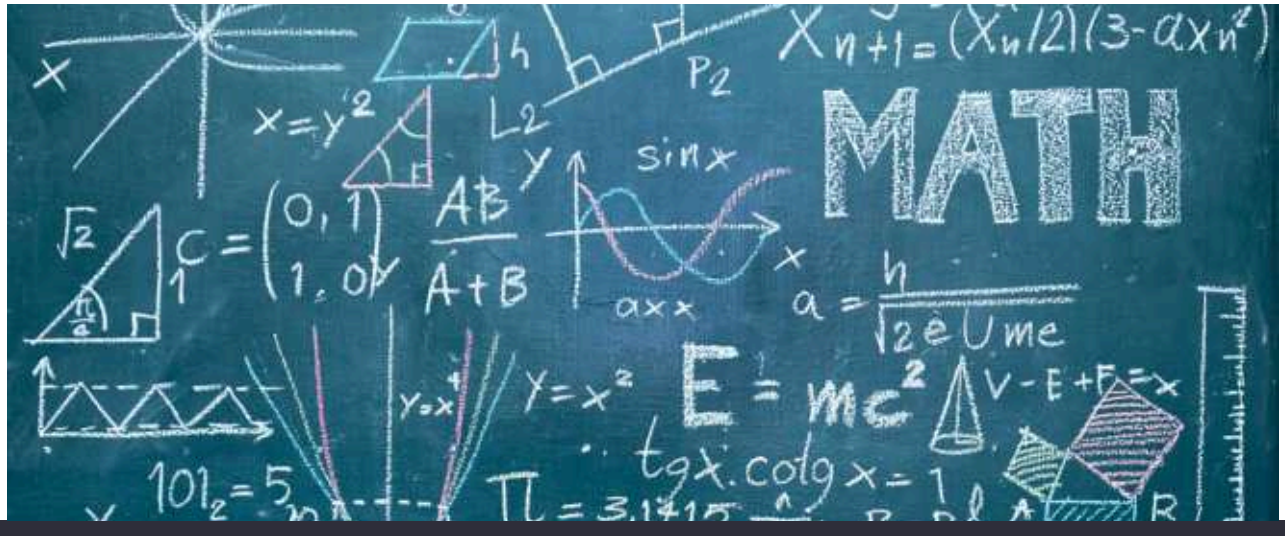
Breakdown of assessment

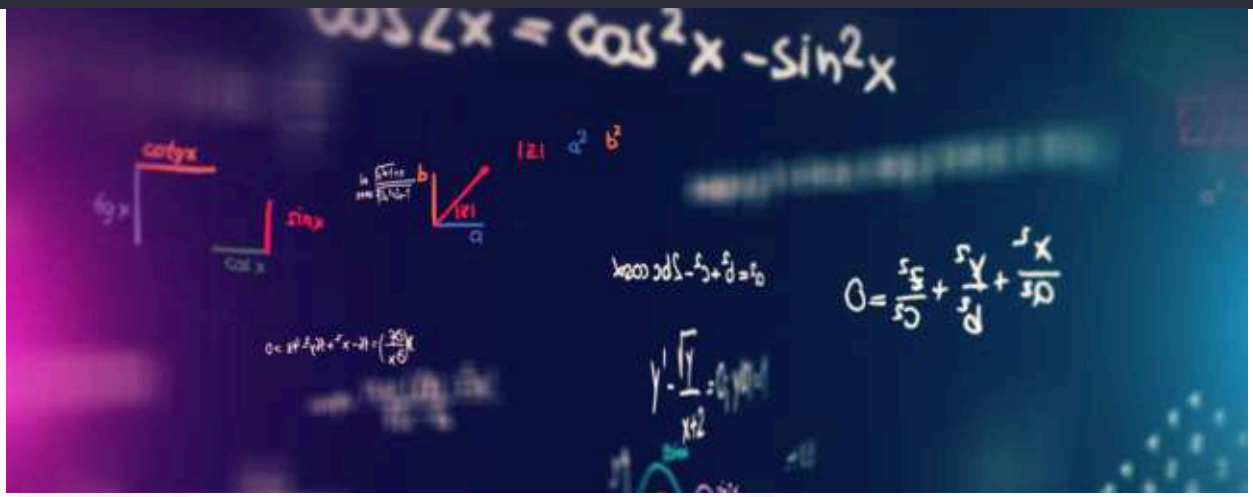
Three, two hour examinations at the end of the second year including pure maths, statistics and mechanics. All exams are calculator papers.

Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 or above in Mathematics GCSE

For extremely capable students (with a Grade 8 or 9) there is the opportunity to take the Further Mathematics A Level course. This would involve a considerable amount of independent study and can only be undertaken after discussion with Ms Lodge and Mr Webb.





Further Mathematics

GCE Further Mathematics with Edexcel is an advanced A-Level qualification designed for students with a strong interest and ability in mathematics. It builds on the core content of A-Level Mathematics and introduces more complex and abstract mathematical concepts.

The course is divided into compulsory pure mathematics and two optional areas—Further Statistics and Further Mechanics in this case.

Entry Requirement:
Grade 8 at GCSE Maths

Further Statistics

Students explore topics such as probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and statistical inference, deepening their understanding of real-world data analysis.

Further Mechanics

Focuses on advanced principles of motion, forces, energy, and momentum, extending concepts from classical mechanics.

This combination equips students with a rigorous mathematical foundation suitable for mathematically intensive university courses, such as Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, and Economics.

Core Maths

Core Maths is intended for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at grade 4 or better, but who have not chosen to study AS or A Level Mathematics. It is usually studied alongside A Levels or vocational courses.

Core Maths is equal in size to an AS level qualification and graded A-E.

Studying Core Maths helps students to develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. It has been specifically designed with employers, universities and professional bodies to increase the employability of school leavers and apprentices.

Core Maths is studied for one year, with the exams taken at the end of Year 12.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE grade 5 or above in Maths

Geography A Level

GEOGRAPHY is all around us and its study allows us to gain an understanding of the global issues that face us at the present time and of our place as individuals within an increasingly complex world. If you have an enquiring mind and want to explore vital 21st Century issues that matter, such as globalisation, debt, environmental change, and management of the world's resources then this is the course for you.

A Level Geography consists of a 2 year course with all examinations at the end of Year 13.

What will you study?

Component 1 Physical Geography (40%)

Three Themes:
Water and Carbon Cycles
Coastal Landscapes
Natural Hazards

Component 2 Human Geography (40%)

Three Themes:
Globalisation
Changing Places
Contemporary Urban Environments

Component 3 (20%)

Students complete an investigation which includes data collection. It must be an individual investigation where a 4,000 word report is produced.

Where could this take you?
Geographers acquire a wide range of skills, such as the ability to analyse data, write reports or to understand the attitudes and values of decision making. Geographers are good at networking and teamwork and this Sixth Form department is at the forefront of using ICT in learning and teaching. Geography is considered a facilitating A Level by all universities and is therefore an excellent subject for many degree courses.

Examples of possible student careers are:
Agriculture, Archaeology, Countryside Management, Development Studies, Earth Sciences, Ecology, Economics, Environmental Studies or Science, Land Economy, Landscape Architecture, Meteorology, Mining, Oceanography, Planning, Politics, Surveying Transport Studies, Tourism, Urban Studies, Law, Media Studies, Medicine, Biochemistry plus many others.

Entry Requirements:

- **Grade 6 in Geography and English**





History A Level

A-LEVEL History is a two year course. We follow the OCR History A H505 specification and we study the following units:

Unit 1: England 1445-1509, Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII including the War of the Roses. (25%)
This will involve the study of the dramatic events of the Wars of the Roses and the controversy surrounding the iconic Richard III. It will also deal with the rise of the Tudor family.

Unit 2: Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963 (15%)
This will involve the study of the Weimar Republic and the rise of the Nazis. We will examine the 1930s under Nazi rule and the impact of World War Two. Finally, we will investigate the division of Germany in the Cold War.

Unit 3: Civil rights in the USA 1865-1992 (40%)
This unit takes the form of a thematic paper which addresses cause and consequence and change and continuity through the period of nearly 150 years. We will investigate four separate aspects of civil rights - the struggle for equality by black Americans, Native Americans, women and the fight for working rights by the working class.

Unit 4: Topic based essay - an investigation. (20%)
Students can select their own topic for investigation and have to use a range of both sources and interpretations to reach supported judgments and involves the construction of a 3000-4000 word essay.

There are three final examinations which total 80% of the final marks. 20% of the marks are awarded for the coursework element which consists of an investigation into a topic chosen by the student and presented in the form of an essay.

The course is taught by specialist teachers. It will involve looking at evidence and examining the different interpretations of the historical events we address. There will be seminars and debates as well as written reports and extended essays. This is an academic course and therefore students must be prepared to read widely and should enjoy writing. The coursework element will enable students to investigate a question of their choice and will require the use and evaluation of both sources and interpretations - it offers the opportunity to be an historian!

Throughout the course students will be required to complete extended essays. Teachers will model these and students will learn how to write history in the formal, academic style which is so important for success at this level. Teachers will also provide personal feedback and the use of DIT (Dedicated Improvement Time) is an important feature of A Level lessons.

A Level History is a well-respected qualification and is regarded as a facilitating subject by universities. It is a valuable subject for students who want to go on to study Law and other Humanities degrees. However, the main reason to consider History A Level is because you have an interest in it and enjoy it.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE grade 6 or above in History
- GCSE grade 6 in English



Politics A Level

What will you study?
STUDENTS will study UK politics and UK government, which will give them a core knowledge and understanding of the UK's political system through interesting lessons and engaging wider reading. This will include analysis of democratic participation, political parties and changes to voting behaviour. Students will then develop this knowledge and understanding at A Level, and study the core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Students will also complete a comparative section comparing UK politics to the USA's political system and study feminism as a non-core ideology

Course Outline
Component 1: UK Politics: Written examination - 2 hours 33% of the qualification 84 marks.
Study includes assessing the UK's political parties and political systems whilst evaluating changes to themes such and voting behaviour and the development of media and its impact on UK politics. Students will also learn about the core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Component 2: UK Government: Written examination - 2 hours 33% of the qualification 84 marks.
Study included assessing and evaluating the make up, methods and effectiveness of institutions such as the House of Commons, House of Lords, Prime Minister and the executive. Students will also learn about a non-core political ideas, such as feminism or anarchism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics - Written examination: 2 hours 33% of the qualification 84 marks.
Study will include the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories to those used in the UK.

Where could this take you?
All A2 courses provide transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression to university. The transferable skills that universities value include:

- Evaluative skills
- Essay Writing Skills
- Source Analysis and Interpretation Skills
- Research/ Evaluation of Evidence

A Level Politics can also prepare participants with the knowledge and qualifications needed to find employment in fields such as; political journalism, political writer, civil servant, council/local government social research officer, Member of Parliament, politicians assistant and many more.

- NGOs
- Politics
- Journalism
- Political Advisor/Assistant
- Public/private Sector Work e.g. Local Councils or Charities



Entry Requirements
- Grade 6 or more in an English subject (Language or literature); OR
- Grade 6 in a Humanities subject (History, RS or Geography)

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics A Level

RELIGION, Philosophy and Ethics is all about questions. We aim to tackle some of the hardest, most important, and most interesting questions that a human being can face, such as: Can we prove that God exists? What makes a good person? Does everyone have the right to life? Examining these questions from both personal and academic perspectives is only the beginning of what this course is about.

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

Religious Experience
Problems of Evil and Suffering
Philosophical Language
Arguments for the Existence of God

Component 2: Ethics

Ethical theories
Issues of life and death
Issues of animal and environmental life
Free will and morality

Component 3: Christianity

Feminist Theology
Religion and Science
Liberation theology
Key moral principles of Christianity
Core thinkers

Essential Skills

You will need to read and think independently. You will be expected to read books and journals, get involved in debates, undertake research of a given topic, and even lead lessons to deliver presentations. You will also write regular essays to build up your academic writing skills ahead of the exams.



Where could this take you?

A-Level RPE teaches you a whole host of skills, essential for both academic study and the wider world. Philosophers are always thinking critically and arguing on what to believe. Ethical thinkers consider our way of living and how to choose the best outcome. Theologians are searching for truth about why we are here and if there is a God that put us here.

All of this decision-making, analysis and skills of argument means RPE has great transferable skills for all areas of life, as well as it being a highly academic subject.

Students will be well prepared for university level study and careers such as law, journalism, education, social work, medicine, management to name just a few.

How you will be assessed

Timed essays, student led presentations, and group work.

The end of the A Level course has three exams, one for each component, lasting two hours.



Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 or above in English
- Grade 5 in a Humanities subject is preferred



Sociology A Level

SOCIOLOGY is the systematic study of society and the groups within it. It is about looking at the world you live in through a different lens to try to understand some of the problems and issues that face society and how society has changed through the generations. It is about looking at the experiences of different social groups and trying to understand their views and the structural causes of their experiences.

In your study of sociology, you will develop skills of objective and analytical writing, critical thinking, discussion and debate, as well as how to look at a situation from multiple viewpoints. You will need to be able to question assumptions about society and the rules by which we live our lives as well as examine how our experiences maybe different to others and may shape the choices and decision that we make in our own lives.

A Level Sociology consists of a 2 year course with all examinations at the end of Year 13.
Paper 1- Education with Theory and Methods
Paper 2- Topics in Sociology (Families and Households/Beliefs in Society)
Paper 3- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

What will you study?

Topic 1 Families and households
Everyone will have had an experience of family in one shape or another and this unit helps you to understand the different types of family that exist in the world and the UK today. You will understand the social and demographic changes that have occurred and led to these changes and the increase in family diversity and the impact this has had on wider society.

Topic 2: Education
At this stage of your education you have much more choice over what you study. This unit helps you to understand the processes within the education system that may have influenced your decisions and the path that you have taken. It will also help you to understand the processes within schools and the impact that can have on educational achievement.

Topic 3 Media
Explore how the media shapes our understanding of society and influences the way we think, behave and interact. You will study television, newspapers, social media, film and digital platforms, examining issues such as media ownership, control, globalisation, audiences and the impact of new media. You will investigate how groups are represented, including gender, social class, ethnicity and age, and explore whether the media reinforces stereotypes or challenges them. Different sociological perspectives, including Marxism, feminism, pluralism and postmodernism, will help you develop critical thinking. You will apply sociological ideas to contemporary issues and the rapidly changing media landscape.

Topic 4 Crime and Deviance
The criminal justice system impacts almost all aspects of our lives, including controls on our behaviour, telling us what we can and cannot do, to punishing us when we violate norms of behaviour. This unit will help you to understand the impact of the criminal justice system and the role it plays in maintaining our society. You will also look at how the criminal justice system impacts different groups in society

Topic 5 Theory and Methods
This unit provides the background and basis for all sociological study. It provides the bones on which you will be able to build up your sociological knowledge and understanding of the social world. This unit will take you through the main sociological perspectives and how they view the social world as well as the different ways that sociologists conduct research into social phenomena. This will be built upon as we go through each of the topics we study.

Careers
Sociology is a good umbrella subject, meaning that it supports a number of careers and degree courses as one of the key skills of a sociologist is to look at the world in an objective and critical way.

Entry Requirements
- 5 GCSEs grade 5 and above, including English

Art A Level

Fine Art/Graphic Communication 3D/Textiles/Art Craft & Design

THIS specification includes:
Art, craft and design, Fine art, Graphic communication, Textile design and Three-dimensional design. In this way students can decide which specification suits their skill set and interests. This allows students to create work which is best fitted to their university's entry requirements.

The creative AQA A Level leads into many creative industry disciplines, such as: Advertising, Animation, Archaeology, Architecture, Teaching, Art Therapy, Ceramic Design, Sculpture, Graphics, Computer Game Design, Conservation, Textile or Fashion Design, Art Technician, Display or Interior Design, Industrial Design, Film Production, Theatre Production. Such career choices will sometimes require students to complete a Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design).



- Painting, drawing and working in a range of 2D mediums
- Textiles
- Print making
- Sculpture
- Instillation
- Conceptual art
- ability to respond to an issue, concept or ideas
- historical and contemporary developments in the production of art as well as
- different styles and genres
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical
- contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created
- a working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen
- area of study.

Component 1 - Portfolio worth 60% of the total mark
Each student must include in their portfolio:

- a selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study
- at least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials. Portfolios may also include:
- critical/contextual work, which could include written material such as journals, reviews, reflections and evaluations, annotations and historical background material. Evidence may be included from books, journals, moving images, photographs, digital presentations and the internet, as well as studies made during a residency, site, gallery or museum visit.
- sketchbooks, workbooks, journals. Alternatively, students may wish to present a series of related images mounted on sheets.
- where appropriate to the student's area of study, test pieces, samples, storyboards, models or maquettes.

Component 2 - Externally set assignment worth 40% of the total mark
These will consist of a choice of five questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one and will be provided with examination papers on 1 February. Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. The first 3 hours of the supervised time must be consecutive. In the 15 hours students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.
The student will develop skills and techniques depending on their chosen field of study.



In order to be successful you need to have a genuine passion for the subject. Although this course demands your time and commitment, we believe you will find the challenges rewarding and fulfilling. This subject provides the ideal platform for any student wishing to pursue the extensive career opportunities in the art and design or creative and visual arts field. It will also appeal to those students who have been successful at GCSE and wish to maintain a creative balance within their studies at A Level.

Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 in GCSE Art preferred

OR

- a portfolio, including grade 5 in English

Photography A Level

AQA Photography A Level

THIS creative Photography course has an emphasis on Photography as an art form, focusing on lens-based and digital-media.



You will use the camera as a tool to develop your visual thought processes as well as your creative and critical abilities. The aim of this course is to develop your skills and understanding as a photographer by producing technically sound and visually enhancing photographs.

Where could this take you?

- Portrait/ wedding and events Photographer
- Commercial Photographer
- Scientific Photographer
- Photojournalist/News Photographer
- Freelance Photographer
- Fine art Photographer

You will be trained to professional standards which could lead on to employment in art, craft and design industries, media and allied sectors, or preparation for entry to higher national or undergraduate degree programmes within the arts and media disciplines. Photography would be a useful A Level to have if you are considering a career in journalism, graphic design, illustration, architecture, forensic science or television as well as photography and other creative subjects.

Component 1 - Portfolio worth 60% of the total mark

Each student must include in their portfolio:

- Students will explore digital media such as Photoshop and become
- adept at modern photo editing using both PCs and MACs. Students
- will explore landscape, portrait, light painting, external flash, film
- photography and darkroom skills, fashion and many other styles of photography. Students will learn to discuss and analyse the work of others and respond to a variety of starting points and produce high quality projects and final images. Students will have the chance to visit photographic exhibitions, work with professional photographers and exhibit their own work.
- A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study
- Experimentation working with digital, film based and other ways of exploring a lensed based practice.
- Development of students own narrative within their chosen area of study.
- An in-depth essay that explores an area within the Photography which is directly linked to students portfolio work.



Component 2 - Externally set assignment worth 40% of the total mark

These will consist of a starting points provided by AQA which will be realised on the 1st of February. Students are then required to create a preparatory project. Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. The first 3 hours of the supervised time must be consecutive. In the 15 hours students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.

Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 or above in an art based subject
- Grade 5 or above in English





Creative Media Production BTEC

STUDENTS studying Media advance their knowledge of the media market and gain the skills required for a career in the industry. The specialist units support students who want to pursue specific areas of interest in writing, publishing, broadcast media and gaming. Overall, candidates develop an excellent all-round understanding of the challenges and rewards of a career in Media.

What will you study?

BTEC Creative Digital Media Production - Foundation Diploma (equivalent to 1.5 A-Levels)

Total of 6 Units, 4 of which are mandatory

The course is 60% Mandatory content (Coursework), 40% External assessment (2 exams)

You will complete Units of work that have assessment objectives for which you will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction. The examined element takes the form of one on screen exam and one written exam. Production tasks are at the centre of all learning with the assessment primarily being based on creativity and technical quality.

This course covers an extensive range of media skills including pre-production skills, single camera filming, video editing. You will also cover optional units in research skills, animation, the TV and film industries and communication skills. The course supports further progression in creative media education such as a university degree, an apprenticeship or entry level employment in the creative industries sector.

You will learn:

- A range of media production skills: print, audio & audio visual
- How to effectively present your work, gather audience feedback and evaluate your own progress.
- You will also learn about media industries, how they are structured and regulated.

Where could this take you?

This course structure provides you with the skills required to continue your studies at university or immediately pursue a career in the media industry. Journalism, broadcasting, advertising, marketing, illustration, animation, public relations, television and video production are just a few examples of the kinds of courses or careers that studying Media could lead to. This is a dynamic and exciting industry that has much to offer potential new employees. We have had students progress from this course going onto to study at University and work on films such as James Bond 'Skyfall' and most recently the new Star Wars film 'The Force Awakens'.

There are plenty of vocational opportunities on the course allowing you to work alongside industry professionals and make those important contacts and connections, in an industry that thrives on 'who you know' as well as 'what you know'.

Entry Requirements

- GCSE Media/grade 2 Qualification in Media is preferred OR another Creative Subject – Art/Drama
- 5 GCSEs at grade 4/5 or above including English

Engineering BTEC
(Extended Certificate)

Why should I study this subject?
THE Pearson Level 3 BTEC National in Engineering (Extended Certificate) is an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) and is equivalent to one A Level. This subject is ideal if you would like to study an applied subject in addition to other BTECs and A Level qualifications such as a Science, Maths or IT and have an interest in either employment or further study in the engineering sector; perhaps in a higher apprenticeship at age 18 or progressing onto a degree in a technical or scientific subject.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?
The qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education representatives and professional bodies to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to progress to, and thrive in, higher education. The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

Unit 1 - Engineering Principles: Engineering data and applying mathematical procedures in mechanical and electrical contexts.

Unit 2 - Engineering Applications: Advances in modern technology and how they are reshaping the engineering sector's function; materials and processes to devise sustainable solutions to engineering problems.

Unit 3 - Engineering Design: Three-dimensional (3D) models and two-dimensional (2D) detailed drawings using a computer-aided design (CAD) system.

Unit 4 - Engineering Project: Project management processes in Engineering products from concept to solution.

What will this subject lead to?
BTEC Engineering offers a great foundation for entry into mechanical, electrical or marine engineering careers from technician level and a good starting point for higher education qualifications in this field. If you know you would like to enter a technical career but are unsure which field to go into, this subject would also give a good foundation to help inform your choices for post 18.

How will I be assessed?
Assessment will be through a combination of externally assessed examinations (Units 1 & 2) and internally assessed 'coursework' assignments (Units 3 & 4).

Entry Requirements
- Mathematics GCSE grade 5 or above
- Grade 5 and above in Science



OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Business

Why study this course?

THINK of this course as your backstage pass to the world of business. Whether you dream of running your own company, managing a brand like Nike, or just want to know how the business world really works, this qualification gives you the skills to get started.

Here's why it's a smart choice:

- It's hands-on, not just textbooks. You'll learn by doing – exploring real businesses, solving problems, and putting ideas into action.
- It's useful. Everywhere. Business is part of everything – sport, fashion, gaming, tech, entertainment. Whatever you're into, this course makes it easier to understand how it all works.
- It's future-proof. Even if you're not 100% sure what career you want, business skills will help you – from managing money to working in teams and presenting ideas.

Basically, if you're curious about how companies succeed (or fail!), if you want to be more confident with money and decision-making, or if you like the idea of building something from scratch – this course is for you.

What will I learn?

Unit 1 (Exploring Business) and Unit 2 (Working in Business)
These two units are the foundation for the whole course and will set you up to be able to succeed across the whole qualification. We keep things pacey, fun and engaging throughout. You are examined through an exam for each unit (with resits available to help you maximise your grade) - these exams aren't scary as they feature lots of really carefully stepped questions to help you show off your knowledge

Unit 4 (Customers and Communication)
This module will tell you everything you need to know about how to get the most out of customers through your interactions with them. This will involve a real-life scenario where we get to visit a local Golf and Country Club to frame everything we learn. This unit is assessed through a coursework portfolio submission

Unit 5 (Marketing and Market Research)
Unit 5 will help you along the way to your ultimate dream of becoming a marketing guru! Again, framed through real world scenarios involving local businesses (fancy a few cafe trips?), we keep the learning practical and hands on to link to the theory you acquire. Another coursework portfolio submission awaits you...

Unit 16 (Principles of Project Management)
See yourself in charge of a large team working towards exciting and challenging goals? This module will set you well on your way. Through a theoretical scenario involving setting up an exciting new retail unit for a sportswear brand, this final module involves one last coursework portfolio.

What could this qualification lead to?
University, higher level apprenticeships and employment! Employers and universities value it because it shows you can think, plan, and make things happen. Who knows, maybe you are the next multi-billionaire business magnate and will be back at Lipson in a few years being chauffeured down Bernice Terrace in your Rolls Royce?

Entry Requirements
5 GCSEs at grade 4/5 or above, including English



V Level in Digital Systems and Data

V-LEVELS are designed for students who want vocational learning to develop real-world skills. Digital Systems and Data is for students who are interested in how technology, data and digital systems are used to solve problems and support organisations. You will develop applied skills in working with data, understanding digital systems, recognising cyber security risks, and designing or configuring digital solutions in realistic contexts.

V Levels at a glance:
- Level 3 qualification
- 60% non-exam assessment
- 40% exam
- Same size as an A Level (360 guided learning hours)
- Attracts UCAS points for entry into Higher Education

What you'll learn:

- **Understand digital systems, security and support**

The hardware, software and networks that support digital services. User accounts, authentication and secure access. System security, testing and technical support

- **Work with data to support decision making**

How data is collected, prepared and analysed. Identifying trends, patterns and insights from data. Presenting information clearly to support decisions and actions

- **Protect digital systems and information**

Common cyber security threats and risks. Monitoring systems and recognising potential security concerns. Applying protective measures and responding appropriately to risks

- **Understand how digital solutions are designed and developed**

Understanding user needs and requirements. Problem-solving and digital solution design approaches. Communication, collaboration and stakeholder engagement

- **Use digital technologies responsibly and effectively**

The ethical, legal and responsible use of technology and data. The role of AI and automated systems in modern digital workplaces

Where can it take me?
- Higher education degrees linked to digital and technology subjects, such as Computer Science, Computing, Data Science, Cyber Security, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technology Solutions
- Level 4 apprenticeship in areas such as Data Analysis, Software Development, Business Analysis and Cyber Security.
- Careers in data analysis, cyber security, software development, IT support, digital systems and business analysis

Entry Requirements
- GCSE English at grade 5 or above
- GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above
- BTEC Digital Information Technologies at Level 2 Merit or above.



Sport & Physical Activity CTEC

Single, Double and Triple Award

The Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity course is a qualification that combines both vocational based experience with academic studies which you will study for two years. Studying this stimulating and challenging course will not only lead you to an equivalent of 1, 2 or 3 A Levels in Cambridge Technical Sport, but it will allow learners to choose a pathway that reflects their career or academic aspirations. Studying Sport provides a sound basis for any work related employment, entry into the services or sports related degree courses including; fitness and coaching, sports science, teaching, and outdoor education.
As part of studying this course you would become a valued member of our sixth form sports academy which will allow you to leave with not just a Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity Award but also additional qualifications to develop your CV and help you develop lifelong employability skills.

Why do this course and why is different to other Sport courses?

- The course allows learners to choose a pathway that reflect their career or academic aspirations with the maximum qualification equating to three A Levels.
- Become part of our 6th Form Sports Academy, with these additional benefits:

Subsidised personalised PE Kit.
Enhanced enrichment opportunities to a variety of offsite leisure activities.
Gain additional sports based level 1 and young leader qualifications.
Gain additional basic first aid award including CPR.

How will I be assessed on the course?
Students are assessed through a mixture of internally set assignments in the form of coursework, externally set exams and practical assessments in both performing and leading in sport.

All assessment criteria is based on the achievement of specified learning outcomes. Students' work is graded as Pass, Merit and Distinction for each unit. Students' grades are then equated to an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* for the course. Students MUST pass the mandatory units to pass the course overall.

Where could this take you?
The Sports industry as a whole is a growing industry and forms a large part of our everyday lives from health and wellbeing to coaching and instruction. There are a vast range of career opportunities open to those with a background in Sports Studies. Sport is a beneficial subject when considering further study in any of the following career opportunities: Personal Fitness Instruction, Exercise Instructor to Music, Teaching and Coaching, Outdoor Adventure Instructor, Leisure industry and Sports Development, Armed and Emergency Services, Sports Therapy, and Physiotherapy.

Entry Requirements and Expectations

- Grade 6 or above in GCSE PE or a Merit and above in Cambridge National or BTEC grade 2 Sport
- Grade 5 and above in Science
- 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English and Mathematics

SINGLE AWARD - Extended Certificate in Sport
5hrs Per Week equivalent to 1 A Level
Unit 1 - Body systems and the effects of physical activity*
Unit 2 - Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership
Unit 3 - Sports Organisation and Development*
Unit 18 - Practical Skills in Sport and Physical Activity
Unit 8 - Organisation of Sports Events

*Externally set exams

DOUBLE AWARD - Extended Certificate in Sport
10hrs Per Week equivalent to 2 A Levels
Unit 13 - Health and Fitness Testing for Sport
Unit 4 - Working Safely in Sport, Exercise, Health and Leisure*
Unit 5 - Performance Analysis in Sport and Exercise
Unit 11 - Physical Activity for Specific Groups
Unit 19 - Sports and Exercise Psychology
Unit 17 - Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation
PLUS ALL UNITS IN THE SINGLE AWARD
*Externally set exam

TRIPLE AWARD - Extended Certificate in Sport
15hrs Per Week equivalent to 3 A Levels
Unit 21 - The Business of Sport*
Unit 12 - Nutrition, Diet for Sport and Exercise
Unit 14 - Working in Active Leisure Facilities
Unit 20 - Sports and Exercise Sociology
Unit 7 - Improving Fitness for Sport and Physical Activity
Unit 6 - Group Exercise to Music
PLUS ALL UNITS IN THE SINGLE AND DOUBLE AWARDS
*Externally set exam



Music Practitioner Level 3 RSL

This course is industry related, helping you to gain practical skills which will be essential for pursuing a career in the music industry. The course is a two-year programme that develops your skills in both the business and performance aspects of the music industry.

Subject: Rock School Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma *(Music Practitioner)*

- You will rehearse in our specialised practice rooms which are fully equipped with PA and backline equipment, or our professional recording suite which is linked to a practice room.
- You will be taught by teachers who still work within the professional music arena from performance artists to musical director to events manager
- As an aspiring musician you will be expected to spend a minimum of one hour per evening practising your chosen instrument. Competition for careers within the music industry is highly competitive and you will need to show enthusiasm, drive, determination and professionalism.
- You will have many opportunities to perform at external events throughout the academic year in order to gain confidence and develop your skills as a performer in front of real audiences.

What will you learn? Possible units of study could include:

Units are subject to change based on specific cohorts

- Planning for a Career in Music
- Improving Instrumental Performance
- Lead Performer—live music performance
- Auditioning for Music
- Rehearsal Skills and Live Music Performance (Externally Assessed)



How will you be assessed?

Your achievement in this subject is dependent upon excellent attendance, punctuality and effort. You will be assessed regularly on live performances either within the Academy or at external venues and given feedback on your progress. Discussions and presentations are a vital part of our assessment process and you will be expected to contribute to those and reading and listening exercises. You will also be expected to evidence your understanding of career pathways and role within the industry

Where will it take you?

Many students use the course to progress on to university programmes such as BA (Hons) in Commercial Music, Popular Music, Performance. All students who recently completed the course went on to study music at university.

Entry Requirements

- **Grade** 2 BTEC in Music (Merit or above) or GCSE Music (grade 5 or above) or Grade 5 on Voice/Instrument.
- 5 GCSEs at grade 4/5 or above including English

Performing Arts Musical Theatre BTEC

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Overview
Taught across the Drama and Music faculty, this two year course acts as an excellent stepping stone for those wishing to pursue a career in the Performing Arts industry, with a particular focus on musical theatre. The Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level.

The BTEC provides students the opportunity to develop a range of performance skills, as well as preparing them for progression into higher education by developing skills in research, critical analysis and extended writing.

Throughout the two years students will explore a range of musical theatre practitioners, performance styles and theatre making techniques. They will be presented with a number of opportunities to showcase their work to a public audience as they refine their craft. The course is made up of the following units:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' Work
Learners investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
Learners explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two performance styles.

Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop
Learners explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus.

Unit 27: Musical Theatre Techniques
Learners explore key features of musical theatre, developing specialist skills and techniques as a musical theatre performer combining acting, singing and dance skills for a performance.



Potential Progression Routes

- Higher Education
- Drama School
- Teacher/Workshop Facilitator
- Actor/Performer
- Director
- Arts Administrator
- Stage Manager
- Talent Agent
- Theatre Technician
- Composer

Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 or above in Drama and/or Dance and/or
- BTEC Music L2 pass or above.

In the absence of Drama GCSE, we would expect students to have some performance experience and extra-curricular engagement within the Performing Arts

- Grade 5 or above in English Language



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Alternative Provision

Scan the QR codes to find out more

DISCOVERY COLLEGE
PART OF YMCA PLYMOUTH

The FOCUS TRAINING GROUP

skills group
TRAIN DEVELOP SUCCEED

greenlight safety & training

Next Steps South West

ATL achievement training

city college plymouth

Apprenticeship Roll of Honour

Layla Walsh	Orthopic Apprenticeship - NHS
Sam Port Tuckett	Engineering - Babcock
Annalea Bassett	Health Care Apprenticeship - Plymouth City College
Violet Jackson	Engineering - Babcock
Alfie Blight	PGT Plympton - Engineering Level 3
Katy Howlett	Fox and Sons Estate Agents
Paige Toney-Griffin	Engineering - Babcock
Brandon Murdoch	Engineering and Manufacturing with Tool Tech
Ella-Mae Wreford-Cawse	Nursery Nurse with Achievers Day Nursery
Brandon Harrison	ICT with Vospers
Leighton Bennett	Engineering with Babcock
Joseph Chambers	Pharmacy Technician with Derriford Hospital
Ellie-Mae Thornton	Degree Apprenticeship, Finance & Procurement - Babcock
Ella Dodd	Defence, Equipment and Support with Ministry of Defence
Emily St John	Management Information Systems with City College
Ali Bartlett	Mechanical Engineering with Babcock
Macey McGarry	Ward Administration with Derriford Hospital
Vincent Grant	Automotive Technician with MG Cannon Motors
Kamil Stec	Fabricator with Babcock
Catherine Shepherd	Optical Assistant with SpecSavers
Ebony Hill	Nursery Nurse with Bambinos Nursery
Seamus Ferguson	Electrical Engineering with Babcock
Bailey Chubb	Business and Admin with Princess Yachts
Sophia Sharpe	Engineering Technician with Great Western Railway
Lily O'Brien	Healthcare Assistant with Derriford Hospital
Alfie Jones	Customer Service with Derriford Hospital
Steven Cowling	Fabricator with Babcock
Angel Littlejohns	Teaching Assistant with Mayflower Academy
Paisley Josey	Nursery Nurse with Bambinos Nursery

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#LipsonLife

Well Done to Our Incredible Sixth Form Class of 2026



ELLIE MAY SARGENT

A* Photography
B History
Distinction* Media
Content Creation
at Plymouth Arts University



GRACE BROWNBRIDGE

A* Religious Studies
A English Literature
A History
English and Philosophy
at the University of York



ERI OLUGBEMINIYI

A Biology
A Chemistry
A Mathematics
Biomedical Science
at Plymouth University



OLIVIA PHIPPEN

B English Literature
B History
B Sociology
English Literature and History
at Cardiff University



SARIA DUBE-SAMPSON

A Sociology
B English Literature
C Politics
Law
at the University of Exeter



ADAM DUCHNOWSKI

A* Art
Distinction* Engineering
C Mathematics
Architecture
at Plymouth University



CHLOE SMITH

A English Literature
B History
B Sociology
English Literature and History
at Cardiff University



MADISON BADOCK

A* Art
A English Literature
Distinction* Media
Art History and Visual Culture, Film and TV
at the University of Exeter



BETHAN THOMAS

A English Literature
B Geography
Distinction Performing Arts
Theatre, Festival & Events Production
at Bath Spa University



CHARODON BERRY

A* Mathematics
A Chemistry
A Physics
Physics with Quantum Technology
at the University of Exeter



ANNA LANE

A Biology
A Chemistry
A Mathematics
Medicine
at the University of Bristol



LACEY HAMBLY

Distinction Business
Double Distinction Sports BTEC
Business Management
at Plymouth University



OSMAN ABEDIN

Distinction* Engineering
B Physics
B Psychology
Optometry
at Plymouth University



MOLLY LANE

A* Biology
A Psychology
B English Literature
Psychology
at Cardiff University

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Where Are They Now? 2026

Osman Abedin	University of Plymouth	Optometry
Fatema Alhamadah	University of Plymouth	International Tourism Management
Ayman Ali	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Psychology
Hanieh Amiri	University of Plymouth	Accounting and Finance
Madison Badock	University of Exeter	Art History & Vis Culture & Film Tel studies
Dylan Bailey	Falmouth University	Documentary & Editorial Photography
Darcie Bassett	Plymouth Marjon University	Primary Education
Charodon Berry	University of Exeter	Physics with Quantum Technology
Lillie Buckley	University of Plymouth	Sociology
Erin Colvin	University of Plymouth	English
Kerry Crook	Cardiff University	English Literature with Creative Writing
Sienna Deaton	University of Plymouth	Paramedic Science
Libby Demuth	Falmouth University	Music
Rosie Denham	University of Plymouth	Nursing in Adult Health
Oliver Docking	University of Plymouth	Mathematics
Saria Dube-Sampson	University of Exeter	Law
Adam Duchnowski	University of Plymouth	Architecture
Liam Gallagher	University of Plymouth	History
Robyn Gaskin	University of Plymouth	Psychology
Felix Goodwin	University of Plymouth	Professional Policing
Molly Grayfox	Cardiff University	Psychology
Lacey Hambly	University of Plymouth	Business Management
Maura Holc	University of Plymouth	Nursing in Adult Health
Martins Ivanovs	University of Plymouth	Mathematics
Jay Jackson	University of the Highlands and Islands	Philosophy
Daisy Jane	University of Essex	Politics and International Relations
Connor Karim	University of Plymouth	Law and Criminology
Viktoria Kelemen	University of Exeter	Business
Anna Lane	University of Bristol	Medicine
Molly Lane	Cardiff University	Psychology with Professional Placement Year
Milena Lescinschi	University of Plymouth	Psychology
Blake Littman	University of Plymouth	English and Creative Writing
Corey Munday	University of Plymouth	Civil Engineering
James O'Farrell	University of Plymouth	Politics and International Relations
Aidan O'Riley	University of Plymouth	Primary Education
Eri Olugbeminiyi	University of Plymouth	Biomedical Science
Olivia Phippen	Cardiff University	English Literature and History
Lottie Poole	Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	Drama and Applied Theatre
Kai Redding	Falmouth University	Photography
Ellie-May Sargeant	Arts University Plymouth	Content Creation
Rhyley Shave	University of Plymouth	Game Arts and Design
Chloe Smith	Cardiff University	English Literature and History
Grace Stinton-Brownbridge	University of York	English and Philosophy
Bethan Thomas	Bath Spa University	Theatre, Festival and Event Production
Ryan Walton	UWE, Bristol	Social Work
Wildon Wiley	University of Plymouth	History
Summer Wood	Anglia Ruskin University	Paramedic Science
Dylan Woods	Arts University Plymouth	Photography

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