

Wisbech Grammar School Sixth Form



Welcome

At Wisbech Grammar School, the Sixth Form is a time of real opportunity. Academic success is very much our focus but our Sixth Form is also about keeping as many doors open as possible and ensuring our pupils can reach their full potential. As well as academic results, we are aware that universities and employers are looking for those all important life skills: resilience, initiative, creativity and independence – and that is exactly what the Sixth Form here delivers.



Pupils are encouraged to take more ownership of their learning experience and are given increasing levels of independence to suit them. There is a vast array of flexibility and choice in terms of subjects on offer and pupils have the opportunity to support their A-level choices with the 'Extended Project Qualification' which develops and deepens a pupil's research skills in an area entirely of their own choosing, under the guidance of a mentor.

While our Sixth Form pupils have the freedom to spread their wings, they also have an extensive pastoral support structure. Our team of tutors and staff are here to guide them through the transition from GCSE to A-level and ultimately to become a confident and independent learner. The smaller size of our Sixth Form makes settling in easier and means pupils and teachers know each other well and can deliver that all important individualised academic and pastoral support.

Our Sixth Form Centre has dedicated computer and study rooms and communal areas for group work and recreation and whilst it enjoys a distinct identity, it remains very much part of the wider School community. This offers pupils a real advantage and presents many avenues to take a leading role in School life and indulge their interests outside the classroom through a wide range of team sports, community initiatives, extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

The tutor team is made up of pastoral staff and Heads of Department. We believe it is paramount for the pupils to have access to their considerable experience and academic knowledge. This is coupled with the guidance of the Senior Tutor, Dr Stuart Miller, myself, as Head of Sixth form and Miss Kate Taylor and Mr Alex Laybourne as my Deputies. This closely knit team ensures that each pupil is supported in their choices and are treated as young adults, giving them the space and confidence to make the right decisions themselves.

This booklet introduces you to life in our Sixth Form and provides an overview of the courses we offer. We would strongly encourage you to visit our Sixth Form to meet our pupils, staff and to experience the wonderful environment that exists here for yourself.

Peter Timmis
Head of Sixth Form

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Meet our pupils

Joining Wisbech Grammar School from KES to start my A-levels was nerve-wracking enough, let alone starting at a completely new school! However, straight away I realised that there was no need to feel apprehensive as I was made to feel welcome into the family atmosphere of the School. There is a special sense of community that is very rare in a school. I have found all the teachers truly care about you - not only striving to make sure you achieve the best you can but also doing their utmost to ensure that you are happy. There is an extensive network of support provided as well as a huge range of opportunities that you can get stuck into



Katy Landles, Lower 6th Pupil, September 2016

The Extended Project Qualification gave me an opportunity to combine my interests in rugby and my interests in neuroscience and biochemistry; I found it extremely challenging but also rewarding and beneficial to take my investigation in a direction of my choosing. This taught me invaluable skills in data interpretation and how to write and reference an extended essay, these will put me in the strongest position possible when at university and doing research of my own



Ollie Short, 6th Form Leaver, June 2016

Wisbech Grammar School Sixth Form provides an environment in which pupils are able to reach their full potential. I feel constantly challenged to push myself to exceed what is expected. I have learned so much about myself and what I am capable of through the continued support that is provided. The school is special for so many reasons; the incredible people I have met, the opportunities given to me and the sense of community embodied throughout



Maddie Booth, Upper 6th Form Pupil, October 2016

Sporting opportunities are available in abundance, with a vast range of different sports on offer. It is a great way to earn the respect of peers and to make new friends across teams in the Sixth Form. Sport is also a great stress relief and with the amount of options available there is certainly something for everyone no matter what your sporting ability



Henry Thornton, Upper 6th Form Pupil, October 2016

Co-Curricular Experience

There is a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities both during and after the School day. From debating to baking and warhammer to strength and conditioning, there are clubs that offer stretch and recreation. Participation is voluntary in the Sixth Form, but most pupils take part in activities that complement and enhance their academic studies. Indeed, many take leadership roles within clubs, giving them valuable experience and transferable skills. Sixth Formers are encouraged to supervise younger pupils in Private Study sessions, developing valuable people-management skills. Academic departments offer sessions where pupils can get extra help, as well as those that extend classroom studies or give a wider perspective such as 'Food through the Media'. Others such as Vet/Med Society directly help in preparation for university entry. Others are just fun.

No matter what your interests are, Wisbech Grammar School Sixth Form has a co-curricular opportunity perfectly suited to you! To ensure that every pupil is able to find the time within their busy schedules to take part in as many extra-curricular commitments as they would like, the school have recently introduced a new structure to the timetable which includes seven, fifty-minute periods a day, including one (period five) which is dedicated specifically to co-curricular clubs.



During these sessions, an endless list of activities is on offer for us to choose from, for example in the Science Department there is biology clinic, chemistry/physics/biology discussion group. If languages are your passion then I would recommend Language Leaders or Italian Club. If you fancy trying something new, in the Design and Art Department you can try photography or 3D club or if you're more of a Humanities person then there is debating society and geography discussion group. As an English pupil myself, I am particularly interested in the many English related activities available such as Creative Writing Club, Dead Playwrights Society and my favourite: the School Play; but bear in mind this is just a condensed insight into the elongated list of all the various activities on offer

Harriet Munson, Lower 6th Form Pupil, October 2016

Course Overview

Academic life in the Sixth Form at Wisbech Grammar School provides pupils with a wide breadth of opportunities. There are 23 subjects available for study. From September 2017, most pupils will choose three subjects to study to A-level and they will take all of their external exams at the end of the two year course. This will lead to qualifications in three A-level subjects which will allow pupils access to university places, apprenticeships and the post A-level job market. Some pupils, in consultation with their teachers, may choose to study four subjects in the Sixth Form.



Mr Mike Forrest
Deputy Head Academic

Each subject is taught for six 50 minutes periods per week. In addition to this, pupils are expected to spend about 4 hours per week on each subject, working independently in their Study Periods and at home. There are also opportunities to take part in discussion groups, attend lectures and become involved in other activities outside the classroom, such as field trips and educational visits.

All pupils are encouraged to take part in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This involves independent study on a topic of the pupil's choice which goes beyond the A-level specifications. Pupils are supported in this by taught Study Skills lessons and by their staff mentors. The EPQ is highly regarded by many universities and employers.

Information about the subjects available in the Sixth Form can be found on the following pages. It is important that pupils ensure that their subject choices are consistent with any of their future plans and aspirations. Advice will be available from all subject teachers as well as staff involved with careers and university applications. Before making their choices, pupils will have access to information on university entry and, in the period following the publication of GCSE results in August, pastoral staff and Heads of Departments will be available for advice and support.

Alongside the extensive co-curricular programme, the academic opportunities in the Sixth Form at Wisbech Grammar School provide pupils with every opportunity to be successful and to become independent, well-rounded and well-qualified members of society. We look forward to working with them and supporting them on this important stage of their educational journey.

Mike Forrest
Deputy Head Academic

Option Information



Biology

Biology is an exciting and dynamic subject to study to A-level. New ideas in research and discovery quickly find their way into the specification. Recent additions include gene therapy, genetic control, and the commercial application of enzyme technology. Theory lessons are backed up with relevant experimental work. These include physiology investigations, dissections, microscope work and ecological field work.

Most people can relate to Biology because it is so close to us - literally! There are two types of pupils who study Biology: those who want to study a biological based course at university (e.g. Medicine, Veterinary Science, etc.) and those who want a science-based facilitating A-level, valued by Russell Group universities. There is something in the course for everyone and it will stretch all pupils with its diversity and depth of topics.

Agriculture, Biochemistry, Conservation, Dentistry, Ecology, Food Science, Genetics and more: are all courses you can read at university with a Biology A-level.

The course currently offered at Wisbech Grammar School enables pupils to develop a solid understanding of a range of biological topics, including:

Human and cellular biology, DNA and biodiversity, photosynthesis and respiration, cells and organisms, and practical and investigative skills in Biology.

Chemistry

Sixth Form pupils choose this subject because they have enjoyed its study and been successful at GCSE. The continual synthesis of theory and experiment is an attractive combination for many pupils.

Chemistry is a vital component in virtually all science courses and is consequentially combined with other subjects such as Biology, Maths and Physics. However, it can also be successfully combined with many others.

Sixth Form pupils study for the examinations administered by OCR. Besides preparing for A-level, the department has considerable experience in preparing pupils for Oxbridge entrance.

Over the two years involved, all the work defined in the specification is taught in an integrated and logical way. However, material outside this is also covered wherever it helps in the understanding of the chemistry involved or reflects the interests and talents of the pupils.

Experimental work is carefully used to develop skills, and ranges from that intended to reinforce the

organic, inorganic and physical theory to open-ended and discovery practicals.

Our A-level Chemists go on to a wide variety of degree courses and many have commented on the importance of their time at Wisbech Grammar School's Chemistry Department in preparing them for university study.

Physics

How can things be in two places at once? Is time travel possible? What are the most fundamental building blocks of the Universe? How do every day machines work? The world is a bewilderingly complex place but, amazingly, it can be understood by using a small number of fundamental principles, particles and forces that govern their interactions. Physics is the study of these principles. You will find that Physics is truly all around you, in your iPod or mobile phone, in the stars you see at night and the sport that you watch on television. The skills that you can expect to develop are: analytical, mathematical, practical, social and ethical, all of which are increasingly sought after and will make you an attractive proposition for both universities and employers. Physics trains you to understand and interpret scientific information, to process data and solve problems. It develops your practical skills and encourages imagination and also common sense. You learn to analyse, to build mental pictures, to propose theories and to be critical.

To a large extent, the A-level Physics course begins by covering much the same subject matter as most GCSE courses, but the treatment is deeper, more rigorous and challenging. We study the equations of motion, properties of materials, electricity and circuits and then move onto study the very bizarre nature of the quantum world and the photoelectric effect. In the Upper Sixth, the content broadens considerably and we study a number of topics that are at the cutting edge of Physics research. We will study the quark model of matter, follow the most recent findings of the research at The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) and discover some of the secrets of the formation of the universe.

Physics is a challenging and interesting subject which will help you to understand the world and universe around you. A-level Physics is also an important qualification for many careers. As well as Physics itself, these include Engineering, Electronics and Meteorology.

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of thought, emotion and behaviour, posing more questions than it has provided answers for. It is a fascinating, exciting and ever developing subject. The perfect course for those of you who want to understand people and the drivers of human behaviour, whilst developing your critical thinking. This understanding can be valuable in a diverse range of environments, and knowledge of psychology has a wide variety of career applications, from education, health and the economy, to crime, marketing and politics, to the work of professional psychologists, counsellors and therapists making a difference in people's lives.

Studying Psychology at A-level at Wisbech Grammar School is more than just the study of a science; the course allows you to engage in debates on contemporary issues with an awareness of a wealth of research. You will develop your analytical skills, training your brain to think beyond what is presented in front of you, challenging established findings that have been posed over the years, testing and questioning different theories, opinions and famous case studies.

Looking at why we think, feel and behave the way we do, you will improve your understanding of yourself and those around you, of human dynamics and behaviour. You will develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject, how they relate to each other and how they can be applied to everyday life.

Mathematics

We offer 2 options for A-level pupils of Mathematics.

Option 1 is to take Mathematics over 2 years in the same way as other A-level subjects.

Pupils will take a total of 3 papers at the end of the 2 year course on the OCR syllabus with the first paper testing pure mathematics, the second paper contains pure maths and statistics and the third paper contains pure maths and mechanics.

The minimum recommended grade to enjoy and succeed on this course is an A at GCSE, but preferably an A*. For the new graded GCSE, this translates to a minimum of a 7, but preferably an 8 or 9.

The A-level requires hard work, accuracy, attention to detail and a well organised approach. There is a heavy emphasis on pure mathematics which at A-level means being very good at algebra. Therefore year 11 pupils wishing to take A-level maths should focus on improving their algebraic skills and becoming confident with all the algebra topics which they tackle.

Option 2 is to cover the full Mathematics A-level course in the Lower Sixth, as described above, giving pupils the opportunity to then take a second A-level, Further

Mathematics, in the Upper Sixth. This will involve a further 4 papers, consisting of 2 papers of Further Pure Mathematics and then papers in Statistics and Mechanics.

This option will give pupils the highly valued double A-level in Mathematics which is extremely useful when applying for mathematics, physics and engineering subjects at top universities. The minimum recommended grade to succeed and enjoy Further Mathematics is an A*, (or grade 8 or 9 on the new system) at GCSE Mathematics. Further Mathematics is a subject for gifted mathematicians with high aspirations of tackling mathematical, financial, mechanical or physics courses at university. It is a challenging A-level, but highly rewarding.

English

Why study books, many of them are old? Why write about things that other people have written? Why, in other words, take an A-level in English Literature? Well, it's something to do with language...

Without language, we are not human. Without meaning, language is just random sounds or confusing marks on a page. The pupil studying English Literature looks into the meanings that language conveys. Through studying a literary text, he or she explores ideas, emotions and possibilities – and not just those put there by the author; his or her own thoughts and feelings are important, too. The English Literature pupil develops intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and an ability to render arguments in clear, sustained prose.

The OCR specification is followed. For the full A-level, this involves three components, two assessed by external, closed book, examinations and one assessed by a folder of coursework. Component 1 is examined and contains two sections. The first is based on a work by Shakespeare while the second calls for comparison of a pre-1900 play with a poetry text from the same broad era. Component 2 is more broad-ranging, organising its material thematically (examples of themes being 'American Literature 1880 - 1940' and 'Dystopia'); pupils again have to compare and contrast two linked texts, as well as perform a practical criticism exercise on a relevant unseen extract. Again, this is examined by an externally set and marked paper. Component 3, however, is a coursework unit that is internally set. For this, candidates study three texts, again linked by theme, and produce two pieces of writing; the first is a close reading of a textual extract and the second is a comparative essay. All of these tasks are designed to encourage wider reading of contextual material and other critics - indeed, the assessment objectives require both.

So: to be an English pupil or not to be an English pupil? That is the question.



Geography

Geography is stimulating, inspiring and challenging. It provides pupils with the ability to view social, economic and environmental issues from a wider perspective, as well as understand core physical processes which shape the Earth. Studying A-level Geography at Wisbech Grammar School is more than just the study of a science; it provides an insight into understanding the world around us through the contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

Geographers are taught a wide-ranging combination of skills (communication, teamwork, management, analytical and spatial) that are recognised and desired by employers. The breadth of material covered means that Geography is regarded as a facilitator subject by Russell Group universities as it combines well with a wide variety of other subjects bridging both the Sciences and Arts.

The specification has a strong emphasis on Physical Processes and Landforms, plus a fieldwork based coursework investigation. There are 4 units of study, Dynamic Landscapes (Tectonics, Glaciated Landscapes), Physical Systems and Sustainability (Water Cycle, Carbon Cycle and Climate Change Futures), Dynamic Places (Globalisation, Regenerating Places) and Human Systems and Geopolitics (Superpowers, Global Development).

In addition, pupils will complete a 3000-4000 word, independent geographical investigation. To support this, an optional 3 day trip to a Field Studies Centre in the UK will be undertaken, during which pupils will practise the skills required for their investigation. They will then have a further 5 days of fieldwork to collect their data under supervision. In the Trinity Term of the Lower Sixth, Assessment will involve three exams and the coursework investigation; papers 1 and 2 test knowledge of core units and geographical skills, whilst paper 3 covers a synoptic investigation of a geographical issue. The coursework investigation will contribute 20% towards the final grade.

History

History is an important and highly relevant subject. Whether on a personal, local, national or international level, our identity, values and what we hope for in the future are largely defined by what we have been in the past.

A-level History develops an informed and enquiring mind. At Wisbech Grammar School we teach the AQA A-level specification. The History course is built around two main units, one studying the rise and fall of the British Empire and the other examining the birth of the USA. These two units are complemented with coursework focused on German History. A-level History requires the study of sources, interpretations as well as traditional essay writing.

A-level History is a subject that is valued by universities and employers alike. Alongside the Heritage industry, History aids careers in law, economics, politics and the media. The course we teach helps pupils to understand Britain's place in the world, both Historic and present. It also explains to our pupils the principles and values that shaped the founding of the USA, a nation that continues to have enormous power and influence in the world today.

The A-level course is enriched with many opportunities for debate, trips and guest lectures.

A-level History results and student feedback have both been excellent and many pupils have opted to study the subject at degree level. It is certainly true that studying the past will brighten your future!



Religious Studies

The course offers pupils a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints.

Pupils gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.

Religious Studies is a thought provoking subject and the contemporary themes will inspire engaging classroom discussion.

Religious Studies also complements the study of other subjects, particularly English Literature, and Humanities subjects such as History.

The qualification is weighted towards the study of Philosophy and Ethics, which is one of the most highly sought after subjects by institutions of further education as well as employers from all sectors.

It is not necessary to have studied Religious Studies at GCSE level in order to take this qualification.

Economics

Economics relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by government and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices.

Economics A-level at Wisbech Grammar School will equip you with the skills to explain who will get what, how they will get it and why. It is an engaging subject that can take you beyond the confines of school and out into the wider world. The course that we offer investigates the Micro and Macro environment of economic theory. We study the functions of markets and the behaviour of firms that operate within them. We focus on the wider global trade patterns and drivers for growth in world economies.

There are four themes:

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

Theme 4: A global perspective

You will be assessed through three examinations, using a range of different question styles. Lessons explore the core concepts as well as using current economical issues to add context to your learning. It is a robust subject which will develop your skills which you can then pursue further by studying Economics at University, or transfer those skills developed in other pathways.

Business

With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker, in Business you will learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. These skills are all highly sought

after and valued in a wide range of careers.

To study Business is to focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world. You'll explore a wide variety of different areas of business, from key internal functions, such as Finance and Marketing to Strategy and Globalisation. Studying Business A-level at Wisbech Grammar School will provide you with this exciting prospect and enable you to develop and apply your skills in readiness for a life beyond school.

The course is designed to give you the chance to develop and apply the full range of academic skills, while allowing the practical elements of business to be enjoyed. In Lower Sixth, the focus is on decision-making and in Upper Sixth, strategic decision making. You'll need to be prepared to keep up-to-date with business news and be prepared to discuss and consider the very real challenges 21st century businesses encounter.

The entire syllabus is assessed across three robust examinations, through a variety of different types of questions.

Government and Politics

Who tells you when you can vote? Or when you can drive? Or if Britain is going to go to war again? The people who make these decisions are elected by you and me, and this course tells you about them.

If you have an interest in current affairs, or if you care about how our country is being run, then the Government and Politics course will tell you all you need to know. In the first year we study the UK. This looks at the people in power in Parliament, as well as those on the outside in pressure groups and political parties who want to take power. In the Upper Sixth, attention is turned to the USA where Congress is scrutinised alongside the President and the Supreme Court.

Pupils visit Parliament for a tour and Cambridge for a debating competition. You will get to meet guest speakers and famous politicians. You will also get to know what you can do for your country, and what it has done for you.

Computing

In Computing we give pupils a thorough grounding in how computers work from the inside-out, and how they can be used to solve real-world problems. A-level Computing is an exciting and challenging course covering a broad range of technical skills and theoretical knowledge. At its heart a practical subject, pupils will develop their coding abilities using a range of programming tools, and by applying their skills to a host of real situations.

In addition to traditional examinations, pupils are practically assessed by solving programming problems in an IT suite under examination conditions. Pupils also undertake an extended practical project on a topic of their choice, usually creating a bespoke piece of software.





French

Would you like to improve your French skills to a near-fluency level? Would you like to improve your confidence in speaking in public? Would you like to boost your annual salary by £48,000 (The Economist, March 2014)? Then French A-level is for you!

Your listening, reading and writing skills will be developed by reading articles and online magazines and accessing videos on the topics of current trends of French-speaking society (family, education and work) and artistic culture (music, media and festivals) as well as the in-depth study of one novel, *No et Moi* (2007) and one film, *Intouchables* (2012). Your speaking skills will be developed to almost fluency level by group discussions, debates, as well as one-to-one weekly conversations with native speakers in the department. We regularly run cross-curricular trips to France in conjunction with the Food and Nutrition department, and these have been highly regarded by participants as a way of enhancing their studies in an enjoyable way.

In today's world, the need for language speakers remains as high as ever. Recently, Russell Group universities have indicated a strong interest in pupils with a language at A-level for their medicine course. Law and journalism also remain popular combinations with an A-level in French.

German

German is spoken by around 100 million people worldwide and is, as such, the most widely used language in the European Union.

It is spoken natively by people in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and there are fairly large German-speaking communities in parts of the USA and Australia. Given the amount of trade that British companies do with their German-speaking counterparts, employees who have a good knowledge of German are highly sought after – this will be even more true in post-Brexit Britain.

Studying German at A-level offers you the chance to develop a wide range of transferable skills. By the end of the course, you will be able to communicate confidently in spoken German, as well as having gained a deeper understanding of cultural topics. As an A-level, it is extremely well regarded by higher education institutions and employers. The topics we study are: the environment, education, work, music, media and festivals, as well as the in-depth study of the film *Goodbye Lenin*, which is set in post-soviet Germany. We will also tackle literature and a wider range of topics, following the Edexcel exam board.

All aspects of grammar will be taught through authentic, topic-based materials, enabling pupils to produce accurate and complex pieces of writing.

Spanish

Spanish is a wonderful language with a rich cultural heritage. It has roughly the same number of first language speakers as English and is continually growing. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be 530 million Spanish speakers in the world, 38 million of whom will be living in the USA.

Our courses aim to develop in greater depth the four communication skills studied at GCSE (listening, speaking, reading and writing) by studying topical issues through the medium of Spanish.

Topic areas studied are: family, work, tourism, music, festivals and media, as well as the film *El laberinto del fauno*. All pupils will be encouraged to participate in the week long language and culture course in Salamanca during the Easter holiday.

In addition to the language-based professions such as teaching, interpreting and translating, there are many other disciplines in which knowledge of Spanish is secondary to other skills, but is an added bonus to employers: travel and tourism, sales, purchasing, marketing, banking, journalism, medicine, engineering... the list is endless. In fact, many university courses (including Medicine) welcome a languages qualification at A-level.

Physical Education

If you thought that PE was all about playing games then you would be wrong; it is far more interesting than that. Sport has been an integral part of everyday life since man began to walk the earth and it is from these humble beginnings that it has grown into the multidimensional and extraordinarily commercial business that it is today.

During the two-year course you will study 4 units. Half is theory, which studies Psychology, Physiology, History and contemporary issues whilst using the Olympic Games as a model to look at drug abuse, cheating and the problems of professional sport. The other half is coursework where you can analyse and further your skills so that you can perform at your best in your chosen practical areas.

Pupils with A-level Physical Education have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. As PE combines with a range of other subjects, it supports applications for a variety of university courses such as Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Recreation Management and Leisure Studies. Careers in teaching, fitness, recreational management, the armed forces and the civil service are also possible.

Art

Art at A-level is suited to those who have a genuine interest in the subject and want to develop their creativity. The course aims to discover and develop your personal creative direction. In order to do this you will be stretched to improve your practical skills in the use of a range of media. You will also be asked to show critical thinking about your own work and the work of professional artists. You will be encouraged to visit exhibitions, galleries and, if possible, artists' studios. Local, national and international trips and visits are arranged periodically.

As well as having an excellent record of A-level results, the Art Department gives pupils support with the preparation of a portfolio for interviews. Some of the careers our past pupils have taken up are professional artists, teachers, architects, advertising creatives, graphic designers, product designers and illustrators.

Pupils who are determined that their future is in the Art and Design area may take two of the Art courses on offer (Art, Graphics, Textiles). A-level Art is a respected subject and it can complement other subjects well when applying to university for many courses.

Graphics

Animation, illustration, TV and digital advertising, graphic design, marketing: these are some of the careers past Wisbech Grammar School Graphics pupils are now working in, at the very highest level.

Graphics, quite simply, is all about getting a message across in an effective way; it takes a degree of creative thinking and perseverance as well as the ability to use a wide range of skills, which the A-level course will teach you.

Typography, illustration, packaging creation and animation are some of the areas that you will cover during the course. As well as regular reviews of your work, you will obtain specialist support with your portfolio to assist with future university and employment applications. Pupils who are determined that their future is in the Art and Design area may take two of the Art courses on offer (Art, Graphics, Textiles).

You do not need to be a dedicated graphic designer to choose Graphical Communication; you may wish to choose Graphics to complement your other A-level choices just because you are a creative person and wish to continue your understanding of how the modern visual world is changing. For example, you may have a keen interest in photography that could be developed further in this course.

Textiles

The simple fact is that fashion, textiles and design are part of everyday life, wherever we live, and whatever we do; from choosing what clothes to put on in the morning to the decoration of a Mongolian yurt, fashion, design, style, art – they are all linked.

This course will allow you to explore and experiment as you grow in confidence as a design pupil. You will be immersed in hands-on creative projects very quickly and through visual research you will explore colour, pattern and mark making and become proficient in surface pattern design. Alongside projects in a range of textile materials such as print, collage, resist, mixed media, sculpture, fashion or interior design you will also use techniques and software such as Illustrator and Photoshop.

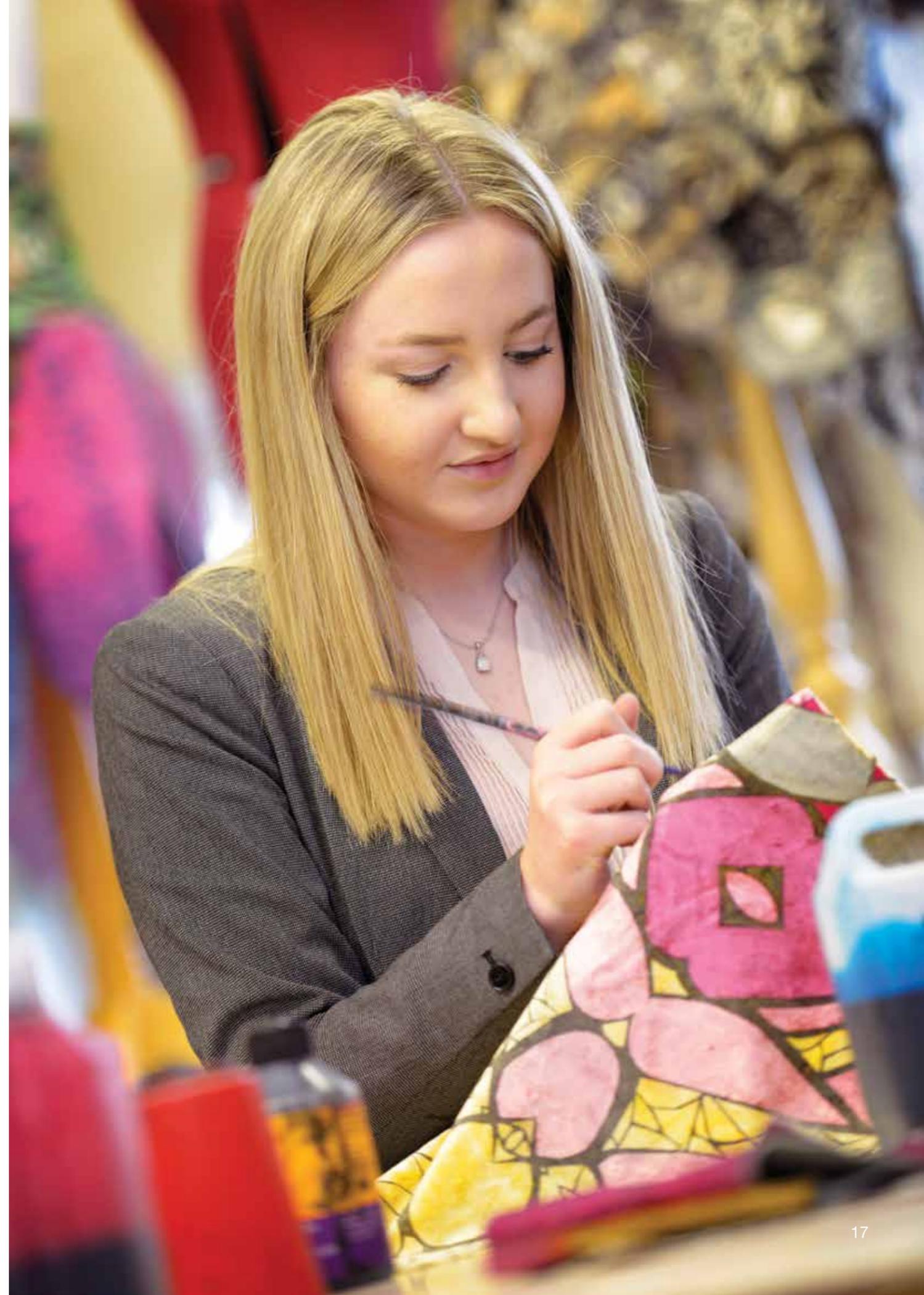
We will support you to develop the confidence to be independent and create original work that pushes your ideas and techniques. If you want to learn, explore and be challenged, think about studying Textiles and join this highly successful department.

Design and Technology Product Design

The new 2017 Design and Technology Product design A level course has been devised after consultation between the exam boards, James Dyson, the Design & Technology Teachers Association and the Engineering council to equip young designers and engineers of the future with the skills they will need for an ever increasing technical workplace. The Product Design course achieves these aims through a 2 year linear course with no AS qualification that develops an individual's core technological knowledge and their practical creativity, innovative flair and capability.

Pupils will study core technological principles including scientific and maths appropriate to originating sustainable and responsible design concepts which will be assessed as a 2 ½ hour exam at the end of the 2 year course which counts for 50 % of their final A level grade.

During the first year of the course pupils will complete small practical exercises in the workshop to develop their practical skills before moving onto their major coursework. This will start during the Lent term of the L6th year and finish at Lent Half term of the U6th year with the final project being unveiled at the coursework presentation evening before the Easter break. The coursework will consist of a 40 page A3 portfolio a high quality working prototype of their product to the requirements of a specific client ready for commercial production. The coursework will also count towards 50 % of the final A level grade.





Music

In the words of Albert Einstein: 'The greatest scientists are artists as well'. Music is an integral part of everyday life and is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. AQA A-level Music offers the chance to study a wide range of musical genres, through listening, performance and composition, building on the skills developed through GCSE.

The course has a degree of flexibility within it that enables pupils to focus on areas of personal interest. Alongside the study of western art music, there are opportunities to explore pop and jazz, as well as how music is used in media and theatre. The compositional component encourages pupils to develop their own style, in addition to learning about the way music has been crafted by other composers. Performing is the way in which we engage with music on a very personal level, and is an essential aspect of the way in which musicians learn about music.

Music A-level supports progression to Higher Education in music and related subjects, as well as providing all pupils with a platform to inspire a lifelong interest and enjoyment of music. Studying Music at A-level will help you build your problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as develop your creativity.

Possible careers in music include performing, composing and arranging, education and music therapy, music administration and management, music production and the wider creative industries.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Alfred Hitchcock famously asked 'What is drama but life with the boring bits cut out?' and this qualification would agree with that sentiment whole-heartedly. OCR's A-level in Drama and Theatre has been designed to be a practical, engaging and creative specification for learners to study. It will provide them with opportunities to interrogate drama and the work of others, to explore a range of drama as a practical art form, and to work independently to create their own drama performances making informed artistic choices.

The exam consists of 60% practical examination and 40% written paper. The practical work involves both a practitioner-inspired devised piece and a scripted performance. The written papers require the study of three set texts.

The main purpose of this qualification is to allow learners to study drama and theatre in an academic setting, interrogating this art form and applying their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and theatre and to their own performance work. There are no set texts in the non-exam components so that teachers should have the freedom to choose the texts which are best suited to their learners. This specification provides that freedom.

The studying of Drama & Theatre does not pigeon-hole

you into a life within the Performing Arts sector: the subject helps to create independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make them stand out as they progress through their education and into employment. However, if acting, musical theatre or technical theatre is where you want to go there couldn't be a better qualification for you.

Food Science and Nutrition - Level 3 Diploma

It is an exciting time in food education. Every day in the UK the food industry feeds over 27 million households, that is nearly 64 million people, through the efforts of many hundreds of thousands of people working in different parts of the food chain. Food is the largest manufacturing sector and the largest private sector employer in the UK. The hospitality market is expected to grow by 1.8% with careers in event management, hotel management, business development and executive chef positions.

Food education is changing. We have a brand new course to offer in the Sixth Form, designed to be studied alongside A-levels, the Diploma offers an understanding of food science and nutrition relevant to many industries and job roles.

Next time you are out food shopping, pause for a moment, then try to visualise how all the food products got into your local supermarket, restaurant or corner shop. Cookery items feature everywhere in television programmes, magazines and advertisements. In hospitals, dieticians, care providers and nutritionists work with patients to formulate their diets. Sports coaches and fitness instructors need to understand nutrition in order to advise on best performance and training. Product development technologists, food stylists, food scientists, engineers, food marketers and food journalists are just some of the experts working in the food and drink industry.

The Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition can lead to one of many different food degrees on offer or to a variety of other non-food based courses. The Diploma is awarded on a four point scale: Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. Each has UCAS points equivalent to A-level. So for example Distinction is comparable to an A and is worth 120 UCAS points. It is a recognised qualification at universities. Modules include nutritional needs in various contexts, the science of food safety, experimenting to solve food production problems and current issues in food.

Assessment is undertaken through a written examination, an externally marked assessment and an internally marked task. Lessons are split into theory and practical sessions where design proposals are explored, dishes are invented and product testing is undertaken. Culinary skills are developed to include techniques such as sauce making, pasta making, bread making, pastry making and meat handling. Eating is obligatory!

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Alongside their A-levels, pupils in the Sixth Form are encouraged to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an A-level equivalent qualification that can be worth up to 28 UCAS points. The EPQ has been designed to develop a pupil's research and investigative skills and allows them to embark on a largely self-directed project. This helps pupils develop the independent learning and extended academic writing skills essential for success at university.

Pupils identify a suitable research question or task and then plan, research and develop their idea. A project topic can be related to a pupil's chosen university course, future career aspirations or simply be related to an area of interest or a hobby.

The final outcome of the EPQ can be in the form of a dissertation (5000 words) or, for those who seek to produce a practical outcome, this can be in the form of an artefact or performance, supported by a comprehensive written report of approximately 1000 words. As marks for the EPQ are awarded for evidence of the project process as well as the final outcome, pupils will need to fully evidence the development of their project by submitting a detailed production log and delivering an assessed presentation.

The EPQ is highly valued by universities because it extends a pupil's ability to plan, research and write autonomously. It is also a useful introduction to the conventions of academic writing. The value placed upon the EPQ is also reflected in the policies of a number of universities, including several from the Russell Group.

“As a pupil on path for university, doing an extended piece of research by myself quickly taught me the importance of self-motivation. Teachers don't chase you for work at university, and they don't give you pre-prepared handouts or summaries of lectures: if you want to learn in adult life, you have to do it for yourself, and, in the majority of cases the amount of effort you put in is directly proportional to your grade. This is something the EPQ illustrates perfectly. Of course along with all these very practical advantages, there is the fact that you get to learn about something you are fascinated by. You don't have to do topics already selected for you, or what is thought best for a subject by your teachers, you just have to find an area you love and roll with it”



Charley Brown, Head Girl and Leaver 2016

(whose EPQ achieved an A* and got her an Unconditional Offer)





Onward Journey

Although most of pupils from the School apply to a university, no young person should feel they are on a 'conveyor belt', and the processes of discernment and decision-making are nurtured in many different contexts of School life. In conjunction with their tutors, the Senior Tutor, Oxbridge Coordinator and Careers Officer pupils are well prepared for life after School with many courses and events organised for specific year groups, and comprehensive programme of enrichment to inspire and encourage our pupils' independence of thought and action.

The majority of our pupils go on to top universities in the UK including Oxford, Cambridge and members of the Russell Group (a higher percentage than both the national and the Independent sector figures); a growing number apply to colleges in the United States. Applications to medical schools are also very popular. All Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Form pupils take part in events and tutorials covering career opportunities, university choices, application procedures and writing personal statements.

“ This year 75% of our university applicants entered their first-choice university, a figure we are proud of. We also take great pride in our willingness to help pupils through the process of Clearing, re-application or finding an alternative career pathway ”



Wisbech Grammar School
47 North Brink
Wisbech
Cambridgeshire
PE13 1JX

t: 01945 586 750
e: Admissions@WisbechGrammar.com
w: WisbechGrammar.com