

Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL SIXTH FORM 2018-20

Big enough to be a vibrant place of learning; small enough to know you personally

WELCOME from Dan Bishop, Director of Sixth Form

I am delighted to introduce you to the Sixth Form at SWGS. Our Sixth Form, rated Outstanding by OfSTED, is run in collaboration with Bishop Wordsworth's School, and is the largest school sixth form in Wiltshire, enabling us to offer nearly 30 A-Level subjects. We are delighted that, each year, up to around 90 students join us for the sixth form, making up between 35% and 45% of each year group. At the heart of everything we do are four key values:

1. **Vibrant learning:** central to everything we do is to ensure that you have an outstanding educational experience. The teachers here have a real depth of subject knowledge and we always strive to make your academic experience an exciting one which helps to develop your interest in the subject. As well as this, we have a variety of additional support in place to ensure that you make the very best possible progress in your time with us. This ranges from regular subject help sessions to academic mentoring. Our aim is to ensure that absolutely nobody feels unsupported and that all students feel confident about their work.
2. **Caring for each student:** we care about every individual in the sixth form and, as such, place a real emphasis on pastoral care. We want to do everything we can to support you in the sixth form, so if you have a concern, no matter how big or small, talk to someone. We have a really well developed support network, and there is always someone to talk to whether it is your form tutor, your head of year, the school counsellor or chaplain. We will spend as much time as it takes to help you and will do our best to make sure that you are happy.
3. **Community:** one of the great things about the sixth form is the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. But more than this, we place a substantial emphasis on the importance of building positive, respectful and thoughtful relationships with each other; on the recognition what we do and say has an impact on everyone else; and on the development of an outlook which goes beyond simply what we can gain for ourselves, but on how we fit into society and on how you – as young people – can make a positive impact on others.
4. **Develop fulfilled and prepared young people:** we seek to ensure that you leave school as confident, self-aware and independent people, who have a sense of where they are going in life. As part of this, we do our best to ensure that you have a really good range of extra-curricular experiences and provide you with the very best possible careers and personal development advice. Whatever you want to do, whether it is to begin your career straight from school, go to Oxford or Cambridge, be a vet or a medic, complete an art foundation course or an acting course, we will work with you – so that we do what's best for you.

If you need any information about the school, please do not hesitate to contact me at sixthform@swgs.wilts.sch.uk or on 01722 323326. I very much look forward to meeting you.



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In my moment of panic, the school offered me very personal support

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

So many teachers are willing to give you time

Help is so accessible

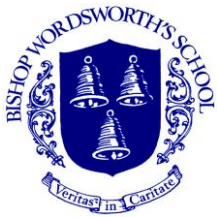
Ellie joined SWGS from Trafalgar School in 2015 and is studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Geography and the EPQ.

The support from the teachers in all my subjects is fantastic. You never do anything by yourself. I have felt really included in every aspect of school life and I have really enjoyed it.

The school does a great deal to help us; they really do care

Laura joined SWGS from Lavington School in 2015 and is studying Politics, History and English Literature

South Wilts Grammar has allowed me to achieve my potential with good teaching staff and facilities. The sixth form team are great at advising you on how to get to where you want to go after South Wilts, whether it be university, full time work or an apprenticeship, they seriously know their stuff! Coming from Lavington meant it wasn't a massive change in terms of size so I settled in quickly and now have a good group of friends.



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SOUTH WILTS – AN OUTSTANDING SIXTH FORM

When Ofsted last inspected the sixth form, they judged it to be outstanding. We are proud to be a sixth form where we have excellent academic opportunities, excellent pastoral care and prepare students really well for their future.

- Results have been consistently outstanding over many years. In 2017, **75%** of all grades were at **A*-B**, with a **99.2% pass rate**.
- We are proud that when our students left SWGS, they went to around **50 different institutions** and went on to university, employment, apprenticeships, art foundation courses, and further education.
- **64%** of students who went to university in 2017 are at Russell Group or **high-tariff institutions**, including Bath, St Andrews and The Royal Veterinary College, which are not part of the Russell Group
- **56%** of students who went to university in 2017 are at **Russell Group** universities
- **12 students** (8% of the university cohort) went to **Oxford or Cambridge**



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WHAT YOU WILL STUDY – THE SWGS BACCALAUREATE

The chance to enjoy your academic subjects, pursue your passions, give back to the community, be prepared for the world of work

All A-Levels are now linear. This means that all exams will be taken at the end of Year 13. We have used this as an opportunity to develop an exciting new programme which we have called the SWGS Baccalaureate. To gain the SWGS Baccalaureate, you will need to complete all of these elements:

- CORE A-LEVELS:** You choose **3 A-Levels** from the list of subjects offered at BWS or SWGS
- ADDITIONAL SUBJECT:** You choose from either **Further Maths OR Level 3 Core Maths OR the EPQ**. Level 3 Core Maths offers you the opportunity to continue to learn Maths if you are not taking the A-Level and supports those subjects, such as the Sciences, Geography, Psychology and Business which have Maths content. In the EPQ, you can pursue a subject of your choice, and either write up a research project or produce an artefact or put on a performance/ organise an event. There really is something for everybody!
- ENRICHMENT:** You choose enrichment activities. This is another opportunity to follow your passions. There will be lots of different activities to choose from, and something which will appeal to everybody. Examples include:
 - Creative writing
 - Beginners' languages
 - The Arts Award
 - Sport – e.g. swimming, volleyball, gym
 - and lots, lots more...
- VOLUNTEERING:** We think it is important that our students give back to the community. So we will work with you to set up volunteering opportunities, and you will gain an accredited award through the V-Inspire programme
- WORK EXPERIENCE:** Finally, we want you to leave us well prepared for the world of work, so as part of your study programme, you will undertake compulsory work experience which we will organise with and for you.





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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO APPLY

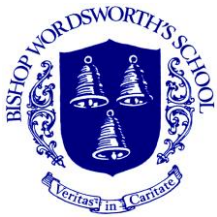
You may know that the majority of GCSEs are now marked on the 9-1 numerical scale. (There are still a few subjects graded A* to G, and iGCSEs have also retained this system). The new pass (broadly equivalent to a C grade, will be a 5). We have therefore set our entry requirements as follows:



6 GCSEs at a minimum of C or 5, with a 5 in English Language and Mathematics or Science

To date, everybody who has met our entry requirements and has wanted a place has been able to attend our school.

We recognise that, because this is the first year with the new GCSE system in place for most subjects, it is not always clear what national results will look like. Therefore, if you have just missed the general entry requirements, or those of a specific subject, please come in on registration day and we will do our best to work with you to find a suitable programme.



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THE PASTORAL SUPPORT AND CARE WE OFFER...

Individualised support is at the heart of what we offer.

- Each student will be assigned a **tutor** who will look after their social and academic welfare
- Each student will have a **Head of Year** who will work closely with them. We make sure that between 8am and 5pm, there is always a member of the sixth form staff available if students need somebody to talk to.
- We have a **careers and personal development officer** who is in school three days each week. She is available to students for appointments or drop-ins each day.
- We have a **school counsellor** who works very closely with a number of our students.
- We have a **lay chaplain** who has dedicated slots for working with our sixth formers.
- We offer **academic student mentoring**. Our Year 13 senior mentors work with Year 12 students to support them in a range of subjects.
- We also offer **financial support** through our sixth form bursary and, dependent on circumstances, this can be used to pay for **travel** and other essential school items. Further details are available on the sixth form section of the website.



In short, you will never be on your own. We are always here to support you if and when you need it.



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KEY DATES for 2018 applications

Open Afternoons for applicants who are new to the school:

Introductory talk by the Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form

Friday 3 November 2017 at 2.30pm (followed by guided tour) and 3.30 pm
Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 2.30pm (followed by guided tour) and 3.30 pm

Joint Open Evening for All Applicants:

An information evening for prospective students and parents to come and talk to staff and present students and find out about the courses offered.

Wednesday 15 November 2017 At SWGS 6.00pm – 8.00pm At BWS 5.00pm – 7.00pm

Closing Date for Applications

Thursday 1 February 2018

Induction/Taster Day:

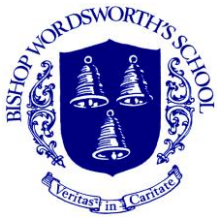
An Induction Afternoon and Taster Day will be held for all successful candidates.

Induction Afternoon: Tuesday 26 June Taster Day: Wednesday 27 June

Registration Day:

Students are required to confirm their place with us following GCSE results release.

Thursday 23 August 2018



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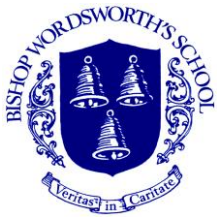
CAREERS GUIDANCE – fantastic support...

Careers Guidance is seen as a continuous process, providing impartial support throughout the period of Sixth Form study. Last summer, we were awarded the Career Mark for the second time which is a 'mark of excellence, representing national accreditation and recognition'. Students told the assessor **"The school supports everyone, no matter what option they are considering. It is a culture of support and interest in everyone, whether they are looking at a job or at Oxbridge"; "It feels a very healthy environment, because we are all supported and valued equally".**

You will have the opportunity to discuss your ideas with your tutor and Mrs Short, our Careers Adviser who will guide you towards your right career path. You can drop in, email or make an appointment for an interview. You are advised to have at least one meeting with Mrs Short a year, happily many students opt for more. As stated in the Career Mark Quality Award judgement, **"The focus on 1:1 support is considerable and clearly appreciated by students; they feel supported and known as individuals which for many has a clear link to confidence in planning (and reduced stress levels)."**

Our tailor made programme has been designed with you in mind bringing together all aspects of what employers and universities want from young people as well as student feedback. It not only covers careers, but as important, personal development so that you can succeed within those careers. The programme includes conferences such as our STEM and Post 18 Choices events, each introducing you to a variety of Post 18 and career opportunities. In addition, booklets are given out at relevant times throughout the year to assist you with your research, application and transition to university or employment. One student said the programme felt **"carefully planned"** and **"so well honed that we were drip fed all the information we needed and at the right time."** We also work with the Employer Enterprise Programme which links us to local and national employers to act as speakers, mentors and work experience placements.

Alongside our general programme, we have specialist programmes for all aspects of post-18 study, including apprenticeships, employment, Oxbridge, medics and vets, primary school teaching – no-one is left on their own! Work experience, volunteering and recording your achievements and experiences are compulsory parts of your study programme, enhancing your own offering as a potential HE student or employee.



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Throughout the academic year, Mrs Short, teachers and external speakers give talks to Sixth Formers and, when necessary, parents including:

- The range of opportunities Post 18 and the implications
- How to choose your higher education course and institution
- Employment and alternatives to Higher Education
- Specialist areas of Higher Education such as Medicine, Veterinary Science & Oxbridge
- Applying to UCAS and Personal Statements
- CVs, applications forms and Interviews
- Interview workshops including Multiple Mini Interviews for health professionals, telephone interviews,
- Ex-student experiences
- Student Finance
- Budgeting and Finance
- Gap Years, working in industry, voluntary work
- What employers and admissions tutors are looking for
- Speakers from a number of professions visit school to talk about their work
- To learn how to manage an Open Day
- Joint Higher Education and Careers fair with over 70 exhibitors
- Transition for leaving school



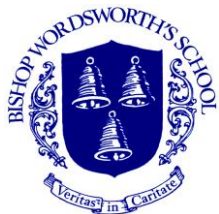
We are totally committed to helping you achieve your future dreams and will support you from the moment you begin in Year 12, until you need it, which may even include helping you once you have left SWGS.

“The school want us to decide what is right for us; the decision making is ours, but they enable us to do it”.

“The school have made me realise my options for the future are open, not set in stone”

“The school do a great deal to help us, they really do care. I can't fault the service.”

Bishop Wordsworth's School · South Wilts Grammar School



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FAQs – choosing subjects

Does it matter what subject combination I take?

It depends on what you want to do when you leave school. Some degree courses require particular subjects – see next question. Some of the most competitive universities also prefer students to offer at least two more traditional subjects at A-Level. You will be able to discuss your choices when you come in for your options guidance meeting in February.

Do some degrees / courses require particular subjects?

Yes – for some careers such as Medicine a particular group of subjects will be essential. Otherwise no - a useful qualification can be achieved from a wide variety of combinations. For example, an essay subject will give skills which would be complemented by a practical subject or a mathematical subject. Take expert advice.

- Architecture: a good art portfolio is required, and an ability to draw. An interest in the History of Art is helpful. Mathematics is needed at least to good GCSE standard and for more engineering based / technical architectural courses, Mathematics and Physics A Levels may be necessary, as may Art.
- Biology: Chemistry is often required.
- Computer Science: A Level Mathematics is required.
- Economics: A Level Mathematics is required by most universities. At Cambridge University, A Level Further Mathematics is required.
- Engineering: A Level Mathematics, and sometimes Further Mathematics, is required.
- Law: applicants should ensure they have studied a logic-based subject (e.g. Mathematics, a science, a modern language, Philosophy and Ethics) as well as a discursive subject (e.g. History, English).
- Maths: Further Maths is often required or preferred.
- Medicine: Chemistry is crucial (despite some courses saying that they will take students that just have AS Chemistry, A Level is better preparation); most courses also require Biology.
- Music: at least grade 5 is required.
- Natural Sciences at Cambridge: A Level Mathematics is required for the Physical Sciences and recommended for the Biological Sciences.
- PPE at Oxford: A Level Mathematics is favoured.
- Psychology: Biology or Maths is often required.

Is it worth beginning a new subject at A Level?

Yes - this is an excellent opportunity to try something new. Several A level subjects do not require you to have studied them at GCSE so they will be new for everyone (Economics, Politics, Geology, Classical Civilisation, Psychology, Business Studies).

Can I change my course once I have started in the Sixth Form?

Yes - after an initial trial period of one week, if you realise that you wish to change. Course changes can be made in the first half of the Autumn Term. Take advice from your tutor, teachers, careers adviser and sixth form staff.

Note: we fully expect to run all our courses but reserve the right to discontinue a course if there is not sufficient demand.



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ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Applications from students at other schools in Year 11

We welcome applications from students studying at other schools in Year 11 and can admit up to 90 external candidates to the Sixth Form every year. Candidates must meet the entry requirements.

Admission to the Sixth Form

The published admission number (in addition to any girls transferring from Year 11 at the school) is 90. All students in the Sixth Form are required to have achieved six GCSEs at Grades A* to C or 5 or above, with a 5 in English Language and 5 in Maths or 5 in Science, preferably with an A/7 or B/6 in the subjects chosen at AS or A level or in a related subject, although each case will be treated on its merits. A separate booklet giving information about the Sixth Form is available on request. There is no guarantee that students will be able to study their preferred combination of courses.

Applications for a place in the Sixth Form are made directly to the school using the form called The Option Choices for Sixth Form.

1 Admission of pupils with Special Educational Needs

- a) The school admits pupils with Special Educational Needs who can meet the entry criteria.
- b) Any girl who meets the entry requirements determined by this policy and who has a statement of special educational needs that names the School, will be offered a place irrespective of whether the School has places or not and these girls will take precedence over any pupils on the waiting list.
- c) The School operates an Equal Opportunities Policy to ensure equality of opportunity.

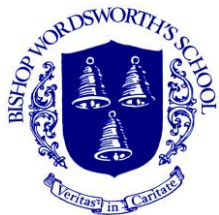
2 Under Age pupils or Gifted and Talented Pupils.

The school will consider an application from underage pupils provided it is supported by a recommendation from the child's current Headteacher. Generally we expect pupils already to have been working with the relevant year group for the last two years.

3 Oversubscription criteria and waiting lists

The offer of a place at South Wilts Grammar School depends on the availability of places at the school. The following order of priorities listed below will apply if the number of girls who have met the standard exceeds the number of places available: -

- a) Children in Care (Looked After Children) a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989).



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- b) Girls who live in the School's designated area. The address is the place where the child is permanently resident with her parent or parents or legal guardians. Documentary evidence of residence not more than 6 months old may be required (eg the child's NHS medical card and the parent's/guardian's recent utilities bill, bank statement or tenancy agreement, an Armed Forces posting order or a solicitor's letter confirming the exchange of contracts on a property). Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility each part of the week, the "home address" will be considered to be the address of the person whose name is on the child benefit statement (proof of this may be required).
- c) Girls who attract the pupil premium. Pupil Premium children are those who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'), children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel in the last four years (known as 'Ever 4'). Documentary evidence will be required by 2nd February.
- d) Girls who live outside the designated area and have a sister (this refers to a sister, half-sister, adopted sister, or the daughter of the parent / carer's partner, who in every case, is living in the same family unit at the same address) attending the school and living at the same residence on the date of admission of the child.
- e) Other girls in order of nearness to school as the crow flies. This will be measured from the centre of the school to the front door of the applicant's ordinary residence. (Distances supplied by the LA will be used and these will measure straight line distances using the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings of the home and the school address. Those with the least distance will be given priority. In the event of there being equal distances the priority will be decided by casting lots.)
- f) Distance will be used as the tie breaker in each criterion 6a) to e) with those living nearest the school given priority. Measurement will be as the crow flies as per criterion e) and in the event of being unable to separate applicants based on distance to the school priority will be decided by random allocation through casting lots.

The waiting list is governed by the oversubscription criteria listed above, irrespective of their time of application

Application procedure for SWGS Y11 students applying to other Sixth Forms

While we hope that the majority of Year 11 girls at South Wilts will continue into the Sixth Form, we recognise that some will want to consider a move to another institution for their sixth form studies. Girls considering this should speak with their Head of Year as soon as possible; they will be fully supported with references and advice as needed. We do ask, however, for written confirmation to be sent to the school as soon as a final decision has been made to go elsewhere.



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ART AND DESIGN AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This course will develop your interest and enjoyment of Art by studying and exploring your own personal practice. You will investigate through recording and experimenting with subject matter, composition, materials, techniques under influences from artist, in order to develop your project to resolving outcomes. The syllabus encourages a broad approach, which allows students to develop a sound grounding in a number of areas exploring their own art practice independently.

How will you learn?

Art is taught by a number of Specialist Art staff from different backgrounds. Eight lessons take place per week with 3 hours of homework allocated. The content of the course is taught through highly independent study of the assessment objectives, where staff facilitate and guide students through their personal development of projects. Sixth form students are able to use the sixth form art studio when it is vacant during their free periods. Students are given topics to choose from with the freedom to work in a variety of different ways, exploring new ideas, and experimenting with new techniques and materials.

What exams and coursework are involved?

A level students are expected to present for assessment one coursework unit; a 'Personal Investigation' which includes a 3000-word personal study of an aspect of historical/critical/contextual studies in Fine Art of the candidate's own choice and sit a fifteen-hour examination (over 3 days) in the second year.

It is the students' responsibility to select work which will reveal the full extent of their abilities and show evidence of investigation, recording, development of ideas, experimentation of processes, historical and critical influences on their work, as well as resolving outcomes.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Art. It is important that you feel confident in your drawing skill and ability to generate ideas, as well as your capability to work with independence, taking your own initiative to develop a successful project through all stages.

What could you do after completing the course?

An Art qualification will provide excellent training for visual, creative, ideas and decisions making lead courses and careers. The subject provides a strong basis for progression to Art and Design related qualifications such as the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or Higher Education courses. Many previous students have gone on to study Fashion, Print, Fine Art, Architecture at top Art schools and Universities including The Ruskin, Central St Martin's, Falmouth, UCL, Edinburgh, Brighton, Bournemouth. Studying Art could lead to many careers in the Arts industry, for example in Fashion, Illustration, Architecture, Advertising, Film, Animation, Theatre Design and Production.



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BIOLOGY

OCR A Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This Biology course aims to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other, develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods, develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills, develop students' interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject and understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

How will you learn?

Much of the course is taught but students will also carry out practical work, exam questions and presentations. Students' independent study will therefore focus on consolidation of the work covered and preparation for future lessons.

What will you learn?

Year 12: cell structure, biological molecules, enzymes, cellular transport, cell division and organisation, exchange and transport, disease and immunity, biodiversity, classification and evolution,

Year 13: cell structure, biological molecules, enzymes, cellular transport, cell division and organisation, exchange and transport, disease and immunity, biodiversity, classification and evolution, homeostasis, excretion, neuronal communication, hormonal communication, plant and animal responses, photosynthesis, respiration, cellular control, patterns of inheritance, manipulating genomes, cloning and biotechnology, ecosystems, populations and sustainability.

What exams and coursework are involved?

For A Level Biology there are three papers. The first two each contribute 37% each and cover aspects of the first and second year of the course. The final exam makes up 26% of the final grade, and covers all material from both years of the course.

The students are required to have carried out a minimum of 12 practical activities which will contribute towards the Practical Endorsement. This is graded separately to the exam, with either a 'Pass' or 'Fail'. Understanding of practical skills will be tested in the exams and make up 15% of the marks.

A further 10% of the examination marks come from mathematical skills.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Biology. 6 in GCSE Mathematics is needed; it is also recommended that students continue with some form of Mathematics eg. Level 3 Core Maths if not taking Mathematics. The Combined Science requirement is 66. 6 in Statistics will also be considered in place of a 6 in Maths, as long as a candidate has at least a 5 in Maths.

What could you do after completing the course?

Widely respected by universities Biology can act as a stepping stone towards: physiotherapy, medicine, teaching, research, forensics, environmental work, marine biology, sports therapy, pharmacology, nursing, conservation, dentistry, veterinary, microbiology, science journalism, genetics, biochemistry, speech therapy, horticulture, agriculture and more!



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BUSINESS

AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This A Level course allows an integrated and interactive approach to Business at Post 16. The course will:

- Enable candidates to focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world
- Provide opportunities for research into topical business issues
- Offer opportunities for the development and application of a full range of academic skills

Students cover 10 topics over the two year course. The specification introduces candidates to the challenges and issues of starting a business, including financial planning. It then explores the key internal functions of business and how the management of these functions can assist in improving the effectiveness and performance of a business, strategies for larger businesses and how these strategies may change according to circumstances. Finally, it considers the effects that external factors can have on businesses and how a business can plan for and manage change, including leadership style and change in business culture.

How will you learn?

Students will be required to investigate, analyse and evaluate business behaviour and activity. They will consider the influence of economic factors on business making. A lot of learning is carried out through structured case studies. A variety of techniques is used such as supported self-study, analysing Case Studies, reading and critically appraising business articles, entering competitions and developing an understanding of Enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

What exams and coursework are involved?

- **Unit 1:** Multiple Choice, Short Answer and Essay questions - Exam 2 hours
- **Unit 2:** Data Response questions - Exam 2 hours
- **Unit 3:** A Case Study followed by 6 questions - Exam 2 hours

What are the entry requirements?

You do not need to have studied Business Studies at GCSE. 6 is preferred in GCSE Maths and English. If you have studied Business Studies at GCSE, you need at least a grade 5.

What could you do after completing the course?

There is a wealth of degree courses in Business related studies at Universities and Colleges and Business combines well with other subjects. It provides an introduction to the professions or can take you directly into employment. Any career you decide to finally move into will involve you working in an environment which makes use of skills acquired through this course.



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CHEMISTRY

OCR A Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This Chemistry course aims to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other, develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods, develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills, develop students' interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject and understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

How will you learn?

Much of the course is taught but students will also carry out a variety of practical tasks. Students' independent study will focus on consolidation of the work covered through a range of review, extension and preparation tasks set by staff.

What will you learn?

Year 12: Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations, amount of substance, acid-base and redox reactions, electrons, bonding and structure, the periodic table and periodicity, group 2 and the halogens, qualitative analysis, enthalpy changes, reaction rates and equilibrium, basic concepts, hydrocarbons, alcohols and haloalkanes, organic synthesis and analytical techniques
Year 13: Reaction rates and equilibrium, pH and buffers, enthalpy, entropy and free energy, redox and electrode potentials, transition elements, aromatic compounds, carbonyl compounds, carboxylic acids and esters, nitrogen compounds, polymers, organic synthesis, chromatography and spectroscopy.

What exams and coursework are involved?

For the A level, there are three papers. The first two each contribute 37% and cover aspects of the first and second year of the course. The final exam makes up 26% of the final grade, and covers all material from both years of the course.

The Chemistry A level, requires students to have carried out a minimum of 12 practical activities which will contribute towards the Practical Endorsement, a separate grading to the exam grade, with either a 'Pass' or 'Fail'. Understanding of practical skills will be tested in the final exams and will make up 15% of the total marks.

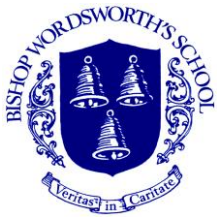
The question papers also assess mathematical skills, which will make up 20% of the marks.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Chemistry. 6 in GCSE Mathematics is needed; it is also recommended that students continue with some form of Mathematics eg. Level 3 Core Maths if not taking Mathematics. The Combined Science requirement is 66.

What could you do after completing the course?

Chemistry A level opens many doors. Medical, veterinary, dental and related careers generally require A-level Chemistry. Other areas are chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology, chemical engineering and many other subjects. The skills developed doing A Level Chemistry are eminently transferable.



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CLASSICAL CIVILISATION Joint with BWS OCR Examination Board

What does the course involve?

- The opportunity to examine the extraordinary societies of the Greeks and the Romans.
- The epic poetry of Homer and Virgil.
- The basis of religion and worship in the ancient world
- The imperial image in Ancient Rome and how this has influenced writings and writers of the past.
- Famous personalities, myths and legends, thought-provoking philosophies, emotive tragedies.
- The civilisations of Greece and Rome lie at the heart of Western Culture and are still vibrant and influential today.

How will you learn?

Through lectures, your own research and note-taking, audio-visual presentations, through classical literature. There are visits to classical sites in Greece and the British Museum; you will actively participate in lessons through discussion, role play and presentations. There are essays and structured questions but you will receive feedback and guidance on their production.

What exams and coursework are involved?

There is no coursework in either year of study.

There will be three exams in total, one on Vigil and the world of the hero, Imperial Image and finally Greek religion.

You will be examined at the end of the two year course but with mocks being sat at the end of year 12.

What are the entry requirements?

You do not need to have studied Classics, Latin, Greek or History at GCSE. Grade 6 in English Language would be an advantage. An enthusiasm for the ancient past; its peoples, places and stories is essential as well as the keen desire to read widely in both in class and outside of it.

What could you do after completing the course?

Classical Studies, Ancient History, Archaeology, Classics, Law, Anthropology, Philosophy, even Medicine. There are many classical scholars in the Civil Service, Banking, Accountancy, and Computer Programming; Teaching, Management, the Army. Student destinations are available within the department. The breadth of knowledge acquired and skills of forensic analysis will stand you in good stead for almost anything.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

COMPUTER SCIENCE Joint with BWS; taught at SWGS AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

Programming basics
Problem solving
Theory of computation
Fundamentals of data representation, computer systems and computer organisation and architecture
Consequences of uses of computing
Communication and networking
Databases
Functional programming
Big Data

How will you learn?

We learn in a variety of ways. Theory work is taught by discussion, group work, book and internet based research, computer use and traditional teacher-lead lessons. Programming is taught via a range of practical tasks, the aim being to prepare you thoroughly for programming exam questions and your non-exam assessment at A2. Typically, each task will be introduced and explained and you will be given skeleton code to complete and enhance, giving you a chance to show off your creativity and develop your programming skills to a high level.

There is support material available on the school network including a course textbook to help with programming as well as theory topics. The programming language we currently use is Visual Basic, which is free for you to download and install on your home computer, providing the opportunity for you to develop programs both in and outside school. There will be opportunities to explore other programming languages too should you so wish.

How will you be examined?

The assessment methods are an on-screen practical coding exam with some theory content, worth 40%; a written theory exam worth 40% and a non-examined assessment project which allows you to demonstrate your programming skills, worth 20%.

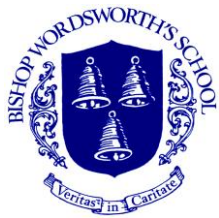
Entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Maths. GCSE Computing would be an advantage. You should be able to organise your work, have patience and perseverance to deal with complex programming. A logical mind with an enthusiasm for problem solving is essential.

What could you do after completing the course?

Computer Science A-level will give you a significant head start should you wish to pursue a degree in Computer Science, Maths, Engineering, Cognitive Science or other similar courses. Computer Science degrees produce some of the most sought-after graduates of any degree in the UK. Universities have close working relationships with many of the major employers of Computer Science graduates – not only IT and communications companies such as Microsoft, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, BT and Philips – but also important computer users, including investment banks and finance houses.

It will also provide you with highly useful skills that could be put to use in a wide range of careers. Jobs directly related to a computing degree include: database administrator, games developer, information systems manager, IT consultant, multimedia programmer, network engineer, systems analyst, systems developer. Examples of jobs where your degree would be useful include: geographical information systems officer, IT sales professional, IT trainer, technical author.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Joint with BWS; taught at SWGS

AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

Design affects everything we do, every day. This course can be adapted to meet the various wide ranging interests of the students taking it. You are able to steer the work you do towards any one of a number of personal interests or career ambitions. You will look at how the world around you has evolved by studying historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology and put your learning into practice by designing and making products.

The specification encourages a broad approach towards design and this often leads to a varied and exciting range of final outcomes. Your creativity should be demonstrated through a varied range of materials, graphic media and CAD. You can work in any combination of materials including (but not limited to); woods, metals, plastics, paper and card, electronics, and textiles.

Skills you will develop along the way include; research, analysis and evaluation, creative thinking, problem solving, independence, organisation, time management and tenacity. The course is fast-paced and challenging and offers fantastic opportunities for aspiring designers.

How will you learn?

Your lessons will be split between theory and practical, in preparation for both your examination and NEA (non-exam assessment, previously called controlled assessment or coursework). You will be supported with regular feedback, however it is vital that you work independently and manage your time efficiently to meet deadlines.

What exams and coursework are involved?

Your final A Level grade will be 50% from your NEA and 50% from the examination, both of which take place during Year 13. Your final examination will consist of two separate written papers, 15% of the marks will be accredited towards the use and application of specific Mathematics and Science based skills. In Year 12 you will complete a range of shorter projects, and these will be based on a choice of contexts given by the exam board. It is advisable to design and make a range of products, using a variety of processes and materials, this experience should support and inform choices for your NEA in Year 13.

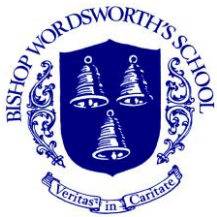
In Year 13 you will be able to direct your NEA towards an area of personal interest in preparation for application to a particular university course or desired career path. You will write your own context and brief, this is a great opportunity to pursue topics and materials that really interest you. Theoretical knowledge taught in preparation for the exam will also feed into your NEA project, developing the vital skills required to determine a feasible design; suitable materials and finish. You will study a wide range of topics including properties of different materials, manufacturing processes, anthropometrics and ergonomics, CAD/CAM, health & safety, sustainability, design protection, marketing, design movements.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in DT. Refer to HOD if DT subject not taken at GCSE. All candidates must demonstrate the most important qualifications of commitment and interest.

What could you do after completing the course?

A vast range of design related degree courses are currently available with some examples being: Product Design; Graphic Design; Textile Design; Furniture and Lighting Design; Architecture; Landscape; Interior, Animation etc. Increasingly more specialised courses such as BSc Sports Equipment Design, Theatre and Performance Design, Industrial Design, etc. are becoming popular. Allied with Science and Maths, Design Engineering is popular with girls and boys with a more technical mind. Civil; Electronic; Manufacturing; Mechanical; Nautical; Process; etc. offer further engineering opportunities.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms



DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

In broadest terms, the study of theatre as an active living medium as well as the academic study of dramatic texts and theatrical craft.

How will you learn?

Students can expect to be involved in practical workshops, improvisation, directing and discussion, alongside formal, sustained text based study. There will be visits to the theatre, encouraging students to develop critical skills.

What exams and coursework are involved?

A 3 hour written exam on knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre, including the study of two contrasting set play and analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. 80 marks- 40% of A level.

Creating Original Drama (devising) unit, including writing a Working notebook (40 marks) and the final performance (20 marks) giving 60 marks in total- 30 % of A-level

Performance of 3 extracts, each taken from a different play and inspired by different practitioners. Extract 3 is marked formally (40 marks) with an accompanying reflective report (20 marks). 60 marks- 30% of A level.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Drama and English Language. A willingness to participate freely in dramatic activities of all kinds, confidence in performance, a desire to work as part of a team, a passion for the Theatre and an interest in theatre-making, creativity and a commitment to academic study of texts.

What could you do after completing the course?

In addition to providing an obvious route into theatrical careers, the personal skills developed through this A level are immense and may be used to pursue a wide range of careers or higher education courses. Students increase in confidence, develop good teamwork skills and acquire analytical and interpretative skills through the practical content.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

ECONOMICS at BWS EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

The study of Economics should enable students to understand the current economic issues that affect their lives. It should enable students to recognise problems faced by themselves and others and to offer informed comment on economic problems.

How will you learn?

It will be necessary to read critically to gain information about the changing economy in which we live. Topics that regularly appear in the news such as interest rates, tax changes, minimum wage, unemployment and its costs, inflation and other related topics will all be analysed. An understanding of how the economy operates is essential to understand why participants in a market economy have to make choices and how these choices are interrelated and interdependent. It certainly should enable students to make more informed decisions on their own personal finances!

Key concepts and theory will be taught in the context of UK, EU and International data that will be based when appropriate on current events. It is intended to provide a broad understanding of Economics and to provide a basis for further study of the subject.

What exams and coursework are involved?

A level Economics is examined through three written papers covering four themes. Themes 1 and 2 involve economic concepts and theory, theme 3 explores business behaviour and the labour market and theme 4 considers a global perspective. Each paper comprises 100 marks and has a combination of short answer (including multiple choice), data response and extended open response questions.

What are the entry requirements?

You do not need to have studied Economics at GCSE. Grade 6 in English Language and Maths is required. The key is enthusiasm for the world of economics and an interest in economics news as it is reported on TV, the press and other media. The course also requires good analytical skills.

What could you do after completing the course?

The course provides obvious routes into a range of Higher Education opportunities, in particular those that require a logical and analytical approach. Economics is a core subject in many of the professional examinations, in particular banking, insurance and accountancy.

Economics will provide a good foundation for a career in the commercial world. Many of our past students are now working in the City after studying Economics at degree level.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

ENGLISH LANGUAGE Joint with BWS; taught at SWGS AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

English Language will give you the opportunity to develop your interest and enjoyment of English, through learning about its structures and functions, development and variation. It will develop your ability to express yourself in both speech and writing, read a wide variety of texts, and develop your skills of critical thinking and attentive listening.

How will you learn?

The course will make use of a wide variety of teaching and learning styles with particular emphasis on individual research, guided reading, group discussion and presentations. Close analysis of written texts and speech transcripts will form a major part of most lessons.

What exams and coursework are involved?

COMPONENTS		CONTENT
Paper 1 Language, the Individual and Society 2 hours 30 mins 100 marks; 40%	Section A: Analytical essay 25/25/20 marks 3Q, 30/30/20 mins + 30 mins reading (110 mins)	You will study a range of texts of different genres, about different subjects, for various audiences and purposes, from different times and places, and how language has changed over time You will be considering how language is shaped by a range of different factors using linguistic analysis. You will study how children learn to speak, read and write and will write discursively on children's language development, with a choice of two questions where the data provided will focus on spoken, written or multimodal language
	Section B: Child Language Development 30 marks; 1Q, (40 mins)	
Paper 2 Language Diversity and Change 2 hours 30 mins 100 marks; 40%	Section A : Evaluative essay 30 marks 1Q, (45 mins)	You will study how language varies because of personal, social and geographical contexts. You will be considering why language varies and you will explore attitudes to language diversity You will write discursively and evaluatively about language issues in academic essays You will also write about language issues in a variety of forms, communicating ideas to a non-specialist audience.
	Section B: Analytical and Opinion Writing 40/30 marks 2Qs, 45/45 min + 15 min prep (105 mins)	
Non- examination assessment (Coursework) Language in Action	Language investigation 2000 words Original writing and commentary 1500 words – to persuade/entertain/inform 100 marks 3500 words in total	You will undertake an individual investigation on a linguistic area of your choice and a piece of original writing with a commentary.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in English Language.

What could you do after completing the course?

The knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in this course will stand you in good stead for a very wide variety of careers and Higher Education courses including English Language, Linguistics, Media, Journalism, Teaching and Management.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

ENGLISH LITERATURE Examination Board – Edexcel

What does the course involve?

In broadest terms, the study of the works of a number of literary texts - traditional and modern (for example, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Frankenstein*, *Hamlet*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*): how they use language to affect readers; how they organise and present ideas and emotions; the links they have with their cultural and historical contexts; how readers make sense of and respond to what is read. You will certainly be going more deeply into and engaging far more widely with texts than at GCSE.

How will you learn?

The full two year course is organised into four units.

As learners, you will be involved in individual reading and writing, group discussion, presentations, drama and role play, research, whole class debate.....any type of activity likely to bring us closer to the ideas, methods and meanings of the literature we encounter.

What exams and coursework are involved?

There are three papers for the full A-Level, and a piece of coursework.

What are the entry requirements?

6 in English Literature or Language. A keen commitment to reading is a must, as is a hunger for debate.

What could you do after completing the course?

The course provides obvious routes into a range of higher education opportunities: arts and humanities subjects will benefit from the development of expressive skills, whilst any area of future learning requiring logical thought and the capacity for presenting arguments cogently and succinctly will be well served. Careers such as journalism, marketing, education, law and the like are possible end destinations for successful Literature students.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

FRENCH AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

Year 12 topics are	Year 13 topics are
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The changing nature of family (La famille en voie de changement)• The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)• The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)• A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)• Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)• Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma : le septième art) <p>We will study the film “Au Revoir les Enfants”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)• Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ?)• How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels)• Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)• Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power? (Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?)• Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration) <p>We will also study a literary text, still to be decided and students will undertake an Individual Research Project</p>

How will you learn?

Please speak to a member of the French department the school's Open Evening.

What exams and coursework are involved?

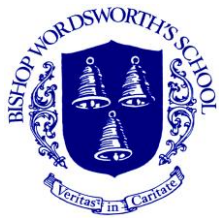
The AS Level exam comprises	The A Level exam comprises
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (including translation out of French) Paper 2: Writing Exam (translation into French and one essay on the set film) Paper 3: Speaking Exam	Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (including translation into and out of French) Paper 2: Writing Exam (one essay on the set film, one essay on the set text) Paper 3: Speaking Exam,

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in French.

What could you do after completing the course?

An A level in French can lead of course to study at University level. Languages can be combined with almost anything and new ones started from scratch. Other possibilities are bilingual secretarial courses, travel and tourism, teaching and qualifications linking languages with business. The need for a skill combined with the ability to speak a language is increasingly in demand in many types of employment such as the Civil Service, Law, Accountancy, Hotel and Catering. Britain is desperately short of well qualified graduates with language skills. Employment opportunities for those who study a language, especially when combined with something else, are good.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

GEOGRAPHY OCR Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This specification offers a balance between physical, human, and/or environmental geography providing knowledge, understanding and skills for further study and work.

How will you learn?

A range of teaching styles will be used during the course including group discussions and individual research. Field work and individual research are key aspects of this specification. You will develop evaluative skills, learn to identify and analyse connections between various aspects of geography and use a range of geographical skills.

What exams and coursework are involved?

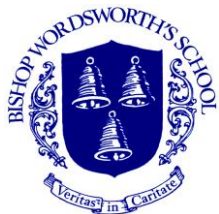
<p><u>Physical Systems (01)</u> (22% of your total A-level) Exam – 1hr 30min (66 marks)</p>	<p><u>Human Interactions (02)</u> (22% of your total A-level) Exam – 1hr 30min (66 marks)</p>	<p><u>Geographical debate (03)</u> (36% of your total A-level) Exam – 2hr 30min (108 marks)</p>	<p><u>Investigate Geography (04, 05)</u> (20% of your total A-level) Non-examination assessment (60 marks)</p>
<p>Topics studied include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Landscape Systems</u> - Coastal landscapes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Coastal landforms b. Climate changes influence on coasts c. Human influences on coasts d. <u>Earth's Life Support Systems</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Importance of water and carbon b. How the water and carbon cycle operate in different locations c. Changes in the water and carbon cycles d. Links between the water and carbon cycles e. <u>Geographical Skills</u> 	<p>Topics studied include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Changing Spaces, Making Places</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What is place and how do we understand it b) The influence of economic changes on social inequality c) The players influencing economic change in places d) The place making process 2. <u>Global Connections</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Trade in the Contemporary World <i>or</i> Global Migration b) Global Governance – Human Rights <i>or</i> Global Governance Power and Borders 3. <u>Geographical Skills</u> 	<p><u>TWO</u> topics from the following will be studied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change 2. Disease Dilemmas 3. Exploring Oceans 4. Future of Food 5. Hazardous Earth <p><u>Geographical Skills</u></p>	<p><u>Independent Investigation</u></p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question or issue developed by the learner (you) • Data and evidence collected from the field • Independently presenting, analysing and summarising findings/data • Reaching individual conclusions <p><u>Geographical & Fieldwork Skills</u></p>

What are the entry requirements?

Preferable to have grade 6 in GCSE Geography, but not essential.

What could you do after completing the course?

Geographers are much in demand in many fields because they have developed skills in research, data handling and interpretation and have a good knowledge of people and environment interactions, at a variety of scales. It combines equally well with science or art subjects. This is a particularly highly valued subject with today's huge emphasis on climate change and sustainability on a national and global scale. Jobs within these areas are becoming increasingly available.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

GEOLOGY Joint with BWS OCR Examination Board

What does the course involve?

Geology is the study of the processes and history of the Earth as well as the life which has occupied it, the climate which has driven it, and the rock and other tools that we must use to understand this diverse past. Unlike the other sciences Geology offers the unique challenge of working with incredible timescales, sometimes spanning billions of years, as well as tackling spatial problems such as those posed by deducing the composition of Earth's interior. Classroom learning is augmented by local field courses and there will also be an opportunity to take part in an overseas field trip. Past locations have included Iceland, Naples and Tenerife.

In your first year you will study aspects of plate tectonics and processes including volcanism and earthquakes. The bulk of the learning will be aimed towards understanding major rock groups, their constituents including fossils, and their formation.

In your second year you will explore these more thoroughly, looking at a range of environments and formations, the exploration of Earth for vital resources such as metallic minerals and water, and a synoptic module bringing your diverse learning together.

How will you learn?

You will learn a lot of scientific facts and apply them to the data supplied in both classroom and field situations, sometimes this will also involve mathematical models and equations. Geology is a practical and visual subject area with extensive use of maps, diagrams and photographs linked to field experience and familiarity with sample material. The specially developed text book will be supplemented by extensive additional material available on the school intranet.

What exams and coursework are involved?

The linear A Level course is assessed in three external papers:

Paper 1 – Fundamentals of Geology - 41% weighting – A mixture of taught units with a brief multiple choice section and the processing of unfamiliar field and laboratory data.

Paper 2 – Scientific literacy in Geology - 37% weighting – A mixture of taught units with an emphasis on longer answer questions where depth of understanding is crucial.

Paper 3 – Practical skills - 22% weighting (related to the practical endorsement – see below)

In addition there is also a non-exam assessment called 'Practical endorsement' assessed by the teacher as either pass or fail. This practical endorsement does not contribute to the final grade and is reported separately. Students who undertake the course will have sufficient opportunities to develop these skills to ensure a pass. Areas of focus for the practical endorsement include: field work (minimum 4 days in the field), use of equipment, investigating rocks and minerals, seismology, crystalline processes, fossils, geological sequences and fluid movements.

What are the entry requirements?

Preferable to have grade 6 in GCSE Science, but not essential. Grade 6 in Maths or Grade 5 in Maths if a student studies Core Maths at A-Level.

What could you do after completing the course?

The constant search for new resources now extends far beyond fossil fuels and precious metals. Universities offer a wide range of Geology courses with opportunities to specialise in Geophysics, Oceanography, Mining Technology, Environmental Geology, Palaeontology, Pollution Control and Hydrography. Opportunities for employment are wide ranging with the water and construction industries offering jobs in both field and laboratory based research, whilst oil and mining companies continue to be major players.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

GERMAN AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

Year 12 Topics	Year 13 Topics
Social issues and trends - Aspects of German-speaking society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familie im Wandel• Die digitale Welt• Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen Political and artistic culture - Artistic culture in the German-speaking world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feste und Traditionen• Kunst und Architektur• Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute	Social issues and trends - Multiculturalism in German-speaking society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Einwanderung• Integration• Rassismus Political and artistic culture - Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deutschland und die Europäische Union• Die Politik und die Jugend• Die Wiedervereinigung und ihre Folgen

We will also study a film in Year 12 and a literary text in Year 13. Students will also undertake an Individual Research Project in Year 13, which will form a large part of their oral exam.

How will you learn?

The German A Level builds on some of the topics explored at GCSE and gives them more depth and breadth. We look at the various topics from different angles and learn how to express our thoughts about them in German. In doing so, we learn a lot about the culture, history and traditions of German-speaking countries. A development of grammatical knowledge throughout the course will enable students to express themselves more accurately, fluently and with more complexity. Please also speak to a member of the German department the school's Open Evening.

What exams and coursework are involved?

The Year 12 exam comprises	The A Level exam comprises
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing Paper 2: Writing Exam Paper 3: Speaking Exam	Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing Paper 2: Writing Exam Paper 3: Speaking Exam

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in German.

What could you do after completing the course?

You will have the skills required to study German further or to study any other language. German can be combined with lots of other subjects at degree level and you can also start a new language from scratch. It would be directly relevant to a wide range of careers – translating, bilingual secretarial work, civil service, travel & tourism, journalism, teaching and international business and law, and accountancy. The need for a skill combined with the ability to speak a language is increasingly in demand in many types of employment. Britain is desperately short of well qualified graduates with language skills. Employment opportunities for those who study languages, even when combined with something else, are very good.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS at BWS EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

The study of A Level Politics is essentially a contemporary study of the political systems of the UK and a comparison with that of the USA. It will include an analysis of the key institutions of the executive, legislature and judiciary. Students will also consider the level and types of political participation and will include elections and voting, political parties and pressure groups. The new A level also requires consideration of the main political ideologies and the impact of different political thinkers.

How will you learn?

It is expected that students will supplement their formal study of Government and Politics by being alert to the course of events in the world of politics and following them in the available media. Students will be taught the importance of individual learning from the start and will be expected to undertake a wide range of reading outside the classroom environment, particularly from magazines, the internet and newspapers.

Class study will involve individual and group presentation, group discussion and debate as well as more traditional teacher centred learning. Students' progress will be monitored through a variety of written tasks, either essay style questions or shorter written assignments. Also students will be expected to become members of the Politics Society and attend talks organised by the Politics Society Committee given by politicians and academics.

What exams and coursework are involved?

Students will be examined by 3 final examination papers at the end of the course. There is no course work.

What are the entry requirements?

You do not need to have studied Politics at GCSE. You will need either a grade 6 in English Language or grade 6 in History.

What could you do after completing the course?

A Level Politics is a well-regarded qualification for a wide variety of higher education and career opportunities. Many students, but by no means all, go onto to read the subject at well-regarded institutions including Oxbridge, LSE and Bristol. Graduates go into a diverse range of occupations, notably Law, the Civil Service and journalism, as well as teaching and academia. Past BWS and SWGS students who have continued to study Politics at undergraduate level include a prospective MP, Fast Track Civil Servants, journalists, professional administrators of political parties and representatives on the London Assembly.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

HISTORY EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

Our A-Level course follows the theme of society and outsiders. In accordance with new requirements students will study history across a range of around 200 years with at least 20% being made up of specifically British History and 20% of the course focusing on the history of a country outside of Great Britain. The year 12 course will be modern in focus with Unit 1 offering a breath study of **Britain from 1918-1997**, including a study in the controversy surrounding the governments of Margaret Thatcher as well as looking at welfare, the economy and immigration. Unit 2 will focus in depth on the **USA from 1955-1997** and will include social, economic and political themes including protest, race relations and the creation of the Democrat/Republican divide. The Year 13 examined course will focus on the early modern period and examine Witch hunting in the 16th and 17th centuries. This will provide an opportunity to examine how ideas changed over time and the impact they had on society. There will be a choice of five areas of focus for the coursework from a variety of different periods. These will include: Tudor rebellions, the abolition of slavery, appeasement, the impact of World War Two and Black Power. Courses will contain a mix of political, economic, social and an increasing quantity of cultural history to give a rounded view of the periods under consideration and to tap into the style of history that is currently being studied in universities.

How will you learn?

Throughout the course we use a variety of teaching methods including the study of documents and sources, group investigations and individual study. Learning also takes place through discussion, presentations, note taking, debate and research – in short, all sorts of methods that help you actively engage with History.

What exams and coursework are involved?

All exams are taken at the end of year 13. Three exams will be taken in which questions are answered in three different styles; traditional essay style questions testing knowledge of the topics, source evaluation style questions and questions addressing historical interpretation of events. There is one piece of coursework, completed in Year 13.

What are the entry requirements?

Preferable but not essential to have studied History at GCSE. You will need a grade 6 in English Language.

What could you do after completing the course?

History is a very popular A level at South Wilts and many use it as a stepping stone to further studies at University. The department values its excellent staff and the hard work which takes place. All of the 'premier league' universities regard History as a rigorous, academic subject to study at A Level, and so a good History grade is very well received. Because of the high level of reading and writing skills demanded and cultivated, the course could lead to a whole host of career path choices, such as: the Civil Service, management and accountancy, the Law, teaching and research, to name but a few.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms



MATHEMATICS

EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

At both AS and A2 you will study pure mathematics (algebra, coordinate geometry and calculus) and applied mathematics (which will be a mixture of Statistics and Mechanics). More detailed information will be available on the school website.

How will you learn?

- Recall, select and use your knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of contexts.
- Construct rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs through use of precise statements and logical deduction.
- Develop extended arguments for handling substantial problems.
- Apply your knowledge of standard mathematical models to represent situations in the real world.
- Comprehend translations of common realistic contexts into mathematics.
- Use contemporary technology accurately and efficiently.
- Understand when not to use such technology, and its limitations.

What exams and coursework are involved?

There will be 3 examination papers for the AS qualification, and 3 for the A2 qualification

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

What could you do after completing the course?

Whether you continue further study at University or enter employment, you will find that having studied Mathematics your choices will be boundless. Mathematics may be studied at University as a single subject or as part of a joint honours degree course, in conjunction with Sciences, Geography, Philosophy, Computer Studies etc. Mathematics also has a major input into a number of other courses including Medicine, Psychology and Economics. The skills used by a mathematician are also highly valued in industry and business. A useful and highly regarded subject, Mathematics is well worth the effort involved. The A level syllabus is varied and interesting and will enable you to acquire knowledge and skills with confidence, satisfaction and enjoyment.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

MUSIC Joint with BWS EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This course is taught jointly with BWS and combines academic rigour with the exploration of a fascinating variety of styles of music.

A Level Music	AS Level Music
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing (30% of the qualification) Students perform for a minimum of 8 minutes. Grade 7 is the standard for A Level and a difficulty level grid will be applied to pieces above or below this standard. Composing (30% of the qualification) 2 compositions. One, to last at least 4 mins, will be to a brief related to one of the Areas of Study or a free choice. The other, lasting at least 1 min, must be from a list of briefs assessing compositional technique. The total time across both must be a minimum of 6 mins. Listening and Appraising (40% of the qualification) Students study set works and gain an understanding of analytical language, terminology, chronological and stylistic context. 6 Areas of Study: Vocal Music; Instrumental Music; Music for Film; Popular Music and Jazz; Fusions; New Directions- each with 3 set works. They also apply their knowledge to unfamiliar works. 	<p>A stand-alone qualification which does not contribute towards A Level.</p> <p>Performing Recital is a minimum of 6 mins. Standard is Grade 6.</p> <p>Composition 1 composition to a set brief lasting at least 2 mins. 1 free composition lasting at least 2 mins. Together they last at least 4 ½ mins.</p> <p>Listening and Appraising Each of the 6 Areas of Study has 2 set works at A level.</p>

How will you learn?

Students prepare for the performance options in conjunction with instrumental/singing teachers. For the other units they are taught in groups where learning takes place through discussion, analysis, research and presentations. Students are also expected to study independently, practising for the performing papers and preparing work for the written elements. Students should take up opportunities to explore music beyond the “set works”.

What exams and coursework are involved?

A level Music	AS Level Music
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing: Recital to take place 1st March - early May Year 13. Composing: Free composition briefs will be released on 1 Sept of Year 13. Briefs assessing technique will be released on 1 April. Listening and Appraising: Written paper of 2 hours. An audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions will be provided for each student. There will be short questions and essays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing: As A Level but 6 minutes. Composing: As A Level for 2 compositions - one to a brief, lasting 4 ½ mins in total. Listening and Appraising: Written paper of 1 ½ hours An audio CD with the extracts to accompany questions on the paper format as for A Level. Questions will be less complex and set works limited to 2 per area of study.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Music. Grade 5 (music grades, not GCSE) standard in Theory and Instrument / Voice is also required. It may be possible to take A-Level without this if you are experienced enough.

What could you do after completing the course?

A level Music leads to a large variety of opportunities at university or Music college. It is a highly respected subject for university entry in many fields and combines well with anything.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS - RELIGIOUS STUDIES at BWS EDUQAS Examination Board

What does the course involve?

In this tripartite course you will firstly engage in a study of the philosophical method, how to argue and how to evaluate other arguments. We will focus on the central questions of human existence, why is there something rather than nothing? Does God exist? Why does evil exist? We will consider the classical arguments for the existence of God such as the ontological, cosmological and teleological arguments. In response, we consider the challenges to these arguments especially focusing on the problem of evil, study of the mind, religious experience and atheism.

Alongside Philosophy we also study Ethics, which focuses on questions of morality. What is good? Is there an objective set of moral values? Or is all morality relative? To help us answer these questions we will study ethical language and ethical theories including Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Natural Law theory and Virtue Ethics.

In the third section of this course we will study the modern day application of Religion through religious figures and sacred texts, significant social and historical developments in religious thought, religious practices and religious identity.

How will you learn?

There will be a significant emphasis on guided independent study and we will expect our students at the end of the course to be confident in directing their own learning. During class lessons there will be discussions and guided learning. All teaching materials and some pieces of extra reading will be available to access online. As you would expect there will be a requirement for students to produce essays, but significant help will be given and dates known well in advance. This course will thoroughly prepare learners for life beyond school at university or in the world of work. We have negotiated a reduced rate private membership package to Sarum College Library on behalf of our students.

What exams and coursework are involved?

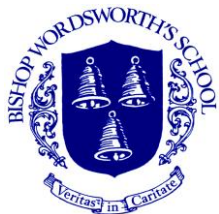
Students will take three exams at the end of the final year. Each exam will give you a selection of questions of which you will choose two, and these will all be essay style questions.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade B Short or Long Course Religious Studies. 6 in another essay writing subject is also required.

What could you do after completing the course?

Studying Philosophy helps students develop a range of key skills including the ability to think clearly and critically, analyse arguments and present ideas logically and persuasively. As well as giving an excellent foundation for those intending to apply for Philosophy at university, the course will be a useful addition for a wide range of other Higher Education courses - Arts, Humanities and Sciences. Students including Philosophy in their A level choices have successfully secured places on courses at top universities including Medicine, Law, PPE, History, Mathematics, Theology, Art, Music and English Literature, to name a few.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Examination Board – OCR

What does the course involve?

Physical Education is an **Academic Subject** at A2 level. The syllabus takes a multi-discipline approach, encouraging the development of different methods of acquiring, developing and evaluating practical skills drawn from a wide range of disciplines, with the focal point being the performer, and the improvement of effective performance. Topics include applied anatomy and physiology, biomechanical movement, skill acquisition, sport psychology, sport and society, and the role of technology in physical activity and sport. Interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education is a key factor throughout. The course has been developed to benefit both students who have no expectations of continuing with PE after A levels, as well as those for whom PE will form a major part of their higher education.

How will you learn?

The syllabus is organised into a series of modules, each of which focuses on an aspect of PE. Some work will be practical, the majority is theory with opportunities for discussion, written and observational analysis and correction, problem solving and planning. Practical performance and video will provide opportunities to gain understanding of the conceptual basis, structure and function of a selection of PE activities. As a preparation for Higher Education students will be expected to be more responsible for their own learning, developing their own personalised learning styles and preferences.

What exams and coursework are involved?

The course is split 70:30 between theory and practical. There will be one 2 hour exam and two 1 hour exams, all with synoptic elements. There is also a non-exam assessment carried out on one practical activity and an oral response involving evaluation and analysis of performance.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in PE. Grade 66 in Science is also required. A keen interest and willingness to work in depth in all areas of the subject, both written and practical are required. Students will be expected to have expertise in at least one sport and be prepared to extend their knowledge by coaching or playing at club level and beyond.

What could you do after completing the course?

PE, along with the other sciences, has become a much needed qualification for those wishing to pursue a career in teaching, coaching, the leisure industry, recreation management, the health and fitness industry, sports medicine, and physiotherapy.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

PHYSICS

OCR A Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This Physics course aims to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other, develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods, develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills, develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject and understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society

Y12 Topics: Development of practical skills, physical quantities and units, motion, forces, energy, materials, electrical circuits, waves, quantum physics

Y13 Topics: Thermal physics, circular motion, oscillations, gravitational fields, electromagnetism, astrophysics, cosmology, nuclear and particle physics, medical imaging

How will you learn?

Much of the course is taught but students will also carry out practical work, independent research, exam questions and presentations.

What exams and coursework are involved?

The exams are as follows

Modelling Physics; assesses all the Year 12 work and one module from Year 13, makes up 37% of the A level

Exploring Physics; assesses all the Year 12 work and the other module from Year 13, makes up 37% of the A level

Unified Physics; assesses all the work from the two years, makes up 26% of the A level

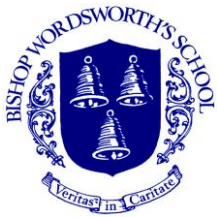
A level practical endorsement; requires students to have carried out a minimum of 12 practical activities, gaining a grade of a 'Pass' or 'Fail' separate to the exam. In addition to this, understanding of practical skills will be tested in the exams and make up 15% of the marks.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Physics. Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is needed; it is also recommended that students continue with some form of Mathematics eg. Level 3 Core Maths if not taking Mathematics. The Combined Science requirement is 66.

What could you do after completing the course?

Physics is valuable for a wide range of careers including Communications, Medicine, Medical Physics, Sound Technology, Aerospace, Astronomy, Engineering, Meteorology, Scientific Journalism, Scientific Research, Financial Modelling, Materials and Food Science. If you do not eventually enter a physics based career, you may be sure that your qualification in A Level Physics will still be highly regarded.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

PSYCHOLOGY Joint with BWS; taught at SWGS AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

At AS/Year1 you will acquire a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of Psychology (social, cognitive, developmental, biological and psychopathology) through studying a range of accessible life topics.

Introductory Topics in Psychology will cover:

- Cognitive psychology including memory and eyewitness testimony.
- Developmental psychology including attachment, early social development and adult relationships.
- Social influence including majority and minority influence, explanations of obedience and the role social change.

Psychology in Context will cover:

- Approaches in Psychology including the behaviourist approach and the biological approach.
- Biopsychology including the divisions of the nervous system and the function of the endocrine system.
- Psychopathology including definitions of abnormality, approaches and therapies.
- Research methods in the context of the topic areas.

At A-level you will study topics in greater depth e.g. relationships and schizophrenia. Explanations from different psychological approaches will be brought together which will engage you in the issues and debates of Psychology.

How will you learn?

You will be involved in a variety of activities such as group discussions, study groups and projects, individual assignments in the community, games and experiments in the classroom, individual tutorials as well as essay and exam skills practice.

What exams and coursework are involved?

AS: 2 x 1 1/2 hour exams (Introductory Topics in Psychology and Psychology in Context)

A-level: 3 x 2 hours exams (Introductory Topics in Psychology, Psychology in Context and Issues and Options in Psychology)

What are the entry requirements?

You do not need to have studied Psychology at GCSE but do need GCSE English Language and Mathematics at 6 and Science at 6 or above.

What could you do after completing the course?

Psychology A-level could be the starting point for anything:

A career in Psychology e.g. clinical psychologist, health psychologist, educational psychologist, forensic psychologist, occupational psychologist. Medical careers and those linked e.g. nursing, physiotherapy, dentistry, speech therapy, research. Teaching, child care or social work. Police, the Armed Forces, Law, Advertising, Art, Journalism, Sport and Recreation.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

SPANISH at BWS Edexcel Examination Board

What does the course involve?

You will continue to develop your speaking skills from GCSE, enabling you to debate issues with fluency and confidence. You will study texts of a more abstract nature which are firmly rooted in the Spanish and Latin American world. You will learn more about Spanish and Latin American daily life, institutions and culture. Your vocabulary will widen and you will be able to understand more complicated articles. You will learn to use languages in a literary context by studying Spanish and Latin American 20th and 21st century short novels, plays and poetry as well as a wide range of films, and articles in journalistic registers.

The topics taught are divided into three wide categories: Society, Culture (covering all Spanish-speaking countries) and Political Culture, based on a study of the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath in the transition to democracy. Samples of topics are Regional Identity, Modern Values, Multiculturalism and Immigration, Social Networking or Contemporary History. A comprehensive list can be found in the Edexcel website. A book and a film will be studied in Spanish over the two year course. These will be selected from a list published by the exam board that includes works such as *El Laberinto del Fauno* (Guillermo del Toro, 2006) or *Como Agua para Chocolate* (Laura Esquivel).

How will you learn?

You will read a wide range of materials including newspapers and magazines, Internet items and literature. You will listen to and sometimes watch news, discussions and documentaries. Students will be expected to communicate in Spanish whenever possible, in every lesson. Lessons will concentrate on active tasks in speaking, role-plays, debates, reading newspapers, texts such as poems short novels or plays, watching films, listening and holding discussions on video work for comprehension and, of course, grammar. Much of this work will also be done independently, outside lesson time.

What exams and coursework are involved?

One terminal exam at the end of year 13 comprised of three papers: Paper 1 is an oral examination, which includes an individual research project. Paper 2 a Listening / Reading / Comprehension paper, and Paper 3 includes questions on the set texts and films studied over the two year course. Papers 2 and 3 also contain Translation. There are translations from both Spanish and English, based on the themes above.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in Spanish. Students should enjoy discussing issues in Spanish, and be interested in the wider culture, reading independently and developing a more ambitious vocabulary.

What could you do after completing the course?

There are now many opportunities for people with language skills. Language graduates have the highest employment rates of any graduates due to their social and communication skills. The Civil Service, Diplomatic Corps, banking, insurance, hotel and catering, tourism, transport, law, sales, fine arts and antiques, not to mention translating and interpreting for bodies such as the EU, all call for language competence alongside other skills. Also the fact that you have mastered a language to A Level means that you will be able to learn other languages much more quickly and easily if required to do so in the future. We usually recommend to our students combined university courses such as Spanish and Management, Engineering with Spanish, Spanish and Law as offering better employment possibilities than a straight language. Alternatively you will be qualified to take up new languages at university, especially Eastern European or Asian languages, which are much in demand these days.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

Additional Subject - EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ) EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

The EPQ provides students with the opportunity to study a topic/subject area in depth that they are a) passionate about or b) thinking about studying at university/linked to chosen career path. Completion of the EPQ will be academically useful to students in their studies, especially if they choose to go on to higher education. The aim of this qualification is to enable students to:

- Broaden skills base
- Widen their perspectives
- Deepen their understanding (Edexcel, 2008)

According to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, an extended project is "a single piece of work requiring a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working". The EPQ allows students to take ownership for their work/learning and develop into confident time managers and independent enquirers.

How will you learn?

Students will be asked to choose the type of project that they would like to complete, we currently offer four types of project:

- Dissertation
- Investigation
- Artefact
- Performance

Each student will be assigned to a supervisor who will support them for the duration of the process their EPQ. The EPQ is to be completed in addition to their current A Level studies and as a result it will be completed outside of their timetabled lessons. Students will participate in discussions and skills workshops, visits from outside speakers, get access to resources at Southampton University Library and participate in an online research project management course to help support them throughout the year.

What exams and coursework are involved?

There are no exams. Each student will have to produce a final outcome (dissertation, investigation or artefact). Each student will also have to show evidence of their progress whilst completing the project, by completing forms which show the progression of the project from the moment they formulated their initial idea to completing their final presentation. At the end of the Extended Project cycle all students will be required to deliver a ten minute presentation of their project to the Extended Project Team, this also counts towards their overall mark.

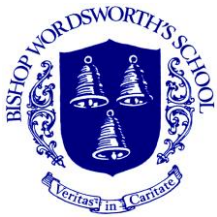
What are the entry requirements?

All students coming into Year 12 will be given the opportunity to complete either an EPQ, Further Maths or Level 3 Mathematics as part of their enrichment programme.

What could you do after completing the course?

Students will be equipped with a great number of transferable skills from good time management and problem solving to the ability to develop coherent, logical and balanced arguments and presentation skills. The completion of this project bridges the gap between the A-Level student and University student.

Some Universities are offering lower entry grades to students completing an EPQ, as they recognise that the qualification is academically rigorous and requires students to develop a number of key skills needed at undergraduate level.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

Additional Subject – FURTHER MATHEMATICS EDEXCEL Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This course runs alongside the mathematics course for those students with a flair for and interest in mathematics. The course pattern is the similar to that for mathematics, but the applied content may be broader.

How will you learn?

- Recall, select and use your knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of contexts.
- Construct rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs through use of precise statements and logical deduction.
- Develop extended arguments for handling substantial problems.
- Apply your knowledge of standard mathematical models to represent situations in the real world.
- Comprehend translations of common realistic contexts into mathematics.
- Use contemporary technology accurately and efficiently.
- Understand when not to use such technology, and its limitations.

What exams and coursework are involved?

Further details will be available on the school website.

What are the entry requirements?

Studying A Level Mathematics and grade 7 in GCSE Maths.

What could you do after completing the course?

It is particularly beneficial, and essential at some universities, to students who intend to study mathematics, physics or engineering degree courses.



Salisbury Grammar Schools Sixth Forms

Additional Subject – LEVEL 3 MATHEMATICS AQA Examination Board

What does the course involve?

This is a new qualification, equivalent to an AS. It will be taught over two years, with one lesson (double period) a week.

How will you learn?

- Build on your knowledge of Mathematics from GCSE
- Extend your previous experience to practical and relevant scenarios: for example we will study the mathematics of personal finances (budgeting, taxation, investments and loans)
- New statistical techniques relevant to the management of Big Data, and modelling based on large data sets.

The course will use IT equipment, making extensive use of Spreadsheets and Graphical Calculators.

- The course is designed to help you develop your mathematical thinking beyond GCSE Mathematics. It will provide useful mathematical skills for other A-level courses such as A-level Psychology, Sciences and Geography; as well as technical and vocational qualifications.

What exams and coursework are involved?

Two 90 minute papers, each worth 60 marks, Graphical or Scientific calculators allowed for both

What are the entry requirements?

All students coming into Year 12 will be given the opportunity to complete either an EPQ, Further Maths or Level 3 Mathematics as part of their enrichment programme.

What could you do after completing the course?

The course content includes Analysis of data, Maths for personal finance, Estimation, Critical analysis of given data and models, including spreadsheets and tabular data as well as Further statistical techniques. The course will familiarise you with the use of Spreadsheets and sophisticated statistical techniques to analyse big data sets: these skills are relevant to a wide number of academic courses, as well as to any employer.