



Sixth Form Curriculum Booklet

For Courses Commencing September 2025

Art & Design

Art & Design

AQA

(Mr Jones)

What's A Level Art about?

A level Art at MGS allows you to develop an exciting and extensive range of creative and technical skills. You will gain a strong understanding of historic and contemporary visual art practice, through supporting contextual studies.

By studying Fine Art at A Level, you will build up a very personal and continually evolving body of practical work, guided and supported by your teachers. Individual exploration and development of your personal creative skills and artistic direction is at the heart of the course.

A level Art prepares you to produce two major pieces of assessed work. The first is a Personal Investigation, which allows you to devise and put together a personal body of creative coursework, including extensive practical work, a 1- 3,000 word illustrated essay and a fully developed and resolved Final Piece Project.

The second practical component is called the externally set Timed Test. On the 1st of February in your final year, the exam board publishes its Timed Test Paper which suggests a theme and possible starting points for you to work on. For the next three months you work extensively on your chosen theme, and you then sit a Timed Test, where you have a total of 15 hours under exam conditions to create and complete a personal, creative Final Piece.

What sort of work is involved?

The A level Fine Art course at MGS is set to stretch and challenge your notions of Art and yourself. It will introduce you to a wide range of media and processes and you will be encouraged to take a multi-disciplined approach initially. These approaches will always include drawing, whatever specialism you choose, but can also include a range of other techniques and processes: painting, printmaking, collage, photography, digital work, mixed media, sculpture, film and performance. The area you spend most time on will depend on the direction and focus of your chosen specialism. You will develop an extensive range of creative practical work, with some supporting 'contextual skills'.

Reading about Art & Design in books as well as on the web and in magazines is an important part of the contextual studies which underlie the development of your practical skills. The project work you do requires an exploration of the influences which inspired how you have tackled your chosen topic, and you need to explain how your own work has evolved over time. Artist research and visits to relevant exhibitions and galleries, are all part of reviewing, analysing, and developing your personal interpretations and directions in the creative work you do throughout the Art A level course.

Art and Design is useful for a wide variety of career choices such as the Fine Arts, Product Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Architecture, the Media, Film and cinema, Special Effects, Fashion, Urban Planning, Stagecraft, and Primary Education.

Where Art can take you...

Covering a vast range of skills and talents, art is a diverse subject that can help you turn your creative passion into a money-making career. The UK's creative sector is internationally famous and there are lots of opportunities to prove your worth.

Employers include: advertising firms, branding specialists, design consultancies and studios, media and communication companies, packaging companies, PR agencies, publishing companies, museums, local authorities, schools, colleges and hospitals. Some graduates set up their own studios and work as exhibiting artists or work as part of a studio collective.

Career Ideas: advertising, architecture, animation, fine arts, graphic designer, illustration, fashion & textile design, stage & set design, exhibition design, games design, web design, UX designer, VFX artist, art therapy, conservator, museum/gallery curator, production design, interior & spatial design, printmaker, medical illustrator, multimedia specialist, photography, arts administrator, digital marketer, creative director and much more.

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Art-DT-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study A Level Fine Art, you should have at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Art.

Biology

Biology OCR (Mr Cooper/Mr Norton)

Biology is one of the most popular A Level courses in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much, they eventually choose a biologically related degree course such as Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, but also Marine Biology, Biotechnology, Genetics, Food Technology, Microbiology, Forensic Science, Conservation, and Environmental Science. Biology is mutually supporting of Chemistry or Geography. Others go on to careers in Law, Computing, Accounting and Teaching. So, whatever field you eventually work in, you will find Biology a rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills needed for a successful career.

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from micro-organisms to mammoths. The course builds on practical skills gained at GCSE and includes advanced training in How Science Works.

You will be tested on practical skills that are completed in lessons within the Biology exam itself. Biology involves an extremely large amount of independent learning due to the huge number of technical terms and complex concepts that must be understood before they can be applied. Students must be prepared to put in a significant amount of time reviewing their work and background reading. You are examined on application of your knowledge in often unknown biological circumstances; this subject is therefore not always a straightforward recall of facts.

During the two year A Level course with OCR, students will study the following topics:

- Module 1 - Development of Practical Skills in Biology
- Module 2 - Foundations in Biology
- Module 3 - Exchange and Transport
- Module 4 - Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease
- Module 5 - Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
- Module 6 - Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

The A Level is assessed by three written exams at the end of the course.

Where Biology can take you...

Biology is a fundamental subject for careers in the science and health sectors but there are many other career routes you can take with this subject.

Employers include: universities and clinical research organisations, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, hospitals, health, conservation and environmental organisations, local authorities, government and public health laboratories, scientific and technical consultancies, schools and colleges, the water industry, museums, science centres and broadcast companies. Many biology students pursue other opportunities in business, finance, the civil service, marketing and sales.

Career ideas: research & development, biomedical science, biotechnology, marine biology, microbiology, nanotechnology, animal science & management, nature conservation, environmental science, agriculture, horticulture, palaeontology, pharmacology, pathology, dentistry, veterinary work, clinical science, genetics, forensics, neuroscience, zoology, psychology, physiotherapy, sport science, medicine and allied health professions, education and much more.

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you are expected to achieve a Grade 7 or higher in GCSE/IGCSE Biology, or a Grade 7 in Trilogy Science.

Business

Business

AQA

(Mr Seymour)

From September 2015, students have been following the new 2-year linear AQA course for A Level Business. Business is front-page news. The way companies operate is under greater scrutiny than ever before, while TV programmes like 'The Apprentice' and 'Dragon's Den' have raised the profile of Business to a new generation. The new specifications bring the subject up-to-date, enabling students to engage with, explore and understand business behaviour and to develop a critical understanding of what business is and does.

Year 12 (first year):

An introduction to key business areas: marketing, operations, finance and human resource management. This includes a special focus on decision making – particularly how decisions made in one area can affect the rest of the business. Content Topic 1 – What is business? Topic 2 – Managers, leadership and decision-making Topic 3 – Decision-making to improve marketing performance Topic 4 – Decision-making to improve operational performance Topic 5 – Decision-making to improve financial performance Topic 6 – Decision-making to improve human resource performance.

Year 13 (second year):

An investigation of the strategic decisions that all businesses have to make. Content Topic 7 – Analysing the strategic position of a business Topic 8 – Choosing the strategic direction Topic 9 – Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies Topic 10 – Managing strategic change.

A Level Assessment:

A Level assessment consists of three two hour written exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Each exam will be worth a third of the A Level. All three papers will draw on material from the whole course, and will feature a range of question styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, data response questions and case studies.

Where Business can take you...

The skills you gain in business enable you to have a positive and effective impact on your employer's organisation

Industries as diverse as chemicals, utilities, fashion, health, grocery and construction all require functional business managers with a clear understanding of systems, efficiency and operational issues. Opportunities exist in management and analysis roles with employers in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Career Ideas: actuarial work, arbitrator, business advisor/analyst, management, accountancy, investment banking, data analyst, forensic accountant, insurance underwriter, consultancy, project manager, risk manager, stockbroker, supply chain manager, logistics & distribution manager, construction manager, auditor, Human Resources manager, marketing executive, mortgage advisor, retail manager, sales executive

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Business-Economics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

There is no requirement to have taken Business at GCSE. If you have studied GCSE Business then at least a Grade 5 is required.

Chemistry

Chemistry OCR (Mr Cooper/Mr Moody)

The course stresses practical applications, in the lab as well as elsewhere, in tandem with developing the key ideas. You do more experimental work than at GCSE and more on an individual basis. The A Level is taught in six modules, one of which is the development of practical skills. It is assessed by 3 written papers, the last of which is synoptic in style.

Chemistry is an A Level subject that will challenge the brightest students. Hard work will be rewarded by intellectual stimulation, the excitement of discovery and the satisfaction of going deep into the workings of the world. We study some topics that explain why the materials which make up the world and beyond behave the way they do, why changes happen or do not happen and how to use thinking tools and calculations to understand and predict changes. In other topics, we examine the 'nuts and bolts' of substances, from a detailed look at atoms and electrons through to more complex structures to develop a sound working knowledge of how to make what we want and manipulate things. Some of the engineering of living things is examined. We also learn ways of finding out what materials are and how much we have.

Many topics build upon GCSE knowledge, going to greater depth and getting out of it much more useful information. Other topics are entirely new, such as entropy and instrumental analysis. Organic chemistry is studied in much more detail and covers not just more reactions but how and why they occur. Inorganic and physical chemistry are also examined in much greater depth and breadth, examining the principles, laws and patterns that underpin all chemical and physical behaviour.

Module 1 is the development of practical skills and is integrated into the whole course.

Module 2 includes the fundamentals of measurements, acid theory, redox reactions, electrons in atoms, bonding and structure.

Module 3 covers patterns of behaviour in the Periodic Table, some analysis and introduces reaction rates and equilibrium.

Module 4 is where we will introduce the principles of organic chemistry and investigate some families of compounds. We will also investigate how to synthesise new compounds and start looking at instrumental analytical techniques.

Module 5 goes into the physical principles of behaviour in depth, covering rates, equilibrium, pH, energetics, redox and electrode potentials. We find that principles across the whole course interlink to develop an all-round understanding of why all materials behave as they do. Inorganic chemistry examines the interesting and surprising behaviour of the transition elements.

Module 6 looks at a wider range of organic chemistry families than Module 4, paying close attention to mechanisms, building up to long chain molecules and biological molecules. More advanced analytical techniques are studied and it includes a more detailed study of synthesis.

At the end, students must have demonstrated a fair level of general lab competence.

Throughout the A Level, students are expected to understand how Chemistry works and appreciate its significance in "the real world" as well as to develop scientific method and practice. It involves substantial amounts of calculations. As well as being an essential course for Chemistry and related degrees, it is a must for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. It is also highly valued for other Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences and Engineering courses.

Where Chemistry can take you...

Studying chemistry can lead to jobs in cutting-edge technologies within science and research as well as roles outside the laboratory

There are many different employers of chemistry graduates. Some are within the chemical and related industries, while others are in different sectors that have roles linked to chemistry. You could also be employed in schools, colleges and universities, as well as by computer software development companies, environment consultancies and water companies.

Career Ideas: research & development, analytical chemistry, biotechnology, clinical science, forensics, crime scene investigation, nanotechnology, pharmacy, medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, palaeontology, toxicology, dentistry, veterinary work, medicine and allied health professions, chemical engineering, nuclear engineering, patent attorney, product/process manufacturing & development, science writing, Archaeology, food science, geology, materials science, medical science, education, Civil service, environmental work and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you are expected to achieve a Grade 7 or higher in GCSE/IGCSE Chemistry, or Grade 7 in Trilogy Science.

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation

OCR

(Mrs Gammon)

Classical Civilisation is a fascinating and diverse subject including both literature and visual/material culture. It will inspire and motivate students to engage further with the classical world giving them the opportunity to study some of the oldest surviving works of literature in the Western literary canon; the origins of democracy; the birth of theatre; art and artistry.

There are three components to the classical civilisation course to be studied over two years. 'The World of the Hero' is a literary module bridging Years 12 and 13. After studying Homer's 'Odyssey', a Greek epic, its Roman counterpart, Virgil's 'Aeneid' is read and analysed. The texts are examined via gobbet questions on literary style and longer discussions of themes and the concept of heroism. This module is worth 40% of the A Level.

The second module (30% of total A Level) focuses upon ancient culture and the arts through study of the Greek Theatre. Three plays (two tragedies and one comedy) are studied along with material evidence which reveals how plays were staged and the significance of the theatre to daily life.

Finally, students will develop an understanding of Classical thought and philosophy through the study of the Politics of the Late Roman Republic. The module focuses on the works of Cato the Younger, Julius Caesar and Cicero.

The exploration of the very different ideas of three contemporary political figures brings this tumultuous period to life for learners and moves beyond simply studying ideals and abstracts, and into discussion of the practical difficulties familiar to states throughout history.

For more information, please see/contact Mrs Gammon.

Where Classical Civilisation can take you...

Classics develops your intellectual flexibility and analytical thinking skills. The breadth of this subject makes you attractive to many employers.

These include: art centres and theatres, financial institutions, heritage and cultural organisations, local and national government, legal firms, libraries, museums, the police, publishing houses, research and information organisations, schools & universities.

Career ideas: academic research, teacher/lecturer, museum/gallery curator, archivist, archaeology, law, civil service, accountancy, events management, heritage management, publishing and editing, journalism, media, marketing & public relations, fundraising campaign manager, politics, management consultancy and more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Classics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you have achieved at least a Grade 6 in Classical Civilisations, if studied. If not, at least a Grade 5 at GCSE in a Humanities subject.

Computer Science

Computer Science AQA (Mr Young)

Computer Science at A Level is good preparation for many university courses and goes well with Mathematics and the Sciences; students can study Computer Science and also go on to a career in Medicine, Law, Business, Politics, Engineering or any type of Science. The emphasis of this course is on being a developer of computer systems rather than just a user. It provides a theoretical foundation for understanding the principles of what goes on inside a computer system – hardware, software and networking. It includes programming in theory and practice.

The course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead the emphasis is on computational thinking; a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. A Level programming involves grasping many new and exciting concepts and paradigms. You will be expected to spend time doing practical work outside lessons and in private study periods.

The full A Level course follows a two-year programme. During the two years, you will cover a range of technical topics including fundamentals of programming, data structures, data representation, communications and networks and Computer System Architecture. Students will be encouraged to solve problems and to increase their computational thinking. The principle programming language we use is VB.net, but students will gain practical experience of logical, functional and Object Oriented programming paradigms.

During Year 13, you will complete a Non-Examined Assessment that assesses your ability to use your knowledge and skills, gained through the course, to solve and investigate a real practical problem. This NEA contributes 20% of the final assessment.

Where Computer Science can take you...

Studying computing opens up a range of careers from applications development to web design

Common employers are IT consultancies and IT service providers. However, as most businesses rely on computers to function effectively, there are also opportunities within the IT departments of major organisations across all sectors such as aerospace & defence, agriculture, financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, government, media, retail, telecommunications etc. You could also be employed by a company specialising in software engineering/development or other areas of IT.

Careers Ideas: applications, cybersecurity, data analyst, forensic computer analyst, games design & development, software engineering, systems analyst, web design & development, UX design, business analyst, IT consultancy, nanotechnology, network engineer, telecommunications, education and many more

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Computing-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

A Grade 7 or above in GCSE Computer Science. If you did not take GCSE Computer Science, you should be able to demonstrate that you can programme in a high level language (such as VB.net, Python, Pascal) up to GCSE standard. Also, at least Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and English.

Design & Technology**EDEXCEL****(Mr Alvarez)****(Product Design)****Qualification Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.
- Identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes.
- Acquire subject knowledge in Design and Technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.
- Take every opportunity to integrate and apply their understanding and knowledge from other subject areas studied during Key Stage 4, with a particular focus on Science and Mathematics, and those subjects they are studying alongside A Level Design and Technology.
- Be open to taking design risks, showing innovation and enterprise while considering their role as responsible designers and citizens.
- Develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products and systems, and their impact on daily life and the wider world.
- Work collaboratively to develop and refine their ideas, responding to feedback from users, peers and expert practitioners.
- Gain an insight into the Creative, Engineering and/or Manufacturing industries.
- Develop the capacity to think creatively, innovatively and critically through focused research and exploration of design opportunities arising from the needs, wants and values of users and clients.
- Develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use.
- Be able to make informed design decisions through an in-depth understanding of the management and development of taking a design through to a prototype.
- Be able to create and analyse a design concept and use a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including Mathematics and Science, to inform decisions in design and the application or development of technology.
- Be able to work safely and skilfully to produce high-quality prototypes.
- Have a critical understanding of the wider influences on Design and Technology, including cultural, economic, environmental, historical and social factors.
- Develop the ability to draw on and apply a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including the use of Mathematics and Science, for analysis and informing decisions in design. (Pearson Edexcel 2016).

The subject will be assessed by the following means:

1. Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (50% of the qualification).
2. Independent Design and Make Project Non-Examined Assessment (50% of the qualification).

Where Design & Technology can take you...

A career in design and technology involves developing creative, tech-based solutions to existing problems. This can mean anything from designing innovative video games to creating indoor living spaces that are both functional and visually appealing. As technology continues to grow and evolve, so does the need for people with strong backgrounds in design technology. Employers include product manufacturers; car manufacturers, designers, retailers. Self-employment, or employment within a design-based consultancy, is also possible.

Career Ideas: architecture, construction, CAD technician, automotive engineer, materials engineer, planning, production, manufacturing, science & technology, interior design, clothing/textile technologist, product design, games design, web design, interior & spatial design, furniture design, conservator/restorer, colour technologist, exhibition design, graphics, robotics, industrial design, advertising and much more

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Art-DT-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

You have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology. However, if you have not studied GCSE Design and Technology you will need to demonstrate some practical aptitude at Key Stages 3 and 4 in design manipulative skills. The course stresses practical coursework.

Design & Technology

Drama & Theatre Studies

Drama & Theatre Studies AQA (Mrs Brooks)

This course inspires students to become independent theatre makers with the skills they need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre or another subject. This qualification emphasises practical creativity, alongside research and theoretical understanding.

Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances. They can choose to develop as a performer, designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets), director or a combination of these.

A-level Drama and Theatre is divided into three components:

Component 1: Drama and theatre – 40% of whole qualification.

An open book examination that focuses on the knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. This is through the study of two set plays. Students are also required to analyse and evaluate live theatre.

Component 2: Creating original drama – 30% of whole qualification.

Students devise and perform their own piece of drama. This must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner. This is assessed via performance and a working notebook.

Component 3: Making theatre – 30% of whole qualification.

Students explore and interpret three extracts from three different places. They must apply the methodology of a particular practitioner to extract 3 which is performed as a final assessed piece.

Where Drama can take you...

The broad set of skill by studying Drama and Theatre will be beneficial and marketable in a host of future higher education and career pathways. These include theatre performance, theatre design, playwriting, advertising, marketing, publicity, media organisations & publishing companies, therapy, arts management, the NHS, education, legal firms, local and national government and events management.

Career ideas: actor, director, script writer, TV producer, set designer, costume designer, theatrical agent, event manager, advertising executive, marketing manager, social worker, human relations manager, artist, teacher, lecturer, art therapist, psychologist and much more.

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Performing-Arts-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

GCSE Drama grade 6 and Grade 6 in either English Literature or Language. If GCSE Drama has not been taken then students must have recent relevant performance experience.

Economics

Economics

AQA

(Mr Seymour)

Since September 2015, students have been following the new 2-year linear AQA course for A Level Economics. Economics has become high profile. The credit crunch, bankers' bonuses and fears of a Euro meltdown are just three topics rarely out of the news in recent years, throwing a light on the importance of and divisions within the discipline. The new AS and A Level specifications catch the wave of this renewed interest in the subject with topics that will interest and intrigue students. The subject content is divided between micro and macroeconomics. Students will use economic theory to analyse current economic issues.

Over this 2-year course, students will study areas and topics drawn from both micro and macroeconomics.

Microeconomics:

- The economic problem and economic methodology
- individual economic decision-making
- price determination in a competitive market
- production, costs and revenue
- perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- the labour market
- the distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- the market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets.

Macroeconomics:

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- how the macroeconomy works
- economic performance
- financial markets and monetary policy
- fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- the international economy.

A Level Assessment:

The A Level has three, two hour written exams taken at the end of the course in Year 13.

- **Paper 1:** Markets and market failure: students answer two questions, Section A – students choose one context from a choice of two; Section B – students choose one context from a choice of three.
- **Paper 2:** National and international economy: students answer two questions, Section A – students choose one context from a choice of two; Section B - students choose one context from a choice of three.
- **Paper 3:** Economic principles and issues: Section A - multiple choice; Section B - extended writing questions.

Where Economics can take you...

Studying economics teaches you about social policy and financial markets, useful for careers in finance, accountancy and government administration.

Economists are employed in a variety of settings in both the public and private sectors.

The largest employer of economists is the Civil Service and The Bank of England.

Economists also find employment in areas such as banks, charitable and not-for-profit organisations, consultancies, insurance and accountancy firms, government departments and think tanks.

Career ideas: accountancy, actuarial work, data analyst, economist, auditor, financial risk analyst/management, banking, investment, insurance, politics, business development, civil service, diplomatic service, local government, quantity surveying, data science, education and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Business-Economics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and Mathematics.

English Literature

English Literature

EDEXCEL

(Miss McKelvey)

The course focuses on developing critical and creative literary skills through engagement with a range of prose, poetry and drama texts from Chaucer to the present day. The Advanced GCE is made up of four mandatory components:

- Component 1 is Drama (worth 30%). This features the study of a Shakespeare play (such as King Lear/Othello) and one further drama text (last year, students studied the twentieth century play, A Streetcar Named Desire.)
- Component 2 (worth 20%) is Prose, the comparison of two novels, such as Frankenstein or The War of the Worlds, compared to The Handmaid's Tale.
- Component 3 is Poetry, (worth 30%). Here students will study a collection of post-2000 poems and the poetry of an earlier period.
- Component 4 is Coursework, (worth 20%), and is a 2,500-3,000-word essay comparing two texts.

Sometimes, texts are covered by directed close analysis with note-taking and highlighting of key passages. Seminar sessions provide a great opportunity to debate issues in stimulating ways. Selected scenes may be dramatized in small groups. Essays are set regularly and ICT skills developed as you draft and refine your coursework assignments. You are expected to read beyond the specification for evidence of how cultural and contextual factors and different interpretations illuminate your own reading of literature. There is an increased emphasis on exploring comparisons and contrasts between texts, establishing links to historical context and considering critical opinions. The subject extends in a natural way into a wide range of related courses in Higher Education. You will be able to use the skills developed in a variety of careers such as Law, General Management, the Media, or Education.

Where English Literature can take you...

The broad set of skills you gain through studying English are marketable in many sectors.

English students find opportunities with many different employers, across a range of public, private and charity sectors, including: administration, advertising, marketing and public relations agencies, media organisations & publishing companies, the NHS, arts management, education, legal firms, local and national government, events management, finance, general management leisure and hospitality, research retail, tourism.

Career ideas: publishing copy-editor, digital/advertising copywriter, editorial assistant, newspaper/magazine journalist, advertising, marketing, teacher/lecturer, EFL teacher, lexicographer, writer, web content manager, media researcher, education consultant, public relations officer, archivist, arts administration, academic librarian, arts and events management, information officer, social media manager, leisure & hospitality, retail, tourism and much more

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/English-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved an average of Grade 6 in English Literature and English Language.

Film Studies

Film Studies EDUQAS (Mr Goddard)

Film Studies is concerned with the analysis, evaluation and interpretation of cinematic texts. The course requires you to explore a wide variety of films from different genres, historical periods and national cinemas. Through the course, you will form a detailed understanding of the film-making world and develop an analytical appreciation of film.

The A Level in Film Studies consists of 70% examination work and 30% Non-Examined Assessment. The first exam is based around the study of British and American cinema and covers a wide range of historical and contemporary texts. There are a series of set films from the classics of Hollywood such as 'Casablanca' and 'Vertigo' to modern cinema such as 'Inception' and 'No Country For Old Men'. There is also an expectation to look at aspects of independent cinema such as 'Boyhood' or 'Beasts of the Southern Wild'. The focus is very much on the contexts and content of these texts through either exploratory or comparative responses.

The second exam focuses more on cinematic forms and styles. This allows for an opportunity to look at silent cinema, avant-garde filmmaking, documentary film and an exploration of the cultural and social contexts surrounding global cinema.

The Non-Examined Assessment involves the planning, production and editing of a short film. This highly creative project allows for originality, technical prowess and, of course, an opportunity to become the director/producer, scriptwriter, cinematographer, sound engineer and editor of your own Oscar worthy masterpiece.

Film Studies is a well-recognised discipline, which is offered by the majority of Russell Group Universities and is most comparable to English Literature. Film Studies students have a strong passion for film and embrace the opportunity to analyse and theorise the meanings and ideologies of cinematic texts. The Film industry has adapted to changes in technology and audience behaviour throughout the 20th and 21st centuries and remains one of the strongest forms of entertainment, expression and a big influence on our identity.

Where Film Studies can take you...

Studying Film Studies develops your theoretical and technical skills, but you'll need determination and resilience to succeed in the competitive film industry. The most common sectors you may find work in are the media, creative, cultural and heritage industries. As well as traditional destinations in the film and broadcasting industries, you may also be interested in other media sectors such as publishing, journalism and research.

Career Ideas: broadcast presenter, director, producer, film/video editor, location manager, production design, researcher, runner, camera operator, production coordinator, advertising, marketing, arts administration, community arts, festival & cultural events management, journalism, public relations, talent agent, special effects and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Film-Media-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Film Studies if taken. Also, at least a minimum of a Grade 5 in another essay-based subject at GCSE.

Geography

Geography

AQA

(Mr Rivers)

Geography's subject content is stimulating and broad, covering a range of physical and human geographical themes, from tectonic hazards to migration. Geography at A Level is highly respected, and the Russell Group of Universities classify Geography as a facilitating subject i.e. one that is recommended to be taken in preparation for Higher Education.

We follow the AQA specification and we do not enter students for AS examinations. Terminal examinations are sat at the end of Year 13. Paper 1 sees students studying Physical Geography, with natural hazards, glacial landscapes and the water and carbon cycles being explored. Paper 2 has a Human Geography focus, and students engage with the dynamics of resource security, the changing image of places, as well as globalisation and international decision-making.

Twenty percent of the overall marks are based on the assessment of a 3,000-4,000-word coursework project. To complete this, students will conduct fieldwork investigations in Dorset in the first week back after the Easter break. Students stay there for four days, and are supported not just by the staff at MGS, but also by well qualified and highly experienced field work experts at Leeson House, Swanage. Students formulate their own coursework question, and they develop a host of data collection skills over the course of the trip. Students will enhance their data interpretation skills as well. The skills developed are excellent preparation for Higher Education, and are highly valued by employers.

Over the course of the two years, students will be supported by dedicated and well qualified staff. The subject is a popular choice at A Level, and its students are typically successful. Indeed, the last 3 years data showed that in excess of 70% of students achieved A*-B grades.

Where Geography can take you...

From environmental consultancies to planning departments, geography can lead you into a variety of careers

Geography opens up careers in a range of fields, including those in the education, commerce, industry, transport, tourism and public sectors. You'll also have many transferable skills, attracting employers from the business, law and finance sectors.

Employers include: the armed forces, charities, the Civil Service, environmental consultancies, environmental protection agencies, information systems organisations, local government, Ministry of Defence, police service, private companies, utility companies.

Career ideas: architecture, business analyst, cartographer, data analyst, environmental consultant, Geographical Information Systems Officer, marketing, education, social researcher, town planner, construction manager, landscape architect, nature conservation, palaeontologist, meteorologist, political risk analyst, sustainability consultant, transport/logistics planner

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Geography-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved a Grade 6 in Geography at GCSE.

History

History

EDEXCEL

(Mr Wrein)

To study A Level History, you need an interest in the world around you, an enquiring mind and the ability to weigh up different evidence or arguments. You do not need to have GCSE History in order to study A Level History. However, you may find it helpful, as A Level builds on the skills developed at GCSE such as the communication of historical knowledge, the ability to analyse historical sources and an awareness of different historical interpretations and perspectives.

In Year 12, students will have two teachers; one will prepare them for an examination on 'Britain 1785-1870: Democracy, Protest and Reform', including an historical investigation into the reasons for the abolition of the slave trade. The other side of the course will be a study of the 'Unification of Italy 1830-1870'. Both exams are assessed by a combination of essay and source based questions.

In Year 13, students develop further their breadth and depth of understanding of history by taking an exam on 'Germany 1871-1990: United, Divided and Reunited'. Also, the students will research and produce a 3,000-4,000-word coursework essay on the 'Radicalisation of the Third Reich 1935-39'. This assignment will be excellent preparation for the university assignments that many of our students go on to experience.

Why do History A Level at MGS?

The History Department at MGS has a great deal of expertise; its teachers are enthusiastic, and thoroughly professional.

History A Level in general: History is a respected subject, regarded as a 'heavy-weight' subject which promotes and develops many wide-ranging skills that are very useful in many Higher Education Courses and areas of employment. A Level History will give you a number of skills relevant to many types of employment, such as the ability to seek information and to analyse it in order to identify facts and motives and to present information clearly for others to understand. The skills you will obtain through studying History will be useful in a number of careers, either directly related to History (eg working in Museums, Galleries, Heritage sites, Record Offices and Archives, and Teaching), or in areas such as Journalism, Law, National and Local Government and the Civil Service.

Where History can take you...

History gives you the skills that can take you into a variety of careers from museum, library and heritage work to teaching or accountancy

Other typical employers include: accountancy firms, archive and records offices, banks, charities, international development organisations, law firms, management consultancies, publishing companies, retailers, broadcasters, National and local government and the public services.

Career Ideas: academic research, archivist, heritage management, historic buildings work, conservation, museum/gallery work, teaching/lecturing, archaeology, academic librarian, journalism, law, civil service, publishing & editing, human resources, information officer, marketing, politics and much more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/History-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved at least a Grade 6 in History at GCSE.

Latin

Latin

OCR

(Mrs Gammon)

A Level Latin is an academically rigorous and rewarding course which will allow you to develop your understanding of the Latin language and the related ancient literature, values and society.

We will support you as you consolidate and develop your knowledge of the grammar encountered at GCSE Level to develop confidence in unseen translation. You will develop the language skills to read literary texts, both prose and verse, in the original language. Through this, you will develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the literary, historical and cultural features of the ancient world. You will also acquire the literary skills required to read and fully appreciate ancient literature, both prose and verse, in its original language with appropriate attention to literary techniques, styles and genres.

The new OCR A Level qualification consists of four elements as follows, all examined via terminal exams at the end of Year 13:

1. Unseen translation (1 hour 45-minute exam – 33% of total A Level).
2. Prose composition or comprehension (1 hour 15-minute exam – 17% of total A Level).
3. Prose literature (2-hour exam – 25% of total A Level).
4. Verse Literature (2-hour exam – 25% of total A Level).

Authors currently specified for the set text papers (3 and 4 above) include Virgil and Cicero.

Candidates interested in studying AS Level Latin only should first discuss this with Miss Adams to see whether it is possible to accommodate this within the course structure.

Where Latin can take you...

Latin develops your intellectual flexibility and analytical thinking skills. The breadth of this subject makes you attractive to many employers.

These include: art centres and theatres, financial institutions, heritage and cultural organisations, local and national government, legal firms, libraries, museums, the police, publishing houses, research and information organisations, schools & universities.

Career ideas: academic research, teacher/lecturer, museum/gallery curator, archivist, archaeology, law, civil service, accountancy, events management, heritage management, publishing and editing, journalism, media, marketing & public relations, fundraising campaign manager, politics, management consultancy and more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Classics-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course for A Level Latin, you should have achieved at least a Grade 6 in Latin GCSE.

Mathematics

Mathematics EDEXCEL (Mr Stone)

Pure (Core) Mathematics is studied mainly for its beauty and intellectual training, though many techniques are vital to Applied Mathematics as well as the Sciences, Geography and Economics. This aspect is mainly algebra based, but includes such areas as calculus, trigonometric functions, vectors, numerical methods and series.

Students will also study two aspects of Applied Mathematics, namely, Mechanics and Statistics.

Mechanics is the theoretical study of objects acted on by forces encompassing both kinematics and statics of particles. Topics include moments, centres of mass, mechanical energy and collisions.

Statistics deals with the organisation, analysis and interpretation of numerical data, in particular, a supplied data set.

Where Mathematics can take you...

The logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills you learn while studying mathematics can lead to careers in computing & IT, business & finance, science & engineering

Mathematicians and statisticians are in demand across a range of sectors including; education, engineering, finance, banking and accountancy, government, insurance, IT, business & consultancy, market research and marketing, medicine and health, petroleum and nuclear industries, space science and astronomy.

Career Ideas: acoustics, actuarial work, astronomy, accountancy, data analysis, data science, banking, investment, research, computing/IT, software engineering, sound engineering/music production, statistician, economist, financial management, trading, stockbroker, games design, insurance underwriting, meteorology, palaeontology, surveying, engineering (all branches), education and much more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Maths-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you will need at least a Grade 7 in Mathematics GCSE.

Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics

EDEXCEL

(Mr Stone)

The Further Mathematics A Level course is ideally suited to students who wish to broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of Mathematics and its applications to real world scenarios. An A Level in Further Mathematics is an entry requirement to study Mathematics at leading universities; the course will also provide excellent preparation for any student wishing to study any Maths-related course at university, Engineering or Physics for example. A Level Further Mathematics is a challenging, stimulating and rewarding course which requires a high level of commitment! Students choosing this option will be aiming for the top grade at GCSE, and may well have undertaken an additional Mathematics course if this is offered by their current educational establishment. Note that this is an additional option to the Mathematics A Level; students should apply for both.

Where Mathematics can take you...

The logical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills you learn while studying mathematics can lead to careers in computing & IT, business & finance, science & engineering

Mathematicians and statisticians are in demand across a range of sectors including; education, engineering, finance, banking and accountancy, government, insurance, IT, business & consultancy, market research and marketing, medicine and health, petroleum and nuclear industries, space science and astronomy.

Career Ideas: acoustics, actuarial work, astronomy, accountancy, data analysis, data science, banking, investment, research, computing/IT, software engineering, sound engineering/music production, statistician, economist, financial management, trading, stockbroker, games design, insurance underwriting, meteorology, palaeontology, surveying, engineering (all branches), education and much more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Maths-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved at least a Grade 8 in Mathematics at GCSE.

Media Studies

Media Studies EDUQAS (Mr Goddard)

Media Studies involves the study of a range of areas including Film, Television, Video Gaming, Newspaper, Magazine, Advertising and Marketing, Radio and Online industries. It is focused on industry practices and involves looking at how and why products are produced in the manner they are. It also requires you to challenge your perceptions of the Media as a whole.

The A Level course is made up of 70% examination work and 30% Non-Examined Assessment. In the first examination, learners will explore how media products are used by institutions and consumed by audiences, as well as looking at construction techniques and the representation offered in key products. This will involve looking at a range of media texts from a variety of different forms of media, including advertising, music video, video gaming and radio industries.

The second exam paper involves looking at a series of debates such as censorship, changing technologies, sociological changes in audiences and postmodernism through a series of media texts from a historical perspective, global perspective and within the 'digital age'.

The course also involves a practical component which makes up the Non-Examined Assessment. This will involve students producing a series of linked media products, covering moving image production, print work, audio/radio broadcasting and the online medium.

Media Studies offers you the opportunity to work creatively, practically, analytically and theoretically. The course allows you the opportunity to advance in your understanding of the media world and to become more aware of the intentions and effects created by one of the most dominant and influential forces in modern life. It can lead to a wide array of opportunities working within the media industry, or become a very strong opportunity to show universities and employers your range of skills and versatility when it comes to learning.

Where Media Studies can take you...

Media Studies students typically aspire to careers in the media, cultural and creative industries. Areas of work include television and radio, film and video, digital media, computer games, journalism, writing and publishing, PR, marketing and media practice.

Employers include: communications agencies, the Civil Service, the education sector, local government, marketing organisations, media companies, the newspaper industry, PR consultancies, publishing companies, TV and radio companies.

Career Ideas: digital marketing, location manager, media buyer, media planner, researcher, public relations officer, runner, social media manager, TV/Film/Video producer, TV production coordinator, web content manager, advertising, arts administration, journalism, editorial assistant, events manager, film director, marketing executive, market researcher, photographer, UX designer, writer and more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Film-Media-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course for A Level, you should have achieved at least a Grade 5 in an essay-based subject at GCSE.

Modern Languages

Modern Languages

AQA

(Mr Zaccarini)

French, German & Spanish

The studying of Modern Languages at A Level will develop your linguistic skills far beyond GCSE. The focus will move away from transactional language such as ordering, shopping and talking about your hobbies, routines and lifestyle, towards the analysis and evaluation of current political and social events and trends. In addition, you will look at the artistic impact and legacy of French/German/Spanish societies on the modern world through the study of film and literature.

You need to be interested in developing both your linguistic ability and your understanding of the cultures and societies which have given us these languages in order to get the most from a Modern Languages A Level.

Why study Modern Languages?

Modern Languages is a "Facilitating Subject", one of those preferred or even required by many universities, and as such, is a well-respected option to take up.

Whilst the lingua franca for such diverse career paths as Finance, Law, Science and the Performing Arts is English, the ability to understand and to express yourself in a foreign language, is a distinct advantage, and one held in high regard by prospective employers.

How are Modern Language A Levels Assessed?

You will sit the following three papers at the end of your A Level:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing – Written paper, 2½ hours, worth 50% of the A Level.

Listening and Reading

- Comprehension texts are drawn from written and spoken passages from different contexts and sources. Material will include complex factual and abstract text and questions will target main points, gist and detail.
- All questions are in the target language and are answered either in the target language or with non-verbal responses.
- Students will have individual control of the recording.

Writing/Translation

- Translation into English and into the target language is assessed in two 100-word passages.
- There will be no access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2: Writing – Written paper, 2 hours, worth 20% of the A Level.

- You will study one film or two texts from the list in the specification. The paper requires two essays to be written in French/German/Spanish in the region of 300 words each in which you must show a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues raised in the film or text.

Paper 3: Speaking – Oral exam 21-23 minutes (including 5-minute preparation time), worth 30% of the A Level.

- Discussion of one of four sub-themes which relate to aspects of culture, society or politics in the target language society, based on a stimulus card which you will be able to prepare beforehand.
- Presentation and discussion of a research project that you will have studied during the course.

Where Languages can take you...

Language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally

Some modern language graduates work on a self-employed basis as interpreters or translators. However, many others are employed by companies who trade or offer services internationally, or to non-English speaking customers and suppliers. Language students are therefore employed by a wide variety of employers and sectors, including: business services, charity work, engineering, media, museums and libraries, public administration, teaching, tourism, transport and logistics.

Career Ideas: Academic researcher, diplomatic service, EFL teacher, intelligence analyst, international aid/development worker, interpreter, political risk analyst, translator, teacher/lecturer, broadcast journalist, detective, education consultant, logistics/distribution management, marketing, Patent examiner, publishing, sales, tour manager and many more...

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MFL-Gatsby4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have at least a Grade 6 at GCSE in the language you wish to study.

Music

Music

AQA

(Mr Bourne)

The Music A Level course offers a wide range of opportunities in all areas of Music study. Whether it is performing, composing or analysing and expressing opinions, the qualification allows you to develop your individual strengths within Music, whilst developing your understanding of the music's place in different cultures and contexts. You will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of musical genres and techniques, all the while helping you to interpret and reflect on how Music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Much like the GCSE, the A Level qualification is divided into three areas of assessment, all studied over the two-year course.

1. Performing (externally assessed practical coursework; 35% of the qualification)

The Performing unit consists of a public performance of one or more pieces, performed as a recital. The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 10 minutes. The recital must be in front of an audience, and must take place within the final year of the course.

2. Composition (externally assessed practical coursework; 25% of the qualification)

The Composing unit requires the completion of two compositions, one to a brief set by AQA and one free composition. The total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 4½ minutes.

3. Appraisal (2½ hour written examination; 40% of the qualification)

The Appraising unit tests your knowledge and understanding of the musical elements, contexts and musical language. There are six Areas of Study which you will explore throughout the course, learning specific set works chosen by the exam board. The written A Level examination will require the application of your musical knowledge to all set works and composers studied throughout the course.

Where Music can take you...

Composing, performing and teaching are just three of the ways you can develop your music career. You can choose to work in a range of professions inside and outside music.

Employers include: music production companies, music retailers, media organisations (including music magazines and licensing bodies), schools and colleges, orchestras, opera companies and touring companies, travel industry companies e.g. hotels, summer camps and cruises; mental healthcare providers and charitable organisations, the armed forces, a range of employers in the cultural and creative industries including film and gaming companies

Career Ideas: music producer, music therapist, musician, music teacher/tutor, sound designer/engineer, sound technician-broadcasting/film/video, special effects, acoustic consultant, arts administrator, broadcast engineer, choreographer, community arts worker, events manager, marketing, radio producer, talent agent, theatre stage manager and more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/PerformingArts-Gatsby4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

If you have taken GCSE Music, then at least a Grade 6 is required. You do not need to have studied Music at GCSE Level in order to study the A Level course. However, you will need to play an instrument to Grade 6 standard or above in Year 13.

Music Technology

Music Technology

EDEXCEL

(Mr Bourne)

Music Technology plays a key role in Music across the world. This qualification is designed to open up a range of exciting and useful tasks to students from a wide variety of musical backgrounds, and to encourage students to learn about the subject in depth. You will have opportunities to build your understanding of the technical processes and principles that underpin effective use of Music Technology, and comment on it in writing.

There are four components, delivered and completed over the two-year course.

1. Recording (externally assessed practical coursework; 20% of the qualification)

Students complete one multi-track recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs provided by the exam board. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the production tools and techniques required to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording. The task is completed in lesson time throughout the course.

2. Technology-based Composition (externally assessed practical coursework; 20% of the qualification)

Students compose an original piece chosen from three briefs set by the exam board. Students explore the creation, editing, structure and manipulation of sounds to produce a technology-based composition. The task is completed in lesson time throughout the course.

3. Listening and Analysing (1½ hour written examination; 25% of the qualification)

Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by the exam board. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes, principles of sound and audio technology, and the development of recording and production technology. This includes two extended written responses, one question comparing two unfamiliar recordings and the second commenting on the capture and production of an additional unfamiliar recording.

4. Producing and Analysing (2 hour 15 minutes written and practical examination; 35% of the qualification)

Through both practical and written tasks, students are required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques. Students will correct and combine given audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating tracks or parts from the materials provided. They will also complete an extended essay task, focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or Music Technology hardware unit.

Where Music can take you...

Composing, performing and teaching are just three of the ways you can develop your music career. You can choose to work in a range of professions inside and outside music.

Employers include: music production companies, music retailers, media organisations (including music magazines and licensing bodies), schools and colleges, orchestras, opera companies and touring companies, travel industry companies e.g. hotels, summer camps and cruises; mental healthcare providers and charitable organisations, the armed forces, a range of employers in the cultural and creative industries including film and gaming companies

Career Ideas: music producer, music therapist, musician, music teacher/tutor, sound designer/engineer, sound technician-broadcasting/film/video, special effects, acoustic consultant, arts administrator, broadcast engineer, choreographer, community arts worker, events manager, marketing, radio producer, talent agent, theatre stage manager and more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Performing-Arts-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

You do not need to have studied Music at GCSE Level in order to study the A Level course. It is highly recommended that you have an interest in music technology and understand how chords and beats are formed to create music.

Philosophy

Philosophy

AQA

(Miss Alloy)

What does it mean 'to know' something? Can we ever be certain of anything? Does God exist? Do humans have freewill? Is Science capable of explaining all aspects of reality? Is the mind the same as the brain? These are some of the ultimate questions that Philosophy tries to answer. It is a subject for those who like debate and are seeking to understand fundamental truths about the nature of themselves and what ultimately exists.

Human beings are equipped with a powerful intellectual capability, and as an academic discipline, Philosophy uses reasoning in order to try and answer some of these questions rather than simply accepting, without question, conventional views or traditional authority. This demanding course will therefore enhance your ability to analyse issues, question received assumptions and develop clear and logical reasoning skills through engagement with philosophical texts, discussion and essay writing. You will learn what great thinkers of the past and present have said about life's big issues and evaluate them in critical essays.

The AQA Philosophy specification is broken down into four sections:

1. **Epistemology** - What are the sources and limits of human knowledge? Can we know anything for certain?
2. **Moral Philosophy** - Are moral values purely subjective? On what basis should we seek to justify our moral values?
3. **Metaphysics of God** - Does God exist? Is it possible to prove or disprove the existence of God?
4. **Metaphysics of Mind** - What is the nature and origin of human consciousness? Are our thoughts biologically predetermined?

The course is assessed in two, three hour exams sat at the end of Year 13. Paper One assesses Sections 1 and 2, and Paper Two assesses Sections 3 and 4. Both papers make up 50% of the A Level. There is no coursework in this subject.

Philosophy is regarded highly by universities and acts as a basis for many other areas of study. In addition to being an excellent choice in combination with any other Social Science or Humanities subject, the importance of logic and reasoning has traditionally made Philosophy a good foundation for the study of Mathematics and Science.

Where Philosophy can take you...

Philosophy allows you to consider the big questions in life and teaches you how to analyse and communicate ideas logically, which are skills that many employers value

Philosophy students are found working for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Opportunities are available in areas like publishing, the media, journalism, advertising and teaching, through to computing and IT.

Typical employers include: local government and the Civil Service, advertising, marketing and public relations agencies, management consultancies, schools, colleges and universities, law firms, publishing companies, charities, banking and insurance companies, accountancy firms and recruitment agencies.

Career Ideas: teaching/lecturing, law, business analyst, civil service, health service management, chaplain, Human Resources, local government officer, marketing, journalism, policy officer, psychotherapist, recruitment, social researcher

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Social-sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

A Grade 6 at GCSE in a Humanities subject. Also, at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and an average of 6 in English Literature and Language.

Physical Education AQA (Mr Hughes)

Students will study a variety of Anatomy and Physiology, Sport Psychology, Sport and Society, Biomechanics, Skill Acquisition, and Technology in Sport across a two-year course. The course is assessed in the form of two exam papers, as well as a practical performance and a verbal or written analysis of performance.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

- Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
- Section B: Skill acquisition
- Section C: Sport and society

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35 % of A Level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

- Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Section B: Sport psychology
- Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35 % of A Level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

Non-Examined Assessment:

Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

- Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity.
- Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance.

How it is assessed

- Internal assessment, external moderation.
- 90 marks
- 30 % of A Level

Where PE can take you...

Studying PE/Sports Studies opens up career opportunities throughout the sports industry, working with athletes, children or the general public. Jobs are available with a range of organisations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, including: professional sports clubs, national sporting associations, governing bodies and other related sporting agencies, private health and fitness clubs, spas and public sports and recreation facilities, local authorities, schools, colleges & universities, the health sector, including the NHS. You may choose to enter a career not directly related to sport, such as finance or management.

Career Ideas: exercise physiologist, fitness centre manager, personal trainer, teacher/lecturer, sports administrator, sports coach, sports development officer, sports therapist, choreographer, health improvement practitioner, clinical scientist, nutritionist, outdoor activities instructor, sports psychologist, physiotherapist, events manager, theme park manager, tourism officer, marketing executive, armed forces training & education officer, youth worker,

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/PE-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved a Grade 6 in Physical Education at GCSE. Also, at least a Grade 6 in one of the Sciences. Students must also be engaged in sport at a competitive level.

Physical Education

Politics

Politics

EDEXCEL

(Mr Amin)

Government and Politics is one of the most intellectually stimulating, interesting and relevant subjects that one could possibly study. The study of Politics amounts, in many respects, to the study of power with all its associated issues: Who should have power? What are the different forms of power? Is democratic power the only legitimate form of power? Is legitimate power a contradiction in terms?

You will be taken through a challenging intellectual journey that explores the merits and drawbacks of British political institutions, the main ideological divisions in the modern world, the conflict ridden nature of global politics, all within the context of the intriguing overlaps between political debates and History, Philosophy and Sociology.

Whilst some debates will have a specific British context such as whether we should change our electoral system, or abolish the House of Lords, others will have a broader international context such as considering whether western capitalist nations unfairly exploit the resources of developing countries as part of a new form of colonisation. Whether you wish to indulge your intellectual curiosity, or simply become more aware of the world in which you live, the study of Politics will certainly provide ample opportunity to become a more intelligent and critical thinker. This is a skill that is greatly admired by universities and employers alike.

The 2018 Edexcel Government and Politics course is a linear course with a terminal set of exams at the end of the two-year course. Further details about the specifics of the Edexcel Government and Politics specification can be found on the Edexcel website.

Where Politics can take you...

Politics is a highly respected subject by universities and many students who study Politics at A Level go on to pursue diverse careers such as Law, Journalism, Business and Project Management, Teaching and the Civil Service.

Politics can open doors to a range of careers, including political work, social and political research, journalism, PR and marketing.

Employers include: accountancy and banking organisations, charities, commercial businesses, councils, law firms, local and national government, lobbying and campaigning organisations, public affairs consultancies, schools, colleges and universities, retail companies, media organisations and organisations such as the United Nations (UN), the Civil Service, think tanks, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and voluntary organisations, and the public sector in general.

Career ideas: civil service, policy officer, social researcher, political risk analyst, public affairs consultant, trade union research officer, politician's assistant, academic researcher, advice worker, business development manager, charity officer, diplomatic services, forensic accountant, local government officer, market researcher, marketing executive, journalist, public relations officer

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Social-sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, a specific set of subjects at GCSE is not required, although a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language is needed.

Physics

Physics AQA (Mr Cooper/Mr Williams)

Physics at A Level is a challenging and thought provoking course about the nature of the universe, in which a good grade will distinguish you from the crowd. You will be further developing some of the core principles covered at GCSE such as forces and electricity as well as new areas such as quantum phenomena, gravitational fields and relativity.

Physics is the backbone of the Engineering industry, but is also highly regarded in other careers such as Medicine, Architecture, Computer Science, Music Technology, Finance and Law. The problem solving skills that you develop and the mathematical aptitude you achieve during the Physics course, make it a highly regarded subject.

Students study the new AQA syllabus Physics A Level. As part of the course, students will be given opportunities to use modern technology including data logging equipment and to participate in practical work to support the theory.

The subject is delivered by two teachers for each class. The department aims to provide support to the students taking the course through the use of regular weekly Physics clinics and revision sessions prior to exams.

For the 2 year A Level course:

Core Content

- Measurements and their errors.
- Particles and radiation.
- Waves.
- Mechanics and materials.
- Electricity.
- Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics.
- Fields and their consequences.
- Nuclear Physics.
- Turning Points in Physics.

This A Level positively incorporates the use of practicals throughout the course which are tested in the third terminal exam. The two other theory papers use multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Physics is a rewarding course that will help you in a great number of career paths as it has many transferable skills.

Where Physics can take you...

Physics a great starting point for a career in scientific research, as well as in a range of careers in the business, finance, IT and engineering sectors

Employers include: aerospace and defence, education, energy and renewable energy, engineering, health and medicine, manufacturing, meteorology and climate change, nanotechnology, oil and gas, science and telecommunications. Physicists also move into careers outside of science including banking and finance, computing, accountancy, law and transport

Career Ideas: research & development, acoustics, astronomy, astrophysics, clinical science, medical physics, geophysics, metallurgy, meteorology, nanotechnology, engineering (all branches) sound engineering/music production, technical author, actuary, data analysis, clinical technology, nuclear engineering, patent attorney, prosthetics, software engineering, applications development, telecommunications, education and many more..

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you are expected to have achieved a Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Physics, or a Grade 7 in Trilogy Science.

Psychology

AQA

(Mr Amin)

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes. It will open your eyes to the world around you and help you to understand why we behave in the way we do. Why did the Nazis commit atrocities against the Jews? Can we enhance the powers of the brain? Are Freud's ideas still relevant today? Is aggression more influenced by our genes or our environment? What influence do role models have on anorexia? How reliable is eyewitness testimony? Are criminals born or made? What are the causes of Schizophrenia?

You do not need to have studied Psychology before. The course involves some essay writing, science and statistics. You will put your psychological knowledge into action by conducting your own practical work in class. The full two-year A Level is assessed through three papers. Each paper is two hours long and 96 marks in total. Each paper is worth 33.3% of the final A Level mark.

All content in Paper One and Paper Two is compulsory.

Paper One – Introductory Topics in Psychology

This paper involves understanding the basic concepts in Psychology. Each section is worth 24 marks and all questions are compulsory. It consists of studies and theories in the following areas:

Section A: Social Influence

Section B: Memory

Section C: Attachment

Section D: Psychopathology

Paper Two – Psychology in Context

This paper involves understanding the different perspectives in Psychology and applying it to real life situations. Section A and B are worth 24 marks and Section C is worth 48 marks:

Section A: Approaches in Psychology

Section B: Biopsychology

Section C: Research Methods

Paper Three – Issues and Options in Psychology

Each section in this paper is worth 24 marks. Section A is compulsory, Section B, C and D contain three topics each and students select one topic from each:

Section A: Issues and Debates in Psychology

Section B: Relationships, Gender or Cognition and Development

Section C: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour or Stress

Section D: Aggression, Forensic Psychology or Addiction

Psychology is valuable for careers where dealing with people plays a key role, such as Business, Law, Medicine and Management and for Psychology specific careers (Clinical, Forensic, Sport, Health, Occupational and Educational). Psychology combines well with other Social Sciences, Humanities and Pure Sciences.

Where Psychology can take you...

Psychology is a great starting point for a career in both science and the arts, as it equips you with a range of skills and opens up opportunities with many kinds of employers. Although some psychology graduates become professional psychologists, many go on to work in related fields.

Major employers include: careers and counselling services, commercial and industrial companies, financial organisations, human resources departments, legal firms and organisations providing advice, local and national government, marketing companies, the media, the NHS, police forces, the National Probation Service and prisons, schools, colleges, universities, social research organisations and social services.

Career ideas: psychologist (clinical, counselling, educational, forensic, health, occupational, sport & exercise), teaching/lecturing, therapist, wellbeing practitioner, advice worker, border forces officer, careers advisor, chaplain, counsellor, psychotherapist, education consultant, Human Resources officer, life coach, market researcher, mediator, neuroscientist, social researcher

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Social-sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

To study this course, you should have achieved at least a Grade 6 in English Language or Literature, and Mathematics and a Grade 6 in one of the Sciences at GCSE.

Sociology

Sociology

OCR

(Mr Amin)

This new and exciting course is intended to engage learners in an intellectual journey by addressing important and contemporary social issues. Are we dominated by a global culture? Is our identity shaped more by nurture than by nature? Is the media a tool of propaganda for a ruling class? Is the education system designed to favour the interests of the middle class? Is religion a necessary means of helping us cope with modern social and psychological insecurities? Have we witnessed the breakdown in the family unit? Why is the divorce rate comparatively high in modern Britain? Is a sexually permissive society a threat to social order? Is social inequality natural or even desirable? Is it possible to have a fair society even if it is an unequal society? Who rules Britain? Is poverty an inevitable consequence of capitalism? How has the digital revolution impacted on our social experiences? Is the sexual objectification of women in advertising evidence that we live in a sexist society? How can we account for the rise in religious fundamentalism? Is there such a thing as secular fundamentalism? These are just some of the controversial and interesting questions that will be examined.

Components of study:

A Level Sociology (2-year course)

Paper 1 – Socialisation, culture and identity.

Paper 2 – Researching and understanding social inequalities (extended version).

Paper 3 – Debates in contemporary society.

For further information about the specific details of each component, please visit ocr.org.uk/alevelsociology.

A Level subjects that particularly complement Sociology are: Government and Politics, Philosophy, History, Geography, Classical Civilisation, English Literature and Psychology. Sociology is a recognised academic subject by all universities and can provide access to a wide range of degree courses in the field of Social Sciences, Humanities and Journalism. Please contact Mr Amin for any further questions and queries.

Where Sociology can take you...

Studying sociology opens up a range of careers in areas such as welfare, education, social research, and local and central government

In addition to careers within the areas of social or welfare there are also opportunities with a range of other employers, including charitable, counselling and voluntary organisations, law firms, local and central government, media companies, marketing and PR firms, the NHS, police and probation services, schools, colleges and universities, social and market research organisations.

Career ideas: anthropology, advice worker, community development worker, teacher/lecturer, housing manager, marketing, police officer, youth worker, social researcher, policy officer, charity officer, civil service administrator, family support worker, Human Resources officer, international aid/development worker, life coach, journalist, probation officer, public relations officer, social worker, special educational needs coordinator (SENCO)

Find out more about careers with this subject: <https://mgs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Social-sciences-Gatsby-4-subject-links.pdf>

Admission Requirements:

There are no specific subject pre-requisites for the A Level course, although students of GCSE History, Geography and Classical Civilisation will find an overlap in some of the themes and ideas. A Grade 5 in English Language is the only minimum requirement due to the essay based nature of the assessment criteria.

How to Choose

Read this Curriculum Booklet and talk to teachers and careers staff, particularly where you are interested in a subject not taken at GCSE. Heads of Departments are indicated in each subject entry. Discuss your choices with the senior staff who meet with you or the Careers & Enterprise Manager.

In choosing courses, think about:

- Your career or university choice
- Your best subjects (check this with your teachers!)
- Your favourite subjects
- New subjects you would really like to study.

How to Apply

Application to the Sixth Form is through an electronic application process via the MGS website. If you want advice before applying and you are from another school, please contact:

Mrs Kayley Dawson
Sixth Form Administrator
Maidstone Grammar School
Barton Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 7BT

or telephone (01622 752101) or by email to kdawson@mgs.kent.sch.uk

Year 11 students from MGS should seek advice from Mrs S Acaster, Careers and Enterprise Manager, in school. Mrs Acaster can also be contacted on careers@mgs.kent.sch.uk

Sixth Form Admission Arrangements

September 2025

There is a mixed Sixth Form at MGS. Priority will be given to existing students transferring from Year 11 who meet the entrance criteria. Students applying to the school for entry into Year 12 must meet the following academic criteria to qualify for admission:

- Applicants must achieve at least an average GCSE grade of 5.7 from eight subjects (this must include at least one modern foreign language, at least one science and at least one humanity).
- Applicants must also have GCSE Mathematics and at least one English GCSE at a minimum of grade 5.

In addition to the above requirements, applicants wishing to be accepted on to a particular subject programme must achieve the requirements set down for that particular course in this booklet.

The number of additional Year 12 places available for applicants being admitted to the school for the first time is 50. Admission will be in the order of qualifying applicants who are likely to achieve the highest academic grades based on the grades achieved and ranked accordingly to their exact average GCSE point score.

Application to MGS should be made using the online electronic application procedure. Applications must be submitted by the published deadline. Applications received after this date will be considered 'late' and will only be looked at in the event that we do not fill 50 new spaces. The School will not normally admit students into Year 13.

Oversubscription Criteria:

Following the admission of internal students transferring from Year 11, all remaining places will be allocated to applicants who have met the entry requirements above. In the event of more than 50 external applicants applying for admission to the school in Year 12 we will give priority to:

- Qualifying applicants who are looked after and previously looked after children. (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) at the time of making an application to a school. A previously looked after child means such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and those children who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.
- Qualifying applicants in receipt of Free School Meals at the time of application. Parents wishing to apply under this criterion must ensure they complete the attached Supplementary Information Form and return it to the school by the application deadline.
- Qualifying applicants who are likely to achieve the highest academic grades. Applicants will be considered based on the grades achieved and ranked accordingly to their exact average GCSE point score.

Tiebreaker:

Applicants whose homes are nearest to the School measured in straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the school as specified by NLPG.

Appeals:

Parents have a statutory right to an independent appeal and this should be made in writing to the Clerk to the Governors, care of the School. Please note: appeals for students who achieve the 5.7 entry criteria but wish to appeal the individual subject entry criteria will be considered by the school.

At MGS, we believe education is about more than just exam results. Nonetheless, these achievements open doors for our students and stand as a testament to the dedication and hard work of both students and staff in our community.



Our Performance

GCSE Results 2024:

- Grades 7-9 = 45%
- Grades 5-9 = 87%
- Grades 4-9 = 95%
- Grades 1-9 = 99.5%

A Level Results 2024:

- A*-A = 23%
- A*.B = 60%
- A*.C = 85%
- A*.E = 99%

Destinations 2024:

- Top 30 Universities = 55%
- Russell Group Universities = 42%
- 2 Oxbridge
- 2 Medicine
- 6 Degree Apprenticeship

Top 10 University Destinations 2024:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. University of Exeter | 11 |
| 2. University of Nottingham | 11 |
| 3. University of Surrey | 11 |
| 4. University of Kent | 6 |
| 5. Nottingham Trent University | 6 |
| 6. University of Southampton | 6 |
| 7. University of Reading | 5 |
| 8. King's College London | 4 |
| 9. Loughborough University | 4 |
| 10. University of Newcastle | 4 |

Top 10 Degree Subjects 2024:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. Engineering | 11 |
| 2. Business Management | 10 |
| 3. Film | 8 |
| 4. Law | 8 |
| 5. Computer Science | 6 |
| 6. Mathematics | 6 |
| 7. Economics | 6 |
| 8. Accounting & Finance | 5 |
| 9. Geography | 5 |
| 10. Psychology | 5 |





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Maidstone Grammar School, Barton Road, Maidstone, ME15 7BT
T: +44(0)1622752101 | E: school@mgs.kent.sch.uk | W: www.mgs.kent.sch.uk
Founded in 1549 | Headteacher Mr M Tomkins BSc NPQH

