

2027-28

Sixth Form Curriculum Guide

TRENT COLLEGE

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Welcome

The Sixth Form at Trent College is a high-achieving, hardworking and collaborative community of well-motivated students who are ambitious and keen to embrace the wonderful opportunities available at this school.

Each student is given the individual support, encouragement and guidance required for them to achieve their very best. For some, their academic goal is the A* and A grades that will mean they study languages at Cambridge or Medicine at Manchester, or Physics at King's, but we determine success against each individual student's ambitions and goals and we work to ensure that each student has the right qualifications pathway.

Alongside this carefully chosen academic pathway is a broad range of Co-curricular opportunities which support and encourage the development of each student's unique character and those 'soft skills' which are so valued and important in the world beyond school.

It is this breadth of opportunity, set on a beautiful campus, in a fully integrated and co-educational school which makes Trent College stand out and our students outstanding. Your time in the Sixth Form at Trent College may be short, but its legacy will last a lifetime.

Mr Paul Mayfield
Head of Sixth Form

Key Sixth Form Staff:



Mr Paul Mayfield
Head of Sixth Form



Mr Geoffrey Butler
Head of Year



Mr Calum Setterington
Head of Year

What Can I Expect?

- ✓ We have around 150 students in Sixth Form, with approximately 30 students new to Trent College each year.
- ✓ A modern Sixth Form Centre, designed to be both collaborative and flexible.
- ✓ A personalised timetable, shaped by your subject option choices, which incorporates private study time, time for guided Personal Development and dedicated Games sessions.
- ✓ A personal Tutor to guide you through Sixth Form, helping you to navigate and balance the varied demands whilst you prepare for life beyond school.
- ✓ Access to a broad academic and enriching co-curriculum, designed to develop students into young adults, and to help you focus on your passions beyond the classroom.
- ✓ An expectation of becoming a role model within school, taking on leadership positions, being smartly presented in professional dress and inspiring younger pupils.

10 Reasons to Choose Trent College Sixth Form



1. Wide range of academic choices to suit your ambitions.

Tailor your individual studies to develop, stretch yourself and meet your goals. With 23 A Level and BTEC subject choices and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on offer, what will you choose?



2. A track record of academic success

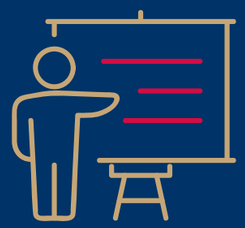
Our 2025 A Level results include

- 100% pass rate at A Level
- Over a third of all entries achieved A* or A grade (35.9%)
- More than two-thirds of all entries awarded A* to B grades (68%)



3. Highest rated Value-Added progress score

Our Sixth Form has a “Well Above Average” Value-Added progress score from the Department for Education, reflecting the exceptional teaching, support, and well-balanced curriculum that empower our students to exceed expectations and achieve greater progress than their peers nationally.



4. Passionate, skilled and highly rated teachers

Our team of dedicated, experienced and passionate teachers bring learning to life and create environments where our students excel.

“The Sixth Form is academically ambitious. Results are well above the national average because of the effective support and guidance provided by teachers.” ISI Inspection Report March 2025



5. Individual support, encouragement and guidance

Strong pastoral care delivered by personal Tutors, Heads of Year, a Head of Sixth Form and specialist teachers ensure that you will be supported to flourish. Our Sixth Form tutor groups typically have 10 students, meaning our tutors really get to know and support you.



6. Dedicated Sixth Form Centre

With excellent facilities for both working and socialising, the Wortley Centre is a fantastic space for our Sixth Form students to bridge the gap between school and future careers. With a resource centre, café, study spaces and break out rooms, the Wortley Centre offers the perfect space for students to thrive.



7. Specialist careers support

In a purpose-built Careers Centre, our dedicated and specialised careers team will guide you to achieve your goals. In the last four years we have placed 337 students at university with 144 at Russell Group universities and 106 at UK Top 20 universities, plus a high number of degree apprenticeships and prestigious employers.

“Pupils gain their preferred choice of higher education place, including highly competitive courses in medicine and engineering.” ISI Inspection Report March 2025



8. Co-Curricular opportunities to broaden your horizons

From the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Combined Cadet Force and Community Service to a wealth of choice in Sport, Drama, Art and Music, plus the Oxbridge programme and debating skills - there are so many opportunities to discover your passions outside the classroom and broaden your horizons.



9. Leadership opportunities for growth

Our students gain lots of practical experience through mentoring opportunities, service and prefect responsibilities, that help to grow the confidence and leadership skills that help you to stand out from the crowd.

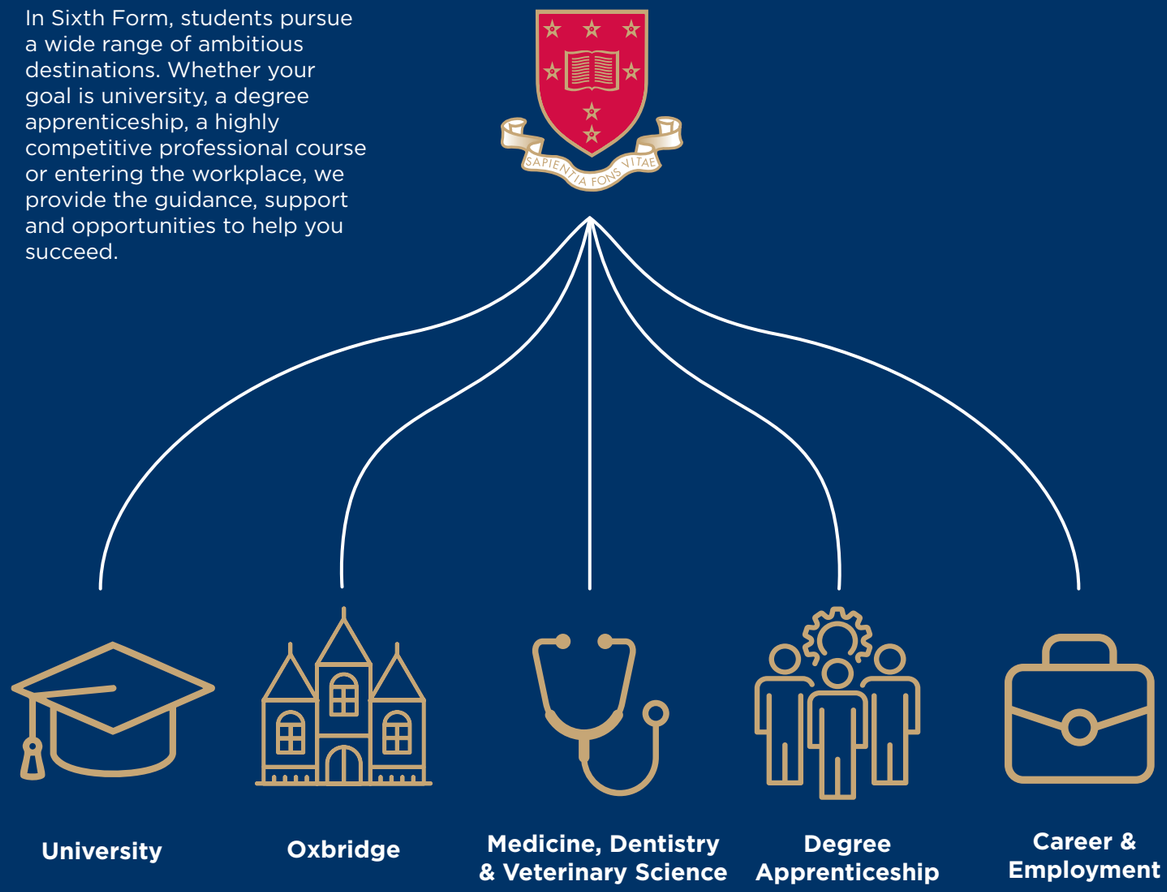


10. A vibrant, welcoming and energising community

Our Sixth Form students belong to a special and vibrant community where every member is supported and encouraged to achieve their personal best, develop their full potential, and start on a pathway to the future they want.

Your Future, Your Way

In Sixth Form, students pursue a wide range of ambitious destinations. Whether your goal is university, a degree apprenticeship, a highly competitive professional course or entering the workplace, we provide the guidance, support and opportunities to help you succeed.



One Sixth Form. Many Futures. Endless Possibilities.

No matter which destination students choose, they benefit from personalised guidance, exceptional teaching and a commitment to helping every individual achieve their ambitions.

Careers Support for Every Future

Whether you're aiming for a top university, a degree apprenticeship, employment or a gap year, our dedicated Careers Centre will help you take the next step with confidence. Every student receives personalised guidance and support to understand and achieve their goals.

Personal Careers Guidance

- One-to-one careers advice throughout Sixth Form
- Qualified careers professionals on hand to support you
- Tailored guidance based on your ambitions and strengths

University Success

- Expert support with UCAS applications and personal statements
- Interview preparation and admissions test guidance
- Advice for UK and international university applications
- Access to Unifrog careers software and extensive university resources

Oxbridge & Competitive Programme

Alongside academic study, students may apply for specialist destination programmes including:

Tailored preparation for applications to:

- Oxford and Cambridge
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Science

Ambitious Pathways

For students targeting highly competitive courses and universities:

- Academic Forum Programme for highly competitive course applications
- Specialist support for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- Debate, interview practice and networking opportunities
- Mentoring from alumni and subject experts

Degree Apprenticeships & Alternative Routes

- Dedicated support for degree apprenticeships
- Guidance on applications, assessments and interviews
- Advice on gap years, foundation programmes and employment pathways
- Access to specialist speakers and industry insights

Careers Events & Networking

- Inspiring guest speakers from a wide range of professions
- University and employer visits
- Careers fairs and networking opportunities
- Connections with our successful Old Trident alumni community

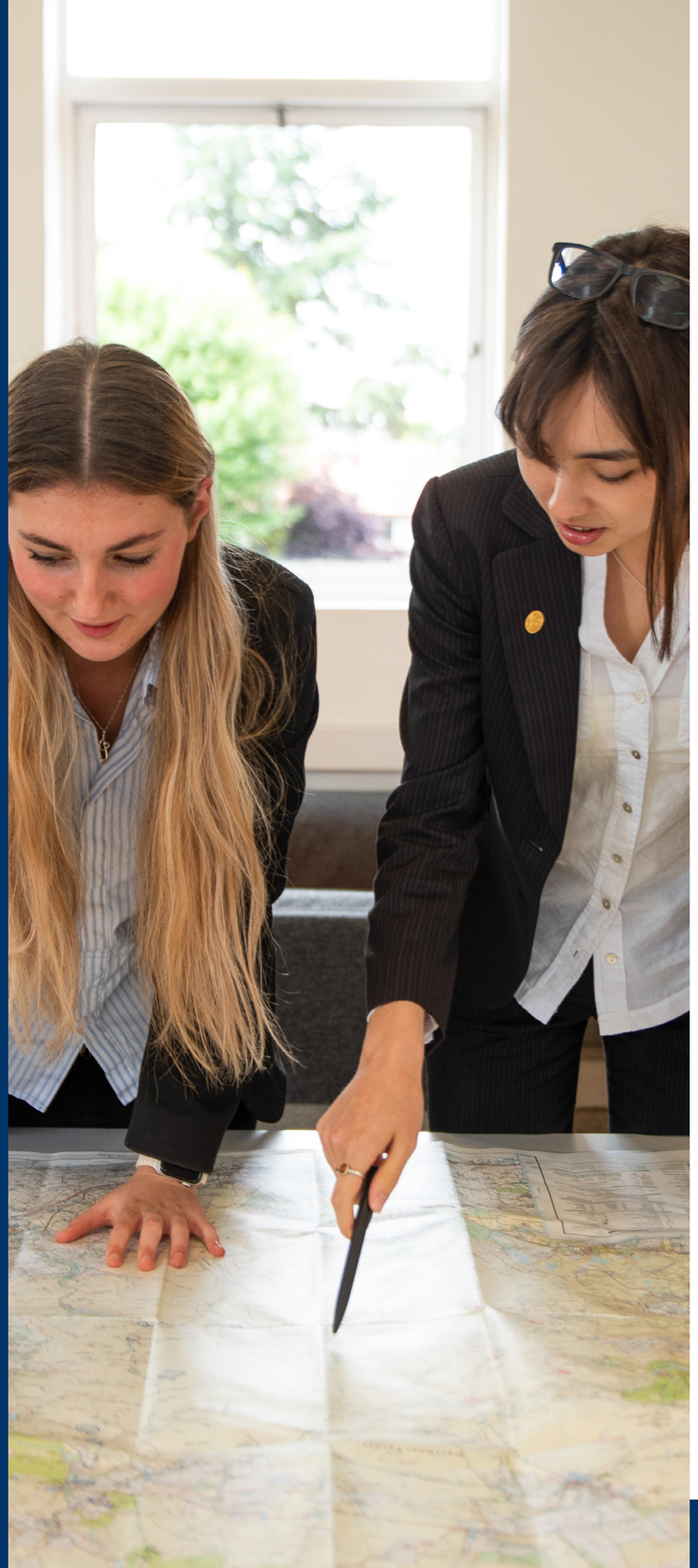
Our Pathways

Sixth Form is about more than choosing subjects; it is about exploring interests, developing strengths and preparing for the opportunities that lie ahead.

To help students understand how different subject combinations can support a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and careers, we have created a series of Pathways.

Each pathway brings together subjects, enrichment opportunities, university outreach programmes, competitions and alumni success stories commonly associated with particular areas of study and career sectors.

Students are not required to follow a specific pathway, and many successful applicants combine subjects from different areas. However, the pathways provide a useful starting point for exploring options and building a personalised programme of study.



Business & Enterprise Pathway

Focused on leadership, innovation, finance, and entrepreneurship

Destinations

- Business Management
- Marketing
- Finance
- Entrepreneurship
- Banking
- Accounting
- Property and Real Estate

Lead Subjects

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Mathematics

Academic Enrichment

- Economics Society (ESOC)
- London School of Economics Students' Union Essay Competition
- London School of Economics UPR Essay Competition
- Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism Essay Competition
- John Locke Institute Economics Essay Competition
- International Economics Olympiad (IEO)
- Wharton Global High School Investment Competition
- London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF) Diploma
- Enterprise Society (Trent Traders)
- Trip to Economics in Action at the University of Warwick

Alumni Destinations

Finance

Sophie – Class of 2019

A levels: Business Studies, Biology, Psychology

University: University of Liverpool

Degree: Business Management

Current Role: Corporate Finance Analyst

Consulting

Will – Class of 2017

A levels: Business Studies, Maths, Physics

University: University of Melbourne, Australia

Degree: Economics

Current Role: Senior Consultant in Forensics, Litigation and Valuation

Accountant

Ollie – Class of 2021

A levels: Economics, Maths, Psychology

University: University of Exeter

Degree: Economics and Finance

Current Role: Analyst at Goldman Sachs

Creative & Digital Arts Pathway

Supporting students pursuing creative, media, and digital industries.

Destinations

- Creative Industries
- Design
- Film & Television
- Digital Media
- Performing Arts

Lead Subjects

- Art
- Design & Technology
- Photography
- Music
- Business Studies

Academic Enrichment

- Young Engineer for Britain competition
- Young Electronic Design competition
- CREST Awards
- Engineering Education Scheme
- Cambridge University Davidson Inventors Challenge
- Harriett Kelsall competition
- UCA YouCreate Dreams competition
- Flair Open Art Competition
- Exhibiting artwork at Lakeside Arts
- Workshops with visiting artists including Karen Wicks and Joel Penkman
- Full-day life drawing workshops
- Photography location shoots using medium-format film, 35mm film and digital SLR cameras

Alumni Destinations

Artist

Izzy – Class of 2024

A levels: Art, Business Studies, Photography

University: Falmouth University

Degree: Fine Art

Current Role: Artist at Charles H. Cecile Studios, Florence

Fashion

Sapira – Class of 2023

A levels: Art, Photography, French

University: Jimmy Choo Academy

Degree: Fashion Design and Accessories

Current Role: Student at Jimmy Choo Academy

Digital Marketing

Maisie – class of 2010

A levels: Business Studies, Maths, Art and PE

University: University of the Arts London

Degree: Public Relations

Current Role: Head of Partnerships at England Netball

Health & Social Care Pathway

Preparing students for caring professions and healthcare sectors.

Destinations

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary
- Midwifery
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Psychology
- Nursing
- Social Work
- Public Health

Lead Subjects

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Maths

Academic Enrichment

- Intermediate and Senior Biology Olympiads
- Biology Week competition
- CREST Awards
- Peterhouse Kelvin Science Essay Competition
- Minds Underground Global Essay Competition
- Chemistry Olympiad
- Cambridge Lower Sixth Challenge
- Cambridge Chemistry Race
- Lunchtime seminars with university academics and specialists
- Nottingham University spectroscopy masterclass
- Research and practical investigations into the chemistry of dyes and dyeing
- Introductory Neuroscience tutorials
- Brain and eye dissections
- Psychology workshops on mind reading and dreaming
- Lectures from practising psychologists

Alumni Destinations

Neurology

Kyle – Class of 2018

A levels: Biology, Chemistry, Maths

University: University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Degree: Medicine

Current Role: Neurology trainee University of Utah Hospital

Psychology

Hannah – Class of 2015

A levels: Psychology, Maths Chemistry, Spanish

University: Durham University

Degree: Psychology, MSc in Forensic Psychology, PhD Forensic Psychology

Current Role: Forensic Psychologist

Medicine

Isobel – Class of 2015

A levels: Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Maths

University: University of Sheffield

Degree: Medicine

Current Role: Junior Doctor

Humanities & Social Sciences Pathway

For students with strengths in critical thinking, communication, and understanding people, societies and cultures.

Destinations

- Law
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Environmental
- International Relations
- Civil Service
- Social Research

Lead Subjects

- History
- Politics
- English Literature
- RS: Philosophy & Ethics
- Psychology
- Geography

Academic Enrichment

- National essay competitions
- University lectures and conferences
- Law and Politics workshops
- Young Geographer of the Year
- Mock Trial competitions
- Model United Nations General Assembly (MUNGA)
- Guest speakers and debates
- Iceland geography field trip
- Optional study visits to:
  - Kraków and Auschwitz
  - Rome and Florence
  - Amsterdam

Alumni Destinations

Journalism

Scarlett - Class of 2017

A levels: History, English, Economics, Maths

University: City St George's, University of London

Degree: Broadcast Journalism

Current Role: Freelance Journalist.

Law

Ellie – Class of 2019

A levels: English, History, Politics

University: University of Reading

Degree: Philosophy. Postgraduate Diploma in Law

Current Role: Trainee Solicitor at Freeths LLP

Politics

Tom – Class of 2019

A levels: Politics, History, English

University: King's College London

Degree: Politics

Current Role: Senior Parliamentary Researcher in House of Commons

STEM Pathway

For students with strengths in analytical thinking, mathematics, and scientific enquiry.

Destinations

- Engineering
- Data Science
- Technology
- Scientific Research
- Surveying
- Computer Engineer
- Software Engineer

Lead Subjects

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Design & Technology
- Computer Science

Academic Enrichment

- Bebras Computing Challenge
- Physics Olympiads
- CREST Awards
- UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge
- UKMT Mathematical Olympiad for Girls
- Progression opportunities to the Senior Kangaroo and the British Mathematical Olympiad
- Potential selection for international mathematical competitions
- Leadership and mentoring opportunities through Trent Coding Club
- Young Engineer for Britain competition
- Young Electronic Designer competition
- Engineering Education Scheme
- Cambridge University Davidson Inventors Challenge
- Intermediate and Senior Biology Olympiad

Alumni Destinations

Mechanical Engineering

Grace – Class of 2020

A levels: Chemistry, Physics, Maths

University: University of Manchester

Degree: Physics with Astrophysics

Current Role: Mechanical Design Engineer at Rolls-Royce

Software Engineering

Bogdan – Class of 2020

A levels: Computing, Maths, History

University: Newcastle University

Degree: Software Engineering

Current Role: Network Operations Engineer with Google

Risk Management

Poppy – Class of 2020

A levels: Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics

University: University of Sheffield

Degree: Chemical Engineering

Current Role: Chemical Engineer, and now an Actuarial Analyst

Academic Enrichment

Academic enrichment at Sixth Form is designed to extend learning beyond the classroom, deepen subject understanding, and support students in developing the skills needed for higher education and future academic pathways.

It encourages curiosity, independent thinking, and engagement with ideas that go beyond exam specifications.

Our aim is to ensure students are challenged academically and supported in exploring their subjects in greater depth.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification equivalent to an AS qualification. EPQ is offered as an option with the intention of strengthening the programme of study by developing a wider range of skills, through allowing students to explore a topic beyond their syllabus which they are passionate about.

Read, Watch, Listen

All students are encouraged to engage regularly with subject-relevant material outside of lessons. This builds wider knowledge, strengthens understanding, and supports independent academic development.

This may include:

- Academic articles and journals
- Documentaries and subject-related programmes
- Lectures and talks
- Podcasts and specialist media
- Wider reading that extends curriculum topics
- Additional Academic Qualifications

Students are supported to undertake additional qualifications that extend their academic profile and develop independent learning skills.

Academic Engagement, Challenge & Extension

Across all subjects, students are offered opportunities to deepen their learning beyond the curriculum through structured enrichment activities.

This includes:

- Academic competitions and subject challenges
- Extension workshops and enrichment sessions
- University-style lectures and conferences
- Curriculum-linked academic trips

These activities are designed to stretch students' thinking, broaden subject understanding, and expose them to higher-level academic study.

Wider Academic Enrichment Opportunities

Students also have access to a programme of wider enrichment activities that complement and extend classroom learning, including:

- Guest speakers from academic and specialist fields
- Careers-linked academic talks and lectures
- Academic events and conferences, including:
  - Model United Nations (MUNGA)
  - Psychology Conference

Personal Development and Individual Guidance

Personal Development (Life Skills and PSHE)

Led by our experienced Tutor team and external specialists this programme of learning helps to further prepare our students for the challenges of life beyond Trent. Constantly evolving to meet the demands of the world today, some elements of this programme include classes on:

- Managing workload
- Goal setting
- Stress management and wellbeing
- The Law and me
- Professional communication skills and conventions
- Budget planning and management
- Understanding money matters and finance
- Project You: Interview skills, CV writing, Me in a Minute
- Domestic skills: cooking and laundry

Individual Guidance

Throughout Sixth Form every student receives:

- A personal tutor
- Academic progress mentoring
- Careers guidance
- University and apprenticeship support
- Wellbeing support

Boarding Opportunities

Boarding in the Sixth Form is very popular with approximately 30% of our students choosing this option. You can board full time, weekly or on a more flexible basis. Students choose to board to access supervised study sessions and to make use of academic resources and support.



Co-Curricular

Sport

We believe that a healthy, successful lifestyle is one that embraces regular exercise. You will have two Games sessions per week. Many students are involved in sports activities and our programme is extensive, covering all levels from elite performers to enthusiasts and beginners. Opportunities include:

- Rugby
- Netball
- Hockey
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Adventure Sports
- Athletics
- Football
- Swimming
- Golf
- Yoga
- Gym

Music

The variety of music at Trent College means there is something for everyone, whether you perform at national standard or simply enjoy taking part. Highlights include year group concerts, rock gigs, Summer Soirée, Winter Wonderland and a concert at Nottingham's Albert Hall. There are also Chapel services to sing in, music competitions, and regular drivetime and lunchtime concerts for solo and chamber performances. Opportunities include:

- Percussion Ensembles
- Woodwind Ensembles
- Symphony Orchestra
- Jazz Band
- Brass Ensembles
- Music Technology
- Wind Bands
- Trent Baroque
- String Quartets

Drama

Being involved in Drama provides students with experiences that develop not only theatre skills but also essential life skills. Productions range in scale and style, and offer the chance to work with professional theatre practitioners, to enhance performance skills, learn stage and costume design, stage management and how to become fully competent theatre technicians. From students who want to join in for fun, to aspiring actors, we cater for all students' needs.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

Through the DofE programme you will have fun, improve self-esteem and build confidence. You can gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing your university and job applications.

Service Activities

In Year 12 you are required to commit to a service activity, in order to give something back to the school or local community. Examples of the options available are:

- Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
- Environmental Team
- AgeUK Careline
- Sports Coaching
- Community Cooking
- Positions of Responsibility

Positions of Responsibility

The development of leadership experience and management skills is a crucial aspect of the Sixth Form. There are over 75 positions of responsibility and leadership that you can, and should, apply for. There are currently 58 different prefect roles, as well as opportunities to lead in the CCF, Boarding Houses, sports teams, debating, charity fundraising, and more.

How Do I Know Which Courses to Take?

Sixth Form is the most exciting stage of your school career. For the first time, you have almost total control over which subjects to study and success in these subjects will determine the next stage of your education or career.

At Trent College, we have over 20 A Level subjects to choose from, alongside two well established BTEC pathways that together should allow you to select an academic curriculum that inspires you and meets your aims and ambitions.

When choosing your A Level/BTEC courses, focus on which subjects you enjoy most and that have brought you the most success. You will be studying each course for an allocated thirteen 60-minute periods each fortnight. In addition, you will receive up to five hours of independent learning tasks per subject, each week. The content will get tough, so it really helps with your motivation if you enjoy what you are learning and you know you can achieve highly in these subjects.

If there is a subject that we don't currently offer that you would like to study, please let us know so that we can consider adding it to our offerings.



Entry Requirements

In order to be successful in our post-16 courses, there is a general requirement for a minimum grade 4 pass in English and Maths, plus the specific requirements outlined for each subject.

A Level /BTEC Course	Minimum grade requirements
Art	Grade 6 in GCSE Art is a minimum entry requirement for A Level. Many students wishing to pursue a creative or decorative arts course at university take on a Level 3 Art Foundation course for one year before going to university.
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology (or 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science) and grade 6 in Maths is a minimum entry requirement for A Level. Pupils with a grade 7+ are much more likely to be successful.
Business A Level	GCSE in Business is not required, but a grade 6 at GCSE in English and Maths is required.
Business BTEC (National Extended Certificate / National Diploma)	GCSE in Business is not required, but a grade 4 at GCSE in English, Maths and another essay-based subject is required. Students should be interested in business and have strong communication skills.
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry (or 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science) and grade 6 in Maths is a minimum entry requirement for A Level. (grade 7 preferred)
Computer Science	GCSE in Computer Science is not required, but a grade 6 at GCSE in Maths is recommended.
Design & Technology	Grade 6 in GCSE Design & Technology is a minimum entry requirement for A Level. Good maths, science and artistic skills are also advised.
Economics	GCSE in Economics is not required, but a grade 6 at GCSE in English Literature or English Language and Mathematics is recommended.
English Language & Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and English Literature is a minimum entry requirement for A Level.
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and English Literature is a minimum entry requirement for A Level.
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography is a minimum entry requirement for A Level.

A Level /BTEC Course	Minimum grade requirements
History	Grade 6 in GCSE History is a minimum entry requirement for A Level.
Mathematics & Further Mathematics	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths is a minimum entry requirement for Maths A Level. Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Maths is highly desirable for Further Maths A Level. Students may take Further Maths as a fourth A Level following advice from the Maths department. Pupils with a grade 7+ are much more likely to be successful.
Modern Languages	Grade 6 in the relevant language at GCSE is a minimum requirement for A Level.
Music	GCSE in Music is not required, although a qualification the equivalent of Grade 5 Theory would be expected as a substitute. Grade 7 practical ability (or equivalent) is recommended or grade 6 in Music GCSE.
Photography	GCSE in Photography is not required. No previous technical skills in Photography are required but students need good literacy skills and an appreciation of the visual world.
Physical Education	GCSE in PE is not required. With some challenging science modules, students are expected to have achieved success at GCSE in the Sciences. They should also offer a high level of performance in a sport.
Physics	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics (or 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science) with a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. (grade 7 preferred).
Politics	Grade 6 at GCSE in English and/or History is required.
Psychology	GCSE in Psychology is not required, but a grade 6 at GCSE in English and a Science subject is required. Good literacy skills are also recommended.
RS: Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE in RS is not required, but a grade 6 at GCSE in an essay-based subject is required.
Sport BTEC (National Extended Certificate / National Diploma)	GCSE in PE is not required, but a grade 4 at GCSE in English, Maths and Science is required. Students should have a strong interest in sport.



The Wortley Sixth Form Centre

Sixth Form students are welcomed into the modern Wortley Centre. It is designed to be both collaborative and flexible, reflecting the way students study today. The Centre is a place for learning and recreation, where you can be independent and benefit from your own space, whilst still being a part of the whole school community.

Modelled on university facilities, the modern facility fulfils all your needs in a contemporary setting. Fully equipped classrooms, separate study spaces and a resource area provide an optimum Sixth Form learning environment. In between lessons and study time, you will be able to socialise with friends in a variety of spaces and enjoy a selection of food and drinks in the Ivy Café.

Within the Wortley Centre, Sixth Formers have access to:

- Computer suite
- Study rooms
- Common room
- Ivy Café
- Dedicated lockers
- Changing room space









FAQs

Q. Which subjects should I choose?

The choices you make should be based on your goals, your preferences and your achievements at GCSE. Remember that alongside these choices we expect students to select from a further range of options that may include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). International students may also be required to study for an IELTS exam.

Q. How many A Level/BTEC subjects should I take?

Most students will take three A Levels. Applications to the most competitive universities and courses expect three A Levels, alongside evidence of a range of other enrichment experiences that together demonstrate your interests and abilities in relevant areas of the curriculum.

BTEC courses in Sport and Business Studies carry the same UCAS points as A Levels and are well established pathways towards university and apprenticeship courses. They offer a genuine alternate learning experience for students who prefer an assessment based primarily on coursework and less on end of course examinations. Students can combine A Levels and BTEC courses.

Q. Can I take four A Levels?

Students may, if carefully considered, choose a fourth A Level and this will be discussed when you submit your options. Please remember that alongside your A Level/BTEC choices you are expected to take on elements from the broader academic curriculum such as the EPQ, essay competitions or design competition.

Q. Can I still receive Learning Support in the Sixth Form?

The Learning Support Department offers support to Sixth Form students who require advice for areas of difficulty or who have SEND. Students may refer themselves, or referrals may be made by staff or parents. New students with previous assessment results should send this information to the Learning Support department. The Head of Learning Support will liaise with parents, teachers, professional advisers and the student themselves to create an effective support plan for learning difficulties.

Q. I did well in my GCSEs. How do I qualify for an Academic Scholarship?

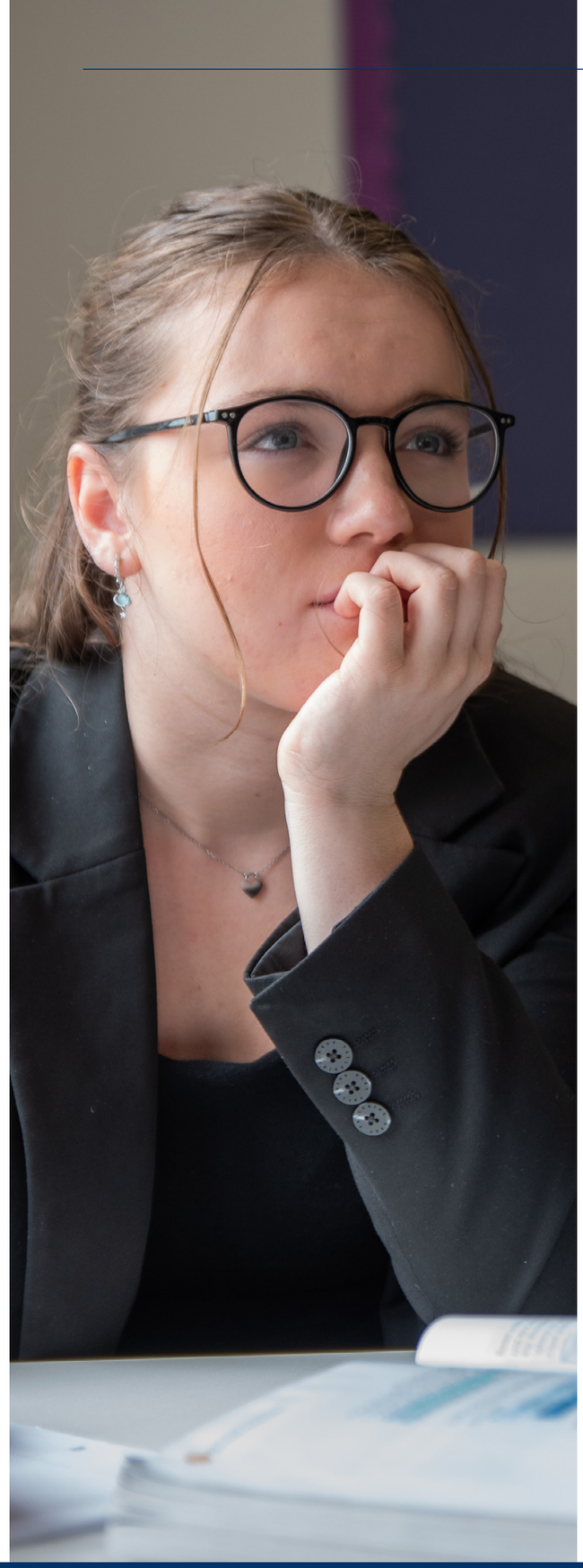
The purpose of awarding a Trent College Scholarship is to recognise excellence and identify an example for others of the heights to which they can aspire. Students already at Trent do not need to apply for the Scholarship, all students will be automatically considered on the basis of GCSE results. The expectation is that recipients will have gained a minimum of eight 7 to 9 grades at GCSE, with at least four being 8 to 9 grades.

Q. Do I have to have studied this course at GCSE to take it for A Level/BTEC?

There are a number of courses available in the Sixth Form which you may embark on without having studied the equivalent GCSE. These are: Business Studies, BTEC Business, BTEC Sport, Computer Science, Economics, History, Photography, PE, Politics, Psychology, RS: Philosophy and Ethics. However, please look carefully at the subject guidance as many subjects do require at least a grade 6 in a GCSE subject that reflects the required skill set e.g. literacy and numeracy skills.

Q. What is a 'Higher Tariff' university course?

The higher tariff group includes Oxford and Cambridge and the Russell Group of research-intensive universities. The phrase is used to indicate that entry to these universities and courses will typically be more competitive and will therefore require students to achieve higher grades at A Level in order to gain a place.



Q. I have a specific university course/ apprenticeship in mind. Which subjects should I choose?

You need to do some research. The Careers department will help you identify the range of courses that different universities will accept. Required courses do differ between universities so you must not make assumptions – do your research! The Unifrog software used by Careers alongside the UCAS website will provide all the information you need about entry requirements for different courses and different universities. Be aware that some high tariff university courses expect more traditional subjects to be taken at A Level. Keep in mind that GCSE grades are also important in university applications.

Q. After Sixth Form I am not sure about what I want to do. How does this impact on my choices?

Ultimately the Sixth Form is your opportunity to study the subjects that inspire you the most, which you enjoy most and that will bring you the most success. So choose what you are best at. At the same time, you should make sure to avoid choices that are too narrow. It is important to further develop a range of your skills. Please note that choosing subjects that complement and support one another is also an important ingredient to success and this is more important for some subject choices than for others. The table on page 17 offers you some further summary guidance. There is more detail in the later pages of this guide.



ART (Fine Art) A Level

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mrs Kate O'Hare

Students considering Art A Level are encouraged to develop a curiosity about the visual world; to explore a wide range of artists, designers, media and techniques, including photographic darkroom techniques and to become independent, creative learners. Personality and individuality are highly valued and students and staff work closely together to create challenging, exciting and thought-provoking work. Sixth Form Art students are based in the Sprakes' Studio – a self-contained studio space exclusively for our A Level students. Our courses are commended by AQA for being highly structured, yet allowing for individual creative development and personal expression. Yearly practical workshops with artists are part of the course and we have had recognised artists such as Ian Murphy, Michael Brennand-Wood, Joel Penkman and Jeanette Barnes working with our students.

Entry requirements

Students are expected to achieve a Grade 6 or more in GCSE Art.

Where can Art take me?

Many of our students have used the high grade which they achieved to go on to study a wide range of different courses including Maths, History and Sciences at top universities. It is also a vital course for those students specifically aiming for a career in Art or Design or a further education Foundation Art and Design course or degree courses such as BA degrees in Art and Design, Architecture, Engineering, Fashion, Graphic Design, Interior Design, 3D Design, Multi-Media Courses (for example Film and Television Studies).

Assessment

In Year 12 you will undertake a 6-week workshop-based induction phase, exploring a wide range of new and experimental techniques. You will then start a personal project which follows the structure of the assessment objectives at A Level. You will develop practical techniques and written responses, working with increasing independence and making creative, personal responses to your chosen theme.

From Easter of Year 12, students will start their coursework project 'Component 1: Personal Investigation' worth 60% of your overall mark and which involves a 3,000 word essay. This is followed by 'Component 2: Exam Unit' which involves a 15-hour exam but which is marked as a whole project, not just the exam piece. This is worth 40% of the total mark.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- exhibiting work at Lakeside Arts
- carrying out two-day workshops with visiting artists such as Karen Wicks and Joel Penkman
- taking part in a full-day life drawing workshop
- entering various art competitions such as the Harriett Kelsall Competition, the UCA YouCreate Dreams Competition and the Flair Open Art Competition.

BIOLOGY A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Ms Keren Foster

Biology is the study of life in all its complexity, from the molecular machinery inside a single cell to the dynamics of entire ecosystems. At Trent College, A-Level Biology is taught by specialist teachers with deep subject expertise, and some with examining experience with AQA. Small class sizes mean every student receives focused attention and regular feedback.

What You Will Study

The course covers eight substantial topics across two years. Year 12 encompasses biological molecules, cell structure, exchange of substances and genetic information. Year 13 extends into energy transfers, responses to the environment, genetics and ecosystems, and the control of gene expression, taking students to the cutting edge of modern biology including epigenetics, homeostasis and biodiversity.

Practical Work

Our modern laboratories are designed to support ambitious, investigative science. Students complete all twelve AQA required practicals, spanning microscopy, dissection, enzyme investigations, chromatography, microbiology and ecology, but practical work at Trent College goes significantly further than the specification demands. We believe that time spent at the bench, designing experiments, troubleshooting methods and interpreting real data, develops the scientific instincts and technical confidence that prepare students for university study and careers in science. Practicals are embedded throughout the course to keep curiosity alive and ensure that biology remains a living, investigative subject rather than a body of content to be memorised. At least 15% of the written assessment tests practical skills directly, and students who meet the standard receive the AQA Practical Endorsement, valued by university admissions teams for science and medicine.

Field Trip: Cranedale Centre, Yorkshire

Our residential field trip takes Year 13s to the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire.

Students will explore two contrasting farming environments to analyse the energy efficiency of different agricultural practices, developing their understanding of ecosystems and food production in a real-world context. At the sand dunes of Bridlington, they will investigate ecological succession firsthand, collecting and interpreting their own data from a dynamic, changing habitat. The dramatic rocky shore at Filey provides the setting for Required Practical 12, where students apply sampling techniques to study distribution and abundance in an intertidal community. Seaweed collected from the shore feeds directly into Required Practical 7, with students performing chlorophyll extraction and analysis in the field. Pitfall and live capture trapping gives students the opportunity to observe invertebrate and small mammal distribution across habitats, a rare and engaging experience that few school biologists get to enjoy.

The trip culminates at the breathtaking Bempton Cliffs where students take part in a discussion about marine conservation with some of nature's most extraordinary wildlife as their classroom.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology (or 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science) and grade 6 in Maths is a minimum entry requirement for A Level. Pupils with a grade 7+ are much more likely to be successful.

Assessment

Three written papers sat at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: Topics 1–4
91 marks | 35% of A Level | 2 hours

Paper 2: Topics 5–8
91 marks | 35% of A Level | 2 hours

Paper 3 – Synoptic Paper (including the essay)
78 marks | 30% of A Level | 2 hours

Mathematical skills account for a minimum of 10% of the overall assessment.



Wider Reading and Study

Teachers recommend a curated reading list spanning genetics, neuroscience, ecology and the history of science, with titles available to loan from the school library. Our dedicated Sixth Form mezzanine study zone, reserved exclusively for Sixth Form students features two study pods accommodating three to four students each, large whiteboards for collaborative working, desk space, and plug sockets to charge devices. The mezzanine sits at the heart of the Biology department, keeping teaching staff and resources close at hand.

Where This Course Can Take You

A-Level Biology is a requirement or strong advantage for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Physiotherapy, Ecology, Sports Science and Psychology, among many others. The analytical, practical and communication skills developed through this course are valued across a wide range of competitive university courses and careers.

Academic Enrichment

Opportunities to develop the intellectual curiosity and independent thinking that selective universities value.

- Lunchtime seminars by expert/university speakers.
- Intermediate and Senior Biology Olympiad.
- Biology Week competitions
- Peterhouse Kelvin Science Essay Competition
- Minds Underground Global Essay Competition
- CREST Award

BUSINESS STUDIES A LEVEL



A Level Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mr Jonathan Shaw

Business is one of the most popular and successful A Level subjects at Trent College. Whether you aspire to become an entrepreneur, work for a global company, study Business or Economics at university, or simply develop valuable life skills, this course provides an excellent foundation.

A Level Business explores how organisations operate and the decisions they make in an increasingly competitive and global marketplace. You will investigate how businesses respond to changing economic conditions, technological developments and consumer behaviour, while considering the impact of their decisions on a range of stakeholders.

The course develops your ability to think critically, solve complex problems and make well-supported judgements using real-world business examples. You will analyse the strategies adopted by well-known national and international businesses, evaluate their success, and justify your own recommendations using evidence.

Throughout the course, you will build highly transferable skills including analytical thinking, decision-making, communication and data interpretation—qualities that are valued by universities and employers across a wide range of careers.

Entry requirements

Students opting for this subject should feel confident in the use of figures, and must be able to produce pieces of extended writing. It is required that you should have achieved at least grade 6 in Maths and English. You do not need to have studied Business at GCSE.

Possible subject combinations

Business combines well with all other A Level subjects, in particular Politics, Geography, Sport BTEC and Economics.

Where can Business take me?

Business opens the door to an enormous range of career opportunities. The knowledge and skills you develop are highly transferable and valued by employers across every sector, making it an excellent choice whether you have a clear career path in mind or are still exploring your options.

The course brings together the four key functions of a business—marketing, finance, human resources and operations—giving you a broad understanding of how successful organisations operate. Alongside subject knowledge, you will develop analytical, numerical, communication and decision-making skills that are essential in higher education and the workplace.

Many of our students progress to university to study subjects such as Business Management, International Business, Marketing, Finance, Economics, Human Resource Management and Accounting. Others choose higher or degree apprenticeships with leading employers, gaining valuable experience while earning a salary.

Assessment

Paper 1: Marketing, People and Global Businesses
2-hour examination | 100 marks | 35% of A Level

This paper explores how businesses identify and meet customer needs, manage people effectively, and the role of entrepreneurs and business leaders. It also examines globalisation, international markets and the opportunities and challenges facing businesses operating around the world.

Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy
2-hour examination | 100 marks | 35% of A Level

This paper focuses on the internal operations of a business, including finance, operational efficiency, business objectives, strategic decision-making and managing change in an increasingly competitive environment.

Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment
2-hour examination | 100 marks | 30% of A Level

This synoptic paper draws together knowledge from across the entire course. Students analyse a pre-released industry context before the examination and apply their understanding to unseen stimulus material, evaluating business decisions and making well-supported judgements.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Trent Traders Enterprise Society – Lead/ Overseeing Role
- National enterprise and business competitions – Tycoon in School
- Guest speakers and visits from local and national businesses

BUSINESS BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE/NATIONAL DIPLOMA

BTEC National Diploma Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mr Jonathan Shaw

This qualification will be available as either:

- BTEC National Extended Certificate (equivalent to one A Level)
- BTEC National Diploma* (equivalent to two A Levels)

*Units marked with an asterisk are studied only as part of the National Diploma.**

Units of Study

Mandatory:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign (assessed externally)
- Personal and Business Finance (examination)
- Managing an Event*
- International Business*
- Principles of Management* (assessed externally)

Optional units may include:

- Recruitment & Selection Process
- Market Research*

The academic content studied is very similar to that of the A Level. The main difference is the way the BTEC is assessed.

Entry requirements

GCSEs at grade 4 and above, in English, Maths and another essay-based subject. Students should have strong communication skills and a genuine interest in business. High quality organisation and resilient research skills are vital due to the coursework nature of assessment. You do not need a GCSE in Business, but it may be an advantage.

Where can the BTEC National in Business take me?

The **Diploma** is ideal for students intending to progress to a business-related degree or higher apprenticeship, providing a broad understanding of the business world and developing practical skills valued by employers. The **Extended Certificate** complements a wide range of other subjects and supports progression into higher education, apprenticeships and employment. Both qualifications are highly regarded and help develop the knowledge and transferable skills needed for future success.

Possible subject combinations

- Physical Education A level
- Sport BTEC
- Psychology A level
- Geography A level

Assessment

Extended Certificate
There are two external examinations early in the course, with the possibility of retakes. The remaining 42% of the qualification is assessed by internal assignments.

National Diploma
There are three external examinations early in the course, with the possibility of retakes. The majority (55%) of the qualification is assessed by internal assignments.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Trent Traders Enterprise Society – Lead/ Overseeing Role
- National enterprise and business competitions – Tycoon in School
- Guest speakers and visits from local and national businesses

CHEMISTRY A LEVEL

A level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Miss Jess Collen

Areas of Study

- Atomic Structure, Calculations, Bonding, Periodicity, Crude Oil and Alkanes, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibria, Redox Reactions,
- The Halogens, Alkenes, Haloalkanes and Alcohols, Organic Analysis.
- Kinetics, Equilibria, Acids and Bases, Advanced Organic Chemistry, Thermodynamics, Periodicity, Redox and Electrochemical Cells, Equilibria, Transition Metals, Reactions of Inorganic Compounds, Analysis.

Students can also take part in various extracurricular activities including spectroscopy workshops, molecules research, presentations, and lab coat dyeing.

Entry requirements

A grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry (or 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science) is a minimum requirement..

A good ability with GCSE Mathematics (Grade 6 minimum, grade 7 preferred) is essential as a large proportion of the questions at A Level involve calculations. A Level Mathematics is not essential but would help give pupils extra confidence in dealing with these concepts.

Possible subject combinations

Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Design & Technology, Geography.

Where can Chemistry take me?

A qualification in Chemistry is useful for most courses in Higher Education as it demonstrates an ability to use data, analyse problems logically, and handle chemicals and apparatus safely. It also gives an awareness of the massive role that Chemistry plays in everyday issues such as the environment and industry.

For certain vocations or courses, Chemistry at A Level standard is a requirement. These include medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, chemical engineering and most biological subjects.

Assessment

Practical work forms part of the course. It is assessed during the written exams at the end of the course and practical skills are assessed continually throughout the two years. A pass or fail is recorded.

Paper 1: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and practical skills (120 minutes). 35% weighting of the final qualification

Paper 2: Organic Chemistry and practical skills (120 minutes). 35% weighting of final qualification

Paper 3: Covers any content and practical skills (120 minutes). 30% weighting of final qualification

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- taking part in CREST Awards
- Chemistry Olympiad
- Cambridge Lower Sixth Challenge
- Cambridge Chemistry Race
- RSC Young Analyst competition
- visiting the Chemistry Department at the University of Nottingham for a spectroscopy masterclass
- research and practical work on the chemistry of dyes and dyeing
- delivering presentations on scientific topics

These opportunities have enabled students to develop their scientific knowledge and practical skills beyond the A Level specification.

COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL

A level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr Christopher Stanley

Computing is really just problem-solving and it pre-dates the computer by at least 2,000 years. It is about so much more than using Microsoft Office products.

In the modern world, whether in industry, research or even in everyday life, an understanding of computers, the internet and programming is vital. All scientists, mathematicians and engineers will at some point have to produce a program as part of their studies, and the ability to theoretically model situations will open up career pathways that are otherwise closed.

Also, the software design industry is booming. The gaming industry alone is now bigger than Hollywood and, with the rise of mobile technology, the software industry will only increase in size. Programmers are highly sought after for the unique mix of logical reasoning, creativity and (above all) problem-solving skills that they possess.

The Government has recently stated that the country must produce more programmers as there simply aren't enough for the jobs that are available. As such, computer scientists are in high demand. The Computer Science A Level caters for those students with a more scientific/mathematical interest in computing and those who may see themselves in a technical profession in the future. The self-selected project gives you a chance to do something truly unique to set yourself apart from the crowd at university interviews.

Entry requirements

A Grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE is recommended. The more Mathematics students have studied, the quicker they will pick up programming concepts. Many of our Computer Science students have already completed GCSE Further Mathematics before joining the course.

Possible subject combinations

Computer Science is mathematical in nature and would work particularly well with students who are also taking Mathematics and/or Physics or Chemistry.

Where can Computer Science take me?

Computing forms a crucial component of the following industries:

- Engineering
- Technology & Communications
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Economic Forecasting
- Software Design
- Biomedical Science
- Meteorology

Assessment

There are two final exams at the end of Year 13. One re-examines the first year content (40% weighting of final qualification), the other is a Year 13 theory exam (40% weighting of final qualification). There is also an assessed coursework project in which students write a program based on a subject of personal interest (20% weighting of final qualification).

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Perse Coding Challenge
- British Informatics Olympiad (BIO)
- Trip to National Video Games Museum
- E-Sports Club

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL
Product Design

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr James Prince

Design and Technology (D&T) helps to equip students with the essential skills required to participate effectively in the highly technological world in which we live today. An important feature of D&T is that it makes immediate and practical use of knowledge and skills from other subjects. The core skills of innovation, creative problem-solving, a thorough understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, industrial practices and the effective use of ICT make D&T students a highly attractive proposition for employers and universities alike.

Entry requirements

This course is open to all students who have gained a 6 or above at GCSE in Design and Technology.

Students who have studied other Design and Technology disciplines may be considered for this course but consultation with the Head of Department is advised to determine suitability.

Possible subject combinations

A Level Design and Technology would provide a complementary subject for students studying Art, Mathematics or Science-based subjects at A Level and offers a contrasting subject with the Arts, Modern Languages and Social Sciences.

Where can Design and Technology take me?

In recent years, Trent College D&T students have gained positions at prestigious companies such as Dyson, Hozelock and BAE systems, as a result of their A Level studies. Trent College D&T students have received top awards for their A Level work in national competitions including the Young Engineer for Britain, Young Electronic Designer, Crest Award and the Engineering Education Scheme.

Students who are considering a career in any design related area, from Architecture and Engineering to Product and Environmental Design, should view Design and Technology as a desirable A Level.

Assessment

Paper 1: Written paper; Core technical principles and core designing and making principles (2 hours 30 minutes, 100 marks).

A mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.

25% weighting of final qualification.

Paper 2: Written paper; A mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions (1 hour 30 minutes, 100 marks). 25% weighting of final qualification.

Section A – Product analysis, and six short answer questions based on pictures of products.

Section B – Commercial manufacture – Short and extended response questions.

Non-Exam Assessment: Design and Making Practice

(45 hours, 100 marks).

Practical application of technical principles and specialist knowledge through a design and make project.

A digital design portfolio and final product prototype.

50% weighting of final qualification

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- The Arkwright Engineering scholarship - a national award for the promotion of engineering offering financial support and industry experience - applications in Y11
- A Product Design and Manufacturing Outreach Day at the University of Nottingham.

ECONOMICS A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mrs Sharon Prosser

Why do house prices keep rising? What causes a recession? How do governments decide where to spend your taxes?

Economics at Trent College tackles these real-world questions, relating current affairs to clearly explained economic theory. The course provides a critical understanding of the economic choices faced by consumers, businesses, and governments, helping you explore the topics that dominate the news and shape the world we live in.

Economics is an **essay-based subject,** assessed entirely through written examinations. Success requires confident extended writing, the ability to construct and evaluate arguments, and strong data interpretation skills.

Theme 1. Markets & Market Failure: This theme provides an understanding of how markets allocate resources through the forces of demand and supply, analysing markets such as housing. The theme then explores factors which cause markets to fail and operate inefficiently, and the actions government can take to correct market outcomes. Finally, the theme looks at how government intervention can lead to worse outcomes.

Theme 2. The UK Economy – performance & policies: This theme focuses on the national economy, how it works, and how performance can be measured, before focusing on the objectives of the UK government and the policies it has available. You will investigate how the UK economy has changed in the last 10 years, as well as comparing the Great Depression and the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Theme 3. Business behaviour & labour markets: This theme develops Theme 1 and introduces you to more realistic models of markets, such as Oligopoly, and how the level of competition affects consumers and efficiency. You will investigate the labour market, and actions government can take to promote competition.

Theme 4. A global perspective: This theme develops Theme 2 but focuses on international economics. You will study the importance of international trade and competitiveness, as well as looking at countries at different stages of development, to consider the strategies that can be used to promote growth.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 at GCSE in English or a Humanity and Mathematics is recommended. An interest in current affairs is essential. You are encouraged to read extensively, as well as view other forms of media such as podcasts and documentaries.

Possible subject combinations

Economics is a social science with significant quantitative elements, making it versatile across different A Level pathways:

- Mathematics – Highly recommended. Many university Economics courses require or strongly prefer A Level Maths due to the mathematical modelling and data analysis involved at degree level. If you are considering Economics at a Russell Group university, check entry requirements carefully.
- Business – Strong synergy in understanding markets, competition, and corporate strategy.
- Geography – Significant crossover in topics such as globalisation, development, and sustainability.
- History – Develops the analytical writing and evidence-based argumentation central to Economics.
- Politics – Complements the study of government policy, international relations, and public economics.
- Psychology – Useful for understanding behavioural economics and consumer decision-making.

Where can Economics take me?

Economics is a highly respected A Level subject, opening doors to careers in **Banking and Finance, Accountancy, Management Consultancy, the Civil Service, Stockbroking, Journalism, Data Analysis, and Policy Research.** Many economists also move into Law, Politics, and Business Leadership.

At university, Economics graduates pursue degrees in **Economics, Econometrics, Business Management, International Business, Finance, and Law.** To study Economics at a top university may require A Level Maths, so early research into entry requirements is essential.

There is an Economics Society and students watch webinars such as **Deloitte's UK Economic Outlook, Imperial College Business School lectures, LSE public events,** and **Channel Talent online masterclasses.** These sessions expose students to cutting-edge economic analysis and real-world applications of the concepts studied in the classroom.

Assessment

This course is assessed 100% by examination.

Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour: assesses the microeconomics based on themes 1 and 3. A two-hour examination, 100 marks, 35% weighting of final qualification.

Paper 2: The National and Global Economy: assesses the macroeconomics based on themes 2 and 4. A two-hour examination, 100 marks, 35% weighting of final qualification.

Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics: synoptic assessing all themes. A two-hour examination, 100 marks, 30% of final qualification.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through participation in a range of prestigious national and international competitions.

These include:

- Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism Essay Prize
- LSE Undergraduate Political Review
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Next Generation Economics Competition
- Young Economist of the Year Award
- Wharton Student Investor Competition
- International Economics Olympiad
- CIPFA Sixth Form Management Game

These opportunities allow students to engage with contemporary economic debates, develop rigorous analytical and financial skills, and explore topics well beyond the A Level specification.

ENGLISH LITERATURE & ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr Josh Beal

The English Language and Literature course combines study of two disciplines through a method called stylistics. You will explore texts such as: 'The Handmaid's Tale', 'A Streetcar Named Desire', 'The Great Gatsby' and Carol Ann Duffy's poetry. You will also explore a range of non-fiction texts in the Paris Anthology.

In this course, you are examined on the traditional skills of analysis but also have the opportunity to write creatively based on a text you have studied. Thus, this course allows students a broad view of English, enabling them to explore both literary and linguistical analysis of how we use language in fiction and in daily life and speech.

Where can English Language and Literature take me?

The study of English can give you a deep insight into why writers write and how they achieve their effects upon the reader. This may lead you into a lifelong love of the written word and you may wish to study English Literature at a higher level.

English Language and Literature is widely regarded by top universities as a very good qualification to show depth of knowledge and excellent application to learning. It also allows you to access careers in Journalism, Media, Drama, Publishing, Editing, Law, History, Television and Teaching; the field really is wide open when you have a qualification in English Language and Literature.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE in English Language and Literature is required. An enjoyment of reading, an understanding of analysis, and a desire to make sense of abstract concepts are all useful.

Possible subject combinations

The writing skills developed in English Language and Literature work well alongside other subjects that require similar writing skills such as History, Politics and Psychology.

Assessment

Paper 1: Paris Anthology (closed book) The Handmaid's Tale (open book) Poetry- Duffy (open book) 40%/3hrs

Paper 2: The Great Gatsby Recast and Commentary, Streetcar Named Desire (open book) 40%/2hr30

Non-Exam Assessment

3000 word independent investigation on linguistic representations of crime in literary and non-literary material, 50 marks, 20% of A level

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- theatre trips that bring texts to life
- independent esearch projects
- essay competitions that develop critical thinking and writing
- visits to archives such as Birmingham Central Library
- engagement with video lectures
- talks from former students now working in publishing, journalism and as authors

ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr Josh Beal

A level English Literature explores the art of storytelling and the ways in which it examines many of life's fundamental themes: love, prejudice, loneliness, perseverance and inequality to name but a few. English Literature students learn to become critical thinkers by applying different lenses and critical theories to the texts studied as you consider varying interpretations. The subject requires students to read independently, perhaps considering how a text may be examined through a variety of lenses, including Feminism, Eco-Criticism and Marxism. This specification for English Literature provides and encourages the opportunity for wider reading through the two year course.

Where can English Literature take me?

The study of English can give you a deep insight into why writers write and how they achieve their effects upon the reader. This may lead you into a lifelong love of the written word and you may wish to study English Literature at a higher level. English Literature is widely regarded by top universities as a very good qualification to show depth of knowledge and excellent application to learning. It also allows you to access careers in Journalism, Media, Drama, Publishing, Editing, Law, History, Television and Teaching; the field really is wide open when you have a qualification in English Literature.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE is required. An enjoyment of reading, an understanding of analysis, and a desire to make sense of abstract concepts are all useful.

Possible subject combinations

The writing skills developed in English Literature work well alongside other subjects that require similar writing skills such as History, Politics and Psychology.

Assessment

Students will do one piece of coursework (20%) and sit two exams on the genres of Tragedy (40%) and Crime Writing (40%)

Paper 1: "Aspects of Tragedy"
In this topic, students explore flawed tragic heroes and heroines in Othello, Death of a Salesman, and selected poems by Keats. They will analyse how tragedy unfolds, focusing on narrative structure, violence, revenge, and the journey towards death. The course examines how language heightens tragedy and how these texts reflect on the human condition, moving the audience through emotions such as pity and fear.

Paper 2: "Elements of Crime Writing"
In this unit, students explore how crimes drive the narrative in Atonement, The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, and selected Victorian crime poems by Browning, Crabbe, and Wilde. They will examine different types of crime stories, such as detective fiction and narrative poetry, and how crimes like murder, theft, and betrayal are portrayed. Students will analyse criminal motives, the role of detectives, and themes of guilt, forgiveness, law, and morality, while considering how these texts create suspense and reflect ongoing societal issues.

Non-Exam Assessment: "Theory and Independence"
Students choose their own texts for this unit to explore various critical approaches to literature. This covers narrative, feminist, Marxist, aesthetic, eco-critical, and post-colonial theories. Students analyse two texts—one poetry, one prose—each linked to a different theory and write an essay or re-creative response for each one.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- theatre trips that bring texts to life
- independent esearch projects
- essay competitions that develop critical thinking and writing
- visits to archives such as Birmingham Central Library
- engagement with video lectures
- talks from former students now working in publishing, journalism and as authors.

GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL



A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr David Hartley

Geography fascinates and inspires. It is everywhere, it is the beauty of the earth, the terrible power of earth-shaping forces, viewed on the news that nourishes our curiosity and draws upon our empathy. Geography takes us out of ourselves. The subject attracts an enthusiastic and diverse group of students each year, who respond to the contemporary, real life nature of the subject and the academic issues that arise from them.

The topics are interesting, varied and directly relevant to the real world. Indeed, many of the major issues facing the world today, particularly young people in the coming decades, are explicitly covered within the Geography specification. The causes, problems and solutions of both rapid population growth and urbanisation, along with the impacts of natural hazards such as tsunamis, are just two of the topics covered. Geography at this level includes a high level of problem-solving and evaluation, and engages the theoretical, the real and the practical.

There are a number of day trips in Year 12 to aid students' understanding of the topics they are studying. You will carry out fieldwork investigations relating to the topics we study, gaining first-hand experience of fieldwork techniques. In addition, extra-curricular trips to locations such as Italy and Iceland form part of the course.

What You'll Study

A Level Geography incorporates both Human and Physical Geography with more of a focus on how the intertwine than what was studied at GCSE.

Human topics include:

Contemporary urban environments - Focusses on urban growth and change which are seemingly ubiquitous processes and present significant environmental and social challenges for human populations. The section examines these processes and challenges and the issues associated with them, in particular the potential for environmental sustainability and social cohesion.

Changing places - Focuses on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives. Students acknowledge this importance and engage with how places are known and experienced, how their character is appreciated, the factors and processes which impact upon places and how they change and develop over time .

Global systems and global governance - Focuses on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades.

Physical Geography:

Water and carbon cycles - This section of our specification focuses on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them. These are major elements in the natural environment and understanding them is fundamental to many aspects of physical geography.

Coastal systems and landscapes - This section of the specification focuses on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments. The operation and outcomes of fundamental geomorphological processes and their association with distinctive landscapes are readily observable. In common with water and carbon cycles, a systems approach to study is specified.

Hazards - Focuses on the lithosphere and the atmosphere, which intermittently but regularly present natural hazards to human populations, often in dramatic and sometimes catastrophic fashion. By exploring the origin and nature of these hazards and the various ways in which people respond to them, students are able to engage with many dimensions of the relationships between people and the environments they occupy. Study of this section offers the opportunity to exercise and develop observation skills, measurement and geospatial mapping skills, together with data manipulation and statistical skills, including those associated with and arising from fieldwork.

Possible subject combinations

Geography is a broad based academic subject, which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see Geography as a robust academic subject that is rich in skills, knowledge and understanding.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE (if taken). The study of Geography at A Level does require the ability to write clear, well organised, extended answers. Therefore, a sound command of English grammar is an advantage.

Assessment

Component 1: Physical Geography (includes topics from Component 1) (2.5 hours).

40% weighting of final qualification.

Component 2: Human Geography (includes topics from Component 2) (2.5 hours).

40% weighting of final qualification.

Component 3: Geographical Investigation: 3,000-4,000 words.

20% weighting of final qualification.

All students will complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- A field trip to Iceland.
- Geographical Association 'Young Geographer of the Year Award.
- Lectures run by Nottingham University
- Online lectures from the Geographical Association

HISTORY A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr Dean Gervis

History is an intellectually satisfying discipline. You will be required to think for yourself and to be questioning, not merely to be absorbent of information and knowledge. There are no right or wrong answers in History; all answers can in their own way have a measure of truth in them, but the best ones demonstrate real understanding and are convincingly argued. You will be expected to arrive at your own conclusions. An excellent History essay is a clear, logical, well organised and persuasive statement about a highly complex situation. If you can achieve this, not only have you an accomplishment to be proud of, you have a skill which will be of service in almost any walk of life.

The study of History will develop your communication skills, planning and organisational skills, team work and problem-solving skills.

At the heart of your A Level you will study the Tudors, Russia from 1894-1941 and Civil Rights in the USA

Every year we organise exciting and informative trips. We have also run trips to Washington DC. The subject also benefits from the influential politicians and academics that regularly visit Trent for lectures and talks.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE History.

Where can History take me?

History is a well-respected degree that opens up a variety of career options. If students did not want to go on to study History at University, a History A Level is excellent preparation for a law degree or any subject where analytical and/or essay writing skills are important.

Studying History is also a great pathway to the study of Politics, International Relations, Sociology, Journalism or History. Many careers require the skill of writing and presenting reports and prospective employers consider historians particularly accomplished in these areas.

Possible subject combinations

History works well with a large number of subjects. It can complement subjects such as Politics, English and Economics, although often students who take History do so alongside Sciences to maintain one essay-based subject.

Assessment

Coursework on Russia 1855 - 1953: 20% of the final qualification.

Examination on each of the other topics: 80% of the final qualification.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Peterhouse Vellacott History Essay Prize
- Trinity College Cambridge – Robson History Prize
- The Great Debate (Historical Association)



MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mrs Caroline Howat

The A Level Mathematics course provides an opportunity for you to develop a further interest in the subject by extending your knowledge through the introduction of new techniques and development and practise of your mathematical skills. In addition to Pure Mathematics, the course also looks at some of the applications of Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics.

This covers work on topics such as:

Pure	Trigonometry, Coordinate Geometry, Calculus, Algebra, Vectors, Proof and Numerical methods.
Statistics	Interpretation of data, probability, discrete and continuous distributions, hypothesis testing.
Mechanics	Kinematics, Newton's Law, friction and statics.

Entry requirements

GCSE Maths at Grade 7 or above is strongly recommended. A student with a Grade 6 will be required to discuss their decision with the Head of Mathematics.

Possible subject combinations

Mathematics sits well with almost all other subjects across all disciplines. It is the language of most sciences and gives an excellent combination with Art, Music, Modern Languages, Economics, Geography and History.

Where can Maths take me?

Developing your mathematical literacy is always a worthwhile activity but, perhaps more importantly, A Level Mathematics can be helpful for entry to a wide variety of degree courses. Mathematics may be highly desirable or even essential for admission to Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Product Design and Economics courses. It can also be recommended for entry into the fields of Accountancy and Finance, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Business, Geophysics, Psychology and Quantity Surveying among many others.

Assessment

The A Level course is assessed by means of three 2 hour assessments.

Paper 1: Pure (1/3 of final qualification)

Paper 2: Pure (1/3 of final qualification)

Paper 3: Applied (1/3 of final qualification)

Calculators are permitted in all examinations and our suggested model is the CASIO fx-CG100. Students should check with their teacher before purchasing any other model.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through participation in a range of prestigious UKMT competitions, including the Senior Mathematics Challenge, the UKMT Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, and the UKMT Maths Competition for Girls.

The Mathematics Department provides both encouragement and tailored support for students interested in these opportunities, particularly those who enjoy tackling challenging problems beyond the standard curriculum.

Success in these competitions not only develops resilience and advanced analytical skills but also offers nationally recognised Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards that strengthen university applications.

High-performing students may progress to further rounds such as the Senior Kangaroo or the British Mathematical Olympiad, with the potential to advance to international representation.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mrs Caroline Howat

Further Mathematics is taken as a fourth A Level alongside A Level Mathematics. It is rather more challenging than single A Level Mathematics and a genuine interest is necessary to follow Further Mathematics very intensively over the two years.

The course further develops ideas met in A Level Mathematics and also brings in new content including Complex Numbers and Matrices. Further optional units in either Pure or Applied Mathematics are also covered but the exact combination of units will be decided based on the make-up of students on the course. It is an excellent grounding for a university course featuring higher mathematical content and some universities see it as a significant advantage to have followed this course.

Entry requirements

A grade 8 or 9 at GCSE Maths would be highly desirable for this course.

Possible subject combinations

Further Mathematics complements the majority of subjects but particularly supports the Sciences and Economics.

Where can Maths take me?

Many students who study Further Mathematics go on to study degrees in Mathematics, Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science and Economics.

Assessment

The A Level course is assessed by four 90 minute papers.

Paper 1: Core Pure (25% of final qualification)

Paper 2: Core Pure (25% of final qualification)

Paper 3: Option 1 (25% of final qualification)

Paper 4: Option 2 (25% of final qualification)

Calculators are permitted in all examinations and our suggested model is the CASIO fx-CG100. Students should check with their teacher before purchasing any other model.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through participation in a range of prestigious UKMT competitions, including the Senior Mathematics Challenge, the UKMT Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, and the UKMT Maths Competition for Girls.

The Mathematics Department provides both encouragement and tailored support for students interested in these opportunities, particularly those who enjoy tackling challenging problems beyond the standard curriculum.

The Senior Mathematics Challenge, for example, emphasises creative problem-solving, logical reasoning, and independent thinking in a 90-minute, non-calculator format.

Success in these competitions not only develops resilience and advanced analytical skills but also offers nationally recognised Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards that strengthen university applications.

High-performing students may progress to further rounds such as the Senior Kangaroo or the British Mathematical Olympiad, with the potential to advance to international representation.

Through these enrichment opportunities, the department fosters mathematical curiosity, confidence, and academic ambition, while also supporting increased participation and achievement.

MODERN LANGUAGES A LEVEL
French, German, Spanish

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Ms Angelique Lebat

Solid language skills are crucial for enterprises' ability to remain competitive in an increasingly globalised and mobile economy. Those who speak modern foreign languages are liable to be key players. Already, language graduates have one of the highest employment rates of any subject, as the ability to communicate in a foreign language and understand foreign cultures is highly prized by employers.

In addition to these arguments for pursuing language learning to the limit of one's ability, are the more traditional – but no less valid – attractions of language learning: communication with others on a personal and social level; the exploration of foreign cultures, their literature and their philosophy; the greater rewards to be had from foreign travel when you speak the language.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in the appropriate language is the minimum requirement and a grade 7 is strongly advised.

Where can Languages take me?

Languages at A Level can lead to a variety of university courses and careers. Traditional language degree courses place more emphasis on literature but you can also find courses which will allow you to pursue your interests in a whole range of subjects such as History of Art, Politics, History, Economics, Law or Philosophy.

Possible subject combinations

An A Level language complements well all Arts and Social science subjects (e.g. English, History, Business Studies, and Politics) and are an equally sensible choice to contrast with subjects of a scientific or technological nature.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing—50% weight of final qualification.

Paper 2: Writing—20% weight of final qualification. Written response to the study of a book/play and a film.

Paper 3: Speaking—30% weight of final qualification. Topic discussion and presentation of an individual research project (IRP).

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Webinars on film and text
- Film trips

MUSIC A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mr Nick Parrans-Smith

Music performance

An expressive arts subject, the ability to express ideas and convey them to other people is of obvious value in later life. Performing forms an integral part of the A Level Music course, and students have the opportunity to perform a short recital (A Level minimum ten minutes) at a minimum of Grade 7 standard on any instrument.

Music composition

Music A Level demonstrates your creative side, manipulating a listener's emotions and telling stories through the development of original ideas. You will compose a minimum of four and a half minutes' music at A Level, which includes composition to a brief set by the exam board, and a free composition.

Music as a science

The analysis of set works taken from a wide range of musical traditions as set by the exam board are assessed in listening examinations. Composers include J.S. Bach, Bernard Herrmann, Stevie Wonder, Chopin, Muse, and Hans Zimmer, so there is something for everybody to enjoy. As well as developing extended writing techniques, data analysis and synthesis skills are demonstrated, alongside a study of the historical, sociological and political landscapes that surround composers and their music.

Entry requirements

Grade 7 practical ability (or the equivalent), and a good working knowledge of musical notation. GCSE study is not specifically required, although a theoretical qualification the equivalent of Grade 5 Theory would be expected as a substitute."

Possible subject combinations

Music is a complementary subject regardless of your option choices. There is a tradition of musical study amongst medical and law graduates. However, Music and Languages (both foreign and English), Music and Maths, Physical and Social Sciences, and Humanities subjects are all very solid combinations. Music Psychology is a burgeoning area of research at the moment, as the power of music on the developing mind is explored further.

Where can Music take me?

Music is very highly regarded by Higher Education institutions and employers alike; this is due to the myriad of skills you have to demonstrate. Musicians go on to be successful in an exciting range of professions. While Music Education is a popular field, areas such as Music Psychology, Music combined with Languages, Philosophy and other Humanities disciplines, as well as specialist courses relating to instrument design, are becomingincreasingly popular.

Music is also an important part of extra-curricular life at university and in the wider adult community, with A Level Music giving a firm foundation for years of enjoyment after school. Several A Level musicians have received scholarships for their further study at top level institutions and conservatoires in recent years, including the prestigious organ scholarship at Queen's College, Oxford University.

Assessment

Appraising: An exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music. The exam is split into 3 sections: Listening (unfamiliar based on areas of study), Analysis (familiar) and an Essay (on an area of study of the student's choice). This component is 40% of the A-level (120 marks).

Performance: A 10-minute recital externally marked by AQA examiners. This component is 35% of the A-Level (50 marks).

Composition: Two compositions; one set from a choice of seven briefs released by the exam board, the other is a free composition. Together, the compositions should be at least four and a half minutes. This component is worth 25% of the A-Level (50 marks).



Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Regularly engaging with prestigious musical institutions and ensembles.
- Many have attended the junior departments of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal College of Music, while others have earned highly competitive places in ensembles such as the National Youth Orchestra, City of Birmingham Youth Orchestra, and Derbyshire's leading groups, including the County Youth Orchestra and County Wind Band; the latter achieving a coveted Platinum Award at the National Concert Band Festival.
- Alongside their involvement in numerous Trent College ensembles, students also perform in weekly solo recitals, further developing their artistry and confidence.
- Many contribute as Junior Choral Scholars at Derby Cathedral and take part in a wide range of external concerts and ensembles, reflecting both their musical excellence and dedication to performance at the highest level.

PHOTOGRAPHY A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mrs Kate O'Hare

Students considering Photography A Level are encouraged to develop an appreciation of the visual world, and to record what they see using a variety of lens-based and camera-less techniques.

You will carry out both theoretical and practical investigations. You will develop a specialist vocabulary, learn about the visual elements and their integral part in good photography, carrying out research into artists and photographers, to inform the development of your own ideas. Technical aspects such as full use of digital and film cameras are part of the course. You will learn how to develop your ideas and to create sophisticated and well-informed outcomes.

Personality, drive, resourcefulness, a strong work ethic and individuality are highly valued and staff will work closely with you to create challenging, exciting and thought-provoking work. The course is highly structured, yet allows for individual creative development and personal expression.

Where can Photography take me?

Many of our Art and Photography students have used the high grades they achieved to pursue studies in a wide range of different courses including Maths, History and Sciences at top universities. The A Level course in Photography is popular with students who enjoy Photography and who are looking for a course which allows them to learn quickly and be creative. Our photographers have gone on to careers in photography, editorial photography and careers in graphic communication. It would also be an ideal complement to A Level Art, for those students aiming for a career in any aspect of Art and Design and Media.

Possible subject combinations

Photography will combine well with all subjects, either to add breadth to A Level study or alongside A Level Art, to allow students to go on to further specialised Art and Design courses.

Entry requirements

GCSE in Photography is not required. No previous technical skills in Photography are required but students need good literacy skills and an appreciation of the visual world.

Assessment

Year 12

Year 12 will be spent learning the technical aspect of photography and then starting their first creative project.

Year 13

Year 13 students will begin Component/Unit 1: The Self-Identified Brief, which is a practical body of work supported by a 1,000–3,000 word essay. In February, students will receive their Component 2 exam paper and select a starting point, creating a body of work which leads towards a ten-hour exam in which to create a final outcome. Each of these projects is marked as a whole, with Component 1 worth 60% and Component 2 worth 40%.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through going out on location to do ambitious shoots with the 120mm Medium Format film camera and with 35mm film cameras and digital SLRs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mr Mark Powell

The focus of the A Level Physical Education (PE) course is on participation and performance in physical activity as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle. Students who have an interest in Sport Science and health will find A Level PE to be both fascinating and challenging.

Areas of study

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport

Entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE PE (if taken) is a minimum requirement. Students are expected to have achieved success at GCSE in the Sciences. Students must play representative 1st Team sport at school and or club level in one discipline.

The sporting commitment must be throughout the duration of the A level PE course to support year 13 practical marks.

Possible subject combinations

- Biology A Level
- Psychology A Level
- History A Level

There are a number of subjects our present students are taking but any combination is suitable with the A Level PE.

Where can PE take me?

Any pupil wishing to undertake a higher qualification in Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Science, Physiotherapy, Leisure Studies or Recreational Management would find A Level PE to be very valuable indeed. It is also important to state that the vast majority of universities will now accept this A Level as a qualification to any course.

Assessment

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (2 hours)

35% weighting of final qualification.

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (2 hours).

35% weighting of final qualification.

The practical module will be assessed by an external moderator during the Trinity Term of Year 13.

30% weighting of final qualification.

Practical performance in one sport 15%.

Written coursework about one sport 15%.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Lecture by Adam Summerton – Sport and the media
- Visit to the home of Ashbourne Shrovetide Football
- Visit to Rugby School
- Various leadership opportunities supporting sports festivals at the Trent College and The Elms.



PHYSICS A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mrs Emma Marsh

Physics helps us to understand the world around us. From the swirl of milk in a cup of coffee to the swirl of the arms of a vast galaxy, the equations and concepts that underpin the universe can be explored and explained to reveal the connections in all things.

At A Level, Physics students begin to probe deeper into a wide range of concepts with the course covering: Particle & Quantum Physics, Waves & Optics, Linear Mechanics & Circular Motion, Electricity, Fields, Nuclear & Thermal Physics and Astrophysics.

Students often seek to study Physics for the challenge it can provide but most recognise that the analytical and problem solving skills they will develop on the course will be of benefit in their other subjects as well as their later study.

Entry requirement

A grade 6 in GCSE Physics (or a grade 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science) is a minimum entry requirement for A Level. Pupils with a grade 7+ are much more likely to be successful and a grade 8 at GCSE is recommended should you wish to take this subject without one of these supporting Science/Maths subjects.

A grade 6 in GCSE Maths is essential but a grade 7 is preferred.

Possible subject combinations

Although Mathematics is a popular choice for Physics students, there is no requirement for them to take it; all of the necessary skills will be taught as part of the Physics course. Many students choose Physics in support of applications for medical courses at university with others choosing the science to demonstrate their analytical skills alongside humanities subjects.

Where can Physics take me?

Physics graduates are often at the cutting edge of new technologies and products that the world did not think possible. With Physics graduates involved in all sectors, from engineering and electronics, to government and policy, to finance and law, the opportunities that are open to those who have studied the subject are endless. Those completing an A Level in Physics today may be involved in developing technology or working in industries that have not even been invented yet.

Whatever the future holds, the problem solving, researching and communication skills acquired through the study of Physics are transferable to all areas of further study and employment.

Assessment

The full A Level assessment consists of three papers, each 2 hours in duration. Alongside the terminal examinations, students are judged against the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPACs) during 12 required practical experiments over the two-year course.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Physics Independent Research Project – pupils have investigated an aspect of personal interest in Physics and reported research and findings to the rest of the group via academic poster, presentation or essay. (Y12)
- Senior Physics Challenge (Y12)
- Physics Olympiad (Y13)
- A-level Physics Live – lectures on fascinating Physics related topics e.g. Does life need quantum mechanics? What are neutrinos? Plus, advice on how to get the most out of the A-level Physics course and practical tips on exam technique. (Y12/13)
- Subject spotlight visit to the University of Nottingham School of Engineering, joint initiative with Product Design. (Y12)

POLITICS A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mr Calum Setterington

What a time to be studying Politics! At the start of the course, governments in both the United Kingdom and the United States will be in the middle of their terms, navigating their way through a myriad of complicated domestic and internation issues. There really is no better time to understand A level Politics to learn, to challenge, to debate and to reason.

What is the Electoral College and why is it so important? Why did the US Presidential Election take so long to come in? What was the issue with 'mail in ballots' in the US Presidential Election? How successful has President Trump been at home, and abroad?

What is 'Devolution'? How are laws made? What do Backbenchers do? How are we represented? Is the two-party system gone in the UK? Has Brexit been a success? Should Labour have removed Starmer in May 2026? All of these questions and issues are explored and addressed as part of the course.

Entry requirements

A keen interest in current and world affairs is essential. Students are required to have a grade 6 at GCSE in English and/or History.

Where can Politics take me?

Politics develops strong communication, analytical and evaluation skills, which prepare students very well for areas like Law, Civil Service, Intelligence Services, the military, the Foreign Office, teaching, the charity sector and business. Equally, it can be seen as a challenging and fascinating area of study that brings breadth and variety to a post-16 profile.

Possible subject combinations

History, Religious Studies, English, Psychology, Economics, Business.

Assessment

There are three exams in A Level Politics, each worth a third of the total qualification. Two exams are on UK Politics and Political Ideology. The third exam is on American Politics.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Hosting the local MP, for an annual Q&A with pupils
- Welcoming presentations from political journalists, parliamentary assistants, campaign managers and Special Advisors
- Online workshops with the UK Supreme Court and House of Lords
- Visiting to the University of Hull A level Politics Conference
- Hosting 'Political Education for Students' UK Government and US Supreme Court simulation workshops
- Entering external UK and Global Politics Essay competitions
- Running an internal essay competition and internal 'Special Advisor Challenge'
- Launching a combined academic London residential with the Business and Economics Departments
- Supporting the launch and running of the Debating Society
- Supporting the completion of Work Experience in political fields

PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: AQA
Contact: Mrs Josie Wood

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour, cognition and experience. The specification takes a broad view of Psychology by covering all core areas within a traditional approach, whilst allowing for the study of some of these in greater depth at A Level.

In the first year of study, you will explore the research methodology used in Psychological investigations and the various approaches to Psychology. We will cover the Psychodynamic, Behaviourist, Cognitive, Humanist, and Biological approaches to understanding human behaviour. In Year 13, you will develop a deep understanding of three behaviours (Relationships, Aggression and Schizophrenia). Finally, we will complete the course by examining the wider issues surrounding the subject.

This syllabus has been chosen because the specification was designed to provide a broad introduction to the scope and nature of Psychology as a science. The emphasis is on applying knowledge and understanding rather than just acquiring knowledge, thereby developing your transferable skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. The specification offers a broad range of topics, with research methods in context.

Entry requirements

GCSE Psychology is not required.

A minimum grade 6 in GCSE English and a Science subject.

Students need to be comfortable with the scientific approach, interpreting simple statistics and be able to write clear, concise and well organised essays.

Where can Psychology take me?

Insights gained from studying Psychology are especially useful to those considering careers in medicine, education, social work, law or management. A Level Psychology is never required for entry to a degree course, but many students find that studying at this level gives a useful insight into the subject and helps them decide if they will be suited to studying Psychology at degree level.

Possible subject combinations

Psychology combines well with a variety of subjects and is particularly useful for providing breadth to a portfolio that is otherwise all arts or all science subjects. Popular with Biology, PE, Business

Assessment

At A Level there are three exams, each accounting for one third of the A Level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- One-Day Introductory Tutorial in Neuroscience
- Brain and Eye Dissection
- Mind Reading and Dreaming

RS: PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS A LEVEL

A Level Exam Board: OCR
Contact: Mrs Toni Ford

The study of Philosophy and Ethics at A Level is both engaging and academically rigorous, providing excellent preparation for a wide range of degree courses and apprenticeships. RS at Trent will enthuse a genuine passion for philosophy and ethics through a syllabus that consistently challenges you to look at the bigger picture.

The subject explores the philosophical and ethical theories which underpin our society today. An understanding of these ideas is essential to informed thinking about law, medicine, education, human rights and religion. The course offers a thorough grounding in philosophical and ethical issues, built on the ability to structure and formulate an argument, to express ideas with clarity and to apply skills of logic and critical thinking.

You will study a wide range of influential thinkers from Plato and Aristotle to Augustine, Aquinas, Kant, Marx, Freud, Dawkins and Singer. The course comprises three main subject areas:

Philosophy: You will examine what we can know and prove, exploring classical schools of thought, traditional proofs for God's existence, responses to evil and suffering, life after death, and the nature of religious experience and language.

Ethics: You will study key ethical theories including Natural Law, Utilitarianism and Kantian ethics, applying them to medical ethics, sexual relationships and business ethics, and questioning the nature of conscience and human behaviour.

Developments in Christian Thought: You will examine Christian responses to secularism, pluralism, Marxism and feminism, and consider the distinction between knowledge, belief and revelation.

Entry requirements

Suitable for those who have studied RS to GCSE level and/or gained a grade 6 or above in an essay-based subject.

Where can Religious Studies take me?

RS develops the ability to analyse scholarly opinion, think logically and express ideas persuasively, skills fundamental to many careers. Previous students have gone on to study Medicine, Law, PPE, Philosophy, Theology, Dentistry and International Law, as well as a broad range of Arts and Humanities subjects. Admissions tutors regard it as a rigorous and important part of the Humanities curriculum, and it is one of the fastest growing A Level subjects nationally.

Possible subject combinations

RS combines well with English, History, Psychology, and Politics, and many students have also paired it with Chemistry and Biology or Maths before going on to study Dentistry, Genetics and Medicine. Students have also combined it with Business Studies and have gone on to Degree Apprenticeships in Management and Accounting.

Assessment

Three two-hour examinations, each requiring essay-style answers demonstrating knowledge and critical analysis. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last three years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject in some genuinely memorable ways. Our Krakow and Auschwitz visit is one of the most powerful experiences on offer at Trent. Students encounter the Holocaust first-hand and return to lead PSHE sessions and assemblies, sharing what they have learned with the wider school community. Students have also travelled to Amsterdam to explore the problem of evil in context, and to Rome and Florence to encounter the history of Christian thought, art and theology in person. Philosophy and Ethics conferences give our students the chance to sit alongside university academics and debate questions they are studying: the existence of God, abortion, gender and the relationship between science and religion. The Debating Society is a natural fit for RS students, offering regular practice in building and defending arguments under pressure. Students have also taken part in the Oxford University Religion as Gender Politics trip, the Academic Forum, and lectures through Gresham College and the Channel Talent series.

SPORT BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE/NATIONAL DIPLOMA

BTEC National Extended Certificate/National Diploma Exam Board: Edexcel
Contact: Mr Mark Powell

This qualification will be available as either:

- BTEC National Extended Certificate (equivalent to one A Level)
- BTEC National Diploma* (equivalent to two A Levels)

*Units marked with an asterisk are studied only as part of the National Diploma.**

Course Structure

Year 12
External examinations
Unit 1: Anatomy & Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 22: Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry*

There will be options for a retake in Year 13 if required.

Internal assessments
Unit 8: Coaching for Performance*

Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing*

Year 13
Internal assessments
Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 4: Sports Leadership

Unit 17: Sports Injury Management*

Unit 23: Skill Acquisition in Sport*

Entry requirements

GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, which should ideally include English, Maths and Science.

Students should have an interest in sport and regularly participate at a minimum of recreational level.

Where can the BTEC Sport take me?

BTEC Sport is designed to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills in the areas of sports science, sports development and coaching. Completion of this course could progress into full-time employment within the leisure industry or higher educational opportunities at university.

Possible subject combinations

- Biology A Level and Psychology A Level
- Business BTEC

There are a number of subjects our present students are taking but any combination is suitable with BTEC Sport.

Assessment

Extended Certificate (four units)
External examinations of Units 1 and 2 are completed in the first year. Retakes will be available.

Internal assessments, across two units, in the second year; roughly three assessments per unit.

Diploma (nine units)
External examinations of Units 1, 2 and Unit 22 are completed in the first year. Retakes will be available.

Internal assesments, across two units in the first year and four units in the second year. Roughly three assessments per unit.

Academic Enrichment

Over the last 3 years our students have expressed and extended their interests in this subject through:

- Industry guest speakers
- Leadership opportunities at school sporting events and festivals
- Educational visits, including Spring Lakes Water Sports and Leisure Centre, to support the Investigating Business unit

Tel: +44 (0) 115 849 4950
Email: Admissions@trentcollege.net
Web: www.trentschools.net

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