

The
New Sixth BATH
ST GREGORY'S AND ST MARK'S

For entry from September 2024

The joint Sixth Form provision for Saint Gregory's Catholic College
and St Mark's School, Bath

“The ‘School Creed’, written by former pupils, states that ‘At St Greg’s, we are a family’. Many current pupils and staff confirmed that this is, indeed, their experience of their school.”

Ofsted, December 2022





Mrs Melissa George

Headteacher
Saint Gregory's, Bath



Mr Stewart Burn

Director of Sixth Form
Saint Gregory's, Bath

Welcome to The New Sixth, Bath

Welcome to The New Sixth, Bath, a unique sixth form built in partnership with the Diocese of Clifton and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Our sixth form is open to all aspiring A Level candidates. Our guiding mission is to provide our students with exciting sixth form experiences that promote academic excellence and spiritual guidance, ensuring Christian Values are at the centre of all that we do. The New Sixth combines exceptional teaching and learning with outstanding pastoral care, enabling students to thrive in an atmosphere that ensures everyone acquires the academic success, confidence and skills they need to continue their educational journey of choice.

The New Sixth is outward facing and innovative in its vision, working collaboratively with a range of partners across education and commerce. Our links with universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Bath and Bath Spa are complemented by business partnerships that have allowed us to develop our Scholarship Programme for exceptional students. Our work with partners beyond Saint Gregory's continues to expand the numerous opportunities and experiences our students enjoy whilst studying here.

Our outstanding sixth form campus provides students with their own purpose-built Learning Resources Centre, state of the art science laboratories and café. This bespoke facility bridges the gap between school, university and the world of work, allowing our sixth formers the autonomy and space to grow in a supportive, high-achieving environment.

Our guiding principles are:

- To ensure all students feel secure and equally valued in a caring Christian environment that holds the student at the centre of everything we do;
- To offer an academically challenging curriculum that will develop all our students so that they are capable of fulfilling their potential;
- To provide a stimulating curriculum that extends beyond the classroom, providing sporting, cultural, charitable and adventurous opportunities that all our students will enjoy.
- Create opportunities for students to learn to work collaboratively, become leaders, develop personally and grow spiritually;
- To provide bespoke careers advice and mentoring that will support all students in their future choices.

Our sixth formers are role models and the leaders of our student body. We encourage our students to be independent and resilient, to understand their responsibilities to themselves and others. The sixth form journey ensures that all students are provided with opportunities and experiences to help them develop and grow, ready for life's adventures ahead.

Mrs Melissa George
Headteacher, Saint Gregory's

Mr Stewart Burn
Director of Sixth Form

Our vision

We believe that every student should experience academic success in an environment committed to three key pillars: Faith, Formation and Foundations.

Faith

- We work to ensure that students study and develop in an environment characterised by Christian values. All students are valued as a unique part of God's creation.
- We create a space where students are encouraged to explore their own faith and its expression; welcoming frank and honest discussions about key theological and moral issues.

Formation

- We exist to help students become the person they want to be; our offer is far beyond academic qualifications alone but rather seeks to address all aspects of personal growth.
- We value opportunities for personal development and seek to embed these into both the curriculum and the wider extra and super curricular offer.

Foundations

- We believe that the sixth form journey is characterised by self-reflection and a continual re-evaluation of what the future might look like.
- We encourage students to see their time with us as the laying of foundations upon which their future will rest, whether that be a future at university, in an apprenticeship, employment or training.

At a time when life is uncertain and demands are high, we want to provide a safe, inclusive environment where students feel valued and are inspired to extend, challenge and equip themselves to achieve new goals and to dream big dreams.



“There is a strong sense of community spirit within the school, from fundraising for local charities, to competitions between Houses in sports tournaments, which strengthens the bonds between students and also teachers.”

Maddie, Year 13 Student

“The experience at St Greg’s has allowed me to clarify my ideas about my career path and enrich my knowledge, thanks to the encouragement and benevolence of the teachers who take care of each student and consider them at their true value in order to find the right path.”

Camille, Year 13 student



An academic journey to outstanding results

When a student joins us in Year 12, they embark on a journey with us that will last for two years. From their very first day, we instil in them a desire and ambition to strive for the highest standards; to continue to develop a life-long love of learning and to achieve their own personal best. During this time, our sixth form students will mature and develop into ambitious, adventurous and motivated young adults, determined to make their mark on the world.

Our A Level results are excellent and not just in raw terms but also in the context of what we call ‘value-added’. Such measures seek to identify the progress that every student makes during their time with us, and show that our students make outstanding progress.

The achievement of our students consistently places our sixth form as one of the top achieving sixth forms locally. Students leaving The New Sixth progress to some of the very best academic institutions including Oxford, Cambridge and the Russell Group.

Our students achieve to the highest standard at A Level with impressive results across all curriculum areas, ensuring that our students secure the optimum grades and UCAS points for entry to university, their chosen career or higher level apprenticeship pathway.

Support and challenge

The New Sixth inspires personal development and growth. Our committed team of sixth form tutors, led by Deputy Heads of Sixth Form and a Director of Sixth Form, work with all sixth form staff to ensure that every student is supported and challenged to achieve their full potential. We offer students personal freedom in a more adult environment, akin to what they may find at university or in the world of work, whilst maintaining a friendly, supportive framework. Tutors are in close daily contact with students and monitor their academic and personal progress. There is a dynamic and relevant pastoral programme in place which covers topics ranging from study skills to health and mental well-being.

All students are known personally by the Director of Sixth Form and Deputies. They operate an open-door policy, promoting positive and engaging discussions on all aspects of sixth form life and future aspirations. The Sixth Form Administrator provides an important point of daily contact offering support and guidance on managing a busy sixth form life.

Students are encouraged to widen their experiences beyond the classroom and to develop independently, both academically and personally. Working in smaller groups and studying in great depth, our sixth form students are challenged to seize every opportunity, to take the initiative and to offer opinions and thoughts readily. Our students exercise great responsibility and with this develop leadership skills, self-discipline, and the enduring values and principles that will govern their future lives.

The New Sixth strives for academic excellence for all. To this end there is rigorous monitoring and tracking of progress. Teacher assessment and feedback is shared with students and parents via progress reports and parent consultation evenings. In regular formal interviews with tutors, students are encouraged to develop astute self-reflection skills whilst discussing their attainment and receive pertinent advice and guidance to aid sustained improvement and progress.

Our sixth form parents and carers are an integral part of the support and challenge offered at The New Sixth and we welcome open and regular communication. Throughout the academic year there are information evenings, parents' evenings and pathways events for parents and carers to attend with their child so that they remain up to date and fully informed on progress and opportunities, at every stage of the journey.



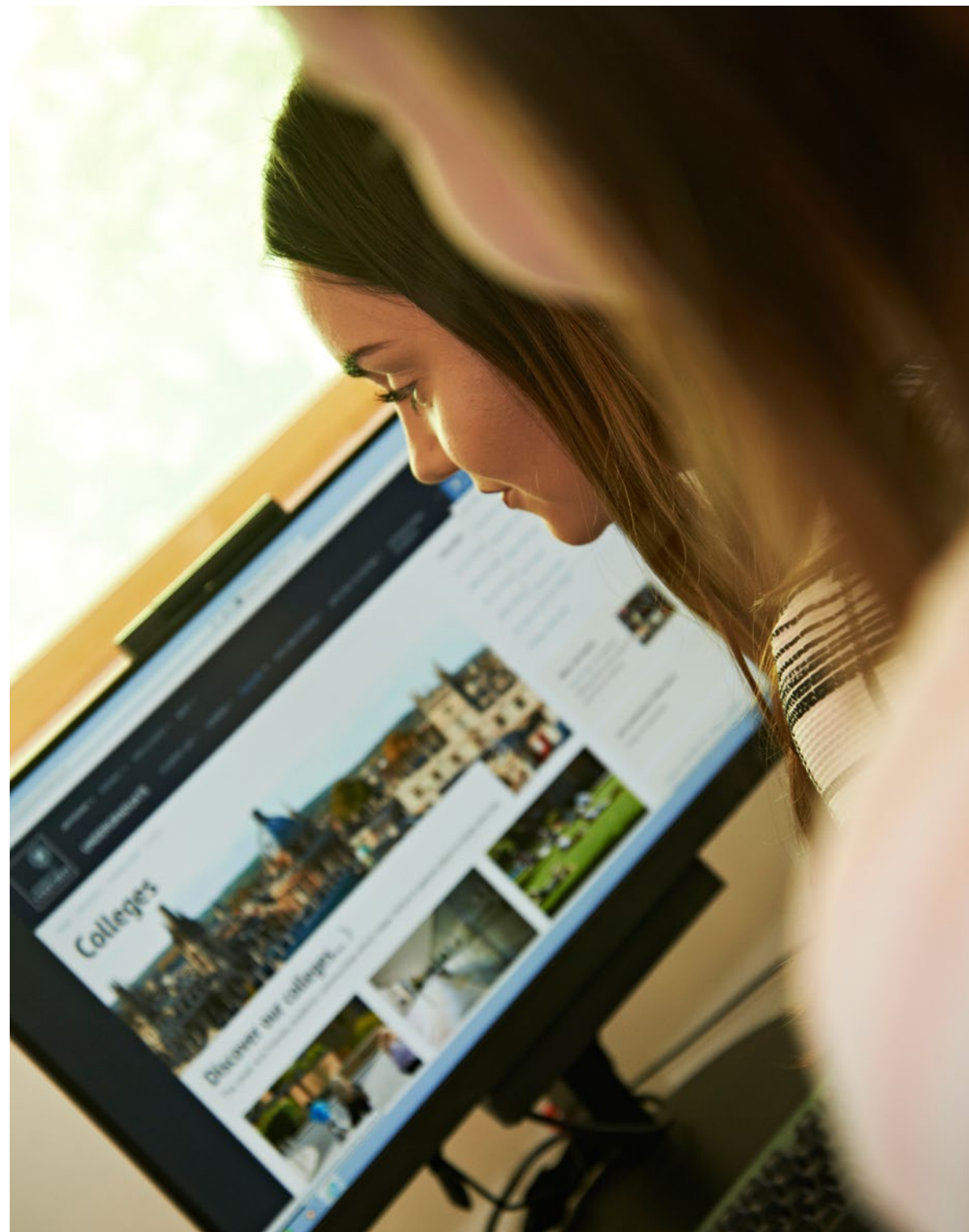
University applicants consistently secure a place at their university of choice, many at Oxbridge or Russell Group.

Laying the foundations for your future career

Students benefit from an attentive and personalised careers education programme which enables them to gain self-knowledge and an awareness of the great number of opportunities available beyond sixth form. Throughout the academic year, regular opportunities are created for open dialogue on progress and pathway choices to support students and their families as they take the first step towards their future adventures after sixth form.

The New Sixth assists students with often difficult or complex choices when considering higher education and employment. Students are helped to recognise future opportunities, to reflect on their employability, develop their skills, decide which direction to take and put a personal career plan into place. We equip our students with the knowledge and tools needed to not only realise their full potential, but to make a difference to the world at large. New Sixth students are confident in taking complex and difficult decisions and relish pursuing their own pathways with conviction and resolve.

Tutors, alongside the New Sixth pastoral team, ensure that information and advice is readily available when students need it, either as a member of a group or on an individual basis, through a consolidated programme of careers education and guidance so that when they leave The New Sixth, they have a clear direction and purpose.



Higher Education guidance & support

Early on in their sixth form journey, students are introduced to Unifrog, an award-winning platform for choosing university courses and apprenticeships.

Unifrog provides students with an excellent search tool and the ability to conduct sophisticated research into university and apprenticeship opportunities. The tool pulls together an unparalleled breadth of data from sources such as The Guardian, UCAS, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, allowing students to compare courses and apprenticeships side by side. It also helps students avoid common application mistakes, such as not choosing universities offering a range of entry requirements.

Unifrog is instrumental in allowing students to research and plan their future progression route and to build up a really useful skills profile that will enable them to produce an effective personal statement and curriculum vitae.

The New Sixth benefits from established partnerships with a number of universities who deliver workshops for students on pathways post-18. These courses are complemented by a broad and balanced extra-curricular offer that is designed to support and guide students through the complexities of choosing courses at university, higher level apprenticeships or through the offer of more specialised advice and guidance such as bursaries or financial matters.


Each year we have a number of early entrants applying for Oxbridge, together with highly competitive courses of study in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry. Bespoke programmes with tailored one-to-one and group support for applications are in place. We also work closely with professionals from the relevant industries to ensure students have the very best advice and support to maximise their success.

Sixth Form Scholarship Programme

As part of our commitment to a broad and vibrant curriculum, accessible to all, we have developed the Sixth Form Scholarship Programme.

Each Scholarship is worth £250 and will be awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional academic talent or community spirit and endeavour. These funds are to be provided to support our outstanding students in their studies and expand their opportunities beyond the classroom.

Applications are invited from exemplary candidates who are looking to play a full part in a flourishing sixth form. Scholarships will be awarded in the autumn term and will be conditional on GCSE attainment.



“Sixth form students speak eloquently of their positive experiences...Students make well-informed choices about which pathway to choose.”

Ofsted, December 2022

Pastoral care

At The New Sixth, the central focus is for all students to achieve their academic best and to facilitate time for students to develop personally into mature, confident individuals ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that the world has to offer.

Strong pastoral care is essential to academic success ensuring that the A Level journey is one characterised by positivity and a growth mindset. The multifaceted pastoral system guarantees there is always someone to guide and support students from their Tutor to the Director of Sixth Form. The New Sixth creates an environment that is not only professional but personal, establishing strong relationships between students and staff so that no student need ever face a challenge alone.

The weekly, tutor-led pastoral programme is carefully designed to support students with the myriad of challenges and issues that they may face. It is dynamic in its planning and flexible to attend to the needs of students in an immediate and purposeful way. Covering topics from study skills to wellbeing and financial planning, it supports students to develop the skills necessary to survive and thrive in modern society.

Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy at The New Sixth offers students an optional programme of sixth form activities and retreats to engage in a spiritual journey in a way that speaks to young people. We welcome Chaplains from a range of Christian backgrounds to work together to provide a caring, welcoming, inclusive and stimulating environment for all.

Sixth form students are encouraged to act in leadership roles to support the work of the chaplaincy with the lower year groups.



“The supportive atmosphere has allowed me to make the best decisions, both with studying for my A levels and in planning what I am going to do after sixth form. Having dedicated and approachable teachers has allowed me to feel more confident in my studies, and has encouraged me to do the best I can.”

Isabel, Year 13 student



“Pupils are proud of their school. They say that teachers are passionate about their subjects and care about their pupils.”

Ofsted

Enrichment and personal growth

We offer all students the chance to deepen and enrich their studies, to go above and beyond just gaining qualifications.

Students are given the chance to personalise their education through our enrichment programme, designed to challenge individuals to extend their thinking skills and intellect so that they can engage in debate or discussion at interview and show the real potential that universities and employers seek.

The enrichment programme has time allocated each week in the sixth form timetable giving students the opportunity and space to develop those skills that have been identified as vital to achieving success in adult life. Some activities extend beyond the sixth form campus and into school life at Saint Gregory’s, allowing our students to mentor younger peers and guide them to success.

The timetabled programme includes a carousel of activities focusing on financial awareness, fitness, languages, life skills and volunteering.

The full enrichment programme however extends far beyond the timetabled allocation. It evolves year-on-year as we work together with our sixth form leaders to ensure they have access to engaging, fun and relevant activities, designed with the interests of the current cohort in mind.

The skills of working with others, problem solving and independent learning will be developed via a range of options including, but not limited to:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- The New Sixth Press Team
- Book Club
- Coding Club
- New Sixth Singers
- Eco Team
- CAFOD Young Leaders
- Volunteering
- International cultural exchange programmes
- Driving Theory
- First Aid
- Young Enterprise
- Investment Club
- Recreational sports
- Debating Matters

An international sixth form

Building on excellent international programmes at Saint Gregory's, The New Sixth will strengthen these by providing sixth form students with a host of opportunities to become involved in global education projects.

There are many opportunities throughout the academic year to meet young people from other countries, explore new destinations and experience the richness and cultural diversity of our world. Long-established partnerships with education providers and international study programmes bring opportunities to explore new cultures, take part in exchange programmes and act as ambassadors for our sixth form and country.

Taking part in these projects helps our students to prepare themselves as global citizens, to develop awareness and understanding of social, economic and political issues that affect people across the world and to empower young people to make a difference by sharing what they know with their peers and making their views known within the sixth form and wider community.

We believe that students who have a bigger picture of world affairs are better able to make a contribution and to have their voices heard. Enriching experiences such as these are highly valued by universities who constantly demand more of their students in an increasingly competitive market place.

We also boast a very multicultural sixth form as we work to make opportunities for students who have recently arrived in the UK and wish to study A Levels. This vibrant mix of tradition and culture in the sixth form itself helps to remind our students that they are part of a global community and builds interest in finding out more about how others live.

“I’ve been encouraged to reach my potential in learning and extra curricular activities. I’ve had amazing opportunities to explore new places around the world and try new things.”

Raffy, Year 13 student



Steps to The New Sixth

Research

- Check whether your chosen career will require specific advanced level subjects for entry to university. Many do not, but a few do. Medicine, veterinary science, engineering, teaching and architecture are among those that do require specific subjects.
- Take advice from industry professionals - they will have first-hand knowledge of subject combinations that will work best for your chosen career.
- Talk to your teachers and tutor - they know your strengths and their advice is crucial.
- Talk to your friends and family - they understand your interests and what subjects might stimulate and broaden your knowledge further.
- Attend our Open Events and Taster Days to find out about the variety of A Level courses on offer and consider whether these skills and activities appeal to you. How much reading, essay-writing, calculation, laboratory work, practical or field work is involved? Will you have to participate in residential or out-of-school activities?
- If you are particularly good at something or have enjoyed it at GCSE, the chances are that you will enjoy it and do well at A Level. For university entrance, the grade you gain at advanced level is usually more important than the name of the subject. However, do be aware that for Russell Group universities some subjects are more facilitating than others.



Applying for a place

- All students in their final year at Saint Gregory's and St Mark's have an automatic place in the sixth form, provided they meet the entry requirements for a full-time programme of study.
- Places are also available to students of other schools who may wish to experience a new type of sixth form provision and who meet the requirements for a full-time course of study.
- Students should complete an application form and submit before the deadline.
- Our one-to-one consultations in Terms 3 and 4, provide an opportunity for students to share their ambitions and aspirations with our dedicated sixth form team so that they can learn more about students as individuals and their chosen study route, helping to personalise the sixth form journey and make it more relevant and meaningful.
- Conditional offers will be made to students, together with a guideline of the academic success required at GCSE to secure a place for September.
- Speak to our sixth form team about bursary funding to help support you in your post-16 studies, if appropriate.

Starting at The New Sixth

- Our Levelling Up Days in June are an excellent chance to join us and find out more about the environment that you will be working in for the next two years.
- At GCSE results day in August, students will have an opportunity to confirm or alter their subject choices, depending on their academic success.
- Induction Day in September is a bespoke day for Year 12 students to start their sixth form journey with us, ahead of the main academic calendar, with tailored guidance and support to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. This day guarantees that, from the very beginning, students are aware of the expectations and offer available to them at The New Sixth.

Financial support

Sixth Form Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help students facing financial hardship to continue in full-time education after Year 11. To qualify, a student must be over 16 and under 19 years of age on 31 August at the start of the academic year in which they start a programme of study; they must also be on a full-time programme of study.

Payments are dependent on student attendance, conduct and positive attitude to learning. Students, parents and carers will be expected to agree to and sign a Bursary Fund Contract before payments are made. Governor's from the Finance and Premises Committee of the school's Governing Body will be responsible for deciding who receives the awards based on the criteria in our Bursary Application Form. For more information and advice on our Sixth Form Bursary Fund, please speak to a member of the sixth form team.

The Bursary Fund is given to the school each year by the EFA (Education Funding Agency). Once these monies have been allocated the school will be unable to make further grants until the new academic year.



The New Sixth Course Guide

For entry from September 2024



“Form a habit that makes you challenge yourself everyday and make sure you have fun and learn to love the process!”

Adam, Year 13 student

Recommended Exam Grades

A Level Courses	Recommended Minimum Entry Requirements
Biology	Grade 6 GCSE Biology or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science (Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays), Grade 6 GCSE English and Mathematics
Business Studies	Grade 5 GCSE English and Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 6 GCSE Chemistry or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science (Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays), Grade 6 GCSE English and Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 6 GCSE English and Mathematics, Grade 6 GCSE Computer Science desirable
Dance	Grade 5 GCSE English, Grade 5 GCSE Dance desirable
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 5 GCSE English, Grade 5 GCSE Drama desirable
Economics	Grade 6 GCSE Maths and Grade 5 GCSE English
English Language & Literature	Grade 5 GCSE English Literature and English Language
English Literature	Grade 5 GCSE English Literature and English Language
Fine Art / Photography	Grade 5 GCSE English, Grade 5 GCSE Art desirable
Geography	Grade 5 GCSE Geography and Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics
History	Grade 5 GCSE History and Grade 5 GCSE English
Mathematics	Grade 7 GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 GCSE Physics or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science
Music	Grade 6 GCSE Music. Grade 5 in Theory and instrument performance is strongly recommended
Philosophy, Ethics & New Testament	Grade 5 GCSE RE (or other Humanities subject where RE not studied) and Grade 5 GCSE English
Physical Education	Grade 5 GCSE PE and Grade 5-5 GCSE Combined Science or Grade 5 Biology if PE has not been previously studied
Physics	Grade 6 GCSE Physics or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science (Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays) Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics
Politics	Grade 5 GCSE English and ideally Grade 5 History and/or Geography
Psychology	Grade 5 GCSE Biology or Grade 5-5 GCSE Combined Science and Grade 5 GCSE English and Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics
Sociology	Grade 5 GCSE English, Grade 5 GCSE Humanities subject desirable
Spanish	Grade 6 GCSE Spanish

Recommended Exam Grades

Optional Courses

One of the following courses may be taken in addition to the three A Level courses.

Optional 4 th Courses	Recommended Minimum Entry Requirements
Extended Project Qualification	Grade 5 GCSE English
Mathematics (Core)	Grade 4-6 GCSE Mathematics
Mathematics AS	Grade 6+ GCSE Mathematics and not taking the A Level Maths Course
Mathematics (Further AS & A)	Grade 8 GCSE Mathematics and must also be taking the A Level Mathematics course

Biology

AQA 7402

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>

Why Biology?

With A level Biology, you will gain an insight into the amazing complexities and astonishing truths about life on Earth. From life chemicals to cells, from tissues to organs, from organ systems to organisms this exciting course will develop your detailed knowledge and understanding of living organisms and life processes. There is a mixture of animal and plant biology plus ecology with field work and applications in the modern world such as genetic engineering, the control of gene expression and forensic biology.

During your studies, you will develop your scientific knowledge and skills in data handling, graph work and statistics. Practical work will include microscopic examination of specimens, dissection of organs, field sampling skills and a range of scientific techniques.

Residential Trip

A highlight of Year 12 is our residential trip studying rocky shore ecology.

Assessment

35% - Paper 1 - Year 12 Content
35% - Paper 2 - Year 13 Content
30% - Paper 3 - Synoptic
Practical endorsement assessed during lessons (pass/fail).

Recommended Reading

Head Start to A Level Biology - CGP
AQA Biology: A Level Student Book - Oxford University Press
Website: www.st-gregorys-science.weebly.com

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE Biology or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science
Grade 6 GCSE English and Mathematics
Students who have studied Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays.

Future Pathways

University degrees in Biological Sciences (e.g. Marine, Zoology, Microbiology, Conservation, Neuroscience, Biomedical, Physiology, Genetics, Food Science).
Careers and apprenticeships in Science-based Journalism, Paramedical Services, Conservation, Lab Technician, Zoo Keeper, Research, Industry and Teaching.

Complementary A Levels

Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Core Maths

Extra & Super Curricular

Attend a DNA lab-based workshop in Bristol in Year 13 to experience the equipment and techniques usually reserved for university laboratories. Turn theory into practice and use DNA extraction, PCR techniques and gel electrophoresis, to determine your own genotype in relation to the bitter-tasting chemical PTC.

“I always enjoyed Biology at GCSE but the A Level is even better than I had imagined.”

Why Business?

Business is concerned with the actions and decisions taken by individual firms and focuses on topics such as Marketing, Human Resources, Finance and Production Methods. If you are interested in how businesses operate, grow, and compete you will find this a motivating subject.

You will acquire the tools and information required to understand how businesses are created and lead, as well as gain an insight into how they become successful. You will also discuss how businesses need to respond to economic challenges, changes in trends and consumer spending and consider the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations.

With A level Business, you will acquire extremely valuable skills in strategic planning, decision making, problem solving and data analysis.

Assessment

Three written papers worth 33.3% each

Recommended Reading

A Level Business AQA Year 1 & 2

CGP A Level Business AQA - Complete Revision and Practice

<https://www.tutor2u.net/business>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English and Mathematics
A genuine interest in the study of businesses and the influences on them.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Marketing, Accountancy, Business Management, Business Law, Economics, Project Management and much more.

Complementary A Levels

Economics, Geography, Maths or Core Maths, Politics, Psychology, Sociology.

Extra & Super Curricular

We intend to visit businesses to investigate how theory is applied in the workplace and invite visitors from industry to share their experiences with you. In Year 13 students are hoping to offer a trip to Paris for a Business Live conference.

“Success is often achieved by those who don’t know that failure is inevitable.” - Coco Chanel

Why Chemistry?

This exciting course attempts to answer the big question “What is the world made of?” and in the search for this answer you will be investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, through to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives.

The course covers a broad range of topics within Physical, Inorganic and Organic chemistry including atomic structures, thermodynamics, periodicity, transition metals, alkanes and DNA. Practicals include measuring energy changes, identifying different compounds, preparing organic solids and liquids and undertaking advanced chromatography.

The opportunities are endless!

Assessment

37% - Paper 1 - Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry
37% - Paper 2 - Synthesis and analytical techniques
26% - Paper 3 - Unified Chemistry
Practical endorsement assessed during lessons (pass/fail)

Recommended Reading

OCR A: Chemistry A Level Student Book Year 1 & 2 by Oxford.
Accessible through Kerboodle.

OCR A: CGP A Level Chemistry Revision Guide

Website: <https://www.kerboodle.com>

Website: www.st-gregorys-science.weebly.com

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE Chemistry or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science
Grade 6 Mathematics
Students who have studied Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Personnel, Pharmaceuticals, Toxicology, Biomedical Chemistry, Teaching, Lab Work and even Politics!

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Core Maths

Extra & Super Curricular

Attend a scientific conference.
Support lower school students and run STEM/Science club activities.

“The teaching is excellent with staff always willing to go the extra mile to help you master the content.”

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/as-and-a-level/computer-science-7516-7517

Why Computer Science?

Study Computer Science and be inspired and equipped to tackle the IT challenges facing our modern world. You will learn how computers work and start programming in formal scripting languages.

You will develop your own software project and associated reports to solve a real-life problem – enabling you to become a real problem solver, to analyse information effectively and to plan projects properly. This project can also form a useful discussion topic for UCAS applications. You will learn about the technology that really powers all those things you love using, from websites such as Facebook and Twitter to the games you enjoy playing like Call of Duty and The Sims.

Computing will help you with any subjects which require a degree of critical thinking – which is virtually all of them!

Assessment

- 40% - Paper 1- Programming - On Screen Exam
- 40% - Paper 2 - Written Exam
- 20% - Paper 3 - Non-Exam Assessment. Practical project, internally assessed.

Recommended Reading

- AQA A Level Computer Science
- (7516 7517 A-Level Course textbook by PG Online – 2016)
- AQA AS and A Level Computer Science by Heathcote (2016)
- https://www.codecademy.com
- https://www.techmeme.com
- https://www.python.org
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0HzEBLIJxlrwBAHJ5S9JQg (CraignDave)
- Isaac Computer Science

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 Mathematics GCSE and Grade 6 in English
- Grade 5 GCSE Computing desirable
- A genuine interest in how computers work and in computer programming

Future Pathways

University degrees and apprenticeships in Physics, Engineering or Computer Science related courses including Information Systems, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, and Health Informatics. Careers in a rapidly growing industry including: AI, Cyber Security, IT consultant, Games Developer/Designer, Forensic Computer Analyst, Database administrator, Software or Web Developer, Machine Learning Engineer and more.

Complementary A Levels

Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Philosophy and Ethics, Psychology, Art.

Extra & Super Curricular

- Engagement Cyber Explorers – An exciting opportunity to become Cyber Security experts.
- Help Run Coding Clubs for Key Stage 3 students.

“Computing graduates are among the highest earners in the UK. You will learn so much more about the technology you already use.”

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/as-and-a-level/dance-7237

Why Dance?

Experience an exciting immersion into the world of dance. Discover and experience a range of choreographic and performance approaches through practical and theoretical study to broaden and enrich your experience. Learn how to become a ‘thinking dancer’ and to use dance to reflect on issues in society.

In the practical component you will fully explore a range of different approaches before making final decisions in Year 13. You will also study the history of Rambert Dance Company and the independent contemporary dance scene in Britain today.

A demanding but incredibly rewarding course.

“Dance first, think later. It is the natural order.” Samuel Beckett.

Assessment

- 50% - Practical - Performance and Choreography
- 50% - Written - Critical Engagement

Recommended Reading

Individual booklets on Professional Works are provided to students.

Practitioner Websites

- www.rambert.org.uk
- www.jasminvardimon.com
- www.akramkhancompany.net
- www.east-man.be

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 GCSE English
- Grade 5 GCSE Dance is desirable but not compulsory. Requires discussion with the Performing Arts Department.
- Extra-curricular experience, particularly in contemporary dance, is also beneficial.

Future Pathways

Study dance and the world is your stage. Who wouldn’t want someone who is creative, confident and fearless? Degrees, vocational performing arts courses careers and apprenticeships in Dance, Theatre, Choreography, Dance Photography, Costume Design, Physical Therapy, Dance Teaching, Yoga and Pilates instructing.

Complementary A Levels

Art, Drama, Music, English, Languages, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Philosophy Ethics & Religion and Geography are all subjects that previous students have combined with dance to great success.

Extra & Super Curricular

Trips locally and to London to view live the practitioners we are studying. Attend workshops to enrich your understanding of dance practice. Forging of links with the Dance Department at Bath Spa University. Lead students in the lower school and enthuse in them a love of dance.

“I have loved studying different practitioners and being introduced to new styles of dance.”

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/drama-and-theatre-2016.html>

Why Drama & Theatre Studies?

A level Drama is a varied, stimulating and richly engaging course where you will take shared ownership of the theory and practical work that you produce and be committed to do your very best. You will have a thirst for exploration and development in both performance and technical work.

The Devising component is incredibly creative, enabling you to explore your interests, concerns and the way you see the world. Text Performance is studied either as a performer or designer and you will burrow down into your understanding of character, relationships, themes and style. You will be assessed on your practical understanding of a live theatre performance and two interesting texts that are studied practically throughout the course; Machinal by S. Tredwell and Woyzeck by G. Buhner.

Assessment

- 40% - Practical and Written Portfolio - Devising
- 20% - Practical - Text in Performance
- 40% - Written - Theatre Makers in Practice

Recommended Reading

- Machinal by S Tredwell
- Woyzeck by G Buchner
- Brecht for Beginners
- Brecht on Performance
- The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre
- 1984 by Headlong Theatre Company
- Edexcel AS/A level Drama Study Guide by Rhinegold Education
- Edexcel A level Drama and Theatre Student Book and Active Book, by J Davey et al

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 GCSE Drama or English
- GCSE Drama is not compulsory but requires discussion with the Performing Arts Department.
- Gifted, open minded performers and technicians with a passion for drama theory and practice.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Acting and Directing, Stage Management Design (Lighting, Make up, Costume), Arts and Charity Administration, Law, Teaching and Theatre Education, Drama Therapy, TV and Radio, Youth and Community Work, Personnel Management, Social Work and Counselling, Journalism, Marketing and Event Management.

Complementary A Levels

Art, Dance, English Literature, Music, Psychology, Sociology, Photography

Extra & Super Curricular

Regular visits to the theatre and attending of workshops with, for example, Frantic Assembly, Paper Birds and Splendid. Join our Performing Arts Ambassador team and work closely with teachers to support drama in KS3. We aim to run the National Theatre Connections project with performances at local professional venues. Forging of strong links with Bath Spa University to use their expertise in auditioning and university interview style formats to best prepare you for life after A levels.

“The range of content is incredible!
So many different styles and
practitioners to enjoy.”

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136>

Why Economics?

Economics is the study of how people, businesses, and governments make choices in the allocation of our economy’s scarce resources. Studying economics will equip you to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, such as solving climate change, the gender pay gap, Government spending and debt, etc.

You will develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand and analyse data, think critically about issues, and make informed decisions. You will also build upon your quantitative skills and appreciate that, when evaluating arguments, both qualitative and quantitative evidence are important.

Assessment

Three written papers worth 33.3% each.

Recommended Reading

AQA A level Economics Book 1 and Book 2 by Powell and Powell
CGP A level Economics AQA – Complete Revision and Practice

- <https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/>
- <https://www.tutor2u.net/economics>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@EconplusDal>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@JacobAClifford>

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics and Grade 5 GCSE English
- A genuine interest in the application of economic principles to the world around us.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships, and careers in Economics, Finance, Accountancy, Management, and much more.

Complementary A Levels

Maths or Core Maths, Business, Geography, History, Politics, Philosophy, Ethics and Religion.

Extra & Super Curricular

It is essential that students expose themselves to as many sources of economic theory, with many books and films that will help grow their understanding, such as The Big Short or ‘23 Things they don’t tell you about Capitalism’ by Ha-Joon Chang. Students will have the opportunity to enter the Financial Times/Bank of England Blog Competition and the RES Essay Competition.

“The purpose of studying economics
is not to acquire a set of ready-made
answers to economic questions, but
to learn how to avoid being deceived
by economists.” - Joan Robinson

Why English Language and Literature?

This exciting course has a rich variety and a thought-provoking range of literary and linguistic texts including novels, plays, poetry and ‘real-world’ texts such as articles, speeches and travel writing. You will learn to interpret, analyse and discuss a vast range of topics and issues. You will also develop your creative writing skills, inspired by the writers you are studying, and learn how to critically evaluate your own work. You will read at least one novel and consider its genre in some detail (for instance, Dystopian fiction), as well as some highly unusual texts such as transcripts of speech and advertisements. You will have some interesting discussions on the importance of text production and text reception.

Residential Trip

Our current residential trip is several days in Paris – this links well with the AQA Anthology containing texts related to Paris.

Assessment

40% - Paper 1 - Telling Stories
An Anthology of texts, 1 prose and 1 poetry

40% - Paper 2 - Exploring Conflict
1 drama, re-creative writing

20% - Coursework - Making Connections
Extended essay of 2,500-3,000 words

Recommended Reading

Any of these would provide a good introduction – we MAY be studying some of these texts:

Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale; Alice Sebold, The Lovely Bones; F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby; Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner; Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire.

The Art of Writing English Literature Essays: for A-level & Beyond by Michael Meally

A/AS Level English Language and Literature for AQA Student Book by Marcello Giovanelli

York notes available for the individual texts studied.

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English Literature and English Language

Enjoy reading for study and pleasure

Enjoy discussion, debate and sharing ideas with others

Future Pathways

Study English Literature and you will be equipped to pursue an apprenticeship or a university degree course in many different subjects and a multitude of careers. Possible pathways may include Journalism and the Media, Publishing, Teaching, Advertising, Marketing, PR, Law and Business.

Complementary A Levels

Psychology, History, Politics, Sociology, Philosophy

Extra & Super Curricular

We will always aim, where possible, to see at least one of the studied texts in performance. In addition, there may be opportunities to attend readings, cinema screenings or literary conferences.

“The course really helps to develop the skills learnt at GCSE, enabling you to understand texts on a much greater level.”

Why English Literature?

This course offers the opportunity to become a confident, widely-read communicator who enjoys discussing texts and expressing views. The course involves reading and engaging with an exciting and challenging range of texts: prose, poetry, drama and research. At the same time, we always aim to develop understanding of the various links to social/historical context. By studying English Literature, you will learn to view the world around you with different eyes, developing skills of perception and critical awareness.

You will study a play by Shakespeare as well as some contemporary fiction. You may also explore the concepts of war/conflict or what it means to live in a modern society.

Assessment

40% - Paper 1 - Love Through the Ages. 3 texts, 1 to be pre-1900
40% - Paper 2 - Texts in Shared Context. 3 texts, 1 to be post-2000
20% - Coursework
Independent Critical Study of Texts Across Time
Extended essay 2,500 words

Recommended Reading

The following books form a good introduction to the course that we may study:

F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby; Pat Barker, Life Class; R.C. Sherriff, Journey’s End; Jane Austen, Persuasion; Emily Brontë, Wuthering Heights; Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale; Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire; Ken Kesey, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest; Alice Walker, The Color Purple; Strange Meeting by Susan Hill; Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks; The Accrington Pals by Peter Whelan.

The Art of Writing English Literature Essays: for A-level & Beyond by Michael Meally

Study and Revise for A/AS Level: AQA Anthology: love poetry through the ages by L McBratney

A/AS Level English Literature A for AQA Student Book by R Carey
York notes available for the individual texts studied.

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE English Literature and English Language

Enjoy reading for study and pleasure

Enjoy discussion, debate and sharing ideas with others

Future Pathways

Study English Literature and you will be equipped to pursue an apprenticeship or a university degree course in many different subjects and a multitude of careers. Possible pathways may include Journalism and the Media, Publishing, Teaching, Advertising, Marketing, PR, Law and Business.

Complementary A Levels

Psychology, History, Politics, Sociology, Philosophy

Extra & Super Curricular

We will always aim, where possible, to see at least one of the studied texts in performance. In addition, there may be opportunities to attend readings, cinema screenings or literary conferences. We are considering the possibility of a trip the battlefields of northern France.

“At first I was daunted by the amount of reading but through studying the A level I have rediscovered the enjoyment of sitting with a good book.”

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/subject-content/fine-art>

Why Fine Art / Photography?

Whether specialising in Fine Art or Photography, this is a wide ranging course, encouraging a very personal approach to your work and chosen media. Explore the world through the visual art in 2D and 3D media using drawing and painting, photography, print-making and sculpture.

You will be introduced to a variety of traditional and new media processes and techniques. Knowledge of the work of other artists will be developed and you will create your own personal outcomes by following a process of refinement of ideas.

The course begins with completing a broad project on People and Places, covering portraiture, landscapes, still life and urban art. You then start the Personal Investigation (Component 1) and, once completed, progress to your own exam project (Component 2).

Assessment

60% - Component 1
Personal Investigation into a theme of students' own choice

40% - Component 2
Externally Set Assignment to be completed over three days

Recommended Reading

Complete Artists Manual – The Definitive Guide to Materials and Techniques for Painting and Drawing by S. Jennings.

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk>

<https://www.victoriagal.org.uk>

<https://www.holburne.org>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English

Grade 5 GCSE Art desirable but not compulsory. Requires discussion with the Art Department.

Passionate about the subject

Future Pathways

Extend your training with an Art Foundation Course before starting a university degree in the arts or an apprenticeship in the creative Industries.

Complementary A Levels

Drama, English, History, Biology, Sociology.

Extra & Super Curricular

Gallery and studio visits are essential, connecting you to the work of other artists.

Trips include visits to sketch at Bristol Museum and/or Oxford/London art galleries and museums.

“You have such freedom to express yourself and staff work closely with you to ensure your work is the best it can be.”

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652>

Why French?

We live in a globalised world; French is spoken by 125 million people. A second language can open up opportunities for travel, careers and academic life. The British Council sees France as a big asset to UK companies and with post-Brexit it will grow in importance.

This course is a radical and exciting departure from the GCSE with more independent study and research and a more rigorous approach to grammar. Reading of French newspapers and visiting French speaking countries is encouraged. There are four main themes:

1. Aspects of French Society
2. Artistic culture in the French World
3. Multiculturalism in the French World
4. Aspects of Political Life in the French World

You will also study and critically appreciate in writing two works, one must be literary and the other may be a film.

Residential Trip

It is likely you will spend time in a French speaking country on an educational visit or exchange.

Assessment

50% - Paper 1 - Listening

20% - Paper 2 - Writing on the set text and film

30% - Paper 3 - Speaking

Recommended Reading

Tartuffe de Molière or Bonjour Tristesse de Françoise Sagan

AQA A level French Year 1 and AS Grammar and Translation workbook OUP, by S Harrison

Film: Un long dimanche de fiançailles de Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004)

<https://www.tv5monde.com>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE French

Interest in the culture and way of life in the countries where French is spoken.

Future Pathways

University degrees in French complement subjects such as Drama, Business, Economics, History, Philosophy, Geography, European Studies, Law, English and so on.

Apprenticeships and careers as a translator, interpreter, writer or in large multinational gold and petroleum companies in French speaking countries in West Africa.

Complementary A Levels

Drama, History, Music, Philosophy Ethics & Religion, Psychology.

Extra & Super Curricular

Develop conversational skills and your independent research project with weekly meetings with our languages assistant.

Trips to The Little Theatre to see French films.

Support in finding a placement in France if you wish.

“Continued study of a language post 16 is a huge asset to any university, apprenticeship or job application.”

Why Geography?

Saint Gregory’s has held the prestigious Secondary Geography Quality Mark by the Geographical Association since 2014 in recognition of the quality of teaching, learning and exam results. In September 2022 we became a national Geography Centre of Excellence.

Geography A level will excite your minds and challenge your perceptions. If you have an interest in people, the natural environment and world cities you will really enjoy this current, contemporary and very relevant course. With a mixture of human, physical and environmental geography, you will explore real issues facing the world such as population growth and the impact of natural hazards on people around the world.

If you love learning in the outdoors, be it in cities or the countryside, Geography A level is an obvious choice.

Residential Trip

A compulsory three-day residential trip to Slapton Field Studies Centre in Devon where you will undertake an individual investigative research project for the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).

Assessment

- 40% - Paper 1 - Physical Geography
- 40% - Paper 2 - Human Geography
- 20% - Component 3 - NEA Fieldwork investigation Research Project of 3,000 - 4,000 words

Recommended Reading

AQA A level Geography Student Book and Revision Guides (2016)

<https://www.geography.org.uk>

<https://www.rgs.org>

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 GCSE Geography
- Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Teaching, Conservation, Environmental Management, Logistics, Marine Biology, Oceanography, Cartography, Town Planning, Surveying, Real Estate and Urban Regeneration.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics, History, Philosophy Ethics & Religion, English, Economics, Politics, Psychology

Extra & Super Curricular

A visit to the MShed and Harbourside in Bristol and the Royal Geographical Society in London. Visits to the village of Lacock, Wiltshire and Sutton Bingham Reservoir, Somerset. Numerous Geographical Association events throughout the two-year course at UWE, Bristol, and Bristol University. Students are also encouraged to join the Geographical Association.

“Geography at A Level is not what I expected - it is even better!”

Why History?

In this fascinating subject, you will learn about some of the greatest personalities and most significant events of the past, why things happened and what significance they had. The course looks at a broad spectrum of historical topics including:

- (a) Evaluating how effectively the Tudors restored and developed the powers of the monarchy,
- (b) Assessing the extraordinary reign of Elizabeth I in England and her triumph against all odds,
- (c) Analysing the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from WWII as superpower and
- (d) Exploring concepts, ideas and events such as anticommunism, social equality, the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War and their consequences for America.

In addition, you will complete some independent research.

Assessment

- 40% - Component 1
Breadth Study The Tudors: England 1485 - 1603
- 40% - Component 2
Depth Study The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945 - 1980
- 20% - Component 3
Historical Investigation: An independent research study of 3,000 words on a topic of your choice.

Recommended Reading

- AQA A level History: The Tudors 1485-1603 by D Ferriby et al.
- AQA A level History: The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945-1980 by V Sanders
- AQA History: My Revision Notes for The Tudors and for The American Dream.
- <https://www.historytoday.com/>

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 5 GCSE History and/or
- Grade 5 GCSE English

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in History, Research, Writing, Journalism, Law, Politics, International Relations, European Studies, Art History, Museums and Publishing.

Residential Trip

A Humanities enrichment trip to a European City of Culture. We also offer yearly trips to complement learning of the Tudors Component, for example, Tower of London or Hampton Court.

Complementary A Levels

English, Geography, Philosophy & Ethics, Politics, Psychology, Sociology.

Extra & Super Curricular

- Lectures and revision sessions, e.g. Holocaust survivor talks
- Podcasts recommendations such as HistoryExtra and HistoryRocks
- Film and documentary recommendations
- Online access to the Historical Association

“Having studied History this year, I have become far more aware of the need to learn from the decisions of the past to improve our future.”

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>

Why Mathematics?

Maths is a dynamic, exciting and relevant subject which has played a significant role in the progress of the human species, for example, in our understanding of the movement of the planets; advancements in engineering; establishment and growth of economies and our understanding of human behaviour.

A level Maths includes the study of Pure Maths and the application of mathematics to the physical world through Statistics and Mechanics. The course develops strength and confidence in the application of algebraic and other mathematical skills and helps you to solve real life problems using logical mathematical argument. During the course, you will solve a variety of real-life problems such as how large a population will be, what forces should be applied to an object, whether an electrical component is likely to work and whether a medical procedure is effective. You will also engage in solving complex abstract problems.

Assessment

- 33.3% - Paper 1 - Pure Mathematics 1
- 33.3% - Paper 2 - Pure Mathematics 2
- 33.3% - Paper 3 - Statistics and Mechanics

Recommended Reading

Edexcel Pure Mathematics and 100% Proof - The Why of Maths by J Hope

CGP A level Mathematics Revision Guide

<https://amsp.org.uk/students/studying-a-level-mathematics/>

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 7 GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6 GCSE Physics or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined Science

Future Pathways

On average, someone with A level Maths will earn 11% more over their lifetime than someone without it. Strength in Maths and the handling of data opens many doors due to its breadth of application in the real world.

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Accounting, Finance, Economics, Law, Engineering, the Sciences, Medicine, Computer Programming, Big Data handling, Monitoring and Evaluation, Design and Construction, Games Development and more.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Geography, Psychology.

Extra & Super Curricular

Entry to the National School Maths Challenge; competing with over 400 schools. Problem solving day at University of Bath. Maths in Action, live and online events. Lunchtime workshops.

“The maths teachers really helped me to achieve GCSE success and so I know that my A Level is in safe hands with them.”

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html>

Why Music?

Music is stimulating and enriching and provides an excellent basis for life-long learning. A Level will broaden your musical experience and interests and foster your imagination and creativity. It is an academic subject that compliments other A Levels and is highly regarded by universities.

Throughout the course, you will develop your individual musical interests through performing and composing and will broaden your musical horizons and analytical skills across six varied Areas of Study:

- Vocal Music
- Instrumental Music
- Music for Film
- Popular Music and Jazz
- Fusions
- New Directions.

Assessment

- 35% - Component 1: Performing
- 25% - Component 2: Composing
- 40% - Component 3: Listening / Appraising

Recommended Reading

Edexcel Student Guide to A level/AS Music

Edexcel A Level Music Revision Guide

Recommended Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 GCSE Music
- Ability to play an instrument, including voice, to Grade 5 standard and Grade 5 Theory of Music strongly recommended.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Music, the Arts, Law, Media, Business, Management, Teaching and more.

Complementary A Levels

Art, Drama and Theatre Studies, Dance, Mathematics, Physics, Languages, English.

Extra & Super Curricular

We are fortunate to live in an area with a thriving music scene. You are encouraged to attend as many events as possible to explore different genres and to contribute to the whole school music ensembles. Graded music exams optional. Private music lessons recommended.

“A Level Music is exciting and unique as it enables you to learn and develop academically as well as creatively.”

Why Philosophy, Ethics & Religion?

In this subject you will have the opportunity to develop your interest in a rigorous study of philosophy, ethics, religion and belief and relate it to the wider world. You will develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. You will adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study. You will develop your knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion. A level Religious Studies is designed to enable you to develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, a study of religion and its place in the wider world.

Assessment

No Coursework
Examinations at end of Year 13 (Essay and Structured Questions)
33.3 % - A Study of Religion
33.3% - Philosophy of Religion
33.3% - Religion and Ethics

Recommended Reading

In addition to the course books, we recommend as introductory reading material

The Puzzle of Ethics and The Puzzle of God by Peter Vardy; The Gospel of John; Sophie’s World by Jostein Gaarder; Christian Theology by Alistair McGraph; The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins; The Dawkins Delusion by Alistar McGrath; Dialogue magazines available in the LRC.

<http://rsrevision.com/Alevel/ethics/index.htm>
<https://thecrashcourse.com/courses/philosophy>
<https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com>
<https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceSingle.aspx?rId=1248>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE RE
Grade 5 GCSE English
Other humanities grades will be considered if RE has not been studied at GCSE

Future Pathways

The world is your oyster! Remember that this is the founding subject upon which Oxbridge is built and it is therefore highly regarded at university level. Previous A level Philosophy and Ethics students have gone on to study a range of subjects at degree level including Business, Maths, Psychology and Politics.

Complementary A Levels

History, Politics, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, English Literature though previous students have also studied Performing Arts, Physics, Business and Maths. There is no ‘typical’ combination of subjects.

Extra & Super Curricular

The department support the KS5 Society, Debating Matters and you are encouraged to take a lead role in this and in promoting and facilitating debating in the lower school.

You will have the opportunity to attend educational conferences organised by national providers with some amazing keynote speakers who are well regarded in their field. There is also the opportunity to join the department on cultural visits including Rome, Berlin and Paris.

“It is great to be able to engage with the topics critically rather than to a superficial level.”

Why Physical Education?

As a student passionate about sport, you will develop your own sporting ability while exploring a diverse range of topics including the history of sport, how your body responds to exercise and why you do not always perform at your best in important competitions.

You will study anatomical, physiological and psychological theories and apply them to sporting activity. You will look at what contributes to an active and healthy lifestyle and develop an insight into movement, behaviour and performance in relation to sport and play. You will also develop ways to optimise your own practical performance.

A level PE promotes relevant and transferable skills in leadership, communication and organisation which help in all aspects of your professional and personal life.

Assessment

35% - Paper 1
Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

35% - Paper 2
Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

30% - Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)
Practical performance in physical activity or sport. Assessed as a performer or coach. Also, a written or verbal analysis of performance.

Recommended Reading

AQA A level PE - Year 1 and 2 by C Atherton
AQA A level PE - My Revision Notes by S Young
AQA A level PE - Topic on a page Zig Zag

<https://theeverlearner.com/availableCourses?curricula=1>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE PE and Combined Science or
Grade 5 GCSE Biology if PE has not been studied.
A requirement to participate regularly in competitive sport for your chosen activity, throughout the duration of your studies.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Sports Science, Sport Psychology, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Studies, Sports or Occupational Therapy, Teaching, Professional or Community Coaching, Physiotherapy and more. Opportunities in sport are exciting and vast.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Business Studies, English, Geography, Psychology, Sociology.

Extra & Super Curricular

Year 12 Enrichment activity throughout the year. Trips organised to further develop course and content knowledge. Represent the school in football, rugby, hockey, netball, cross-country, athletics, basketball and more. Organise and run a range of community sports clubs: e.g. KS3 and primary school children.
A Level PE Revision Conference.

“This subject isn’t just about sport - I was surprised by the level of challenge it offered. Staff are really helpful as you adjust to the transition from GCSE to A Level study.”

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/physics-a-h156-h556-from-2015/

Why Physics?

This exciting course provides insights into how the universe works. You will build on concepts covered in GCSE but in more depth and learn how these are applied in everyday and technological settings.

- The course embraces six modules:
1. Development of practical skills
 2. Foundations of physics
 3. Forces and motion
 4. Electrons, waves and photons
 5. Newtonian world and astrophysics and
 6. Particles and medical physics.

A fascinating and complex area, ideally suited to anyone wanting to challenge themselves.

Assessment

35% - Paper 1 - Modelling Physics
35% - Paper 2 - Exploring Physics
30% - Paper 3 - Unified Physics
Practical endorsement assessed during lessons (pass/fail)

Recommended Reading

A Level Physics A for OCR Student Book
OCR A Level Physics Student Guide: Practical Physics
OCR A Level Physics Revision Guide
<https://www.alevelphysicsonline.com>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE Physics or Grade 6-6 GCSE Combined or Triple Science

Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics

Students who have studied Combined Science must complete additional preparatory work over the summer holidays.

Future Pathways

University degrees in almost any course.

Apprenticeships and careers in all branches of Engineering, Research, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Astronomy; employers value the analytical and logical mind of the physicist.

Complementary A Levels

Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry

Extra & Super Curricular

Help run GCSE STEM Club and apply your knowledge and leadership skills to some exciting projects and competitions across the curriculum. Trips may include Laboratory Days at Bath University, Science Live with Prof Brian Cox in London and the RUH in Bath to look into the application of physics in medicine. An amazing annual trip to Geneva Switzerland in July to the CERN Hadron Collider, the world’s largest particle physics laboratory.

“I have really enjoyed the trip to Geneva it was a great experience as well as being very educational - the perfect balance ! ”

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/politics-2017.html

Why Politics?

Politics is a lively, popular subject; the perfect choice for those who keep their finger on the pulse of news and current affairs. We will discuss: How are governments elected? How are countries run? How can we as individuals become more engaged with the political process? What are the needs of the UK?

Year 1 covers how the UK political system works and Year 2 focusses on Global politics plus political theories such as Liberalism and Nationalism.

With enthusiasm and an open mind, you will develop your critical thinking and debating skills and learn to look at arguments with an empathetic but level-headed view. You will gain great social knowledge as well as an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context in the UK and globally.

Assessment

33.3% - Paper 1 - UK Politics
33.3% - Paper 2 - UK Government
33.3% - Paper 3 - Comparative Politics - Global

Recommended Reading

Edexcel Politics AS and A level Student Book by Goodlad and Mitchell (2017)
Edexcel Politics A Level Student Guides 1 to 3
<http://alevelpolitics.com>
<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English

Grade 5 GCSE History and/or Geography desirable.

Future Pathways

Apprenticeships and Careers in Politics, Business, International Organisations, The Media, Government and Political Parties and the Civil Service, Journalism, Advertising and more.

University degrees in Politics, Philosophy and Ethics, Economics, PPE, History, Sociology, Geography, Business Studies, Media or Cinema Studies, English and Languages.

Complementary A Levels

Business Studies, English, Geography, History, Philosophy, Ethics and Religion, Sociology, Languages.

Extra & Super Curricular

Trips to Bath Magistrate and Bristol Crown Courts
A visit to Hampton Court, London
Opportunities with BANES Youth Parliament
School visit by a Member of Parliament
School Subscription to “Politics Review”
Optional Humanities Trip to Europe in July

“I love studying this subject. It has helped me to understand the current political situation our country is in and helped me to have a reasoned opinion of my own.”

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182>

Why Psychology?

Learn about a wide range of human behaviour and the different ways in which psychologists have tried to explain and, in some cases, treat them. We build on your understanding of how science works, examine research methods and analysis and also generate theories.

You will study fascinating topics including: how memory works, how psychology can help improve eyewitness evidence in court and how, as babies, we form our attachment to our carers. We look at what happens in the brain to cause certain behaviours (biopsychology), and study ‘abnormal’ behaviours such as OCD, phobias and depression. We also study social influences such as how we deal with authority and how likely we are to obey someone in authority, or who seems to be!

Assessment

33.3% - Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology
33.3% - Paper 2 - Psychology in Context
33.3% - Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology

Recommended Reading

AQA Psychology for A level Year 1 and Year 2 - Student Book and Revision Guide by C Flanagan et al.

Psychology Review Magazine (Hodder Education). Online archives also available.

British Psychological Society
<https://www.bps.org.uk/>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE Biology or Grade 5 GCSE Combined Science
Grade 5 English and Mathematics
A genuine interest in studying the human mind and our behaviour.

Future Pathways

University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Education, Sports Science, Forensic Psychology, Educational and Clinical Psychology, Counsellor, Occupational Health, HR, Life Coaching, Advice Worker, Market Researcher, Marketing and Sales.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Core Maths, English, Philosophy, Ethics and Religion, Sociology

Extra & Super Curricular

Shepton Mallet Prison visit and ‘Behind Bars’ conference in Year 12. Year 13 are invited to attend a Tutor2U revision conference in December in Bristol specific to the AQA specification.

*“I have loved studying this subject;
you consider so many varied
topics and learn things that can
really help you in life.”*

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>

Why Sociology?

What are the deeper reasons behind our behaviour? Why do some conform and some rebel against society or even become criminals? Sociology is full of debates and disagreements!

Using your own experience, you will examine how the society you live in works and test those ideas against the arguments and evidence put forward by thinkers and researchers.

Sociology is a really engaging A Level and you will develop skills in critical analysis, independent thinking and research; skills valued at universities and the workplace.

Assessment

33.3% - Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods
33.3% - Paper 2: Topics in Sociology
33.3% - Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Recommended Reading

AQA Sociology Year 1 and Year 2 Student Books, Study and Revision Guides by Westergaard et al.

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/study-notes>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English
Grade 5 GCSE Geography, History or RE

Future Pathways

Apprenticeships and careers in Politics, Advertising, Media, Journalism, Careers Guidance, Media Studies, Teaching and more.

University degrees in Sociology, Politics, PPE, Business, English, History, Geography, Business, Economics.

Complementary A Levels

Business Studies, Geography, History, Philosophy Ethics & Religion, Politics, Psychology, Languages

Extra & Super Curricular

Trips to Bath Magistrate and Bristol Crown Court. Shepton Mallet Prison visit and ‘Behind Bars’ conference.
Optional Humanities Residential visit to a European city in the summer.
Articles in “Social Review”
University of Oxford Department of Sociology Podcast Discussions.

*“Studying Sociology has made me
question how I behave as a member
of society and why I am motivated to
make the decisions I make.”*

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692>

Why Spanish?

A radical and exciting departure from the GCSE, you will undertake far higher levels of independent study and research and a more rigorous approach to grammar. Reading of Spanish newspapers and visiting Spanish speaking countries is encouraged so you can really master the language and learn to value the different Spanish speaking cultures.

The course has four main themes:

- 1. Aspects of Spanish Society
- 2. Artistic culture in the Spanish World
- 3. Multiculturalism in the Spanish World
- 4. Aspects of Political Life in the Spanish World.

You will also study and critically appreciate in writing, two works, one of which must be literary and other may be a film.

Assessment

50% - Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing
20% - Paper 2 - Writing on a set literary text and film
30% - Paper 3 - Speaking: a photo card and presentation of your independent research project

Recommended Reading

AQA A Level Year 1 and AS Spanish Textbook, AQA Spanish Grammar and Translation Workbook

AQA A Level Year 2 Textbook, Spanish Revision and Practice Workbook Themes 1&2 plus 3&4 (2018)

Spanish Verb Drills by V Bay “Palabra por Palabra” by P Turk

<https://www.studyspanish.com>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tutors/grammar>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 6 GCSE Spanish

Interest in the culture and way of life in the countries where Spanish is spoken

Future Pathways

A university degree in Spanish complements subjects such as Drama, Business, Economics, History, Philosophy, Geography, European Studies, Law, English, Drama and so on.

Apprenticeships and careers in Journalism, Hospitality, Conservation, Finance, Public Relations, Marketing, Diplomatic Civil Service and as an Interpreter or Translator.

Complementary A Levels

Sciences, Maths, Business, Sociology, Psychology, English History, Fine Art, Drama, Geography: in fact, almost all subjects work well with Spanish!

Extra & Super Curricular

Weekly sessions with our language assistant to develop your conversational skills and independent research project. Support in finding a work placement in Spain if you wish.

“Studying Spanish has given me a greater appreciation of different cultures and being able to speak a second language is a really valuable skill.”

Optional Courses

One of the following may be taken in addition to three A Level courses

Why an EPQ?

The EPQ is studied over approximately one year and in addition to the three A Level subjects.

An EPQ is an excellent way to show universities and prospective employers your ability to work in a proactive, independent manner. It provides the opportunity to develop and apply decision making and problem solving skills. With an EPQ you pick the subject and the focus for your project so it allows you to tailor it to directly support your aspirations for further study and/or career development. Working with a supervisor, you are responsible for the management and development of the project from inception to completion. What better way to show how much you have to offer!

Research says that taking the EPQ enhances the odds of achieving a higher grade at A level (A* - B) by 29% (Ben Jones, Head of Standards, AQA).

Assessment

Three required elements which are all internally assessed and then moderated. An A* in EPQ is equal to 28 UCAS points.

1. Project Product
5000 word essay OR artefact with supporting commentary
2. Production Log
3. Presentation

Recommended Reading

This must be specific to your EPQ focus, but expect to do a lot of it! It is expected that a wide variety of resources are accessed, considered and then utilised in the final project itself.

Research is the key to a successful EPQ.

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 5 GCSE English

Anyone can do an EPQ if they are committed to completing the independent study.

Future Pathways

Universities view the EPQ very positively and can decide to give a lower offer for a course if a candidate has an EPQ. Since you pick the topic and theme, the EPQ can be invaluable in setting you up for your future.

Complementary A Levels

Any! An EPQ can be completed with any academic focus from Aerospace Engineering to Events Organisation.

Extra & Super Curricular

The taught element of the EPQ will be delivered in fortnightly lessons covering research skills, evaluation of sources and time management, all of which are transferable to A Level studies and beyond.

“Having complete control of your topic is so exciting. I have been able to tailor my project directly to my main interests, making me so much more motivated to work on it in my own time.”

Why Core Mathematics?

Core Maths / Mathematical Studies is a Level 3 qualification, accredited by Ofqual, and equivalent but distinct from an AS qualification. It is studied over two years and in addition to the three A level subjects.

Core Maths is an extremely exciting new course that will give you an advantage with university applications. It is distinct from other maths courses in that you apply mathematics to real life contexts, using maths to overcome real life challenges. For example, you will analyse real data, use spreadsheets and learn how to use maths for personal finance.

Assessment

40% - Paper 1 - Analysis of data, Maths for personal finance, Estimation
60% - Paper 2 - Statistical techniques

Recommended Reading

AQA Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) Text book.

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk>

<https://mathsgenie.co.uk>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 4-6 GCSE Mathematics

This course is to be taken in addition to the three A level subject choices.

Future Pathways

A supporting qualification for degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Business, Finance, Computer Programming, Psychology, Law, Teaching, Construction, Design, Sports Science, Engineering, Travel and Tourism.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Geography, PE, Psychology

Extra & Super Curricular

Lunchtime workshops

“Core Maths has supported me so much in the mathematical areas of my other A Level subjects.”

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html#tab-ASMathematics>

Why AS Mathematics?

AS Maths is studied over two years and in addition to the three A Level subjects.

AS Maths is offered as a fourth subject to students who enjoyed studying GCSE Maths but do not want to take a full A Level. It is particularly useful to students that are studying another subject with a maths based element e.g. Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Psychology.

Continuing to study mathematics at this level will grow your logical problem solving skills that can be applied to many other areas of life and it instils a positive approach to problem solving by training your brain to assume there is a solution to every problem.

“Maths is in its own way the poetry of logical ideas.”

Assessment

62.5% - Paper 1 - Pure Mathematics
37.5% - Paper 2 - Statistics and Mechanics

Recommended Reading

Edexcel Pure Mathematics and 100% Proof - The Why of Maths by J Hope

CGP A level Mathematics Revision Guide

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk>

<https://mathsgenie.co.uk>

Recommended Entry Requirements

A strong 6 GCSE Mathematics
Studying Science, Business or Geography at A level and with a keen interest and strength in Mathematics

Future Pathways

Securing a Maths AS Level will give you a great advantage when applying for university places or jobs in the future.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Geography, Psychology.

Extra & Super Curricular

Students are encouraged to enter the National School Maths Challenge, competing with over 400 schools.
Lunchtime workshops.

“*Maths AS has helped me to progress in my other subjects due to the diversity of the topics we cover. It is challenging but rewarding and a great asset for future study.*”

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html#tab-3>

Why Further Mathematics?

Further Maths is studied over two years and in addition to the three A Level subjects. It is only available to students taking A Level Mathematics.

Further Maths is a fantastic course for those who are passionate and talented in Mathematics. It extends the Pure and Applied Maths topics studied in Mathematics A Level and is highly recommended if you wish to study Mathematics at degree level.

For further information see Mathematics Course Description.

Assessment

25% - Paper 1 - Further Pure Mathematics 1
25% - Paper 2 - Further Pure Mathematics 2
25% - Paper 3 Option 1 - Statistics, Decision or Mechanics
25% - Paper 4 Option 2 - Statistics, Decision or Mechanics

Recommended Reading

Edexcel Further A level Mathematics and 100% Proof - The Why of Maths by J Hope

CGP Further A level Mathematics Revision Guide

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk>

<https://mathsgenie.co.uk>

Recommended Entry Requirements

Grade 8 GCSE Mathematics
Must also be taking the A Level Mathematics course

Future Pathways

On average, someone with A Level Maths will earn 11% more over their lifetime than someone without it. Strength in Maths and the handling of data opens many doors due to its breadth of application in the real world.
University degrees, apprenticeships and careers in Accounting, Finance, Economics, Law, Engineering, the Sciences, Medicine, Computer Programming, Big Data handling, Monitoring and Evaluation, Design and Construction, Games Development and more.

Complementary A Levels

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Extra & Super Curricular

Entry to the National School Maths Challenge; competing with over 400 schools. Problem solving day at University of Bath. STEP, TUMA, MAT support. Lunchtime workshops.

In 2022, 100% of students secured A in Further Maths at A Level. 100% of students studying AS Further Maths secured A grades.*

*“By the time they
leave us, we want all
students to feel ready
for the world beyond,
prepared to lead and
inspire others.”*

Director of Sixth Form



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Headteacher - Saint Gregory's
Mrs Melissa George

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Mr Stewart Burn

Chair of Governors - Saint Gregory's
Mr J Eddison