



Fort Pitt Grammar School

Sixth Form Curriculum Information *for 2017 Entry*

A warm welcome to our Sixth Form

Dear Prospective Sixth Form Student

At Fort Pitt Grammar School we are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form students and all that they achieve. Our aim is to facilitate the development of the whole student to achieve the very best results both academically, socially and in relation to their onward destinations and continuing journey of lifelong learning.

We are an inclusive Sixth Form with an aspirational ethos. Many of our Y11 students will decide to stay on with us through Key Stage 5 but we are also able to offer places to external students including boys. Students from other schools settle well with us and quickly become valued members of our school community.

Currently our Sixth Form stands at 240 students across years 12 and 13. This number enables us to be large enough to offer a wide variety of courses at Key Stage 5 and small enough to ensure we know our students well and can support and challenge in the appropriate ways at the necessary times.

Our expert subject staff deliver outstanding teaching and learning across over 25 different courses in the Sixth Form. Teaching staff are highly qualified in their fields and are committed to ensuring students receive the very best provision in their subjects to enable you to achieve the best possible outcomes. Teachers' enthusiasm for their subjects ensure that students are inspired to achieve well and continue to be motivated to achieve.

Our Curriculum offer ensures that all students can gain the qualifications needed to secure high quality onward destinations in a wide variety of pathways. It is broad enough to enable students to take a very individualised approach to choosing their own learning pathway. All of our subjects are now linear A Levels which means some students will choose 3 A Levels to study over the two year period; others may choose to study 4 A Levels in Y12 and take one AS Level at the end of the first year and continue with 3 A Levels while a few students may choose to continue with four A Levels to the end of Y13.

Students are also offered a range of opportunities to enhance and enrich their curriculum. We offer the EPQ which teaches students key study skills such as project management, research and citation, critical analysis of academic arguments, structure and coherence of written work and evaluation and reflection. In Y12 and Y13 students follow a bespoke Enrichment programme which assists them in developing the skills needed to ensure success at A Level along with providing them with time and guidance to support them in making their next steps into the world.

We offer a huge range of super and extra-curricular activities to facilitate the development of the whole student. These include both internal and external opportunities which allow students to develop skills of leadership, team work and a sense of community.

We also have a range of opportunities for students to access aspirational careers advice and guidance. This is provided both in-house and from external bodies through our Enrichment programme. Students also have the opportunity to take up high quality work experience placements.

We hope you agree that Fort Pitt Grammar School Sixth Form will provide you with a unique experience as you continue into Key Stage 5 and we look forward to welcoming you into our school community.

How should I choose my options?

Choosing your pathway

Our differentiated curriculum guide offers some advice as to how many subjects you may wish to choose at A Level. If you are likely to achieve A*/A grades in all of your subjects (grades 9-7 in English and Maths) you would be advised to study 4 subjects in Y12 at least 3 of which would be facilitating subjects at A level and you will be encouraged to continue your education at a prestigious university such as Oxford or Cambridge. You may also consider careers in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science which also require A*/A grades at A Level in science subjects.

If you are likely to achieve a mixture of A*- B grades (grades 9-6 in English and Maths) at GCSE, you may wish to study 3 or 4 A Levels and broaden your choice to include facilitating and other subjects. For example you could choose 2 facilitating subjects and 2 other subjects giving you more choice as you move towards your Russell Group and/or Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science university applications.

Our guidance is there simply to assist you in making the choices that will ensure success at A Level. If you would like to take subjects that may be different to those suggested this will still be possible if you meet the entry requirements of the courses involved.

Choosing your subjects.

Moving from GCSE to A level study will mean a major reduction in the number of subjects you will study. For some students this choice is easy but others find this choice more difficult.

Firstly, you need to think about the career you would like to go into. You may not have a definite career aspiration yet but you may know the 'field' of work that appeals to you most. This should guide your options in the first instance.

Secondly, you need to consider which subjects you enjoy the most. Research suggests that enjoyment plays a large part in success at A Level. It is better to study subjects that you enjoy which will enable you to be successful.

Thirdly, seek advice from relevant staff (you can find out who is available for you in the Support and Guidance section). You may also want to discuss your options with family and friends to make sure you have thought your options through thoroughly.

We are here to help you throughout your decision making process – you just need to ask.

Entry Requirement and Application Process

Entry Requirements

- Students will need to have achieved at least five A*- C grades at GCSE, including grade 5 in English and Maths.
- You will also need to read the entry requirements for each course you wish to take at A level, usually this will require B grades (or grade 6 equivalent for English and Maths) in the subjects you wish to study.
- All students will need to have achieved at least a grade 5 in both English and Maths at GCSE – we do not offer resit courses in the Sixth Form.
- You will need to have shown that you have been committed to your school in relation to attendance and punctuality and evidence of commitment to learning e.g. attendance, punctuality and involvement with school activities.
- If you are offered a place in our Sixth Form, it is expected that you will attend our Induction Programme.

Application Process for Internal Students

- Sixth Form Open Evening will take place after your mock exams.
- After you have had your results you will have an interview to discuss your options and the course options available.
- During your PSHE lessons, you will be provided with the opportunity to discuss what Key Stage 5 is like with some of our current Sixth Form students.
- You will then make your application via UCAS Progress – you will be talked through this process during a presentation after Sixth Form Open Evening.
- There is no deadline for applications, although places will be offered on a first come first served basis and some subjects fill up very quickly.

Application process for External students

- Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on 24th November between 6-9 pm.
- You will have the opportunity to discuss our courses with dedicated subject staff and the Sixth Form Team.
- You can apply via UCAS Progress – your current school should be able to provide you with log on details.
- Once your application has been received, your current school will be contacted for references and predicted grades which will be cross- referenced with the information you have provided

You may then be asked to come in for an interview.

Suggested Curriculum Pathways

Grade description	APS	No. of subjects	Subject Choices	Additional Study
<p>Mostly A*'s with some A's</p> <p><i>(Grades 9-7 in English and Maths)</i></p>	7+	4	<p>3 from:</p> <p>Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, Geography, History, French, Spanish, German, Art, Music</p>	<p>EPQ</p> <p>Oxford University Online Modules</p> <p>MOOCs</p>
<p>Mostly A's and B's</p> <p><i>(Grade 7 or 6 in English and Maths)</i></p>	6+	3/4	<p>Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, Geography, History, French, Spanish, German, Art, Graphics, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics, PE, Economics, Sociology, Computer Science, Drama, Music</p>	<p>EPQ</p> <p>MOOCs</p>
<p>Mostly B's</p> <p><i>(Grade 6 in English and Maths)</i></p>	6	3	<p>English Literature, Economics, Art, Graphics, Textiles, Geography, History, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics, PE, Sociology, Film Studies, Business Studies, Government and Politics, Drama, Computer Science, Music</p>	<p>EPQ</p> <p>MOOCs</p>
<p>Mostly C's with a few B grades</p> <p><i>(Grade 6 or 5 for English and Maths)</i></p>	5-6	3	<p>Art, Graphics, Textiles, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics, PE, Computer Science, Business Studies, Sociology, Film Studies, Drama, Music</p>	<p>EPQ</p> <p>MOOCs</p>

Additional Opportunities

Our aim at Fort Pitt Grammar School is to assist the development of well-rounded individuals who are fully prepared for the next steps in their own lifelong educational journey. To facilitate this we offer a vast array of additional opportunities that we expect our students to become involved in.

Super-curricular activities

Through our bespoke Enrichment Programme, students are introduced to super-curricular opportunities. These include our own in-house 'Full Potential' Programme which provides a range of tasks to guide students to undertake wider reading and additional study in each subject area. Students are advised to complete at least 4 of these tasks per subject per year.

Students are also introduced to the Future Learn website which houses 'MOOC's' which students can undertake in their own time. These Massive Open Online Courses are provided by universities allowing students to choose subject specific courses or to complete modules that are of interest to them and their future aspirations.

For 2017, we will also be introducing Oxford University Online modules for students in Y12 in preparation for Oxbridge applications and interviews.

Extra-Curricular activities

The range of extra-curricular activities on offer at Fort Pitt Grammar School Sixth Form is second to none. We have annual visits from Outlook Expeditions, The National Citizenship Service and the Me2 programme which offer students the opportunity to volunteer at international, national and local level. Alongside these visits we also provide students with opportunities to support within school. Roles such as Subject Prefect and Student Academic Mentors allow Sixth Form students to become more involved with the subjects they study and inspire younger students to feel the same.

Peer and Safe Mentors are there to support students at all levels in the school who may be struggling at certain times. Sixth Form students can also join the School Council and represent the views of their Form Group.

We also have a vibrant House System and Sixth Form students can apply to become Head Student or part of the House Leader Team at the end of Y12. They then lead their Houses through events such as our annual Sports Day Parade, House Arts and House Charities.

Other extra-curricular activities include the Diversity Alliance, Duke of Edinburgh and Cyber Mentors.

Enrichment

Our Enrichment Programme underpins our Sixth Form. The programme delivers a wide range of additional skills and experiences which are valuable to Sixth Form students. Examples include how to develop an A level Mind-set, understanding current affairs, goal setting and how to make those all-important onward applications to Universities, Apprenticeships and Further Education.

Raising Aspirations

At Fort Pitt Grammar School Sixth Form, we want our students to be confident and prepared to successfully achieve their aspirations. We aim to facilitate this in a number of ways.

Through our Enrichment Programme students are presented with career opportunities and pathways from the very outset in Y12. These include Oxbridge, Russell Group and other universities as well as degree and higher apprenticeships. Students are also given time and guidance to seek out and apply for high quality relevant work experience which they undertake at the end of Y12.

During Terms 5 and 6 we introduce students to the UCAS application process and to Unifrog which assists students in finding the right courses and apprenticeships for them.

Students in Y13 are also supported to make their applications for university early in Term 1 and we also offer parents the opportunity to come in and talk through the UCAS application process including Student Finance.

We have a planned programme of visits and guest speakers including from International Universities and Degree Apprenticeships and we have a broad range of alumni who come into talk and support our Sixth Form students with their onward pathways.

In the past year we have been lucky enough to have visits from Chloe Combi, an Oxford graduate who has recently published her book 'Generation Z'; Peter Tatchell, the prominent Human Rights campaigner; Ray Lewis who is an advisor to the Mayor of London's office and Chief Superintendent Andrea Bishop.

Our targeted provision comes in the form of the Sixth Form Team. Ms Kirsopp leads on our Oxbridge Programme, Mrs Huntley leads on our Medics/Dentist and Vets Programme. For students who may need more support in relation to career aspirations, our Key Stage 5 Achievement Co-ordinator is available to students all day to discuss issues and to provide relevant support.

Support and Guidance

We recognise that A Level study can, at times, be a very stressful stage of a student's educational career. To help you through this we offer a range of support and guidance which you can access throughout the school day and beyond.

Our thriving House system enables support from students and staff alike. Form Tutors can provide guidance and support on a wide range of issues including subject choices, study patterns and revision and exam technique. Heads of House also assist within the Sixth Form where pastoral issues arise.

Subject staff and Heads of Department offer detailed and subject specific advice in relation to how to achieve the very highest grades. Our staff are highly skilled and provide a wide variety of support and challenge to ensure all students are able to excel.

Our Key Stage Co-ordinators are able to provide impartial advice on future destinations in Y11 and throughout Key Stage 5. This can be personalised to students' individual needs at the times when students need it most. Our Achievement Co-ordinator is available to students throughout the school day.

Mrs Lingham is our Key Stage 5 Administrator who will be able to help with any questions or queries relating to UCAS Progress in the application process, as well as being on hand for students throughout Key Stage 5. Mrs Lingham oversees the administration of the UCAS process through Y12 and Y13.

As Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Doran oversees the provision in the Sixth Form. If you have any issues or questions relating to the Sixth Form generally, she will be happy to assist.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in Art at GCSE.

Why should I study Fine Art?

At Fort Pitt our Fine Art course provides a broad base of creative study which is planned carefully to embed understanding of the formal elements whilst developing skills in a wide range of materials and techniques. These include the obvious essential components of drawing and painting, as well as sculpture; photography; print making; mixed media and experimental work with combinations of these. The main focus underlining all that we do is creativity.

At all stages of the course there will be opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience such as artists coming into school, trips to galleries and exhibitions and visual research expeditions.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects, which consolidate their skills and knowledge. At the end of this year each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in Y13. This project brings together previous learning and also provides a vehicle for students' to really develop their interests in one specialist area.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued with a theme, with several suggested starting points set by Edexcel in February of their second year, from which they will be required to develop a portfolio of preparatory studies culminating in a timed test of 15 hours when they will be required to produce a final outcome under examination conditions.

How might this course complement others?

Fine Art students find their course can be partnered with a wide range of other subjects. It has problem solving elements in common with areas such as mathematics; expressive and creative components which are also essential to the study of media, drama, music and English, as well as cultural foundations which related to history and religious studies.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Those who chose to study any of the Art and Design subjects may seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as architecture, advertising, medical illustration, restoration, textiles and fashion, illustration and graphic or product design. However, Art and Design as a vocation is not the only reason for its value. It is a student centred subject which encourages breadth of thought, independence of approach and a critical mind-set. Those who are trained to be curious and to 'think outside of the box' are in great demand by employers in an increasingly competitive world.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade A in Core and Additional Science (including an A grade for both Biology papers) OR a B grade in Triple Science at GCSE.

Why should I study Biology?

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either. The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work they do is vital to us all. If you have an interest in the Biological world around you, and enjoyment of Biology at GCSE, then A level Biology could be the choice for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Biology involves three examinations at the end of Y13. Two papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and one paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes long. These cover the overarching themes of:

- Advanced Biochemistry, Micro biotics and Genetics
- Advanced Physiology, Evolution and Ecology
- General and Practical Principles in Biology

There is no coursework element to the linear A level however students will be required to complete 12 core practicals throughout the course that cover specific skills and techniques and will contribute to the overall grade.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Biology. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

A level Biology works well in combination with Chemistry and Physics as well as Maths and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science. Many students who study Biology at A level enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Business?

A Business A level is a desirable qualification regardless of whether your next step is further education or employment. The skills you will develop will be an asset for any academic course, but the subject knowledge will be relevant to degrees in Business, Management, Economics, Accounting, Marketing, Psychology, Sociology, Politics and Geography to name but a few. The value of business-related subjects is demonstrated by their prevalence within joint honour degrees. This course provides a breadth of knowledge that will enable you to understand the interrelationships between various business functions, increasing your chances of making an impact in the workplace, whether you choose to work for someone else or start your own company.

What will the course involve?

You will learn about the most effective ways of meeting customers' needs, how to manage people, how to plan and manage a company's finances. You will also learn about the strategic decisions made by multinationals and the global factors that influence them.

The linear A Level in Business involves learning about

- Marketing people and global business
- Business activities, decisions and strategy
- Investigating business in a competitive environment

Assessment is through 3 x 2 hour examinations.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Business.

How might this course complement others?

Business Studies goes extremely well with English, Economics, Mathematics, Sociology, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and many others.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Whichever profession you choose, it is likely to involve some element of Business Management and this course will assist you in progressing your career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade A in Core and Additional Science OR a grade B in Triple Award Sciences at GCSE. In addition, a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Why should I study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of materials, what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things. From the moment you are born and throughout your whole life you are surrounded by chemistry; in the air you breathe, the food you eat and the clothes you wear. From space research to the depths of the oceans, chemists are involved in collecting valuable information that helps us to have a better understanding of the world we live in. Chemists are working to solve the problems we face every day.

If you have an interest in and enjoyment of, Chemistry and you up for a real challenge and enjoy recognition for serious problem solving involving a subject at the fore front of modern technological advances, then A level Chemistry could be the choice for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Chemistry involves three examinations at the end of Y13. Two papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and one paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes long. These cover overarching themes of:

- Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry
- Advanced organic and Physical Chemistry
- General and Practical Principles in Chemistry

There is no coursework in the linear A level. However, practical competency is assessed through a number of core practicals which are then used to report overall proficiency of practical skills at the end of the course. The theory behind the practical techniques will be assessed in the written examination papers.

How might this course complement others?

A level Chemistry works well in combination with Biology and Physics as well as Maths, Further Maths and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Chemistry is a preferred subject for the degree level study of more courses than any other subject. Chemistry is essential or highly recommended for the following careers: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary science, Food science, Forensics and Biochemistry. In fact, there are chemists working in every field imaginable – from military logistics to accountancy in the City.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in the iGCSE ICT (not the BCS).

Why should I study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. OCR's Computer Science will value computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

What will the course involve?

The aims of this course is to enable you to develop:

- an understanding of and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science
 - including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Assessment is through external examination and internal assessment.

It is possible to take an AS in Computer Science. This is 40% of a complete A-Level.

How might this course complement others?

ICT goes extremely well with Maths, Science, Sociology, Psychology and many others.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A Level Computer Science provides a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language at GCSE.

Why should I study Drama?

This is a very practical and creative course. You will take part in live performances, as well as studying through practical workshops a range of plays and theatre practitioners. You will have the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in acting and devising, as well as the visual and technical side of theatre, and will experience live theatre performances from the perspective of both audience and performer.

What will the course involve?

The linear A-Level in Drama will involve:

- An exploration of theatre and dramatic performance
- A detailed understanding of a theatre performance/text in context

Assessment is by performance of both devised and scripted work as well as a written examination.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Drama. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Drama will be complemented by the study of any other creative subject, for example Art & Design, Music, Film Studies and Media Studies as well as English Literature, Sociology and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

This qualification supports progression into further education, either for specific vocational training in the Performing Arts, or through a more academic approach via a university degree in Theatre Arts. The self-confidence built through the course is invaluable when embarking on your selected career path, performing arts related or otherwise.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Economics?

Are you a curious person who wishes to learn more about issues like immigration, poverty and government failure? Are you open-minded and prepared to go beyond press headlines to learn the real story? Would you like to experience a whole new way of looking at the world and learn a new vocabulary to go alongside that evolving understanding? Then Economics could be the right choice for you.

You will learn how to use economic models to help you make sense of the very complicated world in which you live. You will study the government's involvement in the economy (Politics) and the way the economy has evolved overtime (History). We also study human behaviour (Psychology and Sociology). We spend time analysing data (Mathematics and Statistics). We also take a global perspective on important issues like poverty (Geography, GPR, Ethics and International Relations). Therefore Economics is complimentary to many of your other courses and you will be actively encouraged to bring your own knowledge and experiences to the lessons.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Economics involves the study of

- Markets and Business Behaviour
- The National and Global economy
- Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Assessment is by examination only comprising of three 2 hour long examinations.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Economics.

How might this course complement others?

Economics goes well with History, Geography, Sociology, Business Studies, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and Mathematics.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Many students who study Economics decide to continue with the subject at University. The list of organisations that employ economists is very long indeed. There is the financial sector: - Stockbroking, Banking, Insurance, Accounting and Finance. Economists are also employed by most large business corporations, the civil service and even the NHS. Not all students choose to go to university and most find that an A level in Economics helps them on their way to finding good trainee positions.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE.

Why should I study English Literature?

As someone who enjoys thinking, talking and writing about an exciting range of literary texts, drawn from different genres and literary traditions, this is the ideal course for you. You will work collaboratively with others, having opportunities to be independent, active learners, yet at the same time know that you are supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

You will take from this course highly developed abilities to express ideas fluently, appreciating your own and others' use of language.

What will the course involve?

Paper 1 Aspects of Tragedy (Othello-Shakespeare, Death of a Salesman-Miller and Keats poetry) =40%

Paper 2 Elements of Political and Social Protest writing (The Kite Runner- Hosseini, The Handmaid's Tale-Atwood, Blake poetry) =40%

NEA

2 pieces 1,250-1,500 word count=20%

1. An independent study of a prose text. You choose the text and essay question! For example:

"Trainspotting by Irvine Welsh is an outstanding text and should be part of the literary cannon, but the cannon is too passive and conformist to include such a text"

2. An essay on Plath's collection of poetry called "Ariel" linked to the critical anthology.

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements most other subjects and it is fully respected and valued by universities.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

English Literature is often chosen by our students to be studied at degree level and is recognised by employers requiring non-subject specific graduate entry. The ability to analyse and to present your interpretation in written form is a useful life skill and complements many career paths

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have at least five A*- C grades at GCSE, including grade 5 in English and Maths

Why should I complete an Extended Project Qualification?

The Extended Project Qualification allows you to expand your learning beyond the boundaries of your curriculum study by completing a research project on a topic of your choosing. You might decide to research something you've always been interested in, create something you've always want to attempt or conduct your own investigation into something you're curious about. Through the EPQ taught element you will develop useful transferable skills that will make you a highly suitable candidate for Higher Education. The fact that it is student led means that the scope of your project is really only limited by your own imagination and hard work.

What will the course involve?

There are 30 taught hours through which you will learn

- Academic writing skills
- Project Management
- Time Management
- Analysing Resources
- Note Taking
- Presentation Skills

And any other skills relevant to the project you choose to complete

You will be assessed on either a 5000 word written essay/ report or an artefact accompanied by a 1000 word written report.

This will be completed over the course of a year with the guidance of supervised tutorial sessions. You will also need to make a presentation of your project and submit a production log with it.

How might this course complement others?

The EPQ taught element will help you to develop transferable skills that will be required in many of your other subjects, in particular the time management skills should help you to cope with the pressures of Sixth Form.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities do not only acknowledge the EPQ, many encourage applicants to complete one, provide resources to help students complete it and you may even get a more favourable university offer because of your EPQ. The EPQ allows you to gain a maximum of 28 UCAS points and you will learn important skills to help you through Sixth Form, Higher Education and the rest of your working life. You will also gain specialist subject knowledge in the research area of your project that may even help you to decide on your future path.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language at GCSE.

Why should I study Film Studies?

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th century, and a major art form of the last hundred years. Film Studies is therefore the ideal course for those who enjoy and appreciate the power and influence of films. You will study a range of influential mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present, as well as more recent global films, both non-English language and English language. A sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future will also be gained, through the study of silent film and significant film movements, such as European avant-garde and new wave cinemas in Europe and Asia. Documentary, experimental and short films will also provide breadth to your learning experience. Furthermore, production work is a significant part of this course; you will have the opportunity to create high quality film and screenplay work.

This course will provide you with exciting opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding of film alongside your own passion and enthusiasm. You will work collaboratively with others, but also have opportunities to be independent, active students of film whilst being fully supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

You will take from this course highly developed abilities to express ideas fluently about a diverse range of films, appreciating how film works both as a powerful medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium. You will also learn how films generate meanings and responses, and the different ways in which spectators respond to films.

What will the course involve?

Three components:

- **Two written examinations, each 3 hours in length = 70% of qualification**
- **One non-exam assessment (NEA): film production = 30% of qualification**

Component 1: American and British film (written examination)

Four sections:

- **Classical Hollywood** e.g. *Casablanca*
- **Hollywood since the 1960s** (two-film study) e.g. *Bonnie and Clyde* & *Django Unchained*
- **Contemporary American independent film** e.g. *Boyhood*
- **British film** (comparative study) e.g. *Brief Encounter* & *Atonement*

A total of **six** feature length films.

= 35% of qualification

Component 2: Varieties of film (written examination)

Four sections:

- **Film movements** (two-film study) e.g. Silent film and Asian New Wave

Exam Board: WJEC

Head of Department: Mr A Holmes – aholmes@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

- **Documentary** e.g. *20,000 days on Earth*
- **Global film** (two-film study) e.g. *Pan's Labyrinth* & *House of Flying Daggers*
- **Short film** (a compilation)

A total of **five** feature length films, with a reference to a compilation of short films

= 35% of qualification

Component 3: NEA (non-exam assessment)

One production and its evaluative analysis. You will produce:

- **Either** a short film (4-5 minutes) **or** a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) and a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay
- An evaluative analysis (1250-1500 words)

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements other essay based subjects and create subjects and it is fully respected and valued by universities.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Studying Film at A Level will provide invaluable knowledge and experience prior to undertaking Film Studies at degree level. The ability to discuss, analyse and to present your interpretation in written and creative form is a useful life skill and complements many career paths.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in French at GCSE.

Why should I study French?

An A Level qualification in a modern foreign language will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in French will involve: Study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in France and other French speaking countries. Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Translation – both from and into French. Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in French from the specification list of set films and set texts.

French A level will be assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in French. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language will make you stand out and could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 7 or above in Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Mathematics?

Further Mathematics offers students with an aptitude in Mathematics the chance to study for a second A level in the subject. This is a challenging and fascinating course which gives the students the opportunity to take a thorough and in depth look at mathematical modelling and problem solving.

What will the course involve?

The A level will consist of 4 examinations, all 1.5 hours in length with 75 marks each. There is a 50:50 split in compulsory and optional elements.

Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1 – Based on AS fixed core content assessed at A level standard

Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2 – remaining fixed core content

Paper 3: Option 1- could be Pure, Statistics, Mechanics or Decision Maths

Paper 4: Option 2- could be Pure, Statistics, Mechanics or Decision Maths

It is possible to take an AS in Mathematics. There are 2 papers, both 1.5 hours long and with 75 marks each. Paper 1 is AS fixed core content, assessed at AS standard and paper 2 is one of the 4 options from Pure, Statistics, Mechanics or Decision Maths.

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements Psychology, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and the Sciences.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Further Mathematics is a suitable course for a student considering studying Mathematics at University, in particular for those thinking of Oxbridge entrance or Russell Group Universities. Some support will be available for those students taking STEP and MAT papers for some of these prestigious Universities.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B or above in GCSE Geography.

Why should I study Geography?

Geography can provide insights into understanding the world around us and of the issues it tackles. Statistics show that compared with other students, Geographers are the most employable. Geographers are taught a wide-range of skills drawing in ideas from many sources. This ability to view issues from a wider perspective is appropriate for working in many different areas. The nature of peoples' working lives is changing. It is less likely that someone will spend all their life in one company or organisation. If your career path is to be varied you will need to develop transferable skills and you will need to be flexible. Geography fosters these qualities and provides a firm base for life-long learning.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Geography involves the study of:

- Tectonic processes and Hazards,
- Landscape systems, processes and change,
- Globalisation,
- Regenerating places,
- Superpowers,
- Global development and connections- Migration, identity and sovereignty.

Assessment is by three written examinations and an independent investigation.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Geography however it would require more independent study and is a standalone qualification (it does not count towards A-Level Geography)

How might this course complement others?

Geography goes well with Business Studies, Economics, Maths, Philosophy and Ethics, History and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Almost any issue can be looked at from a geographic perspective: Marketing, Crime, Health, Conservation, Education, Politics, Tourism, Retailing, Transport and Social Services. That is why a geography background can be relevant to employment. Spatial data systems, for example, have become a basic necessity for many organisations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in German at GCSE.

Why should I study German?

An A Level qualification in a modern foreign language will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in German will involve: Study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in Germany and other German speaking countries. Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Translation – both from and into German. Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in German from the specification list of set films and set texts.

German A level will be assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in German. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language will make you stand out and could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Government and Politics

Linear A Level

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in English Language.

Why should I study Government and Politics?

Politics has a significant impact on our everyday lives. With the recent EU referendum, new Prime Minister and the US Presidential election, there has never been a better time to further your understanding of the subject. Students with an interest in the world around them and how important decisions are made should consider A level Government and Politics.

You will take from this course the ability to consider a variety of complex arguments, and an in-depth knowledge of the UK and US political systems.

What will the course involve?

AS

Unit 1: People and Politics (Democracy, voting systems, political parties, pressure groups): Written Paper: 1hour 20mins

Unit 2: Governing The United Kingdom (Constitution, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Parliament, Judiciary): Written Paper: 1hour 20mins

A2

Unit 3: Representative Processes in The United States Of America Elections, political parties, pressure groups, race) :written paper 1hour 30mins

Unit 4 : Governing The United States Of America: (The Constitution, Congress, The Presidency, Supreme Court): Written Paper 1hour 30mins

How might this course complement others?

Government and Politics would be an ideal accompaniment to a study of History, English, Economics and Business Studies courses.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Students can go on to study the subject at most leading universities or take up employment. Politics can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers because students will use a variety of transferable skills as they study the different political ideas and systems. The subject develops proficiency in written communication, analysis and evaluation; these skills are in great demand, and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in Art at GCSE.

Why should I study Graphics?

At Fort Pitt our Graphics course provides a broad base of creative study which encompasses IT skills such as Photoshop and animation, as well as giving students the opportunity to develop their skills by working with a wide range of materials and techniques. These include the obvious essential components of drawing and painting, as well as model making; photography; print making; mixed media and experimental work with combinations of these. All projects have a potential commercial application and students learn how to combine imagery with type which could be utilized in the world of business. However, the main focus underlining all that we do is creativity.

At all stages of the course there will be opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience such as artists coming into school, trips to galleries and exhibitions and visual research expeditions.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects, which consolidate their skills and knowledge. At the end of this year, each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in Y13. This project brings together previous learning and also provides a vehicle for students' to really develop their interests in one specialist area.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued with a theme, with several suggested starting points set by Edexcel in February of their second year, from which they will be required to develop a portfolio of preparatory studies culminating in a timed test of 15 hours when they will be required to produce a final outcome under examination conditions.

How might this course complement others?

Graphics students find their course can be partnered with a wide range of other subjects. It has problem solving elements in common with areas such as mathematics, expressive and creative components which are also essential to the study of media, drama, music and English, as well as cultural foundations which relate to history and religious studies.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Those who chose to study any of the Art and Design subjects may seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as architecture, advertising, medical illustration, restoration, textiles and fashion, illustration and graphic or product design. However, Art and Design as a vocation is not the only reason for its value. It is a student centred subject which encourages breadth of thought, independence of approach and a critical mind-set. Those who are trained to be curious and to 'think outside of the box' are in great demand by employers in an increasingly competitive world.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B or above in History and English at GCSE.

Why should I study History?

History is a valuable subject in its own right. It encourages students to think critically, to read widely, to synthesise information and to question. These are skills which easily transfer to other walks of life.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in History involves the study of two modules and a personal investigation. The two modules are externally assessed through examinations and involve the study of:

- The Age of the Crusades, c1071–1204
- Religious Conflict and the Church in England, c1529–c1570

The Personal Investigation is assessed internally and moderated by the exam board. Students will be able to research a topic of their own choice and create their own question as long as it does not cover an area already represented in the other two modules. The final written piece should be between 3000-3500 words long.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in History. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

History goes well with English Literature, Business Studies, Economics, Politics, Philosophy and Ethics, Psychology and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A degree in history can lead to a career in the legal industry, politics, publishing, journalism, the media, teaching and management.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Mathematics?

An A level in Mathematics opens the door to many higher education courses and careers, and students with a higher qualification in Mathematics can expect to earn more than students with a higher qualification in any other subject. However, the most important reason to study Mathematics is because you enjoy it – you love the challenges it provides and are willing to take risks even if it means you get the wrong answers! “The entire foundation of mathematical understanding is itself built on a foundation of mistakes.”

What will the course involve?

The A level will consist of 3 examinations, all 2 hours in length with 100 marks each.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 – AS content assessed at A level standard

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 – remaining pure content

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics – Section A Statistics (50 marks), Section B Mechanics (5 marks)

It is possible to take an AS in Mathematics. There are 2 papers. Paper 1, worth 100 marks is 2 hours and is the pure content for A level paper 1, but assessed at AS standard and Paper 2, worth 50 marks is 1 hour and has 2 sections, one on Statistics and one on Mechanics and these are equally weighted.

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements many other subjects. The Statistics components support Geography, Psychology, Business and Economics for example, and the Mechanics component compliments Physics. Pure maths ideas will permeate all the sciences. Mathematics is one of the most respected and valued subjects by universities.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Mathematics is a desired subject for many courses. With Law, for example, it demonstrates an ability to problem solve, think logically, present argument coherently and have a good eye for detail and accuracy. Mathematics can give you a route into careers such as accounting, business, psychiatry, engineering and medicine.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade A or above in Music GCSE.

You should be of Grade 5 standard or higher on an instrument or voice, and be a confident performer. You also need to be musically literate; it is essential that students are fluent in treble and bass clef notation and have a good knowledge of music theory.

You may be asked to audition for a place on the course.

Why should I study Music?

If you have a passion for Music then why not study it at A level?

Studying Music can give you a great mix of social, technical and business skills. Music students often have the edge over others on team work, good communication and self-management. Music can be thought of as part art, part science, which means it will help you build your problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as develop your creativity, not to mention discipline, composure under pressure, time management and independent working ability.

What will the course involve?

The modular course develops and assesses skills of performing, composing, listening and score analysis. You will give a public performance playing for a minimum of 6 minutes for AS level and 8 minutes for A level.

You will compose two compositions; one to a brief set by the exam board and one free composition. Each composition must be at least 2 minutes in duration for AS level.

The Appraising unit involves listening and analysing a range of music from different eras and styles. The examination paper requires you to write short prose and longer essays on the music you have studied.

How might this course complement others?

Music goes well with Languages, Sciences, English, Drama and Theatre Studies, and Mathematics.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A level Music can lead to further study at university or a conservatoire, to careers in performance and areas connected with live and recorded performance, arts administration, teaching, journalism and music therapy. The discipline and commitment that musicians show are traits highly valued by employers, even if your career is not based in Music.

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade B or above in PE at GCSE or in Science if GCSE PE was not studied. You may be asked to demonstrate/evidence your practical ability in this subject.

Why should I study Physical Education?

A level Physical Education allows those with a keen interest and flair for sport to develop further their theoretical understanding of the world of sport and physical activity.

What will the course involve?

The course is multidisciplinary and includes:

- Scientific components (Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics and Exercise Physiology)
Psychological components (Skill Acquisition and Sport Psychology)
- Sociological components (Sport and society, comparative issues in sport)
- The student's practical ability is assessed in one area of physical activity and coursework takes the form of a formal observation on the Evaluation and Appreciation of a live practical performance.

The A Level is assessed through three examinations and a practical performance.

How might this course complement others?

A Level PE goes well with Biology, Psychology, Sociology and History.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The Leisure and Sport industry is still one of the fastest growing industries; there is a wide variety of related university courses and careers, for example: Sport Psychology, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, Sports Journalism, Sports Marketing, Sports Medicine, Sports Management, Sports Science, Coaching and Teaching to name a few.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B or above in GCSE RE and a keen interest in the subject as a whole. Hopefully having done a little further reading in Philosophy of Religious practice.

Why should I study Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy and Ethics is the living study of beliefs and practice. It focusses on what is now, not what has happened in the past. To study religion is to learn about people. To study philosophy is to learn about oneself. To learn about ethics is to decide how we might act for the benefit of others.

What will the course involve?

This subject provides you with the opportunity to ask questions such as:

- “How did the universe come to exist?”
- “Do you need to be religious to be good?”
- “Does God exist?”
- “What is the purpose of religion?”

You will learn from a combination of whole class and individual study where you can reflect upon your own opinions and views and those of others. There is a strong focus on individual religions.

How might this course complement others?

Religious Studies goes very well with Psychology, Sociology, English and History and it is a good subject to study if your other choices have a more Mathematical or Scientific focus. Universities sometimes like to see a balance in your subject selection: e.g. one university where you can study medicine has said that “some preference will be given to applicants who offer a contrasting subject at AS/A Level” – Philosophy and Ethics is one of those subjects.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Philosophy and Ethics is highly regarded by all universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Any employment involving working with people will find this subject very useful. Demonstrating your understanding and knowledge of different people and cultures, as well as developing logical thinking skills over the duration of this course, will be invaluable for careers in the Police, Armed Forces, Social Work, Civil Service, Banking, Nursing, Medicine, Teaching and Law.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have grade A in Core and Additional Science OR a grade B in Triple Science at GCSE.

Why should I study Physics?

Physics is the study of everything: from a scale smaller than an atom to the entire Universe; from the recreation of events at the Big bang to every area of our everyday lives. Physics explores and tries to understand the underlying patterns and connections between it all.

If you have an interest in, and enjoyment of, Physics and you like to be challenged and enjoy recognition for serious problem solving and if you want to study a subject at the fore front of modern technological advances, then A level Physics could be the choice for you.

Physics is a demanding subject which rewards you with a deeper understanding of the Universe as we know it. The nature of the course challenges students to view the world in a different way and develop skills which are useful and applicable for whatever they choose for the future.

It's fun, exciting and intellectually stimulating.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Physics involves three examinations at the end of Y13. Two papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and one paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes long. These cover overarching themes of:

- Advanced Physics 1 including Mechanics, Electrical Circuits, Materials, Waves and Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Advanced Physics 2 including Oscillations, Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation and Electric and Gravitational Fields
- General and Practical Principles in Physics

There is no coursework element to the linear A level however students will be required to complete a number of Core Practicals throughout the course that cover specific skills and techniques.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Physics. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

A level Physics works well in combination with Biology and Chemistry as well as Maths and Further Maths.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The logical and mathematical skills in Physics are relevant to a vast number of careers and can be used as an entry point to a number of careers not all associated with Physics. As a working Physicist you may find yourself; trying to predict the stock market in the City, testing satellites for space missions, doing medical physics in a hospital, trying to predict the next major earthquake, developing flight simulation software, or designing an Olympic stadium. In other words, the skills developed studying Physics can be the passport to almost any career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade 6 or above in English and Mathematics and grade B in Science.

Why should I study Psychology?

Simply put, Psychology is the study of people, behaviour and the mind. It has recently been reclassified as a science subject, and this is reflected in the A level curriculum.

It is a broad subject, with many different areas and a number of different approaches towards explaining behaviour. Not all psychologists agree with each other!

Psychologists observe human behaviour, create theories to explain the behaviour, and then carry out research to test these theories.

Psychology is a challenging subject, requiring commitment and hard work. Ultimately though, the hard work is rewarded with a deeper understanding of people and society, and perhaps even yourself!

What will the course involve?

An A Level in Psychology will involve:

- The study of topics such as attachment, memory, psychopathology and social influence.
- Exploring psychology in context such as different approaches, biopsychology and research methods.
- Investigating issues and options such as relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology.

Assessment is through three examinations.

It is possible to study AS Level Psychology. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

A Level Psychology goes well with Maths, Sciences (especially Biology), Sociology and English Literature.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Psychology is a well-respected subject at A Level and many courses at universities will view your A level very positively. Discussion, negotiation, evaluation, creativity, understanding, tolerance and information technology are all essential skills involved in ANY career you choose in the future.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language at GCSE.

Why should I study Sociology?

Sociology is a brilliant subject to study. It is exciting, challenging and enjoyable. If you are interested in people, or working with people later on, then you *must* consider studying sociology. Studying sociology requires you to see people in an entirely different way. Through studying sociology many of your preconceptions about the people around you will be turned upside down. Sociologists take a critical view of the world in which we live and often come up with ways of doing things better. They analyse human behaviour and look at the forces and influences that shape our lives. As sociologists we will study crime and deviance, the media, social class, gender, ethnicity, youth subcultures and family life. We will also study research methods and put some of these into practice. By the end of the course you will understand the society in which we live, and the reasons why people behave the way in which they do, much better. Sociology offers exciting teaching, plenty of opportunities for discussion and lots of challenging ideas. We have a history of good examination results and we are ambitious for our students. You will be pushed to reach your full potential.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Sociology involves the sociological study of

- Education
- Families and Households
- Methods in Context
- Theory and Methods
- Crime and Deviance
- Beliefs.

Assessment is by examination

How might this course complement others?

Sociology goes extremely well with English, History, Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and many others. It also goes well with the Sciences, particularly Biology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Sociology is welcomed by all good universities for a fantastic range of courses, from Medicine and Law, to Personnel Management, Journalism and Anthropology. In recent years our A level sociologists have gone on to study at most leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Many leading professions, including law and medicine, require grounding in sociology

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in Spanish at GCSE.

Why should I study Spanish?

An A Level qualification in a modern foreign language will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Spanish will involve: Study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing). Translation – both from and into Spanish. Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in Spanish from the specification list of set films and set texts.

Spanish A level will be assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Spanish. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language will make you stand out and could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade B in an Art-based subject at GCSE.

Why should I study Graphics?

Studying Textiles at Fort Pitt gives students the opportunity develop a basis of core textiles techniques through the exploration of hand and machine sewing, embroidery, embellishment and garment design. They are encouraged to develop proficiency with specialist processes like knitting, printing, weaving and the dyeing of fabrics, and to experiment with different types of fabric technologies to resolve creative problems. Students develop their own ideas through research of fashion designers and textiles artists to produce outcomes that range from finished garments to 3D textile installations. They learn about fashion design by studying and deconstructing every-day garments to produce original pieces. Although drawing is an essential part of any art based course, textiles students also rely on photography to record their ideas and produce their own fashion photo-shoots to exhibit their work. The department and has excellent links with University of the Creative Arts which provides a range of opportunities to expose students to the wider industry. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience, such as our trip to the London Fashion Weekender and trips to national craft fairs, such as the Knit and Stitch Show.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects which will enable them to develop their skills and knowledge in their chosen specialist area. At the end of this year each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in their second year. This project brings together previous learning, provides a vehicle for students to really develop their interests in one specialist area and also includes a written component of up to 3,000 words of critical analysis. Students will also complete a 12-hour examination at the end of their first year which is set and assessed internally.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued an examination paper by the examining board, Edexcel, in February of their second year. This will contain a theme and suggested starting points that form the basis of a body of work which culminates in a 12-hour examination, completed over two days at the end of the second year.

How might this course complement others?

Textiles A Level brings together creative and conceptual skills that work well with other subjects such as Drama, Film Studies, Media Studies or English Literature. Students are encouraged to explore advanced concepts with their practical work and their analyses of the work of others, which can complement subjects like History, Politics, Philosophy or Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The creative industries are some of the most successful in the British economy, contributing over £84 billion each year and employing over 2 million people. Our department boasts excellent links with higher and further education institutions, providing an excellent platform for students to develop into a range of different careers.