



THE NORTON
KNATCHBULL
SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

Headteacher's Welcome

Thank you for showing an interest in The Norton Knatchbull School Sixth Form. I hope as you find out more about us that you will see that our approach is not a case of one size fits all. Just as you discover more about us, we want to know and learn about your interests, passions and aspirations - to ensure that you are able to follow a programme which reflects your achievements at GCSE but is also consistent with your ambitions.

Our approach is underpinned by the Knatchbull Baccalaureate, which comprises four key elements:

- Academic Study;
- Enrichment;
- Community and Leadership;
- Extension and Excellence.

Our Sixth Form provides opportunities in each of these areas, and colleagues will work with you in these to support, challenge and push you to achieve the best possible outcomes.

This includes your A Level grades, but also more holistically in developing the qualities, skills and experiences necessary for life in the 21st Century.

Alongside this there is one other commitment we will make – which is to care for you. Our staff – teaching and support - will get to know you. On average our class sizes are smaller than other sixth forms. These smaller classes mean you will experience a richer more in-depth relationship with teachers as you explore subjects more deeply.

If you are joining us from another school, it means you will get to know us, and we will get to know you more quickly and better than you might imagine. This matters in teaching, and it also underpins our pastoral care.

I very much hope to meet and welcome you to the school in person in the New Year. In the meantime, best wishes for the rest of Year 11 – and do not hesitate to contact us to find out more about how we can support your Sixth Form plans.

Headteacher's Welcome

Mission Statement

At The Norton Knatchbull School we are proud of our history, tradition and achievements, at the same time as looking to the future for fresh challenges.



We value each individual for whom they are and their ability to improve and grow.



We share mutual respect based on care, integrity and trust.



We are inspired by a passion for creative and demanding learning experiences.



We work with the wider community to make a positive difference.



We celebrate our achievements, both in the classroom and beyond.

The Mission Statement was written by our student leaders in 2019 and reflects the values and qualities which inspire them as young people in the 21st Century – linking with and resonating with the motto of the school - Benefactorum Recordatio Jucundissima Est,

"Things done well make the best memories" – the words of the school's founder, Sir Norton Knatchbull in 1637.

-Mr Greene





*"Benefactorum Recordatio
Iucundissima Est"*

*Things done well, make the
best memories*



The Sixth Form Team



Sixth Form is an exciting time. Choosing the right path at post-16 level is one of the most important decisions you will make in your school career. The options you decide to follow now will determine the avenues open to you later. We are here to help you make the right choices and to ensure that you are successful. We pride ourselves on our friendly, supportive, welcoming community and we are confident that our Sixth Form will provide you with a vibrant and challenging environment in which you can flourish as an individual.

We offer a multitude of ways in which to build on GCSE successes and specialise in curriculum areas that inspire lifelong interest, learning and careers. There is an expectation that you will aim high and take advantage of the many and varied opportunities in the school to further develop the key qualities of reasoning, reflection and resilience.

As a member of our Sixth Form, you will act as a role model for our younger students, leading, inspiring and supporting them, whilst also pursuing your own academic and personal goals. We strongly believe that the experience in The Norton Knatchbull Sixth Form will enable you to take the next steps in your career with confidence, initiative and maturity.

Our dedicated Sixth Form team have a wealth of experience between them in academic, pastoral and study support and also offer guidance in post 18 options.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form at The Norton Knatchbull School.

The Sixth Form Team



“The academic and pastoral support available at NKS is phenomenal – the teachers are very supportive and informative. If there is anything wrong or you feel you are struggling, there is ALWAYS someone that you can talk to”

Year 12 student



Entry Criteria

Entry requirements:

- A minimum of six separately identifiable GCSE subjects at grade 6 or above, OR an average of grade 6 in the best six GCSE subjects achieved.
- At least a grade 5 in both English and Mathematics.
- For most subjects at A Level, a grade 6 in the subject at GCSE is required.
- However, for A Level Mathematics a grade 7 is required, and for Further Mathematics a grade 8 is necessary.
- There are also specific requirements for the Sciences. Please see these sections for further details.

Internal & External Applicants:

The application window is between Wednesday 3rd January 2024 to Friday 26th January 2024 and should be completed through Kent Choices www.kentprospectus.co.uk

Any late applications or queries should be sent via email to SixthFormRecruitment@nks.kent.sch.uk

Informal discussions about options are planned to begin in February 2024.

We are happy to offer students the opportunity of bespoke tours of the school and its facilities.



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“The atmosphere here is also amazing, there is always somewhere I can go and someone I can talk to, where I can cry and laugh, and I’m always understood. If you are feeling nervous or need a general chat the staff are absolutely fabulous“. *Year 13 student*



Fine Art (Edexcel)

Course overview:

The Fine Art A Level seeks to engage students with both the aesthetic and intellectual concepts imbued within traditional and contemporary art. Students explore themes through experimenting with traditional and/or digital media, materials and processes in their own designated studio space. Throughout the course, students have an opportunity to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions or preconceptions. They can also explore personal and cultural identity, society, visual language and technology. Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

The course comprises two components: Component 1 begins at the start of Year 12, when students develop their skills by engaging in practical workshops, including painting and drawing, printmaking and ceramics. Students work alongside professional artists to raise the standard of their skills, gain an awareness of working in the arts industry and to find their artistic strengths. Component 2 is an externally set exam by Edexcel.

Component 1 allows students 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 outcomes. It incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study.

Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes, based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. Students are expected to commit to 5 hours of independent study every week, in addition to their timetabled lessons.

The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication, showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum of 1,000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of component 1 coursework mark (60%).

Exam format:

Incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies during lesson and homework studies, and a 15-hour period of sustained focus under controlled conditions.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Art & Design; BTEC Art course Distinction Award.

Courses and career ideas:

Animation, Architecture, Art History, Art Psychotherapy, Concept Artist, Fashion Design, Game Artist, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Museum/Gallery Curator, Press Photographer, Textile Design, Product Design, Visual Communication, Special Effects Artist, Stage Set and Costume Design and more...

Biology (Edexcel/ SNAB)

Course overview:

Developed in conjunction with leading subject experts from the University of York Science Education Group in collaboration with schools, universities and biological scientists, the SNAB course offers a context-led approach to A Level Biology designed to stimulate scientific interest and enquiry.

Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk

Topic 2: Genes and Health

Topic 3: Voice of the Genome

Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources

Topic 5: On the Wild Side

Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics

Topic 7: Run for Your Life

Topic 8: Grey Matter

[Edexcel AS and A level Biology A 2015 | Pearson qualifications](#)

Further information on the content of these topics can be found in the specification which can be download from the Edexcel examination board website. The course is fully supported by an extensive online resource at <http://www.activelearn.com>.

Exam format:

Paper 1: The Natural Environment and Species Survival – a 2-hour paper examining Topics 1-6. The paper may include multiple-choice, short open, open response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 2: Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination – a 2-hour paper examining Topics 1-4 and 7-8. The question format is the same as in Paper 1.

Paper 3: General and Practical Applications in Biology – a 2-hour paper examining Topics 1-8. The paper will include synoptic questions which may be based on two or more topics. A **pre-release article** will underpin one exam question. All three papers will be taken at the end of the course for first assessment in summer 2026. They each have the same weighting.

Science Practical Endorsement –CPAC specific competency in a range of practical skills across 18 practicals will be assessed internally by the teacher and a pass or fail awarded. The Endorsement will not contribute to the overall grade for this qualification.

Entry requirements:

GCSE Biology grade 6 or GCSE Combined Science grades 7-7. (A grade 6 in English and Mathematics is essential).

Courses and career ideas:

Agriculture, Animal Behaviour, Biochemistry, Biology, Biosciences, Biotechnology, Dentistry, Dietetics, Ecology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Horticulture, Marine Biology, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Wildlife Conservation.

Business Studies (AQA)

Course overview:

We study 10 different aspects of business.

- 1: What is business?
- 2: Managers, leadership and decision making
- 3: Decision making to improve marketing performance
- 4: Decision making to improve operational performance
- 5: Decision making to improve financial performance
- 6: Decision making to improve human resource performance
- 7: Analysing the strategic position of a business
- 8: Choosing strategic direction
- 9: Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- 10: Managing strategic change

Exam format:

Paper 1: This is a written 2-hour examination worth 100 marks in total. This paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level weighting. There are 3 compulsory sections:

Section A has 15 multiple choice questions worth 15 marks

Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks

Sections C and D have 2 essay questions worth 25 marks each (there is a choice of one from two on both sections)

Paper 2: This is a written 2-hour examination worth 100 marks in total. This paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level weighting. There are 3 data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of 3 or 4 part questions.

Paper 3: This is a written 2-hour examination worth 100 marks in total. This paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level weighting. There is one compulsory case study followed by approximately 6 questions.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Business Studies OR, for those who have not studied Business Studies previously, GCSE grade 6 in English. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable).

Courses and career ideas:

Accountancy, Banking and Finance, Business Management, Business Studies, Economics, Financial Services, Human Resource Management, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Marketing, Retail Management.

Chemistry (OCR)

Course overview:

OCR A provides a flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Chemists will study:

- Foundations in Chemistry
- Periodic Table and Energy
- Core Organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Transition Elements
- Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed both through written papers and the Practical Endorsement. This is a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

Further information on the specification can be found
[OCR A Chemistry](#)

Exam format:

- Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (37% of grade)
- Paper 2: Synthesis and analytical techniques (37% of grade)
- Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (26% of grade)
- Non-exam assessment: Practical Endorsement (Reported separately)

Entry requirements:

GCSE Chemistry grade 6 or GCSE Combined grades Science 7-7. (A grade 6 in Mathematics is essential).

Courses and career ideas:

Applied Chemistry, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Environmental Chemistry, Forensic Science, Geology, Materials Science, Nanotechnology, Petroleum Engineering, Pharmacology, Pharmacy.

Classical Civilisation (OCR)

Course overview:

Over the two-year course, candidates will engage with the ancient worlds of Athens and Rome through a broad, coherent and rewarding series of study units. Students will study:

The World of the Hero In this compulsory component students will study Homer's *Odyssey*, as well as Virgil's *Aeneid*. Learners will develop an increasingly sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding of the epics themselves, the way in which they were composed, and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of its society. These texts are highly popular, giving opportunities to study the wonderful stories from Greek and Roman mythology.

Imperial Image The idea of a politician 'spinning' their public image is one which is very familiar from our contemporary media; and so, this exploration of a Roman politician and his successful propaganda campaign is both highly relevant and engaging for learners. Augustus Caesar was, through careful management of public opinion, able to convince a society that was fundamentally anti-monarchical to turn away from its republican values and to accept one-man rule. Through an examination of the literature and visual/ material culture of the period, students will assess the effectiveness of each strand of his self-presentation, as well as the effectiveness of his public image as a whole.

Politics of The Late Republic looks at a period of upheaval and conflicting views on how the Roman state should function. These conflicts saw the Republic develop, change and ultimately fall, leading to the rise of the Roman Emperors. Students will study the political thought of the period through examining Marcus Porcius Cato ('Cato the Younger'), Gaius Julius Caesar, and Marcus Tullius Cicero whose very different ideas bring this tumultuous period to life for students. Our studies move beyond simply studying ideals and abstracts, into discussion of the practical difficulties familiar to states throughout history to the discussions around populist politics being played out in the UK and the wider world today.

Exam format:

There is NO COURSEWORK attached to this course. Assessment will be through examinable components only.

Entry requirements:

No prior knowledge of Classical Civilisation is required. Minimum GCSE grade 5 in English/English Literature. No knowledge of other languages, including Latin and ancient Greek is necessary. All texts are in English.

Combines well with:

English Literature, History, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Politics, Philosophy, Science and Languages, Drama.

Computer Science (OCR)

Course overview:

Computer Science focuses on how computers and information systems work, how their components interact, and on learning the planning, writing and testing of algorithms and programs using logical and mathematical skills.

Unit 1: focusing on processors, input/output and storage devices, software and software development, exchange of data, data types, data structures, legal aspects of computer science.

Unit 2: focusing on computational thinking, problem solving, programming and algorithms.

Unit 1 (2nd year): focusing on software and software development, exchange of data, data types, data structures, legal aspects of computer science at a more advanced level than Year 12.

Unit 2 (2nd year): focusing on computational thinking, problem solving, programming and algorithms at a more advanced level than Year 12.

Unit 3 (2nd year): Individual programming project.

Exam format:

Unit 1: Written Examination 2 hr 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 2: Written Examination 2 hr 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 3: Coursework project (20%)

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Computer Science. Students who do not study Computer Science – Grade 7+ in Mathematics may be considered alongside independent completion of a high level language programming course (eg Python, VB or Javascript). Contact Mr M Gowen for details.

Courses and career ideas:

Business information systems, Business Computing, Business Studies, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Engineering, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Philosophy, Sciences.

Drama & Theatre Studies (Edexcel)

Course overview:

This course is an examination of Drama and Theatre throughout history and requires students to develop their skills as a director, designer and/or performer. The course is broken down into 3 components:

Component 1: Devising

This unit requires students to perform an original and unique piece of theatre from a play extract and a recognised theatre practitioner. Students are marked on their performance and design as well as a portfolio that they create during the process of developing their piece.

Component 2: Text in Performance

Students will be required to perform either a monologue or a duologue from a key extract of one play, along with the performance of a key extract from another play as a group piece. There is also the option to design the lighting, set, costume or sound for the two pieces instead.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Students will be assessed on: a theatre evaluation of a live performance; the practical exploration and study of a complete text; the practical exploration and study of another complete text in the light of a chosen theatre practitioner, focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a modern audience.

Exam format:

Component 1 is worth 40% of the overall A Level and is marked out of 80. The devised piece can either be a written or recorded document.

Component 2 is worth 20% of the overall A Level and is marked out of 60. This piece is marked by a visiting external examiner.

Component 3 is worth 40% of the overall A Level and is marked out of 80. This paper takes the form of a 2 and a half hour written examination

Entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama is an advantage but not essential. Students should have at least a grade 6 in GCSE English in order to cope with the written coursework and examination demands of the course.

Courses and career ideas:

Actor or Theatre Technician, Film Production, Event's Organiser, Barrister, Teacher/Lecturer, Education Officer, indeed any line of work that requires presentation skills.

Combines well with:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama is an advantage but not essential. Students should have at least a grade 6 in GCSE English in order to cope with the written coursework and examination demands of the course.

Economics

(Edexcel)

Course overview:

Microeconomics

- 1.1 The nature of economics
- 1.2 How markets work
- 1.3 Market failure
- 1.4 Government intervention
- 3.1 Business growth
- 3.2 Business objectives
- 3.3 Revenues, costs and profit
- 3.4 Market structures
- 3.5 The labour market
- 3.6 Government intervention

Macroeconomics

- 2.1 Measuring economic performance
- 2.2 Aggregate demand and supply
- 2.3 National income
- 2.4 Economic growth
- 2.5 Macroeconomic objectives and policy
- 4.1 International economics
- 4.2 Poverty and inequality
- 4.3 Emerging and developing economies
- 4.4 The financial sector
- 4.5 Role of the state in macroeconomy

Exam format:

- Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour
2 hour written exam worth 100 marks. Comprises 35% of the total A Level
- Paper 2: The National and Global Economy
2 hour written exam worth 100 marks. Comprises 35% of the total A Level
- Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
2 hour written exam worth 100 marks. Comprises 30% of the total A Level

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Economics OR, for those who have not studied Economics previously, GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics.

Courses and career ideas:

Accountancy, Banking, Business Finance, Economics, International Business Economics, Mathematics, Politics, Statistics.

English Literature

(AQA)

Course overview:

Studying English Literature will equip students with a variety of transferable skills such as; writing, analysis, applying context and reading for meaning. It will allow students to study a variety of texts in depth and explore the texts in their historical period and their importance to today's world

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

You will focus on the theme of love and study a Shakespeare play, an anthology of poetry from Tudor times to the modern day and a novel

Paper 2: World War One and its Aftermath

You will study three texts linked by the theme of war. These will be in the form of poetry, drama and prose and come from a range of writers and perspectives from WW1 poets to contemporary writers such as Ben Elton and Pat Barker.

NEA: Coursework

You will produce an essay of 2,500 words based on a study of two texts of your choice linked by theme. These can be prose, drama or poetry ranging from themes such as gothic, race, identity and dystopia.

Exam format:

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

3 hours written exam, comprises 40% of the A Level

Focuses on texts links through the theme of love including a Shakespeare play, modern prose and poetry.

Paper 2: World War One and its aftermath

2 hours 30 mins written exam. Comprises 40% of the A Level.

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000.

NEA: Course work, comprises 20% of the A Level.

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English Literature or English Language.

Courses and career ideas:

Communication Studies, Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, Journalism, Media Studies, Theatre Studies.

Teacher, lecturer, writer, actor, theatre critic, journalist, lawyer, librarian, editor, publisher and many more.

English Language & Literature (Combined Edexcel)

Course overview:

Studying English Language and Literature together is a great combination and one which will equip students with a variety of transferable skills such as; writing, analysis, applying context and reading for meaning.

The course is perfect if you enjoy not only the creative aspects of the written word, but also if you're interested in how literature and language reflect society. It will complement your other studies and prepare you well for university and your future career.

Students will combine the skills developed in the separate qualifications of GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language and learn to apply these to texts in an integrated approach.

Learners will be required to study a range of literature texts including Shakespeare and modern texts. These texts will be explored through the prism of language analysis. The content of A level English Language and Literature is broader than that of other English A levels because, in addition to the study of novels, poetry and plays, it includes the study of non-fiction and spoken texts as well as providing exciting opportunities for creative writing.

Exam format:

At Norton Knatchbull we teach Edexcel's English Language and Literature specification which covers six set texts and is made up of three components:

- 1 – Voices in Speech and Writing Examined component worth 40%.
- 2 – Varieties in Language and Literature also examined and worth 40%.
- 3 – Investigating and Creating Texts and is the Coursework component worth 20%.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

Students can progress from A level language and literature to higher education courses such as degrees in English, English literature, creative writing or in related subjects such as journalism, media, teaching, drama, and history amongst others.

Courses and career ideas:

There are also a wide range of careers which are directly related to English language or literature, such as teacher, editor, writer, or in areas such as publishing, journalism, the media, advertising, marketing, public relations, arts administration, record offices, libraries, national and local government and the civil service.

Enrichment

Sixth Form enrichment here at NKS is compulsory for all students. It is an opportunity for our students to explore any interests they may have beyond their examined curriculums.

Our enrichment courses/activities provide students with the necessary skills which help to prepare them for their next steps. A catalogue of transferrable skills will be taught, learnt and improved on aiding them in their transition in life after NKS.

The enrichment programme is delivered every Wednesday period 5. Having a dedicated period, which is consistent and regular, ensures students are actively participating with the opportunities provided to them. Those who are proactive and engage the most, benefit hugely from the programme.

Enrichment activities on offer include:

- Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – A recognised qualification which is equivalent to half an A Level;
- Sports ;
- Young Enterprise Initiative;
- Learning to drive support;
- Eco-Society;
- MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses) – A flexible way to learn new skills and prepare for working careers;
- Work experience;
- Community volunteering;
- First aid;
- CAD CAM;
- Sign Language;
- Passing your theory Test & Prep.

Alternative enrichment activities

Students can also use their enrichment time to attend any clubs/societies that are on offer in the school, such as the Debating or Journalism Societies.



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ- AQA)

Course overview:

The EPQ is an additional qualification worth half an A Level which allows students to demonstrate their passions and interests to universities and employers. The course is self-directed with students deciding on the area of study. They must plan, research and develop their idea to realise their finished product which takes the form of:

1. A 5,000 word report, or an artefact (such as a computer programme, an architectural model or a piece of art) plus a 1,000 word report.
2. A Production Log detailing the development of the project.
3. A short presentation of their findings.

Students are supported by individual supervisors and the Centre Coordinator, who delivers a programme of taught skills to aid successful completion of the project. These skills include:

- Developing a suitable title;
- Project management to facilitate independent working;
- Research techniques to enable the selection and evaluation of appropriate resources;
- Ethical research and the collection and analysis of data;
- Formatting and structuring research reports to accepted academic standards;
- Referencing and avoiding plagiarism;
- Presentation techniques.

AQA guidance states that EPQ students can expect to spend 120 hours over an academic year including the 30 hours of taught skills. Project content must not directly overlap with other subjects being studied.

Exam format:

Centre assessed on completion of essay/artefact, log and presentation.

Entry requirements:

Open to all students at the discretion of the Sixth Form Team.

Courses and career ideas:

The EPQ is recognised by universities as evidence of independent research skills and is relevant to all courses.

French (Edexcel)

Course overview:

France is the most visited country in the world and over 200million people speak French as their mother tongue. Furthermore, French is, alongside English, the most influential language at a diplomatic level. Learning French at A Level will not only provide you with an excellent starting-point to your university application, but also with an invaluable tool in an increasingly more globalised society.

The A Level French course at NKS will allow you to explore the language not only from a linguistic perspective, but also to enhance your problem-solving skills while you become a true critical thinker.

The course covers a wide range of cultural, sociological, political and historical topics centred on France and French-speaking countries, such as the evolution of the family structure, the importance of tourism, the effects of the media on popular perception or the occupation of France during WWII.

Alongside these topics, you will learn how to analyse in depth a French film and you will also take a closer look at a novel.

Exam format:

Paper 1 – Listening, reading and translation (40%)

Paper 2 – Written response to works and translation (30%)

Paper 3 – Speaking (30%)

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in French.

Courses and career ideas:

A huge range of modern foreign languages are available – studied on their own or combined with another subject e.g. History, Business Studies, European Studies, Linguistics, Law, Management and Translation Studies.

Further Mathematics (Edexcel)

Course overview:

Students who choose Further Maths follow a two-year course. In their first year, they complete A level Maths. In their second year, they complete A Level Further Maths. For A level Maths content, please refer to page 26.

For Further Maths, students cover the following core content: Complex numbers, Proof, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further Vectors, Polar co-ordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations.

In addition, students cover two additional options from the following: Further Pure, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics and Decision Maths. These options are chosen by the relevant teacher and students on the course and all students study the same chosen options.

Exam format:

All content is assessed at the end of the course. Further Maths A Level is 100% examination based. Alongside these exams, students will also sit the A Level Mathematics examinations.

Paper 1: Further Pure Maths covering the core pure content - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 2: Further Pure Maths covering the core pure content - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 3: Further Maths Option 1 - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 4: Further maths Option 2 - 75 marks. Duration 1 hour 30 minutes.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics.

Courses and career ideas:

Actuarial Science, Accountancy, Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Financial Services, Mathematics, Software Engineering, Statistics.

Geography (AQA)

Course overview:

A. Physical Geography:

- Water and carbon cycles;
- Coastal systems and landscapes;
- Hazards.

B. Human Geography:

- Global systems and global governance;
- Changing places;
- Contemporary urban environments.

C. Geography investigation.

D. Geographical skills.

Exam format:

Component 1 Physical Geography:

Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes, 96 marks - 40% of A-Level.

Section A: Water and carbon cycles;

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes;

Section C: Hazards.

Component 2 Human Geography:

Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes, 96 marks - 40% of A-Level.

Section A: Global systems and global governance;

Section B: Changing places;

Section C: Contemporary urban environments.

Component 3 Geographical investigation:

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content: 3,000–4,000 words/35 marks - 20% of A Level.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Geography.

Courses and career ideas:

Those who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad and many (many) more.

History Route A (AQA)

Course overview:

War, revolution, romance, communism, medieval warfare, nuclear bombs, optimism and despair are some of the more dramatic elements that students will study in Route A. There are three components in this linear A-Level: two examined topics and one coursework topic.

Component 1 covers the arc of Russian history from Tsarism, through the Revolution and up to the peak of the Cold War (1855–1964). This topic also teaches students how to pass judgement on numerous historians' interpretations on Russian history, from left and right. Component 2 is a classic study of fear, dysfunctional families, lust and vicious battles in early modern England: the Wars of the Roses (1450–99). This topic also enables students to find value in contemporary historical writings, despite the bias, distortion and propaganda of Lancastrian, Yorkist and Tudor sources. The coursework will cover the evolution of US foreign policy 1890–2000 from sleeping giant to world superpower.

Exam format:

Component 1: Russia 1855–1964 (40%, examination end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes);

Component 2: Wars of the Roses (40%, examination end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes);

Component 3: U.S. Foreign Policy (20%, coursework).

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in History. History students require a keen interest in events which have shaped the politics and society of the world. You will need to be willing to discuss the topics in lesson and work/read independently in order to strengthen the work done in lesson. Students should also be prepared to present, occasionally, their findings. You should also have an interest in developing your understanding of the historian's craft: analysing and evaluating the value of sources and the validity of various interpretations.

Courses and career ideas:

History, Law, Journalism, Sociology, Business, Politics, International Relations, Archaeology, Media, English, Education, American Studies, Heritage Studies, Ancient History, Medieval Studies, Social History.

Please Note: For Route B – PTO. **Please Note:** Students who would like to study History A-Level have two options: our long-running Route A, and a new Route B. Route A will run next year, as usual. Route B may run if there is sufficient demand. Applicants to the History A-Level should apply to study History A-Level at NKS, only if they are prepared to study **either** route.

Combines well with:

Politics, Classical Civilisations, English Literature, Geography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy.

History Route B (AQA)

Course overview:

Dictators, assassinations, burnings, rebellion, global warfare and the word of God are some of the key themes that students will study as part of route B. There are 3 components in this linear A-Level: two examined topics and one coursework topic. In Component 1 students will study the newly unified Germany from 1871 through wars, democracy and division until reunification in 1991. Students who have studied German history before will be able to see how the Weimar and Nazi periods fit into the wider context of German history.

Component 2 sees students having to pick their way through the religious and governmental intrigue of the 16th century to discover what drove change in the period. Students will be able to weigh up the relative importance of religious doctrine in changing England against the importance of political factors like the monarchy. How much did the people of England shape their own future? These are all questions that will be covered in an in-depth course stretching from 1539-1570, covering 4 monarchs, 5 rebellions, numerous wars and countless beheadings.

The coursework element will cover the evolution of warfare 1880-2000. Students will be offered a range of possible questions so as to follow up their own particular area of interest in military development. This could take the form of an analysis of how far military strategy and tactics have developed and the causes/consequences of this over the period, or it could even be an assessment of the extent to which armoured warfare has changed over the 20th Century.

Exam format:

Component 1: Germany, 1871–1991(40%, exam at end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes).

Component 2: Religious conflict and the Church in England, c1529–c1570 (40%, exam at end of Y13: 2 hours 30 minutes).

Component 3: The Development of Warfare 1880-2000 (20%, coursework), TBC.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in History. History students require a keen interest in events which have shaped the politics and society of the world. You will need to be willing to discuss the topics in lesson and work/read independently in order to strengthen the work done in lesson. Students should also be prepared to present, occasionally, their findings. You should also have an interest in developing your understanding of the historian's craft: analysing and evaluating the value of sources and the validity of various interpretations.

Courses and career ideas:

History, Law, Journalism, Sociology, Business, Politics, International Relations, Archaeology, Media, English, Education, American Studies, Heritage Studies, Ancient History, Medieval Studies, Social History.

Please Note: Students who would like to study History A-level have two options: our long-running Route A, and a new Route B. Route A will run next year, as usual. Route B may run if there is sufficient demand. Applicants to the History A-level should apply to study History A-level at NKS, only if they are prepared to study **either** route.

Combines well with:

Politics, Classical Civilisations, English Literature, Geography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy.

Mathematics (Edexcel)

Course overview:

This is a challenging and popular course. It covers two main elements: Pure Mathematics and Applications.

Pure elements:

These elements provide students with the tools and techniques required to solve problems in other areas of mathematics, for example Science and Engineering.

The course starts by developing algebra skills before moving into:

- Proof;
- Algebra and functions;
- Coordinate geometry;
- Sequences and series;
- Trigonometry;
- Calculus;
- Numerical methods.

Applications – students' study two areas:

- Statistics;
- Mechanics.

Exam format:

Assessment is linear with examinations at the end of the two-year course. The course is 100% examination based.

Paper 1: Pure Maths 1 (100 marks). 2-hour duration.

Paper 2: Pure Maths 2 (100 marks). 2-hour duration.

Paper 3: Section A: Statistics (50 marks). Section B: Mechanics (50 marks). 2-hour duration.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.

Courses and career ideas:

Actuarial Science, Accountancy, Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Financial Services, Mathematics, Software Engineering, Statistics.

Media Studies (Eduqas)

Course overview:

In Media Studies, students will study a wide range of media concepts and theories from Feminism to Marxism, postmodernism to realism. Students will study a plethora of texts from an array of eras including; music videos, magazines, documentaries, film, advertising, computer games and television. Students will have the opportunity to analyse and discuss these texts, considering their impact on us as media practitioners, and society as a whole. Students will also have the opportunity to create media texts, producing media in a given genre, be it a music video or a magazine cover, and acting creatively to show all they have learned.

Exam format:

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes, 35% of qualification: The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of two sections:

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers. There are two questions in this section:

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences This section assesses two of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes, 35% of qualification. The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts.

It consists of three sections:

Section A – Television in the Global Age

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media

Section C – Media in the Online Age

Component 3: Cross-Media Production

Non exam assessment, 30% of qualification: An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

Courses and career ideas:

Advertising, Journalism, Radio-Film-and-Television, Sociology, Politics, Psychology, Communication Studies, Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, Film Studies, Media Studies, Theatre Studies

Music (Eduqas/WJEC)

Course overview:

Music A Level allows students to pursue their own interests in terms of performance, developing their skills as musicians and performers. Both solo and ensemble performances are permitted, the choice being that of the students. Complementing this practical element are composition and appraising skills.

Having one of the two compositions from a brief, the other being free choice echoes the format of the GCSE, forming a smooth transition between the two qualifications. Similarly, the Appraising paper echoes that taken at GCSE, requiring a more in-depth analysis at A Level.

All the skills acquired and used to study music at A Level; teamwork, analysis, communication, resilience make music an excellent supporting and contrasting subject choice.

Performing: 10-12 minutes of performance of a minimum of 3 pieces. This can be as a soloist, part of an ensemble or both. (35% of exam total).

Composing: 2 compositions lasting between 4-6 mins. One must be from a set brief given in Sept of yr13, the other is a free choice. (25% of exam total).

Appraising: 3 areas from the list below.

Area A: (compulsory) The development of the symphony 1750-1900.

One of:

Area B: Rock and Pop OR

Area C: Musical Theatre OR

Area D: Jazz

Either: Area E: Into the 20th Century OR

Area F: Into the 21st Century

Exam format:

Performing: 10-12 mins performance non-exam assessment.

Composing: 4-6 mins submission to board non exam assessment.

Appraising Exam : 2hr 15mins (40% of exam total).

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Music. Students should have a grade 5 in a musical instrument or the equivalent aptitude with a sound knowledge of the theory, a grade 5 in theory or willing to work towards this in year 12.

Courses and career ideas:

Radio, Film and TV, Music Production, Performing, Music Therapy, Teaching, Sound engineering, Music performance, BIMM, Royal Academy. RCM, Guildhall, Huddersfield, Manchester, Durham.

Physical Education (AQA)

Course overview:

Physical Education at A Level is designed to be run over a two-year linear programme, with students sitting examinations at the end of the two-year course. During the course of the two years, students will be engaged in the following material that naturally links into a degree level programme of study for Sports Science:

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

Exam format:

The course is assessed both academically and practically, and is split as follows:

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport - worth 35% of the A Level

- - Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology;
- - Section B: skill acquisition;
- - Section C: Sport and society.

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport - worth 35% of the A Level

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

Practical assessment (NEA): Practical performance in physical activity and sport - worth 30% of the A Level

- Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity;
- Students also have to do a written analysis of performance.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Physical Education (**written examination**) OR, for those who have not studied PE previously, a GCSE grade 6 in Biology or Additional Science. Students should be actively participating in a recognised sport to a good club or low-level county standard and representing their school in at least one other sport.

Courses and career ideas:

Health Studies, Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Marketing, Sports Science.

Physics (OCR A)

Course overview:

In the first year Physics students will study: Development of Practical Skills in Physics; Foundations of Physics; Forces and Motion and Electrons; Waves and Photons.

In the second year, students will study the aforementioned topics as well as the Newtonian World, Astrophysics, Fields, Particles, Radioactivity Nuclear and Medical Physics.

The teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed both through written papers and the Practical Endorsement.

Exam format:

Paper Content	% of Grade	Examined
1 Modelling Physics	37%	
2 Exploring Physics	37%	
3 Unified Physics	26%	

Non-exam assessment: Practical Endorsement Reported separately (on-going).

Entry requirements:

GCSE Physics grade 7 or GCSE Combined grades Science 7-7.
(A grade 6 in Mathematics is essential.)

Courses and career ideas:

Acoustics, Applied Physics, Astrophysics, Electronics, Engineering – from Aerospace and Civil to Mechanical and Marine Engineering, Geophysics, Optometry, Physics, Radiography, Astrobiology, Astrochemistry, solid state physics, banking and financial sector.

Politics (AQA)

Course overview:

It's time to re-write the Politics textbooks...again. UK and US politics have been through a lot in the last few years. The premierships of Johnson and...Truss. The Presidency of Trump...will there be another...?

Lively, relevant and controversial...there are many ways to describe A-level Politics but there is no denying that it is one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.

This course will introduce you to the British and US political systems, the theories (such as Marxism, conservatism and anarchism) which underpin, or seek to challenge them. Politics is taught through a lively, investigative approach and offers challenge to all abilities. A wide range of methods and techniques is employed, including research, presentation, debate, role-play, drama, AV and ICT. All help to stimulate deeper understanding and sharpen analytical skills

Exam format:

Paper 1

Government and politics of the UK

Written exam: 2 hours

33⅓ % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Paper 2

The government and politics of the USA

Comparative politics

Written exam: 2 hours

33⅓ % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Paper 3

Political ideas

Written exam: 2 hours

33⅓ % of A-level

Questions: a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 5 or above in a humanities subject such as History, Geography. Politics students need to be comfortable with plenty of extended reading and writing.

Courses and career ideas:

Politics, History, Law, International Relations, Social Policy, Peace Studies, Social Sciences.

Combines well with:

History, Classical Civilisations, English Literature, Geography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy.

Product Design: Design & Technology (AQA)

Course overview:

This specification is designed to encourage candidates to:

- develop a broad view of design and technology;
- develop their capacity to design and make products;
- appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Year 12 outline

In Year 12, students develop an understanding of core technical principals, core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge. Students build on their previous knowledge by undertaking a variety of projects designed to broaden their knowledge and skills across the key areas including: Communication, Investigation, analysis, designing, developing, problem solving, planning, realisation and evaluation.

Year 13 outline

In Year 13, students build on their subject knowledge, technical understanding in preparation for the examinations. They undertake one large projects to design and prototype a product. The product is client-based and relies on client testing and feedback throughout the project, combined with in-depth knowledge of materials, processes and production techniques to produce a commercially viable product.

Exam format:

Paper 1: Technical principles –

30% of A-level. 2.5 hour written paper. 120 marks.

Mixture of short answer and extended response.

Paper 2: Designing and making principles–

20% of A-level. 1.5 hour written paper. 80 marks.

Mixture of short answer and extended response questions

Section A (30 marks).

Product Analysis -up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of products

Section B (50 marks).

Commercial Manufacture- short and extended response questions.

Non-Exam Assessment –

50% of A-level. 45 hours. 100 marks.

Substantial design and make task - evidenced by a design portfolio and final prototype.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Product Design.

Course and Career ideas:

Architecture, Building Studies, Engineering, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Model-making, Project management, Marketing, Product Design.

Psychology (AQA)

Course overview:

Compulsory content:

- 1 Social influence.
- 2 Memory.
- 3 Attachment.
- 4 Psychopathology.
- 5 Approaches in Psychology.
- 6 Biopsychology.
- 7 Research methods.
- 8 Issues and debates in Psychology.

Optional:

- Option 1 9 Relationships 10 Gender 11 Cognition and development.
Option 2 12 Schizophrenia 13 Eating behaviour 14 Stress.
Option 3 15 Aggression 16 Forensic Psychology 17 Addiction.

Exam format:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Compulsory content 1–4 above assessed in written exam: 2 hours, 96 marks in total
33.3% of A Level

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Compulsory content 5–7 above assessed in written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total
33.3% of A Level

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

Compulsory content 8 above plus optional content, one from option 1, 9–11, one from option 2, 12–14, one from option 3, 15–17 above assessed in written exam: 2 hours
96 marks in total
33.3% of A Level

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English and grade 6 in Mathematics is essential.

Courses and career ideas:

As a Psychology graduate, you can either move into the field of becoming a psychologist or pursue a wide range of other relevant careers such as forensics, mental health, law and medicine. Becoming a psychologist typically requires lots of additional study and work experience after you've finished your degree.

Sociology

(AQA)

Course overview:

Sociology is sometimes difficult to easily define. According to the textbook definition, it is 'the study of society and people and their behaviour', but this is only a small part of what you will learn and discover by taking Sociology.

Broadly, the subject considers different relationships that we form; whether this be through education, the family or the wider world. It also focuses on questions concerning our identity: How do you become *you*? How do social factors – such as class, age, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality – influence those around you? How are our lives changed by new social, political, technological, and cultural events and movements like COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter?

A Level Sociology provides you with a training in how to answer these enormously important and wide-ranging questions. It will give you a wider understanding of important aspects of society, and of how sociologists study and explain people's behaviour.

In developing a 'sociological imagination', you will receive a practical and theoretical training in how to answer the 'what', 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving you a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students considering careers in the public sector, or business. It is a fascinating and ever-changing topic that can lead to many different career paths.

Exam format:

- Paper 1 - Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper 2 - Topics in Sociology – Families and Households, followed by Beliefs in Society.
- Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

3 written examinations (80 Marks in each paper), each 2 hours long.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in English. Students should also have a genuine interest in exploring topics related to culture and identity, power and politics. Students are encouraged to speak from personal experience but should be prepared to question their assumptions and common-sense ideas.

Courses and career ideas:

Criminology, Law, Policing, Criminal Justice, International Relations, Psychology, Social Policy, Social Research, the Civil Service, Public Relations, Marketing
Sociology is a wide-ranging subject. As an A Level student, you will receive a training in how to 'think sociologically'. This critical capacity is highly valued by employers and universities and will support you in a range of subjects.

Combines well with:

Psychology, Politics, History, Philosophy, Business Studies, Media Studies, English Language & Literature, Geography, Art

Spanish (Edexcel)

Course overview:

Over 400 million people speak Spanish as their mother tongue, making it the second most spoken language in the world and a very useful tool in an increasingly more globalised society.

The A Level Spanish course at NKS will allow you to explore the language not only from a purely linguistic perspective, but also to enhance your problem-solving skills while you become a true critical thinker.

The course covers a wide range of cultural, sociological, political and historical topics centred on Spain and Spanish-speaking countries, such as the evolution of the family structure, the importance of tourism, the effects of the media on popular perception or the Spanish civil war and Franco's dictatorship.

Alongside these topics, you will learn how to analyse in depth a Hispanic film during your first year; while in Year 13, you will take a closer look at a Spanish novel.

Exam format:

The final examinations consist of three units at the end of the two-year course.

These units test students in the skills of speaking, listening, writing, reading and translation.

Paper 1= Listening, Reading and translation into English 40% of the qualification.

Paper 2= Written response to works and translation into Spanish 30% of the qualification.

Paper 3= Speaking 30% of the qualification.

Entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.

Courses and career ideas:

A huge range of modern foreign languages are available – studied on their own or combined with another subject, such as European Studies, Linguistics, Journalism, Politics, International Relations.

Beyond the Taught Curriculum

Your academic achievement are important but nowadays it is not enough to just have a good set of grades. Therefore, we offer much more than just the taught curriculum. We do this by offering a wide range of extracurricular activities and societies. Some of these include:

LiNKS

Ladies in Norton Knatchbull School (LiNKS) Society was formed by the female Sixth Form students several years ago as an additional support mechanism to give the female students a platform to discuss any concerns and put forward ideas to help facilitate the transition into NKS Sixth Form. The Society has undertaken a wide variety of ventures including monthly meetings, coffee mornings, assemblies on sexism, dress policy reviews, female only gym slots, netball games and sexual health meetings. Our Year 13 ladies take over the running of the society and students are trained in peer mentoring to provide help if needed. The atmosphere is relaxed and inclusive and the meetings are a sociable and enjoyable event.

Peer Mentoring/ Academic Mentoring

In addition to the peer mentoring offered by Sixth Formers we also encourage academic mentoring and students that volunteer are regularly used as mentors to both the lower school students and other Sixth Formers. This is an invaluable resource to students who may be in need of additional academic support and is also an effective revision tool for the mentors who use the sessions to re-visit material from previous years and test their knowledge. This support is delivered in a variety of ways whether it be face to face, by phone, email or on-line. The feedback from both mentors and mentees is extremely positive and we are proud that so many of our students take part in this excellent scheme and of the sense of community it breeds.

Med Soc

The Society is aimed at those with a passion for medicine and veterinary medicine and those looking to pursue these fields. At Med Soc we ensure all med students are well prepared for their future and informed of different areas and aspects of medicine.

Most predominantly we discuss medical schools and application as well as many talks and discussions around areas of the medical field. We also welcome those with any sort of interest in biology and the sciences. Over the time we had the Medical Society running, we have held many events including:

- Various talks from specialists and doctors, as well as ex-students who have progressed to university;
- First aid training from Ambulance Cadets;
- Presentations held by students on areas of medicine that interested them;
- Suture practice taught by a junior doctor;
- Assistance with BMAT and UCAT, university applications.



THE NORTON KNATCHBULL SCHOOL

Hythe Road
Ashford
Kent
TN24 0QJ

Tel: (01233) 620045
www.nks.kent.sch.uk