Charnwood College
Broadening Horizons

Part of the David Ross Education Trust
Broadening Horizons

Charnwood College Sixth Form Options

Thank you for your interest in joining our Sixth Form.

We are very proud of the Sixth Form at Charnwood College. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum specialising in a wide range of A Level and vocational qualifications.

Our Sixth Form is small and caring and students are closely supported by our dedicated team of teachers and support staff. Charnwood College offers impressive sporting and cultural facilities and excellent work experience opportunities. You can expect unrivalled personal development programmes including the chance to participate in international expeditions.

We welcome all students from Loughborough and the surrounding area. We also recruit students nationally on our sports programmes. The academy is served by public transport and financial aid may be available via the 16-19 Bursary depending upon parental circumstances.

For Sixth Form entry our general requirements are:

- 5 GCSEs Grade 4 or higher
- English and Maths Grade 5 or higher
- Grade 6 in the subject you are studying.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Head of Sixth Form, Lara Morley on lmorley@charnwoodcollege.org or telephone 01509 554400.

Students can apply by completing our online registration form.

Alastair O'Connor
Executive Principal

ART AND DESIGN

Subject title: **Art and Design Fine Art**

Exam board and specification: **OCR (H601)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

Fine Art offers creative thinkers the opportunity to give visual form to individual thoughts, feelings and ideas through the disciplines of drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed media.
The course aims to provide you with the necessary skills to enable you to work through the creative process developing personal perceptions of given subject matter and put your own individual stamp on it.

What is special about this course at Charnwood College?

Fine Art enables students to build on previously learned skills and develop more refined practical art skills whilst providing opportunities to thrive creatively in an environment where they feel comfortable, motivated and inspired. Post 16 students have a separate area to work in, which is available during study periods, break, lunchtime and after college.

What is the style of learning?

Fine Art naturally appeals to students who enjoy a visual learning style but opportunities are given for students to learn in other ways such as verbal, logical, intrapersonal and interpersonal.

Educational Visits

Students are encouraged to visit galleries to gather inspiration around their personal investigations. Previous visits have included trips to galleries in London and Nottingham to enhance their experience of studying Art. Opportunities have also included working with artists who visit Charnwood College to provide workshops for students.

What is covered in Year One?

Coursework Portfolio

You will produce a portfolio of work that develops creative visual skills through Fine Art disciplines.
You will explore painting, drawing, print-making and mixed media, focusing on the development of knowledge and skills resulting in skilfully executed outcomes.
Themes may include Still-Life, Portraiture, The human form and Architecture.

What is covered in Year Two?

Personal Investigation

You will further develop your skills via a major project that has a personal significance.
You will explore the art and design experience through a chosen subject and provide evidence in the form of written and visual analysis.

How will you be assessed? Personal Investigation 60% towards qualification. (Coursework) A body of work demonstrating a personal starting point to produce a major project that shows evidence of working through a range of art and design experiences. Controlled Assignment 40% towards qualification (Examination) **15** hour practical exam. The visual research, development and final outcome of a theme issued by the exam board.	
What qualifications will you need to start this course? A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4 Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in Art.	
What careers could this course help prepare you for? Artist/Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Film and Media Production, Photographer, Theatre Set Designer, Special Effects Artist, Teacher or Lecturer, Games Development, Games Technologies, Advertising, Theatre, Stage and Film Set Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Landscape and Gardening Design and Illustration.	
What do the students say about this course? “Enjoyable lessons in an inspiring environment.” “Examples of other students work inspire me and show me what I need to do to reach top grades.”	
For further information contact: Mrs Harrison	

BIOLOGY

Subject title: **BIOLOGY**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (7402)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

This course develops knowledge and understanding of biological concepts. There is an emphasis on practical techniques and applying knowledge to broader, real life themes. This course is highly regarded by employers and universities.

At Charnwood College, the Biology department consists of a dynamic group of teachers, who offer a supportive and encouraging environment that enables students to achieve their full potential. We use a range of learning styles to deliver the course, including preparing and delivering presentations, hosting debates and conducting practical experiments.

What is covered at A Level?

Year One

Unit 1. This unit covers the fundamental concepts of the structures and interactions of key biological molecules required to sustain life.

Unit 2. In this unit the students develop further their understanding of cells and cell structure, binary fission, and mitosis and meiosis.

Unit 3. Students study how organisms exchange substances with their internal and external environments.

Unit 4. Students discover how the differences between species reflect their genetic differences and how these lead to variation and adaptation. Practical elements include studying biodiversity in communities.

Year Two

Unit 5. This unit covers detailed study of energy transfers in and between organisms; including photosynthesis, respiration and nutrient cycles.

Unit 6. In this unit students study how organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, looking at nervous and endocrine responses and the principles of homeostasis.

Unit 7. Students encounter the theory of evolution and learn how it underpins modern Biology; all new species arise from an existing species.

Unit 8. In the final topic, students build on their knowledge from Unit 2 and discover how cells are able to control their metabolic activities by regulating the transcription and translation of their genome.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1
Sections 1- 4 and practical skills
Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 35% of the total A Level.
Short and long answer questions – 76 marks
Extended response questions - 15 marks

Paper 2
Sections 5-8 and practical skills

Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 35% of the total A Level.
Short and long answer questions – 76 marks
Comprehension questions – 15 marks

Paper 3
Sections 1-8 and practical skills
Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 30% of the total A Level.
Structured questions including practical techniques – 38 marks
Critical analysis of given experimental data – 15 marks
Essay from a choice of two questions – 25 marks

What qualifications will you need to start this course?
A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4 or higher.
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in Biology.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?
This course will allow you to access Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biological Research-based careers, Genetics, Education and many others. In fact, a qualification in A-level Biology opens the door to a wide array of careers.

What do students say about this course?
"This course has really helped me understand the main areas of Biology. Applying what I know to real life scenarios is challenging but it helps to link the different topics together."

For further information contact:
Miss Smith, Mrs Arrowsmith or Mr Jones

BUSINESS STUDIES

Subject Title: **BUSINESS STUDIES**

Exam board and specification: **Edexcel (9BS0)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

Business is an extremely popular choice amongst young people, especially those that are looking to pursue this as a subject choice at University or as future career. Studying Business allows a clear pathway for those wanting to pursue a career in Business as we cover a range of essential areas such as finance, economics, accounting and marketing. The grades achieved by the students have consistently been good with many going onto to some of the finest universities in the country including those from the Russell Group.

What is covered in Year One?

Theme 1: Marketing and People

This unit covers the characteristics students would need to develop to be successful in business, and how new or existing businesses generate their product or service ideas and test them through market research.
Students should also consider the competition in the market; the economic climate; how the business might be financed and how much revenue the idea might generate.

Theme 4: Global

In this unit, students will be able to assess the current competitiveness of a business through performance and non-performance indicators. They will analyse corporate objectives and strategy on the basis of these indicators and on external influences to the business.
Students will be required to assess the causes and effects of change on a business and examine how the company could manage risk.
These themes are covered in Paper 1 of the final exam.

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

This unit covers key activities which students may be involved in if they were to set up and/or manage a business whether small, medium-sized or large. It also introduces students to some basic management tools and models which will be developed in Year 13

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy

The aim of this unit is to introduce the student to the world of international business and issues which a company trading internationally would have to consider.
These themes are covered in Paper 2 of the final exam.

How will you be assessed?

There are three papers and each consists of two sections. Students answer all questions from both sections. Sections A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question. Duration: 2 hours for each exam. 100 marks available for each paper.
Paper 1 includes content from Themes 1 and 4, while Paper 2 assesses Themes 2 and 3.
Paper 3 is synoptic and covers elements from all 4 themes using pre-release case study materials

Why do Business Studies at Charnwood College?

At Charnwood College, we are a committed team and will push students to maximise their potential. We have a very good relationship with all of our students and offer continuous guidance and support throughout the year to ensure students have the best possible experience whilst studying Business Studies.

Partnerships and Educational Visits:

In October half term we take approximately 25 students on a residential trip to Brussels to visit the European Parliament, Audi car factory and the Zonnebeke War Museum on the outskirts of Ypres. At A-Level, students participate in the Bank of England 2.0 Presentation where they need to deliver a report on what the government should do to achieve its target of 2% inflation.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4
Grade 5 in English and Maths also Grade 6 in Business Studies or GCSE Economics.

What careers could this course help you prepare for?

There are a number of Business-related Higher Education courses at universities across the country. Many students might choose to gain employment within the business sector, however many will also go into related careers such as Marketing, Finance or Business Law. A number of our students have gone on to study at some of the very finest universities in the country including those from the Russell Group.

For further information contact:

Mrs Leaves

CHEMISTRY

Subject title: **CHEMISTRY**

Exam board and specification: AQA (7405)

Why should you consider taking this course?

A level Chemistry develops analytical and problem solving skills. The course provides a foundation to enable understanding of all aspects of chemistry. This course is highly regarded by universities and employers.

What is covered in year One?

Physical Chemistry 1

This unit uses the understanding of how atoms behave to explain some of the most important ideas of Chemistry such as: bonding, energetics, kinetics and redox reactions.

Inorganic Chemistry 1

This unit examines how the properties of the elements and their electronic structure determines their position in the periodic table. Groups 2 and seven are studies in detail.

Organic Chemistry 1

This unit is an introduction to carbon chemistry. Students learn how to name, draw and identify organic compounds. Alkanes, alkenes, alcohols and how they are analysed are studied along with their typical reactions and properties.

What is covered in year Two?

Physical Chemistry 2

This builds on the ideas studied in year 12 to include thermodynamics, equilibria, electrochemical cells and acid base reactions.

Inorganic Chemistry 2

Other areas of the periodic table are studied in detail. The main focus is the transition metals and their reactions.

Organic Chemistry 2

In this unit more homologous organic series are introduced. Aromatic compounds, amines, polymers, amino acids and proteins are studied in detail. The organic aspect of the course is brought together here by looking at synthesis routes for organic compounds from each other.

How will you be assessed?

Paper1

Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 35% of the total A Level.

Paper 2

Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 35% of the total A Level.

Paper 3

Any content
Any practical skills
Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 30% of the total A Level.
40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis
20 marks of questions testing across the specification
30 marks of multiple choice questions.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?
A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in Chemistry.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?
Chemistry can open doors to all sorts of jobs that you may have never even imagined! The food we eat, the clothes we wear and the technology we use all depend on chemistry. Chemists develop new medicines, safeguard our food supply and monitor and protect our environment.

What do students say about this course?
'It's challenging but gives a real sense of achievement when you understand it.'

'Chemistry links well to other subjects and is really interesting as it gives you knowledge of how things work.' 'It needs good maths and practical skills.'

For further information contact:
Ms Anderson or Mr Brown

ECONOMICS

Subject Title: ECONOMICS

Exam board and specification: Edexcel (9ECO)

Why should you consider taking this course?

There are several definitions of Economics, but most textbooks seem to agree that Economics concerns the allocation of society's scarce resources amongst the many alternative uses to which they could be put.

In Economics you'll look at the fundamental forces which affect our lives, such as employment, prices, international trade and poverty. Economists are often in healthy debate with each other over these issues. It is this controversy which makes Economics lively and interesting and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgement and form your own opinions.

What is covered in Year one?

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure.

This theme focusses on Microeconomic concepts and principles. Including developing an understanding of the nature of economics, how markets work, market failure and government intervention.

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics, allowing the development in understanding of areas such as business growth; business objectives; revenues, costs and profits; market structures; labour market and government intervention.

What is covered in Year two?

Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

This theme focuses on Macroeconomic

Concepts and principles. Covering topics such as measures of economic performance; aggregate demand; aggregate supply; national income; economic growth; macroeconomic objectives and policy.

Theme 4: A global perspective

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context. Investigations will be undertaken into international economics; poverty and inequality; emerging and developing economies; the financial sector; role of the state in the macroeconomy.

How will you be assessed?

Three 2 hour exams

Paper 1 will assess microeconomics, and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3. Paper 2 will assess macroeconomics, and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4. These are worth 35% of the overall grade each.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 has three sections (A, B and C).

- Section A comprises a range of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Section B comprises one data response question broken down into a number of
- parts.
- Section C comprises a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two.

Paper 3 comprises of two sections. Each section has one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including a choice of extended open-response questions; students select one from a choice of two. Paper 3 is worth 30% of the overall grade.

Each paper is worth 100 marks.

Why do Economics at Charnwood College?

Economics is consistently one of the higher performing subjects at Charnwood, however it is also one of the most challenging. Therefore, the support we offer is essential and student engagement is vital.

t Charnwood College, we are able to provide our Economics students with a specialist teacher, and examiner to support them through the curriculum. This provides students with access to deeper discussions, wider reading and more critical thinking than a non-specialist.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4

Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in Maths.

Grade 6 in either GCSE Business OR Economics

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

Economics is a versatile subject that can help you in a number of careers. Not only could you find yourself working for big corporations, banks, or the government but your qualification in Economics could also be valuable in supporting a career like Marketing, Law, Journalism or Teaching. Many of our students have gone on to study at some of the very finest universities in the country including those from the Russell Group and have pursued careers in Business, Accounting or Economics.

What do students say about this course?

"The problems of the credit crunch and global downturn have been dominating the news. It was a real insight to study the causes and be able to analyse what governments are doing at this time."

"I am keenly interested in environmental issues, but never realised until I studied Economics how markets can be used to control pollution."

For further information contact:
Mrs Leaves

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Subject title: **ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (7707)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

The study of English Language and Literature will require you to develop as an informed, independent reader, writer and critic. You will explore the relationships between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. You will be encouraged to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers. Teachers will help you refine such essential skills as the ability to break down complex information and identify significant themes, imagery and character traits or emotions. Learning will also centre around investigations which draw connections between texts drawing out patterns of similarity and difference.

What you will study

Paper 1: Telling Stories (40%)	**Paper 2: Exploring Conflict (40%)**	**Non-exam assessment:** **Making Connections (20%)**
• Remembered Places – the representation of place • Imagined Worlds – point of view and genre in prose • Poetic Voices – the forms and functions of poetic voice • Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities	• Writing about Society – the role of the individual in society, and re-creative writing based on set texts • Critical commentary – evaluating own writing • Dramatic Encounters – conflict in drama • Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities	• Making Connections – investigation on a chosen theme and texts • Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activity
Assessment: Exam **Section A** – Remembered Places : *AQA Anthology: Paris* (40 marks) **Section B** – Imagined Worlds: Prose set text (35 marks) **Section C** – Poetic Voices: Poetry set text (25 marks)	**Assessment: Exam** **Section A** – Writing about Society :One piece of re-creative writing using set text (25 marks) and a critical commentary (30 marks) **Section B** – Dramatic Encounters: Drama set text (45 marks)	**Assessment: Non – exam assessment (Coursework)** A personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2,500 – 3,000 words – 50 marks).

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 6 in English Language/English Literature.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

English Language and Literature provides excellent training for any career which requires you to express yourself with logic and precision. It also provides the knowledge essential for careers in journalism, publishing and the media.

What do students say about this course?

"My own writing makes far more sense in my other subjects now I know the technicalities of English"

"The books we study offer great insight into what some young men and women experienced and are still relevant today".

"You begin to understand how dear life is when every day of your life is spent fighting to survive"

For further information contact:

Miss Gardner and Mrs Morley

FRENCH

Subject title: **FRENCH**

Exam board and specification: **AQA French (7652)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

This course is an excellent choice for those who not only enjoy languages, but also those who enjoy history, literature or even geography. A-level French is an opportunity to study a course that is varied and interesting; it is a real 'deep-dive' into modern French culture and French history. For those who are considering higher education or university it adds another dimension to your studies and creates opportunities for study abroad as well as distinguishing you from other candidates.

Languages undoubtedly improve communication skills and open up the world for travel, depending on class sizes a trip abroad would also be offered, in order to experience this first hand.

French at A-Level builds upon the knowledge and skills that you have acquired at GCSE. The lessons are all taken in French and you will be discussing a wide range of contemporary issues, considering two sides of an argument and forming your own opinions. You will read and listen to higher level texts and you will learn to write using language adapted to suit different audiences.

What is covered in Year One?

Aspects of French speaking society: Current trends - The changing nature of family, the cyber-society and the place of voluntary work
Artistic culture in the French speaking world - A culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music and cinema: the 7th art form
Set Works - One book OR one film from the prescribed list

What is covered in Year Two?

Aspects of French speaking society: Current issues - Positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated
Aspects of political life in the French speaking world - Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations, strikes - who holds power, politics and immigration.
Set Works - One book AND one film OR two books from the prescribed list
Research Project
Student's own choice

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 – 50%
Written exam, 2h30

- Listening
- Reading
- Translation into English (100 words)
- Translation into French (100 words)

Paper 2 – 20 %
Written exam, 2h
Two essays (from a choice of questions relating to the book(s)/film studied)

Paper 3 – 30%
Oral exam, 21-23 mins, including 5 mins prep
Discussion of one stimulus card (from a choice of two) relating to the topics studied
Presentation and discussion of the student's research project (with the support of a pre-prepared cue card of 10 bullet points)

What qualifications will you need to start this course?
A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4, Grade 5 in Maths and English and Grade 6 in French

For further information contact:

Miss Simandi

GEOGRAPHY

Subject title: **GEOGRAPHY**

Exam board and specification: **OCR (H481)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

Geography is an exciting and relevant subject, which aims to encourage learners to develop a range of essential skills for Higher Education and the world of work through a content which is relevant to any citizen of Earth in the 21st century.

Learners will understand the nature of physical and human geography through classroom and compulsory fieldwork-based tasks, whilst unpicking the debates surrounding one of the contemporary challenges facing the world today.

Geography is a fascinating and rewarding subject that looks at issues in the real world.

An interest in current affairs and a willingness to gather information from the media will help your studies.

Component 1 – Physical Geography

Topic 1: Landscape Systems (Coasts):

You will explore how the landscape can be viewed as a system, how landforms develop and the influences of both climate and human activity on this.

Topic 2: Earth's Life Support Systems:

Water and carbon support all life on Earth. Forests, soils, oceans and the atmosphere all store carbon and water and yet they are threatened and altered by human activity, this will be examined in detail through the Tropical Rainforest and the Arctic tundra case studies as well as at a global scale.

Through this topic we will explore the increased need for global and national solutions to protect 'Earth's life support systems'.

Component 2 – Human Geography

Topic 3: Changing Spaces; Making Places:

Places are connected to other places and there are few left untouched by the forces of globalisation.

Through Changing Spaces; Making Places you will understand the interconnections and dynamics of place. Investigating how shifting flows of people, money and resources are shaping places, whilst economic changes are contributing to a landscape of haves and have nots.

Topic 4: Global Connections:

In this topic you will explore how the interconnected nature of global systems and governance influence people, places and institutions.

Through looking at the topics of 'Global Migration' and 'Human Rights' you will understand how the flows of trade and people create interdependencies often producing uneven geographies or winners and losers.

Component 3 – Geographical Investigation

Topic 5: Disease Dilemmas:

Diseases do not discriminate who becomes infected or develops symptoms.

Through this topic you will explore how both physical and human factors influence disease spread, as well as the future of disease, both the patterns and the strategies we can use to combat them.

Component 4 – Independent Investigation

Investigative geography gives learners the opportunity to undertake an independent investigation which is of particular interest to them, which can be related to any area of the specification.

This could be anything from the impact of migration on Leicestershire, the environmental impact of a new housing estate or even the

Topic 6: Hazardous Earth: Movement of the Earth's land masses, from Pangaea to present day are evidence that forces beneath our feet are at work. We will explore how seismic and volcanic activity create both hazards and opportunities as populations have grown and inhabited more of the Earth.	impacts of social inequality in Loughborough. You will create a meaningful investigation about something that matters to you.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: • Written exam: 1 hours 30 minutes • 66 marks 22% of A-level	Component 2: • Written exam: 1 hours 30 minutes • 66 marks 22% of A-level	Component 3: • Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 108 marks 36% of A-level	Component 4: Non-examined Assessment (Individual Investigation) • 3,000–4,000 words, based on fieldwork • 60 marks • 20% of A-level • marked by teachers • moderated by OCR

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Ideally a Grade 6 in Geography.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

The list of careers that geography helps with is endless as the subject provides you with essential skills in problem solving and decision making which are highly valued by employers. Geographers typically find employment in management and administration, leisure, travel and tourism, education, professional and social services, information services, business and finance, environmental management, conservation, town planner, politics, human resources, law and many more.

What do students say about this course?

"Geography is interesting, thought provoking and useful to a wide range of future careers." Helen
"Informative and interesting lessons in a relaxed but challenging atmosphere. It's a great subject for students who like to discuss contemporary issues." Matthew
"Geography is the key to the future of our planet." Michael

For further information contact:

Mr Gillard

HISTORY

Subject title: **HISTORY**

Exam board and specification: **OCR (Syllabus A H505)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

History is a superb subject for challenging the mind. It develops your ability to articulate your thoughts, marshal them into a logical argument and support a plausible conclusion. You will learn about vital periods in both British and foreign history as well as honing the skills of analysing historical sources.

History is a rigorous, demanding but incredibly rewarding course, suitable for any capable student with an enquiring mind, a willingness to read independently and an ability to communicate ideas clearly in writing.

What is covered in Year One?

Unit 1: Britain 1930 - 1997
This unit begins with an enquiry topic which focuses on Churchill: 1930-1951. You will study Churchill's view of events 1929-1940 and his subsequent role as a wartime Prime Minister. You will go onto consider Churchill's international diplomacy, including his relationships with other world leaders. You then move on to a study of the British political landscape from 1951-1997, focusing on the election success of the main parties and scrutinising their policies and practices.

Unit 2: Italy and Unification 1789-1896
This unit takes a chronological approach as you study four topics. Beginning with Italy 1789-1847, looking at Napoleon's conquests and the birth of Nationalism. We then move on to examine the revolutions of 1848 and 1849 and their aftermath. Following this, we study the Risorgimento, the rebirth of Italy, and the establishment of the new Kingdom of Italy 1850-1861; before concluding with an investigation of Italy 1861-1896.

What is covered in Year Two?

Unit 3: Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964
You may have touched upon aspects of Russian history at GCSE but will now have the opportunity to gain an in-depth insight into the nature of Russian government and its impact on the Russian people and society. This fascinating course asks you to compare the autocratic rule of Russia's last Tsars with the Communist dictatorship that followed. You will compare and contrast the different regimes, identifying similarities and differences in their approach to key issues such as war, government, the economy and empire.

Unit 4: Independent Research
This is an excellent opportunity to research an area of History that particularly interests you. It might be inspired by topics covered previously but it does not need to. You will have the freedom to pursue almost any topic as long there is a clear historical issue and different perspectives exist on it.

The final research essay will be marked by your teacher and moderated by OCR.

How will you be assessed?

The A level consists of three exam papers plus the independent study

Britain 1930-1997 (Unit 1): 90 minutes, 25% of A level, essay + document.
Italy and Unification 1789-1896 (Unit 2); 60 minutes, 15% of A Level, mini essay + essay.
Russia and its rulers 1855-1964 (Unit 3): 150 minutes, 40% of A level, interpretation + essay

Unit 4: 3000-4000 word essay, 20% of A level

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English Literature OR Language and Grade 6 in History.

What are our recent results?

A Level history at Charnwood is consistently one of the stronger performing A Levels.

5 out of the last 6 years, we have achieved 100% A*-C (Against a National Average of 72.5%)

Last academic year (2024-25) we also achieved 66% A*-B (Against a National Average of 49.5%).

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

History is valuable to a huge range of careers because it trains you to analyse evidence clearly and present ideas persuasively. It would be of particular value to anyone considering a career in law, journalism, police, research, education, archaeology or management.

Many students absolutely love History as indicated by the following quotes:

"I couldn't get over the thought that when this course was over there would be no more History!" Will

"My daily fix is History and if we don't have a History lesson that day, well it is less of a day for me..." Anita

"Yes, it is hard but I've learned such a lot – really important stuff that I had just no idea about before." Tom

"Don't question it, just take history. You will thank me later" Oliver

"You do work hard in history, and the teachers push you. But I love every second" Katie

For further information contact:

Mr Yeomans and Mr Heward

MATHEMATICS

Subject title: **MATHEMATICS**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (7357)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

The main reason for studying Mathematics to an advanced level is that you will find it interesting and enjoyable. You will like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you generally know when you are right.

Knowledge of Mathematics is fundamental to many areas of Higher Education and there is a national shortage of trained mathematicians.

Mathematics complements studies in many areas such as Sciences, Finance, Economics and Business, Computer Studies and Engineering.

Studies have shown that people with an A-Level in Mathematics also tend to earn more on average than those without. Whilst this in itself should not be the only reason to study Mathematics, the transferable skills that you develop including problem solving, team work, analytical and lateral thinking, make you a very favourable candidate for any employer or university. Mathematics is often a very useful prerequisite for so many degrees, due to the key role it plays in virtually all areas of Science, Industry and Commerce, Technology and Design. Over 70% of students who went on to do degrees in Economics and Chemistry had completed an A-Level in Maths.

What is covered?

Proof; algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration; numerical methods; vectors; statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions; statistical hypothesis testing; quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws; moments; use of data in statistics.

How will the course be taught?

There are approximately 21 topics each year which each being broken down into smaller topic areas. Students will be expected to complete written exercises using the techniques that have been shown and solve problems by applying their skills. Students may be asked to draw graphs, complete matching tasks and gather results from statistical surveys.

How will you be assessed? *

All units are assessed at the end of the 2 year course.
3 x 90 minutes exams.
There will also be ongoing internal assessments throughout the two year course.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in Maths.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

The world is becoming increasingly mathematical. This course can provide access to a wide variety of employment and Higher Education opportunities, including Mathematics, Engineering, Medicine, Technology, Design, Architecture, Business Studies, Aviation, Finance, Psychology and Sociology. In addition, Maths is highly regarded by employers as an indicator of a logical and analytical mind, and someone who is resilient and a good problem solver.

What do students say about this course? What do students enjoy about this course?

"A-Level Maths is great, I really enjoy it."

"Maths is interesting and enjoyable because it is challenging and I like how it uses advanced versions of the skills learnt at GCSE."

Key statistics about this course

Mathematics is one of the most popular post-16 options, this follows the national trend as Mathematics is now the most popular subject at A-Level in the UK, around 12.7% of all students study A-level Mathematics, (MEI 2015). In the most recent exams 78% of students achieved A*-C.

Enrichment

Each year students have the opportunity to take part in the senior level UK Maths Challenge, a very complex multiple choice test that requires students to use their logical thinking and problem solving skills.

The faculty also has close links with the Further Mathematics Support Programme, this provides resources for teachers, support for students and occasionally trips to public lectures.

For further information contact:

Mr Ayres

CORE MATHEMATICS

Subject title: **LEVEL 3 CERIFICATE IN MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (CORE MATHS)**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (1350)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

Core Maths focusses on developing fluency and confidence in using and applying mathematical and statistics skills to address authentic problems/real-life scenarios, drawn from study, work and life, with a strong emphasis on contextualised problem-solving.

Core Maths is strongly recommended as very useful complementary (fourth) course for students who are not taking A Level Mathematics, for A levels in: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Product Design, and Psychology.

Universities value core maths as it shows you have continued your mathematics beyond GCSE and have an enhanced understanding of skills such as the analysis of data and the connection between maths and finance. For example, Loughborough University state: *we support the ethos behind the introduction of this new qualification in that it may be beneficial to a range of degree subjects that do not generally ask for A Level Mathematics but where enhanced numerical or statistical skills may be helpful. For this reason, we encourage applicants to consider taking this qualification where practical.*

What is covered?

There is both compulsory content and optional content covered within this course.

Compulsory: analysis of data, maths for personal finance, estimation and critical analysis of given data and models.

Optional: the normal distribution, probabilities & estimation, correlation & regression, critical path & risk analysis, expectation, cost benefit analysis, graphical methods, rates of change and exponential functions.

How will the course be taught?

Taught over the course of 1 year with both the compulsory and optional content broken down into smaller topic areas.

Students will be expected to complete written exercises using the techniques that have been shown and solve problems by applying their skills. Students may be asked to draw graphs, complete matching tasks and gather results from statistical surveys.

How will you be assessed? *

All units are assessed at the end of the 1 year course.
2 x 90 minutes exams.
There will also be ongoing internal assessments throughout the course.
The course awards grades A-E.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and 6 in Maths.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

The world is becoming increasingly mathematical. This course can provide access to a wide variety of employment and Higher Education opportunities, including Mathematics, Engineering, Medicine, Technology, Design, Architecture, Business Studies, Aviation, Finance, Psychology and Sociology. In addition, Maths is highly regarded by employers as an indicator of a logical and analytical mind, and someone who is resilient and a good problem solver.

What do students say about this course? What do students enjoy about this course?

"Studying Core Maths gave me a much better foundation to complete my A level Biology course, particularly the statistics-based maths."

Key statistics about this course

Nationally, 11% of students that study maths beyond GCSE complete the core maths course.

In June 2023, Nationally 18% of students achieved grade A whilst 59% of students achieved grades A-C.

Enrichment

Each year students have the opportunity to take part in the senior level UK Maths Challenge, a very complex multiple-choice test that requires students to use their logical thinking and problem solving skills.

The faculty also has close links with the Further Mathematics Support Programme, this provides resources for teachers, support for students and occasionally trips to public lectures.

For further information contact:

Mr Ayres

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Subject title: **FURTHER MATHEMATICS**

Exam board and Specification: **AQA (7367)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

Studying AQA A-level Further Mathematics is both challenging and deeply rewarding. If you enjoy problem-solving, logical thinking, and the satisfaction of reaching clear solutions, you'll find Further Mathematics engaging and enjoyable. This subject builds on, and is for, students who have already chosen A-level mathematics, introducing you to advanced concepts and elegant ideas that are highly valued by universities and employers.

Further Mathematics is a powerful complement to subjects like Sciences, Economics, Computer Science, and Engineering. It develops transferable skills such as analytical thinking, resilience, and creativity—qualities that make students stand out in higher education and the workplace. There is a national shortage of people with advanced mathematical skills, and those with Further Mathematics qualifications are in high demand.

Research shows that students with A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics often have greater access to top university courses and tend to earn more on average than those without. For many degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, and Economics, Further Mathematics is a significant advantage, and sometimes a requirement.

Supporting your child to study Further Mathematics is an investment in their future, equipping them with skills and opportunities that last a lifetime.

What is covered?

Compulsory Content: Proof; complex numbers; matrices; further algebra and functions; further calculus; further vectors; polar coordinates; hyperbolic functions; differential equations; and numerical methods.

Additional Content for Mechanics: Dimensional analysis; momentum and collisions; work, energy and power; circular motion and centres of mass and moments.

Additional Content for Statistics: Discrete random variables (DRV's) and expectation; Poisson distribution; type I and II errors; continuous random variables (CRV's); Chi squared tests for association; Exponential distribution; inference – one sample t – distribution, and confidence intervals.

How will the course be taught?

Further Mathematics is taught through focused lessons and problem-solving sessions, closely following the A-level Mathematics curriculum. Students study advanced pure maths, mechanics, and statistics, with each topic broken into clear, manageable sections. Lessons combine teacher explanations, worked examples, and collaborative tasks. Students practise new techniques, solve challenging problems, draw graphs, and analyse real data. Independent study and regular homework help reinforce understanding and prepare students for assessments.

How will you be assessed? *

All units are assessed at the end of the two-year course.
Three written exams, each lasting 2 hours.
The exams cover compulsory pure mathematics content, plus your chosen options (such as mechanics and statistics), in line with the A-level Mathematics curriculum.
There will also be ongoing internal assessments throughout the course to monitor progress and support learning.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Grade 7 in Maths.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

A-level Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for a wide range of careers that require strong analytical and problem-solving skills. It is particularly valuable for students considering degrees and careers in mathematics, engineering, physics, computer science, economics, finance, and the natural sciences.

The advanced mathematical techniques and logical reasoning developed through this course are also highly regarded in fields such as data science, actuarial work, architecture, and operational research. More broadly, the ability to think critically and solve complex problems makes Further Mathematics students attractive to employers in many sectors, including business, technology, and education.

What do students say about this course? What do students enjoy about this course?

"I really enjoy Further Maths because it's so much more challenging and interesting than GCSE. Solving tough problems gives me a real sense of achievement."

"What I love about Further Maths is discovering new topics and seeing how everything links together. It's great preparation for university and helps me think more logically."

Key statistics about this course

A-level Further Mathematics is becoming increasingly popular among post-16 students in the UK, with entries rising by over 7% in the most recent year and now accounting for more than 19,000 students nationally. This reflects a growing recognition of the value of advanced mathematical study, especially as Further Mathematics is often taken alongside Mathematics and Physics and is highly regarded by universities and employers.

In terms of achievement, Further Mathematics students consistently perform at a high level. Nationally, the latest figures show around 59% of male entrants and 56% of female entrants achieved grades A* or A, and the majority of students achieved grades A*-C. These strong results highlight both the challenge and the support available in the course, making it an excellent choice for students aiming for top university courses and careers in STEM fields.

Enrichment

Each year students have the opportunity to take part in the senior level UK Maths Challenge, a very complex multiple choice test that requires students to use their logical thinking and problem solving skills.

The faculty also has close links with the Further Mathematics Support Programme, this provides resources for teachers, support for students and occasionally trips to public lectures.

For further information contact:

Mr Ayres

MUSIC

Subject title: **MUSIC**

Exam board and specification: **Edexcel (9MUO)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

Music A Level will inspire you in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills. You will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

What is covered?

The course is made up of the same 3 components studied at GCSE:
30% Performance – An 8 minute recital in Year 13.
20% Composition – A free composition, or a composition based on a brief set by Edexcel.
10% Technical Study – Harmonising 2 Bach Chorales as controlled assessment.
40% Listening & Appraising.

How will the course be taught?

Unit 1 Performance – Individual instrumental or vocal lessons will be provided on a weekly basis for the duration of the course and by a specialist teacher.

Unit 2 – Compositional devices will be taught throughout Year 1 of the course to enable access to the writing of the composition and Bach Chorale work in Year 2.

Unit 3 – Set works will be taught for 2 hours each week from the start of the course.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1 Performing 30% NEA – You will have to perform for the total of 8 minutes. This can be solo and/or ensemble and is worth a total of 60 marks (12 marks available for difficulty of pieces)

Component 2 Composing 30% NEA- you will need to perform two compositions: 1 free or free choice brief of a minimum of 4 minutes and a brief assessing technique – minimum of 1 minute. Together this should be a total of a minimum of 6 minutes with 2 pieces. Piece one is worth 40 marks. Piece two is worth 20 marks. A total of 60 marks.

Component 3 Appraising 40% Exam - Six areas of study with 3 set works in each • Vocal Music • Instrumental Music • Music for Film • Popular Music and Jazz • Fusions • New Directions. This is an exam piece of two hours and worth a total of 100 marks

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4 with a grade 6 in music.
You need to be Grade 5 standard at the beginning of the A Level course (you don't necessarily need to have taken the practical exam). You will be required to perform at Grade 7 standard for your performance exam in Year 13.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

A Level Music is a highly regarded subject, either alongside other creative courses or in demonstrating a broader range of skills next to Science and Maths. Whilst Music can be a useful subject for Arts and Media courses at university, the obvious degree pathway is going on to a degree in Music, which can lead to a range of exciting career options, including becoming a professional musician, a sound

technician, a music therapist, a teacher, or a private tutor. The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, all of which make A Level musicians an attractive prospect for potential employers. Other popular destinations for music graduates include broadcasting, publishing, law, politics and the Civil Service. Rather than limiting your career prospects, a music degree opens doors to a wide range of careers.

What do students say about this course? What do students enjoy about this course?
'Studying music at A Level, has given me a real appreciation for different genres of music, allowing me to develop my own repertoire of music styles in my own playing.'

Key statistics about this course
Nationally, 76% of students achieve an A* -B, with 88% achieving a grade C or higher.

Enrichment:
A Level students will participate in the relevant choirs and ensembles as advised by the Director of Music.

For further information contact:
Mrs Bishop

PERFORMING ARTS

Subject title: **Extended Certificate in Performing Arts**

Exam board and specification: **Edexcel (ZTM77)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

The course is a heavily practical course where both performance, choreography/devising and theory are taught. The practical nature of Performing Arts offers a welcome break from classroom based courses. Performing Arts in Sixth Form allows students to develop their skills in their area of interest within performance, this can include Drama and Theatre, Dance and Musical theatre. Students will develop both analytical skills and skills as a performer, choreographer/deviser. The course can be accessed by those who have studied drama or dance previously or students who want to learn more about the art forms.

What is covered in Year One and Year Two?

Unit one: Investigating Practitioners work

For this unit you will explore the work of at least two practitioners and respond to a two part question in exam conditions

Unit Two: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance

For this unit you will explore practically two pieces of repertoire and keep a log book of targets and developments made throughout the process to performance.

Unit Three: Group Performance Workshop

Using a starting point set by the exam board you will develop a piece of work for performance and analyse the journey from initial ideas to performance.

Unit Four: Optional Unit

You can select from a number of possible units including Unit 8: Classic Ballet Technique, Unit 9 Tap Dance Technique, Unit 10: Jazz Dance Technique, Unit 11: Street Dance technique, Unit 12: Contemporary Dance Technique, Unit 18: Interpreting Classical Text for Performance, Unit 19: Acting Styles, Unit 20: developing Voice for Performance, Unit 21: Improvisation, Unit 27: Musical Theatre Techniques and Unit 28: Variety Performance.

How will you be assessed?

Unit One is externally assessed based on your response to a question based on the work of at least two practitioners. Unit Two and the optional unit are assessed during workshops based on your response to tasks and the written logbook submitted. Unit Three is externally assessed and evidenced through workshops, performance and logbook.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in Drama or Dance.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?
Professional actor/dancer, teacher, entertainer, movement/ Drama therapy, physiotherapy, director, actor choreographer, higher education.

For further information contact:
Mrs Grundy

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Subject title: **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (7582)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

This is a challenging and enjoyable course. You will learn how the body is able to produce sporting actions and understand how this can be optimised using psychological, physiological and biomechanical techniques. You will also be required to study the sociological barriers that limit individual participation and learn how these are being challenged.

You will learn the skills of a coach and also have the chance to be assessed as a performer in your chosen sport. Although excellence in sport yourself is an advantage, it is not essential. You must be enthusiastic about sport.

What is covered?

Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport:

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

Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport:
Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
Section B: Sports psychology
Section C: Sports technology and the effect on society

Non-exam assessment:
This will require you to demonstrate skills/techniques and understanding in a chosen role, either performer or coach. This will take the form of a competitive situation/full match. You will analyse your own performance and apply theoretical knowledge to achieve optimal performance.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport - 2 hour exam (35%)

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport - 2 hour exam (35%)

NEA: External Assessment of performance and evaluation of one role – performer or coach (30%)

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths. Grade 6 in PE or at least a Level 2 Merit in BTEC Sport or OCR National Sports Science/Studies

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

This A-Level is a valid entry requirement for other careers, courses and university. The range of topics and assessment covered in the course means that it is enjoyable for anyone interested in sport yet it remains a challenging academic subject. It is particularly relevant for anyone interested in a career in sport e.g. Teaching, Coaching, Sports Management, sports development, physiotherapy, sports psychology.

What do students say about this course?

"*Challenging but fun.*" Matt

"It can really help you understand sport and sports performance." Paul

For further information contact:

Mr Strange

PHYSICS

Subject title: **PHYSICS**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (7408)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

This course will develop analytical and problem-solving skills as well as giving you a strong base in theoretical and practical concepts. This course is highly regarded by employers and universities.

What is covered at A Level?

Year One

Unit 1. This unit covers the measurements and their errors that are encountered in physics

Unit 2. Students encounter the quantum world of particles and radiation

Unit 3. In this unit the students develop further their understanding of waves, looking closer at the electromagnetic spectrum and investigating interference and superposition.

Unit 4. Students study how quantities such as velocity, acceleration and force are represented and calculated using vectors and how forces effect materials.

Unit 5. In this unit electricity is studied to greater depth and students learn about the role of potential dividers in control circuits.

Year Two

Unit 6. Further mechanics and thermal physics are studied in this unit with an emphasis on circular and simple harmonic motion. The thermal properties of gases are also covered in this unit.

Unit 7. In this unit students study gravitational, electric and magnetic fields and their applications in capacitors, transformers and generators.

Unit 8. Students cover the topic of nuclear physics in this unit and study how the nucleus changes during radioactive decay and how the energy released can be harnessed.

Unit 9. In the astrophysics topic students delve deep into space to investigate astronomical distances, the nature and evolution of stars and how the universe is observed.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1

Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion)
Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 34% of the total A Level.
60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 2

Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8
Assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1
Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 34% of the total A Level.
60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 3
Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis
Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13
Assessed written exam of 2 hours contributing towards 32% of the total A Level.
45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis.
35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?
A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in Physics.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?
This course will allow you to access medicine, engineering, science research-based careers, architecture, law, education and many others, in fact a qualification in A level Physics opens the door to virtually any career.

For further information contact:
Miss Smith

PRODUCT DESIGN

Subject title: **PRODUCT DESIGN**

Exam board and specification: **OCR (H404/H406)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

If you enjoy the practical aspects of education and a creative approach to your learning, then Product Design might be the ideal course. Product Design is a course for creative and inquisitive minds. You will be able to express your thought processes through drawing and annotations. Your 2D designs will then come to life in the form of modelling, rapid prototyping and first generation product prototypes.

Product Design encourages creative thinking leading to design innovation, by using authentic and contemporary design strategies and techniques that are centred around the iterative design processes of 'explore/create/evaluate'. This prepares learners to become critical designers, engineers and consumers of the future.

What is the style of learning?

Product Design would suit an array of learning styles and students are expected to produce work using visual, kinaesthetic, and logical approaches, whilst the examinations and product study would demand good literacy and numeracy throughout.

Design and Technology requires learners to apply mathematical skills and understand related science, both of which are assessed within the course content and exam.

What is covered in Year One?

Central to the content of this qualification is the requirement for learners to understand and apply processes of iterative designing. Learners will experience learning through practical activity with a number of short, alternating design briefs looking at all aspects of product design.

Learning will take place within the workshops, IT suite and drawing room and covers a wide number of disciplines within the subject.

What is covered in Year Two?

Iterative Design Project
The Iterative Design Project is a substantial design and make project that is individual to each leaner. Learners will be required to explore contexts of their own choosing that are both contemporary and challenging. They should focus on identifying problems and opportunities to be resolved in an innovative way and create a portfolio of evidence in real time through the project to demonstrate their competence.
This project will begin in June of year 1.

How will you be assessed?

Iterative Design Project
50% of total A level- 65 hours of Non-examined assessment –Digital portfolio of evidence.

Principal of Design Technology
27% of total A Level – 1h30 Written exam paper. 4 sets of question that cover the technical principles within the subject

Problem Solving within Design Technology
23% of total A Level – 1h45 Written exam paper. A series of longer answer questions that require the learner to demonstrate problem solving and critical evaluation skills.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in Design, Graphics, Art or Textiles.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?
Graphic Design, Architecture, CAD/CAM Engineering, Interior Designer, Prototype Engineering, Industrial Apprenticeships, Product Design, Marketing and Teaching.

Educational Visits
In the past, students have visited a range of educational establishments, and we have links with Loughborough University that enable us to attend degree shows and draw on the experience of both lecturers and current university students.

What do students say about this course?
"I'm glad I did a GCSE design subject as the knowledge really helped me."

"Fun but fast paced lessons with a lot of drawing and modelling."

"This is not for the faint hearted there is a lot of your own ideas and independent thinking needed."

For further information contact:
Mr Gillespie

PSYCHOLOGY

Subject title: PSYCHOLOGY

Exam board and specification: AQA (7182)

Why should you consider taking this course?

Why do people obey authority figures? Can the brain recover following severe trauma? Can watching violent films make people aggressive? Why do some people suffer from schizophrenia?

Are you interested in finding out the answers to these questions and understanding more about human behaviour? If so, this is the course for you. Psychology complements a range of other subjects, in particular: Sociology, History, Biology, Sociology, and Sports Studies.

What is covered in Year one?

Introductory Topics in Psychology
In this unit you will study three main topics:

Social Influence, which looks at conformity and obedience as well as explanations for it.

Memory, which looks at different models of memory, the accuracy of eyewitness testimony and strategies for improving memory.

Attachment, which looks at explanations for attachment, types of attachment and loss of attachment.

Psychology in Context
In this unit you will study:

Approaches in Psychology, in which a range of psychological theories will be applied to the study of behaviour.

Psychopathology, in which causes and explanations for mental illness will be considered.

The final topic on this paper is **Research Methods,** in which a range of research methods will be applied to the study of human behaviour.

What is covered in Year two?

Biopsychology: In this topic we will examine the divisions of the nervous system and ways of studying the brain.

Gender: We examine biological and psychological influences on the formation of gender.

Forensic psychology: Understanding and explaining the psychology of crime. How and why certain characteristics will commit certain types of crimes.

Schizophrenia: This topic looks at the factors affecting formation, treatment and diagnosis. As well as debates around the condition.

Psychological issues and debates: This topic considers key debates about the nature of psychology and psychological research.

Research methods: In this topic you will build on your understanding of research methods by considering the use of a range of statistical tests.

How will you be assessed?

There are three papers with a 2 hour examination for each paper marked out of 96. Each paper accounts for 33.3% of the total mark.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
A Grade 5 in a Humanities Subject Or Grade 6 in GCSE Psychology
A Grade 6 in English and Maths.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

Medicine, Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work, Personnel/Human Resources Management, Criminology, Teaching.

What do students say about this course?

"I am enjoying the subject and am definitely going to study it for a second year."- Megan

"*It's really interesting learning about how the human mind works and how certain condition are formed*."- Charlotte

"*I've found psychology really interesting, the schizophrenia unit in particular, looking at the theories of what causes it and the debates around it."* - Tom

For further information contact:

Miss Gregory

SOCIOLOGY

Subject title: SOCIOLOGY

Exam board and specification: AQA (7192)

Why should you consider taking this course?

How has the experience of childhood changed over time? Why do some students underachieve at school? What factors shape news reporting? Why do people commit crime?

If you are interested in finding out the answers to questions like these then Sociology is the subject for you. Sociology complements a range of other subjects, in particular: History, Geography, Economics, Psychology, and Sports Studies.

What is covered in Year One?

Education & Research Methods

In this unit you will look at the role and purpose of the education system in the UK and explanations for differences in attainment between different ethnic groups, social class and gender. You will also look at the different research methods that sociologists could use when they are investigating the education system. You will also consider the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods and when it is appropriate to use these.

Families and Households

In this unit you will look at the relationship between the family and the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and state policies. You will also look at changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures. Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society are also a focus of study for this unit.

What is covered in Year Two?

Beliefs

In the Beliefs module you will look closely at the secularisation debate. Questions like, is religion disappearing in the western world. Interestingly in the East, religion has a firm base, yet in the western world, religious believers are on the decline. You will also look at the growth of new religious movements Looking at what are sects and cults? You will analyse the work of Weber, Gramsci and the post modernists. How has globalisation affected religion?

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Method.

In this unit you will look at different explanations for crime, the distribution of crime by age, gender, ethnicity and social class, crime control including prevention and punishment and the globalisation of crime. You will also look at a range of sociological theories and the relationship of these to research methods. The roles of values and science in sociological research will also be considered.

How will you be assessed?

There are three papers with a 2 hour examination for each paper marked out of 80. Each paper accounts for 33.3% of the total mark.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
A Grade 5 in a humanities Subject Or Grade 6 in GCSE Sociology
A Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 6 in English.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

Social Work, Teaching, Civil Service, Police Force, Research, Local Government, Human Resources.

What do students say about this course?

“I like the fact that it applies to real life and doing research makes the lesson practical.” Millie

*“*It is really interesting learning about how different types of upbringing and impact a person, combining this subject with Psychology really enhances my understanding of the world and human society.” – Lily

“Doing both history and sociology together made accessing parts of both courses a lot clearer, would recommend the combination. Both subjects are great fun and really interesting” -Maysie

For further information contact:
Miss Gregory

SPANISH

Subject title: **SPANISH**

Exam board and specification: **AQA (7652)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

This course is an excellent choice for those who not only enjoy languages, but also those who enjoy history, literature or even geography. A-level Spanish is an opportunity to study a course that is varied and interesting; it is a real 'deep-dive' into modern Spanish culture and Spanish history. For those who are considering higher education or university it adds another dimension to your studies and creates opportunities for study abroad, as well as distinguishing you from other candidates.

Languages undoubtedly improve communication skills and open up the world for travel, depending on class sizes a trip abroad would also be offered, in order to experience this first hand.

Spanish at A-Level builds upon the knowledge and skills that you have acquired at GCSE. The lessons are all taken in Spanish and you will be discussing a wide range of contemporary issues, considering two sides of an argument and forming your own opinions. You will read and listen to higher level texts and you will learn to write using language adapted to suit different audiences.

What is covered in Year One?

Aspects of Spanish speaking society: Current trends - The changing nature of family, the cyber-society and the place of voluntary work

Artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world - A culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music and cinema: the 7th art form

Set Works - One book OR one film from the prescribed list

What is covered in Year Two?

Aspects of Spanish speaking society: Current issues - Positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated

Aspects of political life in the Spanish speaking world - Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations, strikes - who holds power, politics and immigration.

Set Works - One book AND one film OR two books from the prescribed list

Research Project

Student's own choice

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 – 50%

Written exam, 2h30

- Listening
- Reading
- Translation into English (100 words)
- Translation into Spanish (100 words)

Paper 2 – 20 %

Written exam, 2h

Two essays (from a choice of questions relating to the book(s)/film studied)

Paper 3 – 30%
Oral exam, 21-23 mins, including 5 mins prep
Discussion of one stimulus card (from a choice of two) relating to the topics studied
Presentation and discussion of the student's research project (with the support of a pre-prepared cue card of 10 bullet points)

What qualifications will you need to start this course?
A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4, Grade 5 in Maths and English and Grade 6 in Spanish

For further information contact:
Mr Greenwood

SPORT

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL DIPLOMA

Subject title: CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE / DIPLOMA IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (Sports Coaching pathway)

Exam board and specification: OCR (05827, 5829, 5872)

Why should you consider taking this course?

You should consider this course if you have an interest in sport and the intention of extending your education or career in sport. The course has a vocational focus giving an insight into, and experience of, a wide range of the skills required to work in the sport and active leisure industry.

What is covered?

There are two courses to choose from: the Extended Certificate and the Diploma.

The Foundation Certificate course is 360 guided learning hours and equivalent to one 'A' level. You will sit two formal examinations, in Anatomy and Physiology and in the Development of Sport. In addition to this you will complete three units of coursework which are internally assessed and externally moderated.

The Diploma course is 720 guided learning hours and equivalent to two 'A' levels. You will sit one additional examination in Working safely in Sport, Exercise, Health, & Leisure and complete an additional five coursework units.

The courses are planned over a two year programme of study with the emphasis being on gaining knowledge and experience which can be applied in a practical setting within the sports and active leisure industry. The units studied will provide students with first-hand experience of a wide range of topics in sport. Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Cambridge Technical in Sport & Physical Activity focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand.

How will you be assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of formal examination and internally assessed coursework. There are externally assessed units (exams), the remaining units being written or practical coursework which is internally assessed externally moderated. Students will be subject to continuous assessment of a portfolio of work throughout the two-year course. The vocational nature of the subject allows for a good deal of practical work and assessment in certain units. Units are gained at either Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction* level. It is the intention of the PE department that coursework units will be completed to Distinction level.

Why come to Charnwood College to study on this course

At Charnwood College we have an excellent record of achievement on the Sports Diploma course. You will benefit from staff with a high level of knowledge and experience of delivering success. You will benefit from a highly supportive environment to enable you to succeed.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

A variety of careers in the sports industry: Sport and Leisure Management, Sports Development, P.E. Teaching, Physiotherapy, Fitness Instruction, Sports Coaching.

What do students say about this course?

"I prefer coursework to exams and the variety of units we covered were interesting and relevant to the careers available in sport." – Nicole

"I didn't realise there were so many different aspects to sport." – Callum

"My confidence improved so much through the practical work in the coaching and leading sports events units." – Romario

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths and Grade 6 in PE or at least a Level 2 Merit in OCR National Sport or BTEC Sport.

What is covered in the Extended Certificate Award? (5 units)	**What is covered in the Diploma Award? (11 units)**	
1. Body Systems & the Effects of Physical Activity 2. Sports Coaching & Activity Leadership 3. Sports Organisation & Development 17. Sports Injuries & Rehabilitation 18. Practical Skills in Sport & Physical Activity.	All the units covered on the Extended Certificate, plus; 4. Working Safely in Sports, Exercise, Health & Leisure. 5. Performance Analysis in Sport & Exercise. 8. Organisation of Sports Events 10. Biomechanics & Movement Analysis 11. Physical Activity for Specific Groups 13. Health & Fitness Testing for Sport & Exercise 17. Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation.	

Detailed information on unit content is available from;

http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/cambridge-technicals/cambridge-technicals-2016/

follow the links to;

Sport and Physical Activity Level 3 - 05826-05829, 05872 (2016 suite)

For further information contact:

Mr Strange

FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Subject title: **FOOTBALL ACADEMY**

Exam board and specification: **First4sport**

Why should you consider taking this course?

To maximize your performance as a player with daily sessions specific to your own and the team's needs. Building towards the goal of a sporting scholarship or progression onto semi-professional / professional teams.

What is covered?

- Plan, develop and apply your technical skills.
- Plan, develop and apply your tactical skills.
- Develop your own personal conditioning.
- Achieve coaching and refereeing qualifications.
- Develop an understanding of a sports programme.

How will you be assessed?

- There is no examination for the course.
- Matches are recorded and accompanied with a reference to help your progression into clubs/scholarships.
- Refereeing and coaching qualifications are assessed through practical review and some written plans plus group work.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 5 in English and Maths.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

Professional football player, Coach, Manager, Referee, Sports management, Sports psychologist, Sport physiotherapist, PE Teacher, Sports development officer.

What students say about this course.

‘Rewarding’

‘Perfect course to develop my footballing ability’

‘It’s great to feel like I'm part of a team both on and off the pitch’

‘It gives me a sense of belonging’

For further information contact:

Football Development Officer – swilton@dret.co.uk

DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence)

Subject title: **DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence)**

Exam board and specification: **First 4 Sport City and Guilds**

Why should you consider taking this course?

If you are an elite performer in the sport of basketball and you wish to maximise this talent and achieve your sporting potential.

What is covered?

- Plan, develop and apply your technical skills.
- Plan and develop your own physical conditioning.
- Plan, develop and apply your tactical skills.
- Develop mental skills necessary for excellent performance.
- Plan and manage your lifestyle and career.
- Achieve a Level 2 Basketball coaching award.
- Develop an understanding of a professional sports programme

How will you be assessed?

The course is portfolio based. Practical assessments are recorded on video tape, witness statements and personal analysis and evaluation. Your work is moderated. There is no exam.

Practical assessment of coaching and officiating and events organisation.

64 UCAS points (two C grades).

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Preferably Grade 5 in English and Maths and a player performance level approved by England Basketball.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

Professional basketball player, coach, sports management, P.E. teacher, Sports Development Officer.

What do students say about this course?

'Great course, top coaching has helped me reach the next level'

'Intense and enjoyable, hardworking but rewarding'

EXTENDED PROJECT

Subject title **Level 3 Extended Project Qualification**

Exam board and specification **AQA (7993)**

Why should you consider taking this course?

EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or your future career.

- it can be taken as an extension of other Level 3 qualifications or vocational qualifications
- it's worth half an A-level (up to 28 UCAS points)
- it's recognised by universities and employers
- many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

What is covered?

The EPQ allows you to lead on your own project. You get to plan and carry out research on a topic that you've chosen and isn't covered by your other qualifications. You can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to your studies. You then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) you:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

How will the course be taught?

Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification will involve teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of your progress. It will involve extended autonomous work by you. The course will have 120 guided learning hours. (1 year course)

You are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

How will you be assessed?

The extended project is a single-unit, internally assessed qualification.

You will need to produce a production log, verified by your teacher, a written report, supplementary evidence and a presentation.

You will be assessed against four objectives:

AO1 Manage: Identify, design, plan and complete the individual project or task within a group project, applying organisation skills and strategies to meet stated objectives

AO2 Use resources: Obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of their topic

AO3 Develop and realise: Select and use a range of skills, including new technologies, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve planned outcomes

AO4 Review: Evaluate outcomes including own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to convey and present outcomes and conclusions.

What qualifications will you need to start this course?

A minimum of 5 GCSEs Grade 4.
Grade 4 in English and Maths.

What careers could this course help prepare you for?

An EPQ will help you develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work. It is valued by higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning.

What do students say about this course? What do students enjoy about this course?

'The EPQ is a great course, it has honed my skills as an independent learner, preparing me fo Uni'

Key statistics about this course

Nationally, 22.6% of students achieve an A*, with 85% of students achieving a grade C or above.

Last year, our Year 13 student cohort thrived on this course with 40% A-A* among those who took it..

Enrichment:

By choosing your own topic for your project, you are able to build upon your own interests and develop an expertise in the subject of your choice.

For further information contact:

Mrs Leaves

Sixth Form

Register to study with us

Student Name (Print) ……

Telephone Number…….. **DOB……**

Address……

Student Email (not school)……

Parent/Carer Name ……

Parent/Carer Email……..

Parent/Carer Mobile Number: ……

Current School……

Please tick the 3 or 4 subjects that you are most interested in studying with us:

Subject *		**Subject ***	
Art		Maths (Core)	
Biology		Music	
Business Studies		PE	
Chemistry		Performing Arts	
Economics		Physics	
English Language/Literature		Product Design	
Extended Project (EPQ)		Psychology	
Further Maths		Sociology	
Geography		Sport Diploma (Single)	
History		Sport Diploma (Double)	
Maths			

I would also like to find out more about:

Charnwood College Basketball Academy	
Charnwood College Football Development Scheme	

Please send your completed form to Mrs Lara Morley or Ms Jo Downs Charnwood College Sixth Form Admissions, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, LE11 4SQ or email jdowns@charnwoodcollege.org

*** Courses may change depending on interest.**

Charnwood College

Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 4SQ

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Charnwoodcollege Charnwoodsixthform

Charnwood College is part of the David Ross Education Trust

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