
KEW HOUSE SCHOOL

The Sixth Form

A Level Guide

2026 / 27

A hub of opportunity and excellence

Kew House Sixth Form is a hub of opportunity and excellence where students thrive. Our Sixth Form experience is both rigorous and enriching, combining academic challenge with outstanding mentorship and unwavering support. Over two years, students are guided by exceptional subject specialists who inspire ambition, nurture independence and encourage every individual to find their unique voice.

We set the highest expectations because we know our students can consistently achieve beyond them. From dynamic teaching and the Extended Project Qualification, to the structure of our Independent Learning Centre and our holistic pastoral system, every aspect of our provision is designed to cultivate resilience, scholarship and leadership.

This is not simply preparation for examinations but a launchpad for the future.

Our exceptional UCAS and Careers Programme ensures that students leave us ready to succeed in whichever path they choose, whether that be Oxbridge or Russell Group universities, competitive apprenticeships, or direct entry into employment. Alongside academic excellence, they build the confidence, adaptability and ambition to flourish in a fast-changing world.

What follows in this guide is a glimpse of what makes our Sixth Form exceptional: the opportunities, the challenges and the unwavering support that define our culture. We are proud of the pride our students take in themselves, in each other and in their school. For them, Sixth Form is not only two years of brilliance, it is the beginning of a lifetime of success, ambition and achievement.

Gillian Abbott

Head of Sixth Form

Life in the Sixth Form

A launchpad shaped by rigorous teaching, holistic pastoral care and a curriculum designed to develop scholarship, resilience and leadership.

Sixth Form Timetable

At Kew House Sixth Form, we have designed a modern and innovative timetable that maximises learning, enriches personal development and equips students for success beyond school. Our extended teaching day, running from 8:30am to 4:00pm, ensures that every student receives six hours of specialist teaching per subject each week: time that is purposeful, structured and transformative.

Lessons are delivered in sessions of either 3 hours or 1.5 hours, giving meaningful contact time that allows students to engage deeply with their subjects. This approach enhances progression, encourages creativity and supports dynamic teaching methods. Whether in the laboratory, the studio or the classroom, students are encouraged to learn by doing, to question, to create and to apply their knowledge in innovative ways.

We do not timetable “free periods.” Instead, students benefit from two three-hour Independent Learning Centre (ILC) sessions each week. These sessions are central to our philosophy of developing independent, resilient learners. Students use this time to extend their subject knowledge, hone their research and organisational skills and, when appropriate, pursue co-curricular or extracurricular opportunities that broaden their horizons.

In addition to their core subjects, students also take part in the Gardener Futures Award, timetabled for 1.5 hours per week. This unique strand of our curriculum builds on the foundations of personal, social and health education in the lower school, while placing a greater emphasis on careers planning, university and apprenticeship preparation, leadership skills and decision making, community work and life beyond Sixth Form. Students complete a series of compulsory modules and can also achieve optional credits to further develop their skills for life beyond school.

Year 12 students are also supported with 1.5 hours per week dedicated to the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This qualification, equivalent to half an A Level, strengthens research and academic skills, fosters independence and is highly regarded by universities for the rigour and initiative it develops.

Finally, every Wednesday afternoon is reserved for Senior Games and Activities, giving students balance and time to prioritise wellbeing. More detail is in Competitive and Social Sport.

Our timetable is intentionally designed: it challenges, supports and stretches students academically, while nurturing their personal growth and preparing them for life after Kew House.

Pastoral Care

At Kew House, pastoral care is the foundation upon which our students' academic and personal success is built. We pride ourselves on knowing every individual, supporting them with care and providing the structures that allow them to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

The cornerstone of this support is our vertical tutor group system. Each Sixth Form student belongs to a small, carefully balanced group led by at least one Personal Tutor (PT), with daily tutor time creating a consistent rhythm of connection and guidance. Remaining with the same tutor throughout their time at Kew House enables students to build trusted relationships, while allowing tutors to develop a deep understanding of each individual's needs, ambitions and challenges.

Personal Tutors act as the first point of contact for all pastoral and academic matters, working closely with subject teachers to provide a joined-up picture of each student's progress. They also maintain close communication with parents, ensuring that feedback is clear, regular and constructive. Parents receive eight reports a year via our online portal, providing comprehensive accounts of progress and targets. Importantly, our open-door policy encourages parents to meet with staff whenever needed, avoiding the limitations of traditional, rushed parent evenings and ensuring that concerns are addressed promptly and thoughtfully.

Beyond daily tutor time, Sixth Form students also gather weekly for assemblies. These bring the community together to explore topical issues, celebrate successes and engage with presentations that broaden horizons and stimulate discussion across academic, social and cultural themes.

This holistic approach ensures that every student is supported as a whole person. With attentive pastoral care, high expectations and a culture of trust, we empower our students to meet challenges with confidence, build adaptability and flourish as young adults ready to seize the opportunities ahead.

Independent Learning Centre (ILC)

Students following the standard three A Level programme benefit from six hours of dedicated Independent Learning Centre (ILC) time each week. This structured provision is an integral part of the Kew House Sixth Form experience, ensuring that our students develop the independence, resilience and intellectual curiosity essential for success at university and beyond.

ILC time provides more than a quiet study slot: it is a purposeful opportunity to extend knowledge, consolidate understanding and refine the skills that underpin academic excellence. Within the ILC, students are guided to cultivate research techniques, strengthen organisation and time management and master academic conventions such as referencing.

These skills not only enrich day-to-day learning but also give our students a clear advantage when preparing for assessments, managing revision periods and bridging the step from school to higher education and alternative pathways.

Tasks set during ILC sessions are carefully designed by subject teachers to reinforce and expand upon the curriculum, while students are also encouraged to pursue wider academic reading, innovative projects and imaginative lines of enquiry that stretch well beyond the syllabus. This balance of structure and freedom inspires both depth and breadth of learning, nurturing genuine enjoyment in scholarship.

The Independent Learning Centre is staffed by teachers from all departments whose role is to guide, challenge and support students in making the very best use of their time.

Every student undergoes a thorough induction to understand the expectations of independent study at Sixth Form level. Progress is carefully monitored, with tailored support offered where needed,

ensuring that every student maximises this crucial part of their timetable.

Through the ILC, our students grow into confident, resourceful and self-disciplined learners, equipped with the habits of mind that will enable them not only to thrive at Kew House but to excel in their future studies and career.

The EPQ

At Kew House Sixth Form, we actively encourage all students to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) during Year 12. Equivalent to half an A Level, the EPQ is highly regarded by universities and apprenticeship providers, often providing the decisive edge for candidates with similar academic profiles. More importantly, it gives our students the opportunity to experience the intellectual independence, depth of enquiry and academic rigour which will define their future studies.

The EPQ challenges students to design and complete a substantial piece of work in an area of personal passion or academic interest. Projects may take the form of a dissertation, an artefact, a scientific investigation, or a performance, offering near-limitless scope for creativity and self-directed learning. This rare opportunity allows students to explore beyond the confines of traditional syllabuses, to ask big questions and to immerse themselves in the type of extended research and scholarship that is typical of university-level study.

Through the process, students develop vital skills: advanced research and source evaluation, critical analysis, academic writing, presentation, ethical enquiry and philosophical argument. Weekly timetabled lessons provide structured teaching in these areas, while each student is also paired with a subject-specialist mentor who guides and challenges them throughout their journey.

The course culminates in a formal presentation to an invited audience, where students showcase their findings and field questions about their work. Assessment is based not only on the final outcome but also on the process, evaluating how the project has developed from its inception to its conclusion.

The EPQ is more than a qualification: it is an experience that fosters independence, resilience and intellectual curiosity. It equips students with skills and experiences to reference in university applications and interviews, while also instilling the habits of mind that will support them in their future academic and professional lives.

The Gardener Futures Award

At Kew House Sixth Form, we believe that education must prepare young people not only for academic success but also for the wider challenges and opportunities of adult life.

The Gardener Futures Award, delivered predominantly through Individuals in Society (IS) lessons, ensures that every student leaves us as an adaptable and curious individual who is keen to make a contribution. The IS programme builds on foundations from the lower school and extends them into Sixth Form.

Students complete a series of compulsory modules across Year 12 and Year 13 and they may also decide to develop their skills further by gaining additional credits through the optional modules.

Gardener Futures Award: compulsory credits

- Volunteering within our local community: for one term students will volunteer within our local community. Placements may involve working within primary schools or supporting our elderly community.
- Leadership Programme: students will participate in a leadership programme that focuses on Arts, STEM or Sports leadership. Alternatively, they may develop their leadership skills through the Young Tycoons Economics programme.

- **Career Lectures:** students will attend a series of lectures about different career paths. They may also choose to attend career networking events that are offered throughout the year.
- **Work Experience:** students will complete a week of work experience at a workplace of their choice.
- **PSHE Programme:** PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) is not a statutory requirement in sixth form (Key Stage 5), although the government encourages its continuation. As a school, we remain committed to offering PSHE programmes to support students' transition to further education and life beyond school. Lessons may include financial planning, independent living, relationships and personal skills.

Gardener Futures Award: optional credits

- **Student Leadership:** at the end of Year 12 students may apply to be part of our student leadership team. This may be leading one of our houses or having a more academic, charitable or wellbeing focus.
- **Student Expedition with World Challenge:** during their two years in the Sixth Form, students will have the opportunity to participate in a World Challenge expedition.
- **Public Speaking/Debating:** by attending sessions with our external debating coach students will develop their critical thinking, communication skills and public speaking confidence.
- **DofE Gold Award:** students can complete their DofE Gold Award through the school, undertaking challenging expeditions in remote areas such as Snowdonia or the Brecon Beacons.

Students' progress is assessed through:

- Active participation in various activities
- Reflection on personal growth
- Independent and group projects

The Gardener Futures Award provides students with the skills, knowledge and experiences necessary to thrive, ensuring they leave Kew House School as confident, responsible and adaptable adults.

Futures Programme

At Kew House Sixth Form, our careers and higher education provision is designed to inspire ambition, open doors and equip students with the knowledge and confidence to make exceptional choices for life beyond school; to become World Ready. Whether their goal is Oxbridge, a Russell Group university, an international institution, a specialist apprenticeship, or direct entry into the world of work, our programme ensures that students and parents are fully supported at every stage.

We build on the strong foundations of the careers programme in the lower school, while raising the level of challenge and opportunity to prepare students for highly competitive applications. Alongside academic excellence, we help students demonstrate the range of skills, aptitudes and experiences that set them apart. Parents are closely involved through an open-door policy, briefings and regular communication with tutors and key staff, making this a truly collaborative journey.

Our Futures and UCAS Programme includes:

- **Personalised Guidance:** Regular one-to-one careers interviews with a fully qualified Careers Advisor in addition to ongoing support from personal tutors and subject staff.
- **Parent Partnership:** Careers briefings, UCAS information evenings and an open-door approach to ensure parents are fully informed and engaged.
- **Inspirational Speakers:** A diverse range of visiting professionals and university representatives introduce students to pathways and opportunities across fields and industries.
- **Visits to universities and UCAS fairs,** alongside a one week work experience placement at the end of Year 12.

- UCAS Mentorship: Each student works closely with their IS teacher who provides detailed guidance on personal statements, course selection and institution choice.
- Alternative Pathways: Ongoing information and advice on apprenticeships and employment opportunities throughout Year 12 and 13.
- Results Day Support: Dedicated staff on hand to guide students in accepting offers, navigating Clearing and securing the best possible next step.

KHS Aspire Programme

For students who want to make ambitious applications to UK and International universities we also tailor our support that exists in the lower school to include the following:

- Bi-weekly talks and tutorials on a range of topics from staff across the school that encourages students to critically engage with material beyond their A Level courses
- Guidance and support with national essay competitions
- Building a competitive application to make our students World Ready.

Within the KHS Aspire programme will be a tailored provision for Oxbridge and early-entry courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. This is for students who fit the academic profile required. This will include guidance on personal statements, admissions test preparation and interview practice.

Our programme is not just about applications, it is about nurturing ambition, raising aspirations and ensuring every student leaves us prepared to thrive in whichever path they choose. With expert guidance, bespoke support and a wealth of opportunities, Kew House Sixth Form empowers students to take bold steps toward the future they envision.

Competitive and Social Sport

Every Wednesday afternoon is reserved for Senior Games and Activities. This vital part of the timetable provides balance, enabling students to step away from academic study and prioritise wellbeing.

With a wide range of options available, developed over time with a strong 'pupil voice' influence, students have the opportunity to compete in our high level competitive sports, such as Netball, Football and Rowing where we have achieved regional and national success, or to enjoy more recreational pursuits such as yoga, Pilates, boxing, basketball and rock climbing, among others.

Every student can find an activity that both inspires and refreshes them, preparing them for their lives ahead.

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Leadership sits at the heart of Kew House Sixth Form. We encourage our students to be ambitious and future focused as they prepare for life beyond school, while also rooted in the responsibility of guiding and nurturing the younger years behind them.

The Student Headship Team is the pinnacle of this philosophy. They take on significant responsibilities across academics, pastoral care and the ethos of the Gardener Schools Group. Far more than symbolic roles, these are positions of genuine influence that shape the culture and development of our school.

Headship students are entrusted with leading in areas such as:

- Leading the four Houses, Oak, Ash, Elm and Yew

- Coordinating clubs and societies, ensuring younger pupils are inspired and engaged.
- Driving academic initiatives, from mentoring schemes to subject-based events.
- Championing wellbeing across the student body.
- Organising charity events, fundraisers and service projects with real community impact.
- Chairing the Student Council and amplifying the student voice.
- Supporting cultural, creative and sporting activities that enrich school life.
- Representing Kew House at internal and external events as role models and ambassadors.

Through these responsibilities, our Headship Team develop resilience, organisation, communication and leadership skills of the highest calibre. They become visible role models within the school, embodying the balance of ambition and service that we expect of every Kew House Sixth Former.

For many, this is a transformative experience: the chance to lead, to inspire and to leave a lasting legacy within the school community.

Sixth Form Dress Code

We see our Sixth Formers as role models and leaders to the rest of the school and expect the highest standards of conduct and appearance. Our dress code is centred around an ethos of equality, professionalism and excellence.

All elements should be appropriate for situations such as a formal office environment or an interview: a formal blazer or suit jacket; a collared shirt with tie or a blouse; straight-leg smart trousers or a knee-length fabric skirt worn with tights; and black, brown, grey or navy leather close-toed shoes. Denim, hoodies, branded jumpers, leggings, sportswear, trainers and Ugg boots are not permitted. Makeup, jewellery and hair should be discreet and professional.

Sixth Form Admissions

At Kew House School's Sixth Form, we aspire to bring together a community of motivated, mature and intellectually curious students. Our Sixth Formers thrive in a warm and welcoming environment, making the most of our state-of-the-art facilities and the expertise of teachers who are specialists in their fields.

The first step, after visiting, is to complete both our registration form and Sixth Form application form. Alongside these, we request predicted grade information and a confidential reference from the applicant's current school. A recent school report will also help us gain a fuller picture of academic progress, commitment to study, work ethic and engagement with extra-curricular activities. Interviews for internal applicants begin in the autumn term.

Registration form: <https://kewhouseschool.com/admissions/register-your-child/>

Sixth Form application form: <https://gardenersschools.wufoo.com/forms/p14xq92e1nvkh0s/>

Rather than relying on internal testing, offers of places are based on GCSE results. Predicted grades will inform interview discussions about likely academic performance and suitability for A Level or BTEC courses.

We value applicants as individuals. Interviews provide an opportunity to share not only academic ambitions but also personal interests, achievements and how students have embraced opportunities beyond the classroom. We are especially interested in how applicants would contribute to the life of Kew House School as Sixth Formers.

Entry criteria for external applicants

- At least 5 GCSEs at grade 6 or above, including English and Maths.
- A minimum of grade 6 or 7 in subjects chosen for A Level study (or equivalent).
- Meeting additional subject-specific criteria where required (e.g. grade 6 in Geography or History to study at A Level).

Further information is available in the subjects guide section of this brochure. Applicants should note that any offer of a place is ultimately at the Headmaster's discretion. Kew House School fees are the same across all year groups (Year 7 to Year 13).

Scholarships for Sixth Form Entry

We are proud to celebrate and support pupils' achievements through a range of scholarships at Kew House School.

Academic Scholars

Academic Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate outstanding academic ability. Year 12 Scholarships are considered at three points in the year:

- For current and external applicants during the Autumn Term of Year 11.
- For current KHS pupils who excel in their January mock GCSE exams.
- For Year 11 pupils who achieve exceptional GCSE results.

Art, Design & Technology, Music, Drama and Sports Scholars

Scholarships in these fields recognise potential, excellence and talent.

Music scholarships include remission of peripatetic fees for up to two instruments.

Drama scholarships include remission for LAMDA examination preparation.

Art and Design & Technology scholarships offer an enrichment package of materials and opportunities within the Scholarship Programme.

Gardener Scholars

Gardener Scholarships are awarded to all-rounders entering Year 12 who show both high academic ability and talent in at least one specialist subject area. These students make a strong contribution to school life and embody Kew House values. There is no separate application process for this award.

[More information can be found on our scholarships page: <https://kewhouseschool.com/admissions/scholarships>](https://kewhouseschool.com/admissions/scholarships)

THE CURRICULUM

A Level Subjects

24 courses across seven categories

Biology

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A-Level Biology delves into fundamental questions about life, from the mechanics of the heart to the potential of GM crops in combating hunger. The course covers a broad range of topics, including molecular biology, ecosystems and human physiology, equipping students for careers in medicine, conservation and research.

Through rigorous challenges, students develop practical skills in state-of-the-art laboratories, guided by enthusiastic teachers who foster a supportive learning environment. Practical investigations enhance problem-solving abilities and apply biological knowledge to real-world contexts, preparing students for higher education and future careers.

COURSE INFORMATION

The course consists of six modules:

1. Development of Practical Skills: focuses on experimental design and data analysis, including a non-examined practical endorsement.
2. Foundations in Biology: covers cell structure, biological molecules, enzymes and the therapeutic use of stem cells.
3. Exchange and Transport: examines gas exchange and transport systems in organisms, highlighting surface area to volume ratio.
4. Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease: introduces ecology, organism classification and evolutionary defences against pathogens.
5. Communication, Homeostasis and Energy: investigates organism responses to stimuli and homeostatic regulation.
6. Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems: explores gene function, heredity and DNA manipulation techniques.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Biological Processes: 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (37% of total GCE)
- Biological Diversity: 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (37% of total GCE)
- Unified Biology: 70 marks, 1 hour 30 minutes written paper (26% of total GCE)

BEYOND A LEVEL BIOLOGY

A Level biology provides students with a strong understanding of the living world while developing practical, analytical and problem-solving skills. It is an excellent preparation for further study in areas such as biology, medicine, veterinary science, biomedical science and other life sciences. The subject is also valuable for students considering careers in healthcare, scientific research, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, conservation and environmental work. The range of skills developed through biology also makes it a useful qualification for many other university courses and career pathways.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 7/6 Combined Science or Grade 6 in Separate Science Biology and 6 or 7 Maths.

Business

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level Business at Kew House provides students with an in-depth understanding of how businesses operate on local, national and global scales. The course covers business topics such as recruitment, leadership and employee motivation while also delving into the responsibilities businesses and individuals face.

Key subjects include ethical dilemmas, leadership theories, business planning and human resource management. A strong emphasis is placed on financial management, exploring topics like raising finance, financial planning and the economic environment.

Students will develop critical real-world skills such as decision-making, data analysis and problem-solving. The course is ideal for those with an interest in business and equips learners with vital skills like group work and presentation abilities.

COURSE INFORMATION

No prior study of Business is required but strong grades in GCSE Maths and English are recommended. Students must have a good command of essay writing, numerical skills and logical, analytical thinking.

The course encourages learners to engage with the business world, undertake independent research and apply critical thinking to real-world scenarios. It suits students with a strong interest in commerce and those willing to conduct background reading on business topics.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- The assessment consists of three externally examined papers, each 2 hours long. There is no coursework.
- Paper 1: Marketing, People and Global Businesses
- Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions & Strategy
- Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment

BEYOND A LEVEL BUSINESS

Business is a practical and highly relevant academic subject which develops students' understanding of how organisations operate, make decisions and respond to a changing commercial world. It combines analytical, numerical and communication skills, providing an excellent foundation for university study and future careers. In recent years, most of our Business students have gone on to study Business, Management, Marketing, Finance or Accounting at university. Business is also a valuable A Level for students considering degree apprenticeships, where an understanding of how organisations operate can provide an excellent foundation.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 English Language and Grade 5 Maths, along with proficiency in essay writing, numerical and analytical skills.

Chemistry

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The OCR A Level Chemistry course equips students with a strong understanding of the chemical principles that underpin the world around us. It is a challenging and intellectually stimulating subject that develops both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Across six modules, students explore core topics such as the foundations of chemistry, the periodic table, organic chemistry, physical chemistry and analytical techniques. Hands-on practical work is integrated throughout the course to help students develop essential scientific techniques and prepare for the practical endorsement.

The course opens doors to careers in fields such as medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science, research and teaching, as well as roles in finance and business due to the problem-solving and analytical skills gained.

COURSE INFORMATION

The OCR A Level Chemistry course is divided into six modules, covering both first- and second-year content. Year 1 modules include the foundations of chemistry, the periodic table, energy and core organic chemistry.

In Year 2, students delve into more advanced topics such as physical chemistry, transition elements and complex organic chemistry with an emphasis on analytical techniques. Throughout the two-year programme, students develop practical skills in laboratory settings, assessed via a practical endorsement, vital for demonstrating competency in conducting scientific experiments.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry: 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes
- Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques: 100 marks, 2 hours 15 minutes
- Paper 3: Unified Chemistry: 70 marks, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Practical endorsement: non-exam assessment completed across the two years and evaluated internally.

BEYOND A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is a challenging and rewarding academic subject which opens a wide range of doors to further study. Universities and employers regard chemistry as a rigorous discipline, developing important skills in analytical thinking, practical techniques and problem solving. Students who have studied A Level Chemistry go on to read chemistry, biochemistry and natural sciences degrees, as well as medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science and chemical engineering. Many also progress to courses in economics and finance where their numerical and logical skills are highly valued. Students who have studied chemistry at Kew House School have gone on to study biochemistry, medicine and engineering.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 7/6 Combined Science or Grade 6 in Separate Science Chemistry and 6 or 7 Maths.

Computer Science

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The OCR A Level Computer Science course is your chance to step into the engine room of modern technology. From social media platforms and game design to artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, computing shapes the world around us. This course takes you behind the scenes, giving you the knowledge and skills to not just use technology but to create it.

Students will master the fundamentals of programming, algorithms, data structures and computational thinking, the tools that power everything from apps to advanced scientific research. You'll also explore how computers actually work, from the hardware inside the machine to the operating systems, networks and databases that keep our digital world connected.

Over the two years you'll examine the real-world impact of technology, including ethical, legal and cultural issues, while also learning about exciting areas like encryption and emerging computing innovations. A major highlight is the non-exam assessment project, where you'll design and develop a complete piece of software to solve a problem of your choice, a chance to showcase creativity, innovation and technical expertise.

OCR Computer Science isn't just a subject: it's a launchpad. Whether you see yourself in software engineering, game development, AI, or any field that uses tech, this course equips you with the skills to thrive in a digital future.

COURSE INFORMATION

The OCR Computer Science syllabus is divided into 12 units. During the first year, students focus on programming fundamentals, algorithms, data structures and computational thinking.

The second year covers advanced topics such as computer architecture, networking, databases and functional programming. Units include studying data representation, encryption, hardware components and the ethical uses of computing in society.

Additionally, a non-exam assessment involves a practical software development project, offering hands-on experience in creating functional programs.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Theory of computer systems, algorithms and data representation, 2 hours 30 minutes, 140 marks
- Paper 2: Programming and system development: 2 hours 30 minutes, 140 marks
- Non-Exam Assessment: practical project developing a software solution to a real-world problem, 70 marks

BEYOND A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science A Level provides an excellent foundation for university courses such as Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Software Engineering, as well as degree apprenticeships and careers within the technology industry. The course develops highly transferable skills, including logical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, programming and the ability to analyse complex problems. Students who have studied Computer Science at Kew House School have progressed to exciting university courses including Artificial Intelligence and Computer Animation.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Students are recommended to have a strong background in Mathematics (Grade 6 or above) and an interest in problem-solving. Previous experience in Computer Science at GCSE level (Grade 6 or higher) is advantageous.

Design and Technology: Product Design

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level Design and Technology is a dynamic and creative qualification that equips students with practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence for careers in the creative industries. The course allows students to produce prototypes using excellent CAD/CAM facilities, including SolidWorks and 3D printers. These skills give students an edge in university applications.

Throughout the course, students gain a comprehensive understanding of design, guided by industry-experienced teaching staff. There are trips to industry and university workshops, further enriching their learning experience. The course covers a broad range of topics and emphasises both creative and STEM elements, preparing students for various university programmes and career paths.

COURSE INFORMATION

The AQA specification includes 24 units, covered over two years alongside practical projects, CAD/CAM training and the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), which begins in April of Year 12 and runs until March of Year 13.

Students design and create a professional-quality product of their choice for the NEA, which constitutes 50% of the final grade. The course uniquely blends creativity with STEM disciplines, providing a strong foundation for various higher education pathways and careers.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- The A Level is assessed through two exam papers and the NEA, each contributing 50% of the final grade.
- Paper 1: Technical Principles
- Paper 2: Design and Making Principles
- NEA: designing and making a professional product, started in Year 12 and completed in Year 13

BEYOND A LEVEL DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

A-level Design & Technology is a STEM subject that provides a strong foundation for a wide range of careers in engineering, design and technology. It is particularly valuable for students considering engineering-related degrees, including Design Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Automotive Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering and can be accepted by universities as an alternative to a traditional science subject for some engineering applications. Students also progress into Product Design, Industrial Design, Architecture, Engineering Design, Materials Engineering, Robotics and Mechatronics and careers within manufacturing, technology and innovation. The subject combines creativity with technical knowledge, problem-solving, CAD, materials, manufacturing processes and iterative design, giving students a broad skill set that is highly relevant to the development of products, systems and the built environment.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 Design & Technology or 3D Design and Grade 5 in Maths.

Drama

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The A Level Drama course encourages students to develop practical creativity alongside academic understanding. Through studying drama and theatre, students gain essential skills such as collaboration, communication and critical thinking, which are valuable for further education and various career paths.

This course blends practical work with theoretical exploration, enabling students to grow in confidence and refine their performance or technical skills. Students will explore set texts, create original drama and present performance pieces, learning to work as performers, designers or directors.

The course also involves reflective analysis, live theatre evaluations and engaging with different theatre practitioners. With a focus on both individual and collaborative work, Drama students gain a well-rounded appreciation of theatre's role in society and culture.

COURSE INFORMATION

The Drama A Level consists of three components.

Component 1 (NEA, 30%, 80 marks): devise an original performance piece using one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli. Centre choice of text and practitioner; performer or designer routes available. Assessed via a 3,000-word portfolio (typed, verbally recorded or a combination) and the devised performance / design realisation.

Component 2 (NEA, 30%): performed to a visiting examiner. Two scripts are studied and performed (usually a group piece and a duo / monologue). No written element; performer or designer routes available.

Component 3 (Written Exam, 40%, 2h 30m, 80 marks). Section A, Set Text: *Woyzeck* by Georg Büchner: multiple choice and a director question re-imagining the play in the style of a practitioner. Section B, Set Text: *That Face* by Polly Stenham: given extract with actor and designer questions. Section C, Live Theatre Review: a statement to argue with 500-word notes allowed.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Component 1: Drama and Theatre: 3-hour written exam (40%), two set texts and live theatre evaluation
- Component 2: Creating Original Drama: practical performance (10%) and working notebook (20%)
- Component 3: Making Theatre: two practical performances (30%)

BEYOND A LEVEL DRAMA

Drama is a highly versatile subject that develops skills valued by universities and employers alike, including confidence, communication, collaboration, the ability to take criticism constructively and creative problem-solving. Students who have studied Drama go on to read Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts, English Literature and Film Studies at university, as well as degrees in Law, Business, Psychology and Education, where the ability to communicate persuasively and work effectively in a team is highly prized. Theatrical Design is also an option within the course, opening further pathways into degrees in Theatre Design, Costume and Set Design and Technical Theatre. Beyond university, Drama also opens pathways into conservatoire training for acting, directing and stage management, as well as careers across the wider creative industries, including arts administration, teaching and the media and broadcasting sectors.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in Drama or Grade 6 English Language / Literature.

Economics

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level Economics at Kew House offers students a deep understanding of the key financial issues impacting society and the economic solutions to these problems. The course helps develop the analytical skills, evaluation techniques and critical thinking necessary to thrive in higher education and the workplace.

In Year 12, students study Macroeconomics, focusing on the UK economy within the EU and global contexts and Microeconomics, analysing market operations and government interventions. In Year 13, emphasis shifts to globalisation, international trade, public finance and the development of emerging economies. Financial and behavioural economics also play a significant role throughout the course.

COURSE INFORMATION

In Year 12, students cover key macroeconomic and microeconomic concepts, focusing on the operation of markets, market failure and the UK's economy within the global context.

Year 13 builds on these themes with a greater emphasis on globalisation, international trade and the financial sector. Students are encouraged to develop a comprehensive understanding of both theoretical and practical economic issues. While A Level Mathematics is recommended for those considering studying Economics at top universities, it is not essential for this A Level.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- The course is assessed through three externally examined papers, each 2 hours long. There is no coursework or NEA component.
- Paper 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure
- Paper 2: The UK Economy: Performance and Policies
- Paper 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market, with a global perspective

BEYOND A LEVEL ECONOMICS

Economics is a rigorous, highly regarded academic subject that combines analytical thinking, quantitative skills and an understanding of current affairs, providing an excellent foundation for a wide range of university courses and future careers. In recent years, the majority of our Economics students at Kew House School have gone on to study Economics, Finance, Business, Geography or Engineering at university. Universities and employers highly value the skills developed through A Level Economics and provide students with a strong foundation for further study in a wide range of academic and professional fields.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 English Language and Grade 6 Maths, along with proficiency in essay writing, numerical and analytical skills.

English Literature

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The AQA A Level English Literature course offers students the opportunity to explore a wide array of texts, developing a deep appreciation of literature across genres and time periods. Students critically engage with influential works, including plays, poetry and novels by authors like Shakespeare, Blake, Ibsen and Fitzgerald. Through these studies, students gain insight into themes such as the human condition, societal values and personal identity.

Over the two-year course, students analyse at least eight major texts, while also developing sophisticated reading and analytical skills. In addition to their coursework and exams, students are encouraged to explore supplementary readings and participate in theatre trips and lectures to enhance their literary understanding. Students who enjoy engaging in discussion and analysing complex texts will find this course both stimulating and rewarding.

COURSE INFORMATION

The AQA English Literature A Level comprises three main components.

Paper 1(a): Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy. Students study three texts within the tragic genre, focusing on themes of flawed protagonists, suffering and conflict. Texts often include *Othello*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Death of a Salesman*, with attention to how different authors interpret the elements of tragedy.

Paper 2(b): Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing. Students explore texts that address power, oppression and rebellion, analysing how literature reflects and influences societal issues. Typical texts include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *A Doll's House* and *The Kite Runner*, alongside unseen extracts exploring themes of political protest and social class.

Independent Coursework. Students choose and analyse two texts: one prose and one poetry, using critical approaches such as feminist, Marxist or post-colonial theory. This unit fosters independent scholarship.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1(a): Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy
- Paper 2(b): Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing
- Independent Coursework: two texts analysed through critical theory

BEYOND ENGLISH LIT A LEVEL

English Literature is a highly respected academic subject which develops critical thinking, analytical skills and a deep understanding of culture, ideas and human experience. Employers and universities value English Literature A Level for the advanced reading, writing and communication skills it fosters. Students who study English Literature A Level go on to read English, Law, History and other humanities-based degrees, as well as subjects such as Journalism, Media, Politics and Education. Students who have studied English Literature at Kew House School have also progressed to a wide range of careers in publishing, marketing and the creative industries.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

A minimum of a 6 in GCSE English Literature is recommended for this course. Strong reading, analytical and writing skills are essential for success in the coursework and written examinations. Students should be prepared to engage in independent reading and research throughout the course.

Fine Art

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level Fine Art at Kew House is designed for creative, committed and imaginative students who wish to explore their thoughts and feelings through artistic expression. Building on skills developed at GCSE, this course allows students to experiment and push creative boundaries across a wide range of artistic media and techniques.

Students learn to create personal, imaginative work and the course encourages creativity, independence and problem-solving. Fine Art complements other subjects, enhancing original thinking and helping students develop their artistic skills for various career paths in the creative industry.

COURSE INFORMATION

The course introduces students to a variety of fine art media, processes and techniques, both traditional and modern, encouraging exploration through online journals and sketchbooks.

Students may specialise in areas such as drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking and photography. In Component 1, students work on a personal investigation supported by written material, contributing 60% of their final grade. Component 2 requires personal work in response to a set starting point, contributing 40% of the final marks.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level): a creative exploration of an idea or theme, supported by written work
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level): personal work in response to one of eight starting points provided by the exam board

BEYOND ART A LEVEL

We have a fantastic record of students securing placement at Kingston University to study a 1 year art foundation course before going on to study at the top art colleges including Glasgow School of Art, Central Saint Martins, Goldsmiths, The Slade, Chelsea College of Arts and Exeter University. In the past 3 years students have attended undergraduate courses in Fine Art, Sculpture and Environmental Art, Art History and Fashion Journalism.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in Art or Design and Technology.

Food Science and Nutrition

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The WJEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Food Science and Nutrition (Extended Certificate) is designed for students who are passionate about food science, nutrition and health and who are considering pursuing graduate careers in these fields. If you are interested in understanding the science behind food production, dietary health and how nutrition impacts well-being, this qualification is a great fit for you. It blends academic knowledge with practical application, helping you develop valuable real-world skills while building a solid academic foundation. This qualification is especially beneficial if you are looking to continue your education at university and pursue careers in areas such as dietetics, food science, nutrition consultancy, public health or food product development. It provides in-depth knowledge on key topics like food safety, the role of nutrients in the body and how to create innovative food products. By focusing on applied learning, it equips you with the research, analytical and practical skills needed for university and beyond.

COURSE INFORMATION

You will complete four units, three mandatory and one optional, over the two years:

UNIT 1: Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages (mandatory): This unit will provide you with an in-depth understanding of the properties and functions of nutrients, the impact of food production on nutritional value and how dietary requirements vary across different life stages. These topics are directly relevant to human nutrition and food science degrees.

UNIT 2: Developing Practical Food Production Skills (mandatory): You will apply theoretical knowledge in a hands-on environment, learning advanced food preparation techniques while considering nutritional value and dietary needs. These skills mirror practical elements found in undergraduate laboratory-based or practical food science modules.

UNIT 3: Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety (mandatory): This unit is particularly relevant if you intend to pursue a career involving food technology, quality control and food safety management, as it introduces fundamental concepts related to foodborne illnesses, hazard analysis and industry standards. These topics are widely covered in food science and public health degrees.

UNIT 4: Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems (optional): You will develop research and investigative skills, mirroring scientific methodologies used in university-level courses. You will learn how to formulate hypotheses, design and conduct experiments and analyse results.

UNIT 5: Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition (optional): This unit encourages critical thinking and research into contemporary food science challenges, preparing students for research-focused university programmes.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- UNIT 1: Assessed through a written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes: 25% of qualification, 80 marks
- UNIT 2: Assessed through a non-examination assessment (NEA): 9 hours 30 minutes, 25% of qualification, 100 marks
- UNIT 3: Assessed through a written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes: 25% of qualification, 80 marks
- UNIT 4: Assessed through a non-examination assessment (NEA): 12 hours: 25% of qualification, 100 marks
- UNIT 5: Assessed through a non-examination assessment (NEA): 12 hours: 25% of qualification, 100 marks

RECOMMENDED SUBJECTS TO PAIR WITH THIS COURSE

To benefit from this course, students may combine it with other Level 3 qualifications, such as AS/A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, PE, Psychology, Maths or Business Studies.

BEYOND LEVEL 3 AAQ IN FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

If you are interested in tackling real-world challenges, such as fighting obesity, improving food sustainability or addressing food security, this qualification will give you a strong foundation for a future in public health initiatives, food policy development or the research and development sectors within the food industry. The curriculum encourages creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving, skills that are essential in competitive and evolving industries. Completion of this qualification can support progression to higher education courses such as: BSc Food and Nutrition; BSc Food Science; BSc Human Nutrition; BSc Nutrition and Dietetics; BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition; BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology and BSc (Hons) Sports Nutrition.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 5 in Food Tech

French

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The A Level French course builds on the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE, offering an integrated study of language, culture and society. It helps students develop transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking and research, which are valuable both in personal development and in various careers.

The course explores how French-speaking societies have been shaped socially and culturally, with a focus on how they continue to evolve. Students who wish to study French or another subject in higher education, or those aiming to enter the workforce, will find this course highly beneficial.

COURSE INFORMATION

Students cover key themes related to French-speaking society over two years, studying both social and political issues. Social issues and trends include changing family structures, the cyber-society and the role of voluntary work. Artistic culture includes a culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music and cinema as an art form in the first year.

During the second year students look further into social issues, trends and political culture, exploring themes such as positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised and demonstrations and strikes.

Students are expected to master French grammar and structures appropriate for A Level. Knowledge from GCSE is assumed and students are required to use grammar and structures actively and accurately in all exam tasks.

Individual Research Project: students undertake an individual research project on a subject related to a French-speaking country. They collect and analyse information from French sources, developing research skills. Findings are presented and discussed in the speaking assessment.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing: 2 hours 30 minutes, 160 marks (50% of A Level)
- Paper 2: Writing: 2 hours, 90 marks (20% of A Level)
- Paper 3: Speaking: 21-23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation, 60 marks (30% of A Level)

BEYOND A LEVEL FRENCH

French A Level provides a strong foundation for a wide variety of university courses and future pathways, including French, Modern Languages, Liberal Arts, International Relations, Politics, European Studies, Business, Law, Media, Tourism and other humanities-based disciplines.

Through the study of literature and film, students learn to interpret ideas, evaluate perspectives and connect creative works with the social, cultural and historical events that have shaped French-speaking societies.

These experiences develop highly transferable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking, evidence-based interpretation, communication and the ability to understand different perspectives. Such skills can be applied across academic study, future careers and everyday life, while helping students become more culturally and interculturally aware in a rapidly changing global society.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in GCSE French is recommended to access the A Level course. The ability to grasp complex grammar structures and immerse in cultural studies is crucial for success.

Geography

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Geography A Level equips students with a comprehensive understanding of both physical and human geography, exploring the interconnectedness of these disciplines. The course covers contemporary issues and challenges, fostering a deep understanding of the world and its dynamics.

Students develop skills in analysis, critical thinking and problem-solving, making them highly marketable for various career paths.

COURSE INFORMATION

The Edexcel syllabus consists of four units. Units 1, 2 and 4 are taught over the first and second years, while Unit 3 is covered in the second year.

Unit 1: Physical Geography (9GEO/01). Topics: tectonic processes and hazards; the water cycle and water insecurity; the carbon cycle and energy security; glaciated landscapes. Assessed through an exam with short open-response, resource-linked and extended writing questions.

Unit 2: Human Geography (9GEO/01). Topics: globalisation; superpowers; regenerating places; and health, human rights and intervention. Assessed through an exam with short open-response, resource-linked and extended writing questions. Students complete a day of fieldwork in the London Docklands to develop their understanding of UK regeneration projects.

Unit 3: Synoptic Paper (9GEO/03). Draws on all content from the course, involves problem-solving and decision-making activities and relates to a contemporary geographical issue within a place-based context. Assessed through an exam with problem-solving and decision-making activities.

Unit 4: Coursework: Non-Examined Assessment (9GEO/94). Independent investigation based on a fieldwork study; students complete a 4-day fieldwork course in the Lake District and develop the skills required for independent study.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Unit 1: Physical Geography: written exam
- Unit 2: Human Geography: written exam (includes London Docklands fieldwork)
- Unit 3: Synoptic Paper: problem solving and decision making
- Unit 4: Independent Investigation: Non-Examined Assessment (Lake District fieldwork)

BEYOND A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Geography is a highly respected A Level that develops analytical, research and critical thinking skills valued by both universities and employers. It provides an excellent foundation for degrees in Geography, Environmental Science, Geology, Politics, International Relations as well as Economics and Business. Students go on to careers in sustainability, environmental management, government and policy, finance, law, teaching and aviation, making it one of the broadest and most versatile A Level choices.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography is recommended to access the A Level course. The ability to engage with both theoretical and practical aspects of geography is crucial for success.

History

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level History provides students with essential insights into the past, helping them understand the world in which we live today. This course fosters analytical and critical thinking skills, essential for a wide range of careers and highly valued by employers and universities.

It covers significant periods and events, helping students appreciate the complexities of history and its enduring influence on current affairs.

COURSE INFORMATION

The OCR syllabus is divided into four units. Units 1 and 2 are studied in the first year, while Units 3 and 4 are covered in the second year.

Unit 1: Y108: The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War (1603-1660). Topics: the reigns of James I and Charles I; relationships between the monarchy and Parliament; foreign policy and religious disputes (Catholics vs Protestants); the causes and nature of rebellion and unrest. Enquiry topics: execution of Charles I and the Interregnum (1646-1660), how England was ruled without a monarchy and the eventual restoration.

Unit 2: Y218: International Relations (1890-1941). Topics: causes of the First World War; reasons for Germany's defeat; the Paris peace settlement: aims, terms and impact; international diplomacy in the 1920s; causes of the Second World War in Europe and Asia.

Unit 3: Y318: Russia and its Rulers (1855-1964). Content: the nature of Russian government from the Tsars to the Communist dictatorship; the impact of government policies on Russian society; similarities and differences between autocratic and Communist rule; comparison of key rulers such as Tsar Alexander II, Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev.

Unit 4: Independent Historical Investigation (coursework). Students complete a 3,500-4,000 word essay on a historical topic of their choice.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Unit 1: The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War
- Unit 2: International Relations 1890-1941
- Unit 3: Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964
- Unit 4: Independent Historical Investigation: coursework

BEYOND A LEVEL HISTORY

History is regarded by all universities as a highly academic subject, with its focus on the development and refining of pupils' higher order thinking and analytical skills. While there are many pupils at Kew House who have taken the traditional route after completing A Level History by reading history at a wide variety of universities, pupils have also taken the opportunity to embrace the more dynamic courses that universities now offer, such as History and Law and History and Economics. These combined courses, as well as the more traditional degrees, offer a plethora of career opportunities.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in GCSE History is recommended for students wishing to take A Level History. Analytical and writing skills are essential for success in this course.

Mathematics

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level Mathematics builds on the foundations laid at GCSE and covers a mix of pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. The course offers students the chance to delve deeper into mathematical theories and their applications.

It equips students with essential analytical, logical and problem-solving skills that are valuable across many disciplines and careers.

COURSE INFORMATION

The A Level Mathematics course is structured around three key areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. All content is assessed through three exams at the end of Year 13, with no modular assessments.

Pure Mathematics covers algebra (proof; algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the x-y plane; sequences and series; exponentials and logarithms; trigonometry), geometry (vectors), calculus (differentiation and integration) and numerical methods (solving equations and approximations).

Statistics covers the large data set (released prior to the exam, in real-world contexts), statistical sampling and distributions, hypothesis testing applied to real-life scenarios, data presentation and interpretation and probability.

Mechanics looks at quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics (motion and velocity), forces and Newton's laws and moments: the study of forces acting at a distance from a pivot point.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (2 hours)
- Paper 2: Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (2 hours)
- Paper 3: Pure Mathematics and Statistics (2 hours)

BEYOND A LEVEL MATHS

In recent years, students who have passed through the Maths department have gone on to study a wide range of highly mathematical and scientific courses, including Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Computer Science and various strands of Engineering (such as Mechanical or Aeronautical).

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Students are required to achieve a Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Mathematics to take this course due to the challenging nature of the content.

Further Mathematics

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Further Mathematics A Level is a course designed for students who have a strong interest in mathematics and wish to extend their knowledge beyond the standard A Level syllabus. It provides in-depth exploration of advanced topics such as complex numbers, matrices and advanced calculus, as well as optional modules in areas like statistics, mechanics, discrete maths and additional pure mathematics.

This course is ideal for those considering mathematics or engineering at university. Note: Further Mathematics can only be studied alongside A Level Mathematics.

COURSE INFORMATION

The Further Mathematics course is divided into compulsory core content and optional modules. The core content constitutes 50% of the course, with the other 50% made up of two optional modules chosen by the school based on staffing and student needs.

Core Content (compulsory): extension of topics from A Level Mathematics, proof, algebra, functions, calculus and vectors and advanced topics including complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions.

Optional Modules: students take two optional modules. The modules for the current year are Mechanics and Additional Pure Mathematics. Options may also include Statistics, Mechanics, Discrete Mathematics and Additional Pure Mathematics.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Core Content Paper 1: 90 minutes
- Core Content Paper 2: 90 minutes
- Option 1: Mechanics: 90 minutes
- Option 2: Additional Pure Mathematics: 90 minutes

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Students are required to have a Grade 8 or higher in GCSE Mathematics and be studying A Level Mathematics alongside Further Mathematics.

Media Studies

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Whether you want to work in the creative industries or simply become a more informed and inquisitive citizen, Media Studies will change the way you see the world around you.

Every day, we are surrounded by messages competing for our attention, from the news we read and the series we stream to the adverts, social feeds and games that shape how we see the world. A Level Media Studies gives students the tools to understand how these messages are made, who they are made by and why they matter.

Learners will work with media products to explore and debate critical questions and understand the social, cultural, political and economic role of the media. This links to a holistic exploration of the media, which will provide access to the dynamic relationships between media products, media industries and audiences.

COURSE INFORMATION

The two-year course is built around four key ideas: media language, representation, industries and audiences. A Level Media Studies combines analysis and theory with hands-on creative work.

It is assessed through two examinations (70%) and coursework (30%).

Studying Media Studies will enable students to demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking and decision making; explore the global nature of media; develop an understanding of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, industries and audiences; make informed arguments and reach substantiated judgements; apply theoretical knowledge and subject specific terminology; compare media products and the contexts in which they are consumed; debate academic theories relating to media; demonstrate sophisticated practical skills; apply knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, media industries and audiences to a cross-media production; apply knowledge and understanding of the digitally convergent nature of contemporary media and use media language across media forms to express and communicate meaning to an intended audience.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Component 1: Investigating the Media. Section A: Media Language and Representation. Section B: Media Industries and Audiences.
- Component 2: Investigating Media Forms and Products. Section A: Television in the Global Age. Section B: Magazines. Section C: Media in the Online Age.
- Component 3: Cross-Media Production. Non-exam assessment: an individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

BEYOND MEDIA STUDIES A LEVEL

Students learn to analyse texts critically, research thoroughly and write structured, evidence-based arguments: skills that universities value across humanities and social science courses as well as media-related degrees such as journalism, communications, film and marketing. Media also sits comfortably alongside subjects such as English, Business and Sociology and it can lead to a wide range of destinations, from university degrees and apprenticeships to careers in marketing, publishing, broadcasting, communications, digital strategy and the creative industries.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 5 in English Language and Literature.

Music

BRIEF OVERVIEW

A Level Music is a comprehensive programme that builds upon the foundational skills developed in GCSE Music. It focuses on analysis, composition and performance, allowing students to deepen their understanding of diverse musical styles, including classical, pop, jazz and contemporary music.

This course aims to cultivate both the theoretical and practical aspects of music, encouraging creativity and critical listening.

COURSE INFORMATION

The A Level Music curriculum consists of three main components: Analysis, Performance and Composition, allowing students to explore music from various perspectives.

Students analyse specific pieces of music to develop a deeper understanding of their stylistic features across three Areas of Study: A, The Western Classical Tradition; B, Pop and Rock, Jazz or Musical Theatre; C, Music in the 20th Century.

Students engage in both solo and ensemble performances, honing their skills as musicians. Performance options: 35% performance and 25% composition (for students who prefer performing), or 25% performance and 35% composition (for students who prefer composing).

Students compose original pieces in various styles, showcasing their creativity and understanding of musical techniques.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Listening and Written Exam: 2 hours
- Performance (solo and ensemble)
- Composition (original works)

BEYOND A LEVEL MUSIC

A-level Music develops a strong combination of creative, analytical and practical skills that are valuable across many fields. Alongside performance, composition and musical analysis, you build the ability to think critically, interpret complex information and recognise patterns. The subject also strengthens discipline, teamwork and time management through regular practice and collaboration. These transferable skills make it well suited not only to music-related degrees and careers but also to a wide range of university courses such as humanities, social sciences, media and even business, leading to careers in areas like marketing, education, project management and other industries that value creativity alongside analytical thinking.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Recommended Grade 6 GCSE Music and Grade 4 instrument.

Physical Education

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The AQA A Level in Physical Education builds on the foundation established at GCSE, aiming to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the scientific, socio-cultural and practical dimensions of physical education.

The course emphasises the development of theoretical knowledge related to physical activity, sport and performance improvement. Students explore the physiological and psychological influences on performance, socio-cultural factors affecting participation in sports and the role of technology in enhancing physical activity.

COURSE INFORMATION

Over the two years, students delve into the following key areas: applied anatomy and physiology; skill acquisition; sport and society (including issues of equity and diversity); exercise physiology (physiological responses and adaptations to exercise); biomechanical movement; sport psychology; and the role of technology in physical activity and sport.

NEA Performance Analysis Assessment: Analysis and Evaluation (15% of A Level): students analyse and evaluate a performance as either a player/performer or coach in one specified activity. This can involve self-analysis or analysis of another's performance, presented in written format or through a combination of written materials and verbal explanation (e.g. presentations).

Practical Performance (15% of A Level): students provide video evidence of their performance in a full-sided version of their chosen sport. They are assessed on their ability to consistently perform a range of skills.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Factors Affecting Participation in Physical Activity and Sport, 2 hours, 105 marks (35% of A Level)
- Paper 2: Factors Affecting Optimal Performance in Physical Activity and Sport, 2 hours, 105 marks (35% of A Level)
- NEA: Practical Performance in Physical Activity and Sport: internal assessment, 90 marks (30% of A Level)

BEYOND A LEVEL PE

Sixth form students should choose A-level PE if they are interested in sport, fitness, health and human performance. The course combines practical ability with topics such as anatomy, physiology, psychology, biomechanics and sports development, helping students build valuable skills in analysis, communication, teamwork and problem-solving. A strong A-level PE grade can contribute towards university entry and support applications for degrees such as sports science, physiotherapy, sports coaching, physical education, sports psychology, nutrition and sports management.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Students should consider enrolling in this course only if they are competing at a high level in their chosen sport outside of school, as the NEA component accounts for almost one-third of the total award.

Physics

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Physics is the study of the fundamental principles that govern the natural world. The A Level Physics course builds upon the foundational skills learned at GCSE, enabling students to model and describe physical situations with increased precision and detail.

Central to the curriculum is the emphasis on practical work, where students engage in complex experiments with a significant degree of independence. This course is ideal for students who are inquisitive, logically minded and enjoy abstract concepts, particularly in the context of mathematical modelling.

Physics complements a variety of subjects, including Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Economics, Design Technology, Biology and Geography.

COURSE INFORMATION

The OCR A Level Physics syllabus consists of six modules:

Module 1: Practical Skills

Module 2: Foundations of Physics

Module 3: Forces and Motion

Module 4: Electrons, Waves and Photons

Module 5: The Newtonian World and Astrophysics

Module 6: Particles and Medical Physics

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Students are assessed through 100% examination at the end of the two-year course.
- Paper 1: Modules 1, 2, 3 & 5 (2 hours 15 minutes)
- Paper 2: Modules 1, 2, 4 & 6 (2 hours 15 minutes)
- Paper 3: All modules (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Practical Endorsement: internally assessed throughout the course and reported separately as a pass or fail grade

BEYOND A LEVEL PHYSICS

After completing A Level Physics, students are well prepared for a wide range of degree courses and careers. Many progress to university to study Physics, Engineering, Astrophysics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Medicine or related scientific disciplines. The analytical, problem-solving and mathematical skills developed are also highly valued in fields such as finance, data science, architecture, teaching and research. Physics is recognised as a facilitating subject by leading universities and opens doors to both pure scientific research and applied technological roles.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 7/6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Separate Science Physics and Grade 7 in Mathematics.

Politics

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The A Level Politics course is ideal for students with a keen interest in current affairs and a passion for debate and discussion. Politics influences everyone's lives through the actions of politicians, making the study of political processes and decisions a vital aspect of our societal framework.

This subject requires students to engage with contemporary issues by reading news articles, watching political programmes such as Question Time and Daily Politics and analysing the decision-making processes within a democratic system.

COURSE INFORMATION

The course is divided into three components.

Component 1: UK Politics: Political Participation. Students explore democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour, the media, core political ideas and the three major political ideologies: Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism.

Component 2: UK Government. Key areas of focus include the constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the executive, relationships between the branches of government and non-core political ideas. Students examine one additional political ideology from: Anarchism, Ecologism, Feminism, Multiculturalism or Nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics. Topics include the US Constitution and federalism, the US Congress, the US presidency, the US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation and comparative political theories. The course includes comparisons between the political systems of the UK and the US.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: UK Politics (2 hours)
- Paper 2: UK Government (2 hours)
- Paper 3: Comparative Politics (2 hours)

BEYOND A LEVEL POLITICS

Politics is a broad-based academic subject which will open up a wide range of options for you in the future. Employers and universities value Politics as a rigorous academic subject, rich in knowledge, critical thinking, analytical skills and understanding. Students who study Politics at A Level go on to read Politics, International Relations, History and Law, as well as humanities and social science-based degrees such as Economics, Sociology and Criminology. The skills developed through studying Politics are also highly transferable, providing a strong foundation for a wide range of university courses and future careers. Students who have studied Politics at Kew House School can go on to pursue a diverse range of academic and professional pathways.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 History/Geography and Grade 5 English Language.

Psychology

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Psychology is a captivating subject that delves into understanding the human mind and behaviour. It requires strong writing skills, as well as analytical and problem-solving abilities.

COURSE INFORMATION

The AQA A Level Psychology course covers 11 topics across three exam papers, studied over two years. Students explore the core foundations of psychology in Year 12 before applying knowledge to optional and synoptic units in Year 13.

Year 12 (foundations): Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Approaches in Psychology; Clinical Psychology and Mental Health; Biopsychology (introductory content).

Year 13 (applications and advanced topics): Issues and Debates in Psychology; Biopsychology (advanced content); Research Methods (covered across both years).

Each paper includes a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions and extended essay-style responses.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods
- Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues and Debates plus three optional topics chosen by the department (e.g. Schizophrenia, Aggression, Cognition, Forensics, Relationships, Gender)

BEYOND A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is a science-based academic subject with a range of career opportunities in the future. Employers and universities can appreciate that Psychology is a subject that gives students a wide range of literacy, numeracy and analytical skills. Students who have studied A Level Psychology have found these skills useful in degree courses such as Economics, Finance and Business Management, Medicine, Law among many others, including Psychology and Humanities subjects.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in English and Grade 6 in Science or Maths.

Sociology

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Sociology is a dynamic subject that invites us to think about and most importantly, be able to discuss the various issues commonly found in any society. It requires strong writing skills as well as the ability to apply sociological knowledge to the wider context found in current affairs enhancing strong analytical skills.

COURSE INFORMATION

The AQA A-level Sociology covers five topics across three exam papers, taught over two years. Students learn the foundation core topics in the first year and the sociological topics in the second year.

Year 12: Education, Methods and Crime and Deviance

Year 13: Household and Families and Beliefs in Society

Paper 1: Education with Theories and Methods

Paper 2: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theories and Methods

Papers include 10, 20 and 30-mark essays.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Education with Theories and Methods
- Paper 2: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theories and Methods
- Papers include 10, 20 and 30-mark essays.

BEYOND A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Sociology provides students with the writing and analytical skills valued by employers and universities. Students completing an A-level Sociology may read Sociology at university or study other degree courses such as Criminology, Social Sciences and Education.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in English and Grade 5 in Science or Maths.

Spanish

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The A Level Spanish course builds on the foundations established at GCSE, with a focus on language, culture and society. It develops communication, critical thinking, research and creativity skills.

This integrated study is ideal for students interested in further study or careers that involve modern languages. The course examines how Spanish-speaking societies are shaped socially and culturally and continues to evolve.

COURSE INFORMATION

The course covers a range of themes related to the social, political and artistic life of Spanish-speaking countries.

Year 1: social context and artistic life of Spanish-speaking countries.

Year 2: social background, focusing on multiculturalism and the political landscape, including young people's political engagement in the Hispanic world.

Core content themes: social issues and trends in Hispanic society; modern and traditional values; cyberspace; equal rights; multiculturalism in Hispanic society; immigration, racism and integration; political and artistic culture in the Hispanic world; modern-day idols; Spanish regional identity; cultural heritage or landscape; today's youth, tomorrow's citizens; monarchies, republics and dictatorships; and popular movements.

Students are expected to master advanced grammatical structures, building on the knowledge acquired at GCSE. Grammar is assessed throughout the exam, where students must demonstrate accurate use of language.

Literary Texts and Films: students must study either one text and one film, or two texts from a set list.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing: 2 hours 30 minutes, 160 marks (50% of A Level)
- Paper 2: Writing: 2 hours, 90 marks (20% of A Level)
- Paper 3: Speaking: 21-23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation, 60 marks (30% of A Level)

BEYOND A LEVEL SPANISH

Spanish A Level opens up a wide range of opportunities for further study and future careers. Students may progress to degrees in Spanish, Modern Languages, Liberal Arts, European Studies, International Relations, Business, Law, Economics, Tourism, Journalism and other humanities-based subjects.

Throughout the course, students develop much more than language skills: they analyse literature and film, interpret different perspectives and make connections between cultural, social and historical contexts.

This develops transferable skills in critical thinking, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, communication and the use of evidence. Students learn to consider different viewpoints and become increasingly interculturally aware, helping them to apply these skills confidently to university study, employment and life in an increasingly interconnected and globally changing society.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish is recommended to access the A-level course. The ability to grasp complex grammar structures and immerse themselves in cultural studies is crucial for success.

Sport

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is designed for post-16 students interested in applied learning within the sports sector. Equivalent to one A Level, this qualification provides a comprehensive introduction to the sports industry, preparing students for higher education and employment.

Over two years, pupils complete four units that encompass essential aspects of working in sports.

COURSE INFORMATION

The course consists of three mandatory units: Anatomy and Physiology; Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being; and Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

An optional unit focuses on developing key soft skills through practical learning. Units 1 and 2 are taught in Year 12, while Units 3 and 4 are covered in Year 13.

EXAMINATION & ASSESSMENT

- Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed through examinations in the summer of the teaching year.
- Units 3 and 4 are assessed internally through coursework and assignments.
- Total guided learning hours for the course: 120.

BEYOND A LEVEL BTEC SPORT

The course covers a wide range of areas, including sports coaching, fitness training, anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and the development of professional skills, helping students prepare for both further education and employment. The qualification can provide a pathway to university courses such as Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Coaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, PE and Sports Management, as well as opportunities to work in areas such as coaching, fitness, leisure, sports development and the wider sports industry.

RECOMMENDED GRADE REQUIREMENT

Grade 4 in PE.

KEW HOUSE SCHOOL

Join our Sixth Form

Applications for the 2026/27 Sixth Form are now open. Register your interest to arrange a visit, meet the Head of Sixth Form and see the school in action.

CONTACT

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