



READ SCHOOL

DRAX

SIXTH FORM

CURRICULUM

September 2020

Read School Sixth Form Programmes of Study

General Entry Requirements

Minimum entry requirements to our Sixth Form are either 5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent, including Maths and English. Or 7 9-4 grades at GCSE including Maths OR English.

If students did not achieve grade 4 or above in Maths or English Government rules now require them to continue their studies in these subjects, therefore, this will be provided to our Sixth Form students where applicable. Courses may be subject to change.

The following academic subjects are currently offered:

A-level Subjects

Art & Design
Biology*
Business Studies
Chinese
Computing
Design Technology
English Literature*
French*
German*
Geography*
History*
Mathematics*
Further Maths*
Music
Physics*
Spanish*
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

BTEC

Business Studies
Sport
Health & Social Care

Others

Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Level 3

For all A-level subjects the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) course can be used as a final qualification that allows the student to broaden their study range. This can be taken at the end of year 12, or as the first half of the Advanced Level qualification, the full 2-year course.

**facilitating subjects – subjects most commonly required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing them will keep more options open for you at university.*

Examination Boards

The examination boards used at Read School for A-level examinations & BTEC programmes are:

AQA www.aqa.org.uk

Edexcel www.edexcel.com

OCR www.ocr.org.uk

Eduqas www.eduqas.co.uk

Pearsons <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

ART AND DESIGN

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: AS or A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above including at least a grade 6 in GCSE

About the Course:

The Edexcel course allows for a broad study of Art & Design which explores the manipulation of varied media such as Fine Art painting, sculpture, textiles and printmaking.

The exploration of two and three-dimensional media processes and techniques is influenced strongly by Art & Design History and pupils explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of Art, Craft and Design from past and present times. Drawing is a fundamental part of the course using varying methods, media and scales, both outside and within sketchbooks.

Sketchbooks, workbooks and journals are essential, demonstrating a good working vocabulary, individual artistic journeys and thought processes.

As a Read School A Level Art & Design pupil, you will be encouraged to grow as an artist through the understanding of others' work, nurture your own individuality and artistic responses to themes, but most of all enjoy reacting to the world in a creative and visual way.

Assessment

Component 1 is a Personal Investigation, set in school and assessed by the teacher then moderated by the exam board. This forms 60% of the total qualification.

Component 2 is externally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated. This forms 40% of the total qualification.

Careers and Further Study

The course is broad and allows for students to develop a wide range of skills. After studying the A level they may wish to study, Fine Art, Textiles Design, Photography, Graphic Design, Sculpture, Fashion Design, Printmaking or Three Dimensional Design.

'I decided to continue A-level into higher education as I achieved a grade 7 at GCSE level and, I am hoping to replicate that same standard of work through higher education. My eventual aim is to use this to help me pursue a career in car design. By doing an A-level in art, I have enhanced my skills through multiple workshops, which have led me to improve my techniques throughout my coursework. This course allows me to explore my personal interests through my artwork and can help me to discover more about the topics I'm interested in outside of my school work. Through my A Level art, I've been given guidance as to how to use my skills in the future, allowing me to make my career prospects more achievable. My passion for art has fuelled my GCSE success, which I hope to replicate into my A-level courses, and this just goes to show that anything is possible if you have a passion or it'. – Lucy Barrick

BIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS or A-level

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at 5 or above including maths and English. Science GCSE should at least be a grade 6

About the Course

Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject and the exam specifications provides numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality and equip students with the essential practical skills they need.

Subject Content Areas

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Exchange of substances between organisms and the environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfer in and between organisms
6. How organisms respond to changes in their environment
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Assessment

At A2 there are three papers. Papers 1 and 2 are 2 hours and use short and long answers to assess unit 1-4 and 5-8 respectively. Paper 3 is 30% of A2 and examines practical techniques, data analysis as well as including a synoptic essay.

Practical endorsement

You will be required to carry out 12 practical activities which will be assessed for practical competency.

Careers and Further Study

A level biology provides a route to higher educational courses and careers in a wide range of professions including medicine, agriculture, sports science, physiotherapy, nursing, biochemistry, forensic science, pharmacy and psychology.

This is a facilitating subject.

‘I chose to study A Level Biology after I had developed a clear passion for the subject during my GCSE’s. Prior to doing my GCSE’s I volunteered in the local veterinary care centre, and I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and therefore wanted to delve deeper into the world of biology. The subject itself is incredibly diverse and can be very complex when looking at body structures such as the kidneys. The exam is set out into 3 papers and everything learnt in the course is tested within those three papers. The last paper includes a 25 mark extended writing piece which allowed me to bring in my essay writing skills which complemented my other subjects, Business and History’. – Alex Marsh

BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS or A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above including Maths and English, it is advantageous to have studied Business studies at GCSE level

About the Course:

A-level Business Studies is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. The advantage of studying this subject is its topical content enabling all pupils to be able to apply their general knowledge to business situations. The emphasis of the course is on the development of management skills and problem-solving techniques.

Subject Content Areas

- What is a business?
- Managers, Leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: How to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

Assessment

Assessments of this course consists of three exam papers which are taken at the end of year 2, each paper is 2 hours long with 100 marks in total, each worth 33.3%

Careers and Further Study

Studying Business Studies allows for a wide range of options at university. In recent years pupils have gone on to study courses in the following areas: Law; Accountancy; Economics; Business Studies and Human Resource Management. There is also a wide range of career opportunities available: Careers in Management; Human Resource Management; Law; Banking and Accountancy are all possible either after A level or university study.

‘One of the subjects I enjoyed most at GCSE was business studies, so I ultimately chose to pursue it at A-Level. This particular course is one I find the most interesting as well as being taught by teachers who always provide engaging and thought provoking lessons. The subject has provided me with the ability to look at topics in much more depth and understand the world around me. Alongside academic studies I have had the opportunity to take part in out of school business challenges as well as two weeks work experience at an accounting firm. Experiences like these have allowed me to develop interpersonal skills and have grown my interest in entering the business world, inspiring me to apply to study accountancy at university next year’. – Alex Chapman

CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS & A Level

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements: At least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including Maths and English. Science GCSE should be at least a grade 6

About the Course:

In Year 12 students are given a solid grounding in foundation Chemistry. The specification introduces the chemical reactivity of atoms and molecules and provides an understanding of their structures. The development and use of the periodic table is explained.

In Year 13 the specification develops the concepts of physical chemistry. Students will study kinetics, equilibria, organic chemistry and spectroscopic techniques to determine the molecular formulae and structures of organic compounds

Subject Content Areas

1. Physical chemistry
2. Inorganic chemistry
3. Organic chemistry

How you will be assessed

The A2 examination is divided into three papers of two hours. Paper 1 examines physical chemistry and inorganic chemistry and paper 2 examines physical chemistry and organic chemistry. Both of these papers are 35% of the examination and include long and short answers. Paper 3 is worth 30% and examines practical techniques and data analysis.

Practical competency is assessed via 12 practical activities.

Careers and Further Study

A Level Chemistry is essential to the study of Natural Sciences, Medicine and Chemical Engineering as well as being supportive to a wider spectrum of university courses which require some scientific appreciation, such as Business Studies, Economics and Geography. The skills developed in Chemistry A Level, such as the ability to analyse information logically, numeracy and problem solving skills, are also relevant to many other disciplines, including Law, Computing and Finance.

The chemical sciences hold the key to solving many of the global challenges that we face and an understanding of the relevance of Chemistry in our world is increasingly important.

This is a facilitating subject.

'The reason I took Chemistry is because the subject involves skills that I can use in my later life especially at university studying Agriculture as some of the course involves topics like fertilisers with their chemical properties and their importance in the modern world. Studying Chemistry will hopefully take me to study Agricultural at Harper Adams where I can relate the Chemistry in my degree such as soil pH and the chemistry behind the fertilisers and sprays used on modern farms. Chemistry has benefitted me massively during my time at Read and would strongly recommend taking it as an A level here'. – Harry Woodall (Head Boy 2019-2020)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS & A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade 5 and above. Computer Science GCSE Science GCSE should be at least a grade 6

About the Course

A-level Computer Science is split into two sections, programming and theory. On the programming side of the course, students will learn the programming language Python. You will cover the fundamentals of programming, data structures, algorithms, and object-orientated programme design.

The theory of Computer Science aims to teach about the internal workings of a computer, right down the basics of how all data is stored using binary, whether that be numbers, text, pictures or even music. It goes on from there to cover aspects of computer architecture, showing the specifics of exactly how data is accessed from main memory using assembly language instructions and the fetch-execute cycle.

Subject Content Areas

As well as covering programming, the course aims to promote good programming practices such as avoiding global variables, sensible variable naming, structured programming, good re-use of code through procedures and functions, and proper commenting of code. It also covers higher-level concepts such as the social and legal impact of computers, and how to go about breaking down a big problem into individual programmable steps.

How you will be assessed

Assessment consists of two exam papers, both worth 40%, plus non-exam assessment (creating a program to solve a problem) worth 20%, which will typically be done over a period of about 3 months.

Paper 1 – an on-screen exam tests a student's ability to solve problems as much as it tests technical programming language knowledge (at Read this is Python).

Paper 2 - tests theory and will be in the form of a written exam. Questions are designed to test knowledge of computer systems, how they are formed, the social and legal parts of computing, communication, networking and databases.

Careers and Further Study

A-level Computer Science is naturally a strong subject to take if you wish to go on to do Computer Science at degree level. Equally, there are a number of software engineering courses which have computer science as a prerequisite. There are also other degree courses such as information technology and information systems, which will be served well by a Computer Science A-level. However, the subject is much more than this, and it is a way of logical thinking which is beneficial in many walks of life.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade 5 and above; grade 6 or above in Design Technology or Maths would also be an advantage.

About the Course

The AS and A-level design technology courses are two separate courses.

Both enable pupils to learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes as well as establish practices. Students use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. They are rewarded for risks taking designs, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering their role as responsible designers and citizens.

Subject Content Areas

Students will develop knowledge and experience of real world contexts for design and technological activity and develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use.

Assessment

- Paper 1 – Technical principles – 30%
- Paper 2 - Designing and making principles – 20%
- Non exam assessment (NEA) - Single substantial design/development task – 50%

Careers and Further Study

Over 60% of all new jobs created are to be found in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Studying STEM subjects leads directly to a huge variety of exciting and rewarding career opportunities. With STEM skills, you can make a big contribution to many of the big challenges facing society today. From designing visual effects for a new film, to inventing a new hi-tech health scanner, to manufacturing a racing car or putting new satellites into space, there are thousands of exciting and well-paid opportunities.

Many of the jobs of the future will involve technology as the way that people work will continue to change. As the population grows, more homes will need to be built and the infrastructure in towns and cities will rely on skilled engineers.

Design skills and the ability to visualise new ideas can also be useful in many job families such as marketing, sales and advertising, arts, crafts and design, broadcast media and performing arts, journalism, publishing and construction.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in drama GCSE (if studied) and in English language or English Literature. If GCSE drama has not been studied, a keen interest in theatre and performance should be demonstrated.

About the Course

The course is divided into 3 broad areas:

Drama and Theatre – including the study of TWO set plays, the knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre and the analysis of live theatre makers. Students will study the plays from acting, directing and design perspectives.

Creating Original Drama – devising drama based on the work and methodologies of a prescribed practitioner.

Making Theatre – A practical exploration and interpretation of extracts taken from different plays, one of which must use the methodology of a prescribed practitioner.

The work will include study of texts, practical performance, devising and working from scripts. Students will write about plays they have seen and read and learn about the theory of practitioners, playwrights and directors.

Assessment

- 3 hour exam paper at the end of the course 40%
- Devised performance and working notebook 30%
- Scripted extract performance and reflective report 30%

Careers and Further Study

An A-level in Drama & Theatre can lead to further study of the subject at university or at drama school. It can also lead to a career in the performing arts industries. Drama and Theatre is a good choice of A-level to complement subjects such as English, Psychology, History and Music and is regarded by many universities as a good A Level for those wishing to study Law.

Having a Drama A-level will show that you are creative, work well with others, can analyse and interpret texts, write essays and confidently perform in front of an audience.

‘This is the first year A level Drama has been offered at the Read School and our teacher makes the lessons interesting, personal and thought provoking. We study different practitioners from the late 19th /early 20th century such as Brecht and Stanislavski to contemporary practitioners such as Frantic Assembly and John Godber, who is also a local actor/playwright. As there are only two pupils studying A level drama at the moment we get to explore several different characters within a play which help immensely with our understanding of characterisation and plot, this also helps us hone our vocal techniques and mannerisms in order to portray different ages, genders, and periods from history. We have recently been studying *Much a Do about Nothing*, one of William Shakespeare’s lesser known plays which just happens to be one of my favourites. Throughout the course we study two set plays of varied historical contexts and styles, which are assessed in the written paper along with three additional plays for course work, one of which we must perform an extract from using the methodologies of one of the studied practitioners as a practical assessment. Finally we must create a piece of devised drama also in the style of a different practitioner’. Francesca Turton Year 12

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: Two years

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above including at least a grade 6 in English Language or English Literature

About the Course:

Paper 1 (Literary Genres) – Aspects of Tragedy or Aspects of Comedy. Three texts are studied: a Shakespeare play; a further play; one further text (poetry or prose), one of which must have been written before 1900. In recent years, texts studied have included *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Richard II*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Great Gatsby* and the poetry of Keats.

Paper 2 (Texts and Genres) – Elements of Crime Writing or Elements of Social and Political Protest Writing. Three texts are studied: a prose text written after the year 2000; one poetry text; one further text, one of which must be pre-1900. The exam will also include an unseen passage for comment and analysis. In recent years, crime texts studied have been *Atonement*, *When Will There Be Good News?* and the poetry of Crabbe, Browning and Wilde.

Other texts on the specification include *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and *Hamlet*. Examples of Protest Writing texts are *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Harvest*, *The Kite Runner*, *Henry IV, Part 1*, *A Doll's House* and the poetry of William Blake.

Non examination assessment (NEA: two essays, each 1,250 – 1,500 words long, which examine different texts in relation to the approaches set out in the AQA Critical Anthology. These critical ideas include Marxist criticism, Ecocriticism and Feminist criticism.

Assessment

- Tragedy – one closed-book exam, lasting 2.5 hours (40%)
- Crime / Protest Writing – one open-book exam, lasting 3 hours (40%)
- Non examination assessment (20%)

Careers and Further Study

English is a skills-based subject rather than being the application of topic-based knowledge. This means that its uses permeate the job market at every level. The obvious career opportunities include: Journalism, Law, Media, Teaching, Politics, Marketing and Sales - in essence, anywhere where advanced communication skills are required.

This is a facilitating subject.

'I think that studying A-level English Literature has been challenging yet thought-provoking. This subject teaches you how to study independently as a large portion of the work is reading books in your own time. In the lessons themselves you will study an array of books based around the topics you are studying. Personally, I am studying social and political protest writing, tragedy texts and it is finished off with course work, where you write about 2 texts of your choice one of which being a collection of poems. My favourite book that we have studied in class had been 'A Handmaid's Tale', I find the dystopian world and extreme patriarchal society very intriguing and I enjoyed studying the text from a feminist perspective' – Mia Brunton, Year 13

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements:

It is recommended that students need at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5, including a grade 6 in Geography or related subject.

About the Course:

The Advanced Level examination comprises 3 different units

Unit 1

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: Hazards

Unit 2

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: Population and the environment

Unit 3

Individual investigation (3000 - 4000 words) which must include data collected in the field and is based on a question relating to any part of the specification content.

Assessment

There are two exams based upon the physical and human papers (40% each)

The unit 3 is a coursework which will be internally assessed and then moderated (20%)

Careers and Further Study

Geography is a very popular university subject, either as a single subject, or as a combined subject. Career prospects are good for geography graduates in such vocational areas as mapping, environmental studies, town planning and other related job areas. Graduates are welcomed in commerce and industry largely because of their background training which encourages the analysis of problems from varying viewpoints.

Geography is a facilitating A level, which is very versatile and favoured as a traditional subject, which enables students the ability to prove their aptitude of the sciences or humanities alike.

‘Geography A-level is an interesting subject due to the multiple different human and physical topics that you are able to study, which overlap with other different subjects such as Biology and Business Studies, meaning you are able to incorporate multiple aspects of different subjects into just one. You also learn to advance essay writing skills, while including case studies, which is very important to do in order to illustrate a wide understanding of how topics relate into the outside world and current events happening, meaning it’s useful to be watching the news to know what is happening which will help for studying Geography. Personally, my favourite topic is ‘coasts’ as it has allowed me to build on previous knowledge gained at GCSE and I have chosen it to base my coursework on as a result, which has allowed me to research into the topic further and dedicate more of my time to this particular section which has been very enjoyable’ – Zoe Bellamy (Head Girl 2019-2020)

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Exam Board: PEARSONS

Qualification: BTEC (may be studied at Levels 1-3)

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements:

It is recommended that students need at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5, including Maths and English

About the Course

This course is equivalent in size to three A Levels and is an introduction to the health and social care sector through applied learning.

Over the two year course you will study a diverse range of topics including: human development, care and support, public health, psychology, sociology, research techniques and analysis, anatomy, physiology and biological disorders.

You will also undertake work experience, planning and logging your own progress in this area.

Assessment

13 units are studied of which 8 are mandatory coursework units and 5 are externally examined. Mandatory content (72%). External assessment (42%).

Health and social care is a suitable course for any future career with vulnerable people, whatever their age, ability or condition. It is valuable for those wishing to go to university, into apprenticeships, or employment. Students have entered nursing, teaching, medical support roles, community and youth work, social work and all types of care from gaining this qualification.

Careers and Further Study

BTEC Level 3 Certificate/ Subsidiary Diploma / 90 Credit Diploma / Diploma / Extended Diploma

Whether you are looking to progress into employment or onto a university course, the broad nature of BTEC Health and Social Care at advanced level will not lock you into any particular direction and will give you the background knowledge to pursue a variety of career pathways. There are many opportunities for suitably qualified students to train to become Nurses, Midwives, Social Workers or progress to a degree in Psychology, Bio-Medical Science or similar.

HISTORY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above and preferably grade 6 in GCSE History

About the Course:

Pupils will examine two components and complete one non-examined assessment.

Component One: Breadth Study: We are currently exploring “The quest for political stability: Germany 1871-1991”.

Component Two: Depth Study: We are currently exploring The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007

Component Three: Historical Investigation (Personal Study- NEA). This is student choice. It should take the form of a question and cover 100 years. It must not duplicate component one or two

Assessment

Component One: Written exam: 2hrs 30 minutes: 40% of the A level

Component Two: Written Exam: 2hrs 30 minutes: 40% of the A level

Component Three: Non examined assessment (NEA): 20% of the A level

Careers and Further Study

History is considered a facilitating subject as the skills required to complete A level history naturally lend itself to other careers like journalism, law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, economics, academia, teaching and archaeology.

You won't need it for other specific courses but the Russell Group recommends history as an excellent subject for keeping your options open when choosing a degree. It can be especially useful for courses that include elements of history and essay writing such as:

Archaeology
Economics
Classical studies
Modern languages
English

History of Art
Law
Politics
Teaching
Religious studies

‘A-level History is a very interesting subject due its diverse topics such as: Modern Britain, Nazi Germany and Witchcraft. My favourite topic is witchcraft as it highlights the naivety of ordinary people throughout the 13th-16th centuries. Hopefully, having an A-level in History will lead me to a Russell Group University, where I will be able to further broaden my knowledge. In addition to this, studying History has allowed me to develop my essay writing skills and taught me to understand the importance of referencing my work, which will prepare me for university assignments. Therefore, as well as being an enjoyable subject, A-level History helps solidify important skills that will be used within the future’ – Grace Handforth, Year 13

MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

Most pupils who go on to study maths in the Sixth Form will have at least a grade 6 from the Higher paper at GCSE, but most students will find that having a grade 7 or higher is more advantageous.

About the Course:

Pure maths accounts for two thirds of the final mark and covers the following topics Algebra, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors, Proof, Numerical Methods. The other third of the marks covers Statistics topics – Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Statistical Hypothesis Testing **and** Mechanics topics – Quantities and Units, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws and Moments.

Assessment

The final examination taken at the end of the two year course consists of three papers:

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1
- Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2
- Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

Careers and Further Study

Mathematics is a universal language and as such it is one of the most fundamental subjects you can study. Although it may sometimes be difficult to see immediately the relevance of maths to a future career, and perhaps to subjects you intend to study later, maths in fact gives you an excellent grounding for any subject and is itself a prerequisite for many.

For a degree in maths, statistics, physics, engineering or actuarial science, for example, you will almost certainly need A-level maths. There are, however, many degrees which do not specify any particular subjects they wish you to have taken, and for many of these, maths will be an excellent choice. This is true for courses in economics, business studies, medicine, social sciences such as psychology and archaeology, and use of statistics in geography.

There is always a demand for employees who can think logically and process information accurately – skills that an A-level in maths will teach you.

This is a facilitating subject.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A level (though A/S is possible for those not continuing to A level)

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

This is an extension of A level Maths both in content and difficulty. Therefore, a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE is ideal with the potential for grade A at A level maths.

About the Course There are four units to the course, each with its own text book. Two units are compulsory (Further Pure Maths 1 and 2) and two units are chosen options covering Further Pure Maths, Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Theory.

Assessment

As with the A Level Mathematics, A level Further Mathematics is now a linear qualification with examination at the end of the two year course through four examinations;

- Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1
- Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2
- Papers 3 and 4 provide options chosen from Further Pure maths, Statistics, Mechanics or Decision Theory

‘I not only chose Maths as it would benefit my Physics but also it is a really intricate and fascinating subject and provides you with that feeling of accomplishment. Further Maths improves my A-level Maths as it provides additional practice and consolidation of techniques. It undoubtedly has improved my logical thinking and data analysis skills. Although you learn a wide range of new topics in further maths, unknown to A-level maths such as complex numbers, matrices and vectors it provides you with a bit more of a stretch and challenge which is an important skill to have across all subjects. Maths as a whole provides me with the tools and a strong support for my physics in particular where there’s a lot of overlap in the mechanics topic’. Lauren Shields (Year 12)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: French – Spanish - German

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

Most students who go on to study a modern foreign language in the Sixth Form will have at least a grade 6 from the Higher Examination at GCSE, but most students will find that having a grade 7 or above is more advantageous.

About the course:

The new A-level exams build on the new GCSE MFL exams, extending many familiar topics. They also add the study of a film, a novel and a personal research project for the oral examination. Some students choose to study an AS qualification over one or two years.

Assessment:

The final examination consists of three papers

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing
- Paper 2: Writing
- Paper 3: Speaking

Careers and Further Study

In an increasing global job market, competence in at least one foreign language is essential. Studying a language is a multi-disciplinary pursuit which will enable our students to develop many skills and become highly desirable to employers. Students opting to study A-level French, Spanish or German should be open-minded and keen to discover an array of information about society, politics, history and the arts.

Many universities seek students who hold a language qualification. University courses with a language provide an exciting opportunity for students to spend a year in another country, thereby gaining a working fluency in the language and a valuable means of widening one's personal and professional horizons. Modern foreign languages are considered a facilitating subject.

During the French A-level course we are able to further develop our language skills whilst also getting a better understanding for France's culture and history. We will also study a French book and film which allows us to further immerse ourselves in the country's culture. By taking French at A-level I've been given many chances to improve my speaking and fluency for example, the Paris trip in October 2019 helped me to become more confident in my language skills. In March I will be going on the French Exchange and this will also give me the chance to meet new people and experience France in a non-touristic way. – Isla McLellan

‘For me taking Spanish at A level was always a no brainer. I have an undeniable passion for learning new languages allowing me to embrace other cultures to their full extent, when I leave Read School Sixth Form I plan on going to university and not only carrying on with Spanish but also learning two new languages as a part of my course as well as teaching English to those who speak a foreign language. Having another language has already given me so many opportunities for example spending three weeks in Avila with a host family, pushing me into using the language has improved my speaking and confidence abilities to a great extent. Having another language is not only fun but also provides that step up from others when employers are looking through CV’s.

Even though learning a new language can be difficult I have no regrets when I can see how many opportunities it has offered for me and how many it continues to provide in the future. The Read School really give passion to their language students and continue to help me in every way possible to push me to my highest abilities. I couldn’t recommend it enough’. – Amy Lister

MUSIC

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years (1 year possible for AS)

Entry Requirements

Most pupils who go on to study music in the Sixth Form will have at least a level 6 at GCSE

About the Course

The new A level Music is a linear qualification in three components:

- Component 1 is Appraising Music (involving an externally assessed examination)
- Component 2 is Performance (consisting of an NEA portfolio)
- Component 3 is Composition (consisting of an NEA portfolio).

A-level

- Component 1: There are 3 Sections: Section A (Listening), B (Analysis), C (Contextual Understanding). Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.
- Component 2: Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist or singer lasting at least 10 minutes.
- Component 3: Composition 1: composing to a brief and Composition 2: free composition, with a combined minimum time of 4 and a half minutes.

Assessment:

A-level

Component 1: 120 marks in total (40% of the A level)

Section A – 56 marks

Section B – 34 marks

Section C – 30 marks

Component 2: 50 marks in total (35% of A level)

Component 3: 50 marks in total (25% of A level)

Careers and Further Study

Music A-level is a highly regarded subject. It can be used to study Music at degree level, or as an A-level to access other employment opportunities. Careers with Music A-level might include: musician, composer, music therapist, private music teacher, secondary school teacher, law, sound technician, arts administrator, broadcast engineer, community arts worker, event manager, radio broadcast assistant, radio producer, theatre stage manager.

Music A-level shows employers that you have a variety of skills – including creativity, confidence, problem solving, perseverance, focus, non-verbal communication, collaboration, accountability and dedication.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 1 or 2 years

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education. If Physical Education hasn't been taken at GCSE level then grade 6 in Science as the course content links closely to science especially Biology and Physics. A strong performance in a single sport is essential; ideally this sport should be played to a high level outside of school.

About the Course:

Course content

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society
- Exercise Physiology
- Biomechanical Movement
- Sports Psychology
- Role or Technology in Physical Activity and Sport
- Practical Performance as a Performer or Coach in a single team or individual sport.

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 x 2 hour papers = 70% Overall grade

Practical assessment: practical performance evidenced live or via DVD evidence and a written analysis and evaluation = 30% Overall grade

Physical Education can be viewed as a good A-level subject complementing many subject combinations, it has relevance and curriculum cross-over with Biology and Psychology. It is suitable as a subject leading into degree level study in the many of the sports related courses but particularly the following subjects; physiotherapy, sports injury rehabilitation, sport and exercise science, sports coaching and PE teaching.

BTEC SPORT

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC Nationals Level 3 Sport

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

BTEC Qualifications can be configured to different levels. Studying at level 3 the Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A-level, the Diploma to 2 A levels and the Extended Diploma to 3 A-levels. The number of units studied varies from each level. The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport is 60 credits and has 360 guided learning hours (2 years).

Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education. If Physical Education hasn't been taken at GCSE then grade 6 in science as the course content links closely to science, especially biology and physics. A strong interest in performance, umpiring and coaching is essential.

About the Course

The course contains both exams and coursework, involves both theory and practical application, and covers a wide range of sport, health, well-being and fitness topics such as:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- Professional development in the sport industry
- Application of fitness testing
- Research methods in sport
- Skill acquisition in sport

Assessment

Work is assessed using a combination of internal assessments, which are set and marked by teachers, and external assessments which are set and marked by Edexcel. Assessment might take the form of assignments, projects or presentations.

Careers and Further Study

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses. BTEC Sport provides an excellent qualification for entry into the Sports Industry, to university to study the many varied sports related courses and alternatively to study Physical Education to become a Teacher or Sports Coach.

PHYSICS

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

A-level Physics requires 5 GCSE subjects at 4 or above, including English. Maths, Physics (or Combined Science) should be level 5 or above. Interested candidates might also like to consider taking A-level Maths which would offer a significant advantage.

About the Course:

During the first year you will study

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and energy
- Electricity

During the second year you will study

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Electric, gravitational and magnetic fields
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics

Assessment:

Three written papers, each 2 hours comprising short, long and multiple-choice questions:

Paper 1: sections 1 – 5 and 6.1 of the specification.

Paper 2: sections 6.2, 7 and 8 of the specification

Paper 3: space option topic and practical experiments and data analysis.

Practical endorsement

You will be required to carry out 12 practical activities which will be assessed for practical competency. This is only applicable to the full A level and will result in a “PASS” included on your final certificate.

Careers and Further Study

The top seven degree courses taken by students with an A-level in Physics are Mathematics, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Economics, Business.

Possible Career Options include geophysicist / seismologist, healthcare scientist, medical physicist, Radiation protection practitioner, Research scientist, teacher, meteorologist, technical author.

Physics also teaches many transferrable skills applicable to careers and courses not directly linked to physics and is a highly respected qualification to possess.

We find ourselves on this Earth for but a short time, appearing as if from nowhere and then disappearing back into nothingness. It is natural that whilst we are briefly here we might look around and ask questions such as, “What *is* all of this stuff?” If you want to hear the best answers to these questions that we’ve so far managed to come up with, study A-level Physics.

PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry requirements: 5 GCSEs including at least a grade 6 in either English, Maths, or Science.

About the Course:

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour, so you'll learn to think like a scientist. You'll study explanations for how people think, feel and behave as they do and you'll be asked to evaluate those explanations - is there any evidence for them? How strong is the evidence? You'll even do research of your own! You'll learn how to design experiments, questionnaires and do observations. You'll learn how to collect and analyse data, and how to apply what you have learned to the real world.

Subject content in the first year includes:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

Assessment

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Second year (A2) content includes options:

Option one

- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and development

Option two

- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

Option three

- Aggression
- Forensic psychology
- Addiction

Careers and Further Study

Psychology prepares you for a host of exciting career options, including marketing, business development, accountancy, human resources, forensic psychology, nursing, teaching, clinical psychologist, occupational therapist counselling.

Not a "facilitating" subject, but a challenging one and accepted as a second science by some universities for medicine degrees (please check specific courses).

'Psychology involves me studying human behaviour and how people are influenced by their environment, and people around them, I believe that it is key for the world of hospitality which is what I will be studying when I am going to University. This subject gives an insight on how the human brain thinks and what motivates people as a crucial people and I have especially enjoyed the behaviourism part of the course which involves as to why people behave in a certain manner. This subject will allow me to understand how people think and that I will be able to have the knowledge to respond to any situation a customer has. There is also a lot of analysis, statistics and research methods which will come in useful for any future employment'. – Sam Bond

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is independently researched, produced and presented by pupils and is highly valued by universities. It is a standalone qualification separately recorded on the UCAS form and it provides students with the opportunity to:

- choose their own topic
- understand and use research skills
- develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students
- extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills

The EPQ can take the format of a 5000-word essay or a practical artefact (e.g. artwork, design, performance or script) plus 1000-word commentary.

Assigned lesson time: Weekly taught sessions (1 periodp) delivering the skills you will need to complete your project, plus weekly meetings with a supervisor who will support your progress.

Independent Study: You will be expected to spend 2-3 hours per week on independent study (roughly 90 hours over the whole year). The EPQ is highly valued by universities for the independent learning skills and readiness for higher level study that it demonstrates.

Students who undertake the EPQ start this as part of the core Lower Sixth Form curriculum, completing it in the first half of the Upper Sixth.

It is awarded grades from A* to U in the same fashion as A Levels and carries 70 UCAS tariff points for an A*

Recent EPQ topics have been:

- Design and model a sustainable visitor centre for RSPB
- How VAR has helped referees and umpires and how it will continue to impact sport in the future
- To what extent is the success of the K-Pop group, Bangtan Sonyeondan, due to their innovative incorporation of traditional Korean art and culture?

Students can refer to their EPQ in their UCAS personal statements and at interview to demonstrate the subject interest that universities are looking for.

‘I decided to embark on doing an EPQ, as I believe this gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on areas that I am interested in. For my project I had to research and collate sources to create a final essay. I also had to create a presentation that would give an insight into my whole investigation. By doing an EPQ, I’ve been able to learn how to cite my sources and develop my research skills, both of which would be useful in university and the project will let me further display to potential employers my personal interests and long-term commitment. Even though the EPQ is a longer process, it’s fulfilling and rewarding for everyone’. – Lucy Barrick

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

University Advice is available to you from your Sixth Form Tutors and teachers throughout your time in the Sixth Form and it is never too early to start thinking about this. Many Sixth Formers have no idea of what they would like to do in their career, or what they might study at university. Therefore, investigating possibilities as soon as possible is the best way to ensure the right choice is made. Weekly tutorial sessions help to guide pupils through exploring their own strengths and weaknesses and we host a number of different universities during weekly tutor periods who give talks on their respective offerings.

Visits to open days at local universities are also encouraged, so that pupils quickly get a feel for what kind of university they want to study at: campus or city centre based. These tend to happen during the summer term of the Lower Sixth and the autumn term of the Upper Sixth. It is also a good idea to take a little time to visit likely universities during the Easter holiday in the Lower Sixth.

At Read School we aim to have all UCAS forms completed before the Christmas holidays, long before the January deadline. Many degree subjects do not lead directly into a career and are simply a starting point for careers for 'graduates in any discipline': i.e. non-vocational. Once you have a degree, many more career opportunities are available to you. It is, therefore, important to choose a subject that particularly interests you and that you enjoy.

Applications to Oxford or Cambridge

Several former Read School Sixth Form students have gone on to study at Oxford or Cambridge and we offer a programme of support with prospective applications, including regular talks with university representatives and visits to individual colleges and faculties.

These universities have extremely high admissions requirements and are very selective. To make a competitive application by the 15 October deadline students should:

1. Choose a course and make sure that you have met or are on target to meet the admission requirements
2. Explore the colleges and decide whether to express a college preference or make an open application on your UCAS form
3. Note the admissions timeline and deadlines

Prospective Oxbridge applicants are advised to have a GCSE profile with a considerable number of A*/A grades in it and have the potential to achieve three A grades or better at A Level.

Read School alumni who are Oxbridge university graduates are on hand to offer advice and orientation to Sixth Formers considering an Oxbridge application.

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is defined as a job with training that includes gaining recognised qualifications and essential skills whilst you are working and earning a wage.

Apprenticeships offer significant advantages to both the apprentice, who gains valuable 'on the job' training in the new career and the employer, who has much to gain from the extra pair of hands and the prospect of having a supply of experienced staff for the future.

The number of people starting degree apprenticeships is rapidly increasing, the range of apprenticeships on offer is broadening

Potential benefits for the apprentice include enabling you to work alongside experienced staff, gain job specific skills and a head start in your career, study towards a related qualification and earn a salary.

Degree Level Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships offer an opportunity to be sponsored through your degree. You have a job with a company and your employer pays for your degree. You study for your degree while working. As a Degree Level Apprentice, you will be earning money while you learn rather than accumulating the student debt associated with tuition fees and student loans.

Degree apprenticeships will not be right for everyone, particularly if you aspire to study an academic subject, like History or languages or wish to keep career options open but for some, it could provide a clear pathway to achieving your career ambitions if you have a specific field in mind.

A Proven Read School Pathway to Success.

Read School Sixth Form students have gone on to pursue apprenticeships in Law, Finance and Engineering and every effort will be made to provide students who wish to pursue this option with introduction to companies offering relevant apprenticeships.

Opportunities for learning about apprenticeships in the Read Sixth Form include:

- Annual visit to national Apprenticeship Show
- Careers Fair at Read School featuring companies offering apprenticeships
- Networking opportunities with alumni and parents via Read School Business Network, offering links with a multitude of industries and professional experiences
- Personal introductions to companies offering apprenticeships including individual coaching and mentoring opportunities

Progress and Performance

We are proud of the progress our young people make in the Sixth Form. Our curriculum is designed to be personal and tailored to the needs of each individual, giving all the opportunity to thrive. A summary of our university destinations for the past several years is included below and it notable that the vast majority of our students achieve their first choice university places.

University Destinations 2014-2019								
Total	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	
Number of Pupils	11	16	14	9	9	7	66	
University Places	10	15	14	8	8	7	62	94%
Russell Group Places	4	6	3	5	2	1	21	34%
Oxbridge Places	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	
Employment/Apprenticeship	1	1	-	1	1	0	4	

Sixth Form University Destinations 2014 – 2019	
Destination	Courses Studied
Bath, Spa	Journalism
Bolton	Games Programming
Bradford	Chemistry
Bristol	Medicine
Brunel	Business & Accounting
Corpus Christi College, Oxford	Physics
De Montford	Pharmacy; Fashion
Durham	Natural Sciences
Greenwich	History
Imperial College, London	Materials Science & Engineering
Keele	Law
Kings College, London	Business Management
Lancaster	Foundation Year
Leeds Beckett	Primary Education; Psychology
Leeds College of Art	Creative Advertising
Les Roches, Switzerland	Hospitality & luxury brand marketing
Lincoln	Computer Science; Foundation Year; History
Loughborough	Art; Human Factors Engineering
Manchester	Business & Accounting
Nottingham Trent	Physics
Portsmouth	Civil Engineering
Royal Holloway, London	Biochemistry
Sheffield, Hallam	History; Business & Modern Languages
SHMS Switzerland	Business & hospitality
Staffordshire	Sports Therapy
Stirling University	Philosophy & Psychology
Teeside University	Chemical Engineering
University College, London	Pharmacy
University of Arts, London	Product Design
University of Hull	Politics; Mathematics; Marine Biology; Modern Foreign Languages; English & Drama

University of Liverpool	French & Hispanic Studies
University of Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
University of Nottingham	Civil Engineering; Mechanical Engineering
University of Oxford	Biomedical Science; English Literature
University of Reading	Architecture
University of Sheffield	Engineering; Philosophy
University of York	Computer Science; Law
York St. John	Business Management; Business with Spanish, Language & Linguistics
Monash, Australia	Business
University in Vietnam	Art

Duke of Edinburgh Programme

Read School prides itself on offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to all pupils who wish to undertake the challenge and is a licensed D of E centre.

The Gold award is split up into 5 sections which are each equally weighted, these being Volunteering, Skill, Physical Expedition and Residential. The expedition is possibly the most arduous of the sections, with candidates having to plan and undertake a 4 day, 3 night expedition in the Yorkshire Dales camping at different locations each night and carrying all their kit/food with them.



The residential is a 5 day, four-night event where the young person goes to help in an organisation and these are available on the DofE website. This is organised by the young person themselves.

The other 3 sections are also individual to the young person, the only stipulation being that each activity is for an hour a week. Physical is often a sport, played in or out of school; Skill can be a musical instrument or cookery and the Volunteering can be helping in a Charity shop, Food Bank or similar. The combination of these 3 is almost limitless and may be adapted to accommodate individual interests.

Time Scales (Gold having achieved Silver):

- Volunteering section: 12 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months
- Minimum time 12 months

Direct Gold (no prior Silver attainment)

It is possible to participate in the DofE programme without having completed the bronze or silver awards. If you didn't do Silver, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

Minimum Time 18 months.

Read School Success

Many young people start their Gold Award while at Read and finish it while at University. It has to be finished by the age of 25, so there is no rush. Read charges £200 which compares very favourably with other providers and covers enrolment and the expedition section (training/practice expedition and qualifying expedition). The other sections have to be paid for by the candidate.

Students who have achieved Gold in the last 5 years at Read:

Bryony Chapman
Megan Hughes
Aiden Searle
David Oakley
Kallum Stewart
Alice Wood
Lucy Barrick
Samuel Barrick
Jason Parkash
Sam Kavanagh

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Continuing with or joining the Read School CCF within Sixth Form provides the opportunity to develop the student into a well-rounded team member. In addition to the skills for life of leadership, team building and resilience developed the CCF offers the opportunity to gain BTEC qualifications such as the BTEC level 2 in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community, at no cost or extra work to the student as this is completed alongside their regular CCF training activities.

The BTEC Level 2 in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community (SCQF Level 5) is achieved by thousands of youth group and cadet force members each year.

Learners can expect to study units including:

- Adventurous activities
- Career planning
- Health and fitness
- Teamwork and communication skills
- Land navigation by map and compass

The qualification provides recognition of youth group and cadet activities and is a perfect way to help strengthen higher education, apprenticeship or job applications. On a CV it also complements academic and other extra-curricular achievements in school.

Upon completion of the BTEC level 2 there is an opportunity to be nominated for the prestigious Duke of Westminster award. This can in turn lead to a student gaining the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) Level 3 in Leadership and Management and an invitation to the House of Lords, where the eventual winner will be announced.

BTEC Level 2 in Musical Performance

We are able to offer a BTEC Level 2 in Music for Practical Performance.

The BTEC Level 2 in Music for Practical Performance is a qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the music sector. As well as recognising performance ability, learners can expect to study units including:

- Professional development in the music industry
- Solo musical performance
- Working as a musical ensemble
- Planning and creating a musical product

Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Level 3

The ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management is a flexible qualification that can be undertaken by young people and adults. It is aimed at learners who have management responsibilities but no formal training, as well as new, aspiring or practicing first line managers and is also the qualification CVQO Westminster Award candidates gain as part of the selection event. The qualification is unit-based and the content will differ according to the combination of units used by each delivery course.

Learners can expect to study topics such as:

- Solving problems and making decisions
- Giving briefings and making presentations

- Understanding leadership
- Understanding how to establish an effective team
- Leading and motivating a team effectively

Civilian Qualifications

The CCF also offers Sixth Form students the opportunity to gain civilian recognised outdoor qualifications for example mountain bike leader, ski instructor and other qualifications. These are held throughout the year with our specialist Centre for Cadet Adventurous Training (CCAT) .

We are also able to develop teamwork and instruction abilities through internal courses that are on offer only for members of the Cadet Force. These are *The Senior Cadet instruction Course*, along with the *Cadet Leadership Course*.

RAF Section Awards

Members of the CCF RAF Section are able to complete courses organised by the RAF in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), including cyber work, code breaking and engineering challenges. These are held nationally and offer the student an insight into related industries.

Lord Lieutenant Award

Members of the CCF that pursue these awards plus other training activities and always put the team ahead of their own goals can be nominated for the Lord Lieutenants Cadet. The Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet is seen as the aide and representative of the cadet forces to the British royal family and the Lord-lieutenant and is typically chosen from each of the main cadet forces, the Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Sea Cadets (United Kingdom). Occasionally, a cadet is selected from the Combined Cadet Force such as Read School Head Boy Harry Woodall who was presented with this award in October last year.

They provide an essential link between the armed forces and the local community, assist with recruiting within the cadet forces and assist the county's Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. The cadet from each arm of the cadet forces is selected and appointed based on their outreach and participation within their squadron, detachment or unit, and is seen as one of the highest achievements in the Cadet Forces.

