

South Dartmoor Sixth Form

Prospectus 2027

Foreword

I am proud of our inclusive and welcoming Sixth Form for which culture, curriculum and community are the foundations for every decision we make. It is our ambition that every student succeeds both personally and academically and we do this well because of the relationships we build and the expectations we set.

In August 2026, students achieved a 100% pass rate, with half of all grades awarded at A*-B. Nearly a quarter of students achieved A* or A grades, while 82% of grades were awarded at A*-C. Students progressed to ambitious destinations including universities across the UK, apprenticeships and employment, with many securing places at their first-choice Russell Group university.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with over 30 subjects to choose from, alongside a range of qualification types including A levels and vocational courses. Every student takes part in our Elevate programme, providing them with opportunity to enhance their main programme of study with additional qualifications and experiences.

As part of Elevate, students can pursue aspirational qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), enabling them to develop advanced research, analytical and presentation skills which are highly valued by universities and employers alike. Elevate also enables students to secure Level 3 qualifications in Oracy and Personal Finance; we are proud to offer this as part of every students study programme in Year 12.

We take pride in our bespoke approach to learning, ensuring that each student's individual needs are met through a personalised study programme. Beyond the classroom, our vibrant extra-curricular provision includes volunteering opportunities, termly Sixth Form social events, sports and creative arts clubs and a wide range of outreach activities with local businesses and universities; these experiences prepare our students for life beyond Sixth Form.

Located in the Sixth Form Centre, we foster a culture of high aspiration across our learning community. Our modern spaces support a mature approach to Post 16 learning, with access to a spacious library, study gallery and resource centre that encourage successful independent study. Through our tailored Personal Development Programme (PDP), students engage with a bespoke curriculum covering personal, social, health and economic education alongside careers, employability and finance, preparing them to make confident strides beyond compulsory education.

Pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do. From September 2027, our innovative Flexible Friday offer will provide students with the benefits of a four-day taught week, creating valuable time for wellbeing, work experience, independent study and personal development. This exciting addition reflects our commitment to helping students thrive both academically and personally. Shaped by student voice, our collaborative community continues to deliver excellent outcomes, strong alumni connections and a vibrant Sixth Form experience.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Sixth Form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Abi Slater
Director of Sixth Form

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Sixth Form Courses

Creative Arts, Media and Design
Design and Technology
Fine Art
Graphics
Media Studies
Photography

English and Modern Foreign Languages
English Literature
French
Spanish

Humanities
Classical Civilisation
Geography
History
Politics

Mathematics, Business and Computing
Business
Computer Science
Economics
Further Mathematics
Mathematics

Performing Arts
Dance
Music
Music Performance
Performing Arts

Science and Sport
Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Food Science and Nutrition
Health, Fitness and Sports Science Extended Diploma
Health, Fitness and Sports Science Extended Certificate
Physical Education
Physics

Social Sciences
Criminology
Health and Social Care
Philosophy and Ethics
Psychology
Sociology



“futures are made in the present”

Sixth Form

Culture, Curriculum and Community

We work with students as they develop an increasing control over their lives, underpinned by a search for truth and knowledge, respect for self and others, an understanding of equality and social justice and a commitment to striving for excellence.

- We introduce students to the best that has been thought, written and created.
- We enable students to develop intellectual curiosity and provide a secure grounding in the skills the modern world requires.
- We prepare them for the world of work and adult responsibility, and help them to develop resilience to face life's challenges.
- We encourage students to care for and treat other humans with courtesy, dignity and respect and support them to stay mentally, physically and spiritually healthy.
- We value well-being, in terms of both happiness and health, building trusting relationships and working hard, together.
- We recognise the power of opportunity for student voice and collaboration and embrace this to both shape and direct our community in and beyond the classroom, placing students at the very heart of what we deliver.

Our vision

To develop intellectual curiosity and a deep love of learning that ensures students are best prepared to enter the next phase of their lives.

Our mission

To focus uncompromisingly on ensuring every individual is successful. We achieve this by:

1. Pursuing truth open-mindedly, seeking to help students to enquire, question and challenge. Providing individual advice, guidance and support to ensure progression routes are secured. **(Truth)**

2. Creating a safe community that has at its core an understanding of deep respect for self, for others and for the environment. Trust is nurtured and strong relationships are key. **(Respect)**

3. Delivering a broad range of subjects, where high aspirations are the norm and success is celebrated, regardless of background, ethnicity, religion, gender or educational need. **(Equality)**

4. Providing high quality teaching, matched to knowledge-rich curricula, in a supportive learning environment with high expectations. We provide students with opportunities in which to excel, to empower them to make free choices as a foundation for their best possible future. **(Excellence)**

Our Sixth Form: at a glance

Over 30 subjects on offer	We offer over 30 subjects to choose from, with a range of types of qualification to suit your needs
Specialist teaching	All subjects are taught by subject specialists in our modern Sixth Form Centre
University success	100% success rate for applicants to university
Degree Apprenticeships	100% success rate for applicants to Degree Apprenticeship programmes
Outperform competitors	100% pass rate

Flexible Friday



From September 2027, students in Years 12 and 13 at South Dartmoor Sixth Form will benefit from Flexible Friday, with no taught lessons on Fridays. This gives students the independence and time to manage their learning, commitments and wellbeing in ways that support their success.

Why it works here: South Dartmoor Sixth Form is a relatively small, highly successful academic Sixth Form. We know our students well, listen carefully to what they need and can adapt our provision to support them as individuals. Flexible Friday reflects our commitment to combining high expectations with genuine care, giving students the time and space to thrive both academically and personally.

How students can use the day: Additional study, wider reading, coursework, revision, university preparation, work experience placements, volunteering, enrichment activities or simply creating space to rest and protect their mental health andwellbeing.

Designed for our community: South Dartmoor serves students who may live some distance from other education hubs and often face limited transport links. Flexible Friday is aninnovative approach that recognises these realities while maintaining high academic expectations and placing student success at the heart of our Sixth Form offer.

Understanding our Post 16 learning programme

At South Dartmoor Sixth Form, we are proud to offer a dynamic and supportive learning environment where students can tailor their education to suit their aspirations. Our Post 16 curriculum is built around a broad and balanced selection of Level 3 qualifications, including traditional A levels and a range of vocational courses such as Criminology, Health and Social Care, Music Performance, Performing Arts and Sport and Physical Activity.

All students are required to select three subjects to form their full-time programme of study. Each subject is allocated 9 hours of taught lessons over a two-week timetable, complemented by an expectation of 9 hours of home learning. This structure ensures that students engage in a total of 18 hours per subject every fortnight, amounting to 54 hours of focused academic engagement across their chosen subjects.

Students who demonstrate strong academic ability and commitment may also choose to take a fourth subject. This option allows for greater breadth in their studies and can be particularly beneficial for those considering competitive university courses or who wish to explore an additional area of interest. The decision to take a fourth subject should be made in consultation as part of the application process to ensure it is manageable alongside other commitments.

Our A level courses follow a linear assessment model, meaning that students are assessed at the end of Year 13 through final examinations that cover the entire course content. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of subject material and encourages long-term learning and retention.

In contrast, our vocational qualifications are assessed through a combination of methods across the two years. These may include written examinations, internally assessed coursework and externally moderated assignments, providing students with regular opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a variety of ways.

Whether pursuing academic or vocational pathways—or a combination of both—our curriculum is designed to challenge, inspire and prepare students for university, apprenticeships or employment. With expert teaching, tailored support and a strong emphasis on independent learning, we are committed to helping every student achieve their full potential.



Personal Development Programme (PDP)

Delivered throughout Years 12 and 13, the Personal Development Programme (PDP) covers careers, financial literacy and employability skills—valued by universities and employers. As part of statutory PSHE, the PDP also supports students' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, preparing them for adult life. Shaped by student voice, our curriculum is relevant, engaging and builds on prior learning across subjects.

It aims to:

- Develop effective study habits and independent learning skills
- Encourage curiosity about the wider world and students' place within it
- Promote safe, informed life choices and support health and wellbeing

A key feature is individualised support through 1-to-1 sessions offering tailored advice on UCAS statements, CVs and references.

The Elevate programme

Elevate is a distinctive feature of Sixth Form life, designed to enrich and extend each student's academic journey. Running alongside students' chosen course programmes, Elevate offers opportunities to develop essential skills, gain additional qualifications and broaden experiences beyond the classroom.

Skill development sessions take place each weekday morning as part of our Year 12 study programme. Students strengthen their communication, presentation, research and financial decision-making skills through a programme of debate, public speaking, interview preparation and financial literacy workshops. These experiences are accredited through Level 3 qualifications in Oracy and Personal Finance, equipping students with highly valued skills for university, employment and life beyond Sixth Form.

Additionally, students can choose to enhance their A level studies with recognised qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Sport and Performing Arts Leadership Awards and French and Spanish Speaking Accreditations. Students can also take part in enriching experiences including Model United Nations simulations and a wide range of leadership and outreach opportunities.

Students make their Elevate choices with expert guidance from our Sixth Form team, building a bespoke and personalised curriculum that reflects their interests, ambitions and future aspirations. This tailored approach places students at the centre of their own curriculum design, empowering them to take ownership of their futures.



Up Learn

is an intelligent online learning platform designed to accelerate A level success. As a Sixth Form, we provide full access free of charge to all students enrolled in subjects Up Learn supports, boosting independent study, deepening understanding and significantly improving academic outcomes.



Biology • Business • Chemistry • Classical Civilisation • Computer Science • Criminology • Cyber and Net
Fine Art • French • Further Mathematics • Geography • Graphics • Health and Social C
Music Performance • Performing Arts • Philosophy and Ethics • Photography

Early entry pathway: supporting ambitious aspirations

Our early entry pathway supports high-achieving students considering competitive university courses and careers in fields such as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Law—areas requiring early UCAS applications and rigorous preparation.

This tailored programme offers guidance, resources and experiences to help students stand out in the competitive application process. Through structured seminars, workshops and mentoring, students receive expert support for early UCAS applications, including personal statement writing, interview preparation and admissions tests such as UCAT, BMAT, LNAT and others.

We also collaborate with external partners including Peninsula Medical School in Plymouth to provide access to specialist insight days, mentoring schemes and work experience opportunities. These experiences help students gain deeper understanding of their chosen fields and strengthen their applications.

The early entry pathway is open to students who demonstrate academic excellence, commitment and clear ambition to pursue these competitive routes. Our dedicated team ensures every student is fully supported to achieve their goals.

Oxbridge pathway: cultivating academic excellence

Our Oxbridge Pathway is designed for students aspiring to study at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge. It provides targeted support including subject-specific enrichment, critical thinking development and interview preparation. Students benefit from tailored mentoring, mock interviews and guidance on personal statements and admissions tests such as the TSA and MAT. The programme fosters intellectual curiosity and academic rigour, helping students present competitive applications to these world-leading institutions.



Unifrog is a destinations platform that helps students explore career paths, university options and apprenticeships. Sixth Form students use it as part of our careers provision to make informed choices, build strong applications and develop key skills for life beyond college.

work Security • Dance • Design and Technology • Economics • English Literature • Environmental Science
are • Health, Fitness and Sports Science • History • Mathematics • Media Studies • Music
y • Physical Education • Physics • Politics • Psychology • Sociology • Spanish

Sixth Form enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities

At South Dartmoor Sixth Form, we believe education extends far beyond the classroom. Our enrichment and extra-curricular programme is designed to inspire curiosity, develop skills and nurture ambition, empowering students to flourish academically, socially and personally.

Opportunities to grow and excel include:

Leadership and Student Voice – Shape Sixth Form life by joining the Student Leadership Team or taking on roles such as Sports Leader or volunteering on The Bean Machine coffee bar, for which we equip you with a full barista qualification to add to your CV. Develop the confidence, initiative and teamwork skills that universities and employers value.

Sports, Arts and Performance – Engage in competitive sports, creative clubs and performing arts productions, exploring your talents while building resilience, creativity and collaboration.

Adventure and Cultural Experiences – Take part in Duke of Edinburgh or Ten Tors, and enrich your global perspective with cultural trips to France, Berlin and Poland.

Community and Career Engagement – Connect with local businesses, universities, apprenticeship providers and inspiring guest speakers. Gain real-world insight, build networks and develop the skills to shape your future.

We encourage students to balance ambition with wellbeing, empowering them to explore passions, pursue new challenges and enhance their A level experience. Every activity is an opportunity to grow as an independent, confident and capable learner.

Pastoral support

Every student benefits from a dedicated progress mentor, providing guidance from induction through to graduation. Mentors support:

- Academic progress and exam preparation
- Personal wellbeing and attendance
- Higher education, apprenticeship and employment applications

Within our close-knit Sixth Form community, students thrive in an environment that challenges and inspires, helping each individual to realise their potential, embrace opportunities and leave fully equipped for the next stage of their journey.





Our Sixth Form offers...

A pathway to higher education and employment
including university, degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships and places of employment.

Flexible Friday inntiative to provide students with opportunities to rest, study and incorporate meaningful work experience.

50% in-class study and 50% independent study
from a choice of over 30 A level and vocational course offers. Students access online learning platforms such as Up Learn and MASSOLIT to further support impactful independent study.

Freedom to get involved beyond compulsory attendance points
which are taught lessons, PDP, Elevate, 1-to-1 tutorials and seminar sessions.

Sixth Form Centre and specialist teaching
with access to the college WiFi and specialist study facilities for all subjects and independent study. All qualifications are taught by subject specialists and class sizes are small.

16-19 bursary support
which assists with travel costs as well as other educational expenses, including resources, trips and food.

Bespoke careers advice
with students receiving 1-to-1 support through our advisor as well as access to the Unifrog careers platform.







Q&A

Q How does Sixth Form feel like a step-up from Year 11?

A Students gain more independence and responsibility, including first-name terms with staff, wearing lanyards and freedom to leave site during non-compulsory periods. They also benefit from exclusive access to a canteen, common room, sports facilities and leadership opportunities.

Q What is UCAS and why is it important?

A UCAS is the UK's central system for applying to university and higher education. In Sixth Form, students prepare personal statements, choose courses and submit applications with tailored one-to-one support, helping shape their post-18 pathways.

Q What are Russell Group universities?

A The Russell Group is a group of 24 leading UK universities known for academic excellence, research and graduate prospects. It includes institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and Durham.

Q How do A level results impact progression to higher education?

A South Dartmoor Sixth Form consistently achieves strong results, with 50% of students gaining A–B grades and 25% achieving A or A*. Students' progress to top universities including Bath, Bristol and Durham, or secure degree apprenticeships and specialist training with organisations like Airbus and the South West Ambulance Service.

Q What if you don't offer the exact subject I need for a degree course?

A Most university courses don't require a specific A level subject (for example, you do not need an A level in Law to study Law at university). Speak to our Sixth Form team for advice on suitable alternatives and course requirements.

Q What volunteering opportunities are available, and why are they important?

A Students can volunteer as baristas, subject ambassadors, club leaders or in the wider community with charities and youth groups. These roles build initiative, leadership and strengthen CVs and university applications.

Q What is the WeST Supra Curriculum?

A The Supra Curriculum is a trust-wide enrichment programme that complements our PDP and Elevate pathways. It helps students develop critical thinking, explore global issues and build confidence to challenge ideas and perspectives.

Q What do you offer beyond the curriculum to prepare me for life after Sixth Form?

A Enrichment includes Learn2Live safety workshops, the UCAS Exhibition, guest speakers from the Bank of England and House of Lords, in-house travel safety seminars and Exeter University sessions on degree apprenticeships, student finance and Russell Group applications.



SIXTH FORM
South Dartmoor

Sixth Form
Courses

CREATIVE ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN

Design and Technology
Fine Art
Graphics
Media Studies
Photography



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

What will I study?

The course enables you to combine an understanding of materials and manufacturing processes with your own creative visions by taking charge of the design process. If you enjoy sketching, thinking creatively and problem solving, this is the course for you. The course provides you with the opportunity to be imaginative, experimental and express ideas using different media and techniques. You will learn to develop a range of skills including manufacturing techniques, design skills, 3D modelling and the use of CAD software. Topics covered include iterative design, technical drawing, consumer requirements and design principles. You will gain an understanding of the professional design process and how experts operate through your project work.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 (3 hour written exam): Design and Technology in the 21st Century.

Component 2 (NEA): Design and make project.

Exam board
Eduqas

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Design and Technology, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Design and Technology include Art, Graphics, Business, Physics and Maths.

Next Steps

Students who study Design and Technology might go on to study design courses at university, including product design, architecture, interior design and engineering. Students may also choose to study a vocational route including carpentry and electrical engineering.

> A level Design and Technology has taught me many skills like being able to problem solve, think creatively and develop a wide range of different designing and making skills. I have found the links between other subjects like business, history and art also interesting. Developing my own self driven project has given me a real passion for design and designing for other people's needs

Current Sixth Form Design and Technology student

> During my time studying A level Design and Technology I was able to build a lot of transferable skills. From project management, understanding client needs and interacting with potential clients and users. I am now studying at Durham University and have found these skills to be really valuable.

Alumni Sixth Form Design and Technology student

FINE ART

What will I study?

You will study the core skills of Fine Art through practical workshops in drawing, painting and printmaking. The course encourages creativity, experimentation and the development of technical ability across a range of materials and processes. You will research artists and art movements to inspire your own work, recording progress and ideas in a sketchbook.

Throughout the course, you will refine your personal style and ability to express concepts visually, producing a portfolio that demonstrates your creative development and artistic skills. By the end of the first year, you will have created a portfolio showcasing your design process and creative thinking.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment consists of two components. Component 1, the Personal Investigation, is an internally assessed and externally moderated portfolio worth 60% of your grade. Component 2, the externally set assignment, makes up 40% and includes preparatory studies leading to a 15-hour practical exam where you produce your final piece.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE in Fine Art, Graphic Design or Photography, Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Fine Art include Photography, Graphic Design and History. These subjects encourage experimentation and deepen artistic understanding across different mediums and wider contexts.

Next Steps

Students who study Fine Art might go on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or a degree in Fine Art, Illustration or Visual Arts. Future careers may include painting, sculpture, curation, art education or creative media industries.

> *We are encouraged to experiment with different ways of working and have been introduced to lots of different processes in the art specialist rooms. It is great to be able to use them in my private study periods and get stuck into my creative practice.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Fine Art student

> *The Fine Art course pushed me to explore my creativity and take risks, drawing on the knowledge from the teachers and their constructive feedback. It is great to have your own space to and the opportunity to exhibit throughout the course really helped to build my confidence.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Fine Art student

GRAPHICS

What will I study?

You will study a range of foundation skills in Illustration and Design, exploring both traditional and digital techniques through workshops. Using industry-standard software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, you will develop technical ability alongside creative expression through mixed media approaches. You will research a variety of illustrative and graphic styles to inform your own practice, recording ideas and development in a sketchbook. Through ongoing reflection and visual communication, you will learn how to respond to a brief.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment consists of two components. Component 1, the Personal Investigation, is an internally assessed and externally moderated portfolio worth 60% of your grade. Component 2, the externally set assignment, makes up 40% and includes preparatory studies leading to a 15-hour practical exam where you produce your final piece.

By the end of the course, you will have created a portfolio showcasing your design process and creative thinking.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE in Fine Art, Graphic Design or Photography, Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Graphic Design include Photography, Fine Art and Media Studies. These subjects encourage innovation and broaden understanding of design principles across various platforms.

Next Steps

Students who study Graphic Design might go on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or a degree in Graphic Design, Visual Communication or Digital Media. Future careers may include branding, advertising, publishing or working in creative industries.

> *Studying Graphic Design gave me the confidence and skills to pursue a creative career. The teachers were incredibly supportive and pushed me to experiment with new ideas. The studio spaces and equipment felt professional and inspiring. The course prepared me for university and the design industry.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Graphics stude

> *The teachers treat us like real designers by challenging us and encouraging us to develop our own style. Having access to industry standard software, printers and other arts-based materials such as screen printing makes a huge difference.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Graphics stud

MEDIA STUDIES

What will I study?

This is a creative course that explores how media products are made, how they communicate messages and how audiences respond. Students study a range of media forms—like film, TV, advertising and online content—while also creating their own media projects.

The course blends theory with practical skills, encouraging creativity, critical thinking and an understanding of the media industry.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is split between written exams and coursework.

There are two exams to be taken at the end of the second year which are worth 70% of the final grade. Students also select a topic from a range of creative briefs and produce a project that is worth 30% of the final grade.

This course is ideal for those looking to deepen their knowledge in the media industry, refine their critical thinking skills and prepare for further study or careers in the media world.

Exam board
Eduqas

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE English Literature or English Language, Grade 6 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Media Studies include Photography, Graphics, English Literature and Fine Art.

Next Steps

Students who study Media Studies might go on to explore a Media apprenticeship, or study degrees such as Media, Journalism, Marketing, Public Relations, Photography and Web Design.

> *Media Studies has helped me understand the world around me in a completely new way. We don't just look at films and adverts — we explore how media influences society, shapes opinions and reflects culture. The mix of theory and practical work keeps things interesting, and creating our own media products is one of the best parts of the course.*

Current Sixth Form Media Studies stude

> *A Level Media Studies helped me understand how audiences think and what grabs their attention. It sparked my interest in creative strategy, and now I'm working towards a career in advertising where I get to shape campaigns that really connect with people.*

Alumni Sixth Form Media Studies stude

PHOTOGRAPHY

What will I study?

You will learn to communicate through the visual language of photography, developing both analogue and digital skills.

The course explores traditional darkroom and Photoshop techniques alongside photographic theory and the work of influential artists and photographers. In the first year, you will build technical confidence using 35mm SLR cameras (digital and film) and create a themed portfolio supported by a visual workbook and artist research. In the second year, you will refine your skills through a personal investigation project, combining practical and written elements to express your individual photographic style.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment consists of two components:

Component 1, the Personal Investigation, is an internally assessed and externally moderated portfolio worth 60% of your grade.

Component 2, the externally set assignment, makes up 40% and includes preparatory studies leading to a 15-hour practical exam where you produce your final piece.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE in Fine Art, Graphic Design or Photography, Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Photography include Graphic Design, Fine Art, Media Studies and History. These subjects broaden artistic understanding and enhance a Photographer's ability to produce visually engaging work.

Next Steps

Students who study Photography might go on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or a degree in Photography or Media Arts. This may lead to future careers in areas such as photojournalism, commercial photography, visual arts or creative media production.

The course teaches you to look at the finer details and make important critical decisions about your work to get the best outcomes.

Current Sixth Form Photography student

The teachers really encouraged me to pursue the things I was interested in to help make my photography stronger.

Alumni Sixth Form Photography student

ENGLISH AND MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

English Literature
French
Spanish



ENGLISH LITERATURE

What will I study?

English Literature is a rich and challenging course that explores a wide range of texts across different genres, periods and perspectives.

Students develop analytical and interpretive skills by studying how writers use language, structure and form to create meaning, exploring different aspects of tragedy as well as crime writing.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is split between written exams and coursework.

There are two exams to be taken at the end of the second year which are worth 80% of the final grade. You will also submit two pieces of coursework that are linked to literary critical theory which are worth 20% of the final grade.

This course is ideal for those looking to deepen their literary knowledge, refine their critical thinking skills and prepare for further study in the literary world.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE English Literature, Grade 6 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement English Literature include History, Politics, Classical Civilisation, Media Studies and Psychology.

Next Steps

Students who study English Literature might go on to explore an apprenticeship in journalism or marketing, or study degrees such as Law, Psychology, History, Politics or Philosophy.

> *English Literature A level has really opened my eyes to how powerful language can be. Exploring different texts and perspectives has helped me think more critically and express myself more confidently. It's challenging but incredibly rewarding.*
>
> Current Sixth Form English Literature student

> *A Level English Literature sharpened my ability to analyse arguments and express ideas clearly. Those skills were crucial in my university application, and they helped me secure a place to study Politics — where critical thinking and communication are everything.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form English Literature student

FRENCH

What will I study?

A level French builds on GCSE knowledge, focusing on language, culture and society. It develops transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking, research and creativity—valuable for employment or further study.

The course explores how French-speaking societies are shaped and continue to evolve. Year 12 covers social contexts and artistic life; Year 13 focuses on multiculturalism and political engagement, especially among young people. Students enhance their understanding of Francophone culture and society while improving language skills through authentic spoken and written sources.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment takes place at the end of Year 13 across three papers:
Paper 1 (50%): Listening, Reading and Writing – 2.5 hours
Paper 2 (20%): Writing – 2 hours
Paper 3 (30%): Speaking – 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation)

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE French, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement French include History, English, Politics, Business, another language, or STEM subjects, enhancing cultural, analytical and communication skills.

Next Steps

Students who study French might go on to study translation, interpreting, journalism, marketing, law, tourism, teaching, or they may work abroad. Linguists are highly valued for international roles in business, sales, media and education.

> *I really enjoy studying French; it's like opening a door to a whole new world. I love learning new words and phrases, and it's amazing when I can actually understand or talk to someone in another language. It makes me feel proud and confident to travel.*
>
> Current Sixth Form French student

> *Taking French gave me the skills and confidence to pursue an international career. It opened opportunities in translation, marketing and working overseas, allowing me to travel, experience new cultures and take on exciting roles across global industries.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form French student

SPANISH

What will I study?

A level Spanish builds on GCSE knowledge, focusing on language, culture and society. It develops transferable skills such as communication, critical thinking, research and creativity—valuable for employment or further study,

The course explores how Spanish-speaking societies are shaped and continue to evolve. Year 12 covers social contexts and artistic life; Year 13 focuses on multiculturalism and political engagement, especially among young people. Students enhance their understanding of Hispanic culture and society while improving language skills through authentic spoken and written sources.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment takes place at the end of Year 13 across three papers:

Paper 1 (50%): Listening, Reading, Writing – 2.5 hours.
Paper 2 (20%): Writing – 2 hours.
Paper 3 (30%): Speaking – 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation).

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE Spanish, Grade 6 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Spanish include History, English, Politics, Business, another language, or STEM subjects, enhancing cultural, analytical and communication skills.

Next Steps

Students who study Spanish might go on to study translation, interpreting, journalism, marketing, law, tourism, teaching, or they may work abroad. Linguists are highly valued for international roles in business, sales, media and education.

> A level Spanish has been one of my favourite subjects. The lessons are lively, and we explore real-world topics like politics, film and culture across the Spanish-speaking world. My confidence in speaking has grown so much, and I love being able to express my opinions fluently. If you enjoy languages and want a subject that opens doors, definitely choose Spanish!
>
> WeST Sixth Form Spanish stude

> Studying A level Spanish was the best decision I made. It gave me the confidence to travel around South America after college — chatting with locals, understanding the culture and feeling part of it all. It's an incredible skill that's stayed with me ever since.
>
> WeST Sixth Form Spanish stude

HUMANITIES

Classical Civilisation
Geography
History
Politics



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

What will I study?

Classical Civilisation offers students the chance to study some of the greatest cultures in the ancient world. You will learn about the politics, stories and societies that have shaped the world we live in, such as the ancient Romans, Greeks and Persians. There will be gods, monsters, tyrants, soldiers, dictators, servants, slaves; a real insight into societies that flourished thousands of years ago. You will study epic stories, controversial legal trials, famous plays, letters written by some of the most influential politicians and leaders of all time (like Caesar, Pompey and Cicero), as well as archaeological evidence such as buildings, temples and pottery.

If you are passionate and curious about ancient societies then this will be a great subject for you.

How will I be assessed?

Three written exams:

The World of the Hero (Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid) – 40%.
Invention of the Barbarian – 30%.
Politics of the Late Roman Republic – 30%.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE English, Grade 5 or above

GCSE History or Ancient History, Grade 5 or above

No prior study of the ancient world is necessary, although passion and enthusiasm is!

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Classical Civilisation include the Humanities subjects, such as History, English Literature, Politics or Psychology.

Next Steps

Students who study Classical Civilisation might go on to study subjects such as Classics, History, Law, Politics, Philosophy and Art History. Classicists can enjoy diverse careers including Law, academic research, archaeology, education and journalism.

> *Classics is full of great stories and characters, and was really helpful in giving me the skills and examples I need for my Oxbridge application*

Current Sixth Form Classical Civilisation student

> *Through reading epics like the Odyssey and the Aeneid, and studying figures like Julius Caesar, A Level Classics helped me go on to study Classics at university as I was aware of how to critically read sources such as Homer, Virgil and Herodotus, which helps discussion in seminars and assignments.*

Alumni Sixth Form Classical Civilisation student

GEOGRAPHY

What will I study?

Geography helps us understand the world by revealing the reasons behind natural and human processes. This course deepens your awareness of our planet and how people interact with it and each other. Key topics include tectonic hazards, coastal change, water and carbon cycles, globalisation and global superpowers. It encourages ethical and socially responsible thinking, preparing students to become agents of change. A personal investigation allows for reflection on fieldwork, with a residential trip to the Dorset Coastline to support this as well as to deepen learning and understanding of classwork.

How will I be assessed?

Three written exams:

Papers 1 and 2: Core topics.
Paper 3: Geographical skills and synoptic understanding.

Coursework investigation (NEA): Internally assessed and externally moderated. This involves producing a report based on fieldwork data and independent research, allowing students to apply their learning in a practical and analytical context.

Exam board
Pearson Edexcel

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE Geography, Science, English and Maths, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Geography include Biology, Maths, Further Maths, Business, Chemistry, Environmental Science and English Literature.

Next Steps

Students who study Geography might go on to careers that include Environmental Consultancy, Disaster Management, Council Planning and Conservation. Geography graduates may also find roles in education, tourism and international aid.

> *Geography not only allows me to study a subject I am passionate about, but I learn in depth about the physical world we live in as well as how the human world is affected by the natural world. One thing I love about geography is how I get to apply my current knowledge of the geo-political climate to each topic within the subject.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Geography stude

> *I like Geography, it is a subject that makes sense. Every part of Geography ties into another, and that creates a reliable subject. I always enjoyed it; I liked the differences between the physical and human parts and how even though they are different they are intertwined.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Geography stu

HISTORY

What will I study?

If you enjoy discussing and debating major events of the past and making connections between those events and the world we live in today, History at A level will be a great option for you.

We study Tudor rebellions, civil war in England, the rise and fall of dictators and life under oppressive regimes.

The course is excellent preparation for university both in terms of the content you cover and the research/study skills you develop. We live in a complex world full of misinformation and History helps you to navigate that.

How will I be assessed?

Three exams taken at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: Germany 1918-1989 (30%).
Paper 2: Italy 1911-1946 (20%).
Paper 3: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485-1603 (30%).

Students also complete written coursework: The Causes of the English Civil War 1637-42 (20%).

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE History or Ancient History, Grade 5 or above

If you haven't studied GCSE History, then English, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement History include Classical Civilisation, Politics, English Literature and the Social Sciences. Many scientists and mathematicians have also studied History, as have Music and Art students.

Next Steps

Students who study History might also go on to study History or an equivalent subject at university. History remains the classic route into Law and opens doors to all kinds of careers such as journalism, heritage, the police, communications, education, politics and the Civil Service.

> *A Level History is a brilliant subject which has helped me see parallels with the modern day we live in, such as dictatorships and power, and the history of England which has shaped our society. It has given me a greater knowledge and understanding of historical events which have shaped our country to date such as studying Hitler and WW2 along with our coursework on the English Civil War.*
>
> Current Sixth Form History student

> *A level History was the best preparation for studying at university. I always looked forward to our lessons... thank you for all the support, constant encouragement and kindness. It made learning History something that I genuinely enjoyed.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form History student

POLITICS

What will I study?

A level Politics includes both UK and US Politics. The units are wide ranging and explore relevant and controversial topics covering news and current affairs from the UK and the US.

The course will help you develop research, written communication and debating skills. Furthermore, A level Politics challenges you to comprehend and interpret political information, critically analyse and evaluate the areas of politics studied as well as construct arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions.

How will I be assessed?

There are three 2-hour written exams:

Paper 1 (33%): Government & Politics of the UK.
Paper 2 (33%): Government & Politics of the USA & Comparative Politics.
Paper 3 (33%): Political Ideas.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE English, Grade 5 or above
GCSE History, Grade 5 or above (if studied)

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Politics include History, English Literature, Sociology, Criminology, Psychology and Geography.

Next Steps

Students who study Politics might go on to study a degree in Law, Journalism or International Relations.

> *It is a good idea to study A level Politics as it gives you an understanding of political perspectives which are different to your own. You will learn about UK and US politics and develop the ability to analyse and compare.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Politics student

> *I just want to thank you for being such amazing and helpful teachers throughout the two years. It definitely wasn't easy at times but I couldn't have done it without you.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Politics student


Sixth Form • South Dartmoor
Sixth Form • South Dartmoor

MATHEMATICS, BUSINESS AND COMPUTING

Business
Computer Science
Economics
Further Mathematics
Mathematics



BUSINESS

What will I study?

A level Business gives you a broad understanding of how businesses work, and the key decisions faced in the real world. You will explore how businesses start, grow and succeed and what challenges they face along the way.

The main areas of study are:

Theme 1 - Marketing and People: How businesses identify and meet customer needs, marketing strategy and the role of people in business.
Theme 2 – Managing Business Activities: How businesses manage finance and resources, financial planning and operations.
Theme 3 – Business decisions and strategy: How businesses make strategic decisions, business objectives, growth and innovation.
Theme 4 – Global Business: International expansion, globalisation, international trade and global marketing.

How will I be assessed?

There are three 2-hour exams. These assess students knowledge on areas such as Marketing, People and Global Businesses, Decisions and Strategy and Business in a Competitive Environment.

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
No additional entry requirements

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Business include Mathematics, Economics, Geography, Psychology, and Sociology. These subjects help you to develop analytical, numerical and strategic thinking skills that are valuable in the business world.

Next Steps

Students who study Business might go on to complete a degree or apprenticeship in Business Management, Marketing, Finance, Accounting, Economics or International Business. A business qualification supports careers in banking, finance, retail, marketing and project management.

> *A level Business is really engaging. It's interesting how the different topics connect and apply to real companies. Using case studies makes everything feel more relevant and easier to understand. The teacher is supportive and always available to help. It's definitely helped me improve my analysis and exam technique, especially when writing longer, more structured answers.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Business student

> *I really enjoyed A level Business. Everything was explained clearly and the links to real businesses made it more interesting. The teacher was supportive and easy to talk to if you needed help. The course definitely gave me a head start for university and I'm loving the Business Management degree I am now studying at Cardiff University.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Business Student

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What will I study?

Computer Science gives you an in-depth understanding of how computers work and how to solve problems through programming. You will learn about algorithms, data structures, computer systems, networks, and the ethical and legal impact of digital technology.

The main areas of study are:

Computer Systems: Hardware, software, databases, networks and cybersecurity.

Algorithms and Programming: Computational thinking, problem solving and coding in Python.

Practical Programming Project: Design, develop and test your own coded solution to a real-world problem.

How will I be assessed?

AS level: Paper 1 – Computing Principles, Paper 2 – Algorithms and Problem Solving.

A level: Paper 1 – Computer Systems, Paper 2 – Algorithms and Programming, Non-Exam Assessment – Programming Project.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
AS level/A level

Course length
1 or 2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Computer Science, Grade 6 or above (if taken)

GCSE Maths, Grade 6 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Computer Science include Mathematics, Physics and Business.

Next Steps

Students who study Computer Science might go on to study a degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity or Data Science. It also opens doors to careers in programming, IT systems, and emerging tech industries such as robotics.

> *I've loved learning how to actually build programs and understand how computers really work. The course is challenging but really rewarding, and the teachers are great at helping you think logically and debug problems. Writing my own project has been the best part – it feels like something real I could actually use.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Computer Science student

> *A level Computer Science really sparked my interest in coding and problem-solving. The balance between theory and programming gave me a solid foundation for my degree in Software Engineering. I left feeling confident in my ability to think critically, code efficiently, and understand how technology impacts the modern world*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Computer Science student

ECONOMICS

What will I study?

A level Economics explores how individuals, businesses, and governments make choices about using resources. You will learn about key economic concepts like supply and demand, government policy, inflation, unemployment and global trade.

The course is divided into four main themes:

Theme 1: How markets work and what happens when they fail
Theme 2: The performance of the UK economy and government policies
Theme 3: Business behaviour, market structures, and the labour market
Theme 4: Globalisation, international trade, and economic development

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through three 2-hour exams:

Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour (Themes 1 & 3).
Paper 2: The National and Global Economy (Themes 2 & 4).
Paper 3: Synoptic paper based on all themes using a pre-released context.

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

No additional entry requirements

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Economics include Mathematics, Business, Geography, Politics and History, helping you build strong analytical and numerical skills.

Next Steps

Students who study Economics might go on to study degrees in Economics, Finance, Business, and Politics, as well as take up careers in banking, accountancy, policy, and consulting. It is a great foundation for many routes in higher education and career development.

> *A level Economics has been really interesting. I like how the topics link together and explain real-world issues like markets and government decisions. Using current examples and data makes it easier to understand. The teacher is really supportive and always happy to help. This course has definitely improved my analysis skills and how I approach exam questions, especially the longer ones.*

Current Sixth Form Economics student

> *I really enjoyed studying A level Economics. The concepts were explained clearly and seeing how they apply to real-world issues made the subject more engaging. The teacher was supportive and approachable whenever I needed help. The course definitely prepared me well for university, and I'm excited to be starting my Economics degree at Loughborough.*

Alumni Sixth Form Economics student

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

What will I study?

Further Mathematics is taken alongside A level Mathematics and is both deeper and broader. It builds on A level Mathematics and introduces new, exciting areas such as complex numbers, matrices and polar coordinates.

Students study two Core Pure Maths modules and choose two options from areas like Further Statistics, Mechanics, and Decision and Discrete Mathematics.

How will I be assessed?

Four 90-minute exams:

Two compulsory exam papers: Core Pure.
Two optional exam papers: Further Mechanics, Statistics or Pure.

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
AS level/A level

Course length
1 or 2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Maths, Grade 8. Students must be studying A level Maths

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Further Mathematics include the Sciences, Economics, Business, Humanities and Health, Fitness and Sport Science.

Next Steps

Students who study Further Mathematics might go on to engage with university courses and careers in Engineering, Physics, Computing and Economics. It builds mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills that are highly valued in technical, analytical and research-based roles.

> *I am really enjoying Further Maths so far. It's great learning new topics like matrices and complex numbers that we don't do in normal A level Maths. I also really like the decision maths module – it's different and makes you think logically. It's definitely made me more excited about where maths can take me.*

Current Sixth Form Further Mathematics student

> *Further Maths really deepened my understanding, especially the mechanics content – it really helped with A level Physics and helped me feel more confident solving real-world problems. The course challenged me in the best way, and I know it's given me a strong foundation for my career in engineering.*

Alumni Sixth Form Further Mathematics student

MATHEMATICS

What will I study?

A level Mathematics builds from GCSE and introduces calculus and its applications and emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected . It also explores how mathematics can be applied to model situations using algebra and other representations; to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. The main areas of study are:

Mathematical Processes: Mathematical argument and language, problem solving and mathematical modelling

Pure Mathematics: Proof, algebra, graphs, sequences and series, trigonometry, logarithms, calculus and vectors

Mechanics: Kinematics, motion under gravity, forces (including friction), Newton's laws and moments

Statistics: Sampling and inference, probability, binomial and normal distributions, hypothesis testing

How will I be assessed?

AS level - Two exam papers: Pure and Applied.
A level - Three exam papers: Pure1, Pure2 and Applied.

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
AS level/A level

Course length
1 or 2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE Maths, Grade 7 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Mathematics include the Sciences, Economics, Business, Humanities and Health, Fitness and Sport Science.

Next Steps

Students who study Mathematics might go on to higher education to study areas such as Engineering, Accountancy, Medicine, Computer Science, Statistics and Business Management.

A level Maths is really interesting – there's loads of stuff that links together in ways I didn't expect. The teachers are always around if you need help, which makes a big difference. And having the CG-50 calculators from school is honestly such a help, especially for the stats and graphs – I don't think I'd manage without it!

Current Sixth Form Mathematics stude

I liked how structured A level Maths was – it made sense to me. The teachers were really supportive and explained things clearly. I felt comfortable in lessons, and that made a big difference to me. I'm looking forward to starting my degree in Mathematics at Exeter University.

Alumni Sixth Form Mathematics stud


Sixth form • South Dartmoor

PERFORMING ARTS

Dance
Music
Music Performance
Performing Arts



DANCE

What will I study?

A level Dance is an exciting and dynamic course for students passionate about performance and creativity. Blending practical and theoretical elements, it offers the chance to develop skills in choreography, technique and critical appreciation. Students explore solo and group performance, create original choreography and study influential practitioners and professional works.

How will I be assessed?

Two components:

Choreography & Performance (50% practical) where students perform a solo in the style of a practitioner, a performance in a quartet. In addition, students create a piece of group choreography in response to a stimulus.

Critical Appreciation (50% theory) which involves analysing two set works, including one by the renowned Rambert Dance Company as well as studying the history of Rambert Dance Company and the impact of the Independent Contemporary Dance Scene.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
BTEC or GCSE Examination Dance, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Dance include Performing Arts, Health, Fitness and Sports Science, Music, Biology and Photography.

Next Steps

Students who study Dance might go on to study at a conservatoire, or explore Joint Honors options such as Dance and movement wellbeing, Dance and Choreography, Dance and Education, Dance and Musical Theatre or Dance Science.

> *A Level Dance was a creative outlet, and I am so glad to have studied it as part of my A Level study programme. I learnt to trust myself and take risks with choreographic choices thanks to the development of skill as an analytical dancer that Component 1 gave me. I loved the extra-curricular opportunities that the course brought with it and enjoyed developing a strong network with the Theatre Royal Plymouth.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Dance studen

> *A Level Dance has been a platform for me to gain exposure into some of the most influential professional dance companies worldwide. I studied Dance and Choreography at Bath University and am now working as a freelance artist in London and engaging with emerging artist platforms at Trinity Laban.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Dance stude

MUSIC

What will I study?

Studying A level Music can be an incredibly rewarding choice creatively, intellectually and professionally. Music will allow you to explore your identity through composition, performance and analysis, developing emotional depth by engaging with music that spans cultures, eras and genres.

If you are passionate about music - or even just curious – it is a subject that can enrich your life in ways few others can.

How will I be assessed?

Performance – a recital to a visiting professional musician.

Composition – the creation of two pieces of music, one in a free style and one in a Classical genre.

Appraising – a written paper exploring Jazz, Modern Contemporary Music and The Symphony.

This course is split 60% practical and 40% theory and is ideal for developing a strong musical foundation for further study at university or conservatoire.

Exam board
Eduqas

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Music Grade 5 or above or Practical Music Equivalent at Grade 4-5 (practical and theory)

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Music include Creative Arts, Humanities and Languages, Maths and Science and Social Sciences.

Next Steps

Students who study Music might go on to study a Music Degree at university or specialist conservatoire. You may decide to combine Music with English, History or Languages. Careers include performing, composing, teaching, sound engineering, music therapy and journalism.

> *A level Music is unlike any other A level being both academically and musically challenging. If you have a passion for music that is greater than just performing, then take this subject. The music scene at SDCC is thriving. SDCC offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities across all styles.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Music student

> *I've decided to pursue Music beyond compulsory education, inspired by the opportunities SDCC provided me. I have secured a place at a world-leading conservatoire, along with other peers from SDCC. We believe that the many hours of 1-2-1 guidance are a big part of our success story.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Music student

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

What will I study?

This qualification is equivalent to one A level and is a practical performance-based course. Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units; Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony, Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry and Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance.

Learners will choose one optional unit designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas, such as composition, improvisation and solo performance.

How will I be assessed?

Units are assessed through coursework (portfolios, musical performances, reports) and supervised set tasks under exam conditions.

External assessments are set and marked by the exam board. Internal assessments are centre-marked and moderated by the exam board.

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
BTEC

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
Examination Music (GCSE or Instrumental Graded exam), Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Music Performance include BTEC Performing Arts, Music (A Level), Dance, Business and Media Studies.

Next Steps

Students who study Music Performance might go on to study a Music Degree at university or conservatoire on courses specialising in a range of musical styles. Career routes include performing, producing, teaching, sound engineering and music therapy.

> *Blending creative passion with practical skills, Music BTEC offers flexible pathways into further education or the music industry. It helps me build a strong foundation for a future in music, offering variety across my timetable. Opportunity and challenge to perform at a high standard is exciting, preparing me well for next steps. We are learning and performing material at pace and have additional performance opportunities as a result.*

Current Sixth Form Music Performance student

> *From Year 7 to 13 I was on stage for every concert at SDCC. In Sixth Form I was more involved in clubs which helped me explore many genres. Studying this practical course encouraged practice, resilience and reflective practice ensuring that I made excellent progress. I am now studying Music at degree level.*

Alumni Sixth Form Music Performance student

PERFORMING ARTS

What will I study?

This vocational course is designed for students who are passionate about the performing arts and eager to develop practical skills in a professional context. The curriculum blends performance, theory and industry insight, offering a broad foundation in disciplines such as acting, dance and musical theatre. Students will explore performance styles, develop technical and interpretive skills and gain an understanding of the performing arts industry. The course includes both individual and collaborative projects, allowing learners to create original work and engage with real-world performance scenarios.

How will I be assessed?

Mandatory - four units:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' Work (externally assessed)
Unit 2: Group Performance Workshop (internally assessed)
Unit 3: Developing Skills for Live Performance (externally assessed)
Unit 4: Performing Arts in the Community (internally assessed)

Optional: There are two units; Musical Theatre and one other specialist chosen unit (internally assessed)

Exam board
Edexcel

Qualification type
BTEC (equivalent to 1.5 A levels)

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE or BTEC Dance, Drama and/or Music, Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Performing Arts include, Music (A level and BTEC), Dance, Photography, Biology, Classical Civilisation, English Literature and Media Studies.

Next Steps

Students who study Performing Arts might go on to study at a conservatoire or explore Joint Honors options. Careers might include performance and creativity in the arts sector, teaching, journalism or therapy.

> *BTEC Performing Arts has helped me grow creatively and professionally. I've learned to collaborate, perform confidently and understand the industry. The coursework is hands-on and inspiring. Working on real-world projects has made me feel like a true artist. I'm excited about the future and where this course can take me.*

Current Sixth Form Performing Arts student

> *This course gave me the confidence and skills to pursue Musical Theatre at university and I love it! The practical focus and industry insight helped me discover my passion and refine my craft. It prepared me for auditions, collaboration, and creative challenges. I'm now thriving at the University of Plymouth and excited for what's next.*

Alumni Sixth Form Performing Arts student


JUST

SCIENCE AND SPORT

Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Food Science and Nutrition
Health, Fitness & Sports Science
(Extended Diploma and Extended Certificate)
Physical Education
Physics



BIOLOGY

What will I study?

Biology is a fascinating and fast-moving subject that explores how living organisms function and interact. The course is divided into six modules: practical skills, biological foundations, transport systems, biodiversity and disease, energy and control and genetics and ecosystems.

This course suits curious, motivated students who enjoy problem-solving and practical work and are interested in science-related careers.

How will I be assessed?

Three written exam papers and a practical endorsement:

Paper 1 – Biological processes (Modules 1, 2, 3 & 5): 2 hour 15 minutes
Paper 2 – Biological diversity (Modules 1, 2, 4 & 6): 2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 3 – Unified biology (all modules): 1 hour 30 minutes synoptic
Practical Endorsement: NEA - practical skills, reported separately but required to pass.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

Separate Science: GCSE Biology and Chemistry or Physics, Grade 6 or above

Combined Science, Grade 66 or above

GCSE English and Maths, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Biology include Chemistry, Maths, Psychology, PE, Health, Fitness and Sports Science, Dance, Physics and Geography.

Next Steps

Students who study Biology might go on to study degrees in Biomedical Sciences, Genetics, Physiotherapy or Healthcare. It develops analytical and practical skills which are valued by universities and employers across various sectors.

> *I've really enjoyed starting A level Biology at SDCC. The first topics have been fascinating, especially learning about cells and biological molecules. The lessons are engaging and the practicals bring everything to life. It's challenging in a good way, and I already feel I'm developing skills I'll use in the future. I'm excited to see how the course progresses.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Biology student

> *Biology at SDCC gave me a strong foundation for studying Biochemistry at Cardiff University. The early topics, especially cell biology and practical work, were engaging and built my confidence. The teaching was supportive and helped me develop key skills.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Biology student

CHEMISTRY

What will I study?

Chemistry explores the nature of matter, how substances interact and the reactions vital to life. It is a gateway to careers in Medicine, Engineering and Environmental Science. The course builds analytical thinking, problem-solving and practical skills, making it highly respected by universities and employers across amny areas including science, research, education and industry.

You will study the following Practical Skills, Foundations in Chemistry, The Periodic Table and Energy, Core Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements and Organic Chemistry and Analysis.

How will I be assessed?

Three written exam papers plus a practical endorsement:

Paper 1 – Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry: 2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 2 – Synthesis and Analytical Techniques: 2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 3 – Unified Chemistry: 1 hour 30 minutes synoptic
Practical Endorsement: NEA - practical skills, reported separately but required to pass.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Chemistry and Biology or Physics, Grade 6 or above

Combined Science, Grade 66 or above

GCSE English and Maths, Grade or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Chemistry include Biology, Maths, Physics and Geography. These combinations support pathways into Medicine, Pharmacy, Chemical Engineering and Environmental Science.

Next Steps

Students who study Chemistry often go on to study degrees in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Forensic Science or Healthcare.

> *Starting A level Chemistry has been really engaging. The first topics, especially atomic structure and bonding, have helped me understand how chemistry shapes the world around us. The practical's are hands-on and make the theory easier to grasp. I'm enjoying the challenge and feel I'm already building skills that will be useful in higher education.*

Current Sixth Form Chemistry stude

> *A level chemistry gave me a strong foundation for university. The early modules and practical work helped me develop confidence and a real interest in chemical analysis. I'm now studying Analytical Chemistry at the University of Plymouth and feel well-prepared to explore advanced topics.*

Alumni Sixth Form Chemistry stude

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

What will I study?

Choosing A level Environmental Science will enable you to explore the complex interactions between humans and the natural world.

You will study topics like ecosystems, biodiversity, energy resources, pollution, sustainability and the circular economy. The course is multidisciplinary, drawing on biology, chemistry, physics and geography, and encourages critical thinking about how we manage our planet's resources. You will learn research methods and apply real-life case studies to deepen your understanding.

How will I be assessed?

Two written exams at the end of the course. These papers include a mix of multiple-choice, short answer and extended response questions, allowing you to demonstrate a range of skills—from factual recall to analytical thinking.

Practical skills and scientific methods are embedded throughout the curriculum.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Biology and Chemistry, Level 5 or above

Combined Science, Grade 66 or above

GCSE English and Maths, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Environmental Science include Biology, Geography and Chemistry, reinforcing ecological and resource topics. Maths supports data analysis, while Politics and Economics offer insight into sustainability and policy.

Next Steps

Students often progress to degrees in Environmental Science, Geography or Sustainability. Careers include conservation, consultancy, renewable energy and policymaking. The A level also supports apprenticeships in land management, agriculture and ecological research.

Why we are offering Environmental Science as a new A level

Understanding our planet has never been more important. Climate change, biodiversity loss and resource management are global challenges that shape every aspect of life. This exciting course equips students with scientific knowledge and critical thinking skills to investigate these issues and discover how human activity interacts with natural systems. At South Dartmoor we are proud of our growing Animal Care and Husbandry provision and our outdoor learning opportunities, giving students hands-on experience in real environments with real responsibilities. These practical experiences complement classroom learning and prepare students for careers in environmental consultancy, renewable energy and research while building a strong foundation for further study.

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

What will I study?

Food Science and Nutrition combines scientific investigation with practical food production, enabling students to develop their understanding of nutrition, food safety and dietary requirements. Through hands-on practical work, students gain the skills to plan, prepare and evaluate dishes that meet the needs of different individuals and groups. The qualification offers a highly applied approach to learning, preparing students for further study and careers within the food, health and nutrition industries

How will I be assessed?

Through a combination of examination and coursework, students develop their understanding of nutrition whilst applying their learning in practical contexts. Assessment includes an investigation into the nutritional needs of specific groups, alongside the planning, preparation and evaluation of dishes that meet identified dietary requirements. This approach enables students to demonstrate both scientific knowledge and advanced practical food production skills.

Exam board
WJEC

Qualification type
Level 3

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

Level 2 Hosp. and Cat.

GCSE Bio. and Chem., Grade 5 or above

Combined Science, Grade 55 or above

GCSE English and Maths, Level 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Environmental Science include Biology, Sociology, Physical Education, Health and Social Care and Health, Fitness and Sport Science.

Next Steps

Students often progress to degrees such as BSc Human Nutrition, BSc (Hons) Public Health Nutrition and BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology. The course also would support a variety of careers in nutrition, hospitality and care.

Why we are offering Food Science and Nutrition as a new A level

Understanding the relationship between food, health and wellbeing has never been more important. With growing awareness of nutrition, food sustainability and public health, this exciting course equips students with the scientific knowledge and practical skills to investigate how food impacts individuals and communities. We are committed to providing meaningful learning experiences that connect directly to the wider world. Food Science and Nutrition combines scientific understanding with hands-on food preparation, giving students opportunities to apply their learning in realistic contexts. These experiences prepare students for further study and careers in nutrition, dietetics, food product development, hospitality and health sciences, while developing valuable skills for life beyond Sixth Form.

HEALTH, FITNESS & SPORTS SCIENCE (Extended Diploma)

What will I study?

Equivalent to three A levels, the Health, Fitness and Sports Science qualification is a full-time course which covers 17 units across 2 years. Through these units you will study a wide range of topics that develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of the sport and fitness industry.

Units include anatomy and physiology, sports coaching, fitness testing and sports injuries, alongside areas such as nutrition, psychology and leadership. You will apply theory through practical activities, work experience and real-world scenarios.

This course combines classroom learning with hands-on experience to help you succeed in the dynamic world of sport.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a combination of written exams and internally assessed coursework. The coursework requires you to complete written assignments, practical observations and presentations based on sport scenarios.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma (Sport & Physical Activity)

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE PE Grade 5 or above
CNAT/BTEC Sport Level 2 Pass or above

Course Combinations

This qualification is worth three A levels and runs as a full-time qualification so cannot be combined with other full A levels. However, those students aspiring to complete an Extended Project Qualification are well placed to do so when completing this Extended Diploma.

Next Steps

Students who study Health, Fitness and Sports Science might go on to study at university or explore entry-level careers in Sport Science, Coaching, Fitness, Outdoor Adventure or Physical Education.

> *This course has not only taught me sport related skills and knowledge, but it has also taught me many different life-skills such as speaking in front of groups, interviewing people, presenting my work and giving relevant and appropriate feedback to my peers. The teachers that teach this course are so helpful and try their very best to ensure that all the students studying this course have the most enjoyable 2 years!*
>
> Current Sixth Form HFSS student

> *The two years I spent studying HFSS were incredible. The lessons were varied and consisted of written work and practical. There were endless opportunities to help with SSP events, assist teachers in the delivery of lessons and to complete external visits to local provisions such as the Hydro Hub.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form HFSS student

HEALTH, FITNESS & SPORTS SCIENCE (Extended Certificate)

What will I study?

The Health, Fitness and Sports Science Extended Certificate option is equivalent to one A level giving students flexibility to study this vocational course alongside other A levels. A range of units explore key areas of the sport and fitness industry. Topics include anatomy and physiology, sports coaching, fitness testing and sports injuries. You will also develop essential skills in communication, teamwork and leadership through practical activities and real-life scenarios. The course blends classroom learning with hands-on experience, helping you apply theory to practice.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a combination of externally assessed exams and internally assessed coursework. You will complete written assignments, practical observations and presentations based on real-life sport scenarios. This mix of theory and practical assessment allows you to demonstrate your knowledge, skills and understanding throughout the course.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate (Sport & Physical Activity)

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE PE or CNAT/BTEC sport qualification, Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Health, Fitness and Sports Science include Biology, Psychology, History and Business. The vocational nature of this qualification also facilitates progress with skills such as extended writing, public speaking and leadership.

Next Steps

Students who study Health, Fitness and Sports Science develop a strong foundation for further study at university or entry-level careers in Sport Science, Coaching, Fitness, Outdoor Adventure or Physical Education.

> *The HFSS course is a great option for anyone who enjoys sport or any kind of physical activity. During the course I have really enjoyed learning about how to lead coaching sessions by myself. I have especially enjoyed learning about injuries and rehabilitation as it has helped me with injuries I have received from sports that I do.*
>
> Current Sixth Form HFSS student

> *I chose the HFSS short course because of my love of sport and physical activity. I have enjoyed the opportunity to enhance my knowledge of the human anatomy and physiology whilst also perusing different A levels.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form HFSS student

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What will I study?

On the A level Physical Education course, you will study the science and theory behind sporting performance. Topics include anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition and sport psychology.

You will also explore the social and contemporary issues that influence participation and performance in sport. This course develops a deep understanding of how the body and mind work in sport.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment combines written exams with practical performance. Three exam papers:

Paper 1 (30%): Body systems (2 hours).
Paper 2 (20%): Sports psychology (1 hour).
Paper 3 (20%): Socio-cultural aspects of sport (1 hour).

Practical assessment in your chosen sport, and an oral evaluation and analysis of performance live task (30%).

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE PE, Grade 5 or above

CNAT/BTEC Sport, Level 2 Pass or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Physical Education include Biology, Psychology, History and Health, Fitness and Sports Science (Extended Certificate).

Next Steps

Students who study Physical Education might go on to study degrees in Sport Science, Physiotherapy, Nutrition, Journalism and Sports Psychology. Students can pursue roles as Personal Trainers, Sports Coaches, Sports Therapists or PE Teachers.

> *The level of challenge is quite high but there is a good network of teachers to support you if you need it. By taking A level PE it has helped me improve my own sporting performance by gaining a deeper understanding of different aspects that can affect my performance. There are aspects of the sports psychology unit that have helped to prepare me to hopefully study Psychology at university.*
>
> Current Sixth Form PE studen

> *A level PE gives you a foundation for many other subjects. It focuses on challenging you but also keeps you engaged by having 3 different parts of the curriculum. Understanding your own sport is a big part of A level PE, helping you to truly understand what is happening physically and mentally in active sport.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form PE studen

PHYSICS

What will I study?

Physics helps explain the world around us and underpins much of modern technology. A level Physics builds on GCSE knowledge and explores deeper concepts such as circuits, waves, motion, quantum effects, fields, radioactivity and medical physics.

You will study topics including forces and motion, electrons, waves and photons, the Newtonian world and astrophysics, and particles and medical physics. The course develops problem-solving, analytical and practical skills, making it highly respected by universities and employers across science, technology and research sectors.

How will I be assessed?

Three written exam papers plus a practical endorsement:

Paper 1 – Modelling Physics: 2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 2 – Exploring Physics: 2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 3 – Unified Physics: 1 hour 30 minutes synoptic
Practical Endorsement: NEA - practical skills, reported separately but required to pass.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE Physics and Biology or Chemistry, Level 6 or above
Combined Science, Grade 66 or above
GCSE Maths, Grade 6 or above
GCSE English, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Physics include Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Further Maths. These combinations support careers in Engineering, Astrophysics, Robotics and Data Science.

Next Steps

Students who study Physics might go on to study degrees in Physics, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, Computer Science or Medical Physics.

> *Starting A level Physics has been really interesting. The first topics on forces and motion have helped me understand how things work in everyday life. The lessons are clear, and the practicals support my understanding of the theory. I'm enjoying the challenge and feel I'm already building skills that will help in future study and careers.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Physics stude

> *The early modules and practical work helped me develop confidence and curiosity. I'm now studying Physics with Astrophysics at the Cardiff University and feel well-prepared to explore advanced concepts and research. The support and teaching at SDCC made a real difference to my learning journey.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Physics stude

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Criminology
Health and Social Care
Philosophy and Ethics
Psychology
Sociology



CRIMINOLOGY

What will I study?

In Criminology, you will explore crime, criminal behaviour and the justice system. Core topics include types of crime, criminological theories and methods of crime investigation. You will study how laws are made and enforced and examine the role of agencies like the police and courts. Optional units often cover crime scene to courtroom processes, psychological explanations of offending and crime prevention strategies. You will also learn about social factors influencing crime, media representations and the effectiveness of punishment and rehabilitation. The course develops analytical skills, critical thinking and understanding of real-world criminal justice issues.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a mix of controlled assessments and written exams. Controlled assessments involve applying criminological theories to real-life scenarios, while exams test knowledge, application and evaluation of crime-related concepts. You will answer short questions and write extended essays, focusing on analysis of criminal behaviour and justice processes.

Exam board
WJEC

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

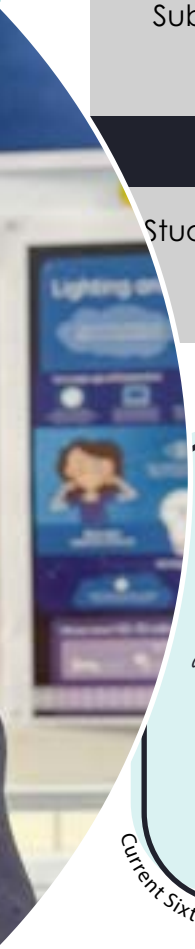
Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9
GCSE English and Maths, Grade 4 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Criminology include Psychology, Sociology, Law and Politics as these subjects also explore behaviour and social systems.

Next Steps

Students who study Criminology might go on to study degrees in Criminology, Law, Forensic Psychology or Policing. Career paths include criminal justice, probation services, law enforcement and social work.



Criminology is fascinating because it explains why crimes happen and how society responds. I enjoy learning about real cases and applying theories to understand behaviour.

Current Sixth Form Criminology student

Studying Criminology gave me a solid foundation for my degree in Criminal Justice. It helped me understand the legal system and prepared me for my career in probation services.

Alumni Sixth Form Criminology student

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

What will I study?

The Health and Social Care course is a dynamic and wide-ranging course that explores key topics relevant to both the health and social care sectors. You will delve into areas such as mental health, human growth and development and the factors influencing health and wellbeing. The course also covers how to support individuals with diverse needs through inclusive and person-centered approaches. You will engage in practical units that involve planning, delivering and evaluating care strategies, helping you apply theoretical knowledge to real-life scenarios.

How will I be assessed?

There are six units with a variety of assessment methods.

Exam: Principles of Health and Social Care and Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care.

NEA Coursework: Person-centered Approach to Care and Supporting People with Mental Health. In addition, there are two optional units that will also be assessed in this way.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
Level 3 Extended Certificate

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

No additional entry requirements

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Health and Social Care include Biology, Psychology, Sociology and Health, Fitness and Sports Science.

Next Steps

Students who study Health and Social Care might go on to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Public Health or Health Sciences at University. Alternatively, they may choose an apprenticeship route in Social Care, Dental Nursing or Nursing.

Health and Social Care was great because it was practical and helped me understand how to support people with different needs in real situations. I enjoyed learning about anatomy and physiology and relating this to medical conditions.

Alumni Sixth Form Health and Social Care student

Studying Health and Social Care gave me the knowledge and confidence to get a job in a hospital as a Health Care Assistant. I have now been offered a Nursing Apprenticeship.

Alumni Sixth Form Health and Social Care student

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

What will I study?

In Philosophy and Ethics, you will explore fundamental questions about existence, morality and religion. Topics include arguments for and against God's existence, religious language and life after death. Ethical units cover normative theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics and Natural Law, plus applied ethics like medical ethics, business ethics and sexual ethics.

You will also study meta- ethics, examining what moral language means. The course develops skills in reasoning, argument analysis and critical thinking. It encourages debate on issues like free will, conscience and the nature of good and evil, preparing you for higher-level study and careers requiring analytical skills.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through written exams at the end of the course. Each paper includes structured questions and extended essays requiring explanation and evaluation of philosophical and ethical theories. You will be assessed on knowledge, analysis and critical evaluation, demonstrating clear argumentation and engagement with scholarly views.

Exam board
OCR

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE English and Maths, Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Philosophy and Ethics include History, Politics, English, Psychology and Religious Studies, as these subjects also involve critical thinking and argument analysis.

Next Steps

Students who study Philosophy and Ethics might go on to study degrees in Philosophy, Law, Politics, Theology or Ethics. Careers include law, teaching, journalism, public policy and research roles.

> *Philosophy and Ethics challenges me to think deeply about life's big questions. I enjoy debating ideas and learning how different thinkers approach morality and existence.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics student

> *Studying Philosophy and Ethics taught me how to construct arguments and think critically, which was invaluable for my law degree and career in legal practice.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics student

PSYCHOLOGY

What will I study?

In Psychology, you will explore how the mind works and why people behave as they do. Core topics include Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Biopsychology and Research Methods. Optional units such as Schizophrenia examine symptoms, explanations and treatments of this disorder. Relationships looks at factors influencing attraction, maintenance and breakdown of romantic relationships. Forensic Psychology explores offender profiling, explanations for criminal behaviour and strategies for dealing with crime. You will also study major approaches like Biological, Cognitive and Psychodynamic, applying them to real-world issues. The course develops analytical, evaluative and research skills.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through three written exams at the end of the course. Each paper includes multiple-choice, short-answer and extended essay questions. Papers cover core topics, optional units and research methods. You will be assessed on knowledge, application and evaluation of psychological theories, studies and evidence.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

GCSE English, Maths and a Science (preferably Bio.), Grade 5 or above

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Psychology include Biology, Sociology, Health and Social Care, Criminology and Philosophy, as these subjects also explore behaviour and human experience.

Next Steps

Students who study Psychology might go on to study degrees in Psychology, Criminology, Neuroscience or Counselling. Careers include Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Education, Human Resources and research roles.

> *Psychology is fascinating because it explains why people think and act the way they do. I enjoy learning about mental health and applying theories to real-life situations.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Psychology student

> *Studying Psychology gave me a strong foundation for my degree in Forensic Psychology. It taught me how to think critically and understand behaviour, which is essential in my career.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Psychology student

SOCIOLOGY

What will I study?

In A level Sociology, you will explore how society shapes individuals and groups. Core topics include Education, Research Methods and Theory. Optional units such as Families and Households examine family structures and roles, and how they change over time, including issues like gender equality and childhood. The Crime and Deviance unit looks at why people commit crimes, patterns of offending and how society responds through policing and punishment. You will also study sociological perspectives like Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism, and apply them to real-world issues.

The course develops analytical skills and critical thinking about social behaviour and inequality.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through three written exams at the end of the course. Each paper includes multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions and extended essays.

Papers cover core topics, optional units and research methods.

Exam board
AQA

Qualification type
A level

Course length
2 years

Entry requirements
5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9

No additional entry requirements

Course Combinations

Subjects that complement Sociology include Psychology, Politics, History, Law and Philosophy, as these subjects also explore society, behaviour and ideas.

Next Steps

Students who study Sociology might go on to study university degrees in Sociology, Criminology or Social Policy. Career paths include social work, Teaching, Policing, Human Resources and research roles.

> *Sociology has really opened my eyes to how society works. I love learning about families, crime, and how social structures shape our lives. It makes me think critically about the world and question things I used to take for granted.*
>
> Current Sixth Form Sociology student

> *Studying Sociology gave me a deeper understanding of how society works and why people behave the way they do. It was the perfect foundation for my degree in Criminology at Plymouth Uni and has helped me in my career in social research.*
>
> Alumni Sixth Form Sociology student


Los Angeles



SIXTH FORM

South Dartmoor Community College

Balland Lane • Ashburton • Devon • TQ13 7EW
Telephone 01364 652230

sixthform@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk