

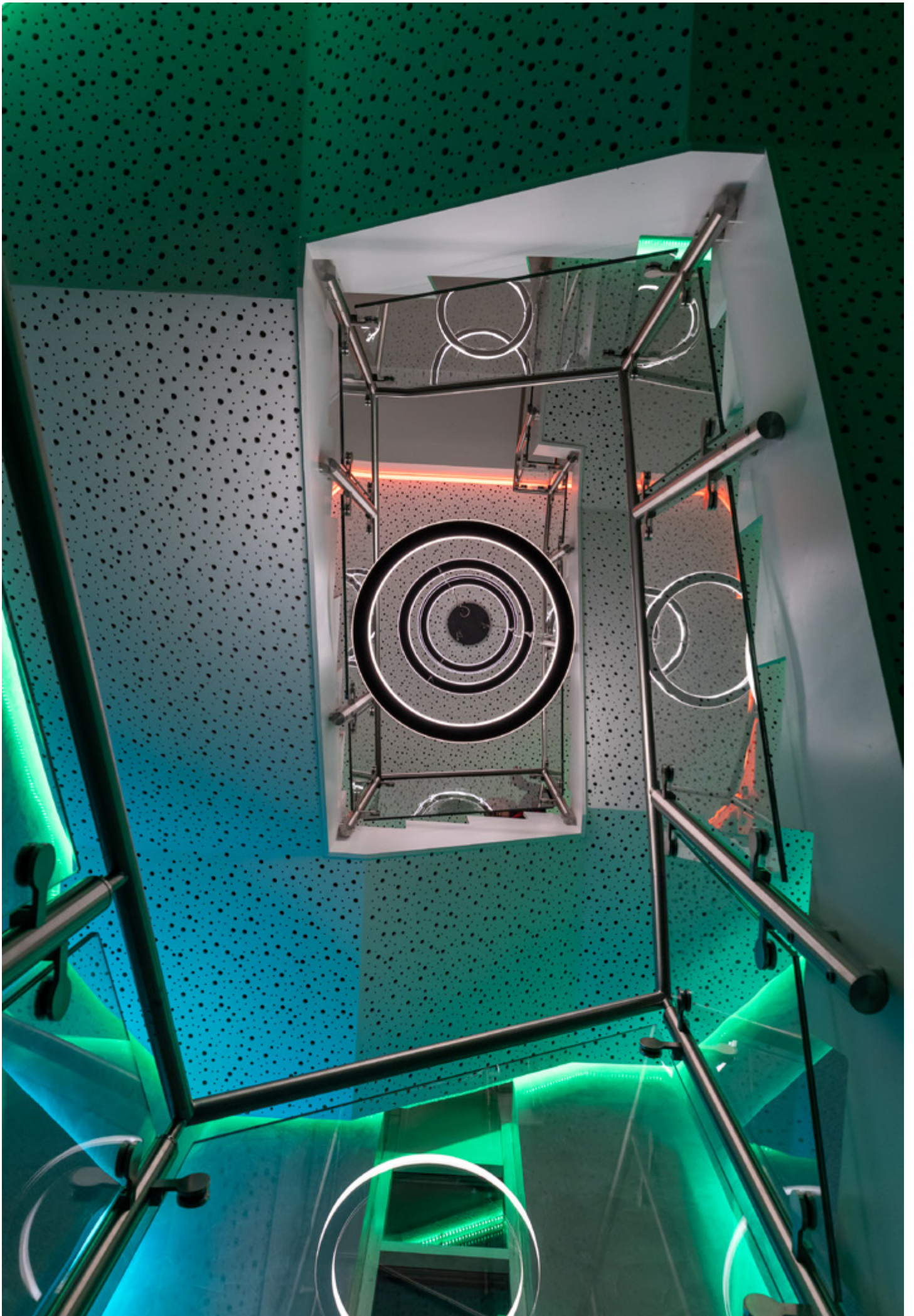


Tormead

SIXTH



A Level Options 2023



Welcome to the Sixth Form

The transition from GCSEs to the Sixth Form is one of the most rewarding journeys in education. Moving from a series of compulsory subjects to a bespoke timetable, based on the strengths and passions of the individual, allows every student to flourish in their specialist areas. Sixth Form provides a pathway for even greater success in whichever route is taken beyond school.

Students typically opt to study three subjects, alongside the Extended Project Qualification and an Enrichment option. Some students may study four A Levels if these include Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

At the heart of the transition onto any of the above courses is the necessity to make the right choices. For some, this will come naturally but we are here to support those who are uncertain about their best pathway. Certain courses in Higher Education or Degree Apprenticeships will require specific subjects or a combination of subjects as an entry requirement. It is important, therefore, for students to consult with members of the Sixth Form Team, as well as those in Senior Management, their form tutor, and their parents or guardians, as they make the choices that may well determine their academic success.

In the Sixth Form, we believe it is important to explore the multi-faceted nature of the word 'success'. Academic grades are obviously important, to both the student and the school, but they do not define, solely, the success of the individual. For some, securing a C Grade in a subject they have found challenging, is akin to another who secures an A*. Success is about individual target setting, designing your own path through life, setting high standards for yourself and those around you and learning from, rather than being afraid of, making mistakes.

Indeed, life in the Sixth Form is about taking the opportunity to try new things; to step out of your comfort zone; to be ambitious; to take risks and be brave; to reach out and help those around you; to celebrate success, both personal and of your peer-group; and to embrace the challenges when they inevitably arrive. In return, we ask the following from you:

- Get involved if the opportunity arises, and if the opportunity is not available, then create it yourself.
- Be ambitious for yourself and bring those around you up to your level.
- Never be apathetic – apathy is the quickest way to waste your potential.
- Be kind – to those around you, but also to yourself. It is ok not to be ok, and it is absolutely fine to make mistakes. Learning from them is all part of the journey.

Mrs Karen Dabill

Deputy Head (Academic)

Curriculum

The Sixth Form curriculum is designed to ensure that Tormead's students are well prepared for university entry and future employment.

We hope that the range of subjects available will allow all potential Sixth Formers to follow a programme that meets their interests, abilities and career aspirations.

For each Sixth Form student we offer two pathways through the curriculum (from 2023):

Pathway 1: 3 A Levels only + a complementary option including EPQ, Level 3 Mathematical Studies, GCSEs

Pathway 2: 4 A Levels that include Mathematics and Further Mathematics A Level

Most students will follow Pathway 1 with an EPQ or Level 3 Mathematical Studies.

This is complemented by:

- **Sixth Sense:** a programme of talks and workshops to help prepare the girls for life beyond Tormead. This is mainly delivered by Tormead staff but occasionally outside speakers are invited to contribute. This initiative encourages discussions relating to mental health and topics such as sexuality and identity. It is a popular forum for inspiring debate beyond the classroom.
- **Horizons:** a weekly lecture series delivered by a wide range of outside speakers. The line-up changes each year, but in recent sessions, we have had a speaker who discussed how he overcame a serious drug addiction, another told of his experiences since being paralysed from the chest down and another outlined her life after severe facial burns. These talks allow the girls to observe resilience and perseverance with the opportunity to ask questions and enhance their empathy and listening skills.
- A varied programme of appropriate **games options** on Wednesday afternoons.

Although we do everything we can to ensure that students can study the subjects they wish, the School reserves the right to withdraw a subject from the option list, for example when too few students choose the subject for it to be viable. All offers are conditional on the students meeting the subject specific requirements.

A Level subjects offered

	Definitely an option	Need to find out more information	Absolutely not!
Art			
Biology			
Business			
Chemistry			
Classical Civilisation			
Classical Greek			
Computer Science			
Design and Technology			
Drama			
Economics			
English Literature			
French			
Further Mathematics			
Geography			
German			
Government and Politics			
History			
Latin			
Mathematics			
Music			
Physical Education			
Physics			
Psychology			
Religious Studies			
Spanish			

How to choose your subjects

It is not easy to decide which subjects you wish to study at Sixth Form. It is a huge decision that can impact your university choices and even your future career. The UK's leading universities make no secret of favouring some subjects over others and, if you have aspirations to study at one of the top destinations, you must choose wisely.

Universities look for students who not only have good grades, but grades in the right subjects for the course they want to apply for. If you already know what you want to study at university, you should think about choosing subjects that give you the best possible preparation for your chosen degree course. If you are not sure what you want to study at university, it is important to choose subjects that will leave as many options open as possible.

THINGS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION:

Does the course you wish to study at university require specific subjects?

Some courses require you to take certain subjects at A Level. Students interested in studying Medicine at university must take Chemistry, Biology and either Mathematics or Physics. Similarly, language courses typically require an A Level in that particular language or another modern language.

You can find out more about degree course entry requirements:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>

Certain subjects can keep your options open for the future

Facilitating subjects such as English Literature, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Sciences, Languages, History and Geography are useful if you do not know what you want to study at university and will give you more of a choice if and when you do decide to advance to higher education.

Have a look at some career and job roles information:

<https://www.ucas.com/explore>

A Level subjects are more difficult than GCSE level

At Sixth Form level, subjects are studied in greater detail and the transition from (I)GCSE to A Level is significant. Many A Levels require at least a Grade 7 at (I)GCSE to continue to study the subject at an advanced level.

Subjects can affect your university choice

If there is a certain university you have your heart set on, find out their course entry requirements before making your subject choices, but be realistic and open to advice.

Choose subjects you will enjoy

Most importantly, you have to enjoy what you are studying. You are more likely to do well in a subject.

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone, student driven qualification designed to extend and develop skills in independent research and project management. It is an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A level syllabus and to demonstrate an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study.

What are the benefits of the EPQ?

The EPQ is regarded as excellent preparation for both university and a future career. It enables students to demonstrate a capability of working independently and under their own initiative, having the freedom and responsibility to select topics and projects in which they are really interested – it may be a topic that is connected with a new subject they wish to study at university, or one linked to a future career, or it might be looking into much greater depth a topic they are already studying at A Level.

When completing a project qualification, students follow a clearly structured process: they plan and research their topic, and from that create a product. They are also given a supervisor to help them through the whole process. The product of their project can be in one of three formats: a research-based written report (5000 word essay), a production (a charity event, fashion show, sports event) or an artefact (a piece of art, a computer game, a realised design), the latter two both supported by a written report of 2000 words.

This research process is all recorded in their Production Log and, finally, students deliver a presentation.

During the process, students develop as independent, reflective learners and acquire knowledge and transferable skills that are invaluable for further study at university.

What is the university position on the Extended Project Qualification?

The **University of Birmingham** has decided to follow the example of **Southampton** and give a 'cash value' for the EPQ.

'The University of Birmingham has reviewed its position on EPQ and for 2016 entry [and beyond] we will be including the EPQ in our offers where students are taking this in addition to 3 A levels. Applicants who offer the EPQ and meet our offer criteria will be made the standard offer for their programme of choice and an alternative offer which will be one grade lower plus a grade A in the EPQ. For example, where our standard offer is AAA, the offer would be AAA or AAB plus A in the EPQ. We believe that this recognises the importance of independent learning and the value of this qualification as preparation for Higher Education.'

Similarly, **Leeds University** recognises the value, effort and enthusiasm applicants make in the EPQ, identifying that some admissions tutors may wish to make an alternative offer to applicants, involving successful completion of the EPQ.

Oxford University states that "the EPQ encourages students to develop research and academic skills relevant to undergraduate study ... you will be a more convincing applicant if you can demonstrate breadth of reading and independent research into your chosen subject, if you have pursued study beyond that required by your school syllabus".

The London School of Economics recognises "the skills and experience gained by students who choose to undertake an EPQ, successful engagement with which can help to demonstrate a readiness to study a rigorously academic undergraduate programme. An EPQ can be a good way of demonstrating enthusiasm for a particular subject, especially if you are applying to study a subject you have not had the opportunity to study at school ... the EPQ adds value to the admissions process".

Manchester University also understands the benefits of the EPQ and the opportunities it provides for applicants to develop independent study and research skills. The university would strongly encourage students to draw upon the experience of producing an EPQ in their personal statement as it may well be taken into account, when considering an application.

Core Maths (Level 3 Mathematical Studies)

What is the Core Maths: Level 3 Mathematical Studies qualification?

If you are wanting to extend your study of Mathematics beyond GCSE but are not wanting to study a full A Level in Maths, this course is for you. The emphasis in this Mathematical Studies is in the application that maths has to real life and includes interpreting mathematical information such as house prices, scientific graphs and tables, financial investment and taxation. Lessons will promote the use of ICT in the form of laptops, iPads and calculators to enhance your understanding of Mathematics. At the end of the one year course you will be awarded a Level 3 qualification with the same UCAS points as an AS Level.

What are the benefits of Core Maths (Level 3 Mathematical Studies)?

This course has been designed to help and support you to understand and apply clear mathematical reasoning to real-life problems, as well as analyse and interpret data in various contexts. Mathematical Studies will also focus on equipping you with the necessary skills to confidently deal with everyday financial mathematics including mortgages, National Insurance and Income Tax, bank accounts and credit cards.

Mathematical Studies will enable students to develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. This is valuable preparation for the quantitative skills they will need for some A Level and degree courses, particularly subjects such as psychology, business related courses, sport, social sciences, and natural science courses that do not require A Level maths, as well as employment or training.

Mathematical studies will also support the mathematical element of other subjects such as Science, Geography, Business Studies, Psychology and Economics.

What is the university position on Core Maths (Level 3 Mathematical Studies)?

Some universities have shown their recognition of Level 3 maths qualifications, including Core Maths, by giving reduced offers for admissions to some of their degree courses, including:

Aston University, University of Bath, University of Essex, University of Kent, University of Huddersfield, University of Manchester, University of Reading, University of Sheffield, University of Surrey, University of York.

Other universities, whilst not making formal reduced offers, do offer strong encouragement for the study of Core Maths and recognise its usefulness in preparation for their degree courses. For example:

The University of Bristol “welcomes the additional breadth of study that Core Maths can bring to an application”.

The University of Cambridge “recognise the value of Core Maths in strengthening mathematical ability”.

Coventry University “would be pleased to receive applications from students offering these qualifications”.

Keele University “welcomes Core Maths qualifications. Skills in Mathematical and statistical problem solving, data analysis and interpretation can provide a useful preparation for applicants wishing to progress to degrees in Business, Health, Psychology, Sciences and Social Sciences”.

Loughborough University states that “Core Maths may be useful for a range of degree subjects where enhanced numerical or statistical skills are beneficial”.

Queen Mary College, University of London

“welcomes the introduction of the new Core Maths qualifications and believe they will be beneficial to students wishing to study Social Science subjects that may involve the use of applied mathematical skills, such as Business Management, Geography, and Politics”.

Art & Design

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9AD0

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE ART & DESIGN.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This course allows students to develop skills through a highly individual approach with access to a breadth of techniques and a course tailored to your own interests in Art and Design. This can include painting, drawing, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, graphic communication, photography, digital media and film-based work. On this course, you will direct your own learning, selecting themes and starting points of your choice. You will have the opportunity to develop a working knowledge of materials and practices in your chosen discipline and you will receive individual support and direction from teachers, who will help you play to your own creative strengths and tackle areas that you find more challenging with really focussed support. You will be encouraged to develop and convey concepts that underpin your work and extend your imaginative and creative thinking through analytical and documenting skills. Written work that supports your practical studies will help you to develop a specialist vocabulary and gain an understanding of your own place in art, craft and design.

The course will allow you to experiment and explore with media and materials that suit you as an individual artist and build strong drawing skills that will be used to underpin and support your studies. You will work towards exciting and innovative final outcomes for projects and draw direct inspiration from studying the work of a range of artists and designers from a range of cultures.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Art & Design course is assessed against four assessment objectives that cover recording from the world around you, developing work through research, experimenting and refining the techniques and media used in your work, and presenting coherent final outcomes for your projects.

The A Level course consists of three sections: a major coursework / NEA project (Personal Investigation), a written component (Personal Study) and an Externally Set Assignment project that culminates in a 15 hour 'sustained focus' period that will be your final, practical examination that is timetabled over three days.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Anyone seeking a creative career should certainly consider taking this course. Options beyond A Level in this subject are varied and they include the following areas:

Architecture, animation, illustration, interior design, fashion, jewellery, millinery, stage and set design, costume design, makeup, puppetry and animatronics, media, graphic design, painting, art history, gallery curator, sculpture, printmaking, conservation, silversmithing, landscape gardening, web design, film work, game design, product design, studio/documentary photography and many more.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Aside from the trips we offer to galleries to support your work, the Art Department is very open to A Level students taking a lead in extra-curricular activities. This means that opportunities can be adapted to suit each individual or cohort. In the past, this has led to Sixth Form students leading activities such as 'Eco Art Club' and 'Chinese Calligraphy Club'. We welcome your input and will support you in ideas for new initiatives. A Level Art students also take a creative lead in a range of extra-curricular projects, such as designing and making scenery for school plays and mentoring younger students who need some extra support in Art.

Biology

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7402

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN BIOLOGY. A GRADE 7 OR HIGHER IN MATHEMATICS, AND A GRADE 7 OR HIGHER IN CHEMISTRY IS RECOMMENDED.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

There are eight core areas of study:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Exchange with the environment
- DNA, variation and relationships
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Response to environmental changes
- Genetics, evolution and ecology

Practical investigations are an integral and fundamental aspect of the course, providing an important insight into how scientific knowledge is developed. Throughout the course students are encouraged to read widely to gain an understanding of the broader relevance of their studies. They are required to apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

Students must have a deep interest, enthusiasm and curiosity for Biology and have demonstrated a sound understanding of the subject at GCSE level. Students should be competent in Mathematics since they will need to be able to manipulate data and learn how to apply specific statistical tests. In addition to the accumulation of skills in the selection and safe use of a range of practical equipment, critical analysis skills are developed throughout the course. Students need to be able to show an understanding of the rationale underpinning scientific enquiry, record data accurately and choose appropriate graphs to display and analyse results. Although they must work independently in most practical tasks, there are opportunities for teamwork skills to be developed.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students sit three papers, with content from topics 1–4 featuring in Paper 1, material from topics 5–8 in Paper 2, and any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills in the final paper. All papers are 2 hours in length. Paper 1 contains a mixture of short and long answer questions, along with extended responses and is worth 35% of the A Level.

Paper 2 comprises of a mixture of short and long answer questions along with comprehension questions and is worth 35% of the A Level. Paper 3 comprises of structured questions, including practical techniques, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay from a choice of two titles. This final paper is worth 30% of the A Level.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Skills and knowledge acquired are extremely useful for Biological and Environmental Sciences, Medicine and other health and clinical professions including physiotherapy, midwifery, nursing and dietetics, for example. In addition, many skills are transferable and relevant to careers such as law, computing, accounting and teaching.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

The KYTOS Biology Enrichment Programme offers unparalleled opportunities to explore the subject beyond the classroom. Sixth Form girls can develop their surgical skills in the Dissection Club, enhance the school environment in the Conservation Club and delve deeper into the fascinating world of forensic science and criminal investigation in the popular Forensics Club. Weekly Biology Enrichment sessions facilitate discussion and debate about topical news stories. This is complemented by the KYTOS Genetics Society, where pupils can build on their A2 studies by carrying out highly technical genetic techniques. MED:SEM is a programme of dedicated seminars covering a range of topics for those pursuing medical-related careers. Our Guest Speaker programme has secured talks from a variety of distinguished professionals, including Sickle Cell specialist Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu, wildlife campaigner Virginia McKenna and President of the Genetics Society, Professor Laurence Hurst. Pupils in the Sixth Form are encouraged to both listen to and contribute to the 'KYTOS Biology Podcasts', a series that has been streamed in over ninety countries worldwide. Sixth Form students are encouraged to support activities during Science Week and are given the opportunity to subscribe to 'Biological Sciences Review' which provides relevant contexts to broaden their understanding of the subject at this level.

Business

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9BS0

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 6 OR ABOVE IN GCSE MATHS AND A GRADE 6 OR ABOVE IN GCSE ENGLISH.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Business helps students understand the changing business environment on a global scale and how businesses are able to respond. Some of the key topics include: marketing, finance, HRM, operations management, external influences, recruitment and motivational theory.

In the first year, you will study 'Marketing and People' and 'Managing Business Activities'. You will learn how businesses might improve their competitiveness and profitability by adapting their marketing mix, managing their employees and finances effectively, and by using their resources efficiently. You will also study the effects of changes in the business cycle and economic factors.

In the second year, you will study two additional themes of 'Business Decisions and Strategy' and 'Global Business'. You will consider more complex business scenarios and focus on the strategies of global corporations. You will examine how multinational businesses operate to achieve their objectives and assess the impact of economic, social, political, ethical, legal, environmental and technological factors on these corporations. You will also analyse the ways in which businesses can manage change successfully when responding to changing external forces and a competitive environment.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed by 100% written examination. Each exam is comprised of data response questions, extended open-ended response questions and essay questions.

Paper 1: Marketing, People and Global Business.
2 hour exam, 100 marks (35%)

Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy.
2 hour exam, 100 marks (35%)

Paper 3: Investigating Business Competitive Environment.
2 hour exam, 100 marks (30%)

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Have you ever wondered how Ryanair can sell its plane tickets for a fraction of the price charged by airlines such as BA and still be a highly profitable business? Or why changes in external factors can affect the performance of businesses such as Tesco and John Lewis? And why Tata Group bought Jaguar Land Rover? Or why Primark should



behave in a more socially responsible way? Would you like to understand what strategies firms such as Apple and Starbucks employ in order to achieve global success, whereas strategies used by Nokia and Sony have been less effective? If you decide to study Business you will be able to answer these questions and a whole lot more.

You will need good written skills for essay writing and a genuine interest in business news. Strong numerical skills and the desire to learn how to calculate, interpret and use data is essential. You will develop a range of invaluable skills including case study and data analysis, problem-solving and logical reasoning. Above all Business encourages you to develop mature and rational decision-making skills, whilst applying your knowledge to real-world scenarios to cement understanding.

This course can lead to degrees in business-related courses, such as Business Management, Accountancy, International Business, Marketing and Human Resources. Business prepares you for a variety of careers including marketing, banking, accountancy, finance, law and management consultancy. A Business qualification can make you an attractive candidate in many fields.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Students are provided with a range of support, both in and out of the classroom, to enable every individual to realise their potential. In addition, the department will run a variety of trips in both the first and second year, including a proposed New York visit. The department aims to offer the opportunity for all students to attend a revision conference with examiners, prior to sitting their A Level exam. We also offer several external speakers on relevant Business topics, for example global marketing, entrepreneurship and managing business change.

Chemistry

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7405

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR HIGHER IN GCSE CHEMISTRY AND MATHEMATICS.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A Level Chemistry is a popular and academically satisfying course of study. We follow the AQA specification which gives a wide-ranging view of the subject and sufficient depth to enable pupils to develop excellent analytical skills. A practical approach is taken wherever possible so that concepts are underscored by physical experience and observation.

- Organic Chemistry is studied in depth and a range of chemical families, from the amines to aromatic compounds, are considered in terms of their reaction mechanisms, detection and synthesis. Problem-solving around structure determination forges the ability to consider information in drawing conclusions.
- Physical Chemistry is a core part of the course, and the mathematical treatment of key phenomena supports understanding of the interlinked nature of the factors which drive chemical reactions.
- Inorganic Chemistry becomes very colourful at A Level as a large practical based topic investigates transition metal complexes, as well as developing a macroscopic view of the elements in Periodicity and delving further into the reactivity of chemical groups.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1 Inorganic and Physical Chemistry,
2 hours, 35% of A Level

Paper 2 Organic and Physical Chemistry,
2 hours, 35% of A Level

Paper 3 Synoptic, practical skills and data analysis,
2 hours, 30% of A Level

In addition, A Level students will be assessed on their practical skills over the two years and given a Pass or Unclassified comment.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Science graduates are well respected for their excellent work ethic and ability to learn new skills. This means Chemistry degrees are highly valued qualifications. Graduate chemists have a wide range of career paths open to them that are both science and non-science based. These include environmental chemistry, food science, medicinal chemistry, pharmaceuticals, agribusiness, biochemistry, intellectual property, toxicology, biotechnology, analytical chemistry and materials science, finance, teaching, law, IT and management consultancy, sales and marketing, journalism.

Potential medics, vets and dentists will also need to gain a high grade at Chemistry A Level to gain a place at university.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

A Level chemists are encouraged to participate in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and RSC Olympiad.

Students can also hone their practical skills by competing for the school in the RSC Schools' Analyst Competition. ChemSoc, the Chemistry extra-curricular club, will also provide enrichment opportunities through discussion.

Classical Civilisation

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION CODE: H408

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN CLASSICAL CIVILISATION OR, IF CLASSICAL CIVILISATION HAS NOT BEEN STUDIED BEFORE, A GRADE 7 IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

What is true heroism? What counts as a tragic death? Why do we view the Roman emperors the way we do? These are all questions you will have the opportunity to investigate in Classical Civilisation A Level.

Classical Civilisation is not limited to one area of study. You will explore elements of the art, architecture, history, mythology, literature, philosophy, social history and religion of the classical Greek and Roman worlds, many aspects of which still resonate in the 21st Century.

You will learn how to develop reasoned and detailed responses to ancient literature (in translation) and works of art; you will also acquire and employ a wide range of analytical and interpretative skills that benefit many university courses. The A Level is made up of three modules.

'The World of the Hero' is a compulsory module, which is made up of the study of either Homer's *Odyssey* or *Iliad*, and Virgil's *Aeneid*. You will additionally study one 'Culture and the Arts' module and one 'Beliefs and Ideas' module. The current A Level group are studying 'Imperial Image' and 'Greek Religion'.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three papers at the end of the A2 course which are worth the following:

- 'The World of the Hero'
2 hours 20 minutes, 40% of the A Level
- 1 module chosen from the 'Culture and the Arts' category
1 hour 45 minutes, 30% of the A Level
- 1 module chosen from the 'Beliefs and Ideas' category
1 hour 45 minutes, 30% of the A Level

These exam papers will assess your understanding of ancient source material in its context, and your skills of critical analysis, evaluation, and well structured argumentation.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Classical Civilisation, as well as being interesting for its own sake, is interdisciplinary by nature and can take you in many directions. It combines well with many other subjects such as History, English Literature, Art, Art History, Psychology, Sociology and languages. It is highly respected by university admissions tutors and is useful to those considering a range of different degree courses because of the skills you will have acquired.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

We are well connected with the Guildford Classical Association, who organise many lectures, quizzes and discussions, which are all available to you as students at Tormead. Last year we heard about the origins of Virgil's *Aeneid* from Prof. Llewelyn Morgan, for example.

This year we are running a trip to the British Museum for L6 and U6 combined. This visit will enable you to see the visual sources you are studying in the flesh and even meet new vases and statues. Seeing these objects up close is a really fantastic experience, and your perspective on Greek and Roman art and architecture will be changed once you see it in all its glory. We hope to make this a regular trip.

Classical Greek

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION CODE: H444

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN CLASSICAL GREEK.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will study some of the most important works in Greek (by authors such as Homer, Herodotus, Plutarch, Plato and Aristophanes), both as works of literature, but also with a view to their context and significance in Greek history and society. You will also continue to scrutinise the language with a greater degree of fluency.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four exam papers at the end of the A2 course which are worth the following:

- Unseen Translation (01)
1 hour 45 minutes, 33% of total A Level
- Prose Composition or Comprehension (02)
1 hour 15 minutes, 17% of total A Level
- Prose Literature (03) 2 hours, 25% of total A Level
- Verse Literature (04) 2 hours, 25% of total A Level

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

An A Level in Classical Greek would give you a firm foundation in the language in preparation for a Classics degree. Aside from this, Greek suggests to university admissions tutors that you possess extensive analytical skills and intellectual flexibility. Job applicants whose thought and reasoning processes have been formed by the study of Classical Greek are a good recruitment target for shrewd employers in both the City and many other disciplines.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

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Computer Science

EXAMINATION BOARD: CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL
SPECIFICATION CODE: 9618

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE IF STUDIED AT GCSE AND A GRADE 7 IN MATHEMATICS, IDEALLY A GRADE 8 OR 9.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Computer Science A Level not only allows candidates to experience code development using different programming languages but also aims to explore the design and development of computer technology over time. The course is divided into 23 topics over the two years. These can largely be grouped into four areas -

- Computational thinking
- Programming paradigms
- Communications
- Data representation and structures

Computational thinking topics explore approaches to problem-solving and software development, including the use of decomposition and abstraction to break down problems into smaller components. Students will explore the use of pseudocode and flowcharting in software design and explore techniques for error detection at various stages of the software life cycle.

Students will continue (or begin) to use Python as their core programming language but in the Programming paradigms topics we will also experiment and explore other forms of programming such as assembly language, object-oriented coding and logic programming. Experience of these different paradigms is very useful for those considering a career in software development.

The communications topics explore networking and security both in small areas and across the internet. Students will explore the need for security, privacy and data integrity and how these can be achieved. We will also explore the complex issues around ethics and ownership that the modern electronic world is facing.

Computer architecture and hardware explores in more detail the fundamental workings of a computer, including considering more recent developments in the use of multi-processors, cloud-based computing and virtual hardware. Topics on the use of and methods for simplification of Boolean algebra are also covered.

The final topic area considers in detail methods for representing data, including examining the various problems and solutions to real number, sound, character and picture representation. We will also explore a variety of data structures commonly used in programming, including linked lists, stacks, queues and trees. Students will also be able to gain practical experience of handling these structures through Python.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will sit four papers at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Theory Fundamentals covering material on information representation, communications, hardware, software, security and privacy, ethics and ownership, and databases.

Paper 2: Fundamental Problem-Solving and Programming Skills.

A written paper that will examine a candidate's ability to decompose problems and write pseudocode solutions.

Paper 3: Advanced Theory covering material on complex data representation, virtual computing, Boolean logic, Karnaugh maps, systems software, security, artificial intelligence, software life cycle, declarative and object-oriented programming paradigms.

Paper 4: Practical programming examination which will explore a candidate's ability to design and develop code to solve problems using the Python programming language.

Each paper represents 25% of the A Level.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

The course is suitable for those wishing to study Computer Science, Software Engineering or related subjects such as Cyber Security to degree level. It is also suitable for those wishing to explore apprenticeship routes into the software development and information technology industries.

Many of the skills developed on the course are also useful to those wishing to study any of the engineering subjects at degree or HNC/HND level. Computer scientists completing the course will not only have significant experience of software development but will also understand the basics of database query and management, the fundamental theory of computing, internet technologies and networking, which would enable a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities.

A Level Computer Science is an extremely versatile qualification demonstrating candidates' ability to solve complex problems in a logical manner, which is a critical skill across many different careers.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Students studying computer science are encouraged to develop their programming skills by applying them in areas such as robotics using the departments VexIQ equipment. There are a wealth of external opportunities to explore further specific aspects of computing such as competitions run by GCHQ annually in Cyber Security, and a variety of taster courses offered by many universities in the summer of Lower Sixth. Students are actively encouraged to sign up to the wide range of online courses and workshops provided by Isaac Computer Science. These include opportunities to revise key course topics and to explore in more detail areas such as cyber security, block chain algorithms and artificial intelligence.

Design and Technology - Product Design

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9DT0

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE D&T.

A MINIMUM OF A GRADE 6 IN GCSE MATHEMATICS.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course will develop your capacity to design products to meet needs and to appreciate the relationships between aesthetics, function, materials, manufacture and marketing. Good problem-solving, time management and independent learning skills are crucial to success in Design & Technology. You will need to use both divergent and convergent thinking strategies and be able to make a lateral, creative leap in your thought process when the opportunity arises. All these skills will develop, through practise and the study of appropriate methods, throughout the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During the two-year course, you will undertake a major design and manufacture project of your own choice. You will gain the confidence to innovate and produce creative design solutions as you develop your own design brief with a client/end user. This is worth 50% of the A Level. Alongside your major project, you will study the theory that supports your designing and making, including materials, manufacture, sustainability, legislation, and design methodology. At the end of the second year of study you will sit one written examination to test this knowledge.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

A Level Design & Technology is an ideal choice for pupils thinking of a career in design, engineering, manufacturing or architecture. This is due to the core skills developed during the course and the independent learning strategies needed to succeed. Studying Design & Technology will help you to improve time management skills, develop problem-solving skills through use of the design process and to utilise both divergent and convergent thinking strategies. You will have the opportunity to study in a small group, giving you access to advice and assistance to suit your needs. The department is well-equipped and resourced, with a range of computer-controlled manufacturing equipment, including 3D printing facilities, as well as more traditional processes such as turning, milling and welding facilities.



WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

A general interest in design and a curiosity about how products function is a great help to a Design & Technology student.

Interests, both past and current, which involve problem-solving, modelling, construction, sketching or drawing use relevant skills and techniques. If you intend to study Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Art, Economics, Psychology, Geography or Ethics you will find sections of knowledge and skills that link directly with Design & Technology.

Drama and Theatre

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDUQAS

SPECIFICATION CODE: A690QS

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN DRAMA GCSE. STUDENTS CAN OPT FOR A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE WITHOUT HAVING TAKEN GCSE DRAMA BUT WILL NEED AN INTERVIEW IN ADVANCE WITH THE HEAD OF DRAMA.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

'Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.' Augusto Boal.

The course looks at the totality of what makes successful theatre, from conception to performance. As such you will not only be creating your own work, but you will also learn about the ideas of other key figures in theatre, from actors to directors, writers to designers. We will build on this understanding by providing you with access to the best in contemporary theatre; you will visit the theatre frequently and following these visits, we will carefully analyse what you have seen so that you can build on these ideas in your own work. Drama at Tormead is very much a hands-on process and we will spend much time discussing, thinking and doing.

Drama and Theatre A Level will equip you with a wide range of skills. It will show that you have an understanding of theatre and performance, and the ability to apply research to overcome practical challenges, whether that be from a historical, psychological or artistic perspective.

The JCS Building is an excellent space in which to learn with the availability of different rehearsal and performances areas. As a Drama and Theatre student we will make space for you to follow and develop your interests, as a performer, writer, director or designer.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: (20%): You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a play, e.g. you could perform the script but devise a new ending. This is a mixture of devising and scripted work so you get the best of both worlds.

Component 2: (40%) In this unit, you will take part in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre: a devised piece and an extract from a script.

Component 3: (40%) You will study three great plays: *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell, *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, directed by Marianne Elliott. These plays will



be explored practically throughout the course to prepare you thoroughly.

Every piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. We will build upon the practitioners studied at GCSE and study a wide range of new ones at A Level.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

The Eduqas course is well-regarded by universities and would lead to a wide range of subjects at degree level, particularly those that require a creative and analytical focus, such as in the arts and humanities. In a recent survey, the Russell Group asked the HR departments of all the FTSE 250 companies for the two most important qualities they looked for in an employee. The two most common answers were teamwork and communication - both skills which are implicit in drama lessons. It is also useful for anyone who wishes to take the subject further, to university or drama school.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Outside the classroom, there are a wide range of activities in which you can take part; we hope that A Level students take leading roles in our productions, but recent students have also directed or choreographed. With opportunities such as Sixth Form Theatre Company, if you have an idea, we will help you to realise it, giving you the space to create and a group to work with.

Approaching the subject from a different angle are the LAMDA teachers and, particularly those interested in performance, taking the high-level grades with them can help to broaden your skills and boost your UCAS points when applying for universities. The Drama staff are always willing to help students with their auditions for outside opportunities such as the National Youth Theatre, the National Youth Music Theatre, Guildford School of Acting and Drama School applications.

Economics

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7153/7156

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN MATHS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Economics course explores how governments, firms and individuals can solve the world's desire for unlimited needs and wants with the scarce resources available. Economics will give you the analytical and evaluative skills required to deal with a range of questions and issues that affect the world today.

Initially you will study basic economic concepts and theories such as supply and demand; the operation of markets for goods, services and labour; reasons why markets sometimes fail (e.g. the recent problems in the financial and housing markets); and how policies can be used to remedy such failure. You also look at the key features and measures of the UK economy such as unemployment, inflation and economic growth, which will help you to understand, and comment upon, government policy.

Key topics in the second year of the course are business economics and the labour market. You also examine the global economy, including financial markets, and the role of the state in the macroeconomy. You then examine and explore the economies of developing countries and consider wider issues such as poverty, aid and debt.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is through three written exam papers.

Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure, 2 hours (80 marks)

Paper 2: National and International Economy, 2 hours (80 marks)

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues, 2 hours (80 marks)

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Studying A Level Economics could take you to study a range of degrees in subjects including Economics, Government and Politics, and Business. Economists work in a variety of fields such as the City markets, financial services, government and administration, and business services.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

As well as the subject tutorials, the Economics department runs visits to financial institutions and student conferences. We have also had the pleasure to host some great guest speakers e.g. economists from the Office of National Statistics, and advice from a former chief examiner of the subject. We have also had various online webinars such as from the Bank of England and the department of Economics at the University of Warwick. There is a potential collaborative New York visit for all Economic and Business students providing a real-life perspective and application of knowledge.



English Literature

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9ET0

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Lessons are seminar style: we sit around a central table and analyse a text together. We discuss, debate and exchange our ideas about the novel, play or poem we are studying. Everyone has a voice. We explore a wealth of different philosophical, historical and cultural concepts such as: the fundamental inequalities of class, race and gender; the nature of oppressive societies; Platonic philosophy; Romanticism and the Gothic, and much, much more.

In lessons and in your academic essays you will become confident defending your own opinions, critiquing others' views, and creating an argument based on your personal interpretation of the text. All of these are fundamental life skills that can take you into any field of study in the future. You will become a confident and articulate scholar and an exceptional communicator.

The Edexcel course allows us to explore a diverse range of texts across the literary canon. Here are some of the texts you may study:

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *Hamlet*, *Othello* or *Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare, the poetry of Chaucer, Keats or John Donne and a selection of 21st Century modern poems.

There is a coursework unit, worth 20% of the final A Level grade, which allows you to choose your own literary text to study as part of a comparison with a core modern text. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore your own interests and read beyond what the exam board stipulates.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through regular essays, marked by your class teacher. In terms of exams, you will sit three: a Drama exam including your Shakespeare and other studied play, a Prose exam comparing two novels, and a Poetry exam covering modern poetry, a studied poet, and an unseen text.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

English Literature is a highly respected subject at both A Level and degree level. Employers love English students as they have learned the skills of analysis, critical thought, disseminating essential information, creativity, empathy, people skills and independent thought. English students become excellent communicators and this is vital for a variety of professions including law, theatre, media, business, publishing, PR and marketing, entertainment, politics and even medicine.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

There are many extra-curricular opportunities if you choose to study English. Going to the theatre is a regular occurrence for us and everyone takes part in a creative writing and essay writing competition. In addition, we visit conferences hosted by university academics on the set texts and we take part in directing and acting workshops with a professional actor based on a Shakespeare text. We run the New Views programme with the National Theatre, a wonderful scheme in which all participants take part in workshops and over the year write their own half-hour play, supported by a professional playwright. We encourage all our A Level students to take part in a variety of enrichment talks and readings, and we have our Sixth Form book group and school newspaper. There is also an opportunity to become a reading mentor who will help to promote reading to the Lower School and lead a variety of initiatives for the department.

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7993

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

THE EPQ IS A STANDALONE QUALIFICATION, BUT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE ACADEMIC RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN AND WRITTEN SKILLS REQUIRED, A MINIMUM GRADE 7 IN GCSE ENGLISH IS RECOMMENDED.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is undertaken in the Lower Sixth and aims to link A Levels with the skills pupils need at university, encouraging them to study independently and produce their own research investigation. This qualification is highly valued by universities; an EPQ is worth half an A Level: 28 UCAS points for an A*, 24 points for an A and so on. It can be a great way to boost one's points. There are three main routes for students to take: a research project of 5,000 words; creation of an artefact, which can be anything ranging from a short story, a fashion item, a film or even a piece of artwork, together with a 1,000-word report; and the third route is to complete a group project. Students receive teaching and guidance throughout the entire process, with a dedicated programme of taught skills including planning and researching, how to give an engaging presentation and how to critique and reference academic sources. There are no formal restrictions on what the project must be on; the focus is negotiated between the student and their project adviser.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The extended project is an internally assessed qualification. Students need to produce a production log, verified by the supervisor, a written report, supplementary evidence and a presentation. All projects are then subject to both internal and external moderation from the exam board. Students will be assessed against four key objectives:

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

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



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

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

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

The EPQ Programme at Tormead promotes intellectual curiosity and allows students to undertake an independent piece of research with both flexibility and freedom. Students can explore professional networks and meet people outside of the usual school environment. Moreover, this course provides a great opportunity to develop confidence and familiarity with the independent methods of study which will be required at university and beyond.

French

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7652

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE FRENCH.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The A Level study focuses on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society.

The approach is a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. We study aspects of the social context, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. Further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society, as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. We study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations. Teenagers and the extent to which they are politically engaged allows us to look to the future of political life in French-speaking society.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, as well as their language skills. They will be exposed to a range of authentic spoken and written sources in French.

Our choice of literary text and film is the study of the novel *Un sac de billes* and the film *Au revoir les enfants*, both of which are autobiographic and set in France during the Second World War.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three papers at the end of the A2 course which are worth the following percentage of your qualification:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (2h30) – 50% of the A Level;

Paper 2: Writing and Translation (2h) – 20% of the A Level;

Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 minutes) – 30% of the A Level;

Paper 1 Translation is from French into English and Paper 2 Translation is from English into French.

In Paper 3, you will complete an Independent Research Project which you will discuss in the speaking examination. This NEA element allows you to develop your research skills and investigate a topic that is of interest to you about the Francophone world. Students often opt for a topic which also overlaps with one of their other A Level subjects.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Did you know that fluency in a foreign language is one of the top 10 skills which employers want? Learning this beautiful, rich, melodious language makes you more marketable in the workplace at home or abroad.

French is a language for the international job market. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in insurance, oil and gas, automotive, retail, luxury goods, finance and banking, construction, nuclear energy and more. As one of the world's largest economies, and a leading destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner.

With regards to international relations, French stands as both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO and the International Olympic Committee. It is the language of the three cities where the EU institutions are headquartered: Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg. It also stands as international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture.

As an analytical language, French helps you structure thoughts and develop critical thinking, which is a valuable skill for both discussions and negotiations. French is also the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the fifth most widely spoken language in the world.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

The British Film Institute organises valuable events, which broaden our interaction and understanding of francophone world in a very enjoyable way. It can also enhance our study of chosen film. The French Institute also offers a wide range of opportunities and events. Students are invited to take part in other local events with neighbouring schools, such as speed debating, and other MFL events. When there is sufficient interest, we are keen to immerse ourselves in France through residential trips, which combine cultural and linguistic experiences. We are interested equally to hear from former Tormeadians who have studied languages at university as they share their experience and career paths with us.

As part of the A Level course, every student has a dedicated one-to-one session with our French assistante to perfect the skill of conversation and develop fluency.

Geography

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION CODE: H481

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE GEOGRAPHY, AS WELL AS A GRADE 6 OR ABOVE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND MATHEMATICS.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The OCR course requires students to study a range of physical and human topics. Some of these will be familiar, others offer an opportunity to investigate new ideas. You can investigate events as they unfold – the war in Ukraine in ‘Power and Borders’ and ‘Global Migration’; the impact of the COVID pandemic in ‘Disease Dilemmas’. You will learn to evaluate theories and understand how principles that originated in marketing have been adopted by places across the world. The topics studied for the A Level qualification are as follows:

Landscape Systems (Coastal Landscapes)

Changing Spaces; Making Places

Geographical Debates: Hazardous Earth

Earth’s Life Support Systems (Carbon and Water Cycles)

Global Migration

Power and Borders

Geographical Debates: Disease Dilemmas

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Physical Systems

1 hour 30 minutes, 22% of A Level

Paper 2: Human Interactions

1 hour 30 minutes, 22% of A Level

Paper 3: Geographical Debates

2 hours 30 minutes, 36% of A Level,
NEA 20% of A Level

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Geography is a dynamic subject which examines the interaction between humans and the planet on which we live. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the world, allowing them to connect their learning in other subjects, such as Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Government and Politics, and History. Working independently and collaboratively, students will learn to analyse data and images, and evaluate information.

The NEA (independent investigation) enables students to investigate a topic of interest to them, helping to develop research and report writing skills.



Students taking A Level Geography are welcomed onto a wide range of undergraduate courses in disciplines as diverse as environmental science, land management and law. Career opportunities are equally varied. Geography graduates go on to work in sectors including climate science, hazard management, development, politics, marketing and education.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Fieldwork is compulsory; students are required to complete a minimum of four days fieldwork over the two years of the A Level course. In alternate years, the department also arranges a visit to Iceland.

The department encourages students to attend lectures organised by the local Geographical Association. We will also arrange to attend university lectures on relevant topics when the opportunity arises.

German

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7662

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A MINIMUM OF GRADE 7 AT GCSE IS REQUIRED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT A LEVEL.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The A Level course covers a range of cultural, social and political topics. In Lower Sixth, you will discuss themes such as technology, art and architecture, and youth culture. In Upper Sixth, you will debate issues such as immigration and German politics.

You will develop your language skills by using spoken and written material taken from authentic and up-to-date sources.

You will also gain many transferable skills in spoken and written communication and research.

You will study a film and a play, allowing you to develop your analytical skills and gain an insight into historical and cultural issues.

In Upper Sixth, you can choose an individual research topic on an aspect of German culture or society which particularly interests you and discuss your findings in the oral examination.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are 3 papers:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing, including translation (50%)

Paper 2: Writing (literature essays) (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Paper 1 Translation is from German into English and Paper 2 Translation is from English into German. In Paper 3, you will complete an Independent Research Project which you will discuss in the speaking examination. This NEA element allows you to develop your research skills and investigate a topic that is of interest to you about the Germanic world.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

German complements studies in a range of other subjects, such as history, politics and sociology. For scientists, learning a language allows you to develop a broader range of skills and expands your employment opportunities. With German at A Level, you will be equipped to live and



work in a German speaking country or use the language professionally in this country. Having a second language will give you a distinct advantage in the job market. Germany remains one of Britain's most important trading partners, with German being the most sought-after language amongst British employers.

You can choose to study German at university as a single subject, or in combination with many other subjects such as law or business. Many universities offer languages as an additional qualification alongside your degree.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

There are opportunities to join in speed debating events at other schools, and seminars and lectures with organisations such as the Goethe Institut and the British Film Institute.

Work experience in Germany can be organised through an external provider, allowing you to build confidence in your language skills and gain an insight into the world of work abroad.

Government and Politics

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9PLO

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE ENGLISH. IF YOU STUDY GCSE HISTORY, A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Studying Politics at A Level will help you understand the major institutions and process of UK government and how these have changed and adapted to new developments such as Brexit. You will also be introduced to key political thinkers, such as John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx and Thomas Hobbes, and we will examine how each of these thinkers argues society and government should be organised.

In the Lower Sixth, you will begin by studying democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. In the Spring term, you will examine the UK Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive, as well as relationships between the branches including the Supreme Court.

In the Upper Sixth, we will spend our time discussing the Politics and Government of the USA including the US Constitution and the US Supreme Court and Congress. In the Spring Term, we will look at the system of choosing and electing a US President and US Political Parties.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

100% Written examination - there is no coursework.

Paper 1: UK Government and Core Ideologies
(Socialism, Conservatism and Liberalism)

Paper 2: UK Politics and non-Core Ideologies (Anarchism)

Paper 3: US Government and Politics

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Part of the excitement and the challenge of studying politics is the fact that it is always changing. Domestic and world events often take us by surprise and the speed with which major political developments occur increases with new technology.

One reason why students are attracted to the study of politics is that it allows you to explore your own views and be challenged by the views of others.

Politics provides you with a diverse set of key skills that will be highly attractive to employers:



- The ability to research, source and examine information thoroughly.
- The capacity to critically analyse evidence and construct coherent arguments.
- Excellent written and public speaking skills.
- Intellectual independence.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

- Trip to the Houses of Parliament in the Lower Sixth.
- Trip to Washington DC every two years (if numbers allow).
- Public lectures at Surrey University and London.

History

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION CODE: H505

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN HISTORY AND GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ABLE STUDENTS WITHOUT HISTORY GCSE TO TAKE A LEVEL, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY HAVE A MINIMUM GRADE REQUIREMENTS IN ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The A Level at Tormead provides a grounding in both early modern and modern History, and this mix of periods mirrors the demands of an undergraduate degree at top universities. In Lower Sixth, pupils complete a study of early Tudor England, from 1485-1558. This covers the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. Alongside this, pupils study a unit on Russia, 1881-1941, learning how Russia changed from the total rule of the last Tsars to how one man, Lenin, launched the world's first communist state. Our key topics look at the revolutions of 1917 and how the 'grey blur', Stalin, won his power struggle and used systemic violence to lead a reign of terror against his own citizens. In the Upper Sixth, pupils embark on an independent coursework unit to study 'Gender and Power in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries'. In addition, they follow a thematic paper called 'Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th centuries'.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three examinations at the end of Year 13, on the Early Tudors (25%), Russia (15%) and the Witchcraze (40%). In addition, there is a coursework dissertation on a topic of the student's choice, within the theme of 'Gender and Power in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries'. The main skills assessed are an ability to write a clearly structured, well analysed essay, and to evaluate primary and secondary sources effectively.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

If you enjoy independent reading and research, then History is likely to be a favourite subject. We debate controversial topics in the classroom, and you will need to be keen to analyse new concepts and ideas objectively. Source analysis is an important part of the course, so being keen to 'read between the lines' and explore the nuances of texts is key.



WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

We regularly participate in History-themed debates with other schools across the country and internationally via Zoom, with the Digital Debating platform run by Parallel Histories. Staff are currently in discussion with Parallel Histories to formulate new resources for debates which will be rolled out nationally. Sixth Formers are also encouraged to help run the Lower School 'Past Times' club, which meets after school weekly, to support and inspire younger students in their love of the subject. Individual support for pupils applying to study History at university is provided, particularly with UCAS statements and preparations for interview.

There are Lower Sixth trips to see 'Six! The Musical', which is a feminist pop interpretation of the lives of the wives of Henry VIII, and a visit to Hampton Court Palace, including a workshop run by staff at the Royal Historical Palaces Education Service. There is a bi-annual residential trip to Lancashire to support our study of the early modern witchcraze, focused on sights around Pendle, with an expert guide and a visit to Lancaster Castle.

Sixth Formers are encouraged to take a leading role in a number of our History events, including assemblies for Remembrance, LBGTQIA+ Month and Black History Month.

Latin

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION CODE: H443

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE LATIN.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will study some of the most important works in the Latin corpus (by authors such as Virgil, Juvenal, Ovid, Cicero, Tacitus and Pliny), both as works of literature but also with a view to their context and significance in Roman history and society. You will also continue to scrutinise the language with a greater degree of fluency.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four written exam papers at the end of the A2 course which are worth the following:

- Unseen Translation (01)
1 hour 45 minutes, 33% of total A Level
- Prose Composition or Comprehension (02)
1 hour 15 minutes, 17% of total A Level
- Prose Literature (03) 2 hours, 25% of total A Level
- Verse Literature (04) 2 hours, 25% of total A Level

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

An A Level in Latin would give you a firm foundation in the language in preparation for a Classics degree. Aside from this, Latin suggests to university admissions tutors that you possess extensive analytical skills and intellectual flexibility. Job applicants whose thought and reasoning processes have been formed by the study of Latin are a good recruitment target for shrewd employers in both the City and many other disciplines.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

We are well connected with the Guildford Classical Association, who organise many lectures, quizzes and discussions, which are all available to you as students at Tormead. Last year we heard about the origins of Virgil's *Aeneid* from Prof. Llewelyn Morgan, for example.

This year we are running a trip to the British Museum for L6 and U6 combined. This visit will enable you to see visual sources which contextualise the works you are studying. Seeing these objects up close is a really fantastic experience, and your perspective on Greek and Roman art and architecture will be changed once you see it in all its glory. We hope to make this a regular trip.



Mathematics

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9MA0

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN MATHEMATICS,
IDEALLY A GRADE 8 OR 9.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

When will I ever need Maths? Every Mathematics teacher has been asked this question at some point. Maths is used in a wide variety of ways that many people have never even considered - from exploring how quadratic equations can model a suspension bridge to testing the effectiveness of vaccines, or even the use of logarithms in analysing earthquakes. Maths helps us understand patterns, solve complex problems and predict the future. In Maths A Level, students can delve into greater depths of the subject and begin to see the massive potential of Mathematics.

In A Level Maths, we continue and extend the study of key skills from GCSE and discover exciting new topics such as Coordinate geometry and Calculus. The course includes the study of Pure and Applied Mathematics. Pure Maths underpins all other areas of Maths and includes a wide variety of skills such as algebra, trigonometry and vectors. Specific areas of study in Applied Maths are Statistics and Mechanics. The study of Mechanics involves the understanding of how the physical world operates. This involves the mathematical modelling of everyday events like throwing a ball, driving a car or flying a kite. In Statistics, probability and data handling concepts are explored further and students learn how to use and interpret data in real world contexts. This might be looking at how a polling organisation uses a sample of voters to make inferences about how the whole population will vote or whether a new drug treatment represents an improvement on the standard treatment for a disease.

A Level Maths will also help develop life skills such as problem solving, presenting a well-structured and logical argument, research skills and abstract thinking.

Mathematics A Level is made up of Pure Maths, Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Maths:

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical methods
- Vectors

Section A: Statistics:

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing

Section B: Mechanics:

- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Examination at the end of two years:

Three written papers, each of 2 hours, worth 33.33% of the qualification.

Paper 1 (9MA0-01): Pure Mathematics 1

Paper 2 (9MA0-02): Pure Mathematics 2

Paper 3 (9MA0-03): Statistics and Mechanics

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

A Level Mathematics is the most popular A Level subject studied in the United Kingdom and one of the most highly regarded choices by universities. It is an essential requirement for degree courses with a high level of mathematical content, such as Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering and Economics. Maths can also make up one of an essential combination of subjects required to study such courses as Chemistry, Medicine, and Veterinary Science. It is considered a 'facilitating' subject, meaning it is among a list of A Level subjects which are asked for most frequently by universities.

Careers options are wide ranging, from law to dentistry or architecture. More than ever university degree courses include mathematical modelling as a key component, and it is an increasing advantage to have studied mathematics at A Level. There is a growing worldwide demand for students with skills in mathematics to enable them to pursue careers in growing fields such as biology, life and environmental sciences, biomedicine, healthcare and pharmaceutical industries.

Even if you intend to study an Arts degree, having A Level in Maths can be an advantage for your future career. It shows you have strong number skills and a good aptitude for problem solving.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

There is a wide variety of further reading available for enrichment, as well as TED talks and Mathematics lectures. Students also enter the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge where they are encouraged to use mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Our students also get involved with university competitions, master classes and taster days.

Level 3 Mathematical Studies

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 1350

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

GCSE GRADE 6 OR ABOVE IN MATHEMATICS.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Will the world population fit on the Isle of Wight? How many bricks does it take to build a house? How do I work out my tax and National Insurance contributions? How do mortgages work? How do companies decide whether it is better to sell large boxes of biscuits or multiple mini packs? These are just some of the questions we consider in the Level 3 Mathematical Studies course.

Mathematical Studies is designed to develop real world skills in Mathematics. In addition to building on techniques learnt at GCSE, students will learn skills that can be applied to everyday life, such as how to calculate a tax bill and how to use data to make important business decisions. This course is an exciting insight into how Mathematics helps us deal with scenarios students are likely to encounter in later life.

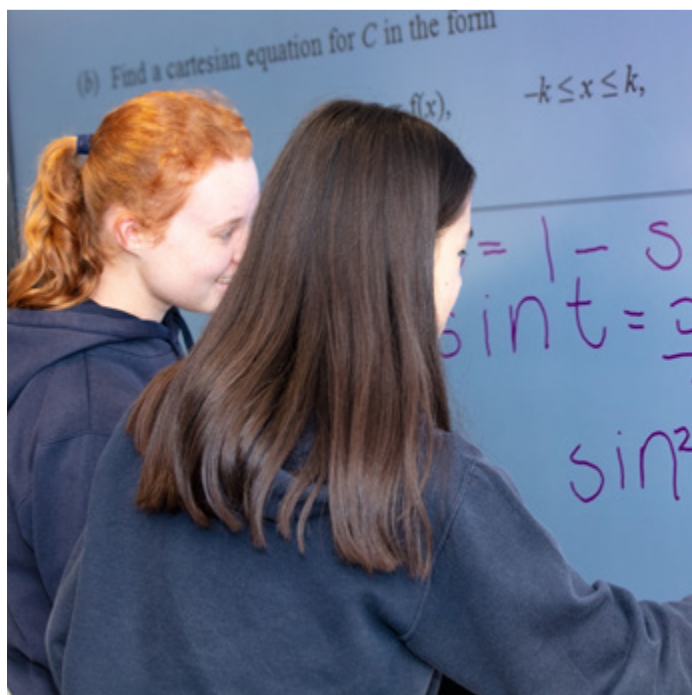
Students will study a mathematics curriculum that is integrated with other areas of their study, work or interest, therefore leading to the application of mathematics in a variety of areas. They will develop mathematical modelling, evaluating and reasoning skills and solve problems, some of which will not be well defined and may not have a unique solution. We look at solving substantial and real-life problems encountered by adult life and aim to develop skills in the communication, selection, use and interpretation of their mathematics. Students will learn to use IT as an exploratory tool for developing mathematical understanding and when solving problems.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Mathematical Studies is assessed by written examination in the form of two 1.5 hour papers at the end of Lower Sixth. Each paper is worth 50% of the total mark. The topic content of the papers is listed below:

Paper 1: Analysis of data
Maths for personal finance
Estimation

Paper 2A: Statistical techniques
Critical analysis of given data and models
The normal distribution
Probabilities and estimation
Correlation and regression



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Mathematical Studies is equivalent in UCAS points to an AS Level. It is a course for those students who wish to continue their Maths but who are not taking A Level Mathematics.

Level 3 Mathematical Studies will consolidate students' mathematical understanding from GCSE and build confidence and competence in applying mathematical techniques to solve a wide range of problems. It will also introduce students to new techniques and concepts that will prepare them for further study and future employment within a broad range of academic, professional and technical fields.

This qualification provides mathematical support for studying Sciences and social sciences at A Level and beyond. It is an excellent qualification to have for a wide range of university courses and future careers including, but not limited to, psychology, geography, computer science, business, medicine and architecture. It is valuable preparation for the quantitative skills needed in many degree courses and for life in general.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

There are many different opportunities to find out how Mathematics operates in the real world. There are a wide range of TED talks and lectures available to further extend and enrich your studies. We also have the opportunity of external guest speakers providing an insight to the business and finance world.

Further Mathematics

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: 9FMO

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 9 IN GCSE MATHEMATICS AND IDEALLY A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN LEVEL 2: FURTHER MATHEMATIC.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

How does a GPS navigational system triangulate the position of an aircraft? What is an imaginary number? How likely is a meteor to crash into the Earth? What forces are experienced in the firing of a gun?

Further Mathematics A Level is an opportunity for students who enjoy Mathematics to broaden and deepen their understanding of the subject and to explore new areas and concepts. Students will also be taking Mathematics A Level and the two courses are taught in parallel.

Further Mathematics includes Core Pure Maths, Further Mechanics and Further Statistics. Within the Pure module, students will continue to extend concepts learnt at GCSE and A Level, such as algebra, graphs and trigonometry, as well as new topics like complex numbers, matrices, polar coordinates and differential equations. In Further Mechanics, we delve deeper into the physical world exploring the forces and energy involved in complex collisions or the energy transfer processes in a bungee jump. In Further Statistics, students model real world events using the Poisson distribution and discover how to use a Chi-squared test to determine whether an experiment was fair and unbiased.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Examination at the end of two years:

Four written papers, each of 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 1 (9FM0-01): Core Pure Mathematics 1

Paper 2 (9FM0-02): Pure Mathematics 2

Paper 3 (9FM0-3B): Further Statistics 1

Paper 4 (9FM0-3C): Further Mechanics 1

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Studying Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for a Mathematics degree, or any course with significant Mathematics content, such as Engineering, Sciences or Computing. Some universities require students to have a Further Mathematics qualification or adjust their grade



requirements to be more favourable for students studying Further Maths. In addition, having studied Mathematics at this level identifies students as having excellent analytical skills and makes their university application stand out from the crowd.

As the popularity of mathematical modelling grows, studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level is an increasing advantage. Mathematical modelling is being used to save lives, assist in policy and decision-making, and optimising growth. Students considering a wide range of degree courses or careers in everything from biological or environmental sciences to Economics may use mathematical models. Those students who have studied Further Mathematics often find the transition to university easier as they have covered much of the early mathematical content of their degree courses.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

There is a wide variety of further reading available for enrichment as well as TED talks and Mathematics lectures. Students also enter the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls where they are encouraged to use mathematical reasoning precision of thought and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Our students also get involved with university competitions, master classes and taster days.

Music

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDUQAS

SPECIFICATION CODE: 601/8146/1

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE AT LEAST GCSE GRADE 7 OR BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE EQUIVALENT SKILLS IN PERFORMING, COMPOSING AND APPRAISING. STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE GRADE 5 OR EQUIVALENT ON THEIR FIRST INSTRUMENT.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course focuses on three Areas of Study which are explored through the disciplines of Performing, Composing and Appraising.

AoSA: The Western Classical Tradition (Development of the Symphony 1750-1900)

Two set works: Haydn's Symphony 104 in D major 'Italian' for detailed analysis and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A major 'Italian' for general study.

AoSC: Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre works by six composers: Rogers, Bernstein, Sondheim, Schoenberg, Lloyd Webber and Schwartz. We examine the importance of music and story, lyrics and music.

AoSE: Into the C20th

Impressionism, expressionism (including Serialism) and Neo-Classicism. We study Poulenc's Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano and Debussy's 'Nuages' from Three Nocturnes. We consider further works by Debussy, Ravel, Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Stravinsky, Poulenc and Prokofiev.

Performances may also explore AoSB Rock and Pop; AoSD Jazz; and AoSF Into the C21st.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Performing

Option A: 35% of the qualification OR

Option B: 25% of the qualification.

Component 2: Composing

Option A: 25% of the qualification OR

Option B: 35% of the qualification

Component 3: Appraising

2 hour 15 minutes written paper, 40% of qualification

Non Examined Assessment makes up 60% of the course and students have the opportunity to major in performing or composing. The Performing component comprises a 10-12 minute recital (Option A) or a 6-8 minute recital (Option B) assessed by a visiting examiner in the Summer term of Year 13. The composing component requires students to submit a portfolio of two (Option A) or three (Option B) compositions, completed throughout the course. The appraising component features listening questions relating to the three Areas of Study.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Many students choose to study Music at A Level because of their inherent passion for the subject, the challenge and stimulation it provides and because it is a subject widely respected by universities. Some of the skills involved in Music are unique to the subject, whilst others complement the work of other subjects. A Level Music is strongly recommended for anyone who enjoys performing, composing and listening to music, and is essential for anyone who hopes to pursue a performing course at Music college or wishes to take an academic Music course at university.

Although some students may study A Level Music without having any prior qualification, it is helpful to have studied Music at GCSE. We recommend that you can perform to Grade 5 standard before starting the course. You will also need to have a good 'musical' ear and have had some experience of composing. Most importantly, you should be keen to explore and evaluate a wide range of musical styles, both as a listener and as a participant.

A Level Music is an excellent foundation for a range of careers in the Arts which include performing, composing, teaching and education, sound engineering, musical research, journalism, arts management and music therapy. Music is also unusual in that many professionals from other walks of life are often enthusiastic and highly accomplished amateur musicians; whilst students may intend to work in a different field, they find that A Level Music gives them the background to pursue a lifelong interest in playing and listening. It is notable that Oxford University identifies eight skills that define employability: creativity; initiative; communication; leadership; planning; self-management; business awareness; and teamwork. Music students develop all eight of these attributes. By this measure, Music graduates are among the most employable of all.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Tormead offers a plethora of co-curricular musical groups including four choirs, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band and many chamber ensembles. Our Concert Series offers the opportunity to perform as a soloist and ensemble player, as well as in singing and instrumental festivals. Students are encouraged to take leadership of an ensemble and to partake in enrichment opportunities including masterclasses and workshops.

Physical Education

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7582

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

GCSE PE GRADE 7 OR ABOVE, OR CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF ACADEMIC PE IF NOT PREVIOUSLY STUDIED GCSE PE.

HIGH LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE OR COACHING IN ONE SPORT FROM THE AQA A LEVEL PE SPECIFICATION.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

We study different modules in a number of different disciplines within the field of sports science. The course provides an excellent stepping stone for pupils wishing to go on to further study in any branch of the subject. The course is a mixture of theory and practical, and pupils are encouraged to apply the theoretical knowledge that they acquire to the improvement of performance.

Pupils will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the following theoretical areas: applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, exercise physiology and biomechanics, sports psychology and technology in sport.

Performance and the written analysis of performance make up the non-exam assessment section of the qualification.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment towards the end of the course. These assessments include two written papers and a non-exam assessment. Each of the papers are worth 35% of the A Level and the non-exam assessment is worth 30%. Non-exam assessment can be either as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity, plus a written/verbal analysis of performance. This is internally assessed and externally moderated.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Physical Education is an academic qualification with a strong scientific content and is ideal for those with an interest in sport. It is accepted widely by universities and colleges, and it will support applications for a variety of degree courses. Anyone wishing to read Physical Education, Sports Science, Psychology or Physiotherapy at university should consider this as an option.



WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

The Physical Education department offers a wide range of activities and sport. There are opportunities for international sports tours, visits to sports science laboratories, Wimbledon Museum and sport talks by visiting speakers, to name just a few. There are also possibilities for gaining coaching and officiating qualifications in certain sports and the Sports Leadership Award.

Physics

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

SPECIFICATION CODE: ADVANCED GCE – 9PH0

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR HIGHER IN GCSE PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The topic areas covered in the A Level Physics course are: Mechanics, Electric Circuits, Material Properties, Waves (including an introduction to Quantum Physics), Further Mechanics, Oscillations, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Gravitational Fields, Particle Physics (including an introduction to Relativity), Thermodynamics, Nuclear Physics and Astrophysics. Throughout the course, you will develop the higher order analysis, thinking and mathematical modelling skills necessary to frame and solve physical problems. You will gain an appreciation of how scientific theories need to explain the available evidence and are revised in the light of new evidence. You will learn a wide range of practical experimental techniques and how to quantify the errors and uncertainties inherent in them. You will also develop your ability to write clear, concise, coherent and logical answers to questions.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Advanced Physics I, questions on topics identified in the specification,
1 hour 45 minutes, 30% of total A Level marks

Paper 2: Advanced Physics II, questions on topics identified in the specification,
1 hour 45 minutes, 30% of total A Level marks

Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Physics, questions on any topics in the specification, synoptic questions drawing on two or more different topics, assessment of understanding of experimental methods drawing on experience of doing the core practicals,
2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of total A Level marks

The papers may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions. Overall, a minimum of 40% of the marks across the three papers will be awarded for mathematics at Level 2 or above. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge and understanding to familiar and unfamiliar contexts.



WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Students who enjoy the theoretical aspects of Physics may wish to study it, or a related field such as Astrophysics or Materials Science, at university. Physics is a useful component of many general Natural Sciences university courses. Many Tornead girls who have taken A Level Physics have gone on to study engineering-related subjects at university, which can lead to a wide range of professional careers in manufacturing, management, business and project delivery. People who have studied Physics at higher level are highly valued by universities and future employers because they have demonstrated academic rigour and have developed analytical, problem solving and mathematical modelling skills. Tornead physicists have also gone on to a wide range of other fields such as medicine, orthotics, archaeology, music, philosophy and graphic design.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

- Particle Physics Masterclass at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire.
- Visit to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, Oxfordshire.
- Use of the Tornead Observatory in Astronomy Clubs.
- Students are encouraged to attend public lectures on Physics related topics offered by the Institute of Physics and local universities such as Surrey and Royal Holloway.
- Students are encouraged to apply for The Engineering Development Trust's "Insight into University" residential experiences or The Smallpeice Trust's university taster courses in Physics, Engineering and related subjects, many of which take place at the end of Lower Sixth year.
- Participation in Cambridge University's Isaac Physics online masterclasses is encouraged.

NB: It is strongly recommended that a student wishing to study Physics, Engineering or Natural Sciences (Physical) at university should also study Further Mathematics A Level.

Psychology

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7182

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

PSYCHOLOGY IS CATEGORISED AS A SCIENCE BY THE EXAM BOARDS, AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPECTED IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES, AND BIOLOGY MOST NOTABLY. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN BIOLOGY AND A LEVEL 6 IN MATHS AND ENGLISH. THE LATTER IS SUGGESTED AS SOME ANSWERS DO REQUIRE EXTENDED RESPONSES FOR WHICH GOOD USE OF WRITTEN ENGLISH IS ESSENTIAL.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

There are two things that you will learn as part of this course:

Firstly, you will learn to think rationally like a scientist or an empiricist. This means attempting as best we can, to suspend one's emotional and irrational biases, and consider the sound, evidence-based arguments that support or refute a theory. You will learn to weigh up the quality of that evidence and come to reasonable fact-based judgements as a result.

Secondly, the medium through which you will learn to think like a scientist is the study of the human mind and behaviour. This means that you will learn about several theories and explanations that have been proposed about human beings over the past century, including topics such as human memory, parental attachment, conformity, psychopathology, aggression, and gender development.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The A Level course is assessed through three, two-hour papers at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Social Psychology, Attachment, Memory and Psychopathology topics. Each section is 30 minutes and 24 marks. Questions range from 1-mark multiple choice to 16-mark extended answers. 1/3 of A Level mark.

Paper 2: Approaches, Biopsychology and Research Methods. The first two sections are 30 minutes (24 marks) and the latter is 1 hour (48 marks). Questions range from 1-mark multiple choice to 16-mark extended answers. 1/3 of A Level mark.



Paper 3: Issues & Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Aggression. Each section is 30 minutes and worth 24 marks. Questions range from 1-mark multiple choice to 16-mark extended answers. 1/3 of A Level mark.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Anything in life that involves human beings will have links with psychology. Areas as diverse as law, medicine, media, management, sport, academia, education, the social and civil services all involve psychologists and psychological research. Consequently, A Level psychology and by extension, a degree in psychology, has many potential avenues further down the line that typically require a year of two of post-degree training.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Throughout the year, various assemblies, Beacon lectures, and Horizons talks, and guest speakers typically address psychological themes. Similarly, several of the guest speakers for the Biology Department's KYTOS programme cover evolutionary psychology and psychopathology topics. The L6 symposium and EPQ programmes often heavily feature psychological topics and areas, such as depression, high-level sporting performance and animal testing. More serious psychology students are encouraged to join BPS notifications, which relay information about conferences and lectures given by prominent psychologists in and around London.

Religious Studies

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION CODE: H573

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES, OR IF GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES HAS NOT BEEN STUDIED, THEN A GRADE 7 OR HIGHER IN GCSE ENGLISH.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

All learners will study three components; Philosophy of religion (01), Religion and ethics (02) and Developments in Christian thought (03).

In 'Philosophy of religion', learners will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. They will also explore philosophical language and thought, through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in the philosophy of religion.

'Religion and ethics' is characterised by the study of ethical language and thought, with exploration of key concepts and the works of influential thinkers. Ethical theory will also be applied to issues of importance; namely euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

'Developments in Christian thought' provides an opportunity for the systematic study of the Christian tradition. This will include the exploration of religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape Christian identity, as well as sources of wisdom and authority. Also central are the ways in which Christians have developed over time, and responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The exam for each component will be worth 120 marks and represents 33.3% of the total marks for A Level. These exams will take the form of externally assessed written papers lasting 2 hours each and testing both AO1 and AO2. AO1 is the demonstration of knowledge and understanding of religion and belief. AO2 is the analysis and evaluation of aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.

Each paper will contain four essay questions, with the learner choosing three out of the four to answer. Questions can target material from any area of the specification. Two questions might be set from one specification section, or all questions might be from different sections.

In order to guarantee access to the full range of marks for the assessment, all specification content should be covered. Each essay will be worth 40 marks and will test both AO1 and AO2. Responses will be assessed via a level of response mark scheme.



On each paper, beneath the essay questions, are instructions to learners reminding them of the knowledge and skills expected in their responses as per the Assessment Objectives. In these instructions, where reference is made to 'religion and belief' it should be noted that 'belief' does not just mean the beliefs of a particular religion but can encompass views and opinions from a variety of perspectives, religious or not.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

A Level Religious Studies can provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing the ability to appreciate other viewpoints. These skills can be incredibly helpful in a range of university degrees involving critical thinking and discussion e.g. Humanities, English, Psychology, PPE.

Religious Studies or a related subject at degree level can lead to a range of challenging and rewarding jobs, using either direct knowledge gained from the subject or from the skills gained. Possible jobs from a Religious Studies degree include: lecturing, teaching, advice worker, archivist, work within 'third sector' organisations, counselling, community development worker, and police officer or youth worker.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

Students taking RS at A level have the opportunity to attend conferences in London held by world leading philosophers and theologians, engaging in debate with peers from across London and the Southeast.

Students will also have the opportunity to travel to Krakow and visit Auschwitz and associated locations and museums to deepen their understanding of the events of the Holocaust and the religious responses to it.

Students will furthermore have the opportunity to attend talks held in Surrey by the Church of England to encourage theological debate. These have been run by senior members of the Church of England with the most recent event led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Spanish

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: 7692

EXPECTED GCSE REQUIREMENTS:

A GRADE 7 OR ABOVE IN GCSE SPANISH.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills that you gained at GCSE. Studying Spanish in the Sixth Form will foster a range of transferable skills, including critical thinking, communication, as well as research skills and creativity, which are all highly valuable.

TOPICS:

The Spanish course features elements of geography, cinema, sociology, literature, politics, history and culture, giving you a genuine breadth of knowledge through the medium of the target language. In the Lower Sixth, you will learn about issues such as culture, traditions, the media and changes in lifestyle. You will also have the chance to study a film; currently *Pan's Labyrinth*. At A Level, you will study a novel or a play, currently *Como Agua Para Chocolate*, as well as look into issues such as immigration, racism, multiculturalism and politics. All these topics will help you learn about the fascinating countries that make up the Hispanic world.

SKILLS:

Building on your success at GCSE, you will continue to work on speaking, reading, writing and listening along with new skills such as translation and summary writing. We will support you in developing all these skills and you will continue to have conversation classes. These lessons take place on a 1:1 basis and give you the opportunity to practise and to debate the content of your lessons.

Studying a film and literature as part of your course will enable you to develop your analytical essay writing skills, which may support you in other A Levels you have chosen.

Here are some of the ways you will be able to improve your language skills:

- Listening - interviews, conversations, radio broadcasts, videos
- Speaking - dialogues, pronunciation practice, short presentations and regular conversation classes
- Reading - articles, magazines, books, newspapers, Internet sources
- Writing - short articles, letters, reports, projects, poems, descriptions
- Grammar - games, revision and practice in class and using the Internet

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three papers at the end of the A2 course which are worth the following percentage of your qualification:

Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Translation – 50% of the A Level; 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper 2 Writing and Translation – 20% of the A Level; 2 hours

Paper 3 Speaking – 30% of the A level; 21 - 23 minutes

Paper 1 Translation is from Spanish into English and Paper 2 Translation is from English into Spanish. In Paper 3, you will complete an Independent Research Project which you will discuss in the speaking examination. This NEA element allows you to develop your research skills and investigate a topic that is of interest to you about the Hispanic world.

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

Spanish A Level is for anyone who wants to broaden their horizons and learn about Hispanic culture whilst continuing to develop their language beyond GCSE.

Pupils studying Spanish A Level should have a good grounding in grammar and a willingness to speak Spanish. There is also a requirement for pupils to undertake independent research and to keep abreast of news in the Spanish speaking world.

This course is for those looking to complement their studies in a range of fields from medicine and engineering to history, or for those who just want to learn more about Hispanic speaking countries. Having an A Level in a modern foreign language is a highly desired skill by employers.

HIGHER EDUCATION

As Spanish is an excellent subject to complement other fields of study, you will find that an increasing number of university courses will allow you to choose this as a subsidiary topic or as an elective.

WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE?

The British Film Institute organise study days and, where these coincide with the film you are studying, we will arrange a trip to London. These are very useful as the speakers are experts in their field and give you another interpretation of the film.

Local schools organise Speed Debating events at various points in the year and we join with them to enable you to practise your speaking and enhance your knowledge of the topics. These are also a great opportunity to meet other Sixth Formers who are studying Spanish.

The MFL Club is a fabulous opportunity for you to pass on your knowledge to other members of the Tormead community and engage with younger girls.



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