Fulford Sixth Form

Course Guide 2020-21

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Entry Requirements and Programme of Study

Fulford Sixth Form takes students from our own school and elsewhere. Our curriculum and admissions policy is designed to provide choice, to encourage students to follow appropriate pathways and to ensure their success. A wide range of study routes exists and students are encouraged to discuss the route that best suits them with a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

All courses offered have subject specific requirements which are detailed within this guide. These requirements must be met for a student to enrol on the course in question. In addition to meeting these specific course criteria, the minimum general entry requirement for our Sixth Form is at least 5 grade 5s from full course GCSE programmes (or equivalent), including a grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics. Students who do not achieve the minimum general entry requirement will only be admitted on a discretionary basis following an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Any student admitted who has achieved below a grade 5 in English and Maths will be expected to re-take these courses in the Sixth Form as a condition of admission.

The expectation is that students enrol on 3 courses. However, to retain curriculum breadth for students opting for Further Mathematics and, in other exceptional circumstances, a four course offer may be available where appropriate. In addition to our curriculum offer, the Sixth Form programme of study is supplemented by progression advice, wellbeing guidance and enrichment provision which includes EPQ, Core Maths, work experience and many other opportunities.

All courses are offered as two year linear programmes with certification being awarded at the end of Year 13. At the end of Year 12, students will sit internal exams which will shape their future progression routes. We expect students to achieve a pass grade in all of their courses if they wish to successfully progress into Year 13. The pass grade will be linked to student performance throughout the year in addition to the end of year exams.

During the process of timetabling Year 12 options, if the uptake of a course is too low for it to be sustainable, the course or group may have to be withdrawn from the timetable. Students will be informed of such a decision as early as possible so that they can re-select from the available options.

Informed Choices

It is important to consider possible future career routes when choosing Post 16 courses. The courses followed can be crucial in determining what opportunities remain open after leaving the Sixth Form. We recommend looking at the Russell Group of Universities' report on 'Informed Choices' as part of this process, although please remember that not all universities are part of this group and not all students will be applying to universities and the Russell Group. The views of specific employers are also not necessarily reflected in the report www.informedchoices.ac.uk

Clearly, students must take into account their individual strengths and preferences when choosing courses. If students are unsure of what they want to do after leaving the Sixth Form, we recommend that they choose a combination of courses which fit sensibly together and keep a range of career possibilities open. If students have more definite ideas about their future, it is important that they check they are taking the right courses that are needed for their chosen route. For example, any students seeking to study Medicine or Biology-based courses at university will require A Level Chemistry in addition to A Level Biology. We recommend using the UCAS course search tool to research specific entry requirements for all courses at UK universities www.digital.ucas.com/search

All students will be given detailed progression guidance and support throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

APPLIED SCIENCE

"The step between practical and theoretic science, is the step between the miner and the geologist, the apothecary and the chemist." - John Ruskin on Applied Science

If you like a practical and hands-on approach to learning and assessment, and want the opportunity to develop a range of well-regarded specialist skills that will prepare you for the world of work and/or continued scientific study at a higher level, then this could be what you are looking for.

The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including energy, space, low carbon technology, pharmaceuticals, utilities, automotive design, agri-food and bio-sciences. The Applied Science course offers both a window into these industries and scope for working in related fields in the future.

In Year 12, students study a range of scientific principles as well as developing their scientific skills within the laboratory. Students will have lessons covering aspects of biology, chemistry and physics, which are integral to the way the world works. The learning from these lessons will be assessed through three 40 minute external exams. Additionally students will learn by carrying out their own research and investigations in the laboratory. They will write up their findings and these will be internally assessed.

The focus in Year 13 is on improving investigative skills with lots of practical work over five topic areas, the assessment of this takes place through a 3 hour practical session leading onto a 1 and a half hour externally assessed exam. Approximately one third of the Year 13 course is dedicated to the study and production of internally assessed assignments on tasks set within the topic of the physiology of human body systems.

Course Requirements

- A well organised and mature approach to independent study and the ability to meet deadlines
- 2 Science GCSEs at grade 5

Where can it take me?

Students are very well prepared for further study on a variety of courses as this qualification is equivalent to 1 A Level and is recognised in higher education admission requirements. Alternatively students are well prepared for work, not least with one of the many local or national science or engineering employers. Many of these employers provide the opportunity to gain degree apprenticeships whilst working. In 2019 all Applied Science students were successful in achieving Merit to Distinction* grades and this enabled them to follow their chosen study and career paths. At the time of writing this included university courses in Teacher training, Business Management, Engineering, and Sport, and an apprenticeship in signalling with Network Rail to name a few. In the past this has also included helping students secure places on nursing and midwifery courses.

Further Details: **Mrs M Faint**
Mr S Bailey

ART AND DESIGN

This course is a challenging and rewarding opportunity to explore media, materials and creativity. It is a personal course which explores students' skills, ideas and understanding of Art, this could be realist, abstract or conceptual. The course develops a whole range of skills and techniques including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography and collage. The course is excellent if you are considering employment in any creative industry. The exam board we use is Edexcel, the course is 60% coursework (of which 12% is a written personal study) and 40% controlled assessment.

First year Art starts with an induction period which aims to develop student's skills from GCSE, it's an opportunity to try out a whole range of techniques and processes with the freedom to experiment and develop. The course is taught from broad themes and through workshop style lessons allowing students to develop their own style whilst learning new skills. After Christmas students then focus on a carefully selected personal line of enquiry which they develop into their main project which will run into the second year of the course. Students will have a controlled assessment at the end of the first year which is internally assessed, it takes the form of a 10 hour exam done over two days.

Second year Art is a chance to progress and develop their chosen line of enquiry in new and exciting directions, this element of the course aims to develop the student's style further, placing greater emphasis on independence and material exploration. Students write an accompanying personal study which is an opportunity to delve deeper into their chosen genre and field of interest, this stands alongside their practical work and is worth 12% of the overall grade. The personal study paired with the main practical project is worth 60% of the overall A-level.

The other 40% is the externally set assignment which is done from Feb in the second year. Students have 10 weeks to put together a project based on the theme set by the exam board, this ends with the production of a final piece in 15 hours.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in exploring different artistic techniques
- The ability to explain and evaluate your own work and that of other artists
- A willingness to try new things
- An excitement to create
- Independence and self-discipline
- Grade 5 in GCSE Art

Where can it take me?

Creative people are attractive to employers. The ability to think creatively, work independently and communicate thoughts and ideas fluently are all excellent skills to possess. Many dedicated art students progress onto a Foundation course before progressing further to an Art and Design related degree. Fulford has many past students who are now pursuing successful careers in the creative sector, locally, nationally and internationally. To date these include courses in Architecture, interior design, fashion, graphic design, animatronics, animation, theatre, costume, jewellery, car design, book illustration and art history. Former students are also employed as artists and illustrators and are involved in free-lance art and design teaching and research.

Further Details: **Mr T Rigg**

BIOLOGY

This course provides a background in a breadth of biological topics, expanding upon many areas from GCSE, whilst also introducing exciting new topics such as gene technologies. Topics covered include: cell structure, biochemistry, physiology of plants and animals, genetics, ecology, taxonomy, statistics and evolutionary biology. Twelve required practicals must be carried out by all students taking this course, with written exams assessing the practical skills developed during these. The course also provides the opportunity to study a variety of ecosystems on a residential field trip; practical work is at the heart of biology and this compulsory aspect of the course provides first-hand experience of working in the 'field'.

Biology is the ultimate critical thinking subject. You will need to both think about and learn a large body of knowledge. In order to do so you will need to have good organisational skills and show great resilience. Many students say that curiosity is one of the most useful attributes in biology and most students like the way you get to work things out from proper evidence.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in Biology and willingness to recognise the value and responsible use of Biology in society
- A desire to develop an understanding of scientific methods and to use an investigative approach
- A capacity to apply accumulated knowledge, including mathematical skills, to unfamiliar situations and problems
- The ability to question, explain, analyse and evaluate
- A willingness and ability to work in small groups and the confidence to undertake individual work
- Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or GCSE Combined Science
- Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

Where can it take me?

Biology is never far from the headlines and today's scientists need to apply their knowledge in solving technical problems. At the same time they need to be aware of the ethical and social implications of their activities.
This course is used as an indicator of analytical skill and will give you a good basis for many careers in Science and Technology. A-Level Biology is a prerequisite for medicine and veterinary science and the growing world of biotechnology and pharmacology.

Further Details: Ms E Hickson

BUSINESS

The course closely reflects the ever changing and complex environment in which businesses now operate. A major focus centres on the implementation of different functional strategies that enable businesses to be successful in the marketplace whilst also giving students the opportunity to gain a critical perspective of business behaviour through the study of topics such as corporate social responsibility and business ethics and values. Students will gain both important practical business skills used in the world of work as well as theoretical knowledge, using business models, theories and techniques to support the analysis of current business issues. The course is very holistic and covers the inter-related nature of business. Topics such as digital technology, globalisation and the development of new international markets are covered, emphasising the increasing importance of these developments on the business world. Both small and large scale UK focused organisations and global multinationals are studied allowing an appreciation to be gained of the different responses used by companies to gain a competitive advantage in the modern business world.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in business and its role in society
- The ability to discuss and evaluate business concepts and debate contemporary business issues
- The ability to work independently and work with others
- Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English
- Grade 6 in GCSE Business or BTEC Tech in Enterprise Distinction if studied

Where can it take me?

Students completing the Business course have achieved great success and have gone on to study a variety of courses at universities such as Newcastle, Manchester and Leeds. Studying Business helps students to progress onto a diverse range of careers including law, accounting, marketing and human resources.

Further Details: Mr G Maloy

CHEMISTRY

The course expands many of the ideas touched upon at GCSE whilst also developing entirely new areas (such as the design and synthesis of medicinal drugs or techniques for forensic analysis). Topics covered include: atomic structure, bonding and periodicity; foundation physical and inorganic chemistry; an introduction to organic chemistry; further physical and inorganic chemistry; thermodynamics and further inorganic chemistry.

The course is ideal for those who are curious about the underlying principles that govern life and the world about them. It will help develop a more detailed understanding of the principles of the subject and how these apply in numerous related contexts.

Course Requirements

- An ability to follow a logical, reasoned sequence of ideas
- A capacity to apply accumulated knowledge, including mathematical skills, to unfamiliar situations and problems
- An ability to collect and analyse data to form reasoned conclusions
- An ability to apply practical techniques in a safe and confident manner to a wide range of practical tasks
- A willingness and ability to work in small groups and the confidence to undertake individual work
- Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Combined Science
- Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

Where can it take me?

A-Level Chemistry is a requirement for a great variety of courses studied at university and gives the opportunity to gain an A-Level that commands respect in the work place. It is an essential university requirement for all Medicine degrees and many Biology related subjects. It also facilitates entry to careers in engineering, environmental science, forensics, pharmacy and biotechnology.

Further Details: Mr S Bailey

COMPUTER SCIENCE

"Learning to write programs stretches your mind, and helps you think better, creating a way of thinking about things that is helpful in all domains." - ***Bill Gates****, Microsoft*

Computer Science A-level can lead to a wide variety of degree courses. The shortage of men and women qualified to analyse and solve computational problems paired with the ever-increasing reliance of every aspect of modern society on digital technology means that Computer Science opens up a plethora of opportunities for anyone willing to invest the effort to master the art of computational thinking and programming.

Computer Science is assessed with a 2hr 30min written paper on Computer Systems (40%), a 2hr 30min written paper on Algorithms and Programming (40%) and a Programming Project (20%). The course allows you to gain a detailed understanding of computer hardware, software design & development, data structures and algorithms as well as the legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues related to contemporary developments in technology.
You will be stretched to master the art of computational thinking by writing programs that implement algorithms to solve practical problems.

Course Requirements

- An interest in using your initiative to solve problems with logic and creativity
- An interest in designing, creating and testing your own software
- Independence and self-discipline
- A Grade 6 average across GCSE Computer Science and Maths
- Where Computer Science has not been studied previously a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths is required

Where can it take me?

Computer Science facilitates further study or employment in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Bio-Engineering, Medicine, Robotics, Telecoms, Entertainment, Security and Finance. The demand for competent and confident computer scientists is set to increase as all fields of research and employment increasingly rely on the processing of ever-growing volumes of data. There are employment opportunities locally, nationally and internationally for computer scientists directly after A levels but earning potential is usually greater for those who choose to further their studies with a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths or Computer Science.

Further Details: Mr P Dring

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PRODUCT DESIGN

This course is for students who have a genuine interest in designing and making products, giving you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in the creative industries.
Students are encouraged to investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economical influences on design, whilst enjoying opportunities to design and produce unique products.
Students will extend their knowledge and the practical application of a wide range of materials, components and relevant manufacturing processes.
The coursework project will test investigation, design and make, analysis and evaluative skills and resilience in creating innovative project proposals.

Assessment

Paper 1'Technical principles' 2hr 30mins (25%)
Paper 2 'Designing and making principles' 1hr 30min (25%)
Non-exam assessment (NEA) project to demonstrate practical application of technical knowledge and designing & making principles (50%)

Course Requirements

- An interest in design, and the world around us
- Enjoyment of the practical aspects of the subject and a desire to build on skills that you already have whether that be in modelling materials, or wood, metal, and plastics.
- An ability to communicate ideas through sketching, and using ICT.
- Grade 5 in a Design Technology subject at GCSE

Where can it take me?

There are obvious links with many different areas within the world of design, as well as business related work and courses, but also because of the focus on materials and manufacturing, there are benefits for those interested in engineering, architecture, manufacturing, advertising and marketing.

Further Details: **Mr D Allen**

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY FASHION AND TEXTILES

This is an exciting course which will appeal to those that have a serious interest in fashion and textiles. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer. Coursework involves an in depth project, working to a design brief set by the students. The course is underpinned by creative, thought provoking practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Students investigate designers and the history of fashion, industrial manufacturing issues, fabric manipulation, construction techniques and the development of design work through drawing and CAD (including fashion illustration). Students investigate smart and modern materials, the properties of fabrics and current trends in the textiles market.

Research is carried out through a London visit to the V&A and a variety of media including product analysis, site visits, guest speakers, data collection, specialist magazines, books and digital photography.

The split between coursework and exams is 50%.

Course Requirements

- A passion for fashion and textiles
- An interest in developing new and existing skills
- A readiness to engage in wider reading and background study
- The ability to analyse, question and problem solve.
- A commitment to putting in the time required to produce good quality work
- An open approach to advice and ability to respond to feedback
- Grade 5 in a Design Technology subject at GCSE

Where can it take me?

This is an ideal subject to study alongside Business Studies, Art or Science. Courses available at degree level include Fashion, Fashion Promotion, Fashion with Business, Performance Sportswear design, Millinery, Knitwear, Embroidery, Woven Textiles and Printed Textiles. Career opportunities include work in design studios producing knitwear, woven or printed textile design, buying and merchandising for large companies and department stores, interior styling and working freelance. Careers in this field often lead to work or business abroad.

Further Details: **Mrs R Butler**
Mrs R Donaldson

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

This course includes devised and scripted performance, the study of set plays and theatre practitioners, such as Brecht or Berkoff, and the analysis and review of productions. We also study the work of theatre companies such as Kneehigh and DV8. The course is a stimulating mix of practical and academic study. Students will study a number of plays, from an actor, director and designer's point of view, testing their ideas in practice and through group work as well as working on written analysis. They will study the work of important twentieth century practitioners, exploring their work through practical sessions and individual study. Theatre visits are an important part of the course and the productions students see will be analysed, discussed and inform their own work. During the course students will develop their skills in working with others in situations that require negotiation and self-awareness. They will develop their ability to evaluate their own work objectively and important skills to do with managing time and working creatively within a team.

- 60% is assessed through non-exam assessment (performance, reflective log and working notebook)
- 40% is assessed through a written exam

Course Requirements

- A love of theatre
- The desire to explore, analyse and evaluate drama texts and performances
- A willingness to work with others and independently, in a creative, challenging way
- The desire to develop performance skills
- Grade 5 in GCSE Drama and English
- If Drama has not been studied at GCSE you must have previous involvement in drama productions (either through school or other organisations)

Where can it take me?

Drama and Theatre Studies students go on to a variety of Higher Education courses, including, but not limited to: Drama, Education, Science, Social Studies, and a variety of courses within the arts. Others choose to train for professional careers in acting, directing and other types of performance.

The skills gained through the study of Drama and Theatre Studies are wide-ranging and relevant to many careers. Future careers aided by the study of the subject include acting, directing, lighting, sound and stage management, teaching, arts administration, politics, drama therapy, social work, psychoanalysis, law, and journalism to name a few.

Further Details: **Mrs C Windrum**

ECONOMICS

The Economics course is designed to inspire student interest in making links to modern life and the world around us. It is very topical in nature and allows for a greater understanding of an individual's role in society and how real life issues and problems can be solved. Students will be encouraged to think as economists so they are able to achieve a greater understanding of what they see in the news and the world around them. They will also be expected to foster an appreciation of economic concepts and develop a critical consideration of their value and limitations in explaining real world phenomena. The course is split into two main areas:-

- Microeconomics – how markets function to allocate scarce resources through demand and supply and what happens when markets fail. Government policies to solve imperfections in the market system will also be assessed. For example, should the UK government intervene in housing where a significant proportion of individuals, especially the younger generation, have been priced out of the market? If so, what should they do to ensure the market is working more effectively and what would be the side effects of policies such as rental caps and limitations on house ownership on the market?
- Macroeconomics – investigates both UK and overseas economies and how governments attempt to effectively 'macro' manage. Recent topics such as the global financial crisis and the withdrawal of the UK from the EU will be investigated. Other topics covered include the effects of globalisation and trade on economies, particularly in the developing world.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in Economics
- An enquiring, critical and thoughtful outlook
- An ability to work independently and with others
- Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
- Grade 5 in GCSE English

Where can it take me?

Students go on to study Economics and related disciplines such as Accounting, Management and Marketing at university. It can lead to careers in economics, business, marketing, finance and accounting, human resources and public relations.

Further Details: **Mr G Maloy**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The course combines both critical analysis of a wide range of engaging texts and an element of creative writing. Students are encouraged to analyse language and to debate the issues surrounding it. Students will study aspects of language as diverse as phonetics, graphology, language change, varieties of English and child language acquisition. Students will study a wide range of texts, from the earliest written texts to the most modern multimodal and interactive texts, in order to develop a sense of how language can change over time.

Students taking English Language will develop their skills of analysis, using key linguistic terminology to build a critical understanding of language and how it is used. Students will develop an awareness of context and how this helps to shape meaning, exploring connections across texts. In addition, students will develop creativity in their use of language, enhancing their writing skills.

The course is assessed mainly through examinations but there is also a coursework element worth 20% of the final award.

Course Requirements

- An interest in language usage and the way language works
- The ability to analyse, discuss and question
- A willingness to work with others and contribute in seminar discussions
- A readiness to engage in wider reading and background study
- An interest in completing independent research
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

Where can it take me?

The course forms a basis for further specialist study at degree level. It is good preparation for anyone interested in journalism, law and the media. It provides valuable skills of analysis and expression that are valued in higher education and the work place, including law, journalism and the media.

Further Details: **Mrs R Baroni**

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The aim of this course is to develop students' reading and writing skills by studying a wide range of literary texts, incorporating prose, poetry and drama.

Our approach places a strong focus upon genre. Specifically, we study the genres of Tragedy and Political and Social protest writing, exploring how aspects of this genre are evident in a variety of texts. Throughout the course, students study a range of key texts in the canon of English literature, including 'Othello' by William Shakespeare, 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller, 'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen, 'Harvest' by Jim Crace and a range of poetry by John Keats and William Blake.

In terms of skills, we encourage students to develop the coherence and accuracy of their written expression, to analyse meaning in literary texts and to explore connections between texts. Furthermore, students will develop their understanding of the significance of context on a text and consider different interpretations, in particular, in considering critical responses.

The course is assessed through three components: two equally-weighted examinations, and a coursework task worth 20% which allows students the independence to devise their own question and to select their own texts.

Course Requirements

- A love of literature and an enjoyment of reading widely
- The ability to analyse, discuss and question
- A willingness to work with others and contribute in seminar discussions
- A readiness to engage in wider reading and background study
- An interest in completing independent research
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

Where can it take me?

The syllabus is designed to encourage wide reading and advanced research within the whole field of literary studies. It builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding students will have acquired in English and English Literature at GCSE. It offers a programme of study that will be rewarding and enjoyable in its own right, and forms a basis for further specialist study at degree level. As a degree it is an excellent basis for studying law, journalism and the media.

Further Details: **Mrs R Baroni**

FORENSIC AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

This exciting offering is equivalent in size to two A levels. It is intended for students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment.

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial cross-sector scientific knowledge and practical scientific skills, as well as forensic evidence collection and analysis skills, an appreciation of the application of psychology in forensic profiling and an understanding of the criminal justice system.

The course complements A Levels, such as sociology, psychology or chemistry or other applied courses such as sport. The course is assessed by both external exams and internally assessed assignments.

The forensic and criminology sector is diverse and wide-ranging including forensic science, forensic and criminal psychology and forensic criminology. There is a wide range of occupations for graduate entry including forensic laboratories, the police force and the probation service.

There are six mandatory units, covering the following areas: principles and applications of science. practical scientific procedures and techniques, science investigation skills, forensic investigation procedures in practice, applications of criminology, criminal investigation procedures in practice.

There are two optional units: physiology of human body systems and forensic fire investigation

Course Requirements

- A well organised and mature approach to independent study and the ability to meet deadlines
- 2 Science GCSEs at Grade 5

Where can it take me?

This qualification, taken alongside another, will lead to a wide range of higher education courses, higher apprenticeships and employment. For example:

● Forensic science degree courses if taken alongside Chemistry

● Psychology degree courses if taken alongside Psychology

● Criminology degree courses if taken alongside Sociology

Further Details: **Mrs M Faint**
Mrs G Zeki

FRENCH

It is our aim to help students to converse in French and to understand written and spoken French from a wide range of sources and media e.g. the internet, podcasts, newspapers and magazine articles, television and radio. We want to foster first hand contact with the people and culture of French speaking countries and thus organise visits to plays, films and lectures. As it is imperative for those wishing to study a language to have some contact with the target language country, clearly an exchange or visit to France is of great benefit and highly recommended.

The course has been designed to give students a profound understanding of French. Not only will they develop their grammar and vocabulary but also their understanding of how people live and use language on a day-to-day basis, with a focus on how French society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. Key topics are social issues and trends, aspects of French-speaking society, artistic culture and aspects of political life in the French-speaking world. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to study literary texts and films in the target language in order to broaden their cultural knowledge and understanding.

The course is assessed by examinations in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Course Requirements

- An openness to and interest in other countries
- A desire to find out about the world around us and current affairs
- The ability to work both in a group and independently
- An interest in the structure of languages
- The readiness to participate in class discussion in French, regardless of language limitations
- Grade 6 in GCSE French

Where can it take me?

French A Level is not just for those students thinking of studying French at university. In an increasingly global economy, being able to communicate in a foreign language is a highly valued skill. French is integral to or works well with a wide number of university courses and subsequent careers including international business, computing, medicine, travel and tourism, law, banking, accountancy, journalism, linguistics and education. In any career where there is a need to communicate, the skills developed will be of use. Furthermore A Level French can lead to spending part of a non-language based degree at a university in France or a French speaking country.

Further Details: **Mr A Kennedy**

GEOGRAPHY

This exciting course covers contemporary geographical events which students will be able to relate to the everyday world. The subject is delivered through engaging lessons covering human and physical aspects of Geography.

In the first year of teaching, students will study the Physical Geography topic of Water and Carbon to investigate how these fascinating natural systems operate. The Human Geography topics are Contemporary Urban Environments and Changing Places, where they will discover the intriguing impacts of social, economic and environmental changes in urban areas in different parts of the world. The course is likely to involve a residential fieldtrip to the Cranedale Centre to gain first-hand experience of geographical concepts.

In the second year of teaching, the Physical Geography course will enable students to explore the dynamic processes that happen at the coast. They will also investigate the hazards of earthquakes, volcanoes and storms. In the Human Geography part of the course students will investigate the incredible impacts of globalisation and how the fragile environment of Antarctica is being managed.

Students are expected to complete a coursework project, worth 20% of the overall grade. This will be based on an independent fieldwork project that they have carried out. In addition to the residential trip, there should also be opportunity for further fieldwork. For some this will include a five day fieldtrip to Iceland.

Course Requirements

- An interest in physical and human Geography
- A desire to find out more about the world in which we live
- A willingness to research from a variety of sources to supplement the course notes
- The ability to observe, analyse, explain, and evaluate
- The skills needed to present and process data in order to recognise trends
- Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

Where can it take me?

Geography facilitates a wide variety of career opportunities as it has such a varied content and skills base. Geography can lead students to specialist careers in areas such as hydrology, meteorology or planning. Other key areas of employment include leisure and tourism, environmental management, IT, finance, transport and education.

Further Details: Mr P Hickling

HISTORY

This qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The engaging topics, summarised below, will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-level historians.

The Tudors: England, 1485–1603

All periods of history embrace both continuity and change. Tudor England was no exception to this rule. Three changes above all would have surprised any English man or woman alive in 1485; firstly, the disappearance of the Catholic Church; secondly, England became a major player on the World stage and thirdly, England became a much more stable and orderly society. In addition to these major changes, the monarchy, which had changed hands by force on no fewer than five occasions during the fifteenth century, recovered its power under the Tudors.

Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953

This unit explores the changes and continuity brought about by the Russian Revolution of 1917. We will study the causes of the Revolution in 1917 and how the Bolsheviks established power under Lenin and Stalin. In this period, Russia changed politically from the Tsarist to the Communist system. There are obvious differences but also some similarities in style. Economically Russia suffered great hardship in both World Wars, famine and a drive to catch up with the West. These political and social changes had a huge impact on the people of Russia.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in the study of the past
- The ability to question, explain, analyse and evaluate
- A desire to investigate by reading and researching a variety of sources
- A willingness to work with others and independently
- An ability to communicate ideas and take part in seminar discussions
- Grade 6 in GCSE History

Where can it take me?

History facilitates a wide variety of career opportunities. It is excellent preparation for anyone interested in law, journalism, social studies and politics as well as the further study of History. It provides valuable skills of expression and analysis that are valued in Higher Education and the workplace. History graduates have gone on to work in a variety of fields including, archaeology, museum/gallery curating, museum exhibition design, history teaching, archive work, tourism, costume design, library work, model-making, auctioneering, stonemasonry, law, antique dealing, architecture, heritage work, conservation, historical research, genealogy, anthropology, politics, journalism, management consultancy and market research.

Further Details: Miss T Bowen

MATHEMATICS

The first year comprises a mixed curriculum of Pure and Applied units. These same Pure and Applied units are then built upon and extended in the second year. In both years, the Applied units cover elements of both Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Mathematics – If students enjoyed the challenge of problem-solving at GCSE then this course will appeal to them. It will extend students' knowledge of such topics such as algebra and trigonometry as well as introducing them to the exciting new field of calculus.

Statistics – Students will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at informed conclusions. Students will extend their understanding of probability and be introduced to distribution functions. Many of the ideas students meet in the Statistics course have applications in subjects such as psychology, geography, biology and more.

Mechanics – Students will learn how to describe mathematically the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them. They will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods. The ideas covered in the Mechanics elements of the course have applications in physics.

Course Requirements

- Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

Where can it take me?

A Level Mathematics is a valuable qualification for both employers and universities. It facilitates a wide range of career opportunities in mathematics, science, technology, engineering and beyond.

Further Details: Mr M Holland

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Further Mathematics is viewed by many universities as an important, if not essential qualification for a wide range of mathematical, scientific and engineering courses. In addition to this, students who have studied Further Mathematics will find the transition to degree level courses in these fields much easier than those who have not.

Students wishing to take Further Mathematics will experience a far wider range of mathematical ideas than those studying for a single Mathematics qualification. Students are challenged to form a deeper understanding of the fundamental concepts of the subject.

In the first year students will study Core Pure maths and one additional Pure unit, which consists of topics not studied in Mathematics A Level. In addition to this, students will study:

- Decision Mathematics, an exciting introduction to algorithms and graph theory
- Numerical Methods, which help us find solutions to problems when algebra cannot

In the second year students will continue their Core Pure unit and also study two additional Pure units. The first of these gives a preview of university mathematics and the second focuses on how we can use technology to aid understanding and conjecture about problems within number theory.

Course Requirements

- Grade 7 in GCSE Maths

Where can it take me?

Further Mathematics is valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at A Level and degree level. The skills acquired in Further Mathematics are widely used in areas as diverse as the animation of video games, the logistics and trends in retail and the algorithms behind search engines such as Google.

www.mathscareers.org.uk provides further information about the implications and possibilities for students who are thinking about studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level.

Further Details: Mr M Holland

MEDIA STUDIES

The media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. On this course, students will be offered the opportunity to develop a thorough and in depth understanding of these key issues, using a comprehensive theoretical framework and a variety of advanced theoretical approaches and theories to support critical exploration and reflection, analysis and debate.

The course we offer encompasses the study of various forms of media including print and audio-visual advertising, film, music video, newspapers, radio and video games. Students will be required to both analyse and to produce media texts. They will develop their knowledge of media language, representation, media industries and media contexts. Furthermore, they will independently produce a practical piece, enabling them to develop individual areas of interest within media.

Students taking Media Studies will develop their skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis. They will also develop practical skills through creative media production.

The course is assessed through three components: two examinations and a production unit worth 30% of the final award.

Course Requirements

- An interest in media
- The ability to analyse, discuss and question
- A willingness to work with others and contribute in seminar discussions
- A readiness to engage in wider reading and background study
- An interest in completing independent creative work
- Grade 5 in English Language and Literature

Where can it take me?

The course forms excellent preparation for further specialist study at degree level, for students who wish to pursue the theoretical or creative study of media of film. Further careers in Media Studies can include: journalism, production, graphic design, web design, media and copyright law, editor, broadcaster, film technician. More broadly, it provides valuable skills of analysis and expression that are valued in higher education and the work place.

Further Details: **Mrs R Baroni**

PHOTOGRAPHY

This course equips students with the skills to record striking imagery digitally using the latest editing software and photographic equipment. Students will explore different styles and genres of photography and investigate modern and contemporary photographers. There is a strong practical element to the course, where students are encouraged to explore their own ideas within a structured framework. Students will be taught how to use Adobe Photoshop, Digital SLR cameras and our digital studio equipment. The course allows students to become technically sound using photography equipment but also enables them to interpret themes with a more conceptual and abstract take on recording imagery.

Year Photography starts with an induction phase which aims to develop a range of skills including; long exposure, studio use, light and shadow, portraiture, macro, night photography, landscape and theme interpretation. After Christmas students then focus on a personal line of enquiry which they develop into a major project, this will run into the second year of the course. Students will have a 10hr controlled assessment at the end of the first year which is internally assessed.

Year Photography places greater emphasis on independence and personal investigations. It's a chance to develop an area of interest into a major project. Students write an accompanying personal study which is an opportunity to delve deeper into their chosen genre and field of interest. Together these elements contribute to 60% of the overall A-level. The major project concludes with the construction of a final piece which will be exhibited in our end of year show.

The other 40% is the externally set assignment. Students have 10 weeks to put together a project based on the theme set by the exam board, this ends with the production of a final piece in 15 hours.

Course Requirements

- An interest in using digital cameras and editing software
- A camera
- Commitment to take photographs in a multitude of locations as homework.
- A willingness to be self-motivated and work independently whilst also cooperating with others
- Grade 5 in an Art & Design or a Design Technology
- Where Art and Design or Design Technology haven't been studied, entry will be based upon portfolio evidence

Where can it take me?

Photography is good preparation for a career in the creative industry. In an increasingly digital world, being able to operate modern technology effectively and use digital equipment is favourable in most employment opportunities. Photography is recognised as an important tool in the creative industry and is widely used throughout the world. Most universities require students to have completed a Foundation course before embarking on a degree in any aspect of art & design, a good photography portfolio would be a successful way in to this route. The course would also aid students considering applying directly for engineering, manufacturing, advertising, architecture or marketing.

Further Details: **Mr T Rigg**

PHYSICS

The course provides a broad background in many areas of Physics and includes recent developments and the applications of Physics in different areas. Students will be able to study how the structure of the atomic nucleus is built from particles called Quarks, as well as studying the discovery and behaviour of Quasars, the most energetic and distant objects yet seen in the Universe.

During Year 12, topics covered include modern particle theory and quantum phenomena as well as more traditional mechanics, current electricity and wave behaviour. In Year 13 students study more mechanics as well as field properties, nuclear energy, radioactivity and thermal physics. There is also an option to pick from areas including astrophysics, medical physics, applied physics and relativity.

Course Requirements

- An interest in Physics and its applications
- The desire to develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment
- An interest in how Physics has developed and how it is used in present day society
- The ability to analyse problems and explain solutions
- The ability to recognise the quantitative nature of Physics
- Grade 6 in Physics or GCSE Science and Additional Science
- Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

Where can it take me?

Physics is a highly regarded and sought after subject because it demonstrates that you are good at problem-solving, you are numerate and articulate and you are able to present arguments logically and precisely. The subject will open lots of doors for you. Students from previous years have gone on to study and follow careers in Physics, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law, Physiotherapy, Accountancy, Business, Electronics, Pharmacy and many other areas.

Further Details: Mrs K Stabler

POLITICS

The course studies the British and American political systems and develops a knowledge and understanding of the political issues and the workings of government in both countries. It involves the study of power and the operation of democracy within the context of the UK and the US. We will also look at significant Ideologies that have influenced the modern world.

There is a broad study of UK Government and Politics. The content includes the workings of parliament, the roles and beliefs of political parties and an analysis of Prime Ministerial power. The role of the judiciary in defending civil liberties is studied and the role of pressure groups in influencing government decisions is evaluated. The American study includes Congress, the US parties and electoral system, as well as an analysis of the power and role of the Supreme Court and the Presidency. Students will also be required to compare the political systems of the UK and the USA with one another.

The ideologies unit covers three core political ideologies that have dominated the modern world, Liberalism, Socialism and Conservatism.

The course has an emphasis on contemporary politics and current areas of constitutional concern and offers the opportunity to engage in contemporary political debates.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in current political affairs
- The ability to question, explain, analyse and evaluate
- A desire to read and research using a variety of sources
- A willingness to debate and discuss
- The ability to work independently and with others
- Grade 5 in GCSE English and a Humanity

Where can it take me?

A Level Government and Politics is accepted by all universities and colleges in the UK and is highly regarded by employers. It offers opportunities in law, journalism, management, business and teaching as well as in politics itself.

Further Details: Miss T Bowen

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is the scientific study of thought processes and human behaviour. If you have ever wondered '*why do some people…..?*' then Psychology is for you! Psychologists study behaviour as a way of explaining why people act in a particular way and in order to predict how we might behave in certain situations. Studying Psychology allows you to reflect on your own experiences in life and will change the way you think about things forever.

The course provides students with an introduction to Psychology in the first year. Students cover key Psychological topics such as Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology as well as different approaches in Psychology and research methods. During the second year students further develop their understanding of human behaviour by covering topics such as Forensic Psychology, Biopsychology, Cognition & development and Schizophrenia. You will also become familiar with key Issues and debates within Psychology, such as 'nature vs nurture' and 'determinism vs free-will.' All topics are assessed by three written examinations.

Students can attend lectures at the University of York along with other events to further their understanding of the subject.

Course Requirements

- The ability to learn challenging concepts and theories
- Being able to analyse theories and research in a scientific manner
- The capacity to realise that working independently, and with others, is part of the psychological experience
- Personal self-confidence when speaking aloud and expressing thoughts, beliefs, and questions
- Grade 5 in GCSE Maths, English and Combined Science or Biology

Where can it take me?

Students who study Psychology go on to pursue careers in Psychological research, teaching, education, social work, forensics and criminology, in clinical and counselling areas, hospitals, marketing, design and manufacturing and many other fields. In fact, employers value any training in human behaviour and the transferable skills Psychology A-level provides. Many students progress directly onto pure Psychology degrees or specialise in a particular area. Others access a wide range of broader university degrees due to the facilitating nature of the course. Psychology is counted as a Science A-Level for some courses.

Further Information: Mrs G Zeki

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We ask questions that tend to beyond the realms of science. Why is there anything at all? What makes human actions right & wrong? Does God exist? Do we need God to exist? Is society better with belief in a supernatural being? What is knowledge and how do we gain knowledge? What is truth?

Science seems restricted to telling us how things are, whereas Religious Studies is interested in discussions about why things are the way they are. Not so long ago most western societies considered it morally acceptable to own slaves, perform public executions and to restrict women from voting. The role of philosophy and religion is to establish whether these moral convictions and spiritual beliefs are eternal or relative, meaningful or necessary or if they hold any value at all.

The course is split into three components, the first focusing on the study of one religion, the second and third are concerned with the study of philosophy of religion and religious ethics. Students will examine the social and historical developments in theology. They will develop their understanding of philosophy of religion by exploring religious language and its development over time.

Students will also explore the development of ethical language in the modern era, including the study of key concepts such as free will, determinism, conscience and authority. Student will also have the opportunity in each component to compare ideas presented in the works of at least two key scholars.

Course Requirements

- An enquiring mind, willingness to challenge, question, analyse and evaluate issues
- The ability to communicate logically and rationally
- Grade 5 in GCSE English and a Humanity

Where can it take me?

Religious Studies is highly regarded by universities and employers. Its development of key skills (such as clear thinking, problem solving & critical analysis, negotiating & mediating and independent thinking) provides a good foundation for further study or careers in medicine, nursing, social work, teaching, law, journalism and politics.

Further Details: Mr S Nesbitt

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of society, its institutions and systems that work together to ensure the smooth running of our world. Sociology also considers how individuals can be linked by common characteristics like class, gender and ethnicity, and how their experiences and life chances may be influenced by these characteristics

During the course you will investigate a number of specific areas - these will include the role of 'Education' and 'Family life', 'Beliefs in Society', Crime and Deviance' and 'Theory and Methods'.

Students will look at key Sociological theories concerning the Family and Education and also compare and contrast different experiences people have. Each topic is underpinned with various theoretical perspectives and research methods used by Sociologists. You will be provided with opportunities to carry out your own research too. In year two students develop a broader and more in depth understanding of Sociological theories and concepts. Students cover 'Beliefs in Society' and 'Crime and Deviance' as core topics. Three external assessments will be sat at the end of year 13.

Students also have the opportunity to attend lectures at York University and are annually involved in the Youth Crime and deviance conference for the North of England.

Course Requirements

- A genuine interest in keeping up to date with contemporary issues and a willingness to read and research using a variety of resources
- The ability to question, explain, analyse and evaluate ideas/theories
- A willingness to discuss issues in small group situations
- The ability to communicate ideas logically and effectively
- An "open mind" to the views of others
- An ability to analyse and summarise information
- Grade 5 in GCSE English and a Humanity

Where can it take me?

Sociology is an exciting and important discipline that offers people, through evidence-based decisions, the chance to make, and live in a better society. Many past students have gone on to university to further their knowledge in Sociology or to pursue careers involved with people such as law; social policy; social work/administration; media; journalism; teaching, the police force, research and nursing.

Further Details: Mrs G Zeki

SPANISH

It is our aim to help students to converse in Spanish and to understand written and spoken Spanish from a wide range of sources and media e.g. the internet, podcasts, newspapers and magazine articles, Television and radio. We want to foster first hand contact with the people and culture of Spanish speaking countries and thus organise visits to plays, films and lectures. As it is imperative for those wishing to study a language to have some contact with the target language country, clearly an exchange or visit to Spain is of great benefit and highly recommended.

The course has been designed to give students a profound understanding of Spanish. Not only will they develop their grammar and vocabulary but also their understanding of how people live and use language on a day-to-day basis, with a focus on how Spanish society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. Key topics are social issues and trends, aspects of Spanish-speaking society, artistic culture and aspects of political life in the Spanish-speaking world. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to study literary texts and films in the target language in order to broaden their cultural knowledge and understanding.

The course is assessed by examinations in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Course Requirements

- An openness to and interest in other countries
- A desire to find out about the world around us and current affairs
- The ability to work both in a group and independently
- An interest in the structure of languages
- The readiness to participate in class discussion in Spanish, regardless of language limitations
- Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

Where can it take me?

Over 500 million people speak Spanish today, making it the 3rd most widely spoken language in the world behind Mandarin Chinese and English. Indeed, 25 different nations speak Spanish either as the official language or as a primary language. Clearly, an understanding of Spanish serves as a beneficial life skill which is highly valued by business and industry around the world. The further study of Spanish is integral to or works well with a wide number of university courses and subsequent careers including international business, computing, medicine, travel and tourism, law, banking, accountancy, journalism, linguistics and education. Equally, a qualification in Spanish is highly regarded in the academic world and, at a time when there is an acute shortage of linguists, enhances your employment prospects.

Further Details: Mr A Kennedy

SPORT

This is the perfect course for students considering a career in the sports industry. The units covered offer a huge insight into the many different professions and vocations in the sports industry today and will provide a foundation of knowledge to progress into a range of university courses and career pathways.

This is a two year course where students develop skills and knowledge in fields such as Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training, Professional Development, Health and Lifestyle as well as Practical sport. Assignments are presented in a context that is relevant to the real world of working sport and students also work on units dealing with issues such as the use of ICT and communication.

Students are assessed in the different units through a combination of coursework assignments, exams and an assessed task which will be externally moderated. Coursework assignments are internally marked by teachers and then moderated by an external verifier.

Course Requirements

- A genuine passion for sport
- An ability to work independently and with others
- An ability to think about sport in a vocational context
- Grade 5 in GCSE PE (if studied)
- 2 Science GCSEs at grade 5

Where can it take me?

Sport in the UK is a rapidly growing industry which offers a multitude of employment opportunities and career pathways. Sport science is a massive sector with local communities also recognising the importance of sport provision. Students can go on to university in order to study a range of courses such as teaching, sports psychology, physiotherapy, sports business and advertising. The vocational aspect of the course is seen as a real advantage in the world of work as students develop a range of transferable skills that are valued by employers such as confidence, leadership and teamwork. The development of these skills is what makes studying this course particularly valuable for increasing career prospects.

Further Details: **Mr W Wardell**

PROGRESSION ADVICE

Fulford School has an excellent record of success in securing exciting and appropriate progression routes for all students. We achieve this success by operating a well-researched and personalised progression support programme that operates throughout Year 12 and 13. The destinations of our 2020 students are given on the final page of this guide.

Our support programme includes:

- Sixth form tutorials and individual discussions
- Presentations from university admissions teams
- Workshops on apprenticeships and local employment opportunities
- Opportunities to enrol on the 'Career Ready' programme
- Specialised programmes for applicants to competitive courses, e.g. Oxbridge, medics and vets
- Strong links with local universities, e.g. The University of York, York St John University, Northumbria University and The Hull York Medical School
- Visits to higher education conferences
- Presentations on Degree Apprenticeships, studying abroad, gap year opportunities and student finance
- Learner extension programmes such as Villiers Park, Headstart, university summer schools

Careers & Higher Education Day

In the summer term all Year 12 students will participate in a Careers & Higher Education day where advice is given about applying for Higher Education, employment and apprenticeships. This is followed by a Careers & Higher Education Evening which provides information to parents from university admissions tutors, apprenticeship providers and local employers.

WORK EXPERIENCE

During the summer term of Year 12, students undertake one week work experience placement. Advice and guidance is provided and students are expected to be proactive in securing an appropriate placement.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is provided from the Government so that schools can support eligible students financially. It exists so that students can continue in education where they may otherwise be prohibited on financial grounds. It is used as an 'enabler' not an 'incentive'

It can be used as a contribution towards essential course costs including:

- Books
- Equipment
- Exam resits
- Travel to school
- Field Trips
- Visits to University Open Days

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment is an important part of life in the sixth form and there are many activities to choose from. There are many reasons why students should make the most of what's on offer in our Enrichment Programme; it might be that they are looking for activities to enhance a UCAS or apprenticeship application, they want to give something back to the community through a volunteering activity, or they are simply after a break from academic studies.

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

Below gives you a taster of what you may be able to take part in:

- Amnesty International
- Core Maths (Level 3)
- Debating
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold
- Extended Project Qualification (Level 3)
- First Aid
- Languages for all
- Law workshops
- Literacy and Numeracy Leaders
- Paired reading
- Recreational Sport
- School Music Groups
- School Teams
- Self Defence
- Student Led Clubs
- Student Support
- School Council
- Support for Medics/Oxbridge
- Volunteering
- Young Enterprise

ACCREDITATION OPPORTUNITIES

The enrichment scheme is part of the HEART award, recognised by Higher York, NYBEP and Nestlé. This shows the worth that future employers and universities see in such activities. They are the best way of showing the rounded character that you possess and making you an interesting individual that stands out in an application process. All activities are rewarded by the HEART award and some, such as Duke of Edinburgh, receive separate national accreditations too.

Further Information:

Mrs Kasia Davies, Director of Sixth Form
Mr Matthew Gray, Head of Year
Mrs Kate Jenner, Head of Year
Miss Faye Garland, Challenge and Enrichment Leader
Mrs Amanda Stuart, Learning and Wellbeing Worker
Mrs Sharron Thompson, Sixth Form Administrator

SUMMARY OF YEAR 13 DESTINATIONS 2020

Destination	Percentage
Higher Education	80%
Russell Group Universities	52%
Oxbridge	2%
Art Foundation	2%
Apprenticeships	3%
Gap Year	15%

RESULTS SUMMARY

	2018	2019	2020
Total number of students	256	252	285
A*	14.1%	20.8%	17.6%
A*-A	38.3%	48.3%	47.1%
A*-B	68.6%	74.9%	76.1%
A*-E	99.8%	100%	100%
APS per subject	37.71	41.53	42.93
A level			
Progress students have made compared with students across England	+0.29	+0.36	+0.47[1]
Average grade	C+	B=	B=
Applied General entries			
Progress students have made compared with students across England	+0.10	+0.46	+1.07
Average vocational grade	Distinction	Distinction	Distinction*

[1] This means that in 2020, students at Fulford School Sixth Form achieved, on average, approximately half a grade higher in each A Level than students with the same Key Stage 4 starting points nationally. This is calculated using the 2019 co-efficients.