Weald of Kent A Level Curriculum:
Sixth Form Courses for September 2022

Contents

Choosing your Sixth Form Course

In the Sixth Form, your choice of subjects should continue to develop your strengths and support your future career aspirations without sacrificing the breadth of study required by universities and employers. We ask all students to **choose three A Level subjects** for study in Year 12. Students will also study for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). If you are hoping to study at university in the future, it is recommended that you look at the Informed Choices website run by the Russell Group of Universities on the link: https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/. This will give you up-to-date advice on subject choices, combinations of subjects and entrance requirements for degree level courses at prestigious universities.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

We offer the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) in Years 12 and 13. This is a stand-alone qualification for all students. It is a cross-curricular dissertation-style project that will add breadth to your A Level subjects and give you access to the higher-level skills that both universities and employers are seeking. It is tailored to fit with the rest of the curriculum and provides recognition for your interest in specific subject material.

Entry to Year 12

If you wish to join the Weald of Kent Sixth Form you must:

- **attain a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature;**
- **have an Average Point Score (APS) of 5.5 to be comprised of your best 8 GCSE results including either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and GCSE Mathematics;**
- **have met the subject requirements** as set out on page 2 for the courses you wish to study.

To find your average point score add either your GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature score, GCSE Mathematics and your 6 best other GCSE scores and divide by 8.

Each A Level subject has an expected entry grade at GCSE as indicated in this document. These subjects will set compulsory pre-course summer bridging work, available on our website, to be completed during the summer break. Please note that A Level courses can only run if there is a viable number of students opting for them.

Having chosen to enter the Sixth Form, you are expected to have a positive attitude towards your work as well as good attendance (96% and above). Progress is monitored at regular intervals. Students and their parents and carers are expected to attend the Parent and Carer Consultation Evenings in Years 12 and 13. Based on internal assessment and internal PPE (Pre-Public Examination) grades, students will be expected to achieve at least a Grade C in each A Level subject.

Entry Requirements for A Level Subjects

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art	Grade 6 in GCSE Art
Biology	Grade 7s in both GCSE Biology and GCSE Chemistry or Grades 7 7 in Trilogy Science and a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Business	Grade 6 in GCSE Business if studied in Key Stage 4, or Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Grades 7 7 in Trilogy Science and Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science
Design and Technology	Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology
Drama and Theatre	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Drama if studied in Key Stage 4
Economics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
English Language	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature
French, German and Spanish	Grade 8 in GCSE French, GCSE German or GCSE Spanish
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
History	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Media Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature, or a Grade 6 in GCSE Media if studied in Key Stage 4
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music and Grade 5/6 in Music Practical and Music Theory examinations
Philosophy	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature or a Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Education if studied in Key Stage 4
Physical Education	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, or Grades 66 in Trilogy Science and a Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education if studied in Key Stage 4. Students must play a competitive sport listed on AQA's sport specification list.
Physics	Grade 8 in GCSE Physics or Grades 8 8 in Trilogy Science and a Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Politics	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature
Psychology	Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or Grades 7 7 in Trilogy Science and Grade 6s in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Sociology	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature

Art

Requirements:

For success in this subject it is expected that you attain a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art.

Aims & Outcomes:

This course will provide you with the opportunity to study and explore Fine Art at a deeper and more academic level. You will benefit from investigating a wide range of experiences, ideas and techniques, exploring a variety of processes in both 2D and 3D media. Integral to your study will be a deepening understanding of historical and contextual knowledge, developed through an open and enquiring mind. This course will encourage you to develop creative, intellectual, imaginative and intuitive skills; you will learn how to investigate, analyse, experiment and express aesthetic understanding and critical judgements as well as develop a broadening understanding of the function of Art, Craft and Design in contemporary society and in other times and cultures. You will develop your own strengths in the subject and identify and sustain your own lines of enquiry.

Examination & Assessment:

Year 12

Portfolio Unit: provides supporting evidence for Unit 1
(Personal Investigation) = 60%

Year 13

Unit 1 (Personal Investigation) = 60%
Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment) = 40%

The examination unit consists of a 15 hour controlled test.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Biology

Requirements:

At least a Grade 7 in each of the Science GCSEs if taking Trilogy Science, or at least a Grade 7 in Biology GCSE and GCSE Chemistry. In addition, at least a Grade 7 in Mathematics is required.

Aims & Outcomes:

Issues that are biologically based continually crop up in everyday life. We study examples such as cystic fibrosis and place their contexts within the science of Biology. Our course is about turning A Level students into mature and effective biologists. We present the key concepts underpinning Biology today combined with a structured approach to learning the wider skills needed by the modern biologist. Students benefit from learning Biology in the context of real life situations which emphasizes the need for independent work and background reading.

Topics are based on a storyline or contemporary issue, such as risk and cardiovascular disease, with biological principles introduced when required to aid understanding of the context. In this way, information is presented in manageable chunks and grafted onto existing knowledge, leading to better understanding.

Employing a wide range of teaching and learning styles, activities introduce content, skills and experimental techniques. Biology students will undertake regular hands-on practical work, and as a minimum, must undertake 12 core practical activities. Students will develop their practical skills during the course and will need to demonstrate competence in various techniques in order to gain the Science Practical Endorsement.

This course is suitable preparation for study at university and can lead to a number of courses on offer such as Veterinary Science, Medicine, Environmental Science and Biochemistry to name but a few.

Examination & Assessment:

There are 3 written papers and no coursework. All papers may include: multiple-choice; short open; open-response; calculations and extended writing questions. All papers will also include questions that target mathematics at Level 2 as well as questions that target the conceptual and theoretical understanding of experimental methods.

Paper 1 (33.3% weighting)

- Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk
- Topic 2: Genes and Health
- Topic 3: Voice of the Genome
- Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources
- Topic 5: On the Wild Side
- Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics

Paper 2 (33.3% weighting)

- Topics 1- 4
- Topic 7: Run for your Life
- Topic 8: Grey Matter

Paper 3 (33.3% weighting)

- Topics 1-8
- Synoptic questions that may draw across different topics
- Question based on a pre-release scientific article

Examination Board: Edexcel (Salters Nuffield) Biology

Business

Requirements:

At Weald of Kent we recognise the need for students to learn skills that will prepare them for their chosen career. This course comprises both a theoretical and a practical understanding of business and the wider economic environment in which businesses operate. Therefore, the Business A Level develops a number of important skills that will help students progress in their careers. Such skills include; excellent communication skills, numeracy, in depth analysis of data as well as the ability to analyse and evaluate the outcomes of a variety of business and economic situations. An interest in current affairs related to the economy and the business environment will be beneficial, but it is not necessary to have studied Business Studies or Economics at GCSE level**.** Students wishing to study Business must have achieved a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics, or a Grade 6 in GCSE Business Studies if studied in Key Stage 4.

Aims & Outcomes:

Business gives students problem-solving tools to tackle traditional problems which arise within a dynamic business environment. You will learn about the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. You will explore business success and business failure, investigate local, national and global business markets. Students will also understand how businesses need to adapt and respond strategically to the changing environment in which they operate to survive and grow.

Subject Content:

The course is structured into four themes:

Theme 1: Marketing and People.

Included in Theme 1 are topics such as: “The Market”; “Meeting Customer Needs”; “The Marketing Mix and Marketing Strategy”; “Entrepreneurs and Leaders” and “Managing People”.

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities.

Included in Theme 2 are topics such as: “Raising Finance”; “Financial Planning”; “Managing Finance”; “Resource Management” and “The External Business Environment”.

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy.

Included in Theme 3 are topics such as: “Business Growth”; “Business Objectives and Strategy”; “Decision-Making Techniques”; “Influences on Business Decisions”; “Assessing Competitiveness” and ”Managing Change”.

Theme 4: Global Business.

Included in Theme 4 are such topics as: “Globalisation”; “Global Markets and Business Expansion”; “Global Marketing” and “Multi-National Corporations”.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed by three externally examined papers in May/June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Paper 1 questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 4. This is a 2 hour exam which comprises data response and essay questions (35% of total qualification).

Paper 2: Paper 2 questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 3. This is a 2 hour exam which comprises data response and essay questions (35% of total qualification).

Paper 3: Paper 3 questions will be drawn from Themes 1, 2, 3 and 4. This is a 2 hour exam which will be based on a pre-released research task (30% of total qualification).

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Chemistry

Requirements:

At least a Grade 7 in each of the Science GCSEs if taking Trilogy Science or at least a Grade 7 in Chemistry GCSE. In addition, at least a Grade 7 in Mathematics is required.

It is highly recommended that students who wish to take Chemistry at A Level are also taking Mathematics at A Level. For those not taking Mathematics, whose mathematical skills require improvement, attendance at additional *Mathematics for Scientists* sessions will be compulsory.

Course Content

This course offers a flexible approach where the specification is divided into modules each covering key areas. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and both are examined through written papers. There is no coursework.

Module 1 – Development of practical skills
Module 2 – Foundations of chemistry e.g. atoms, amount, redox and structure & bonding
Module 3 – Periodic Table and energy
Module 4 - Core organic chemistry e.g. hydrocarbons, isomerism and infra-red spectroscopy
Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
Module 6 - Organic chemistry and analysis, e.g. carbonyls and nuclear magnetic resonance

Examination

Papers will incorporate multiple-choice questions, short answer question styles (structured questions, problem-solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions.

- Paper 1 *Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry* (37%)

(assesses modules 1, 2, 3 and 5)

- Paper 2 *Synthesis and analytical techniques* (37%)

(assesses modules 1, 2, 4 and 6)

- Paper 3 *Unified chemistry* (26%)

(assesses all modules)

- Practical endorsement – students achieve a pass or fail. This is independent of their final grade but is recorded on their exam certificate. To achieve a pass, students have to carry out successfully 12 specified practical experiments including a formal write-up.

Examination Board: OCR Specification A (H432) A Level

Computer Science

Requirements:

You require a GCSE Grade 6 in Computer Science and a GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematics.

Aims and Outcomes:

A Computer Science A Level prepares students for the jobs and careers of the future and for jobs that do not even exist yet. New technologies are being invented and developed all the time and the workplace in ten years is likely to be very different to today. The course gives students the computer science knowledge and computational skills that will allow them to solve problems that we do not even know are problems yet. A Computer Science A Level is valued by universities and employers and gives students an appropriate foundation for further study in many areas. Technology is being used to solve problems across various industries such as health care, engineering, transportation and banking, but finding solutions to these problems requires people with computer science expertise as well as knowledge of the given industry. Technology and Artificial Intelligence is changing everything and an A Level in Computer Science will prepare students and give them the knowledge that is required to be successful in their future careers.

Assessments

The A Level Computer Science specification covers 2 written papers and 1 Non-examination Assessment (coursework).

Paper 1

This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions on Computer systems.

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A-level)
Content of examination: Written examination, compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.

Paper 2

This paper tests a student's ability to answer questions on Algorithms and programming.

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A-level)
Content of examination: Written examination, compulsory short-answer and extended-answer questions.

Non-examination Assessment

The non-examination assessment (NEA) is worth 20% of the overall grade. The NEA assesses a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. Each learner is able to tailor the project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem-solving.

Examination Board: OCR

Design and Technology: Product Design (3D Design)

Requirements:

This course is suitable for students who have an interest in design and innovation, have studied a GCSE in Design Technology (Product Design; Resistant Materials or Graphic Products) and achieved a Grade 6 or above. It is a balance of academic and practical tasks and is a good subject to combine with Mathematics and Physics. You should have a working knowledge of materials along with some knowledge of designers and Design Movements. It is expected that you take an interest in this subject outside of school by visiting galleries, exhibitions and talks to help broaden your knowledge and understanding.

Aims & Outcomes:

The course helps you to take a broad view of design and technology, develop your capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. It is essential and expected that you will spend some of your private study time working independently (under supervision) in the workshop and studio. You will develop an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of a broad range of materials and components. You should understand why these are used in specific applications with particular emphasis on the life-cycle of products including manufacture, use and disposal. You should have a good understanding of the methods by which materials and components can be manipulated to manufacture products.

The course has 50% coursework in order to recognise the importance of project based work within this subject. The course accommodates coursework that focuses on Resistant Materials, Product Design or a combination of two elements, but the final outcome(s) must be 3D.

Assessment:

Paper 1: A 3 hour examination (50%) with sections on:

- Core technical principles
- Design making principles.

The examination will assess the ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology. This paper will test mathematical and scientific knowledge which will account for 15% of the marks.

Practical Application: 45 hours (50%)
Substantial design and make task

Examination Board: EDUQUAS

Drama & Theatre

Requirements:

If you enjoy reading and watching plays and discussing ways they could be performed, you will love Drama and Theatre at A Level. You should be willing to explore and experiment as an actor, trying out different styles and techniques. You will perform both scripted work and improvisation and work in a range of different groups. You will need to be committed, reliable and a good team player, who will work with a group to stage successful performances. We organise workshops in which you will be required to participate. We visit London or local theatres regularly and expect you to accompany us. We expect at least a Grade 6 in Drama if studied in Key Stage 4 and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. Equally important is a genuine enthusiasm for our subject and an eagerness to participate in our very active lessons.

Aims & Outcomes:

You will gain an appreciation of the skills of acting and performance. You will grow to appreciate and understand how a script can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Students benefit by becoming confident in public speaking, time management and essay writing. An A Level in Drama and Theatre will open doors at all British universities and a degree provides excellent training for careers in the theatre, arts, law, media, publishing, marketing, education and all industries with a focus on interpersonal skills.

Component 1 (40%) **Drama and Theatre** (3 hour written examination)

Section A – One question on a set text, answered from a practical perspective
Section B – One question on an extract from a second set text
Section C – One question on a single live production

Component 2 (30%) **Creating Original Drama**

An original devised performance influenced by the work of a prescribed practitioner, with a supporting working notebook. Students work in groups, using recognised techniques to create original work.

Component 3 (30%) **Making Theatre**

Practical study of three extracts from contrasting plays, plus a reflective report. Presentation of the final extract from a play to a visiting examiner. Assessment of the reflective report also includes preparatory and development work on all three texts.

Examination Board: AQA

Economics

Requirements:

Economics A Level is the right subject for you if you enjoy debating economics issues such as:

- Inequality, immigration and how we should pay for our healthcare
- Using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems
- Discussing alternative courses of action
- Keeping up-to-date with national and international trends

In order to study Economics at A Level you need a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Aims & Outcomes:

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families, to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices.

Subject Content:

In Theme 1 and Theme 2 you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail. You will also consider the role of government and the UK economy.

In Theme 3 and Theme 4 you will explore how businesses grow and compete, the labour market and how the government intervenes to make markets work better. You will also explore international trade, inequality within and between countries, emerging and developing economies, and the public finances. You will also have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

Examination & Assessment:

Paper 1

Short answer, data response and essay questions on markets and business behaviour – this is the content you study in Themes 1 and 3.

Paper 2

Short answer, data response and essay questions on the national and global economy – this is the content you study in Themes 2 and 4.

Paper 3

The questions in the examination – data response and essay questions – cover concepts and theory from the whole of the course.

Examination Board: Edexcel

English Language

Requirements:

If you enjoy exploring how language varies according to its audience, purpose and type then you will love English Language at A Level. You will discover how children learn to speak, read and write and how language varies and changes. You should be able to write in a clear, controlled way, utilising linguistic frameworks and applying appropriate terminology. We expect you to have at least a Grade 6 in English Language at GCSE, but an equally important qualification is a genuine enthusiasm for our subject and an eagerness to participate in class discussions.

Aims & Outcomes:

You will gain an appreciation of the written word, and a wide variety of spoken and electronic media to sustain you throughout life. An understanding of linguistic subtleties and skills in re-writing will equip you for a career in journalism, education, law or industry. You will also gain an A Level in a subject respected by universities which qualifies you for many degree choices.

Subject Content:

You will learn how to analyse in context several types of writing, including newspapers, magazines, scripts and children's stories as well as spontaneous and scripted spoken transcripts. You will also be taught how to create original texts and to challenge specific social representations. For coursework, you will do two tasks: undertake a language investigation, developing your independent research skills, and create a piece of original writing with a commentary.

Examination & Assessment:

A Level English Language is a linear course which consists of two examination papers and two pieces of coursework.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society
2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change
2 hours and 30 minutes (40%)

Non-examination Assessment (Coursework): Language in Action
Language Investigation (2,000 words)
Original Writing and Commentary (1,500 words)
(20%)

Examination Board: AQA

English Literature

Requirements:

If you enjoy reading, watching plays and discussing the ways in which writers use language, you will love English Literature at A Level. You should be able to write in a clear, controlled way but your teachers will always be on hand to advise and help you with the secrets of writing a Grade A* essay. If you are willing to listen, learn and contribute to our seminar style learning then this is the course for you. We expect you to have at least a Grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE but an equally important qualification is a genuine enthusiasm for our subject, and an eagerness to participate whilst listening to others.

Aims & Outcomes:

You will gain an appreciation of the written word that will sustain you throughout life; an understanding of a range of plays, poetry and novels and an A Level grade in a highly respected subject. An A Level in English Literature will open doors at all universities and a degree in English Literature provides excellent training for careers in the arts, law, education and the media.

Subject Content:

The course is linear and you will study novels, drama and poetry across the ages.

Examination & Assessment:

Drama 30%

You will study one Shakespeare and one other play in conjunction with a critical anthology on either Comedy or Tragedy. The examination is two hours and fifteen minutes and open book.

Prose 20%

Two prose texts, at least one pre-1900. The examination is one hour and fifteen minutes and is open book.

Poetry 30%

You will respond to unseen modern poetry as well studying a range of poetry from a selected literary period or poet. The examination is two hours and fifteen minutes and open book.

Non-examination Assessment (Coursework) 20%

Comparative critical essay of 2,500 – 3,000 words on two literary texts.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Further Mathematics

Requirements:

A Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE Mathematics is required to study Further Mathematics A Level. Like the A level Mathematics course the course is very demanding and requires excellent algebra and problem-solving skills. It requires a full knowledge and understanding of all the GCSE content for Mathematics and also knowledge and understanding of the A level Mathematics content.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim of the course is that the students will be able to develop further the knowledge, skills and mathematical reasoning developed through the A level Mathematics course. Students will have a wider knowledge base and experience different areas of mathematics that are not covered in the Mathematics A level course.

Why study Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics?

Further Mathematics A level is an excellent foundation for engineering, design, technological and some scientific courses. Students wishing to study mathematical related subjects at University are often required to have studied Further Mathematics A level in addition to Mathematics A level. It is best to check out the requirements at specific Universities to see if the course you want to study needs Further Mathematics, in addition to Mathematics.

Examination Board: Edexcel

A level Further Mathematics	
Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1 Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 25% of the qualification 75 marks	**Topics such as:** Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors.
Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2 *Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes* *25% of the qualification* *75 marks*	**Topics such as:** Complex numbers, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations
Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1 *Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes* *25% of the qualification* *75 marks*	**Content overview** Students will take **one** of the following four options 3A: Further Pure Mathematics 3 3B: Further Statistics 1 3C: Further Mechanics 1 3D: Decision Mathematics 1
Paper 4 Further Mathematics Option 2 *Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes* *25% of the qualification* *75 marks*	**Content overview** Students take **one** of the following seven options: 4A: Further Pure Mathematics 4 4B: Further Statistics 1, 4C: Further Statistics 2 4D: Further Mechanics 1, 4E: Further Mechanics 2 4F: Decision Mathematics 1, 4G: Decision Mathematics 2

Geography

Requirements:

You will need a minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography and an enthusiasm for the subject.

Aims and outcomes:

Geography A Level is a current, topical and wide ranging subject that prepares you well to analyse and interpret the world around you. We explore the essential physical processes that are vital to the natural world and study how these can pose threats and opportunities for people. Furthermore, we study how globalisation continues to change our world beyond recognition and consider the effect it has on different places across the world. Geography is well regarded by universities and employers – in a poll conducted by the Higher Education Career Services Unit, graduates with a Geography degree had the lowest level of unemployment sixth months after completing their degree. This is reflective of the skills that Geographers develop throughout their course of study.

Course content:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Paper 1 and 2 count for 60% of the final mark awarded, with an additional 20% coming from an 'unseen' Paper 3. The NEA accounts for the final 20% of the marks. We accompany students to 2 fieldtrip locations in the summer term of Year 12 to train them in fieldwork skills and then support their planning for their own NEA which is submitted in the Spring term of Year 13.
At Weald, we are highly successful in blending content and examination technique in lessons with regular practice and feedback and offer you a supportive environment to flourish. Our main focus is to develop independent thought and working practices, skills that have proved so crucial for those for A* grades.
The modules we study for Paper 1 (Physical) and Paper 2 (Human) are listed below:

Paper 1

<u>Tectonic Hazards</u>
Tectonic hazards – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and secondary hazards such as tsunamis – represent a significant risk in some parts of the world. This is especially the case where active tectonic plate boundaries interact with areas of high population density and low levels of development. Resilience in these places can be low, and the interaction of physical systems with vulnerable populations can result in major disasters.

<u>Coastal Landscapes</u>
Coastal landscapes develop due to the interaction of winds, waves and currents, as well as through the contribution of both terrestrial and offshore sources of sediment. These flows of energy and variations in sediment budgets interact with the prevailing geological and lithological characteristics of the coast to operate as coastal systems and produce distinctive coastal landscapes. These landscapes are increasingly threatened from physical processes and human activities, and there is a need for holistic and sustainable management of these areas in all the world's coasts.

<u>Water Cycle and Water Insecurity</u>

Water plays a key role in supporting life on earth. The water cycle operates at a variety of spatial scales and also at short-term and long-term timescales, from global to local. Physical processes control the circulation of water between the stores on land, in the oceans, in the cryosphere, and the atmosphere. Water insecurity is becoming a global issue with serious consequences and there is a range of different approaches to managing water supply.

Carbon Cycle
A balanced carbon cycle is important in maintaining planetary health. The carbon cycle operates at a range of spatial scales and timescales, from seconds to millions of years. Physical processes control the movement of carbon between stores on land, the oceans and the atmosphere. Reliance on fossil fuels has caused significant changes to carbon stores and contributed to climate change resulting from anthropogenic carbon emissions. Anthropogenic climate change poses a serious threat to the health of the planet. There is a range of adaptation and mitigation strategies that could be used, but for them to be successful they require global agreements as well as national actions.

Paper 2

Globalisation
Globalisation and global interdependence continue to accelerate, resulting in changing opportunities for businesses and people. Inequalities are caused within and between countries as shifts in patterns of wealth occur. Cultural impacts on the identity of communities increase as flows of ideas, people and goods take place. Recognising that both tensions in communities and pressures on environments are likely, will help players implement sustainable solutions.

Regenerating Places
Local places vary economically and socially with change driven by local, national and global processes. These processes include movements of people, capital, information and resources, making some places economically dynamic while other places appear to be marginalised. This creates and exacerbates considerable economic and social inequalities both between and within local areas. Regeneration programmes impact variably on people both in terms of their lived experience of change and their perception and attachment to places.

Superpowers
Superpowers can be developed by a number of characteristics. The pattern of dominance has changed over time. Superpowers and emerging superpowers have a very significant impact on the global economy, global politics and the environment. The spheres of influence between these powers are frequently contested, resulting in geopolitical implications.

Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
Globalisation involves movements of capital, goods and people. Tensions can result between the logic of globalisation, with its growing levels of environmental, social and economic interdependence among people, economies and nation states and the traditional definitions of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. International migration not only changes the ethnic composition of populations but also changes attitudes to national identity. At the same time, nationalist movements have grown in some places challenging dominant models of economic change and redefining ideas of national identity

History

Requirements:

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE History is required.

Aims & Outcomes:

The A Level History course has been designed to create a deepened historical knowledge and understanding by promoting a lifelong enjoyment of the subject. The course will enable you to develop important skills including, critically evaluating evidence, researching and using historical documents, producing reasoned and thoughtful arguments, presentation and interpersonal skills. You will study the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time and will study the past through political, economic and cultural perspectives. History is an academic subject that is well respected in a variety of courses in Higher Education as well as in a vast range of careers.

Subject Content:

A Level Units

The A Level is made up of two units a Depth study and a Breadth study. Both contain source work as well as extended writing tasks and are equally weighted, each worth 40% of the total marks. The third unit is an Historical Investigation worth 20% of the total marks.

Examination & Assessment:

Unit 1. Tudor England, 1485 - 1603. This is the study of significant historical developments over a period of 100 years. This breadth option allows students to study issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period and will explore the reigns of all Tudor monarchs. This section is linked to historical interpretations.

Section A. One question linked to historical sources (30 marks)
Section B. Two essays from a choice of three (2 x 25 marks)

Unit 2. Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918 - 45. This is the study of an in-depth historical change or development, you will be expected to use primary sources provided by the exam board for Part A. This option provides for the study of a period of major change in German history, which saw the disintegration of democracy and the rise of Nazism. It also requires students to consider the multi-faceted reasons for the failure of democracy in Germany and how political parties were able to exploit social tensions across the country.

Section A. One compulsory two part exam question linked to primary sources or sources from the contemporary period (30 marks).
Section B. Two essays from a choice of three (2 x 25 marks).

Unit 3. Historical Investigation. This is a study of Tsarist Russia and covers a 100 year period. It will be between 3000-3500 words and moderated by AQA.

Examination Board: AQA

Mathematics

Requirements:

At least a Grade 8 at GCSE Mathematics is required to study Mathematics A Level. The course is very demanding and requires excellent algebra and problem-solving skills. It requires a full knowledge and understanding of all the GCSE content for Mathematics.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim of the mathematics course is that the students will be able to:

- Develop their understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment.
- Develop their ability to reason logically and to recognise incorrect reasoning.
- Use mathematics as an effective means of communication.
- Recognise how a situation may be represented mathematically and understand the relationship between real-world problems and mathematical models, understanding how they can be refined and improved.
- Develop an awareness of the relevance of mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and society in general.

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics A level is a good foundation for engineering, design, technological, scientific and medical courses. It is also a good course for those students who are interested in Art or Humanities subjects but would like to broaden their options and develop their logical reasoning or statistical analysis skills. Students wishing to study mathematical related subjects at University are often required to have studied Further Mathematics A level in addition to Mathematics A level.

A Level Mathematics	
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 33.3%, 2 hours, 100 marks	**Topics such as:** Sequences, Equations, Inequalities, Proof, Coordinate geometry, Exponentials, Trigonometry, Vectors and Calculus
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 33.3%, 2 hours, 100 marks	**Topics such as:** Sequences, Equations, Inequalities, Proof, Coordinate geometry, Trigonometry, Iteration and Calculus
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics 33.3%, 2 hours, 100 marks	**Section A: Statistics (50 marks)** Topics like Data Handling topics from GCSE such as averages, histograms, box plots and frequency diagrams. **Section B: Mechanics (50 marks)** Topics like Speed, Forces, moving objects, (Physics related topics).

Examination Board: Pearson's EDEXCEL

Media Studies

Requirements:

Applicants are expected to have a Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature or English Language or a Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies if studied in Key Stage 4. Media Studies is highly compatible with many other subjects in the post-16 curriculum, as it provides training in independent and critical thinking analysis.

Aims & Outcomes:

The course leads to qualifications recognised by the media industry and opens up opportunities for future employment in this sector. Media Studies is an excellent foundation for further study of Media in Higher Education.

Subject Content:

During this two year course, students will study a contemporary, accessible and creative course, which will allow them to study the media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained to the process of creating their own media productions. Media Studies is designed to widen the intellectual horizons of the learner through the analysis of both global and historical media. This course will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking to encourage engagement in the critical debates surrounding contemporary media, developing critical thinking and the ability to create exciting and dynamic media products.

Media products

Learners will explore how media products are used by institutions to construct different representations and how media audiences interpret these products. Media products encompass Long Form TV Drama, the Radio One Breakfast Show and Minecraft. Learners will use aspects of the theoretical framework to analyse and evaluate their own cross-media productions.

Media in a digital age

Learners will explore and analyse the ideas and arguments from debates about the media. These debates will be drawn from:
• an historical perspective • the digital age • global media.

Making media

Learners will practically explore the creation of two linked media products in a cross-media production.

Media forms

Throughout this course, learners will study nine different media forms. These are:
• television • film • radio • newspapers • magazines • advertising and marketing • online, social and participatory media • video games • music videos.

Examination Board: OCR

Modern Languages (French, German & Spanish)

Requirements:

For success in Languages a Grade 8 or higher is needed at GCSE. This must include a Grade 8 or higher in the written GCSE papers.

Aims & Outcomes:

The aim of the A Level course is to broaden and deepen your knowledge of your chosen language, to enable you to communicate clearly at a higher and more fluent level. You will also enhance your cultural understanding as the course covers a range of social aspects which affects the principal country in which that language is spoken. You will hone other transferable skills such as debating and defending your point view, carrying out independent research, and analysing literary texts.

Subject Content for French, German and Spanish

The content for the new A level is conceived as an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. There are terminal examinations at the end of Year 13.

The core topic areas will be:

- social issues and phenomena, such as wealth and poverty, racism and integration.
- Politics, current affairs and history, dealing with such issues as the treatment of criminals, monarchy and dictatorship and racism and integration.
- Intellectual culture, past and present. This requires the study of at least two works – one of which must be a novel, chosen from a prescribed list.

Students will also have to complete an independent research project into an aspect of French, German or Spanish speaking society or culture, which they will present as part of their speaking exam.

Examinations

Students will be assessed in three separate exams for

- speaking
- listening, reading and translation
- essay writing in French, German or Spanish

Marks weightings will be as follows:

Paper 1 - Listening, reading and translation - 50%
Paper 2 - Writing - 20%
Paper 3 - Speaking - 30%

Examination Board: AQA

Music

Requirements:

You will need to perform to Grade 6/7+ standard by the end of Year 13. You will have achieved Grade 6 in Music GCSE and you will be of Grade 5/6 standard in both practical and theory examinations by the end of the GCSE course.

Aims and Outcomes

The aim is to provide you with a balanced and inter-related course of study covering a wide academic and practical understanding of music. This provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and Higher Education courses in music.

Subject Content:

The qualification includes Listening, Composing and Performing. With this course you can adjust the balance between composing and performing.

If you specialise in Performing the balance is Listening 40% Performing 35% and Composing 25%.

If you specialise in Composing the balance is Listening 40% Performing 25% and Composing 35%.

You do not have to decide on your specialism at the start of the course.

Examination & Assessment

The listening exam is a 2 hour 30 minute examination.
Performing is a video recording of a live performance.
Composing is assessed by audio recordings.
These are all undertaken in school, but are marked externally.

Examination Board: OCR

Philosophy

Requirements:

For success in this subject a Grade 6 or above is expected in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature or a Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies if studied in Key Stage 4.

Aims and Outcomes:

This course addresses four areas of study in philosophy, asking some of the most important questions faced by humans (What can we know? What is our true nature? Does God exist? How should I live my life?) and investigating in-depth the answers that have been put forward by philosophers over the years. This course helps to give context to the history of ideas that has led to the modern world we face today. You will develop skills of critical analysis, research, persuasive argument, logic and literary interpretation, all of which are transferable to other areas of study such as English, History, Law, Maths, Politics, Psychology and Sociology. The insight into a range of ideas and the skills learned make Philosophy a good qualification for careers in Law, Medicine, Teaching, Business, Care, Journalism and anything else that involves working with people, problem-solving or written communications.

Subject Content: The course is divided into four main topics:

Ethics: Moral philosophy is often referred to as ethics. It is about right and wrong, good and bad. This module covers ethical theories, applications of these theories, and the meaning of moral language. *Key question: How should I live my life?*
Knowledge: Epistemology means theory of knowledge. The epistemology module covers what the definition of knowledge is, as well as how much knowledge comes from perception and how much from reason. It also covers the idea of scepticism – how certain we can be of our knowledge. *Key question: How do I know what I know?*
God: This module covers the concept of God as typically conceived by the three main monotheistic religions. It covers whether such a concept is possible as well as arguments for and against the existence of God. *Key question: Can God's existence ever be proved?*
Mind: Philosophy of mind looks at what minds and mental states actually are. This module covers various theories which say the mind is a physical thing and others which argue it is non-physical. *Key question: Can human experience be explained entirely by physical processes?*

Examination and Assessment:

Assessment comprises two three-hour examinations at the end of year 13.
The examinations will include four question types, covering definition, explanation and evaluation. (3, 5, 12 and 25 marks)

Each examination contributes 50% to the overall grade.

Examination Board: AQA

Physical Education

Requirements:

For success in A Level PE a Grade 6 in GCSE PE and a Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grades 66 in Trilogy Science is/are required. It will be expected that all students have a keen interest in sport and the issues surrounding it. In addition, all students must regularly compete outside of school in at least one sporting activity which can be assessed at A Level. Students are required to submit video evidence for practical sports.

Aims and Outcomes:

A Level Physical Education covers a wide range of exciting topics that give you an insight into the sporting possibilities at university and beyond. This could lead to a range of career opportunities such as: PE Teacher; sports psychologist; sports scientist; nutritionist; sports administrator; physiotherapist; conditioning coach; performance analyst; sports development manager and fitness professional.

Course content

The course provides an academic and theoretical understanding of Physical Education and Sport. There are three main theoretical concepts and topics in A Level PE. The first is physiology, which includes applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology and biomechanics. The second component focuses on skill acquisition and sports psychology whilst the last investigates socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport. You need to be currently training and competing in your sport regularly, want to know more about how the body works and want to improve your own performance by developing a greater understanding of physiological factors that impact performance.

Examination & Assessment:

There are two written examination papers (70% weighting), a practical assessment in one activity where students can be assessed as either a player/performer, or a coach and an analysis and evaluation coursework module (30% weighting). All written papers include: multiple-choice; short open and extended writing questions for each section.

Examination board: AQA

Physics

Requirements:

At least a Grade 8 in each of their Science GCSEs if taking Trilogy Science, or at least a Grade 8 in Physics GCSE. In addition, at least a Grade 8 in Mathematics is required. Students who choose to study A Level Physics are strongly recommended to also study A Level Mathematics.

Course content

OCR (Physics A) takes a content-led approach to learning Physics. Topics covered range from the smallest of subatomic particles to the vast history of the Universe, alongside relevant applications in Engineering and Medical Physics. Employing a wide range of teaching and learning styles, activities introduce content, skills and experimental techniques. Physics students will undertake regular hands-on practical work, working on 12 key practical skills. A log book will be used to demonstrate competence in these skills in order to gain the Science Practical Endorsement. The course content has been designed to provide a strong foundation of skills and knowledge for students looking to study Physics, or Physics-based subjects such as Medicine or Engineering, at University. There is also a focus on developing skills that can be transferred into many other career options. The exam board have indicated that 40% of the course will require the use of mathematical skills.

Examination & Assessment:

There are 3 written papers and no coursework. All papers may include: multiple-choice; short open; open-response; calculations and extended writing questions.

The Module Content is as follows:

1. Development of Practical Skills
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and Motion
4. Electrons, Photons and Waves
5. Newtonian World and Astrophysics
6. Particles and Medical Physics

Paper 1 Modelling Physics (37% weighting)

• Modules 1,2,3 and 5
• Multiple Choice and short structured questions

Paper 2 Exploring Physics (37% weighting)

• Modules 1,2,4 and 6
• Multiple Choice and short structured questions

Paper 3 Unified Physics (26% weighting)

• Topics 1-6
• Extended written questions that may cover any element from the course.

Examination Board: OCR A

Politics

Requirements:

Politics is an essay based subject, and so a Grade 6 or above is expected in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

The Politics A Level introduces students to the process of decision-making in the UK, allowing you to discover how people interact with the political process. You will be exposed to a wide range of debates about the UK and US systems happening right now, such as whether democracy in the UK is in crisis. While parts of the course will provide a historical context, you will study events as they happen.

The Politics A Level will allow students to deepen their understanding of the decision-making process in the US and UK, including how individuals and groups are capable of having influence. Students will learn to critically evaluate arguments, using evidence from a variety of sources. They will learn how to debate different issues while keeping up to date on current affairs. The Politics A Level has a particular focus on the development of analysis and evaluation skills helpful for many higher education courses, but will also provide plenty of life skills such as critically evaluating news sources and how they are covered.

Course content

The first year focuses on exploring the UK political system, considering what the various branches of government are, how they interact and how powerful each is. It also examines the different ways people participate, whether through elections, referendums or pressure groups. There is also a section of the course dedicated to the major political ideas; conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Here, the key concepts and thinkers will be explored to see how these have developed over time, considering the tensions that exist within each. The less familiar ideology of ‘anarchism’ will be explored in a similar way. The second year takes a number of these debates and issues and considers how they differ in the US. It will look at the role of the President and how this has differed between Obama, Trump and Biden. The course explores how Congress and the Supreme Court interact and how the American people participate in the system.

Examination & Assessment:

Paper 1: UK Politics and core political Ideas
Paper 2: UK Government and non-core political ideas
Paper 3: US Politics and Government

Examination board: Edexcel

Psychology

Requirements:

A Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or Grades 7 7 in GCSE Trilogy Science is/are needed as are Grade 6s in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and GCSE Mathematics.

Aims and Outcomes:

Psychology is the scientific study of human cognitions and behaviours, and as such it is relevant to all of us. Through the A Level at Weald of Kent you will have an opportunity to study a range of topics and approaches, giving a broad perspective of the subject. It has links with many disciplines, including biology, mathematics, and the humanities. It involves the study of different theories, research evidence as well as an understanding of how research can be used in the real world. Therefore, Psychology is a perfect blend of creative thinking combined with the analytical skill of interpreting research.

The A Level course is a 2 year course and you will be studying different theories and research studies across different fields in Psychology.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology 33.3%

Social Influence: Do people conform and obey because they believe that others are right, or for other reasons?
Memory: How does memory work? Can we rely on eyewitness accounts in court?
Attachment: Why do infants become attached to a caregiver? Are attachments the same in all cultures?
Psychopathology: What is abnormality? How do the main approaches to Psychology explain why people suffer from mental disorders? What treatments are there for these abnormalities?

Paper 2: Psychology in Context 33.3%

Approaches in Psychology: The Origins of Psychology and how we can understand behaviours from the cognitive, biological, humanistic and learning approaches.
Biopsychology: How the nervous system, brain activity and hormones can influence behaviour.
Research Methods in Psychology: In this section we analyse the different research methods, look at how data can be collected and how this data can be interpreted.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology 33.3%

Compulsory content: Issues and Debates in Psychology.
Optional Content: There is a choice of topics for the remainder of Paper 3, these will be selected by your teachers from the following:
One from: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development.
One from: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour and Stress.
One from: Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction.

Each Paper is assessed by a 2 hour written examination. You will answer questions (multiple-choice, short answers and an extended writing task) from each of the topics outlined above.

Examination Board: AQA

Sociology

Requirements:

Sociology will appeal to students who enjoy debating social issues and who are keen to explore their ideas about society. As the examination is a combination of essays and short answer questions it is important that students have a good written style, with at least a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

Aims and Outcomes:

Students will learn to analyse issues through different perspectives, considering how a variety of different sociologists would consider the same problem. This will also help develop discussion skills as students learn to take on board differing opinions. They will also learn to evaluate the usefulness of theories and studies, considering the quality of the research carried out and its relevance to modern society. This will involve them designing their own sociological investigations. Studying Sociology equips students for many different career paths. It suits those who intend to study for a Humanities based degree or who would like a career requiring an understanding of human behaviour or social issues, such as healthcare, the judicial system, education, journalism, or law.

Course Content:

The A Level is assessed entirely at the end of Year 13, focusing on three different units. The first focuses on the Education system, looking at questions such as 'why do girls usually do better than boys?' 'Does the current education system benefit everyone?' This unit also involves students considering the different methods used by sociologists, their strengths and weaknesses, and the usefulness of such methods for studying the Education system.

The second unit focuses on two important topics: Families and Households and Beliefs in Society. The former considers the recent trends in family structures and tries to explain why they have happened, while considering possible future trends. The latter will explore whether religion is beneficial to society, why certain types of people are more likely to be religious, and why people join controversial religious organisations like Scientology.

The third unit will look back at the methods in unit one, but this time in the context of Crime and Deviance. This topic considers why crime exists, who is most likely to be a criminal and the impacts this could have on people. A key part of this unit is to see how the media can have an influence on crime.

Examination & Assessment:

A Level

Paper one: Education with theory and research methods
Paper two: Topics in sociology: 1) Families and households 2) Beliefs in Society
Paper three: Crime and deviance with theory and research methods.

Examination Board: AQA