

Weald of Kent A Level Curriculum: Sixth Form Courses for September 2024



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Entry to Year 12

If you wish to join the Weald of Kent Sixth Form, students must meet our minimum Admissions Entry Criteria:

- **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.**

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.

Additional Information for Entry into the Sixth Form

All students joining Weald of Kent Grammar Sixth Form should meet the academic entry requirements as set out above.

Weald of Kent Grammar School Year 11 students are all given conditional offers for the Sixth Form. Priority will be given to existing Weald of Kent Grammar School students transferring from Year 11. The PAN for Year 12 is the same as the number of students in year 11 in the previous year. There are 25 places available for external candidates. This figure may be exceeded if there are more available spaces up to our PAN.

Where the number of external candidates exceeds the number of places available, places will be offered in accordance with our oversubscription criteria.

1. Looked After Children
2. Current Family Association
3. Health and Special Access Reasons
4. Pupil Premium
5. Children of Permanent Members of Staff
6. Nearness of Children's Homes to School.

In the event of any course being oversubscribed, we will use GCSE average point scores to assign places.

All students are required to study 3 A-Levels; those wishing to study a 4th A-Level must have a GCSE average point score of at least 8 from their best eight GCSEs. This can be selected at the point of enrolment into the Sixth Form.

In addition, students may choose to study an EPQ, which will begin from January of Year 12.

Students joining Weald of Kent Grammar School Sixth Form will be based at our Tonbridge Campus. Some subjects may only be offered if there are sufficient numbers for the class.

Students not meeting the school Admissions Criteria

In the event that students have not met our school Admissions Criteria, they will not be offered a place to study in the Sixth Form. There is an appeal process which can be found on our website under Admissions. Appeals are heard by an independent panel.

Procedure for applying to Sixth Form

Weald of Kent Year 11 students

All Weald of Kent Grammar School Year 11 students are given conditional offers. Students must login to Applicaa with their provided login details and complete their chosen campus and subjects.

On GCSE results day, students will complete the enrolment form and finalise course choices.

Priority will be given to students selecting their original course choices.

Students changing from their original course choices will be placed in Enrolment Waiting until original course choices have been allocated.

All Year 11 Weald of Kent students will be enrolled before any external applicant.

External applicants

Students must create a login to Applicaa via our school website and complete an application form.

You will need to detail your personal contact information and your chosen 3 or 4 subjects. Please note, we will not issue conditional offers during the Spring and Summer Term. Applicants must therefore submit their enrolment form on GCSE Results day to be considered for a place. Offers will be made from GCSE results day onwards until we are at capacity.

Applicaa online form opens: 15 November 2023

Applicaa online form closes: 15 January 2024

Applications will reopen on GCSE Results day. Late applications will be held on a waiting list for places from GCSE results day onwards.

Expectations for all Sixth Form students

Having chosen to enter the Sixth Form, you are expected to have a positive attitude towards your work, our school community, our values and our school expectations. Punctuality and attendance are expected to be at 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 as well as Information Evenings. 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.

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. All students must **choose three A Level subjects** to study over the 2 years. Students can 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.

Subject Criteria for A Level courses

Subject	Exam Board	Minimum Criteria	Subject	Exam Board	Minimum Criteria
Art	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Art or portfolio seen (if GCSE Art not taken)	History	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Biology	Edexcel (Salters Nuffield)	Grade 7 in Biology or Grade 77 in GCSE Combined Science	Mathematics	Edexcel	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Business	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Business or Grade 6 in English Literature/Language (if GCSE Business not taken)	Media Studies	OCR	Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies or Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/Language (if GCSE Media Studies not taken)
Chemistry	OCR Specification A (H432)	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 77 in GCSE Combined Science	Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)	AQA	Grade 7 in GCSE of chosen language.
Computer Science	OCR	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science	Music	Eduqas	Grade 6 in GCSE Music and minimum of Grade 5/6 standard in both theory and practical examinations
DT: Product Design	Eduqas	Grade 6 in GCSE DT	Philosophy	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies or Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/ Language (if GCSE Religious Studies not taken)
Drama and Theatre	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama or Grade 6 in English Literature/Language (if GCSE Drama not taken)	Physical Education	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education and must compete in sport at club level.
Economics	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/Language	Physics	OCR A	Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grade 77 in GCSE Combined Science
English Language	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language	Politics	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or GCSE English Language
English Literature	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature	Psychology	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 66 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/Language
Further Mathematics	Edexcel	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics. *Must be taken alongside A Level Mathematics	Sociology	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or GCSE English Language
Geography	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography			

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.

University & Careers:

Many of our students progress onto either a Foundation course or directly onto a Creative degree. Recent areas of study have been Fine Art, Architecture, Illustration, Prop/Set Design and Character Design.

Subject Content:

Unit 1: Portfolio of skills including drawing, life drawing, photograph, painting, various printmaking techniques and sculptural work. Personal investigation is a self-directed project focussing on an area of study chosen by the student. 1000-3000-word essay on their chosen area of study.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment – Theme set by the examination board.

Examination & Assessment:

Unit 1 (Personal Investigation) = 60%

Unit 2 (Externally Set Assignment) = 40%

The examination unit consists of a 15-hour controlled assessment.

Examination Board: AQA

Biology

Aims & Outcomes:

A Level Biology encourages students to develop a greater understanding of biological facts and principles and an appreciation of their significance in our changing world. It also allows them to look at specific biological concepts in more detail, such as cardiovascular disease or genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis. Topics build upon previous learning and help students to build their knowledge and have a wider understanding of biological principles.

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, including dissection, microscopy and electrophoresis. Students will develop their practical skills during the course and will need to demonstrate competence in various techniques to gain the Science Practical Endorsement aspect of the course.

University & Careers:

Biology A Level can lead to a wide variety of careers in Biology related fields such as Ecology, Scientific Research, Environmental Science, Biochemistry and Sports Science to name but a few. It prepares students for studying biology related degree courses at university and provides a solid understanding of biological concepts needed for Veterinary Science and Medicine.

Subject Content:

Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk	Topic 5: On the Wild Side
Topic 2: Genes and Health	Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics
Topic 3: Voice of the Genome	Topic 7: Run for your Life
Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources	Topic 8: Grey Matter

Examination & Assessment:

There are three 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% weighting. Topic 1-6

Paper 2: 33% weighting. Topics 1-4, 7 and 8

Paper 3: 33% weighting. All topics with synoptic questions that may draw across different topics, questions based on a pre-release scientific article.

Examination Board: Edexcel (Salters Nuffield) Biology

Business

Aims & Outcomes:

Business gives students problem-solving tools to tackle 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, and 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.

University & Careers:

Many of our students go on to study Business, finance and other related subjects/fields or secure relevant apprenticeships where they will make use of the knowledge and skills developed through this course.

Subject Content:

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.

Examination & Assessment:

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

Aims & Outcomes

- Encourage learners to develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- Develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- Develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- Understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.

University & Careers

An A Level in Chemistry is a valuable asset to any young person looking to secure a place on a competitive university course and is well respected by employers. It demonstrates an ability to work with numbers, the ability to solve logical problems and to retain knowledge of complex ideas, all of which are skill that employers frequently list among the most desirable in applicant for positions.

Several university courses require an A Level in Chemistry outside of Chemistry degrees, including the range of medical courses, making Chemistry a popular choice at A Level.

Subject 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 & Assessment

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 writeup.

Examination Board: OCR Specification A (H432) A Level

Computer Science

Aims & Outcomes:

Computer Science 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.

University & Careers:

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.

Subject Content:

Computer Systems

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices.
- Software and software development.
- Exchanging data.
- Data types, data structures and algorithms.
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues in Computer Science.

Algorithms and programming

- Elements of computational thinking.
- Problem solving and programming.
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

NEA project

- Analysis of the problem.
- Design of the solution.
- Developing the solution.
- Evaluation.

Examination & Assessment

Paper 1 – Computer Systems - *Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A-level)*

Paper 2 – Algorithms and Programming - *Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A-level)*

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 can 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)

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.

University & Careers

Many students go on to further study in industrial and product design, product management, materials engineering, interior and spatial design at university and in apprenticeships.

Subject Content

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.

Examination & Assessment:

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: Eduqas

Drama & Theatre

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.

University & Careers:

As well as auditioning for entry into specialist college, 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.

Subject Content:

You will 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.

Also involved is the evaluation of Live Theatre, analysing key moments involved and applying specialist terminology. Students study two set texts which are examined in written responses from the perspective of Director, Performer and Designer.

Examination & Assessment:

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

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.

We will consider questions such as:

- Why does the government provide street lights?
- Why are house prices in some parts of the UK so high?
- How has China managed to grow so quickly?

University & Careers:

Our students go on to study a wide-range of subjects at university and secure high-quality apprenticeships. If you wish to pursue Economics at university, it is often recommended that you study A Level Mathematics.

Subject Content:

Theme	Content
1: Introduction to markets and market failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of economics • How markets work • Market failure • Government intervention
2: The UK Economy – performance and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of economic performance • Aggregate demand and supply • National income • Economic growth • Macroeconomic objectives and policy
3: Business behaviour and the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business growth • Business objectives • Revenue, costs and profits • Market structures • Labour market • Government intervention
4: A global perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International economics • Poverty and inequality • Emerging and developing economies • The financial sector

Examination & Assessment:

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

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

Paper 3: Data response and essay questions covering concepts and theory from the whole of the course.

Examination Board: Edexcel

English Language

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 original writing will equip you for a career in journalism, education, law or industry. You will have a better understanding of how language is used to influence and manipulate you, of how language has changed over time, and of how different social groups might use language. You will also gain an A level in an academically rigorous subject, respected by universities, which qualifies you for many degree choices.

University & Careers:

An A level in English Language will open doors at all universities and a degree in English Language provides excellent training for careers in language therapy, law, education, journalism, the media, advertising and marketing.

Subject Content:

You will learn how to analyse in context several types of writing, including newspapers, magazines, scripts, websites and children's stories as well as spontaneous and scripted spoken language. You will also be taught how to create original texts and to challenge specific social representations. You will investigate an aspect of language change or language variation.

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 (40%)

2 hours and 30 minutes

Skills assessed: Textual analysis and comparison; linguistic terminology; knowledge and understanding of Child Language Acquisition.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change (40%)

2 hours and 30 minutes

Skills assessed: Knowledge and understanding of theories of Language Diversity and Language Change; comparative textual analysis; original writing.

Non-examination Assessment (Coursework): Language in Action (20%)

Language Investigation (2,000 words)

Original Writing and Commentary (1,500 words)

Examination Board: AQA

English Literature

Aims & Outcomes:

The aims of English Literature A level are to deepen your enjoyment of reading and discussing great novels, plays and poetry and to broaden your experience of Literature from different ages and genres. You will gain an appreciation of the written word that will sustain you throughout life and an A Level grade in a highly respected subject.

University & Careers:

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

Aims & 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.

University & Careers:

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.

Subject Content:

A level Further Mathematics	
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1	Topics such as: Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors.
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2	Topics such as: Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations
Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1	Students will take the Decision Maths 1 option topics including: Algorithms, Graphs and Networks, Eulerian Graphs, Linear Programming, The Simplex Algorithm, Critical Path Analysis.

Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2	Students take one of the following options: Decision Maths 2 Further Pure Maths 1 Further Statistics 1 Further Mechanics 1
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Examination & Assessment:

Paper 1 - 4: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes
 Each paper is worth 25% of the overall qualification.
 Each paper is worth 75 marks.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Geography

Aims & 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. We aim to instil a love of learning within our students and study the climate crisis in detail.

University & Careers:

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.

Subject content:

Paper	Content
1 – Physical Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tectonic Hazards • Coastal Landscapes • Water Cycle and Water Insecurity • Carbon Cycle
2 – Human Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation • Regenerating Places • Superpowers • Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Examination & Assessment:

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 run one domestic residential (compulsory) to the South Kent coast and may run a foreign residential (non-compulsory).

Exam Board: Edexcel

History

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.

University & Careers:

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. History graduates are valued by a range of employers and organisations due to the vast array of transferable skills acquired. Potential careers include archaeology, data or political analyst, business, law, media and journalism.

Subject Content:

Unit	Content
1 - Breadth Study Tudor England: 1485 - 1603	This is the study of significant historical developments over a period of 100 years. Students 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.
2 – Depth Study Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918 - 1945	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.
3 - Historical Investigation.	This is a study of Tsarist Russia and covers a 100-year period.

Examination & Assessment:

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. It will be between 3000-3500 words and moderated by AQA.

Examination Board: AQA

Mathematics

Aims & 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.

University & Careers:

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.

Subject Content:

A Level Mathematics

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1	Topics such as: Sequences, Equations, Inequalities, Proof, Coordinate geometry, Exponentials, Trigonometry, Vectors and Calculus
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2	Topics such as: Sequences, Equations, Inequalities, Proof, Coordinate geometry, Trigonometry, Iteration and Calculus
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics	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 & Assessment:

Paper 1 – 3: Each paper is 2 hours, 100 marks and worth 33% of the total examination.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Media Studies

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.

University & Careers:

Pursuing a job in the media industry is a competitive process, so an A Level in media studies will help you stand out from the crowd. The skills of curiosity, a natural flair with technology, creativity, patience and drive will prepare you for further study in this field. Media studies will equip you for a wide range of jobs, including presenting, copywriting, media research, writer and journalist.

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)

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.

University & Careers:

In a 'global economy', the ability to speak more than one language and knowledge of different cultures can be very useful in many different job sectors.

The key areas of employment can include:

- education
- hospitality and tourism
- IT and telecommunications
- law
- marketing and publishing
- media and journalism
- transport and logistics

Modern Languages graduates have one of the highest rates of employment across all subject areas. Joint honours courses are also popular with language students, meaning they can combine their love of languages with another subject area at degree level.

Subject Content:

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.

Examination & Assessment:

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

Aims & 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.

University & Careers:

Music A Level is a good foundation for students who wish to further explore and develop their passion for music into further education. The subject has strong links with key areas of employment, such as: musical theatre companies, education, music journalism, directing, publishing, screen writing and illustration.

Subject Content:

Component 1: Performing, and **Component 2: Composing**, add up to a total of 60% of your final A Level grade, but you can choose whether you would like to do more performing or composing.

Option A – specialise in Performing	Option B – specialise in Composing
Listening – 40%	Listening – 40%
Performing – 35%	Performing – 25%
Composing – 25%	Composing – 35%
Performance – 10-12 minutes Composition – 4-6 minutes	Performance – 6-8 minutes Composition – 8-10 minutes

Component 3: Appraising accounts for 40% of your A Level. It is a written exam lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes and is divided into three parts:

- 1. Area of Study A:** The Western Classical Tradition - this is a compulsory area of study and focuses on the development of the symphony from 1750-1900. You will choose one set work for detailed analysis, and one for general study.
- 2. Area of Study B, C or D** - You will choose only one of these areas of study, they are Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre and Jazz.
- 3. Area of Study E or F** - You will choose only one of these areas of study, they are based on periods of musical history: Into the Twentieth Century, and Into the Twenty-first Century. Each area of study includes two set works.

Examination & Assessment:

The listening exam is a 2-hour 15-minute examination.

Performing is a live performance assessed by a visiting examiner.

Composing is assessed by audio recordings plus additional materials (score, written account) and assessed externally.

Examination Board: Eduqas

Philosophy

Aims & 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.

University & Careers:

Skills 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 & 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

Aims & Outcomes:

To give students an understanding of Sport and Exercise Science, covering the breadth of the subject (Anatomy and Physiology, Sport Psychology and Sport and Society) as well as a depth that allows them to effectively analyse the performance of themselves and others, planning for improvements and evaluating the impact of different techniques on sporting success.

University & Careers:

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.

Subject 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

The third investigates socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.

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.

You need to be currently training and competing in your sport regularly to complete the practical component of A Level Physical Education.

Examination board: AQA

Physics

Aims & Outcomes:

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 logbook will be used to demonstrate competence in these skills in order to gain the Science Practical Endorsement. It is recommended that students studying Physics also study Mathematics.

University & Careers:

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.

Subject Content:

The exam board have indicated that 40% of the course will require the use of mathematical skills.

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

Examination & Assessment:

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

Aims & Outcomes:

The Politics A Level course introduces students to the process of decision-making in the UK, allowing students to discover how people interact with the political process. Students of Politics 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, students will also 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.

University & Careers:

A Level Government and Politics is an asset for university and future careers. It nurtures critical thinking, research, and analytical skills essential for success in various majors, including Political Science, International Relations, and Law. It hones communication and presentation abilities, crucial for higher education. Moreover, this subject equips students with a deep understanding of political systems, global affairs, and policy analysis, making it highly relevant for careers in law, politics, journalism, diplomacy, and international organisations.

Subject 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

Aims & 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.

University & Careers:

An A level in Psychology can lead to further study in neuropsychology, forensic psychology, educational psychology but also a variety of joint-honours degree programmes. Psychology involves conducting research and analysing data to draw conclusions, this skill set is useful in fields such as market research, data analysis, and academia. Many people pursue careers in psychology because they want to make a positive impact on others' lives. Careers in counselling, therapy, and mental health allow you to help individuals and communities.

Subject Content:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Influence • Memory • Attachment • Psychopathology
Paper 2 – Psychology in Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches • Biopsychology • Research Methods
Paper 3 – Issues and Options	<p>Compulsory Content: Issues and Debates</p> <p>Option Content selected by teacher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One from: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development • One from: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour and Stress • One from: Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction

Examination & Assessment:

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

Aims & 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.

University & Careers:

A Sociology A Level can lead to further study in social work, social policy or a variety of social sciences degrees. It can also provide an excellent foundation for gender studies, history degrees, human resources and even childcare or education qualifications. Sociology encourages critical thinking and analytical skills, teaching us to examine social issues, question assumptions, and develop evidence-based arguments, which are valuable skills in a wide range of professions. Sociology equips you with research skills, including data analysis, and interpretation. This is useful in both academic and practical settings.

Subject 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:

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