



The **Cardinal Wiseman** Catholic School

# Sixth Form Course Guide 2024-25



All things  
for Christ



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# Sixth Form Course Guide 2024-25

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# The Sixth Form Curriculum

## An introduction

Over the course of the next two years you will be embarking on a journey that for many of you will lead to higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Thus, the choices you make now are vital and you have chosen no better place to make them than at the Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form!

This guide will give you the run down on all the courses that we have to offer at our school and what is involved in each one.

At The Cardinal Wiseman School, all students will be studying at least 3 A Level courses or BTEC qualifications, with some studying a mixture of A level and BTECs.

Before you choose your courses, please consider the following:

- Do you have a career in mind? If so, there may be certain subjects you should study. Check out the careers information by the side of each subject.
- You may need a particular combination of Advanced Level courses for a university place. Please look at page 22 for guidance on relating A Level subjects to university courses.
- What subjects do you enjoy studying, are you good at or are interested in?

Please read carefully the descriptions of the subjects and specific requirements given in the prospectus. You will be able to discuss these subjects with your subject teachers at the Sixth Form Open Evening in October. Once you have decided on what subjects you would like to do, simply fill in the application form. The Sixth Form Team will then meet with you and discuss your choices and along with our Careers and Connexions service will make sure that you are on the right pathway. Good luck making your choices!

Mr A Hickman  
*Director of Sixth Form*

# Pathways to Success

## A level Pathway

### **Specific entry requirements:**

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a grade 4 in English Language. You should choose at least 3 A Level subjects from our full list of courses. You can, if you wish choose to study a BTEC Level 3 course alongside your A levels.

Students who achieve 5 x Level 9 to 7 GCSE passes should, even now, be considering Russell Group universities. There will be a distinct enrichment programme for these students. Most students will study 3 x A Levels, however some may be allowed to take 4 x A Levels depending on achievement at GCSE. It may well be worthwhile considering studying some of the following 'facilitating' subjects:

- Maths
- Further Maths
- Biology
- English Language
- Geography
- History
- Chemistry
- Physics
- English Literature

## Technical Pathway (BTEC courses)

### **Specific entry requirements:**

Minimum 4 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a grade 4 in English Language. This pathway is mostly, but not exclusively, for students who mostly achieve level 4's, with some 3's and 5's. You should choose one of the following:

- BTEC Media is an Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 x A level). This course should be picked alongside the BTEC Business course below, or with 2 additional A levels
- BTEC Business is a Diploma (equivalent to 2 x A levels). You will also have to pick 1 additional A level (or the BTEC Media course above)

You do not need to have studied these subjects before but you do need to show a real interest and enthusiasm for this course. Where appropriate, you can choose an A Level from those subjects that you meet the entry criteria for.

The Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form will reserve the right to make changes to the entry requirements as a result of the new GCSE grading and therefore may allow students to study subjects under exceptional circumstances if they do not meet all of the stated numerical grades.



# Our courses

## A Levels (Level 3)

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Photography
- Physics
- Politics
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

## BTEC (Level 3)

- **Media**  
(Extended Certificate - equivalent to 1 A level)
- **Business**  
(Diploma - equivalent to 2 A levels)



Sixth Form lessons and enrichment take place between 8.50am and 4.10pm.

The Cardinal Wiseman School reserves the right to make subsequent changes to the above courses should it be deemed necessary.



# Religious and Moral Development



All students who attend The Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form follow the Religious and Moral Development Course.

The purpose of this course is to explore spiritual, moral, social, political and philosophical issues in our world today from a Christian perspective. The course will include discussions and debates, reflective work

and exploration of Church teaching. Our students will also have an opportunity to live this out through practical projects.

Students will develop important critical thinking, debating and reflecting skills as well as engaging with important issues relevant to young Christians in our modern world.

## Gifted and Talented

We have a well established programme for the most able students in the Sixth Form to enable them to realise their potential. This group will have a full programme of tailor-made activities geared towards providing them with the best opportunities to excel.

The Super Curricular Club which meets throughout Year 12 and the Year 13 is designed to focus students on applying to Britain's top universities (Russell Group). Additionally, students are prepped in the application

and interview process and are treated to visits from university staff (in particular, Cambridge and Oxford University and Imperial College, London) as well as undergraduate students. In terms of teaching and learning here at the Cardinal Wiseman school, lessons are geared towards 'stretching' more able students through high level enquiry, analysis and evaluation with some classes being set. The most able students are particularly closely monitored to ensure they are meeting

their target grades and are mentored by the Head of Year if they are underachieving.

Masterclasses and other Gifted and Talented events enable students to visit university lectures and learn alongside high ability students from local schools. Students are encouraged to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This provides students with a real experience of higher education and is valuable in extending their analytical and research skills.

## Uniform

Students at the Cardinal Wiseman Sixth Form wear a simple and smart uniform that sets them apart from students within the lower school. The uniform is as follows:

- White Shirt
- Black Cardinal Wiseman crested tie
- Black jumper or cardigan
- Black shoes or trainers
- Black trousers
- Black uniform skirt

Our students and their parents have always strongly supported the uniform in the Sixth Form as a way of setting a positive, business-like tone for the working day and building a strong community atmosphere.

# Enrichment Opportunities

All students from the three pathways will have an enrichment programme that provides weekly opportunities for wider learning. There are many clubs, visits, external speakers and sporting activities to get involved in. All students will be expected to be fully engaged in the Sixth Form community as well as take on leadership roles through the Prefect system.



# Sixth Form A Level courses

## Art and Design

### Careers

This forms a starting point for students wishing to move into Art, Design and all industries associated with this sector. Art A Level enables progression towards foundation and degrees in architecture, interior design, graphics, games design, graphic communication, fashion and textiles.

### Entry Requirements

5 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language.

### Course outline

Students can enjoy a series of creative coursework projects exploring ideas about transformation, visual dynamics and structures, architecture and the human form. Visual awareness and creativity are developed through different areas of study including drawing, painting, printing and sculpture.

A wider appreciation of art is developed via gallery visits. .

A Level	
Coursework Written Paper	60% of A Level
Practical Exam Written Paper	40% of A Level

“Poor is the pupil who does not surpass his master.”

*Leonardo da Vinci*

## Biology

### Careers

A grounding in Biology can lead to many career possibilities. For example, medicine, environmental scientist, dentistry, police forensic work, genetic counselling, nursing, marine ecology, scientific journalism, conservation or veterinary science to name but a few.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a grade 6 in Maths as well as a 6 in Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science.

### Course outline

Biology is the study of the living world. It provides the opportunity to learn and understand areas such as neurology, genetic engineering, DNA fingerprinting and advances in the medical world which are making a real impact on our lives. If you are a talented and passionate biologist who wishes to study biological concepts in greater complexity and you wish to pursue the sciences at higher education, then A Level Biology is the subject for you.

A Level
<b>You will study four sections in Year 12:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Biological molecules</li><li>2. Cells</li><li>3. Organisms exchanging substances with their environment</li><li>4. Genetic Information variation and relationships between organisms.</li></ol>
<b>You will study four more sections in Year 13:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Energy transfer in and between organisms</li><li>6. Organisms response to changes in their environment</li><li>7. Genetics, Population, Evolution and Ecosystems</li><li>8. The control of gene Expression</li></ol>

“What is truly revolutionary about molecular biology in the post-Watson-Crick era is that it has become digital.....the machine code of the genes is uncannily computer-like.”

*Richard Dawkins*



# Business

## Careers

This course is suitable for those students who wish to pursue a career in the business environment, or who wish to set up their own business. It is also suitable for those who wish to study business at a higher level or even a business related course such as law, economics, accounting, finance, management and politics.

## Entry Requirements

5 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a 5 in Maths. If students completed a BTEC or GCSE in Business, it is preferable if they have achieved an overall pass.

## Course outline

The A level course allows students to study business in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing). The topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world. The specification and assessment should encourage students to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations. By examining and thinking critically about real business situations as they study the subject, students will gain an insight into different contexts which will help them to understand the key issues in any situation and compare and contrast this with other situations and apply their understanding.

The course provides a holistic approach to the subject; it demonstrates the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic specification. The content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society – they will study key contemporary developments such as digital technology and business ethics, and globalisation. Keeping up with current affairs through the news will help to apply some of the concepts covered.

A Level		
Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
All above content assessed Written exam: 2 hrs 100 marks 33.3% of A Level	All above content assessed Written exam: 2 hrs 100 marks 33.3% of A Level	All above content assessed Written exam: 2 hrs 100 marks 33.3% of A Level

“Innovation distinguishes between being a leader and a follower.”

*Steve Jobs, Apple*

# Chemistry

## Careers

Many students who have studied Chemistry have gone onto such degree courses as: accountancy, law and teaching. It is essential to study this subject if you wish to follow higher education courses in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, and a wide range of chemistry/biochemistry courses.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a 6 in Maths as well as a 6 in Chemistry or 6-6 in Combined Science.

## Course outline

Chemistry impacts on all facets of our lives and an understanding in this subject is essential to comprehend other scientific subjects such as astronomy or zoology. Chemistry is concerned with all aspects of molecules, their physical and chemical properties, their composition and structure, their synthesis and use in the 21st century. This is a demanding yet popular subject with A Level student. Studying Chemistry requires a high level of dedication, and it is essential that students read around the subject for a better understanding of the subject material.

## A Level

Chemical calculations | Organic Chemistry (alkanes, alkenes, reaction mechanisms) | Bonding | Ionic Equations | Equilibrium | Inorganic Chemistry | The Periodic Table | Spectroscopy | Energetics | Transition Metals | Kinetics | Redox | Modern Analytical Techniques | Halogens | Alcohols | Entropy | Chirality | Arenes | Organic Synthesis

“We think there is colour, we think there is sweet, we think there is bitter, but in reality there are atoms and a void.”

*Democritus, C. 460BC- 370BC*

# Sixth Form A Level courses

## Computer Science

### Careers

A foundation in Computer Science can lead to many career possibilities such as a Software Developer, Computer Engineer, Systems Analyst, Information Security Analyst and Network Architect, or even careers in Engineering, Architecture or Finance.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 7 in Maths as well as a 6 in Computer Science or a triple 6 in Separate Sciences (6-6 in combined science).

### Course outline

The OCR A Level Computer Science qualification splits learning into three sections: Computer Fundamentals, Programming Techniques and Logical Methods, and a Programming Project. As natural progression from GCSE (9–1) Computer Science it provides the perfect springboard for students looking at specialising in a computing-based career.

Within the course, students study a range of theory topics. These include the principles and understanding linked to programming, hardware and software, networks, systems development life cycles and implications of computer use.

This qualification is ideal for students who:

- Are looking to develop an advanced understanding of computer science
- Want to apply their coding ability to solve real-world problems
- Are looking at a computing orientated degree
- Are aiming to work in the computing industry

### A Level – Assessment Overview

**Computer systems (01) - 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper worth 40% of the final grade.**

The internal workings of the (CPU) | Data exchange | Software development | Data types | Legal and ethical issues

**Algorithms and programming (02) - 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper worth 40% of the final grade.**

Using computational thinking to solve problems.

**Programming project (03) - Non-exam assessment (20%)**

Students will be expected to analyse a problem (10 marks), and design (15 marks), develop and test (25 marks), and evaluate and document (20 marks) a program. The program must be to solve it written in a suitable programming language.

**Students must take all three components to be awarded the OCR A Level in Computer Science.**

“Everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think.” *Steve Jobs*

## Drama

### Careers

This is a great course for anyone considering working in any face-to-face careers. The performance/media industry, law, marketing and recruitment. Drama provides excellent background in the understanding of communication in all of its forms, intrapersonal, interpersonal and group communication.

### Entry Requirements

5 x Level 9 to 5 GCSE passes including a 5 in English Language or a 5 in GCSE Drama. It is preferable to have studied Drama at GCSE or have some experience in performing for this subject.

### Course outline

You will study the Edexcel A Level course which is separated into 3 components. Each component asks you to learn a new and exciting aspect of drama and theatre.

**Component 1 - Devising:** You will create an original piece of theatre based on an extract from a text using the techniques and methods of either theatre practitioner or a theatre company. You will summarise your work in a portfolio which is an extended written assignment.

**Component 2 - Text in performance:** You will study and perform two different texts. The first text will be either a monologue or duologue performance. You will study and perform in a group performance from a different text. This is assessed by a visiting examiner.

**Component 3 - Written exam:** You will explore four essay questions from the point of view of a performer, designer, director and theatre critic. The extended essays will be based on two set texts from differing time periods and the study of a play seen in live performance. Assessment in the two hour thirty-minute written exam covers three sections: Live Theatre Evaluation, Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text and Interpreting Performance Text.

“In drama your imagination, interest and emotional development will be challenged and trained. All of life skills.”

*Timberlake Wertenbaker*

# Economics

## Careers

The course lays an appropriate foundation for further study of economics or related subjects in higher education, for example Economics, Politics, Business Management and Finance. In addition it offers a worthwhile academic challenge for candidates in terms of general education, life-skills and career opportunities. Economics students often go on to work in industries such as banking, communications, insurance, investment and retailing industries, as well as in government agencies, consulting and charitable organisations.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 5 in English Language and a 6 in Maths.

## Course outline

In A Level Economics you'll look at the fundamental forces which affect our everyday lives, such as employment, prices, international trade and poverty. Economists are often in lively debate with each other over these issues. It is this controversy which makes Economics dynamic and interesting and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgements and form your own opinions. A Level Economics looks closely at government policy and its impacts on the economy and individuals. Studying Economics helps to make sense of current affairs, therefore it is important to watch the news regularly.

Economics will help you to:

- develop an interest and enthusiasm for economics and its contribution to the wider economic and social environment
- develop an enquiring, critical and thoughtful 'economist's mind'
- practise skills, qualities and attitudes which will equip you for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.
- develop an understanding of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life
- analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it.

Students will need to be able to manipulate data in a variety of forms and to interpret their results, present arguments and make judgements and justify recommendations on the basis of the available evidence.

A Level	
Paper 1 The Operation of Markets and Market Failure	33%
Paper 2 National and International Economy	33%
Paper 3 Economic principles and issues	33%

“Capitalism is the astounding belief that the most wickedest of men will do the most wickedest of things for the greatest good of everyone.” *Anonymous*

# English Language

## Careers

English graduates do things as diverse as working in the legal profession, computing, journalism, accountancy, publishing, TV, music, education, retail, catering and writing.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 6 in English Language.

## Course outline

In English Language at A Level students will find themselves analysing a wide range of texts serving a broad variety of purposes and drawn from many contexts. The course aims to provide students with the tools to conduct such analyses in a thoughtful and appropriate manner. Students will also consider the power of language to influence people's perceptions and the decisions that they make on a daily basis, in relation to issues such as gender, employment and technology. This is a varied and lively subject, which should attract those students who enjoy thinking about language and its central importance in all of our lives.

A Level	
<b>A level English Language is assessed by written examination (80%) and coursework (20%).</b>	
Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society	40% of A Level
Section A: Textual Variations and Representations Section B: Children's Language Development	
Paper 2 Language Diversity and Change	40% of A Level
Section A: Diversity and Change Section B: Language Discourses	
Coursework:	20% of A Level
Language in Action	
<b>Task:</b> Students to produce a language investigation and a piece of original writing and commentary	

“But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.”

*George Orwell*

# Sixth Form A Level courses

## English Literature

### Careers

English graduates do things as diverse as working in the legal profession, computing, journalism, accountancy, publishing, TV, music, education, retail, catering and writing.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 6 in **both** English Literature **and** English Language or a 7 in English Literature **and** a 5 in English Language.

### Course outline

This is a highly challenging, but enjoyable option for students who love literature. Shakespeare and other key pre-twentieth century authors are studied, as well as drama and poetry. Students will study writing techniques, themes and genres as well as the social and literary contexts influencing set works. Candidates will aim during the course to build up critical skills which examine the ways in which ideas are presented by writers as well as being able to evaluate critical responses to texts.

To be a good candidate for this course, students need to love reading and be prepared to participate actively within group discussions and feedback.

### A Level

Paper 1: Drama and Poetry Pre 1900 (Exam 2: 30)

- Duchess of Malfi by J Webster
- Paradise Lost (Books IX and X) by J Milton
- Twelfth Night by W Shakespeare

Paper 2: Comparative and Contextual Study: The Gothic (Exam 2:30)

- A Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter
- Dracula by B Stoker or Frankenstein by M Shelley

Component 3: Literature Post 1900 and 2000 – essay and re-creative (Coursework)

- Rapture by Carol Ann Duffy
- Reflections in a Golden Eye by Carson McCullers
- A Streetcar Named Desire by T Williams

“The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean.”

*Robert Louis Stephenson*

## Film Studies

### Careers

Primarily, this course prepares students for higher education in arts based (photography, media, film, creative and design) disciplines) and/or humanities subjects.

**NB:** The creative industries, including film, contribute £92 billion to the GDP economy of the UK. By 2023, it is estimated that the UK will need 10,000 more employees in these industries to match growth.

### Entry Requirements

5 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language.

### Course outline

This course encourages students to think critically and academically about film. Students are asked to study two Hollywood films from 1930-1990 such as the classic *Casablanca*, Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* or Spike Lee's brilliant *Do The Right Thing*. The course develops students' ideological understanding of films, looking through the lens of authorship, social and economic context, and the concepts of interpretation and spectatorship. Add to this a study of contemporary USA film (*Selma*, *La La Land* and *Pulp Fiction*, for instance) with recent UK films such as *Shaun of the Dead* and *This Is England*, there is a fantastic choice for study in Component 1.

Component 2 consists of four sections: Global Film, Documentary, Silent Cinema and Experimental Film. There is a study of film style and aesthetics, the challenge of codes and conventions, representation and identity and how we understand different ethnicities and cultures through film, with titles such as *City of God*, *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Victoria*.

Component 3 allows the creativity to come to fruition, with students making a 3-5 minute film (or producing a screenplay) and writing a critical evaluation of how meaning has been made for spectators through mis-en-scene, lighting, editing, sound, music and other film language elements.

### Eduqas A Level Film Studies

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking – 2hr 30 mins	35%
Component 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives – 2hr 30 mins	35%
Component 3: Film Production	30%

“Cinema is not only entertainment: it's the art and cultural product of our time. For anyone passionate about history, texts and images – and how to interpret them – Film Studies is the ideal course.”

*Stella Bruzzi, Professor of Film and TV Studies at Warwick University*

# Geography

## Careers

Geography can lead to a number of careers including: Civil Engineering, Sustainability, Environmental Health, Town Planning, Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Civil Service and Engineering, Publishing, Armed Services, Marketing, Banking, Teaching, Accountancy, Leisure and Recreation and Law.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a 5 in Geography or if not studied at GCSE level, a 5 in Maths, English Language and the Sciences.

## Course outline

All areas of this course will excite our students' minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. New units have been added to reflect the world today. All of this will help provide you with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers.

A Level	
Paper 1: 2hrs 15 minutes	30% of A Level
Tectonic Processes and Hazards   Landscape Systems   Processes and Change – Coastal Landscapes and Change   The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity   The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security	
<i>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions.</i>	
Paper 2: 2hrs 15 minutes	30% of A Level
Globalisation   Shaping Places - Regenerating Places   Superpowers   Global Development and Connections - Migration   Identity and Sovereignty	
<i>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions.</i>	
Paper 3: 2hrs 15 minutes	20% of A Level
The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and is rooted in two or more of the compulsory content areas from Paper 1 and 2.	
<i>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 8-mark, 18-mark and 24-mark extended writing questions.</i>	
Coursework: independent Investigation	20% of A Level
Fieldwork assessed by 3,000-4,000 word individual investigation	

“It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement: the greatest source of visual beauty: the greatest source of intellectual interest.”

*Sir David Attenborough*

# History

## Careers

History is long regarded as a subject of weight and merit. It is academic in nature yet teaches students many worthwhile skills such as analysis of text, the nature of argument and debate and of course, increases their subject knowledge on individual topics. In short, it creates independent learners. It is a good qualification for the professions – law, media, accountancy, journalism, public relations to name a few.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a 6 in History.

## Course outline

The A Level course offered by the Cardinal Wiseman History Department is comprised of three units. It allows students to develop their knowledge of Tudor England 1485-1603, Germany 1919-1945 and the Medieval Crusades. The first two units are assessed through exams at the end of Year 13; the third is a personal study assessed through a 4,500 word essay on the Crusades.

A variety of teaching methods are used by the History Department with students expected to read widely, evaluate a range of sources, give presentations and write essays of an academic nature. Our students are coached to become self-motivated independent learners and evolve into true historians.

## Enrichment

Throughout the two years, there will be additional opportunities to further your knowledge and understandings of History outside the classroom. This includes film club for students to attend, guest speakers visiting the school as well as trips, including a visit to the Tower of London and a trip to Krakow to visit Auschwitz.

A Level		
Unit 1	The Tudors: England 1485-1603 Written Paper 2 hours 30mins	40% of A Level
Unit 2	Germany, Democracy and Nazism 1918-1945 Written Paper 2 hours 30mins	40% of A Level
Unit 3	The Age of the Crusades 3000 word personal study.	20% of A Level

“History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.”

*Winston Churchill*

# Sixth Form A Level courses

## Law

### Careers

The knowledge and skills acquired through undergraduate study of the Law lend themselves to all manner of careers in addition to the obvious legal options: Barrister, Local Government, Business Management, Solicitor, Police and Law Enforcement, Broadcasting, Legal Executive, Health & Safety Inspector, Civil Service, Paralegal and Teaching & Academia.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 6 in English Language.

### Course outline

A Level Law provides an excellent platform for study of the subject at degree level. It is certainly not a prerequisite to a Law degree but, if a student has a desire to become a legal professional, it is a subject that they should consider. At best, harnessing their early interest may help boost those A Level grades.

Law also complements a number of other subjects. As it relates to the running of the country, there is considerable overlap with the Politics A Level. It is clear that many of the analytical and research skills developed studying Law lend themselves well to studying History. Alternatively, Law may be chosen by a student who is just curious to learn about the rules that govern our society.

Law is a subject which requires students to have a good grasp of the English Language. After all, words are a lawyer's weapon of choice! A substantial proportion of the marks available for the OCR exam papers are actually awarded solely for the use of English. However, while there will be the odd essay to write, A Level Law is primarily a "problem-solving" subject. As such, it offers a chance to develop skills that can be of value to future undergraduate students of any subject.

### A Level

English Legal System | Law Making | Criminal Law | Contract Law | Tort Law | Nature of Law

"If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers."

*Charles Dickens*

## Mathematics

### Careers

Career opportunities are many and varied including: accountancy, actuarial work, architecture, astronomy, banking, computing, economics, engineering, medicine, market research, quantity surveying and teaching.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a grade 7 Maths.

### Course outline

One of the most beautiful and highly respected languages in the world, Mathematics is a fascinating, challenging and elegant power, which provides crucial skills in demand across a wide range of careers. Mathematics has always been the foundation of the physical sciences and it now plays a major role in the life sciences. You will also see its importance in such disciplines as economics, computer science, business and psychology. Employers value numeracy, clarity of thought and the capacity for logical argument that the study of Mathematics creates.

### A Level

Paper 1 Pure Mathematics 1 2 hour examination	33% of A Level
Paper 2 Pure Mathematics 2 2 hour examination	33% of A Level
Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics 2 hour examination	33% of A Level

"However impenetrable it seems, if you don't try it, you can never do it."

*Andrew Wiles (proved Fermat's last theorem)*

## Further Mathematics

### Careers

Career opportunities are many and varied including: accountancy, actuarial work, architecture, astronomy, banking, computing, economics, engineering, medicine, market research, quantity surveying and teaching.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a grade 8 in Maths (UMS scores as set by the Head of Maths will determine the entry for Further Maths).

### Course outline

Further Mathematics is in itself an additional A Level and is set to challenge the most gifted mathematicians. We have excellent links with the Further Maths network to provide enrichment in their studies. Students complete the same modules that they do for A Level Mathematics plus some additional modules designed to stretch and test the most able Mathematicians.

Further Mathematics is a demanding but enjoyable course if you have a real passion for the subject. We offer Core Pure modules and take Statistics and Mechanics much further for a true Mathematical experience.

A Level	
Paper 1 Further Pure Mathematics 1 1.5 hour examination	25% of A Level
Paper 2 Further Pure Mathematics 2 1.5 hour examination	25% of A Level
Paper 3 Further Statistics 1.5 hour examination	25% of A Level
Paper 4 Further Mechanics 1.5 hour examination	25% of A Level

“Give me a lever long enough and fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world.” *Archimedes*

## Photography

### Careers

This forms a starting point for students wishing to move into the art, design and all industries associated with this sector. Photography A Level enables progression towards foundation and degrees in: photography, graphics, 3D design, product design, fine art, animation, architecture, teaching and many others.

### Entry Requirements

5 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language.

### Coursework 6PY01 – 60% of the total qualification

Internally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated. In Year 12 you will be required to produce coursework consisting of ‘skill building’ mini projects.

These mini projects will explore the work of many photographers and you will make your own responses. These projects will teach you both darkroom and digital photography skills. This section will be completed by March.

You will then begin your Personal Investigation, choosing a topic/genre of your choice. This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

### Essay (Year 13)

The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1,000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification.

### Examination: 6PY02 - 40% of the total qualification

Externally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated. You will begin preparation for this in February of Year 13.

Externally set theme and exam: You will have an extended preparation period to respond to the exam topic and produce a sketchbook documenting your process and 1 large scale final outcome.

“A photograph is usually looked at – seldom looked into.” *Ansel Adams*

# Sixth Form A Level courses

## Physics

### Careers

A grounding in Physics can lead to many career possibilities. Students opt for careers in engineering, architecture, the health service and even finance.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language as well as a 6 in Physics or 6-6 in Combined Science. You **must** also be studying A-Level Mathematics if you wish to study Physics (and therefore have achieved the requirements for that course too).

### Course outline

Physics forms the basis of other sciences and also engineering. This course is suitable for students who like to understand how things work as well as solving problems. Those who have a solid grounding and aptitude for Mathematics are more likely to enjoy the course. Students will study topics including gravitational fields, special relativity, waves, electricity and quantum physics.

### A Level

Four units in Year 12 – including Particles and Radiation | Electricity | Waves and Optics | Mechanics and Materials.

Four units in Year 13 – including Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics | Fields | Nuclear Physics and Turning Points in Physics

“My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all.”

*Stephen Hawking*

## Politics

### Careers

Politics is suitable for students wishing to pursue a wide range of social science courses at university, including Politics, International Relations, History, Law and American Studies. Students intending to embark on a career in politics, law, journalism, local and national government, the civil service and social research will be well suited to this course.

### Entry Requirements

6 x grade 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 6 in English Language.

### Course outline

Politics A Level provides students with enhanced writing, research and communication skills, while allowing them to develop and challenge arguments logically and coherently. The development of these essential life skills makes Politics an excellent choice for those seeking an academic KS5 subject.

Above all, an interest in current affairs and issues of political significance is essential. Politics affects every aspect of our daily lives and also the future of our country and the world. Among other topics, students taking the new Politics A Level will learn about the key ideologies underpinning British politics. Politics is a well-respected academic subject and for the right student, with an enquiring mind, it will allow you to expand your learning experience and prepare you for university study.

### A Level

Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK.  
Written exam 2 hours.

Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative politics.  
Written exam - 2 hours.

Paper 3: Political Ideas.  
Written exam - 2 hours

“The ballot is stronger than the bullet.”

*Abraham Lincoln*



# Product Design

## Careers

A-Level Product Design is a creative course with transferrable skills that is an excellent foundation for anybody considering careers within the Design Industry. This may include Architecture, Product Design, Engineering and Careers in the Built Environment. The course allows students to gain a core understanding of the design process, materials and industrial processes before specialising and designing and making a substantial product.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 5 GCSE passes including a 5 in English Language, a 5 in DT and a 5 in Mathematics.

## Course outline

This is a lively, motivational and challenging course which will allow students to express their flair and creativity through a whole range of practical and theoretical activities.

Students will study product analysis, product development as well as develop an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials. Students are required to demonstrate their designing, making and evaluation skills through their chosen specialist Design & Technology area and will also be set various design challenges.

To study Product Design, students need to have to display flair and imagination, be prepared to talk openly about all things creative and present their ideas to others via a variety of media. Students need to be knowledgeable with STEM subject areas- 15% of the written papers being mathematics questions.

A Level	
Non-exam assessment (NEA): Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles Substantial design & make project: (Written or digital design portfolio & photographic evidence of final prototype)	100 marks: 50% of A-Level
Paper 1: Technical principles (Mixture of short/extended response questions) Written Exam 2.5 hours	120 marks: 30% of A-Level
Paper 2: Designing & making principles (Mixture of short/extended response questions) Section A: Product Analysis (30 marks) Section B Commercial Manufacture (50 marks) Written Exam 1.5 hours	80 marks: 20% of A-Level

“A designer knows when they have achieved perfection not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.”

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

# Psychology

## Careers

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Careers in public relations, human resources, marketing, advertising and nursing are just a few examples. Other students may take a direct approach and become a psychologist in education, sport, industry or even policing.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 6 in English Language and a 5 in Maths.

## Course outline

Psychology is the scientific investigation of the mind and behaviour. It is a popular subject that appeals to those who are interested in people, in how people think, act, react and interact. Within the course students will learn a number of skills including, how to view the world around you from different perspectives, how to plan and conduct scientific experiments as well as putting across your point fluently.

### Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology

#### Topics

Social Influence | Memory | Attachment | Psychopathology

This is a written paper over 2 hours consisting of: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

### Paper 2: Psychology in context

#### Topics

Approaches in Psychology | Biopsychology | Research Methods

This is a written paper over 2 hours consisting of: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

### Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

#### Topics

Issues and debates | Gender development | Schizophrenia | Addiction

This is a written paper over 2 hours consisting of: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

“Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.”

*Carl Jung*

# Sixth Form A Level courses

## Religious Studies

### Careers

Students who have studied Religious Studies have moved onto a variety of careers including: Medicine, Law, Journalism, Business, Management, Psychology, and Teaching. Students who have taken Religious Studies have gone onto degrees in theology, philosophy, psychology, law, politics, economics and many other social sciences. The Religious Studies course helps students to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills. This is transferable to any workplace and can help students to be solution focused and able to deal with large amounts of complex information.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a 6 in RE. In the event of not studying RE before, a grade 6 in either History, Geography or English Language will be necessary.

### Course outline

The Religious Studies course at A Level is split into three components; Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Religious Thought. This is an essay based subject and students will take exams in each of the three components. Topics of study include 'the nature of God', 'the problem of evil, 'ethical language', 'conscience and free will', 'the relationship between religion and society', 'historical developments in religious thought' and 'the challenge of secularism'.

At A Level there will be three 2 hour exams, one for each component named below. Students will have to write three essays out of a choice of four questions covering any aspect of the two year course.

### A Level

Philosophy of Religion  
Religion and Ethics  
Developments in Christian Thought

*"The unexamined life is not worth living."*

*Socrates*

## Sociology

### Careers

An A Level in Sociology will be regarded with great respect by academic institutions. Skills are learnt within the two years of study that can translate into any further study including analysis, critical thinking, in-depth reading and research. Students who take up an A Level in Sociology often combine it with Psychology, Politics, English or one of the other humanities subjects. Studying Sociology leads on to a variety of careers including working for social research, political parties, home office, civil service, teaching or journalism.

### Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 5 in English Language.

### Course outline

Sociology is the study of society in an in-depth perspective. The subject entails looking at current real-world phenomena in a variety of different viewpoints. It is a popular subject that appeals to those who are interested in society, human social behaviour, patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and aspects of culture in combination with everyday life.

### A Level

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods  
Written exam 2 hours.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (Families and Media)  
Written exam - 2 hours.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods  
Written exam - 2 hours

*"The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden."*

*Pierre Bourdieu*

# Spanish

## Careers

The language skills you will develop through Spanish A-Level can lead directly into a career in translating, interpreting or teaching, and are also in demand in areas such as hospitality, law, publishing and business services. Further study of languages at university usually involves spending a year abroad and this can be an opportunity to find work in a field that interests you and gain relevant experience. It's also a brilliant way to explore Spain, or any of the other countries of the Spanish-speaking world.

## Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes as well as a grade 6 in Spanish GCSE.

## Course outline

Doing an A Level in a Modern Foreign Language is challenging but highly rewarding. The programme of study in Spanish is broad and diverse, with students given the opportunity to study the history and politics of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries, the art and culture of the Spanish-speaking world as well as important works of literature and film. Alongside this rich and extensive work, you will do an individual research topic to be presented in your oral exam in Y13. The individual research topic is a fantastic opportunity to explore any aspect of Spanish-speaking life or culture in which you are interested, and is great preparation for the independent work and study you'll need to do should you go on to university. All of this goes hand-in-hand with a deeper dive into Spanish grammar, structure and vocabulary.

For this course, you need to love reading, researching and thinking about Hispanic issues, and you'll need to be prepared to participate actively within group discussions and feedback. ¡Bienvenidos! .

## A Level

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2 hrs 30mins)	50% of A-Level
Aspects of Hispanic society   Artistic culture in the Hispanic world   Multiculturalism in Hispanic society   Aspects of political life in Hispanic society; Grammar.	
Paper 2: Writing (2 hrs)	
One text and one film or two texts (a novel or play) from a set list; Grammar.	
Component 3: Speaking (23 minutes)	
Individual research project   One of four themes (from Paper 1)	

“Aprende del pasado, vive el presente, trabaja para el futuro.” (“Learn from the past, live the present, work for the future”).

*Paulina on the Road Blog*



# Sixth Form BTEC (Level 3) courses

## BTEC Business (equivalent to two A levels)

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### Careers

This course is suitable for those students who wish to pursue a career in the business environment, or who wish to set up their own business. It is also suitable for those who wish to study business at a higher level or even a business related course such as law, economics, accounting, finance, management and politics.

### Entry Requirements

4 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 4 in English Language and a level 4 in Maths.

### Course outline

This BTEC Level 3 Diploma is suitable for any student who is interested in Business either as a direct pathway into employment or who may use it to study the subject further at university. There are four mandatory units and eight optional units. The four core units in the diploma give students an introduction to an understanding of the business environment, management of resources, marketing and communication – all fundamental to the success of business organisations.

Business employers value employees who are able to communicate effectively both verbally and using electronic communication methods. The BTEC Diploma in Business provides opportunities for students to develop their communication skills as they progress through the course. This can be both through presentations and discussions in which they have the opportunity to express their opinions. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement, taking into account industry standards for behaviour and performance.

**There are 8 units in total including 3 mandatory units as follows:**

<b>BTEC</b>
<b>Units covered in year 12:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 1: Exploring Business (mandatory internally assessed)</li><li>• Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign (mandatory externally assessed)</li><li>• Unit 3: Personal Business and Finance (mandatory externally assessed)</li><li>• Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process (internally assessed – optional units)</li></ul>
<b>Units covered in year 13:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 4: Managing an Event (mandatory internally assessed)</li><li>• Unit 5: International Business (mandatory internally assessed)</li><li>• Unit 6: Principles of Management (mandatory externally assessed)</li><li>• Unit 16: Visual Merchandising (internally assessed – optional units)</li></ul>

This qualification has also been approved by the following professional bodies as suitable qualifications for learners wanting to progress onto their approved courses at the appropriate level. These professional bodies include:

- CIPD – Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development
- CIPS – Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply
- CMI – Chartered Management Institute

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is the equivalent of two A Levels.

*“My biggest motivation? Just to keep challenging myself. I see life almost like one long university education that I never had – every day I’m learning something new.”*  
*Sir Richard Branson*

# BTEC National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production (equivalent to one A level)

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## Careers

Studying the media, such as film, TV, animation, marketing and advertising provides students with real and practical skills in the field of digital media. This course will prepare students for higher education in arts/humanities based subjects as well as specific media and film based jobs. The vocational nature of the course ensures that students are trained in team work, collaborative planning, creative thinking, presentation skills to colleagues, scheduling time and resources, as well as being exposed to cutting edge digital software, film editing apps, lighting and sound equipment. All in all, this course provides technical and self-management skills that will strongly appeal to any employer and/or university. Universities and businesses definitely recognise the quality of the skill-set that students emerge with from this course.

## Entry Requirements

4 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including at least a Level 4 in English Language.

## Course outline

The Extended Certificate is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. This vocational and practical course is ideal for students who would like to build their creative digital portfolio of production skills to enter a 21st century world. This course will also give you critical thinking skills and an understanding of key concepts and debates concerning media representations.

If you are looking at a career within the digital, communications, media and/or creative industries, then this course is definitely the one for you!

### There are two exam units and two practical units in this qualification:

#### Externally assessed (exam) units completed in YR12:

- Unit 1 Media Representations – live onscreen examination
- Unit 8 Responding to a commission – externally assessed

#### Internally assessed units completed in YR13:

- Unit 4 Pre-Production Portfolio
- Unit 10 Film Production

The National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production is an exciting course that offers a number of transferable skills in preparation for employment or further educational study in areas of the creative arts and media. This course is aimed provide learners with the strongest opportunity for employment and provide skills that can be transferable in all areas of media including film, photography, sound and many more besides.

“Respect your efforts, respect yourself. Self-respect leads to self-discipline. When you have both firmly under your belt, that’s real power.”

*Clint Eastwood*



# University Options

Around 80-85% of our Y13 students choose to go to university. Before deciding what you want to study in the Sixth Form you should look carefully at the combination of subjects needed for particular degree courses in higher education.

The Sixth Form Team will provide a wealth of expertise and guidance from the very beginning of Year 12 right up to the end of Year 13. The list below offers a brief guide to help aid and assist you in choosing your options. For more detailed information log on to the university application website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). It is important to note that almost all Higher Education courses will insist on Maths and English Language at level 4 and some require a higher level 5.

## **Archaeology**

Usually no specific requirements, however history may help.

## **Architecture**

Mathematics is preferred very often along with Physics.

## **Art and Design**

Fine Art and/or Photography. You will also need to produce a portfolio of work.

## **Biochemistry**

Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Maths.

## **Business and Management**

Any Business course, Geography and a foreign language may complement this choice.

## **Chemical Engineering**

Chemistry, Physics and Maths.

## **Design**

Any design course, including Fine Art and Photography. Media Studies may also complement this.

## **Drama**

Drama, English Literature and Language may also complement this choice.

## **Economics**

Maths, Geography is also an option.

## **Engineering**

Maths, Physics.

## **English**

English Literature or Language, plus other arts subjects or a language.

## **Geography**

Geography and then a mixture of science and an art subject.

## **Geology**

Chemistry, Physics, Maths and/or Geography.

## **History**

History plus two other art subjects.

## **Law**

A wide range of arts subjects are useful, including Law.

## **Mathematics**

Maths, Further Maths plus Physics.

## **Medicine, Veterinary Science**

Chemistry required, plus Biology and either Physics or Maths.

## **Modern Languages**

Some courses expect no prior knowledge e.g. Russian, but most require an A Level in the chosen language and some request a second language.

## **Music**

Music, Music Technology, plus evidence of performance at a high level.

## **Pharmacology, Physiology**

Chemistry, Biology.

## **Philosophy and Ethics, Theology**

No particular subjects are preferred, however RE A Level and other arts subjects are preferable.

## **Politics**

Politics, History and possibly a language.

## **Psychology**

Psychology is not essential but is helpful. A wide range of other subjects are accepted.

## **Sociology**

A range of art and science subjects are useful.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What range of courses do you have?**

We have a variety of academic and technical courses.

## **What are your Sixth Form results like?**

Excellent. Students achieve well above local and national averages.

## **What help will I receive as a Sixth Form student?**

You will get lots of help! You will have a tutor as well as a Head of Year who will help to look after you and make sure that you are achieving to your potential. We also have a Connexions adviser at the school for information and advice.

## **Will I have to wear uniform?**

Yes. Have a look at what the uniform is on page six.

One of the reasons we have a uniform is to identify sixth form students as members of the school. Another reason is to develop a sense of community.

## **Do you cater for students who are 'Gifted and Talented'?**

Yes, we have a Super-C club for our most able students. The club mentors them in how to successfully apply to either Oxford and Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

## **Are there any enrichment activities in the Sixth Form?**

Plenty! Have a look at the Wider Learning booklet – you will be amazed at how much we offer!

## **Will I have any free lessons?**

Yes, you will have a few free lessons, however you will also have timetabled study periods.

## **Will the school help me to get a place at university?**

The Wiseman Sixth Form has an outstanding success rate at helping students to win places at university. We ensure that applications are sent off early and we have a dedicated UCAS conference week in June with specialist workshops. We have a full time experienced and specialist UCAS Advisor who will give you 1 – 1 support with your application. We also offer mock interviews and regularly hold workshops to help you prepare fully for this important stage of your life. We bring a number of 'lecturers' into school to help inspire you about degree courses and careers.

## **What support will I get if I do not want to go to university?**

We have developed links with a number of Apprenticeship providers as well as the School Leavers Programme so that all students are catered for.

## **Is there any financial support for a Wiseman Sixth Form student?**

The Sixth Form receives a 16 – 19 Bursary Grant from the Local Authority and Department of Education. Full details on how to apply for this discretionary bursary is available on the website or see the Sixth Form Administrator for further details. Vulnerable young students are also entitled to the full grant.

## **How are Sixth Form students motivated?**

We give SIMS achievement points in every subject area and these lead to relevant prizes. Praise postcards are sent home and assemblies are used to celebrate success. At the end of the year, certificates are awarded to students based on effort and achievement.





**All things  
for Christ**



## **The Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School**

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