LICHFIELD
Cathedral
School

SIXTH FORM

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Welcome

Lichfield Cathedral School Sixth Form is a vibrant, intellectually stimulating and friendly place. The spirit of academic enquiry is at the heart of teaching and learning: small tuition groups ensure that everyone is involved in discussion and debate. Students in our Sixth Form are known personally. They are encouraged to pursue their academic goals and other aspirations with determination and we love to celebrate their many successes.

Our proven record of impressive academic achievements and outstanding pastoral care, combined with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities, make life as a student at the Cathedral School both challenging and incredibly rewarding.

Self-discipline and the desire to push yourself to achieve your best are important, but will be matched step for step by committed staff who take pride in seeing their students develop into independently-minded young people. Sixth Formers leave us with an understanding of the world around them and the active role they can play as innovative, compassionate, responsible citizens.

Sixth Form life is exhilarating, yet the pressures of examinations, university applications and our high standards can be considerable. Our excellent pastoral team includes the Form Tutors, the Assistant Heads, Pastoral Assistant, Academic Mentors, Chaplaincy team and the School Nurse. We are all on hand to provide a caring framework of support and guidance which focuses on the individual needs of each student.

We encourage you to visit us, meet our students and see the School for yourself. It really is a wonderful place!

Mrs F Goodlet
Head of Sixth Form

In the Lower Sixth, students usually choose three subjects to study. We offer a mixture of A Levels and BTEC qualifications. A Levels are primarily assessed via written examinations, while the BTEC courses offer the same UCAS points as A Levels, but are assessed through a mixture of course work and examinations.

Students who join us without the required grades in GCSE Mathematics and English will be able to re-sit these subjects alongside starting the Sixth Form curriculum.

Students can also complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), highly regarded by universities and employers alike. The EPQ enables students to demonstrate their research, data analysis and project management skills, giving excellent preparation for university study. It carries valuable UCAS points; some universities make lower offers to students who have achieved a Grade A in their EPQ. Most importantly, the EPQ is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore a topic that fascinates them, but is not covered by any of their A Level curricula.

Students can continue to study French, German or Spanish without the need to undertake an A Level. We offer a 2-year AS Level in these languages, which may be useful for students planning to study international business at university or complete part of their degree course abroad.

All Sixth Form students have one afternoon of Games each week and are offered a wide range of sporting and fitness activities.

Curriculum





SixthFormPro

The LCS Sixth Form experience is about more than just academic achievement - it's about preparing students for life beyond the classroom. Whether they choose to pursue higher education or enter the world of work, we equip them with the skills, confidence, and mindset to thrive.

Through our bespoke SixthFormPro programme, we help students stand out from the crowd, making them highly competitive candidates for universities and future employers. Our goal is not only to educate, but to inspire a lifelong passion for learning and personal growth.

- **Life Skills Programme** - equips students with the essential tools they need to navigate adulthood with confidence and independence.
- **Leadership opportunities** - as well as being important role models for younger pupils, specific roles that can be taken on include Heads of School, Deputy Heads and Prefects, and members of the School Council.
- **Mentor roles** - students can be Wellbeing Mentors for younger year groups, or join the Sixth Form-led reading group for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.
- **Co-Curricular Clubs** - Sport and fitness; Music ensembles, bands and orchestra; Young Singing Leaders programme; Cantorum chamber choir; Sixth Form Choral Scholarships with the Lichfield Cathedral Choir; Public Speaking and Debating; the Inklings literary group.
- **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award** - Bronze, Silver and Gold.
- **LAMDA lessons** - offering practical communication and performance training and assessment; higher levels awarded UCAS points.
- **MOOCs** - Mass Open Online Courses, that students are encouraged to undertake, offer a diverse range of courses across multiple disciplines aligning with their interests and career aspirations.
- **Volunteering** - in the local community.
- **Overseas trips and World Challenge** - there's an annual ski trip and a Sixth Form ski trip; language, geography, history, art, choral and performing arts tours to Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, and the USA; and Physicists and Mathematicians visit CERN. World Challenge provides transformative expeditions that empower students, enrich communities, and create lasting global impact. Previous expeditions have visited Uganda, Borneo and eSwatini in South Africa and included community engagement, trekking, camping and a safari.
- Plus regular **Sixth Form social trips** - including bowling, Laser Tag and Ninja Warrior.

We have a dedicated Careers and HE team at LCS, comprised of trained advisors and the Head of Sixth Form. We are passionate about every student finding the right path for them and encourage students to explore a wide range of possibilities during their time in the Sixth Form.

To this end, every Year 12 student has a one-to-one meeting with a Careers Advisor during Michaelmas term to discuss their plans for the future. Tailored support is provided for UCAS applications, beginning in Trinity term of Year 12. We are delighted that every Sixth Former at Lichfield Cathedral School has gained a place on the degree course of their choice.

Bespoke small group support is offered to Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry applicants, with individual personal statement guidance provided throughout the application process. We also run a series of practice interviews for these applicants in Michaelmas term.

Our excellent programme of Higher Education talks has been delivered by Schools Liaison Teams from Russell Group institutions, such as the University of Durham and the University of Birmingham, as well as Nottingham Trent University, Oxford Brookes and Lancaster University. Some talks are focused on specific subject areas, such as STEM and the creative arts, while others are focused on the admissions process. We also host an array of visiting speakers during Sixth Form Enrichment on a bi-weekly basis, exploring careers and raising students' aspirations.

Trips and other opportunities exploring options for the future are central, including annual visits to the University of Cambridge, the University of Birmingham open day, the National Apprenticeship Show and the UCAS Discovery Show. In 2025 we hosted our second annual Careers Fair with numerous universities and degree apprenticeship providers in attendance.

Form Tutors offer skill development sessions during Wellbeing/RSE, encouraging Sixth Formers to explore a range of career pathways. Our students are glorious individuals and we are committed to supporting each of them to find their own path. Skills like cover letter writing, interviewing effectively, presenting confidently and preparing a CV are just some of the many we cover. These skills can be further enhanced when completing the EPQ. Our Wellbeing/RSE sessions also consider themes like student finance and managing money, time management and study skills, and managing anxiety and stress.



Careers & Higher Education

Applied Law

Level 3 BTEC Extended National Certificate equivalent to 1 A Level

What is covered?

Applied Law focuses on the knowledge and practical skills required for employment within the legal sector. It is a vibrant and exciting subject that helps students to become confident dealing with issues, disputes and other people.

The course covers specific areas of English and Welsh law in detail:

- ***Dispute solving in civil law*** - how civil disputes are resolved, both in the courts and by alternative means; examine the making and working of precedent and its application in the law of negligence.
- ***Investigating aspects of criminal law and the legal system*** - research how laws are made and interpreted; who advises and decides on the outcome of criminal cases and the punishments that can be imposed if laws are broken; present advice to clients on non-fatal offence case studies.
- ***Applying the law*** - examine the law related to specific crimes, including homicide and offences against property; explore the police procedures for dealing with such offences.
- Option Unit: ***The law of Tort*** - specific areas of negligence are considered: economic loss, negligent misstatements and psychiatric harm. Special rules exist for these torts to prevent too many claims being made. In addition, torts relating to the use of property, including nuisance and occupiers' liability are considered. Some torts of strict liability, including vicarious liability are covered.

What will I need to do?

Two units are assessed internally, two externally. For the internal assessment, an assignment brief is given to students which details the unit tasks based around work related scenarios. For the external assessment, students will be given a case study two weeks beforehand in order to carry out research, then a written task is completed within a set time limit.

Why study Law at LCS?

By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students develop valuable transferable skills for university and employment:

- research and analysis
- critical thinking and problem-solving
- effective communication, teamwork and presentation skills
- the ability to negotiate, influence and collaborate.

You will benefit from outstanding teaching from trained practitioners and you will have extensive support to ensure you reach your potential.

Entry requirements

Students are required to have achieved grade 9-5 in GCSE English.

Higher Education and Career opportunities

Law is a highly valued and universally well-regarded subject. This course provides a vocationally relevant qualification for those planning to enter the legal sector or those wishing to gain UCAS points for higher education to study both law and non-law related degrees.

Other potential career pathways include: paralegal or legal apprentice; other law-related roles such as police, social work, the prison or court service; government, health and safety, Customs, Inland Revenue, banking or insurance.

Criminology

WJEC Level 3 BTEC
Certificate/Diploma
equivalent to 1 A Level

What is covered?

How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What are the roles of personnel involved when a crime is detected? Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour on individual, social and natural levels, and how it can be managed, controlled and prevented. This course offers an in-depth look at modern crime and punishment and enables students to develop both practical and academic skills through applied learning.

Year 1

1. ***Changing awareness of crime*** - how crime reporting affects the public perception of criminality; how campaigns are used to elicit change; students will plan a campaign for change relating to crime.

2. ***Criminological theories*** - understand social constructions, theories and causes of criminality; understand the causes of policy change.

Year 2

3. ***Crime scene to courtroom*** - understand the process of criminal investigations, the prosecution of suspects and review criminal cases.

4. ***Crime and punishment*** - the different processes of the criminal justice system and the role of punishment and social control measures in England and Wales.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed at the end of each year and both involve 50% exam and 50% controlled assessment.

Students will need to keep up-to-date with current affairs and take an active interest in the criminal justice system by reading relevant journals and following criminal cases as they develop.

Why study Criminology at LCS?

Students will develop a range of useful and transferable skills valued by both universities and employers, including research and analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication and presentation, working effectively in teams, negotiating and influencing, time management and resilience.

This course enables students to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world situations in an exciting and engaging manner.

Entry requirements

A positive attitude and commitment to the subject is expected. A grade 9-5 in History and/or English is required.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Criminology is directly relevant to careers in the probation, police or prison services, social work, the legal profession, community development work and youth work. You may go on to study Criminology at degree level or move into a related field of social work, sociology, psychology, law or political science.

It is also highly applicable to a wide range of higher education courses and careers, particularly those requiring critical thinking and research skills.

Government & Politics

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

There are three broad areas of study for AQA Politics, examined in three papers:

- the government and politics of the UK
- the government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
- political ideas.

The first two papers are an in-depth study of UK and US government and politics, where students will understand:

- The nature of the constitution
- The structure and role of Parliament/Congress
- The PM and Cabinet/The President
- The Judiciary
- Devolution
- Democracy and Participation
- Elections and referendums
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups
- Civil Rights
- The European Union

In Paper 2, students will study the constitutional framework of the US government and its three separate branches: the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. They will be able to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between the UK and the USA, including the role of pressure groups and the protection of citizen rights. Students will use three theoretical approaches to analyse and explain similarities and differences between the US and UK systems: structural, rational and cultural.

In Paper 3, students study four ideologies (Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism) which enhances their knowledge and understanding of politics, political debate and political issues in both the UK and the USA.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed through written examinations. You will need to keep up-to-date on current affairs and have an enquiring mind that critically appraises information and its source.

Why study Government & Politics at LCS?

In studying Politics, students will:

- develop informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the UK and globally;
- develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas and institutions;
- examine the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics;
- have a developed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups in society, and be able to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements;
- develop an interest in, and engagement with, contemporary politics.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 9-6 in English Literature or History is preferred.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Government & Politics is a robust and well-respected academic qualification. It is recognised as a valid A Level for students to wish to compete for higher education places. This course will help you to access a career in civil service, law, journalism, PR, research, teaching, human resources or any other career that requires skills of argument, debate and analysis.

Biology

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

The A Level Biology course carries students far beyond GCSE and introduces them to the exciting world of modern biology. The main topic areas covered include:

Biological molecules: all life on Earth shares a common chemistry including proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acids and water.

Cells: all living organisms are made from cells. This unit looks at different types of cells and the membranes that surround them.

Organisms exchange substances with their environment: how cells maintain an internal environment different to the external one.

Genetic information: DNA, genes, gene expression and how differences between species are controlled by the DNA they contain.

Energy transfers in and between organisms: life depends on the continuous transfer of energy and this unit looks at the processes of photosynthesis and respiration.

Organisms respond to changes in the internal and external environments: how organisms detect and respond to the environment.

Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.

The control of gene expression: how genes are controlled and switched on and off and recombinant gene technology.

What will I need to do?

You will carry out many practicals which will include 12 required practicals which are recorded and assessed in class. Knowledge of these is then formally tested in the final exams. Assessments are based on three written exams in the final term.

Why study Biology at LCS?

A Level Biology builds on the ideas and skills developed at GCSE and leads to an understanding of the way in which nature works. It also helps you to understand how scientists work, improves your practical skills and help you to develop your career ideas.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Biology is a requirement for medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, marine biology, dentistry, pharmacy and genetics courses. It is also a preferred subject for forensic science, nursing, speech therapy, biotechnology and environmental science courses and a good basis for many degree courses such as teacher training, sports management, business and law.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a GCSE grade 9-6 in Biology or 9-9 to 6-6 in dual award Science or equivalent plus grade 9-6 in Mathematics.

Chemistry

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

Chemistry is concerned with the science of matter, particularly its structure, properties and reactions. It is of central importance to the sciences as a whole as chemical interactions are fundamental to all of science.

The first year explores the fundamental principles that form the basis of Chemistry and includes atomic theory, bonding, energetics, equilibrium and organic chemistry. This is followed by units that develop the concepts of physical chemistry and introduce a quantitative treatment of kinetics and equilibria.

The study of organic chemistry is extended to include compounds containing the carbonyl group, aromatic compounds, amines, amino acids and polymers. There is also a section on spectroscopic techniques and how they are used to determine the molecular formulae and structures of organic compounds. The emphasis is on problem solving rather than on spectroscopic theory. Finally, inorganic chemistry is extended and developed.

What will I need to do?

Twelve practicals will be formally recorded and assessed; although the outcome will be recorded on your A Level certificate, it will not contribute to your final grade, but will be a separate Practical Endorsement.

There are three written examinations. The first two papers contribute 70% to the A Level and test the Chemistry content. They contain a mixture of short and longer answer questions. The final paper tests your understanding of practical work, which may include some data analysis, as well as containing some fully synoptic questions from the whole of the course.

Why study Chemistry at LCS?

You will develop your skills in experimental practical work and become more fluent in the use of mathematics. Your IT skills will also play an important part in doing research, processing data and presenting your work.

You will cultivate the ability to reason clearly; to discuss and communicate ideas, facts and principles; to solve problems; and to work as part of a team - all useful transferable skills.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Chemistry is a compulsory requirement for dentistry, medicine, veterinary science and all the chemical-based degrees such as Chemistry and Pharmacy. It is also a preferred course for many biological-based degrees and for natural science.

A Level Chemistry is a valuable subject for students preparing for a range of higher education courses and future careers, especially for those entering the engineering, and pharmaceutical professions. Due to the logical thought required to study Chemistry, many chemists go into accountancy and patent law.

Entry requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a GCSE grade 9-6 in Chemistry or 9-9 to 6-6 in dual award Science or equivalent. Students are also required to have gained 9-6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Physics

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

Physics is the study of how our universe works, its rules and mechanics and the scientific discoveries which lie behind great discoveries. It is a fundamentally practical subject with experimental work at the core of the course. You will learn to manipulate more advanced equipment and analyse data to work out relationships between physical quantities. The AQA course is built around practical work and students should expect to be completing several practical lessons each week.

There are 9 modules in this course:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Option module: either Astrophysics or Medical Physics

The study of this course involves the use of Maths for calculations, including basic algebra and trigonometry, logs and exponential functions. However, it is not necessary to study A Level Mathematics.

What will I need to do?

This course is assessed through three written examinations, two of which cover the theoretical content and a third which focuses on practical skills developed through the course.

You will also complete 12 practical assessments that do not form part of the final grade, but are used to assess your practical competency. In addition to your final A Level grade, you will be awarded a Practical Endorsement in Physics. Many science-based university courses will require this as part of their offer for course places.

Why study Physics at LCS?

Studying Physics will help you to develop vital transferable skills - thinking logically, solving problems, working in a team and independently, communicating effectively and presenting complex information. It will also help you develop keen research skills and transferable practical skills, essential for future workplaces.

Entry requirements

Students are required to have gained grade 9-6 in GCSE Physics or 9-9 to 6-6 in GCSE dual award Science. Students are also required to have gained grade 9-7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Higher Education and career opportunities

A Level Physics is recognised and accepted in all higher education establishments and can lead to work in an extremely wide array of future academic and vocational career options.

The study of Physics gives an essential foundation to many branches of engineering including civil, mechanical, electronic and automotive, and is a valuable complement to other sciences for those wishing to specialise in medical and biological fields, architecture, computing and related sectors. Due to the practical application of mathematical techniques involved, many physicists progress to careers in accountancy, banking and management. It is also a key requirement for many higher level apprenticeships in fields such as engineering.

Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

What is covered?

Mathematics reveals hidden patterns that help us understand the world around us. Like language, music and religion, mathematics is a universal part of human culture and as such plays a special role in education.

This course enables students to understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study. Students will be able to present a mathematical argument.

At A Level, there are three units, all equally weighted.

In **Pure Mathematics 1 and 2** the course extends the knowledge gained at GCSE level in algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Other branches of mathematics are introduced, including the study of sequences and series, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods and vectors.

In **Statistics and Mechanics** students will learn about statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing. Within mechanics, students will focus on quantities and units, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments.

What will I need to do?

The units will be assessed by three 2-hour written examinations.

Why study Mathematics at LCS?

You will be working in a small class taught by experienced teachers within a supportive and enthusiastic environment.

This course will improve your knowledge and understanding of Maths and how it is used in the real world. You will also develop your logical reasoning skills and your ability to analyse data and solve problems.

Entry requirements

This A Level course will be available to students who have achieved 9-7 at GCSE level.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Mathematics is a well-established and highly regarded A Level accepted by all higher education establishments. Mathematics provides entry into careers such as financial and economic planning, through management services to scientific and industrial research, engineering and computing, law, commerce, medicine and teaching.

Further Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

What is covered?

Particularly strong candidates can consider Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics A Level. This course extends knowledge of A Level Mathematics ideas and techniques. It is a course for very able students who want to study two A Levels in Mathematics.

The structure follows that of A Level Mathematics, addressing each subject in more depth. There are 4 papers in total:

- ***Papers 1 and 2 Core Pure Mathematics*** - proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.
- ***Paper 3 Further Mathematics Options*** - choose from further pure mathematics; further statistics; further mechanics; or decision mathematics.
- ***Paper 4 Further Mathematics Options*** - choose from further pure mathematics; further statistics; further mechanics; or decision mathematics.

What will I need to do?

All units will be assessed by written examination.

Why study Mathematics at LCS?

You will be working in a small class taught by experienced teachers within a supportive and enthusiastic environment.

This course will improve your knowledge and understanding of maths and how it is used in the real world. You will also develop your logical reasoning skills and your ability to analyse data and see patterns.

Entry requirements

Students must have achieved grade 9 or 8 at GCSE level and must study Mathematics A Level as well.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Further Mathematics is is particularly useful for students moving on to degree courses with a large mathematical content.

Mathematics provides entry into a wide range of careers including cybersecurity, telecommunications, weather forecast modelling, and financial and economic risk management, to name just a few.

Psychology

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

Psychology is the scientific study of human thought, emotion and behaviour. The topics studied include:

- ***Social influence*** - conformity, obedience, resistance and the role of social influence in social change
- ***Memory*** - the multi-store model, long-term and working memory, factors affecting eye witness testimony
- ***Attachment*** - types and stages of attachment, the influence of early attachment on childhood and adult relationships
- ***Psychopathology*** - definitions of abnormality, the behavioural, emotional and cognitive characteristics and explanations of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder
- ***Approaches in psychology*** - learning, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic and humanistic
- **Biopsychology** - central nervous system, synaptic transmission, endocrine system, biological rhythms
- ***Research methods*** - scientific processes, data handling and analysis, inferential testing
- ***Year 2 Options in psychology*** - schizophrenia, forensic psychology and relationships.
- ***Contemporary debates in psychology*** - gender and culture, free will and determinism, nature/nurture, holism and reductionism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches, ethical implications

What will I need to do?

The assessment is by three written examinations including multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Why study Psychology at LCS?

This course has been designed to provide you with a broad introduction to the science of psychology. The emphasis throughout is based on applying knowledge and understanding, which helps to develop your analysis, evaluation and critical thinking skills.

This is a demanding subject that requires you to draw on a wide range of abilities. Psychological research requires students to read academic papers; for classroom discussions to be effective, students need to arrive prepared, having completed the reading before the lesson.

Entry requirements

Due to the scientific nature of A Level Psychology, students need to have obtained a minimum of grade 6 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (or Dual Award Science) and Maths, plus a minimum of six 9-5 passes in total.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Psychology is recognised and accepted in all higher education establishments. The study of psychology affords students a better understanding of the skills necessary for further research of scientific subjects at university and opens up career opportunities such as social work, psychiatry and police work, teaching, sports psychology and human resources, as well as careers in marketing, management and advertising.

Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

Sociology means learning about people and society. From birth, the people around us have influenced who we are and what we become. As a sociologist, you will study the society we live in and try to understand what makes people behave in certain ways, hold particular beliefs and what influences them to make their individual life choices. You will participate in research and discussion as well as developing your ability to analyse and present your findings in essays.

- ***Education with Theory and Methods:*** the role and functions of the education system; relationship to the economy and class structure; differential achievement of social groups by class, gender and ethnicity; significance of policies; impact of globalisation;
- ***Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods:*** crime, deviance, social order and social control; social distribution of crime, recent patterns and trends; globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; human rights and state crimes;
- Within both modules: quantitative and qualitative research methods; research design; theoretical, practical and ethical considerations; relationship between theory and methods; debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom; relationship between Sociology and social policy.
- ***Topics in Sociology:*** study one subject from each column:
  - Culture and Identity
  - Families and Households
  - Health
  - Work, Poverty and Welfare
  - Beliefs in Society
  - Global Development
  - The Media
  - Stratification and Differentiation

What will I need to do?

The assessment is by three written 2-hour examinations consisting of short answers and extended writing, with each paper carrying equal weighting (33.3% of marks).

Why study Sociology at LCS?

A Level Sociology serves as a lens to comprehend the intricate dynamics of society. It delves into the 'whys' behind human behaviour and societal structures, offering a unique perspective on the world. It challenges students to question assumption, analyse evidence, and form well-reasoned arguments - a skill set crucial in navigating the complexities of today's world.

This course offers an engaging and effective introduction to Sociology, a subject that has tangible, real-world applications. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by higher education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Entry requirements

GCSE English grade 5 or higher.

Higher Education and career opportunities

The course would lead to Higher Education opportunities, such as studying Social Sciences, Criminology, Politics or Social Policy Law. It could lead to careers in Policy Making in the Government, Social Work, Researcher posts or Primary Education, careers in Local and National Government, Police Officers and Lawyers.

Computer Science

Exam board: OCR

What is covered?

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The course highly values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

The subjects explored include:

- ***Computer systems:*** the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; software and software development; exchanging data; data types, structures and algorithms; legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.
- ***Algorithms and programming:*** elements of computational thinking; problem-solving and programming; algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.
- ***A programming project:*** a porfolio based assessment with a chosen task that is produced in an appropriate programming language.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed at the end of two years through two written examinations and a practical project.

The computer systems component contains the majority of the content of the course and is assessed in a written exam worth 40% of the final grade.

The algorithms exam relates principally to problem solving skills needed by students to apply their theory knowledge; it is skills-based and is worth 40% of the final grade.

The programming project component is a practical portfolio based assessment with a task that is chosen by the student. It is produced using an appropriate programming language. The project is assessed by teachers, moderated by OCR, and is worth 20% of the final grade

Why study Computer Science at LCS?

Students will focus on programming and the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. You will develop your Maths skills as well as problem-solving, programming and understanding of human and machine intelligence.

This course enables students to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging manner. Students will develop the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Entry requirements

A positive attitude and commitment to the subject is expected. Students will be expected to demonstrate basic programming skills in at least one high-level language, for example Python. Students should have studied Computer Science at GCSE. A grade 9-6 in Maths is desirable to enable students to access the mathematical aspects of the course.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Computing is classified as one of the sciences by most institutions, giving students maximum flexibility when considering further/higher education choices.

Degree courses can be followed in: information systems, computer science, software engineering, forensic computing and business and management.

It is also highly applicable to a wide range of higher education courses and careers, particularly those requiring problem-solving, design and research skills.

French, German & Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

Language learning at Advanced Level is a process which involves not only the introduction of new material in the form of topics and grammar, but also the constant consolidation of grammar in a range of contexts. It is this consolidation that enables language to become 'embedded'.

There is a focus on the production of written and spoken language and students are not only required to develop opinions about a range of issues, but must also be able to manipulate language skilfully in order to express these ideas clearly. This is where topics and grammar overlap with each other.

During the course you will study technological and social changes, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. You will study the highlights of French, German or Spanish artistic culture, including music and cinema, and will learn about political engagement and the influence of the past on the present day.

You will study one film and one text (usually a play or a novel) in depth, although you will also be given the opportunity to watch films and read texts for pleasure.

What will I need to do?

Assessment tasks are varied and cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and an individual research project.

Why study Modern Languages at LCS?

The aim of the Advanced Level courses is for students to become confident, independent communicators and to be able to express opinions and ideas spontaneously in spoken and written form.

Students will also improve their listening and reading skills in their chosen language enabling them to develop the skills to understand authentic 'real life' spoken and written material. The courses also foster a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to you and to society as a whole.

Entry requirements

Students will need to have obtained grade 9-7 in the language at GCSE level.

Higher Education and career opportunities

A foreign language can be studied at degree level either as a single subject or as part of a joint honours degree, which is especially useful for students who may wish to study a four year course that includes a year abroad.

A degree in French, German or Spanish will allow students to enter a wide range of professions, such as the diplomatic service, teaching, airlines and tourism, the armed forces, journalism, law, the civil service, as an interpreter or translator, market research or any role within multi-national organisations.

2-Year AS Level

Students wishing to continue studying a language may undertake an AS Level over the course of 2 years alongside their other A Level or BTEC subjects.

The AS course is similar to the A level, but students study either a film or a novel, not both, and do half the number of topics, focusing on current trends and artistic culture in French/German/Spanish speaking society, such as changes in the family; cybersociety; the music, cinema and youth trends; as well as the heritage, customs and traditions of the French/German/Spanish world.

English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

This course offers an opportunity to read widely and independently both set texts and others that students select for themselves; engage creatively with these texts; and respond critically to them via comparison and close analysis. Students will develop a deep appreciation for literature across time, reading novels, essays, plays, prose and poetry.

Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation, but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. This enables students to investigate and connect texts, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives.

What will I need to do?

The first unit encourages students to explore aspects of a central literary theme as seen over time, using set texts and unseen material, including one Shakespeare play and one anthology of love poetry.

The second unit enables students to explore aspects of literature connected through a period of time - either World War I and its aftermath or Modern Times (literature from 1945 to the present day).

Assessment is by two examinations and one piece of coursework - an extended essay of 2,500 words, with bibliography, consisting of a comparative critical study of two texts by two different authors. At least one of the texts must have been written pre-1900.

Why study English Literature at LCS?

This is a demanding course, but it offers students valuable and beneficial experiences, with a great deal of scope for personal satisfaction, interest and improvement.

You will learn how to analyse and critically appraise different texts; form and express an informed opinion with maturity and sophistication; and discuss and debate ideas within a group.

Entry requirements

Grades 9-6 at GCSE in English Language and English Literature. An interest in and enthusiasm for reading, use of language, critical evaluation and energetic discussion are essential.

Higher Education and career opportunities

A qualification in English Literature is recognised and accepted by all establishments of higher education. The range of careers for which a qualification in English Literature is useful is considerable. The course trains you to read independently and critically - an essential skill for any university student and a vital skill for life beyond.

Drama & Theatre

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

What is covered?

This A level in Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This highly practical course provides students with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers on three different performances.

In Component 1, learners reinterpret a text to create a piece of theatre which is a combination of the selected text and original ideas.

In Component 2, learners engage with a stimulus to create two pieces of theatre; one an interpretation of a text of their own choice and the other a devised piece.

In Component 3, learners explore two complete performance texts and one extract from a third text. There is an exciting and diverse list of texts to choose from which will be tailored to those who have opted to study the course. One text will have been written before 1956 and the other after 1956.

What will I need to do?

This course is designed to enable you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop your analytical and practitioner skills.

There are separate performer and design components and discrete marking criteria for the performer and designer roles.

You will study the work of key directors and playwrights and learn about a range of important performance styles. Written work is a crucial aspect of the course and students write about their ideas for performing roles, how they would direct a scene from a play and their design ideas. Theatre trips are an essential part of the course.

Why study Drama & Theatre at LCS?

This course is aimed at those who have a genuine interest in theatre and the process by which theatre is made. This course will prepare you for further study of Drama or Performing Arts courses in higher education as well as developing transferable skills desired by all aspects of industry. Much time is spent on practical work in lessons, so the willingness to work constructively with others and to share ideas is essential.

Students will become independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision-makers - all personal attributes that can help students stand out as they progress through their education and into employment.

We offer a wide range of opportunities for involvement in school productions throughout the year and the chance to help lead younger pupils' drama groups.

Do I need to have studied GCSE Drama?

No, however students who do must have attained grade 9-5. It is preferred that all students have achieved a 9-5 grade in English Literature and English Language at GCSE level.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Drama & Theatre is not a 'soft subject' and it is no barrier to Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. The subject is valuable to the study of literature, history and law and to students who wish to pursue a career in the performing arts.

Examples of potential performing arts careers include: actor, dancer, musician, director, set or costume designer, sound or lighting technician and stage manager. Other career options include: advertising, marketing, TV and radio production, law, arts administration and teaching. The skills acquired through this course - the ability to express an idea or concept, communication and interpersonal skills, observational and analytical skills - are greatly valued by universities and employers alike.

Business

Level 3 BTEC National
Extended Certificate
equivalent to 1 A Level

What is covered?

The syllabus is broad, highly relevant to the world outside the classroom and focuses strongly on problem-solving and the development of analytical and evaluative skills:

Exploring business - the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive.

Developing a marketing campaign - students will learn about the processes involved and create their own campaign.

Personal and business finance - the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information.

Human resources - recruitment and selection process.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed through a combination of assignments that are assessed internally and either a written exam or a task assessed under supervised conditions. For tasks, students will be given a case study two weeks before the assessment in order to carry out research.

Why study Business at LCS?

You will develop analytical, evaluative, problem-solving and decision-making skills and the ability to apply your theoretical understanding to real world scenarios and problems. You will present arguments and make judgments and justify recommendations on the basis of the available evidence. These are transferable skills that are valued by universities and employers.

Higher Education and career opportunities

The course provides a vocationally relevant qualification for those planning to enter the business sector or those wishing to gain UCAS points for higher education to study business-related degrees, such as accountancy and finance, business and management, international business or marketing, as well as providing a solid foundation for the study of many non-business degrees.

Given the applied nature of the course, it is an ideal introduction to an apprenticeship or for those intending to enter their family business.

Do I need to have studied GCSE Business Studies?

It is not necessary to have completed the GCSE, but 9-5 grades in Mathematics and English Language are preferred. The course is accessible to students with no formal business knowledge and understanding. However, students need to have an interest in the world of business, be willing to conduct independent wider reading and watch relevant TV programmes such as BBC News, Dragons' Den and The Apprentice.

Can I also study Economics A Level?

Yes. Economics is treated as a separate subject by most universities.

Economics

Exam Board: Edexcel A

What is covered?

Economics is a dynamic social science. The most commonly held misconception surrounding the study of Economics is that it is all about money. In fact, the study of money is a relatively minor issue. Economics is about how a society decides to divide its scarce resources and the methods and processes by which choices are made in the satisfaction of human wants. All concepts and theories are illustrated with real world data and case studies.

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

- Nature of economics
- How markets work
- Market failure
- Government intervention

Theme 2: The UK Economy - performance and policies

- Measures of economic performance
- Aggregate demand and supply
- National income and economic growth
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

- Business growth and objectives
- Revenues, costs and profits
- Market structures and the labour market
- Government intervention

Theme 4: A global perspective

- International economics
- Poverty and inequality
- Emerging and developing economies
- The financial sector
- Role of the state in the macroeconomy

What will I need to do?

Students are assessed through written examinations involving multiple choice questions, data response and essay questions and a case study analysis. Students are expected to enhance their learning by reading business and economics news regularly.

Why study Economics at LCS?

Economics encourages students to acquire a range of important and transferable skills. Students are expected to manipulate data in a variety of forms and interpret their results. They will present arguments and make judgments and justify recommendations on the basis of the available evidence. They are challenged to recognise the nature of problems, solve problems and make decisions using appropriate economic theories and concepts.

Do I need to have studied GCSE Economics?

No, but students are required to have attained grade 9-6 in Mathematics and English at GCSE level.

Can I study Business as well?

Yes. Business is treated as a separate subject by universities.

Higher Education and career opportunities

A Level Economics is a valuable subject for students preparing to study a range of higher education courses and future careers, as students will develop skills in research, analysis and evaluation, communication and working with others to discuss issues and solve problems. These are ideal skills and experiences when working for large corporations, banks or the government, as well as careers in marketing, law, journalism or teaching.

Geography

Exam Board: Edexcel

What is covered?

This qualification is engaging and relevant to today's geographers – a qualification that enables students to engage critically with real world issues and places, apply their own geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around them, and to help prepare them to succeed in their chosen pathway.

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. A Level geographers will study a range of contemporary issues which are relevant to our changing world, such as: global hazards, climate change, globalisation, sustainable development, migration, environmental degradation, water conflicts, superpowers, technology, energy security and social inequality. With the breadth of knowledge that can be gained by studying geography, it is one of the most relevant subjects you could choose to study.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed through three written examinations and one coursework project worth 20% of the A Level. You will complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork. All Geography students must keep themselves informed of current affairs and will need to keep up with wider reading, such as studying subject-related magazines and journals.

Why study Geography at LCS?

The study of geography involves developing a plethora of skills and undertaking fieldwork investigations from the planning and data collection stages through to drawing conclusions and evaluating. Working in the natural environment provides opportunities for project work that are fun, different, unexpected and more challenging than those found in classroom-based activities. Geographers have the ability to think through issues and analyse situations and problems, before devising creative solutions.

Entry requirements

Ideally, prospective students should have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE English, Science and Mathematics. Students who have studied Geography at GCSE and have achieved a grade 6 should find the course perfectly accessible.

Able and highly motivated students who have not studied GCSE Geography may take the course.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Geography is a highly regarded subject recognised for its academic robustness and, most importantly, it helps young people into careers that are professionally and financially rewarding and enjoyable. Geography allows you to see why and how the world is changing.

You will develop a variety of transferable skills that are recognised by employers and universities and colleges as being of great value. It will enhance your communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT literacy, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness.

There is a wealth of jobs geographers do, spanning almost every employment sector. Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course like Engineering, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Oceanography and Geology; taken with humanities like English, French or History, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as Business, Law, Media, Politics and Philosophy. Geography can also lead to further training in such areas as the law, accountancy and journalism.

Travel & Tourism

Level 3 BTEC National
Extended Certificate
equivalent to 1 A Level

What is covered?

By 2026, Britain is projected to have a tourism industry worth over £270 billion - around 10% of UK GDP, supporting approximately 3.9 million jobs, or just over 11% of total UK employment (visitbritain.org). If you have a passion for travel or if you want to develop the skills to help others make the most of their tourism experiences, this subject will open your mind to the endless opportunities that exist in the world's largest industry.

There are three mandatory units:

- ***The travel and tourism industry*** – the travel and tourism industry in the UK is growing and is of major importance to the economy. Students will explore the key components and scale of the industry, using data to analyse important trends and their impact.
- ***Global destinations and their importance*** – students will investigate the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations.
- ***Principles of marketing in travel and tourism*** – students will explore how to develop a successful marketing plan for use by travel and tourism organisations to attract and engage with customers using research data.

Students also choose one optional unit from the following:

- ***Visitor Attractions*** - investigate the nature and role of both built and natural visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs, and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience.
- ***Events, Conferences and Exhibitions*** - an insight into a wide range of events, conferences and exhibitions that are relevant to the travel and tourism industry.

What will I need to do?

Assessments include assignments; a 90 minute written exam; a task set by the examiners (provided 2 weeks before the assessment) which is completed in 3 hours under supervised conditions; and two coursework units, one of which includes the creation of a marketing plan for a new product or service for a travel and tourism organisation or global destination.

Why study Travel & Tourism at LCS?

Employability skills, such as team working and entrepreneurialism, and practical hands-on skills have been built into the design of the course, providing students with the opportunity to develop a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates the breadth of their skills and knowledge in a way that equips them for employment.

Students will become independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision-makers - all personal attributes that can help students stand out as they progress through their education and into employment.

Entry requirements

There is no need to have studied Travel & Tourism at GCSE. However, those who have should achieve a Distinction*-Merit grade. All students should achieve grade 9-5 in GCSE English Literature and Language and Mathematics.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Alongside other Level 3 courses, can lead to university degrees in areas such as Travel and Tourism Management, International Tourism, Hospitality Management, Event Management, and related fields like Marketing or Business. Alternatively, the course provides a solid foundation for entering the workforce directly, with potential careers in travel agencies, hotels, airlines, airports, tour operations, event planning, and customer service roles.

History

Exam Board: AQA

What is covered?

There are three modules that run concurrently across the two years:

- **Paper 1: Age of the Crusades c1071-1204** Students examine the complex and diverse historical context of the Holy Land and its surrounding Empires. Students track the issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence from the origins of the First Crusade and the establishment of Outremer, c1071–1149, through to the Third and Fourth Crusades, 1187–1204.
- **Paper 2: The Making of Modern Britain** is a depth study of the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the interrelationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival.
- **Historical Investigation:** This is an independent student-led project, where students will research and write a 100-year enquiry-based essay on a historic topic of their choice. Students can choose any period of History from Ancient Civilisations to Modernity, so long as the topic does not clash with the two taught papers.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed through written examinations (80% of the final grade) and an extended essay (20% of the final grade, marked by teachers, moderated by AQA). You will need to read widely around the subjects.

Why study History at LCS?

LCS Historians lead with curiosity; originating from the Ancient Greek 'enquiry', History is not just the study of the past but is an enquiry-based approach that thinks critically about the past. LCS Historians understand that:

- The past is a diverse place
- Britain exists in a global context
- The past can explain the present
- History is not just what happened in the past, but the accounts that survive based on choices made by those who record it; LCS Historians understand that interpretations differ based on a historian's own context and the lenses through which they view the past.

Students will also develop valuable transferable skills, such as the use of initiative, and the ability to examine differing, complex and at times fragmentary sources of information. From this, students are trained to analyse complex ideas, to evaluate differing approaches and reach balanced evidence-based judgements.

Entry requirements

It is not essential to have studied History at GCSE level, but if it was studied, you should have achieved grade 9-6. If you have not studied the subject at GCSE level, grade 9-6 in English Literature or Language is required.

Higher Education and career opportunities

History is a well-respected academic discipline which is highly regarded by all higher education establishments and employers. With its emphasis on analytical thinking, the use of evidence in the construction of hypotheses and the critical interpretation of this evidence, employers recognise the value of these transferable skills in many career paths, from academia, teaching, archaeology, law, journalism, the civil service, heritage, the armed forces, and criminology to name but a few.

Philosophy, Ethics & Theology

Exam Board: OCR

What is covered?

Philosophy, Ethics & Theology (Religious Studies) is a subject that by its nature requires students to consider individual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues. This course will help students to study relationships between religion and culture; consider moral values and attitudes of individuals, faith communities or contemporary society; develop skill in reasoning on matters concerning values, attitudes and actions; develop the ability to make responsible judgments on significant moral teaching and issues.

Topics explored include:

- ***Philosophy of religion*** - philosophical language and thought; the soul, mind and body; the existence of God: arguments based on observation; the existence of God: arguments based on reason; religious experience and the problem of evil.
- ***Religion and ethics*** - Aquinas and natural law; situation ethics; Kantian ethics; utilitarianism; applied ethics - euthanasia and business ethics.
- ***Developments in Christian thought*** - Augustine on human nature; death and the afterlife; knowledge of God's existence; Jesus Christ; Christian moral principles; Christian moral action - Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

What will I need to do?

This course is assessed by written examinations in two components which assess:

- your knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse and evaluate philosophy of religion and ethics and religion;
- your knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse and evaluate a single religion; issues related to the dialogue between philosophy of religion and your chosen religion; and issues related to the dialogue between ethical issues and your chosen religion.

Why study Philosophy, Ethics & Theology at LCS?

This course will encourage you to:

- develop your interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world;
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion;
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies;
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, philosophy and ethics;
- reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of your study.

Entry requirements

Students who have studied GCSE Religious Studies need to achieve at least grade 6. This course does not, however, assume or require any previous study of the subject. It is designed to support a course of study which is suitable for students from any religious background or none. Students who have not taken the GCSE need to have achieved at least grade 6 in GCSE English.

Higher Education and career opportunities

This subject is very highly rated by universities as it teaches students to critically evaluate complex material in both verbal and written forms.

It is particularly useful for those hoping to study medicine or law and it is also valued by the police service and the armed forces and a wide range of organisations that value the ability to think critically, communicate complex ideas in a concise manner and present a coherent argument.

DT: Product Design

Exam Board: Eduqas

What is covered?

This course encourages students to take a broad view of technology and design. You will develop your capacity to design and manufacture products while exploring the complex relationships between design, materials, manufacturing, sustainability, intellectual property, marketing and branding.

Topics include:

- ***Materials, components and their applications*** - developing an understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of a range of materials and components, and how these influence their selection and use.
- ***Designing and making*** - applying theoretical knowledge, technical understanding and practical skills to design and manufacture.
- ***Design and manufacture*** - exploring the development, selection and application of materials, manufacturing processes and technologies in the production of modern products.
- ***Design and making practice*** - completing a substantial practical project involving the identification of a design context and objectives, planning, development of design proposals, modelling and prototyping, manufacture, testing and evaluation, together with recommendations for further development.
- ***Design history and influential designers*** – investigating key historical design movements and influential designers, and considering their impact on contemporary design thinking and practice. You will explore how ideas from the past can provide inspiration for present and future designers.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed through a combination of written examinations (50%) and non-examined assessment (50%). The non-examined assessment involves developing a substantial design project from an identified context or problem through to a fully developed design proposal, prototype and evaluation, supported by a portfolio documenting the design and development process.

Why study Design & Technology at LCS?

Design & Technology at LCS combines practical creativity with academic and technical knowledge and the transferable skills you will develop including: thinking creatively and innovatively; working collaboratively; responding positively to feedback from users, peers and expert practitioners; applying critical thinking; understanding the needs, wants and values of potential customers and clients; making informed decisions based on technical, aesthetic, social, economic and environmental considerations; and understanding the complete journey from design concept to commercialisation.

Mathematical and scientific principles are an important part of designing and developing products and students will be expected to apply these principles. The examination paper contains 15% Mathematics-based questions.

Entry requirements

Students should have achieved grade 9-6 in Design Technology (or equivalent) at GCSE level, plus grade 9-6 in Mathematics and Dual Award Science (or equivalent for Biology, Chemistry and Physics) due to the level of theory involved.

Higher Education and career opportunities

Design & Technology is an excellent lead into a range of degree courses, such as industrial or product design, furniture design and architecture, fashion and textiles, as well as automotive or mechanical engineering and aeronautical engineering, graphic and interior design alongside film, television and theatre design.

Fine Art

Exam Board: OCR

What is covered?

Students will develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of:

- the use of different materials, techniques and technologies
- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts
- how images and artefacts relate to their social and cultural contexts
- continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions
- a working vocabulary of art and specialist terminology

Students can submit work from more than one area of study, such as portraiture, landscapes, still life, human form, abstraction, experimental imagery, narrative, installation or working within a genre.

What will I need to do?

Students will produce two elements - a personal investigation and an externally set task. The personal investigation consists of:

1) A portfolio of practical work showing their response to a chosen theme or starting point. This is a practical portfolio with supporting sketchbook work. There is no restriction on the scale of work produced. Evidence presented for assessment should include artist research, a clear development of ideas, experimental work and a final presentation.

2) A related study: an extended response of a guided minimum of 1,000 words. The aim of the related study is to enable learners to develop their ability to communicate their knowledge and understanding of art historical movements, genres, practitioners and artworks. The related study is presented as an illustrated essay.

The externally set task is issued early in the year and will provide students with a number of themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points. Students will have a minimum of 3 weeks to complete their research before undertaking a 15-hour supervised time period to produce a final piece.

Why study Fine Art at LCS?

Companies across all industries are crying out for recruits who are creative and innovative. This course will enable you to be experimental, enquiring and flexible.

We will teach you the practical skills necessary to choose the most appropriate media for a piece of work, as well as building your sense of creativity and design capability. This will develop your confidence in your own work and how to express yourself.

Higher Education and career opportunities

As well as all types of Art degree courses in areas like painting, sculpture, graphic design, photography, fashion and textiles, there are many others which are less well known such as arts and events administration, art in a community context, biovisual studies, communication design, computer graphics, conservation and restoration, costume design and wardrobe, design futures, eco design, fashion promotion, film and video, footwear design, illustration and media design and typography.

Career options include: advertising, architecture, graphic design, stage design, interior design, journalism, photography, product design, the film and television industries, fashion design, conservation, fine art industries and teaching.

Music

Exam Board: Eduqas

What is covered?

This qualification will support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, including performing, composing and appraising. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

This courseis designed to enable students to pursue their own musical nterests, and engage with both classical and popular music.

What will I need to do?

While the course develops skills in performance, composition and appraising, it allows students the flexibility to specialise in either performing or composing by providing options that emphasize one more than the other (e.g. 35% for one and 25% for the other).

- ***Performance*** - a public performance in a recital as a soloist, as part of an ensemble or both. Students are not restricted to one instrument/voice. The music should approximate grade 6 or higher.
- ***Composition*** - compositions, set to a brief and/ or free composition to a specific area of study (e.g. Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Into the Twentieth Century or Into the Twenty-first Century).

  Performance and composition are 60% of grade.
- ***Appraising*** - one written examination of 2 hours 15 minutes assessing knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study (40% of grade).

Why study Music at LCS?

This course will enable students to develop their creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, critical awareness, self-confidence, self-motivation and their own musical interests and skills, along with the ability to make music individually and/or in groups. We work closely with Lichfield Cathedral to offer a range of choral scholarships and other music scholarships may be available.

Entry requirements

GCSE Music grade 9-5 is required and students should have passed at least Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent) on their chosen instrument. It is an expectation that pupils have individual instrumental/vocal lessons throughout the duration of the course. It is recommended that pupils have, or be working towards, Grade 5 music theory.

Higher Education and career opportunities

The skills developed in the study of Music are highly regarded whether applying for Music or many other courses. From A Level, students could progress by studying Music at degree level at specialist music colleges and universities, and many are in receipt of choral scholarships.

Careers in music which could be considered include: professional musicians, TV and radio, journalism, law, arts administration, teaching, music therapy, promotion and marketing and theatre production.

Music Technology

Exam Board: Edexcel

What is covered?

This course offers students the exciting opportunity to develop their musical expertise through a highly contemporary computer based practical subject. Students will develop their musical knowledge, understanding and skills using digital music applications (particularly Logic Pro X and Cubase Artist 12). Tasks include learning to make close mic recordings, composing using technology, listening, analysing and producing.

Students will be encouraged to engage with a wide range of music technology techniques and develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the use of music technology in the creation and production of music.

What will I need to do?

There are four components to the assessment:

Recording - close mic record one piece of contemporary music from a list of ten songs issued by the exam board; a minimum of five instruments and vocals will be recorded.

Technology-based composition - one composition chosen from three briefs; synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects must be included.

Listening and analysing - written examination including questions based on listening to two unfamiliar commercial recordings and two essay questions.

Producing and analysing - practical and written examination, including questions and practical tasks relating to audio and MIDI materials provided and one essay.

Why study Music Technology at LCS?

For a student who is musical this course is both exciting and stimulating. It will enable you to:

- understand the principles of sound and audio technology and how they are used in creative and professional practice;
- develop recording skills, including how to manipulate sound in imaginative and creative ways;
- make links between the integrated activities of recording, processing, mixing, sound creation and creative music technology applications, underpinned by analytical listening;
- understand the history and traditions of the sonic and musical applications of technology and how they promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

Entry requirements

GCSE Music is not a prerequisite; however, it is essential that students have an understanding and appreciation of music and are prepared to work in a highly detailed and painstaking way towards a perfect finished result.

Higher Education and career opportunities

From A Level, students could progress by studying Music Technology at degree level. Careers in music that could be considered include professional music technician, TV and radio engineering, journalism, arts administration, teaching, promotion and marketing.

Sport & Physical Activity

OCR Cambridge
Technical Level 3

What is covered?

This stimulating and challenging vocational course is for students who intend to study for a degree or follow a career in Sport. This is a vocational course designed to develop both knowledge and practical skills in the Sport and Exercise Science industry.

The course covers three mandatory units:

- Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity
- Coaching and Leadership
- Sports Organisation and Development

There are also two optional units which may include:

- Biomechanics
- Sports Injuries and Rehab
- Sports Psychology

This broad study of many sport and exercise disciplines will give students an insight into the effectiveness of their own performance and how to improve that of others.

What will I need to do?

The course is assessed through a combination of internally and externally assessed units which include examinations, assignments and tasks based on work-related scenarios under supervised conditions.

Why study Sport & Physical Activity at LCS?

By studying this course, you will develop as a confident, independent thinker and effective decision-maker who can operate individually or as part of a team - all valuable and transferable skills attractive to higher education and employers.

Entry requirements

A Key Stage 4 qualification in sport (e.g. GCSE PE). Due to the practical nature of the coursework, students are encouraged to take an active involvement in sport, including representing the School in individual and team-based sports, and it would be beneficial to take on leadership roles.

Higher Education and Career opportunities

Sport & Physical Activity combines with a range of subjects, such as A Level Biology, to support applications for a wide variety of higher education courses such as sports science, physiotherapy and recreation and leisure studies. It also supports those considering a career in the police or armed forces, teaching, nursing, sports management or sports coaching.

EPQ

Exam Board: AQA

What is the Extended Project Qualification?

The Extended Project Qualification is a standalone Level 3 qualification. It carries AS Level equivalent UCAS points; 28 for an A*, 24 for an A, 20 for a B and so on.

The EPQ is an independent research project that is based on any topic, as long as it is not already covered within the student's A Level and/or BTEC curriculum.

While there is an element of teaching involved, specifically the necessary research, analysis, project management and presentation skills, the majority of the EPQ will involve autonomous work by the student with advice from their supervisor, over the course of 120 hours of guided learning.

Your project can either be a specific essay-based study or the production of an 'artefact' (play, book, video, sculpture, photographic journal or an event).

What will I need to do?

You will need to:

- choose an area of interest and formulate a specific research question;
- research, plan and carry out your project;
- deliver a presentation on your project;
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production which will include:
  - A written dissertation (1,000 to 5,000 words)
  - Any other evidence as appropriate to your project, such as a video recording of a performance, activity or event; a journal of events; a photographic record; a PowerPoint presentation
  - A completed production log.

Why should I do the EPQ at LCS?

The EPQ offers you a unique opportunity to extend your abilities beyond the A Level syllabus and prepare you for university and a future career. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of your individual project, you will:

- become a more critical, reflective and independent learner;
- invite feedback from others and deal with praise and constructive criticism in a positive manner;
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills;
- increase your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills;
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise;
- use this experience to support your aspirations for higher education and/or career development.

What do universities think of the EPQ

"Qualifications taken in addition to your main exams, such as the Extended Project, will improve your application by enabling you to develop study skills that will be useful in higher education."
University of Birmingham

"The University is supportive of the requirement to undertake an Extended Project ... It is expected that some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers to those offering this qualification, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (for example, either AAA at A Level or AAB at A Level plus Extended Project)." University of Bristol

"We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education." University of Cambridge



Next Steps

Contact the Admissions team to:

- arrange your visit to the school
- book onto a taster day
- ask any questions

Admissions team: 01543 306168
admissions@lichfieldcathedralschool.com

Main reception: 01543 306170
reception@lichfieldcathedralschool.com

You can also apply online or book a visit via our website: www.lichfieldcathedralschool.com

This document is non-contractual and for information purposes only. The School reserves the right to amend the information and courses offered in the light of possible changes in resources that cannot be anticipated at the time of publication.

All information was correct at the time of publication (October 2026). Parents seeking to rely on any information contained within this document should seek written confirmation from the Headteacher.



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