



GEORGE  
SPENCER  
ACADEMY



# COURSE OVERVIEW 2022

BE SUPPORTED...  
BE INDEPENDENT...  
BE YOU

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# Introduction

This booklet should be read in conjunction with our Sixth Form Prospectus. The Prospectus will inform you all about what it is like to study at George Spencer Sixth Form and can be found on the Sixth Form pages at:

▶ [www.george-spencer.com/sixth-form](http://www.george-spencer.com/sixth-form)

## BE SUPPORTED... BE INDEPENDENT... BE YOU

This Course Overview Booklet informs you about the A level and vocational courses that we offer. Choosing which courses to study is exciting as you get to focus on what interests you most. If you are unsure, then here are something useful things to consider:-

- Do you have a future career in mind? Selecting certain subjects could help lead you there.
- Do you want to keep your options open? There is a broad range of subjects to choose from.
- Do you want to play to your strengths? Studying at Sixth Form is a step up academically, so a smart option is to choose what you are already strong at.
- Do you want to get intrigued by something new? There are courses you haven't yet had the opportunity to study, for example Politics and Criminology.

We are right here if you need any help or advice, just get in touch.

✉ [GSA\\_SixthForm@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:GSA_SixthForm@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*Alison Brown*

Director of Sixth Form



# Entry Requirements

A wide range of A level, BTEC and Diploma courses are offered. Students select 3 A level or equivalent courses. These are studied in combination with an Enrichment and EPQ programme. Students may also choose to study Core Mathematics which is a one year course. We are prepared to offer students the opportunity to study 4 A Levels following a discussion to ascertain if this is the best choice for each individual.

The entry requirements are a minimum of 5 courses at GCSE grades 9-4 including English and Mathematics. However many subjects require a grade 5 in the subject area, or related subject. If you do not meet the entry requirements, please speak to us to discuss possible pathways. Meeting the requirements of any course does not automatically guarantee that applicants will be offered places on their preferred choices, this depends on timetabling and the viability of each course. All courses are offered in good faith, however we reserve the right to cancel courses if they do not reach enrolment targets.

➤ [www.george-spencer.com/entryrequirements](http://www.george-spencer.com/entryrequirements)

# How To Apply

Apply online at:

➤ [www.george-spencer.com/apply/](http://www.george-spencer.com/apply/)



# Higher Education & Careers Guidance

## Supporting Post-18 Progression

A large majority of our students leave George Spencer Academy Sixth Form and continue their studies at university. To support our students we offer a full programme of events and guidance through our pastoral system so that a range of future pathways can be explored. All Sixth Form students have access to the award winning careers platform UNIFROG, which enables them to search a wide range of both university courses and available apprenticeships.

## Going to University

We have forged partnerships with Higher Education institutions including Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University. Universities provide support by delivering presentations and workshops alongside offering a range of Summer Schools and Masterclasses. Year 12 students have the opportunity to attend a "taster day" at a local university in the summer term. This provides students with an insight into life at university with workshops including the UCAS process, writing personal statements, and subject lectures. Learning Managers discuss Post-18 options and support the students with their UCAS applications and personal statements. They will also write the personalised reference, which is a key part of the application.

## Oxbridge Support

George Spencer Academy Sixth Form has built a strong academic reputation and each year a number of students consider Oxbridge as a viable option for their future education. There is a strong support system throughout the planning and application process. Students who demonstrate Oxbridge potential are encouraged to visit to meet lecturers, current undergraduates, and to participate in taster lectures. We are also involved in the HE+ programme in which we work alongside Cambridge University to provide additional opportunities for like-minded students to explore their subjects beyond the curriculum.

## Alternative Post-18 Pathways

We offer assistance in applications to sponsored degree opportunities that include employment with companies such as Amazon, Experian and Barclays, as well as high level Apprenticeship schemes with companies including HSBC, Boots and Rolls-Royce in a wide range of career opportunities. Support is provided throughout the application process, including interview practice to boost confidence.

## Courses We Offer:

- Art and Design
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Music
- Product Design
- English Language
- English Literature
- Media Studies
- Computing
- Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT Business Studies
- Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Business
- Economics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Core Mathematics
- French
- Spanish
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Applied Diploma in Criminology
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Physical Education
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport
- Extended Project Qualification

## CREATIVE ARTS

# Art and Design

✉ [jsolly@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jsolly@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"Art allows you to take control of your work and become more independent. I have really enjoyed the different experiences of new media and techniques I have been introduced to as these have really supported the development of my work."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

Grade 5 in GCSE Art or attend an interview and provide a portfolio

## Exam Board:

AQA

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-A-LEVEL-SP-2015.PDF>

## Units Studied:

- Component 1: Personal Investigation including 1000-3000 word essay
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment including 15 hour examination

## Course Information:

Fine Art at A Level is all built around helping you become the artist that you want to be. It is a subject that will help

you build your creativity, independence, skill proficiency and resilience. These skills and qualities will be built through the development of innovative practice, the exploration of contextual research and the production of work of substance. Throughout the course your portfolio of work will act as your evidence against the course assessment objectives, however, this portfolio also can be used as an excellent body of work to present at university interviews to aid you in your progression to further study. You will be encouraged to work in an area that you are passionate about and will gain the skills you need to progress in a vast array of career paths. The Art department has a dedicated sixth form area that students are able to use during their own personal study periods.

## Possible Career Paths:

- Design based careers: interior design, architecture, product.
- Academic careers: educator, therapist, curator, publisher, historian, digital art careers

## Extra Curricular:

You will have the opportunity to visit art galleries and participate in specialist workshops to inspire and develop your work. There will also be competitions to enter throughout the year at school level, local level and nationally.

We also encourage our A level students to support in lessons and run clubs for younger students.



## CREATIVE ARTS

# Drama and Theatre Studies

✉ [nskitt@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:nskitt@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"I never considered how many skills I would develop by studying Drama at A Level. Not only do I have the academic study of the set texts, but we look into historical and social changes as well as getting to challenge my creative side with the practicals and learn 'real life' theatrical processes on the way. Drama is so much more than just acting!"*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Drama, Grade 4 accepted on an individual basis
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
- Some form of performance experience

## Exam Board:

Eduqas

📄 [sjwms.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/eduqas-a-level-drama-specification.pdf](https://www.sjwms.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/eduqas-a-level-drama-specification.pdf)

## Units Studied:

- Component 1 - Theatre Workshop 20% (Practical/ Coursework)
- Component 2 - Text in Action 40% (Visiting examiner performance based)
- Component 3 - Text in Performance 40% (Written Examination).

## Course Information:

You will work within two dedicated drama spaces with full black out potential equipped with sound system and multi LED stage lights controlled by a Eurolight desk. Drama and Theatre offers a practical and challenging course of study which encourages learners to:

Develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre.

Develop an understanding and appreciation of how the social, cultural and historical contexts of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre understand the practices used in twenty-first century theatre making

Experience a range of opportunities to create theatre

Participate as a theatre maker and as an audience member in live theatre.

Develop and demonstrate a range of theatre making skills

## Possible Career Paths:

Working in the performing arts as performers, practitioners or managers, teaching, drama therapy as well as providing effective and recognised transferable skills for careers such as Education, Law, Medicine, Business and Politics.

## Extra Curricular:

You will attend a range of theatrical performances. You will have the chance to work with professionals and take advantage of our links with Nottingham Playhouse and the INSPIRE Academy. Opportunities to perform in and support whole school theatrical events as well as support in lessons and run clubs for younger students.



## CREATIVE ARTS

# Music

✉ [jbrown@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jbrown@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"Studying A-Level Music provided me with the skills and knowledge to pursue a career in Music. Having studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, I am starting my Masters at the prestigious Berklee College of Music, New York, in September. The course provided depth of knowledge in performing, composing and listening & appraising music."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Music
- Grade 5 standard on at least one instrument
- Grade 5 theory is an advantage.

## Exam Board:

Edexcel

📄 [qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/music-2016.html)

## Units Studied:

- Performance 30%
- Recital Composition 30% 2 compositions based on set briefs by the examination board.
- Listening examination - based on set works and aural analysis

## Course Information:

The course requires a highly creative approach to the three main disciplines of Performing, Composing and Listening & Appraising Music.

Students are encouraged to become all-round musicians, by preparing themselves for a final performance recital to an audience. They will become composers of original music, whilst working within a set of specific briefs, as well as develop an appreciation of a wide range of musical forms and genres.

## Possible Career Paths:

A Level Music provides students with a good grounding in composition and theory for those wishing to pursue a career in Music. We have had a number of students over the past few years who have pursued music at University, following academic degree courses (Hull, Huddersfield, Bangor) and also more practical Actor-Musician based courses at Guildford School of Acting & Byrd College.

## Extra Curricular:

Course provides opportunities for students to perform in recitals and showcase evenings throughout the year. This is an assessed part of the course. Students also have the opportunity to join the various music groups which meet regularly during the week. We hope that 6<sup>th</sup> form students take an active part within the department.



## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

# Product Design

✉ [sjuniper@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:sjuniper@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"The course has allowed me to develop academic knowledge and practical skills in one. It is so broad and varied. There is never a dull moment."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

Grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology (other considerations regarding GCSE subjects taken can be made)

## Exam Board:

AQA

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-7552-SP-2017.PDF>

## Units Studied:

- Paper 1 - Technical principles (30% of A Level)
- Paper 2 - Designing and making principles (20% of A Level)
- Non-exam assessment - NEA (50% of A Level)

## Course Information:

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and

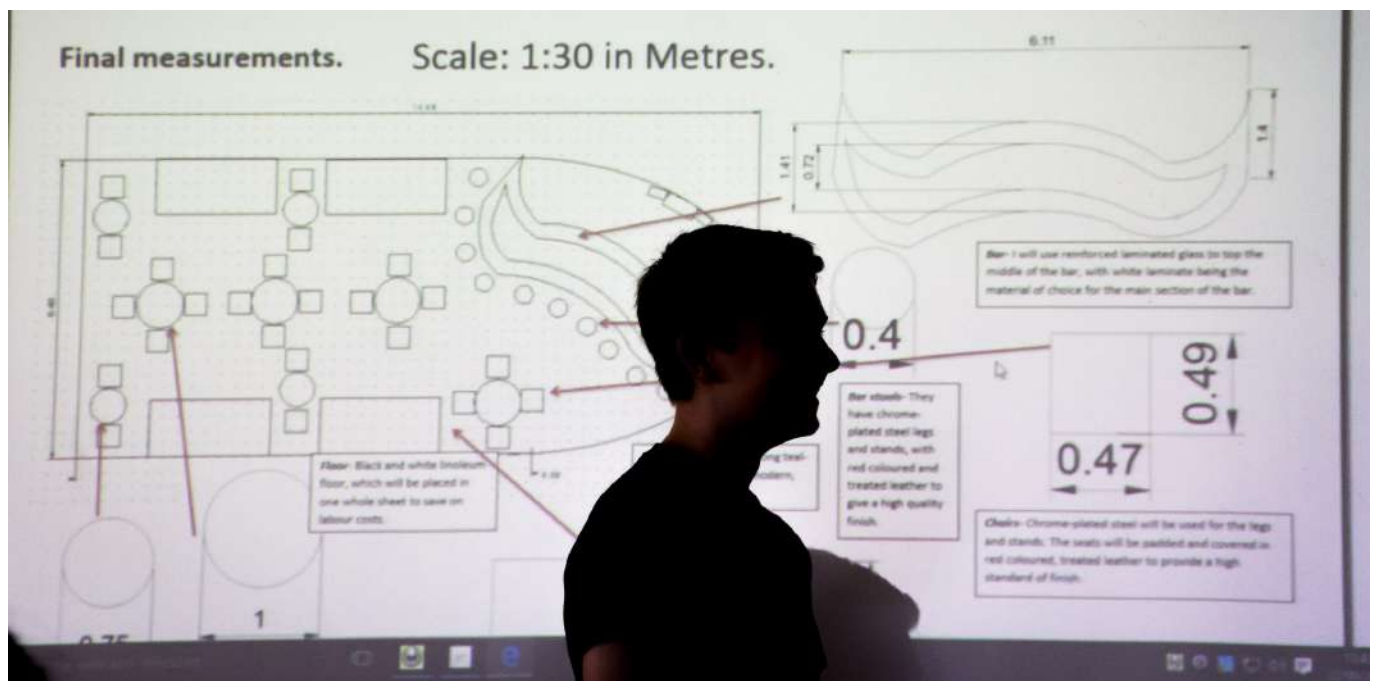
confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative and technical industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

## Possible Career Paths:

There are many career paths that Product Design students have followed over the years including apprenticeships in engineering and architecture as well as continuing to a foundation course or straight onto a degree in a design related subject. The Russell Group of universities offer many different Design Studies courses such as Architecture, Graphic Communication and Product Design. Alternatively, students go onto apprenticeship programmes where they continue their education within the world of work. STEM careers offer great prospects for the future.

## Extra Curricular:

Trips to the V&A Museum, local Universities and manufacturing companies. Students are encouraged to work within the faculty outside of their timetabled lessons.





## ENGLISH

# English Language

✉ sferguson@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk

*"English Language gives me the opportunity to combine critical analysis and creative writing."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature

## Exam Board:

AQA

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-7701-7702-SP-2015.PDF>

## Units Studied:

- Paper 1 - Language and the Individual Language Varieties (40% of overall grade) Section A - Textual Variations and Representations Section B - Children's Language Development
- Paper 2 - Language Diversity and Change (40% of overall grade). Section A - Diversity and Change. Section B - Language Discourses

NEA Language in Action (20% of overall grade) Tasks include a language investigation and original Writing

## Course Information:

This is the study of the diverse ways in which the English language is structured and used in different real life contexts. You will look at aspects of social change, language and gender, language and occupation, accent and dialect, journalism, slang and taboo language to name but a few! You will get the opportunity to specialise in a chosen area of investigation for your coursework and you will get to learn lots of new theories and apply them to the world of language around you. We encourage debate and discussion in class and help you to shape and develop your own writing.

## Possible Career Paths:

English qualifications are suitable for entry to a broad range of career paths including: journalism and media careers; the law; teaching and business. A qualification is a testament to your communication skills and therefore viewed favourably by employers.

## ENGLISH

# English Literature

✉ [rbillig@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:rbillig@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"I love studying English because it allows me to think creatively, but also critically about complex ideas and topics."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature

## Exam Board:

OCR

📄 [www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171200-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-english-literature-h472.pdf](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/171200-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-english-literature-h472.pdf)

## Units Studied:

- Component 1 - Shakespeare, Drama and Poetry Comparative and Contextual Study (40% of overall grade). Texts studied will be Shakespeare's Measure for Measure, Milton's Paradise Lost and Webster's Duchess of Malfi.
- Component 2 - Comparative and contextual study (40% of overall grade). Focus on the Gothic genre. Text studied will be Carter's The Bloody Chamber and one other Gothic text. You will also be looking at a variety of Gothic extracts for the unseen aspect of the paper.
- Component 3 - NEA (coursework) : Close reading of poetry and comparative essay (20% of overall grade). NEA folder will be 2 tasks. The first will be a 1,000 word essay analysing one of Plath's poems and the second will be a 2,000 word comparative essay looking at Tennessee Williams' Streetcar Named Desire and one modern prose text.

## Course Information:

English Literature is the study of poetry, prose and drama. If you like reading and want to take on a more challenging range of texts than those studied at GCSE, then English Literature would be an enjoyable course for you. We study a variety of different texts ranging from the bard himself, Shakespeare, to more recent modern texts such as Carter. Through our specialism in the Gothic, you will get a sense of how the genre has evolved and also get the opportunity to see how literature can be taboo and also used as a social comment about the way we live. Students are encouraged to explore their own interpretations and ideas as well as being introduced to critics and wider reading.

## Possible Career Paths:

English Literature is a facilitating subject for the Russell Group universities. The study of English Literature is suitable for entry to a broad range of career paths including: journalism and media careers; the law; teaching and business. A qualification is a testament to your communication skills and therefore viewed favourably by employers.

## Extra Curricular:

Past trips have included trips to the RSC in Stratford for Measure for Measure, Milton's cottage, Nottingham University for a lecture on the Gothic and an English Society hosted a study day on Shakespeare.

## ENGLISH

# Media Studies

✉ [mdughan@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:mdughan@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"Media Studies is an even more intriguing subject than I expected. This subject has helped me develop many different skills such as identification, independence and integrity in my work."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE Media (if studied)
- GCSE Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

## Exam Board:

OCR

📄 [www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/media-studies-h009-h409-from-2017/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/media-studies-h009-h409-from-2017/)

## Units Studied:

- Paper 1 (35%):
  - Section A - News (45 marks) Set Texts: The Guardian/ The Daily Mail
  - Section B - Media Language and Representations (25 marks) Advertising and Marketing, Magazines, Music Videos
- Paper 2 (35%)
  - Section A - Radio, Video Games and Film (30 marks) Set Texts: Radio 1 Breakfast Show, Minecraft, The Jungle Book (1967 & 2016)
  - Section B - Long Form TV Drama (40 marks) An English language compared to a foreign language text
- NEA 30%

Students must work individually. Briefs to be released each year on 1<sup>st</sup> March of Year 12. Suggested briefs: TV and Online (game show extract and website), Radio and Online (pilot show and website), Print and Online (magazine and website), Music Video and Online (music video and website).

## Course Information:

Experience a range of media 'texts'; films, long form television drama, newspapers, magazines, music videos, online gaming and radio. Make your own productions using video cameras and editing equipment. Research the institutions that create media texts and the audiences who enjoy them. Available to the department are a wide range of resources such as digital SLR camera, specialist lighting, a small studio with chroma curtains on tracks, giving the ability to create a cyclorama, and Adobe Premiere Pro & Photoshop editing software.

## Possible Career Paths:

A Level Media Studies offers a broad subject area applicable to a diversity of careers including: film & video, interactive leisure software, music, performing arts, TV and radio.

## Extra Curricular:

Sixth Form students attended BBC HQ in London and the BBC Manchester (Media City UK); they also visited the National Media Museum in Bradford and had the opportunity to attend screenings after-school at the Broadway Cinema in Nottingham. <https://www.intofilm.org/>

## ICT AND BUSINESS

# Computing

✉ [lfell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:lfell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*“Computer Science is a challenging and creative subject which considers the way that technology transforms our lives in a progressively digital world.”*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5 in Computing
- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

**Exam Board:**

AQA

📄 [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/as-and-a-level/computer-science-7516-7517](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/as-and-a-level/computer-science-7516-7517)

**Units Studied:**

- Unit 1 - Programming (40%)
- Unit 2 - Computer Science theory (40%)
- Unit 3 - Coursework (20%)

**Course Information:**

The ever changing world of Computer Science is a subject we are proud to teach at George Spencer. Closely linked with preparing you for a degree in a related subject, the course is a mix of programming (roughly 60%) and theory (roughly 40%). Over two years you will develop an advanced understanding of Python, Binary, Machine architecture, Computational thinking, Hardware, Software and Networking. The course is ideally suited to someone who loves problem solving, is willing to dedicate time outside of lesson to develop their craft, and has a love for Mathematics.

**Possible Career Paths:**

The careers in Computer Science are endless. From robotics to Artificial Intelligence. Your career in the industry has probably not even been invented yet!

**Extra Curricular:**

- Cyber Centurion
- NYC Computer Science Visit
- Bebras Competition
- Oxford Computing Challenge

## ICT AND BUSINESS

# Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT (Single and Triple A-Level Equivalent)

✉ [hwhalley@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:hwhalley@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Standard entry criteria for the Sixth Form (useful to have studied ICT in Year 10/11)

**Exam Board:**

OCR

↓ [www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/information-technology/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/information-technology/)

**Units Studied:**

Dependent on study path (single or triple A Level)

**Course Information:**

ICT is a modern, relevant subject that is ideally suited to someone who wishes to pursue an apprenticeship or full time job in the industry. The course can be selected as either a single or triple A Level equivalent option. Those studying the single A Level will gain a broad understanding of ICT across a range of units; some practical (e.g. web design) and some theory based (e.g. cyber security). Those studying the triple A Level equivalent option will gain a deep understanding in a wide range of ICT topics, with many being highly practical such as product development or software engineering. In both courses, there is a weighting more towards coursework than exams, and this structure benefits those students who gain a satisfaction from each lesson building towards the final qualification.

**Possible Career Paths:**

IT manager, network manager, database administrator, help desk support, systems developer, web design.

## ICT AND BUSINESS

# Business Studies

✉ [scrawford@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:scrawford@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"To be a success in business, be daring, be first, be different."*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5 if studied at GCSE
- Grade 5 in English & Maths

**Exam Board:**

AQA

📄 [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/as-and-a-level/business-7131-7132](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/as-and-a-level/business-7131-7132)

**Units Studied:**

Managers, Leadership and Decision making. Improving Marketing Performance, Improving Operations Performance, Improving Financial Performance, Improving Human Resource Performance.

**Course Information:**

Business Studies will provide excellent preparation for both the world of work and a variety of university undergraduate courses. The course will evaluate the relationship between external market forces and internal decision making as well as analysing the success of a business from the perspective of different stakeholder demands. It is delivered by an exciting, innovative business team providing an excellent quality of learning.

**Possible Career Paths:**

There is a large variety of specific business or joint honours undergraduate degree courses that further develop your business knowledge. A large number of students have been placed in business related apprenticeships including marketing, finance and project management. We have even had one past student establish and successfully run her own business.

**Extra Curricular:**

You will get the opportunity to visit a number of businesses to apply your knowledge and understanding to real life situations and decisions.

## ICT AND BUSINESS

# Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Business (Single A-Level equivalent)

✉ [scrawford@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:scrawford@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

Standard entry criteria for the Sixth Form

## Exam Board:

OCR

📄 [www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technical/business/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technical/business/)

## Units Studied:

- Unit 1 The Business Environment
- Unit 2 Writing in Business
- Unit 3 Business Decisions

There may also be an opportunity to study the Diploma in Business which then includes a few optional modules that beautifully compliment the mandatory units.

## Course Information:

This course will be ideally suited to hard working, knowledgeable students who do not necessarily perform well in examinations. Some of this course is internally assessed via investigative course work allowing the student to develop a deeper understanding of the way businesses operate. Students will learn the fundamentals of business decision making, making it the ideal choice to progress into apprenticeships after sixth form.

## Possible Career Paths:

The Cambridge Technical is popular for those students who wish to apply for a business related apprenticeship. Most universities accept the Cambridge Technical qualification, however check carefully in terms of the number of units covered.

## Extra Curricular:

There are opportunities to visit trading businesses in order to apply the theory taught to real life scenarios.

## ICT AND BUSINESS

# Economics

✉ [scrawford@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:scrawford@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today."*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Grade 6 in English Language and Maths

**Exam Board:**

AQA

📄 [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136)

**Units Studied:**

- Microeconomics - the study of individual and business decisions regarding the allocation of resources and prices of goods and services.
- Macroeconomics - the study of the decisions of countries and governments

**Course Information:**

The course will explore how firms, individuals and governments allocate resources to ensure markets run efficiently. For example, understanding fluctuations in the price of oil and how this impacts upon firms and consumers. The course also looks at fiscal, monetary and supply-side policies, for example, how changes in the Bank of England's interest rate can impact the Government's macroeconomic objectives.

**Possible Career Paths:**

Economist, Accountancy, Journalism, Business Management Consultancy, Business Analyst.

**Extra Curricular:**

Young Economist of the Year Competition  
Marshall Society Essay Competition



## MATHEMATICS

# Mathematics

✉ [jcullen@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jcullen@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"The Mathematician's Patterns... Must be beautiful. Beauty is the first test: There is no permanent place in the work for ugly mathematics."*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (Desirable, GCSE Mathematics Grade 7)

**Exam Board:**

Mathematics (AQA)

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/mathematics/specifications/AQA-7357-SP-2017.PDF>

**Units Studied:**

Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical Methods, Vectors, Statistical Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Statistical Hypothesis Testing, Quantities and Units in Mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws, Moments

Linear Course examined at the end of two years.

- Paper 1 - 100 Marks ( Pure Content Only)
- Paper 2 - 100 Marks (Pure Content 50 Marks, Mechanics Content 50 Marks)
- Paper 3 - 100 Marks (Pure Content 50 Marks, Statistics Contents 50 Marks)

**Course Information:**

Mathematics is a challenging but worthwhile course which can provide you with the skills and problem solving capability required in a rapidly changing world. The course in Mathematics will develop mathematical problem solving skills through use of mathematical argument, language and proof and enable students to apply these skills to mathematical modelling. Students will explore three main areas of Mathematics; Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics.

**Possible Career Paths:**

There are very few degree subjects for which a Maths A Level would not be useful. Maths is a way of thinking, a set of tools, which give you valuable problem solving skills. Traditional careers tend to be Accountancy, Analysts, Construction, Computing & IT, Education, Engineering, Financial Services, Operational Research to name but a few.

**Extra Curricular:**

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and Team Maths Challenge. Sixth Form students also have the opportunity to teach students in other year groups.

## MATHEMATICS

# Further Mathematics

✉ [jcullen@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jcullen@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics (Desirable, GCSE Mathematics Grade 8)

**Exam Board:**

Further Mathematics (AQA)

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/mathematics/specifications/AQA-7367-SP-2017.PDF>

**Units Studied:**

- Proof
- Complex Numbers
- Matrices
- Further Algebra and Functions
- Further Calculus
- Further Vectors
- Polar Coordinates
- Hyperbolic Functions
- Differential Equations
- Trigonometry
- Numerical Methods
- Application 1 - Mechanics
- Application 2 - Discrete

This is a linear course examined at the end of two years.

- Paper 1 - 100 Marks (Pure Content Only)
- Paper 2 - 100 Marks (Pure Content Only)
- Paper 3 - 100 Marks (Discrete 50 Marks, Mechanics 50 Marks)

There is the opportunity to sit AS at the end of Year 1. Ask for more details.

**Course Information:**

Further Mathematics allows the opportunity to explore three main areas of Mathematics; Pure, Discrete and Mechanics in greater depth and cover more content.

**Possible Career Paths:**

Further Mathematics is sometimes a preferred A Level for specific degree courses. Please check with individual universities for entry requirements. Traditional careers being Accountancy, Analysts, Computing & IT, Education, Engineering, Financial Services, Operational Research and Sciences.

**Extra Curricular:**

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and Team Maths Challenge. Sixth Form students also have the opportunity to teach students in other year groups.

## MATHEMATICS

# Core Mathematics

✉ [jcullen@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jcullen@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

**Exam Board:**

Core Mathematics (AQA)

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/mathematics/specifications/AQA-1350-SP-2014.PDF>

**Units Studied:**

- 3.1 Analysis of Data
- 3.2 Maths for Personal Finance
- 3.3 Estimation
- 3.4 Critical Analysis of Given Data and Models
- 3.5 The Normal Distribution
- 3.6 Probabilities and Estimation
- 3.7 Correlation and Regression

One year course and equivalent to an AS qualification.

- Paper 1 - 60 Marks (Units 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- Paper 2A - 60 Marks (Units 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7)

**Course Information:**

A course designed for Post- 16 students who want to continue studying mathematics but not at AS or A Level. It is a practical mathematical course focussing on real-life problems. The skills gained will supplement the mathematical elements studied in other A Level subjects including; geography, sciences, psychology, business and economics.

This course is chosen alongside three other courses.

**Possible Career Paths:**

Any career involving an element of problem solving.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

# French

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**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Grade 5 in GCSE French

**Exam Board:**

AQA

**Units Studied:**

French: Aspects of French-speaking society: La famille en voie de changement. La « cyber-société. Le rôle du bénévolat.

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: Une culture fière de son patrimoine. La musique francophone contemporaine. Cinéma: le septième art.

Aspects of French-speaking society: Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse. Quelle vie pour les marginalisés. Comment on traite les criminels.

- Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing
- Paper 2: Writing (2 essays - One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification)
- Paper 3: Speaking - includes Individual research project (IRP)

**Course Information:**

Language courses equip students with linguistic skills necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. The courses are taught by highly qualified, experienced teachers using excellent resources such as interactive white boards, internet resources, authentic and up to date texts. Students will have the opportunity to broaden their linguistic and cultural knowledge through studying literature, cinema, geography and the history of the country.

**Possible Career Paths:**

International Business, Translator, Teacher.

**Extra Curricular:**

Students have the opportunity to attend language workshops in French and Spanish at Nottingham University and support students learning a language in other year groups.

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

# Spanish

✉ [kchuter@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:kchuter@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Grade 5 in GCSE Spanish

**Exam Board:**

AQA

**Units Studied:**

Spanish: Aspects of Hispanic society: El ciberespacio. La igualdad de los sexos.

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world: La identidad regional en España. El patrimonio cultural.

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society: El racismo. La convivencia.

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world: Monarquías y dictaduras. Los movimientos populares.

- Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing
- Paper 2: Writing (2 essays - One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification)
- Paper 3: Speaking - includes Individual research project (IRP)

**Course Information:**

Language courses equip students with linguistic skills necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. The courses are taught by highly qualified, experienced teachers using excellent resources such as interactive white boards, internet resources, authentic and up to date texts. Students will have the opportunity to broaden their linguistic and cultural knowledge through studying literature, cinema, geography and the history of the country.

**Possible Career Paths:**

International Business, Translator, Teacher.

**Extra Curricular:**

Students have the opportunity to attend language workshops in French and Spanish at Nottingham University and support students learning a language in other year groups.

## SCIENCE

# Biology

✉ nbaker@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk

*"Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose" - Francis Crick.*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science.
- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

## Exam Board:

Edexcel (SNAB)

📄 [qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/biology-a/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/9781446930885-gce2015-a-bioa-spec.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/biology-a/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/9781446930885-gce2015-a-bioa-spec.pdf)

## Units Studied:

- Genes and Health
- Genes and Disease
- Environmental Biology
- Forensics
- Grey Matter
- Human Physiology

## Course Information:

Biology is the study of living things. It explores the mechanics of life and biological systems as well as the interactions of living organisms with their environment. The course uses a context led approach which means that all aspects of the syllabus are related to real-life situations to help with understanding the content.

## Possible Career Paths:

Higher education lecturer, Microbiologist, Nature conservation officer, Pharmacologist, Physician, Associate research scientist (life sciences), Research scientist (medical), Secondary school teacher, Soil scientist, Zoologist, Acupuncturist, Dentist, General practice doctor, Health promotion specialist, Science writer, Sustainability consultant.

## Extra Curricular:

You will be required to carry out an in-depth study of field techniques and sampling methods which involves investigating ecosystems in an area of the UK.

## SCIENCE

# Chemistry

✉ [cjones@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:cjones@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"Every great and deep difficulty bears in itself its own solution. It forces us to change our thinking in order to find it." - Niels Bohr*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science.
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

## Exam Board:

AQA

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-7404-7405-SP-2015.PDF>

## Units Studied:

Energetics, Equilibria, Kinetics, Group Chemistry, Redox, Transition metals, Organic Chemistry, Isomerism, Organic Analysis, Organic Synthesis, Biochemistry.

## Course Information:

A Level chemistry is a linear qualification; assessments take place at the end of the two year course. The course

specifically trains students in the acquisition and application of essential laboratory skills. We follow a concept led approach, in which chemical fundamentals from prior study are analysed and adapted to meet the needs of novel situations and data. New comprehension is therefore developed and refined before consolidation through a variety of learning opportunities in numerous settings. Course content can be found in more detail via the AQA website but traditional areas of chemistry are covered comprehensively, including energetics; kinetics; equilibria; group chemistry and organic chemistry.

## Possible Career Paths:

Many varied areas of scientific and other endeavour are strongly represented by students of chemistry. University courses which stem from the course directly include Medicine, Pharmacy and the Life Sciences but Physical sciences also draw heavily upon those with an A Level in Chemistry. In later life, many diverse professions are well represented in the career opportunities open to chemists and a degree in chemistry is still seen as one of the most desirable to obtain from a British university.

## Extra Curricular:

We enjoy providing opportunities including competing in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad, the details of which can be found via the Royal Society's website.



## SCIENCE

# Physics

✉ [gmartin@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:gmartin@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"A physical law must possess mathematical beauty." - Paul Dirac*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grade 6-6 in GCSE Combined Science.
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

## Exam Board:

Edexcel

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-7407-7408-SP-2015.PDF>

## Units Studied:

Working as a Physicist, Mechanics, Waves and the Nature of Light, Electric Circuits, Materials, Further Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Nuclear and Particle Physics, Thermal Physics, Gravitational Fields, Space Oscillations.

## Course Information:

A Level Physics is a linear qualification; assessments take place at the end of the two year course. The course not only inspires students to think as scientists, but also enables them to work as scientists. The concept-led approach to A Level Physics begins with a study of the laws, theories and models of physics, and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications. Students' skills and technical competency when

completing practical work will be assessed by teachers. This will form the basis for the award of a Practical Endorsement at A Level. This is separate to the A Level grade and, if awarded, will be reported as a 'Pass' on A Level certificates for students who achieve it.

## Possible Career Paths:

Physics will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you'll be able to test out new ideas plus question and investigate other people's theories, which is useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate. Physics is a seriously useful subject for the majority of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers and you'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

*"Physicists are involved in finding solutions to many of our most pressing challenges – as well as studying atoms or making sense of the extra-terrestrial, physicists diagnose disease, model the climate, design computer games, predict markets and design hi-tech goods. Studying physics opens doors." - Institute of Physics*

## Extra Curricular:

Trip to CERN, offered to all Year 12 students studying the A Level Physics course. This is a two day trip organised by ourselves where students have the opportunity to visit CERN on an organised tour by Physicists working there, as well as spend time sightseeing in Geneva.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Applied Diploma in Criminology (Single A-Level equivalent)

✉ [lprior@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:lprior@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"I am fascinated by understanding why people might turn to crime, and how crime scenes are investigated."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

Standard entry criteria for the Sixth Form (preferred Grade 5 in English)

## Exam Board:

WJEC Eduqas

📄 [www.wjec.co.uk/media/21xjkr24/wjec-applied-diploma-in-criminology-spec-e-22-06-22-1.pdf](http://www.wjec.co.uk/media/21xjkr24/wjec-applied-diploma-in-criminology-spec-e-22-06-22-1.pdf)

## Units Studied:

- Changing Awareness of Crime - understanding types of crime, why some crimes are under-reported and how campaigns bring about legal changes
- Criminological Theories - learn about varied theories as to why criminals have turned to criminality and apply this knowledge to real life crime
- Crime Scene to Courtroom - understand how crime scenes are investigated and about the Criminal Justice System
- Crime and Punishment - this unit covers a range of topics including the aims of punishment and whether our legal system's punishments actually work

## Assessment:

- Internally assessed Controlled Assessments - 50%
- Examinations - 50%

## Course Information:

This is an Applied General qualification. This means it is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for 16-19 year-old learners through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

Each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit and learning is linked to real life case studies.

## Possible Career Paths:

The main purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is to support access to higher education degree courses, such as: Criminology, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Law and Sociology. Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Police, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

## Extra Curricular:

Guest speakers and a visit to the Law Courts enable students to see the subject in real life.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Geography

✉ [cmccool@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:cmccool@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5 in Geography
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

**Exam Board:**

Edexcel

📄 [qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html)

**Units Studied:**

- Regenerating Places
- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes
- Globalisation
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Water Supply and Water Security
- Superpowers
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
- Independent Investigation

**Course Information:**

A wide range of contemporary geographical issues are explored. Practical fieldwork skills, interrogation of geographical data and problem solving are all key elements of the two residential field trips that run throughout the A Level Geography course. There is a balance between physical and human geography. Tectonic hazards, geomorphology, water security and physical systems provide an in-depth understanding of the natural world. The impact of humans on the planet is investigated and evaluated through urban and rural regeneration, globalisation, economics, future energy provision, migration and the refugee crisis, and the rise or demise of countries considered to be rising or current superpowers.

**Possible Career Paths:**

Environment Agency, Town Planning, Water Industry, Quantity Surveying; others may be more generalised, e.g. Retail Management, Police Force, Armed Services, Business and Politics.

**Extra Curricular:**

Fieldwork opportunities

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# History

✉ [scoell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:scoell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5 in GCSE History
- Grade 5 GCSE English Language

**Exam Board:**

OCR

📄 [www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf](http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170128-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-history-a-h505.pdf)

**Units Studied:**

- Alfred and the Making of England, 871-1016 (25%)
- Russia, 1894-1941 (15%)
- Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603 (40%)
- Coursework, topic-based essay (20%)

**Course Information:**

A Level History is consistently one of the most popular and highest-performing courses at GSA. History A Level investigates people and societies of the past and considers their impact on and their relevance to our lives today. It is also about how the past is interpreted differently by historians. You will gain a wide ranging understanding of politics, economics, society and international relations. Not only will you develop an analytical and critical mind, an understanding of current affairs and other cultures but also the capacity to weigh arguments and respect different viewpoints. Our course has an unusually wide chronological and thematic range and provides an excellent preparation for the study of History at university.

**Possible Career Paths:**

History is a very useful subject to take for a wide variety of careers, including: lawyer, journalist, politics, international relations, business, teaching, museum work or archaeology. It is a 'facilitating subject' and is respected as a high-status academic course by professions and universities.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Philosophy and Ethics

✉ [eparr@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:eparr@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"The unexamined life is not worth living"*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5 in GCSE Philosophy and Ethics (if studied)
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

**Exam Board:**

OCR

📄 [www.ocr.org.uk/images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf](http://www.ocr.org.uk/images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf)

**Units Studied:**

- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics
- Development in Christian Thought

**Course Information:**

The course is divided into three papers which cover the breadths of human experience and tackles ancient questions about our existence and world around us. The first paper is Philosophy of Religion which allows us to question the idea of truth and ask questions about our existence. Some of the topics on this paper are; the legacy of Plato and Aristotle, the problem of evil and arguments for and against the

existence of God. The second paper is Ethics which studies the controversial topic of euthanasia, the modern day issues surrounding business ethics and ethical approaches of Immanuel Kant, Aquinas and Utilitarianism. The final paper is Development in Christian Thought, topics on this paper include a study of human nature, various beliefs about what happens when we die and the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a church minister who smuggled Jews out of Nazi Germany and was involved in a failed plotted to kill Hitler).

**Possible Career Paths:**

The skills gained through Philosophy and Ethics prepare students for careers in law (you learn how to argue in this subject!), lecturing, research, politics (many politicians have studied some form of philosophy), civil service, police, journalism, social work and medicine (many medical courses like students to have studied the ethical issues surrounding medicine e.g. euthanasia). Universities are keen to show how students who study Philosophy can apply it to many different career paths and have a high level of employability after study, here are two examples:

➔ [www.southampton.ac.uk/philosophy/undergraduate/careers/facts\\_and\\_figures.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/philosophy/undergraduate/careers/facts_and_figures.page)

➔ [www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/philosophy](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/philosophy)

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Politics

✉ [thopkins-burke@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:thopkins-burke@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"When you watch the news you go, "oh, I know what that means!"*

**Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5 in a Social Science subject (History/ Geography/RE)
- Grade 6 GCSE English Language

**Exam Board:**

Edexcel

📄 [qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Politics/2017/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/A-level-Politics-Specification.pdf)

**Units Studied:**

- UK Politics and Core Political Ideas (33.3%)
- UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas (33.3%)
- Comparative Politics: USA (33.3%)

**Course Information:**

Think Politics is too important to be left to politicians?

Fascinated about where power really lies in our country?

Or do you just want to know more about the world we live in?

Politics A Level explores just how the UK and US operate. We begin the course by studying how people like you can participate in democracy, from elections to pressure groups, then we investigate the main and minor political parties in

this country and what they really stand for. We also study the core political ideas - Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism - and consider how the ideas of key thinkers from Karl Marx to Ayn Rand relate to decisions made by our politicians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also study the non-core political idea of Nationalism at a time when understanding the intricacies of this idea has never been more important. Following this, we analyse the workings of the UK government, including our unwritten constitution, Parliament, Cabinet and the Prime Minister, and weigh up where power and sovereignty really lie in our political system. In Year 13 we compare our new-found understanding of UK Politics and Government to systems in the USA, drawing parallels and contrasts between the two countries.

Throughout the course you will think hard, debating various viewpoints with your peers, and learning how to craft essays with specialist teachers who have worked for the exam board and know how to help you achieve the highest marks.

**Possible Career Paths:**

A Level Politics is highly regarded by Russell Group universities. It is a useful facilitating subject and can be studied alongside any other A Level. Current students have studied it alongside History, Geography, English Literature/ Language, Economics and Maths. Politics is particularly useful for students wanting to pursue careers in Law, Journalism, Policing or Media, as well as business, teaching, public affairs and charitable work.

**Extra Curricular:**

We have introduced a trip to Parliament in the autumn term of Year 12 running alongside the Excellence Programme. Students are also encouraged to participate in online lectures and seminars: in September we are excited to be joining an afternoon conference on politics in the Middle East.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Psychology

✉ [swright@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:swright@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"Psychology has allowed me to find answers to my most burning questions in relation to the intriguing human psychological topics, such as what are the explanations for experiencing depression? Is aggression primarily a male attribute determined by mainly testosterone? Why do we conform and obey others even if it's destructive? The first lesson was like no other, unforgettable; it inspired me to devote and dedicate myself to this great subject and I continue to enjoy Psychology at GSA."*

*"It improves my understanding of how the mind works and I find it fascinating how individuals differ. You have a lot of 'ooh, so that's how that happens' moments!"*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

- Grade 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science
- GCSE Grade 5 in English

**Exam Board:**

AQA

📄 [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance)

**Units Studied:**

- Year 1 - Memory, Attachment, Social Influence, Psychopathology and Research Methods
- Year 2 - Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Issues and Debates, Aggression, Relationships and Schizophrenia

**Course Information:**

Psychology is the scientific study of how people think, feel and behave. Psychology has many different areas including social behaviour, cognitive processes and mental health. This course will help students to develop a number of skills including how to view the world around you from different perspectives, how to plan and conduct scientific investigations, how to analyse and interpret data, develop critical reasoning skills and how to put across your point of view fluently.

**Possible Career Paths:**

Chartered psychologist (clinical, educational, forensic, health etc.), social work, police force, primary and secondary education, counselling, human resources, market researcher, media and advertising.

**Extra Curricular:**

- Psychology Society
- Psychology Book Club
- Psychology Scholars Champion Award
- Trip to the Freud Museum, London
- Talks from psychologists and professors.
- Tutor2U revision conference
- Tutor2U revision and exam preparation student workshop, student conferences.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Sociology

✉ [lxprior@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:lxprior@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"I can't wait to go to university and learn Sociology in more depth"*

**Subject Specific Entry Criteria:**

Desirable: Grade 5 GCSE English

**Exam Board:**

AQA

📄 [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192)

**Units Studied:**

- Family and Households
- Education
- Beliefs
- Crime and Deviance
- Research Methods

**Course Information:**

An academic discipline with departments in most of the world's universities. It involves learning about how human societies are constructed and where our beliefs and daily routines come from; it re-examines in a new light many of the taken for granted assumptions we all hold and which influence the way we think about ourselves and others. It's about developing a critical understanding of society. Sociology is a subject that combines classical theory, modern research and critical thinking. Specialist resources: All topics have an individual study guide. The classroom is stocked with a wide variety of textbooks and revision guides. The students are directed towards internet resources that are both highly specialised and broadly accessible.

**Possible Career Paths:**

The skills and approach learnt in sociology will be transferable to a wide variety of careers and especially for further studying. The critical nature of the subject adds an extra dimension for Social Sciences, English and Media students by providing a theoretical structure to analysis.

## SPORT

# Physical Education

✉ [mpowell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:mpowell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"This course has really helped me understand how my performance in sport is affected by the many physical, psychological and social factors."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

- Grade 5 in GCSE PE (if studied)
- Grade 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science

## Exam Board:

AQA

📄 <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/pe/specifications/AQA-7582-SP-2016.PDF>

## Units Studied:

- 35% - Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity in sport
- 35% - Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport
- 30% - Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

## Course Information:

Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of Physical activity and sport. The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through academic study, improve your performance through application of the theory. Physical Education is studied through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and others everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and also the influence that modern technology is having in and on physical activity and sport.

## Possible Career Paths:

A Level Physical Education is an excellent qualification for those interested in working in the sports or the leisure industry. Possibly careers include Sport Science, Physical Education Teaching, Physiotherapy and Fitness Training.

## Extra Curricular:

Training and supporting school clubs and teams, football, netball, fitness suite



## SPORT

# BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport (Single A-Level equivalent)

✉ [mpowell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:mpowell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)

*"The course helps to develop life skills and gives you ideas of the different careers you can do in sport and recreation."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

Standard entry criteria for the Sixth Form

## Exam Board:

Pearson

↓ [qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Sport/20161/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-13-national-dip-in-sport-spec.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Sport/20161/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-13-national-dip-in-sport-spec.pdf)

## Units Studied:

Dependent on the study path (Single A Level equivalent).

## Course Information:

Studying the BTEC National Diploma in Sport is aimed at preparing learners for a career in sport and recreation. The content equips them with the knowledge, skills and understanding to progress in this industry. Sport and fitness careers are diverse and always moving and changing, making it essential for learners to have the drive and resilience to adapt. The BTEC course involves a combination of internally assessed units and externally examined units. The course is also designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

## Possible Career Paths:

The course can be used as access to a university sports related degree (Sports & Exercise Science, Coaching, Sports Development, PE teaching), or it can provide a route straight into employment in the sports and fitness sector.

## Extra Curricular:

Training and supporting school clubs and teams, football, netball, fitness suite

EPQ

# Extended Project Qualification

✉ mdughan@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk

*"My EPQ was based on one of the modules I hoped to be studying at University. This was so useful in kick-starting my wider reading for the course and acted as a great platform for motivation and demonstrating my interest for the subject in my personal statement."*

## Subject Specific Entry Criteria:

The EPQ is open to all GSA Sixth Form students who have met the requirements for the Sixth Form. All students explore the qualification and investigate topics of interest to them.

## Exam Board:

AQA

📄 [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/project-qualifications/EPQ-7993/specification-at-a-glance](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/project-qualifications/EPQ-7993/specification-at-a-glance)

## Units Studied:

This is not a typical subject. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a stand-alone qualification that is taken alongside the student's other courses during Year 12. It provides you with the opportunity to study a topic that you have a particular interest in.

## Course Information:

The EPQ is a qualification that has been designed to develop sixth form students' project skills. It is unique as a qualification because it allows the student to choose their own topic and outcome. This means that they could do a traditional 5000 word essay or they could choose to create an artefact such as a video, booklet, pamphlet, dress, scientific experiment, song or dramatic performance (all of which have been done at GSA).

The students will begin with guided hours in the classroom to develop structures and systems for a successful completion. As the project develops students will take increasing levels of responsibility and they will work more independently.

At the conclusion of the project the students will have three pieces of evidence to submit for marking: the completed project, a log book detailing all planning and evaluation and a presentation.

Not only does the course teach essential skills for further study, careers and life, many higher education establishments look favourably when students detail their EPQ in their personal statement.

## Possible Career Paths:

The EPQ helps to develop independent learning, critical thinking and research skills that will be important for study at university or vocational qualifications. This qualification is valuable for all careers as a way of demonstrating high level planning, writing and evaluation skills.







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 @gsasixthform

 @georgespencher\_sixthform



ETHOS OF EXCELLENCE