



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

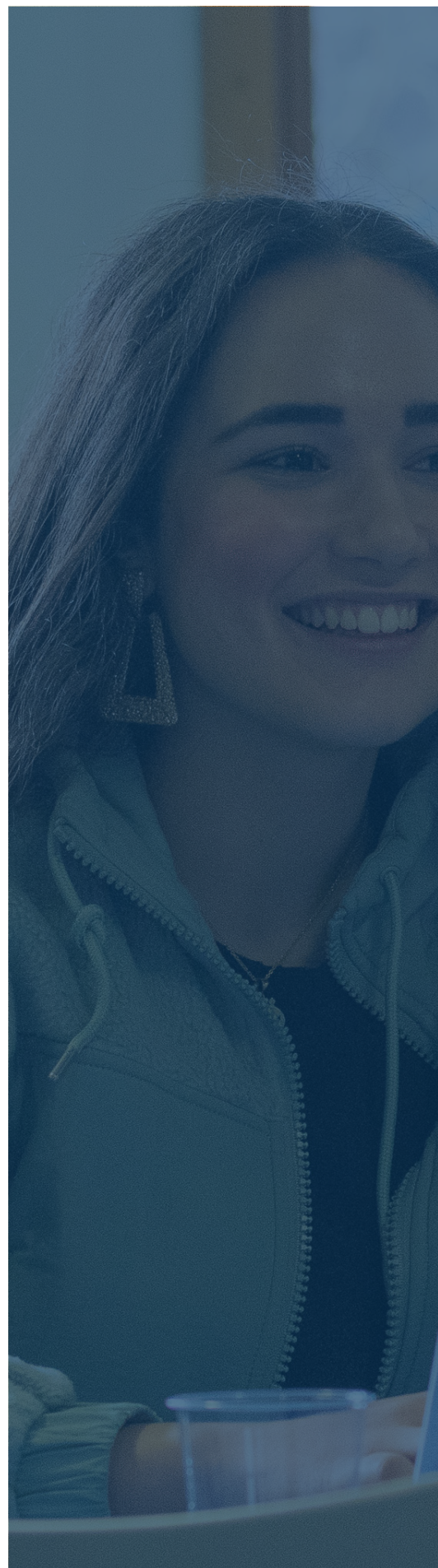
GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Sixth Form Programme Guide

2022/23

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Preparing the women leaders of tomorrow

The Sixth Form at Northampton High School provides a unique experience, one noticeably different to that experienced in the Senior School whilst remaining a conjunctive and smooth transition. The Sixth Form in itself is a cohesive unit, with Year 12 and Year 13 coming together to advise and support one another in a productive shared space with continued communication to every year group lower down in the school through extra opportunities.

As the top of the school, the Sixth Form are encouraged to lead by example, front-lining and often creating clubs and societies to immerse younger pupils in the Northampton High experience. There truly is an opportunity for everyone to express their interests, discuss these with like-minded individuals and, of course, foster new ones, whether that be in weekly Electives, extracurricular clubs or elsewhere.

Academically, we are provided with a hands-on approach from committed teachers. Our class sizes ensure no student's concerns go unanswered and our teachers can get to know each pupil as an individual. Thus, we foster a comfortable learning environment for all, inspiring ambition for the future. We are provided with realistic and valuable lessons, preparing us for the future in our PSHEE sessions, giving us prospects for growth and adaptation.

Although the previous two years have seen a variety of unprecedented challenges, our Sixth Form has certainly emerged stronger than ever. We host a riveting sense of togetherness created by pure determination and passion from every member of our school community.

Jodie - Head Girl



A bespoke programme of study

Students put together a unique portfolio of courses and experiences which enable them to explore subjects that interest them and find new passions.

Students choose 3 or 4 A Level subjects to study in the Sixth Form and can enhance their A Levels with their own unique, bespoke programme from our extensive range of Electives.

These include Politics and International Relations, Film, the AQA Extended Project Qualification and a wide variety of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Enterprise and volunteering through the Young Philanthropy programme are just some of the other opportunities available.



Entry requirements

Scholarships are available to students entering Sixth Form. Academic Scholarships are awarded based on performance in the Scholarship Examination, and Creative, Performing Arts and Sports Scholarships awarded following application and assessment/interview in the autumn term prior to entry.

We also offer the GDST Spirit Scholarship, which is awarded to those who demonstrate outstanding talent and dedication to the school and the wider community.

Scholarships are open to both internal and external candidates. Bursaries are available which are means tested. Full details, including further information about how to apply, are available in our General Information booklet.

The minimum entry requirement expected of new entrants to the Sixth Form is five GCSEs at Grades 6 and above including English and Mathematics.

Each A Level subject has its own requirements in terms of expected grades at GCSE. New girls wishing to join the school have a series of interviews with the Heads of Department of the subjects that they wish to study and the Director of Sixth Form. A report from their current school, including their predicted GCSE grades, is also considered.

A provisional place may then be offered, which is confirmed when GCSE results are received.

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Bespoke Programme
of Academic Study



02

Electives
Programme



06

Networking
Opportunities



NORTHAMPTON
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HELP · SAY · CHANG · THING

Sixth Form
Experience

03

Enrichment
Opportunities



05

Careers Advice
and Guidance



04

The Laureate
Award





A Level Subjects

Art, Craft and Design (Edexcel)

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” - Pablo Picasso

Art allows students the freedom to explore their individuality and to express themselves through their choice of materials and processes.



Academic

The unendorsed nature of the Edexcel specification provides students with an opportunity to decide which areas of study to focus on in their coursework, prior to finalising choices for university Arts courses.

The Personal Portfolio will show evidence of thorough investigation of a personally selected theme, as investigations are student-led. Practical work can take on many formats including work journals, notebooks, design sheets, large-scale rough studies, maquettes, installations and digital materials.

We support students through one to one tutorials and encourage the confidence to take creative risks through exciting and sensitive use of media. Excellent control of the formal elements is key, as we work closely with each artist to develop her skills.

Co-Curricular

In school, girls can enter a number of categories in the University of Northampton Schools Art Competition, alongside online competitions including those of the Royal Academy of Arts and Saatchi.

Our trip to the Tate Modern supports the preparatory studies that students need to create as part of the externally-set assignment, prior to the 15-hour examination.

The Studio has a dedicated workspace for each Year 13 student, allowing every student to work in the Art Department at any time during the school day and until 5.30pm.

Biology (AQA)

“Biology is the most powerful technology ever created. DNA is software, proteins are hardware, cells are factories.” - Arvind Gupta

Biology considers issues such as genetic engineering, cloning and the environment. Learning about the human body, other living things and how we all interact with the environment are key components of the course. Studying Biology helps students debate with informed opinions and helps to shape the future of our planet.



Academic

A Level Biology includes a detailed study of the cells of animals, plants and bacteria, along with their organelles.

We learn how DNA is replicated, used to synthesise proteins and give structure and function to living organisms. We explain the roles of the chemicals of life, including enzymes, carbohydrates and lipids.

How organisms feed and exchange substances with the environment is a common theme, along with diversity and energy transfer within living things and ecosystems.

Co-Curricular

The Biology department runs a range of activities outside of timetabled lessons including:

- MedVet Soc – for prospective doctors, dentists or vets
- Biology Clinic – for Sixth Form Biology students to access further support or catch up missed work
- Opportunity to support the Junior Science Club
- Journal Club

Business (Pearson Edexcel)

“There is only one boss. The customer. And he can fire everybody in the company from the chairman on down, simply by spending his money somewhere else.” - Sam Walton

Students are introduced to Business by studying four themes: Marketing and People, Managing Business Activities, Business Decisions and Strategy and Global Business. In the first year of the course students gain an understanding of core business concepts, applying them to a wide range of contexts. The second year requires students to take a more strategic and global view of business opportunities and issues.



Academic

The main aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel A Level in Business are to enable students to:

- Develop an enthusiasm for studying business
- Develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants
- Generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, problems and issues and be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals

Co-Curricular

- Warner Bros Studios Film Marketing workshop
- Enterprise Elective
- London visit including the Museum of Brands and the Bank of England
- Factory tour of Mini plant, Oxford

Chemistry (OCR)

“Every aspect of the world today - even Politics and International Relations - is affected by Chemistry.” - Linus Pauling

Chemistry is the science of elements and compounds composed of atoms, molecules and ions; their composition, structure, properties, behaviour and the changes they undergo during a reaction with other substances. Some say that Chemistry occupies an intermediate position between Physics and Biology. At Northampton High, Chemistry is a popular subject with those who need it to study Medicine and also those who have a passion for the subject as it sparks their curiosity about the world around them.



Academic

We follow the OCR syllabus, as this encompasses the three main strands of Chemistry: organic, inorganic and physical. Students are challenged to understand some of the concepts they will have already met at GCSE in more detail, and also some new topics which they can go on and study in more depth at university.

Core practicals are at the heart of the syllabus and we pride ourselves on delivering a very practically-based curriculum, going above and beyond the required practicals and making sure that the students develop the broader skills needed in a science lab.

Co-Curricular

The Chemistry department provides a range of trips and lectures alongside out-of-school challenges. Students have the chance to travel to universities to listen to speakers such as Dr Suze Kundu on her journey into Nanoscience and also Professor Peter Atkins sharing his thoughts on energy and entropy.

We also visit a local company where the students make their own polymer, and speak to PhD students about life studying for a PhD. A Level Chemistry students run a Science Club for our younger girls.

In recent years we have entered RSC Top of the Bench competition, Salters Festival at the University of Warwick and also have also had successes in the Chemistry Olympiad.

Classical Civilisation (OCR)

“Although only breath, words which I speak are immortal.” - Sappho, Fragments

Studying Classical Civilisation at A Level offers up the foundations of Western European civilisation, delving into the art, architecture, philosophy and literature of Rome and Greece, with a sound insight into society, morals, customs and the factors that led to their change over time. Attitudes towards love, desire, politics, the gods, humour, propaganda and war (and war crimes) through primary sources and texts in translation are explored as part of the course.



Academic

The syllabus offers an innovative mix of visual culture and arts, philosophy and beliefs, and the study of epic literature. The World of the Hero allows a glimpse into the world of the Bronze Age and Troy, before encompassing the role of oral storytelling, narrative and Roman propaganda.

The Greek Theatre module allows our students to marry the study of famous and infamous comedy and tragedy texts with an understanding of the archaeological evidence, evaluating their impact by comparison to Greek vases. The Love and Relationships unit allows students to compare attitudes to men and women in each society, as expressed in the poems of Sappho and Ovid as compared to the 'ideal' espoused by the philosophers, Plato and Seneca.

Co-Curricular

Topical lectures and guest speakers are arranged to enrich the curriculum alongside study days at universities. Trips to the theatre and to classical sites are usually available whenever possible.

Our Sixth Form students have the opportunity to lead the Classics Club for younger students across the school; we also encourage entries to national classical film and essay competitions.

All students considering applying to university to study a Classical subject may benefit from weekly guidance and study support sessions.

Economics (Pearson Edexcel)

“Economics is everywhere, and understanding economics can help you make better decisions and lead a happier life.” - Tyler Cowen

Students are introduced to Economics by studying four themes under the umbrellas of microeconomics and macroeconomics. In the first year of the course students gain an understanding of core economic theory and models, focussing in particular on the United Kingdom. The second year requires students to use the knowledge gained in the first part of the course to develop an understanding of business growth, business objectives, revenues, costs and profits, market structures, the labour market and government intervention. Students will also build a global perspective that develops the macroeconomic topics covered.



Academic

The main aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel A Level in Economics (A) are to enable students to: appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment; develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts; use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics; develop an ability to think as an economist and to develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

Co-Curricular

- Cambridge Festival of Ideas, 'Virtual Economy' Competition
- Palace of Westminster visit
- Enterprise Elective
- London visit including the Museum of Brands and the Bank of England and GDST Economics Conferences

English Literature (OCR)

“Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.”
- Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

To study English Literature is to study the human condition; it is to discover the wonders and frailties of human nature and society throughout the ages. English Literature is a rigorous subject designed to challenge and stimulate students through close reading, lively discussion and the writing of formal essays. However, English Literature is also fun, sometimes controversial, and hugely enriching.



Academic

The 20% coursework component affords the chance to develop the analytical and comparative skills assessed in exam components, whilst experimenting with creative writing. We study a number of American novels, such as 'The Great Gatsby', exploring issues such as wealth, identity and capitalism; students discover how different America is culturally, but also how relevant the ideas still are today.

The course also features a Danish play in translation, 'A Doll's House', Ibsen's controversial humanist work, which brilliantly explores the role of women in Victorian society. No course would be complete without a little Shakespeare and we go straight for one of the greatest, 'Hamlet'; we love the hero's agonised struggle with family, love and the question of revenge.

Co-Curricular

Students benefit from a rich programme of competitions and trips such as actor-led workshops on 'Hamlet' and immersive performances.

In supporting applications to read English at university, we offer bespoke advice on reading lists and elect English Leaders who become ambassadors, helping to organise a number of initiatives such as social media accounts, display boards and the department's creative writing club, 'Muse'.

Fashion and Textiles (AQA)

“Fashion is very important. It is life-enhancing and like everything that gives pleasure, it is worth doing well.” - Vivienne Westwood

The Creative Industries are one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs and worth £76bn to the UK economy. The British fashion and textile industry is one of the largest employment areas in the UK. It is a multifaceted industry, where opportunities exist within design, retail, production, buying, merchandising, textiles, public relations, fashion communication and styling. Studying Textile Design at A Level provides students with a wealth of employability skills. It encourages students to make independent decisions, and it requires commitment, hard work and dedication. It teaches students to accept and act upon constructive criticism; it develops team players as well as good communicators; it encourages development of strong organisational skills and broadens dimensions and ideas through problem solving and exploring contextual work.



Academic

Textile Design is an exciting creative course which introduces students to a variety of experiences that explore a range of textiles media, processes and techniques.

Students produce practical and critical contextual work in one or more areas of study: fashion design, textile design, costume design, digital textiles, printed or dyed textiles, interior design, art textiles or textiles installation.

Co-Curricular

Trips for research purposes, such as to the Victoria and Albert Museum, Dior – Designer of Dreams exhibition and Graduate Fashion Week, enable students to explore the work of others and understand progression routes within this field. We often work with live briefs which include competition entries such as Young Fashion Designer UK, Wool 4 Schools and the University of Northampton Arts Prize. Students have the opportunity to support the Drama department with costume design and development for theatre performances, and we invite visiting practitioners into school to deliver a range of workshops.

Geography (Edexcel)

“The study of Geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” - Barack Obama

Geography is an exciting, dynamic subject that is of growing importance in an increasingly interdependent world, where resolving the vital challenges we face, such as climate change and economic inequality, rely on an understanding of the links between different places, peoples and the environment.



Academic

Geography is a popular subject that uses the foundation of GCSE to investigate more complex, exciting themes, each relating to contemporary events.

Within lessons we examine the changing geopolitical relationships between countries, theorising future stability and conflict. We examine future sustainability issues, including threats faced due to water insecurity and the serious likely consequences of runaway climate change. Students also develop a range of transferable skills, including data interpretation and statistical analysis, as well as completing an independent investigation.

Co-Curricular

Students attend a week-long residential visit in Year 13, developing a range of investigative skills. Students also have the opportunity to take part in international trips, for example, in 2019 students visited Iceland.

We take advantage of our proximity to the University of Northampton and in June 2019 Geography students undertook a library visit and attended university lectures. Alumnae visit regularly to share their experiences, and students are encouraged to take part in Humanities enrichment activities, including Current Affairs Club and the Model UN Club.

History (AQA)

“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” - Martin Luther King

At Northampton High, History is a popular, dynamic course that studies Tsarist & Communist Russia 1855-1964 and Modern Britain 1951-2007. Students also have a rare opportunity to choose their topic of study for the Non-Examined Assessment.



Academic

The A Level History course introduces students to some of the key events and personalities that have shaped important developments in Modern British and European History and still have an impact on the world we live in today.

In addition, they will develop skills such as the ability to construct arguments and to discriminate between the relevant and irrelevant. Written skills will be enhanced in terms of learning to write more concisely and fluently. Students are encouraged to debate the issues raised, research around the subjects taught and prepare presentations to enhance learning.

Co-Curricular

Sixth Form Historians have taken the opportunity to visit the Somme Battlefields and Berlin in recent years for enrichment. There is usually an annual visit to Westminster with students from the Politics & International Relations Elective.

Extracurricular talks are given by staff and outside speakers to develop historical thinking and skills, and we visit the University of Northampton to meet History Department academics, using the library for research. Support for Oxbridge applications is also available.

Latin (OCR)

“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” - Isaac Newton

Studying Latin at A Level delivers the world in a grain of sand, as you are introduced to Rome at the height of its glory: an unprecedented opportunity to dive into linguistic studies as well as luxuriate in a cornucopia of 2,000 year old masterpieces of literature, on topics as diverse as law, love and what it means to be a hero in an age where heroism is seemingly forgotten. Your studies are underpinned by a sharp understanding of the shifting sands of socio-political interests, set in the turbulent years at the end of the Republic and its metamorphosis into Imperial Rome.



Academic

The OCR syllabus offers a dual focus on language and literature; students expand their vocabulary, accidence and syntax to an advanced level where they can explore original texts, such as those by the poets Ovid, Horace, and Catullus, historians Livy, Tacitus, Caesar and Suetonius.

Students delve into the works of Cicero, Ovid and Catullus particularly, their works retaining their vibrancy and emotional resonance even now; exposed to such honed rhetorical finesse, students too begin to compose masterful Latin prose.

Co-Curricular

Topical lectures and guest speakers are arranged to enrich the curriculum alongside study days at universities. Trips to the theatre and to classical sites are usually available whenever possible. Our Sixth Form students have the opportunity to lead the Classics Club for younger students across the school.

We also encourage entries to national classical film, translation and essay competitions including the Linguistics Olympiad. Those who consider applying to university to study Classics benefit from weekly guidance and support, with Oxbridge preparation also offered. Year 12 students can apply for a bursary from the GDST Silver-Pearson Award to attend a summer school, enabling them to broaden their knowledge in advance of university applications.

Mathematics (Edexcel)

“Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses, not only truth but supreme beauty.” - Bertrand Russell

Mathematics is a powerful tool with a huge range of applications spanning all aspects of the curriculum. We believe that everyone has the capacity for success, and we strive to develop the skills needed so our students can become creative thinkers and recognise Mathematics as a beautiful and relevant subject. This course can be considered by any student who has met the entry requirement of a Grade 7 or above at GCSE, wishing to continue their interest in Mathematics. A Level Mathematics offers the stimulation of investigating new ideas, the challenge of tackling problems and the satisfaction of solving them.



Academic

Mathematics is a popular subject at A Level. We follow the Edexcel specification covering Pure Maths, Statistics and Mechanics, allowing the students to acquire an excellent breadth and depth of skills that can be used in a wide variety of university courses.

Mathematics is recommended for students wishing to pursue a career in scientific or technical work, engineering, business studies, banking, computing and accountancy. Most teaching hospitals also accept Mathematics as a suitable qualification for entry into Medicine or Dentistry.

Co-Curricular

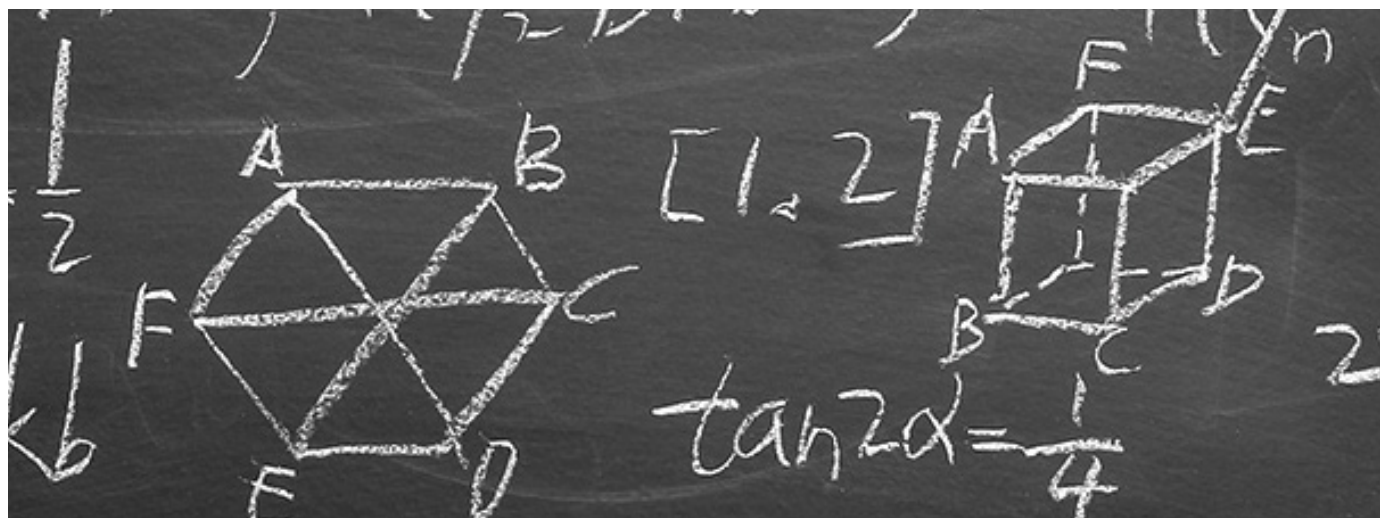
Students enter the individual and team challenges from the UK Maths Trust, with many winning certificates and progressing to the next rounds. We also give the students the opportunity to work with students in lower years acting as 'Number Partners'.

Our students often attend Christmas lectures at the Open University, and we offer STEP preparation classes for those considering studying at either Oxford, Cambridge and institutions employing STEP as part of their admissions process.

Further Mathematics (Edexcel)

“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.” - Albert Einstein

Further Mathematics can be taken in addition to A Level Mathematics. It is aimed primarily at students who have demonstrated a flair for Mathematics and is suitable for those who achieved one of the top two grades at GCSE.



Academic

We follow the Edexcel specification covering Core Pure Maths, Discrete Mathematics and Mechanics allowing the girls to acquire an excellent breadth and depth of skills that can be used in a wide variety of university courses.

Further Mathematics is recommended for students wishing to study Mathematics, Physics or Engineering at university.

Co-Curricular

Students enter the individual and team challenges from the UK Maths Trust, with many winning certificates and progressing to the next rounds. We also give the students the opportunity to work with those in lower years, acting as 'Number Partners'.

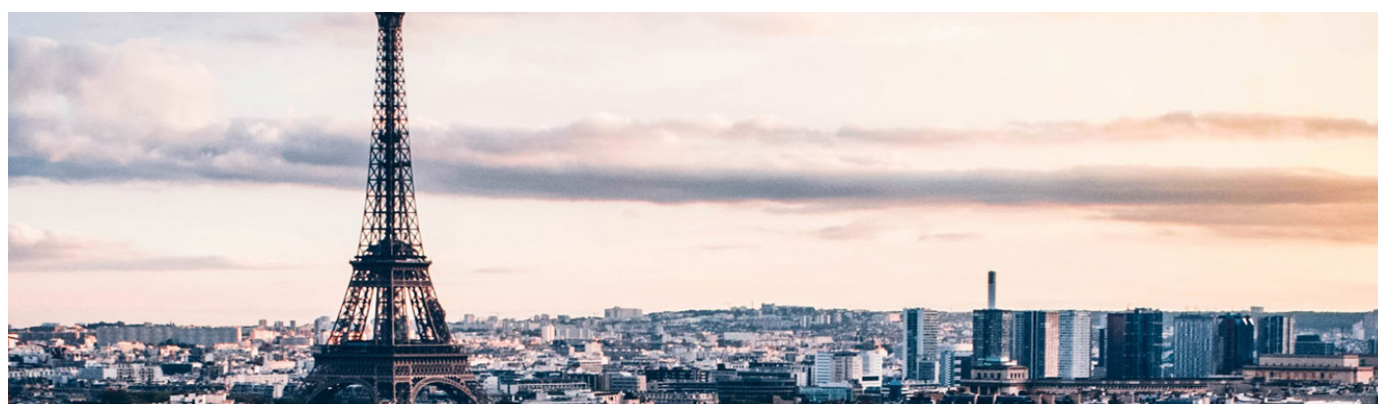
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Modern Foreign Languages

French, German & Spanish (AQA)

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” - Nelson Mandela

The study of a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) at A Level is a rewarding experience and offers an exciting challenge to aspiring linguists and those interested in foreign culture. We live in a global society and it is therefore important to be able to communicate in other languages and to have an appreciation and understanding of other cultures.



Academic

The range of university courses combining an MFL with another discipline is almost limitless, and the ability to speak one or more foreign languages is highly regarded by universities and employers in a wide range of fields. Linguists will be able to develop confidence and fluency in their chosen language, widen vocabulary, learn to manipulate the language to suit their purposes and extend their knowledge of the culture and customs of the country where the language is spoken. Classes are conducted principally in the foreign language; the more complex grammatical aspects are explained in English but otherwise students enjoy contributing ideas and opinions in the target language on a wide range of topics.

We hope students will be inspired to travel, to develop confidence in using the language in a

variety of contexts, both for pleasure and for possible career opportunities. Each language has its own sub-themes, which reflect each languages diversity and cultural heritage.

Co-Curricular

Enrichment opportunities could include: work experience placements in Europe through schemes such as Halsbury Travel, the opportunity to gain the Language Leaders Award and mentor younger students, take part in national languages competitions including the Linguistics Olympiad and the chance to promote language learning throughout the school. We encourage our linguists to take full advantage of events such as MOOCs, webinars and similar events hosted by universities.

Music (Edexcel)

“I think music in itself is healing. It’s an explosive expression of humanity. It’s something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we’re from, everyone loves music.” — Billy Joel

Music is extremely strong at Northampton High School. It helps students build relationships and confidence and provides many formal and informal performance opportunities throughout the year. The school benefits from connections with many professional working musicians and is staffed by a dedicated and talented team of permanent and peripatetic staff. The facilities have recently been refurbished and include 8 practice areas and 2 recording studios. Sibelius and Logic software are available for composers and are used to great effect each year.



Academic

A Level Music follows the Edexcel specification and is weighted similarly to the GCSE Music course. Students perform, compose and analyse music.

The performance standard necessary is equal to a minimum of Grade 7 ABRSM. Two compositions are submitted, with one assessing compositional techniques and the second being a free-choice submission. The final exam requires students to write two essays analysing musical elements of complex pieces of music and also to listen to extracts of studied pieces and identify elemental modulations. A high percentage of our students progress to study music at universities and conservatoires each year, for example 75% in 2019.

Co-Curricular

Music at the High School really begins outside the classroom, where numerous groups are run by the permanent and peripatetic staff. Part of the ethos of the Music department is to prepare students to become working musicians. This involves preparing for particular events throughout the year in the same manner as one would as part of an ensemble.

Highlights of the year include a carol service, held at the stunning All Saints' Church in Northampton, and the school musical production which takes place during the Summer Arts Season. Amidst these major events lie the Spring Composition Recital, the Summer Masterclass series and the biennial GDST Young Musician of the Year award.

Physical Education (OCR)

“Never say never because limits, like fears, are often just illusions.” - Michael Jordan

Sport is an area of high importance both nationally and internationally, and this course offers an insight into the reasons behind this. The scientific aspects of the subject link key sporting ideas with practical performance, providing an insight into the relationships they have with each other. A range of theoretical areas are covered, including skill acquisition, sports psychology, anatomy and physiology, biomechanics and exercise physiology. Social factors such as ethics and deviance, modern technology and commercialism are also studied.



Academic

Physical Education is well-regarded as an academic subject by universities and offers a foundation for any degree course, but particularly for those wishing to progress onto Physical Education, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Biological Sciences, Management Healthcare or Exercise and Health. It will also complement further study in Biology, Human Biology, Psychology, Nutrition, Sociology and Physics.

The department visits a range of schools and universities through our extensive fixture programme. It offers the opportunity to develop performance and coaching in the students' chosen sports, linking theory to practice in order to help improve performance.

Co-Curricular

With state-of-the-art facilities here at Northampton High, the extracurricular options are second to none. Students have access to the gym and fitness studios and have an opportunity to represent the school in a variety of sports, with the school boasting teams competing at County, Regional and even National level.

Regular clubs and training sessions complement team sports and visits from specialist coaches, often ex-international athletes, offer students invaluable guidance and unforgettable experiences.

Physics (AQA)

“Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton asked ‘Why?’” - Bernard Baruch

A Level Physics covers the Edexcel specification and lots more. In Physics there are many opportunities to investigate the Laws that govern our universe through practical work, trips and extracurricular activities. You will also gain access to Engineering Society and Journal Club, enabling you to expand your horizons.



Academic

The topics covered are Working as a Physicist, Mechanics, Electric Circuits, Materials, Waves and the Particle Nature of Light, Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, Gravitational Fields, and Oscillations.

Study is based around practical work as much as possible, and we have the equipment and facilities to allow students to investigate many Physics phenomena themselves. Although the Physics becomes more demanding than at GCSE, we inject a lot of fun into lessons whether we are investigating Lego people bungee jumping, making our own catherine wheels or playing Particle Physics Guess Who. Physics is widely recognised as a subject that uses and develops a wide variety of skills which are useful across a huge number of careers.

Co-Curricular

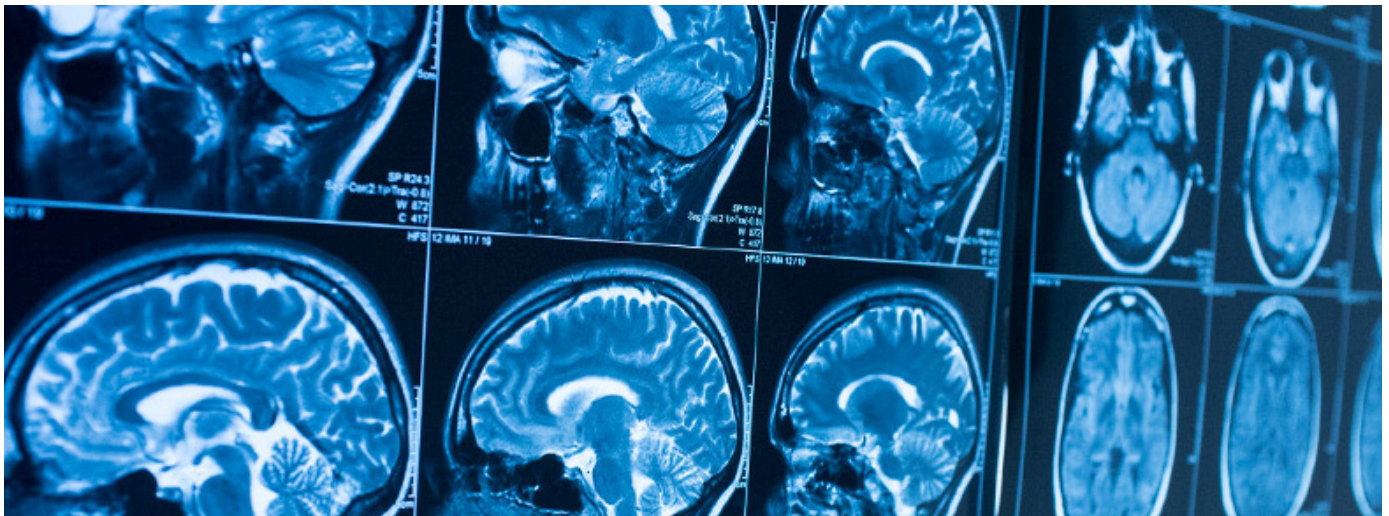
Students taking A Level Physics have the chance to participate in several clubs. Journal Club allows scientists to look at cutting edge science and discuss their thoughts in a challenging but safe environment. This is a useful preparation for university interviews. Engineering Society provides the opportunity to learn about Material Science, to participate in practical projects and to build and launch rockets. Later on, students can design and run a club for younger students to encourage them in a love of science. Clubs such as Engineering Club and Rocket Club have been run successfully by Physics students in recent years.

Trips are also a vital part of the A Level Physics experience. Regular visits to local Engineering firms, Warwick University, The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (Oxford) and to CERN in Geneva, Switzerland all help to embed the curriculum in reality.

Psychology (AQA)

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” - B.F. Skinner

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind, the brain and behaviour. Studying Psychology will give students a unique understanding of why people think and behave in the ways that they do. Students will develop knowledge of key psychological theories, concepts and research, and apply this knowledge in a range of contexts, developing skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking.



Academic

The study of Psychology is the analysis of human behaviour.

As such, it has widespread applications to a range of careers and higher education courses. Students who study Psychology gain a unique combination of knowledge and skills, combining the scientific methodologies of the natural sciences with the critical analysis and communication skills of the arts and humanities.

Co-Curricular

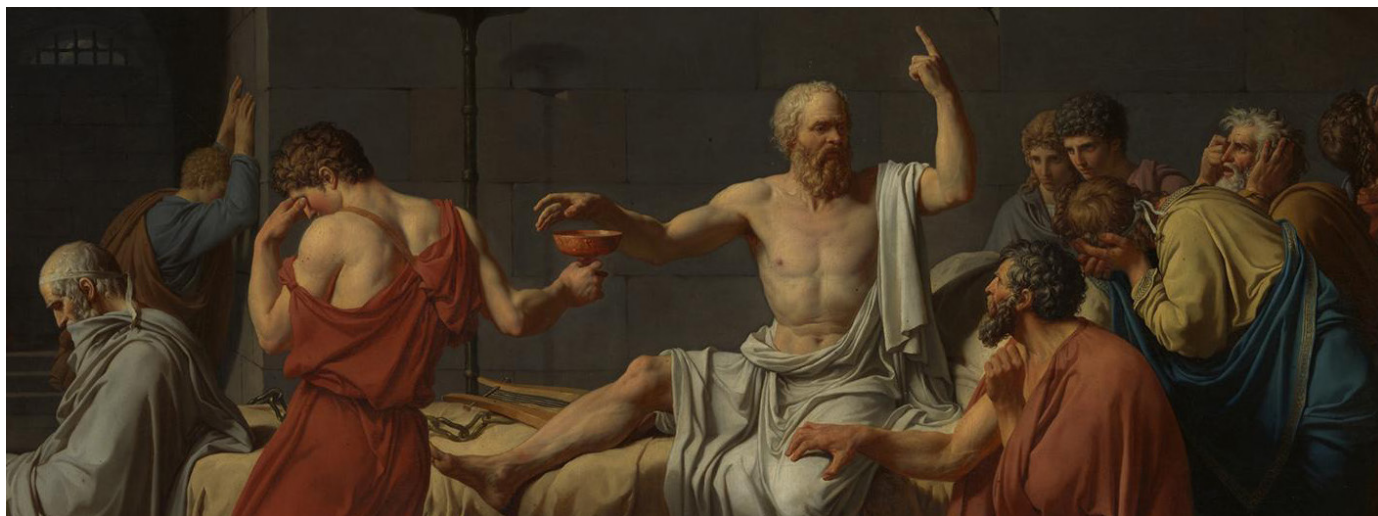
Our students enjoy a plethora of extracurricular events and activities to help aid their studies.

Trips to conferences, including the Psychology in Action Conference, are as standard. These thought-provoking events are accompanied by talks from a range of speakers, including psychologists working in research and practice, who visit school to talk to students on a regular basis.

Religious Studies (Edexcel)

'I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think' – Socrates.

At Northampton High School, we believe studying the disciplines of Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Study helps us to unpack complex concepts within all subjects in school and out. Nowhere else can we engage in furious debate one lesson and have calm and serene spiritual reflection the next. Nothing is off the discussion table as we plan and prepare for the world beyond the classroom.



Academic

Our selection of papers includes Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and the Study of a World Religion-Christianity. Topics include: abortion, sex, life after death, cosmology, the environment, law, secularisation and the problem of evil.

Students develop skills for in-depth analysis, particularly demonstrated in our investigations into scholarly works from Aristotle to Dawkins! Through this we learn quickly how to support and challenge, critiquing works that contribute to the topics studied. Students learn to adapt arguments to answer examination questions, whilst exploring for themselves ideas that fascinate them.

Co-Curricular

Students attend Candle Conferences featuring lectures from the eminent Dr Peter Vardy. We deepen understanding of course content and make connections to university-level study, and enjoy engaging in debate with other schools' essay writing competitions run by universities are opportunities for students to showcase their skills. We recommend online university days attributed to our subject, so students gain further experience of university lectures.

The Philosophy and Ethics Club allows space and time to further explore complex concepts, widen reading or rehearse examination technique. We offer subject mentoring for students who would like to study the subject at university as well as associated disciplines such as Law and Sociology. Associated with the department is FemSoc (The Feminist Society), a group which calls for social justice through campaigns such as Period Poverty Awareness, Black History Month and Pride Day.

Electives Programme

There is a Chinese proverb which states “**Teachers open the doors, but you must enter by yourself**”. The Northampton High School equivalent is “**We scatter your path with opportunities**”.

Our unique and bespoke Electives Programme is scattering myriad opportunities and all you are required to do is sign up, show up and be interested. We believe that it would be a disservice to our pupils to let you leave school with just your GCSEs and A Levels. Expect more; demand and seize opportunities to develop employable skills for the workplace of now and the future.

Whatever course you choose, we guarantee you will develop much more than an understanding of the subject chosen; you will learn to collaborate, to think independently, to develop your own views and to enjoy the act of learning for pleasure.



Our Electives programme offers something to suit all all tastes and requirements, be that a practical life skill such as the Food Elective, the expressive Performing Arts Elective, or the physical Sports Leadership Elective.

Below is a list of all of our current Electives on offer to our Sixth Form students, and to find out more information about each one, please scan the below QR code to view our **Enrichment Booklet**, which contains full details.

Arts Enrichment	MedVet
Computing Enrichment	Performing Arts
Core Maths	Politics and International Relations
Dance	Problem Solving Maths
Enterprise Elective	Sports Leadership
EPQ	T4T (Teachers for Tomorrow)
Film Studies Elective	Yoga
Food Elective	Young Philanthropy
Global Outlook	Northampton Laureate
MOOCs	



Scan me to view our
Enrichment Booklet

Enrichment and Extension

The enrichment programme at Northampton High School varies from year to year, but the range of opportunities made available to our students is always wide ranging and exciting. Some of our most recent opportunities include:

Choral groups	GDST competitions, conferences and workshops
Clubs leadership	MedSoc (also for prospective vets, dentists and those interested in medical-related Science)
Current Affairs Society	Music ensembles
Day trips to lectures and conferences at universities and other venues across the country	School magazine, 'Backchat'
Debating Society and competitions	Sports clubs and teams of all kinds
Duke of Edinburgh Award	Sports rallies
Drama clubs and productions	Study trips, for example to the Palace of Westminster and Somerset
EngSoc	Theatre visits
FemSoc	Volunteering
Field trips, for example to Switzerland and the Lake District	World Challenge; with recent trips to Costa Rica, China, Ecuador and Malaysia



Careers and Guidance

There is no such thing as a predictable career path for a Northampton High School student. You will meet our alumnae everywhere – making their mark, being creative and getting heard. They possess the vital transferable skills needed for adapting to an uncertain economic and professional landscape, essential qualities for the times of change ahead of us.

Whatever they choose to do, our students know that they can and will make a positive difference in the world. The foundation for this confidence and ability to lead begins in school, with the Inspiring Futures Programme. We do not expect our students to know exactly what they want to study at university or what they want to be when they have left education; the emphasis is on discovery and keeping an open mind. We encourage our students to be curious and enquiring by offering exciting opportunities, whether it's during the Enterprise days or when speaking to a professional during a Speed Networking event, for example.



In preparation for a world of portfolio-working lives, in which many jobs remain undiscovered and unimagined, careers information is redefined as life coaching, helping girls to curate an effective online and offline profile, and build a network of professional contacts.

We are fortunate to be part of the GDST and therefore benefit enormously from its huge network of alumnae and career-start programmes. Harnessing the power of the network enables students in Sixth Form to gain a wide range of work experience opportunities unavailable elsewhere. These links offer them a huge advantage over other students across the country.

Our students leave us ready to embrace emerging opportunities, overcome obstacles and engage reflectively with life's big questions and choices.

The Northampton Laureate

In partnership with Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce

On leaving Sixth Form, all our students will have demonstrated academic achievement, intellectual creativity and leadership. They will have made a unique contribution to the school and the wider community through their participation in the Electives programme. This is recognised by the award of at least one of five Laureates – Gold, Red, Green, Purple and Blue.



GOLD for Intellectual Excellence

Academic study is augmented by the Extended Project Qualification or completion of other super-curricular academic enrichment programmes; students will also have been offered places at World Class Universities and shown commitment through leading academic clubs and societies.

RED for Sporting Excellence

Academic study is complemented by commitment and sporting achievement at school, county or national level, contributing to the sporting achievements of the school and support of other sports projects in or out of school.

GREEN for Outreach and Community Excellence

Academic study is enhanced by enrichment activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Gold or Silver Award and other community projects, including the Young Philanthropy Ambassador Programme and partnership activities linking the student to the wider community and the environment.

PURPLE for Artistic Excellence

Academic study is deepened by musical, artistic or dramatic enrichment activities, such as Grade Eight awards and involvement in major events, as well as support of school and community Arts projects.

BLUE for Excellence In the School Community

Academic study is developed through a commitment to the wider life of the school, including supporting younger learners and playing a key role in House activities.

University destinations and courses for our Class of 2021 leavers

Course

University

Ancient History	Durham University
Biology	Durham University
Classics	Durham University
Religion and Theology	Durham University
Veterinary Nursing	Harper Adams University
Psychology	Keele University
Medicine	King's College London
Sports Exercise and Therapy	Loughborough College
Psychology	Loughborough University
Accounting and Finance	Manchester Metropolitan University
Degree Apprenticeship	Mondelez International
Economics	Newcastle University
Architecture	Newcastle University (2022)
Business Management and Marketing	Nottingham Trent University
Nursing (Adult)	Nottingham Trent University
Medicine	Queen Mary University of London
Rural Enterprise	Royal Agricultural University
English and Film Studies	Royal Holloway, University of London
Medicine	St George's, University of London
Biological Sciences	University College London
History and European Language	University College London
Art Foundation	University of the Arts London
Graphic Design	University of the Arts London
Accounting and Finance	University of Bath
Sport and Exercise Science	University of Bath
Education and Sociology	University of Birmingham



Course

University

Law with Criminology	University of Birmingham
Management and Marketing	University of Birmingham
Nursing (Adult)	University of Birmingham
Theology and Religion	University of Cambridge
Psychology with Criminology	University of East Anglia
Sport and Exercise Science	University of Essex
Art History and Visual Culture	University of Exeter
International Management and Spanish	University of Exeter
Human Resources Management	University of Leeds
History	University of Liverpool
Economics	University of Manchester
Education	University of Manchester
Medicine	University of Manchester
Economics	University of Nottingham
Management	University of Nottingham
Natural Sciences	University of Nottingham
Veterinary Science	University of Nottingham
Psychology	University of Sheffield
Biology	University of St Andrews
Mod Lang German and Russian	University of St Andrews
Business and Management	University of Sussex
Education Studies	University of Sussex
Psychology	University of Sussex
Archaeology and Classical Civilizations	University of York
Chemistry	University of York



NORTHAMPTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

We believe in our girls, and they believe in themselves

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Sept 2021