

A young woman with long, straight blonde hair is smiling and looking towards the left. She is wearing a dark-colored, short-sleeved top. In her right hand, she holds a silver pen. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The word "Electives" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

Electives

Classical Age

The course is designed to develop students' understanding of the major achievements - and pitfalls - of the Greek and Roman world, such as in medicine, engineering, art, architecture, politics, literature, law and more, with a practical focus wherever possible.

However, it should also allow students a chance to reflect critically upon the emergence of these ideas, how sustainable they were, and how they have impacted other societies throughout history -

including those ancient societies of Persia, Egypt, Crete and the Celts - as well as Renaissance Europe, up to the modern day.

The course would support those making an application to university, as a discussion point at interview, or simply to attend for enjoyment alone.

Computing

Girls have the option to follow one or more of four study pathways: Linux, shell scripting and network administration; Web development using HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Python; Physical computing and the Internet of Things using Raspberry Pis; and Data science basics using Python visualisation and data analysis modules.

The course is tailored to suit the individual requirements of the students who enrol and can be adapted as their interests develop.

Each year the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge is open to all, with the winners of each age category progressing to the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge. The GameDev club meets twice a week where students design, develop and program their own games in JavaScript or Python.

Community Sports Leaders Award

This award allows students to develop leadership skills while planning physical activities for younger girls.

To complete the award, candidates must complete a first aid qualification followed by 10 hours of voluntary service in a physical activity, either in our school community - for example Junior School - or in the wider community.

This award would be an ideal choice for any Sixth Former with a love of sport who wishes to add to their skills portfolio, regardless of the subject they wish to study at university.

Core Mathematics

Many of the new A Level exam specifications include an increased amount of mathematics. This often involves working with some high-level statistical ideas that are not studied at GCSE. Core Mathematics is a course that is worth the same as an AS Level, is a qualification that is recognised by universities and employers and which provides much of the mathematical and statistical background required in other A Level subjects. These subjects include Geography, Biology and Psychology. If you are studying one of these subjects and are not intending to do A Level Mathematics then Core Maths will be very helpful.

Alongside the statistical elements of the course, problem solving forms a large part of the course. The majority of this involves starting with a something real (such as a newspaper article) and applying some mathematics to it. This is fun and satisfying (and a little scary when we discover how many errors there are in the news we see every day!).

Degree courses in the subjects mentioned above can also include a large amount of statistical work, and some universities are encouraging sixth formers to study the subject because it will help to support applications for university degree courses and will help the students during the course too. Many employers say they are keen to work with people who can solve problems and the work we do with real-life problem solving will help with this.

You will study:

- Material taken from GCSE Maths; this is applied in new contexts
- Problem solving, including the use of real-life starting points
- Mathematical literacy, which involves being able to analyse statements mathematically
- Personal finance
- Statistics
- Using ICT

The course is examined via two papers (no coursework), taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Problem solving and personal finance
Paper 2: Statistical techniques

Enterprise

The Enterprise Elective at Northampton High gives students the opportunity to set up and run their own business. As a group they decide on their product or service, elect a Board of Directors, invest their share capital, find customers, trade and ultimately (we hope!) become a profitable enterprise.

Under the guidance of a member of staff and with the help of volunteer business advisers, the students will have one formal meeting each week where operational issues can be discussed. They may also meet informally perhaps for production sessions or smaller functional meetings.

The Enterprise Elective will give students the opportunity to develop their teamwork and interpersonal skills, and also their communication and organisational skills. It will also spark their creativity and increase their self-confidence and resilience.

Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ course is enriched by our Small Personal Online Course (SPOC) which is like a MOOC but just for Northampton High School students. The SPOC takes a flipped-learning approach to delivering our inspiring Academic Skills for EPQ and Beyond course. Supported by weekly tutorials, this six-week course is studied by all 6.1 students in the autumn term and is the perfect introduction to the EPQ, which we encourage our Sixth Form students to complete.

The EPQ provides the opportunity to undertake independent research on a topic entirely of individual choosing, either with a personal development focus or related to the field of study the student wishes to pursue at university.

From the academic research, the student will produce either a 5,000 word research report or an artefact (which can be anything from a film, to a school lesson, a piece of art or a musical production).

Whichever the chosen route, backed up by a reflective production log, the Extended Project will set students apart; with confidence to undertake research and produce a university-quality project, demonstrating a deep interest in a topic beyond the A Level curriculum.

Film Studies

Northampton High students have established themselves at the forefront of film creativity.

Last year, former student Amelia Simpson was named by the National Youth Film Academy as a 2019 Emerging Brit after winning a prestigious place on their production course.

Film students have won national film prizes including the Wave Trust and the Royal

Shakespeare Company/Samsung competition, showcased their work at the Cambridge Film Festival, the Northampton Film House and the Barbican Cinema, and have been selected for the British Film Institute Screenwriting Residential.

Students who wish to continue with the subject are able to take AS Film Studies in 6.2 and study Film at university.

Food Studies

The Food Elective focuses on building a repertoire of low cost recipes suitable for life beyond school. Students can tailor the course to their needs by cooking dishes they want to learn to make.

Recipe topics include: ways of cooking eggs, fakeaways/around the world dishes, roast dinner for 1 and a ready steady cook challenge. Students can also gain their Level 2 in Food Hygiene (at a

small additional cost) which would expand their knowledge of food safety and would be a great addition to their CVs, especially when applying for jobs in catering.

This is an excellent opportunity to become a more confident and independent cook, or for those more experienced, a chance to expand on the skills they have already acquired.

History of Art

This course develops students' understanding of the relationship between society and art: art historical terms, concepts and issues; the influence of cultural, social and political factors, as well as developments in materials, techniques and

processes of both art and architecture over time. This course would also support an application to university or be a useful discussion point at an interview.

Politics and International Relations

This Elective is designed to introduce girls to some of the key issues and personalities that are shaping important developments in the world we live in today. Students are encouraged to debate the issues raised, read around the subjects taught, and to prepare presentations to enhance learning. Students will again have the opportunity to visit

Westminster in the autumn term and are encouraged to take part in our Model United Nations Club.

Additionally, extracurricular talks are delivered by staff, outside speakers and MPs to develop understanding of the national and global political scene.

Senior Drama Company

This course gives students opportunities to explore theatre making and theatre appreciation. They study a range of plays from performer, designer, and director perspectives, with opportunities to devise, choreograph and stage their work. Links with local theatres are formed and industry pathways are considered.

The emphasis is on creating practical work. In term one, students devise an original piece of theatre using practitioner and theatre company influences to structure their work.

Film and television scripts are also explored, as well as classical and contemporary monologues and duologues.

In term two, a published play is staged. In the final term, work experience, theatre trips, audition speeches and event management are focused upon.

Young Philanthropy

Philanthropy is the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of time to good causes.

As part of the Young Philanthropy program, Sixth Formers can choose to participate in a number of volunteering activities – where they have the

opportunity to spend time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or individuals or groups.

Students volunteer for a whole range of reasons. Some of these might be: learning new skills, enhancing employability, taking on a new challenge, developing leadership, giving back to the community, meeting new people, etc.