



NORTHAMPTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

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GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# Sixth Form programme Guide

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2024-25





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Made  
for  
Girls



fcmsock

Northampton High  
School's  
Feminist Society



# 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 MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses). Enterprise and volunteering through the Young Philanthropy programme are just some of the other opportunities available.



## Entry requirements

Admission requirements for entry to the Sixth Form include a meeting with our Director of Sixth Form, a recent school report and high standards in GCSE subjects. Expected GCSE grades would usually be six Grade 7s-9s, including a minimum of Grade 6 in English and Maths (or the equivalent in international qualifications).

Individual subjects may set expected minimum requirements, generally Grade 6 where a GCSE subject is needed for further study.

All applications are considered on an individual basis in consultation with the student to design a fulfilling Sixth Form programme. New students wishing to join the school will be invited to meet with the Subject Leaders of the subjects they wish to study at A Level.

A conditional place is offered, and confirmed once your daughter receives her GCSE results. Bursaries are available, as well as our Reach, Flair and Spirit Scholarships for entry into Year 12.





# 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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 exam.

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 to debate with informed opinions and helps 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.

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

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

**Cocurricular:**

- 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. 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.

**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.

**Cocurricular:** We provide a range of trips and lectures alongside out-of-school challenges. Students have the chance 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 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 through primary sources and texts in translation are explored.

**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.

**Cocurricular:** 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.

## Drama (Edudgas)

*"We must all do theatre, to find out who we are, and to discover who we could become." Augusto Boal*

Drama A Level is an incredibly rich subject, as it supports an understanding of world events, through a variety of texts. Students explore different periods in history and cultural and social contextualisation. Drama is a creative and inspiring course that develops key transferable skills such as confidence, communication and critical thinking. Students work both independently and as a team. The course requires dedication.

**Academic:** The course is highly practical where students have the opportunity to work as either performers or designers on three different performances. Students enjoy exploring scripts, devising original work, studying a variety of practitioners, interpreting scripts and developing their own performance skills.

Within the written element of the course, students explore three complete play texts from different historical periods. During the exam, they are given the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in interpreting a text for performance.

**Cocurricular:** Trips are an essential part of the course and students will be able to experience a variety of live theatrical performances, with different styles and genres.

'High Drama' is a club that is offered to both Key Stage 4 & 5 students; within these sessions Sixth Form students have the option to co-direct a performance. Sixth Form Drama students also have the opportunity to design and lead the Key Stage 3 Drama Club as well as coaching GCSE students for their performance examination.

# 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 to develop an understanding of business growth, business objectives, revenues, costs and profits, market structures, the labour market and government intervention.

**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.

## **Cocurricular:**

- 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*

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 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'.

**Cocurricular:** 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.

**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.

**Cocurricular:** 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 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, people 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.

**Cocurricular:** Students attend a week-long residential visit in Year 13, developing a range of enquiry skills and collecting the primary data to complete their independent investigations, comprising 20% of their A Level grade; this is a compulsory trip to meet the exam board requirements for fieldwork.

Students are encouraged to take part in Humanities enrichment activities, including Current Affairs Club and the Model UN Club, as well as helping to improve our environmental performance through joining the Eco Team. Support is also available for Oxbridge applications.

# 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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 knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to an advanced level, including an option of translating English prose into Latin. This understanding enables them to explore a range of original texts. Their study of Latin verse may include the poetry of Virgil and the Satires of Juvenal, as well as the diverse poems of Ovid, whose subjects include love, exile and mythology. In the prose elements of the course, students may delve into Roman society in the Republican and Imperial eras, through the lawcourt speeches of Cicero, the letters of Pliny the Younger and the works of the historians Livy and Tacitus. The course enables students to gain a deep appreciation of texts that were written two millennia ago yet still have relevance and emotional resonance for us today.

**Cocurricular:** 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 as well as the annual International Euroclassica Competition. 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.

**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.

**Cocurricular:** 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 students 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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'.

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.

# Modern Foreign Languages (AQA)

## French, German & Spanish

*"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.

**Cocurricular:** 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.

**Academic:** 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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 Christmas Concert 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 ABRSM recital.



# 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.

**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 to help improve performance.

**Cocurricular:** 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 (Edexcel)

*"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 also gain access to the 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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.

**Cocurricular:** 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 that 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 scatters 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 GCSE's 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 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	Performing Arts
Core Maths	Photography
Dance	Politics and International Relations
Enterprise Elective	Problem Solving Maths
EPQ	Sports Leadership
Film Studies Elective	T4T (Teachers for Tomorrow)
Food Elective	Yoga
MOOCs	Young Philanthropy
MedVet	Northampton Laureate



Scan here 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





# 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.



# 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.

# Scholarships

## Life-changing Opportunities

As a charity, the GDST awards Scholarships and Bursaries to the brightest and most deserving pupils so that the largest possible number of talented students can receive the benefit of a GDST education. In particular, it focuses its support on pupils for whom the chance of a GDST education would be a transformative and life-changing experience.

## What is a Scholarship, and does my child qualify?

Our Scholarships are awarded to pupils in recognition of outstanding achievement. Scholarships are awarded to selected students entering Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form (Year 12). Scholarships do not hold a remission in fees and are not means tested. Scholarships normally stay with the pupil throughout their time with us, up to the end of Sixth Form. It is possible to hold more than one Scholarship. Scholarships may be held alongside a Bursary.

## Reach Scholarship

In recognition of excellence in academic results in our entrance assessment, and performance in our scholarship papers.

## Talent Scholarship

In recognition of excellence in a demonstrated talent, for example, Art, Craft & Design, Creative Writing, Dance, Fashion Textiles, Food Technology, Music and Sport.

## Spirit Scholarship

In recognition of characteristics prized by the School: a pupil's character, passion and endeavour in an area of special interest to them. This could include activism on a topic of interest, service to the wider community, involvement in volunteering, commitment to personally addressing an issue such as the climate emergency, animal welfare, support for the homeless and charitable or outreach endeavours.

# Bursaries

If your child would benefit from the educational experience that Northampton High School offers, but your family is not in a position to cover the full fees, you may be eligible for a GDST Bursary. To be considered for a Bursary we ask that all pupils are registered with us. Bursaries are only offered to pupils entering Year 7 or Year 12. For entry in September 2024, the deadline for submitting a Bursary application is Thursday 30 November 2023. For full information about our Scholarships & Bursaries, how to apply, deadlines and more, please scan the adjacent QR code to view our General Information Guide.

Alternatively, please contact our Admission Registrar, Miss Olivia Cheng, at [o.cheng@nhs.gdst.net](mailto:o.cheng@nhs.gdst.net) or 01604 765765 who will happily assist.

Scan here to find  
out more information  
on our Scholarships  
and Bursaries







Exam Results and  
Uni Destinations



# A Level Examination Results 2023



**13** % of grades  
at A\*

**44** % of grades  
at A\*/A

**76** % of grades  
at A\*-B

## Uni Courses and Destinations 2023

Subject	University
Accounting & Finance	Cardiff University
Animal Science	University of Nottingham
Animal Science	University of Reading
Anthropology and Archaeology	Durham University
Biochemistry	University of Birmingham
Biology	Sheffield Hallam University
Chinese Studies and Spanish Studies	Lancaster University
Classical Civilisation	University of Warwick
Classical Civilisation	University of Nottingham
Classical Literature and Civilisation	University of Birmingham
Computer Science with a Year in Industry	University of Leicester
Criminology	University of Manchester
Criminology with Forensic Psychology	University of Leicester
Early Childhood Studies	University of Derby



# Uni Courses and Destinations 2023

Subject	University
Economics	Lancaster University
Economics	University of Birmingham
Economics and Business Management	University of Southampton
European Politics	King's College London
Fashion Contour	University of the Arts London
Fashion Management	University of the Arts London
Film and English	University of Bristol
Geography	Newcastle University
Geography	Newcastle University
Geography	University of Leeds
Geography	University of Leeds
Geology with a Year Abroad	Imperial College London
History	University of Strathclyde
Law with Criminology	University of Liverpool
Marketing and Management with Industrial Experience	University of Exeter
Materials Science & Engineering with Industrial Experience	University of Birmingham
Mathematics	University of Nottingham
Medicine	University of Leicester
Medicine	University of Nottingham
Medicine at Lincoln	University of Nottingham
Molecular Cell Biology	University of York
Natural Sciences	Durham University
Optometry	Aston University
Pharmacology & Innovative Therapeutics	Queen Mary University of London
Physics with Astronomy	University of Nottingham
Physics with Astronomy	University of Nottingham
Physics with Astrophysics	University of Bristol
Politics & International Relations	University of Southampton
Promotional Media: PR, Advertising and Branding	Goldsmiths, University of London
Psychology	University of Leicester
Psychology (2024)	University of Leicester
Rehabilitation & Exercise Science with Foundation	Keele University
Sport & Exercise Science	University of South Wales



## *Northampton High School*

Newport Pagnell Road  
Hardingstone  
Northampton  
NN4 6UU

[www.northamptonhigh.co.uk](http://www.northamptonhigh.co.uk)  
01604 765765  
[nhsadmin@nhs.gdst.net](mailto:nhsadmin@nhs.gdst.net)

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## *We are Made for Girls*

October 2023