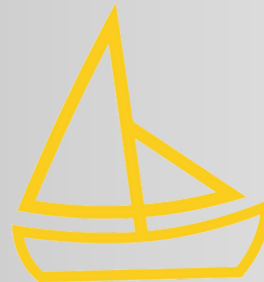




Swale
ACADEMIES
TRUST



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



The
Whitstable
School

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WARM WELCOME

Welcome to The Whitstable School Sixth Form, where academic excellence meets personal growth.

We invite you to join a vibrant community of talented and motivated students, supported by dedicated staff who are passionate about helping you to reach your full potential - whatever that may be.

Embark on your journey to success

Our Sixth Form offers a diverse range of A-Level and vocational courses, tailored to suit your individual interests and aspirations, as well as our Football Academy. Whether you're aiming for university, an apprenticeship or employment, we'll guide you every step of the way.

Beyond the classroom

We believe in a holistic approach to education, fostering well-rounded individuals. Our Sixth Form offers a wealth of enrichment activities, from sports and volunteering to film club and our ambassador programme, providing opportunities to develop new skills, make lifelong friends and have fun.

A supportive environment

Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff are committed to providing you with the highest quality education and pastoral care. We offer individual guidance, academic support and careers advice to help you make informed decisions about your future.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Whitstable School Sixth Form!

MR A HOLMES

HEADTEACHER
BA (Hons), MA, NPQH



MS A SIMONS

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM
MA (Cantab.), MA

“ Our Sixth Form offers a vibrant and supportive environment where students can thrive academically and personally ”

- Mr A Holmes, Headteacher



TWS FOOTBALL ACADEMY

The Whitstable School Football Academy

The **Football Academy** in partnership with **Football Futures** is dedicated to nurturing young talent and providing a world-class football education.

Students on this pathway will also need to pick 3 Level 3 options to study alongside the Football Academy training.

What we offer:

- **Expert Coaching:** Learn from experienced coaches who have played at the highest level.
- **Intensive Training:** Daily training sessions focused on technical skills, tactical awareness, and physical fitness.
- **Competitive Matches:** Participate in local, regional, and national league games to test your skills against the best.
- **Academic Excellence:** Balance your football development with a strong academic foundation.
- **Strength and Conditioning:** Enhance your physical performance with tailored fitness programmes.
- **Player Development Pathway:** Clear progression routes to professional football or higher education scholarships.

Don't miss this opportunity to take your football career to the next level. Join our academy and experience the difference.



“It's fantastic to be able to undertake professional level football training, as well as keeping up with my academic learning” - Football Academy Student



COURSES

Biology **A Level**

Course Summary

If you have a genuine interest in living organisms, the environment, genetics and human biology, studying A-level Biology can help you deepen your knowledge and understanding in these areas. It involves problem-solving, analysis and evaluation of scientific information. It can help you develop critical thinking skills that are valuable in various aspects of life and different career paths. Studying A-level Biology can deepen your understanding of the natural world, including the diversity of living organisms, ecosystems, human biology and the impact of human activities on the environment. A-level Biology can enhance research skills, practical laboratory skills and the ability to communicate scientific ideas effectively.

Course Details

The course is comprised of 6 units:

- Unit 1: Development of practical skills in biology
- Unit 2: Foundations in biology
- Unit 3: Exchange and transport
- Unit 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Unit 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Unit 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

How it will be delivered and assessed?

Three written exam papers

Practical endorsement in Biology: non exam assessment, reported separately.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English. Additionally, Grade 6 in Maths, Grade 6 in Biology or Grade 6 in Combined Science.

*“ We have more freedom. We are spoken to as mature young adults ”
- Year 13 Student*



Business

Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate **(Single award)**

Course Summary

This qualification gives a broad overview of the business sector and can form part of a programme of study including other courses eg BTEC Nationals or A levels. Skills gained include decision making and a general understanding of how businesses operate.

Course Details

- How a business is formed, structured and different functions like marketing and finance.
- The design and development of a marketing campaign against a specified brief.
- Budget requirements, financial sources for a business, profitability, personal finance and recruitment and selection.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

There is a written finance exam, a controlled assessment where you develop a marketing campaign and 2 internally assessed assignments.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths.

BTEC- Level 3 Diploma **(Double award)**

Course Summary

The BTEC National Diploma in Business is designed to provide a specialist work related programme of study that covers the knowledge and skills required to progress successfully in the workplace but also provides a firm basis for higher education. BTEC Level 3 National diploma is equivalent to two A levels.

Course Details

You are encouraged to carry out your own research within a supportive and constructive teaching framework. Initiative, flexibility and a consistent approach to producing work in class and private study time is emphasised.

Some assignments involve a large project lasting 8 or 10 weeks. After an initial introduction to the important concepts and theory, you will be given a variety of tasks to complete. During this time the teacher will advise and support your learning.

Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of diverse activities including assignment and project work, case studies.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths.

“Sixth form was a turning point in my life. It prepared me for university and beyond.”
- Former TWS Student



Chemistry

A level

Course Summary

The A Level Chemistry specification 2026 includes three main written papers and a practical endorsement.

- Paper 1, “Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry” covers modules 1,2, 3 and 5.
- Paper 2, “Synthesis and analytical techniques” assesses modules 1, 2, 4, and 6.
- Paper 3, “Unified chemistry” is a cumulative exam covering all six modules.

The Practical Endorsement is a separate, non-exam component.

Course Details

Content is delivered over six modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table & Energy

Module 4 – Core organic Chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry & transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry & analysis

How it will be delivered and assessed?

Chemistry is assessed through three examination papers, Paper 1 and 2 are each worth 37% and Paper 3 26% of the final grade. Assessment of practical skills is a compulsory element of Chemistry, practical skills will be assessed through both examination papers and observed practical activities.

Paper 1 - Periodic table, elements and Physical Chemistry (2hrs 15 mins)

Paper 2 - Synthesis and analytical techniques (2hrs 15mins)

Paper 3 - Unified chemistry (1hr 30mins)

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English. Additionally, Grade 6 in Maths, Grade 6 in Chemistry or Grade 66 in Combined Science.

“ It's the brilliant blend of serious study and newfound independence ”
- Ms Simons, Head of Sixth Form



Criminology

Level 3 Diploma

Course Summary

Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behaviour, on individual, social and natural levels, and how it can be managed, controlled and prevented. In particular, the course explores what crime is, how it is socially constructed, who commits crimes and the criminal justice process once a crime has been committed. This course will enable students to develop their critical analysis and judgement. It will enable them to articulate arguments effectively in class discussions and written assessments.

Course Details

- **Changing Awareness of Crime**

Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? What kinds of crime exist about which we know very little, or which are simply not reported to the police and the media?

- **Criminological Theories - examination**

How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What makes someone a serial killer, or abusive to their own families? Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations of why people commit crime, but which is the most useful?

- **Crime Scene to Courtroom**

What are the roles of the personnel involved when a crime is detected? What investigative techniques are available to investigators to help them identify the culprit? Do techniques differ depending on the type of crime being investigated? What happens to a suspect once charged by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)?

- **Crime and Punishment - examination**

Why do most of us tend to obey the law even when doing so is against our own interests? What social institutions have we developed to ensure that people do obey laws? What happens to those who violate our legal system? Why and how do we punish people?

How it will be delivered and assessed?

50% external assessment

50% internal assessment

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths.

*“Criminology helps me understand the justice system and the psychology behind criminal behavior”
-Year 13 Student*





English Literature

A Level

Course Summary

Studying an A-level in English Literature offers an exciting and unique opportunity: the chance to explore the narratives, worlds and imaginations of others. Through studying some of the most celebrated works of the literary tradition, you will explore new and immersive worlds and vicariously live lives that you had never dreamed possible. You will develop a range of transferable skills: close analysis, interpretation, research skills, academic reading and writing, debate and evaluation skills – most of all, you will develop a love of language and the writer’s craft.

You will also have the opportunity to see extracts from a range of diverse texts and consider them using a range of critical theories, including Feminist, Marxist and Postcolonial literary theory. You will then be able to select a text of your choosing for one of the two coursework essays you complete.

Course Details

Students will develop advanced analytical skills by engaging with diverse literary forms:

- Tragedy: Exploring classic and modern tragedy through William Shakespeare’s Othello and Richard II and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s seminal novel, The Great Gatsby.
- Crime Fiction: Analysing the conventions and deeper themes within crime literature, including Kate Atkinson’s When Will There Be Good News and Graham Greene’s Brighton Rock.
- Poetry Coursework: Critical study of the innovative collection The World’s Wife by Carol Ann Duffy.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

Assessment is conducted by 80% examination across two papers. There is also a Non-Examined Component, which consists of two 1500 word essays on a text of the student’s choice. These are conducted in non-exam conditions.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including Maths. Additionally, Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

*“ I love exploring classic texts and uncovering deeper meanings in English Literature ”
- Year 13 Student*



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Course Summary

The EPQ is an A-level standard, standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or your future career. This subject is taken alongside 3 other Level 3 options.

Course Details

It can be taken as an extension of other Level 3 qualifications or vocational qualifications. It's worth half an A-level in terms of UCAS points. It's recognised by universities and employers. The EPQ can take two formats – written or practical – so it's suitable for all students. The final piece will either be a written report of around 5,000 words or an artefact with a written report, which could be, for example, a three dimensional piece of artwork, a play or musical composition, a robot, a model aeroplane, even a website.

As the EPQ is student-led, you really can do your project about anything. Some students choose to do an EPQ on a topic that supports their interest in what they'd like to do at university. Other students want to extend their learning beyond their A-level subjects and some choose to do something completely different.

- **Improves subject knowledge:** By focusing on a specific topic, students can delve deeper into a subject area and gain a comprehensive understanding. This can be particularly beneficial for students who want to specialize in a particular field.
- **Boosts university applications:** Many universities recognise the value of the EPQ and may consider it favorably in admissions decisions. It can demonstrate a student's commitment to academic excellence and their ability to undertake independent research.
- **Improves employability skills:** The EPQ can help develop transferable skills such as communication, presentation, and project management, which are highly valued by employers.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, a commitment to academic investigation.

*“The support from teachers has been invaluable, they've always been there to guide and encourage me.”
- Year 12 Student*



Film Studies

A Level

Course Summary

Film Studies is both an academic and highly practical A Level with complete focus on a relatively young and dynamic medium. The course is designed to consider a diverse range of film viewers and makers from around the globe. This course will develop your critical faculties and your ability to read any film. The Film Studies A Level is an excellent introduction to the Film Industry, a lucrative and growing sector in this country. We use the same language you would use on a working set and create a production of your own which has the opportunity for entry to National Film Awards and prizes.

Course Details

- You will learn how to read a film through cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing, sound and performance.
- You will learn about film theory including narrative theory, spectatorship theory, ideology and auteur theory.
- You will consider the history of film across time from silent film to the present day.
- You will learn how to create your own Film production putting your theory into practice and flexing your creative muscles.

This year Film students will travel to the BFI London Film Festival and the Harry Potter Studios as part of their course. We will host industry professionals online and in person. We don't just watch films; we live them.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

You will be assessed through two terminal exam papers and a non-exam assessed piece of practical work after two years of study.

- Paper One Varieties of Film and filmmaking (35%).
- Paper Two Global Filmmaking Perspectives (35%).
- Non-examined Assessment: Short Film Production and Evaluation (30%).

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths.

*“Film Studies has transformed the way I watch movies and understand storytelling.”
- Year 13 Student*





Fine Art

A Level

Course Summary

This is an exciting and challenging art course which aims to encourage a personal approach to a variety of pathways. Students will be assessed on their creative and technical ability and be expected to develop their work independently with teacher guidance and support. Throughout the course students will master a wide variety of media and techniques. They will explore the work of artists and designers in relation to the student's own work, developing analytical and critical understanding.

Course Details

Within their portfolio units, students will decide on their own suitable project theme to encourage ownership and a high level of motivation. Themes will be explored independently and developed in a personal way. Students will explore relevant contemporary and historical artists and designers work. Ideas for projects will begin with observational drawing and design work using a variety of media with a focus on experimentation. Students will translate their sketchbook sampling into sophisticated and innovative final pieces based on their theme.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

Unit 1 - Non-exam portfolio - The portfolio is marked across four assessment objectives (60%).

Work is based on a chosen theme and requires research on related artists, sketchbook work, preparatory studies and final work.

The portfolio is marked across four assessment objectives with a total mark of 96. Students also submit an essay (1000-3000 words) based on contextual studies related to their practical project.

Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment - An externally set project that will have an emphasis on the development of ideas. A choice of questions will be issued by the exam board as a starting point for a personal project.

A supervised practical exam of 15 hours will take place at the end of the project (40%).

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English, Maths and Art (GCSE or equivalent, preferably in Fine Art).

If students have not studied Art at Key Stage 4 they may be permitted to follow the course if they provide a portfolio to demonstrate suitable artistic ability and motivation to succeed in the course.

“Art allows me to be creative and experiment with different techniques.”

- Year 12 Student



Geography

A Level

Course Summary

Through studying geography at A Level, you will be able to:

- Enhance your ability to recognise and analyse the complexity of people–environment interactions, and appreciate how these underpin understanding of some of the key issues facing the world today.
- Improve your understanding of the ways in which values, attitudes and circumstances have an impact on the relationships between people, place and environment.
- Become confident and competent in selecting, using and evaluating a range of quantitative and qualitative skills and approaches, and applying them as an integral part of your studies.
- Understand the fundamental role of fieldwork as a tool to generate new knowledge about the real world, and become skilled at planning, undertaking and evaluating fieldwork in appropriate situations.
- Develop as a critical and reflective learner, able to articulate opinions, suggest relevant new ideas and provide evidence argument in a range of situations.

An international trip may be part of the coursework unit.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, Grade 6 in Geography.

Course Details

Component 1: Physical Geography

(Paper 1; 2 hrs 30 mins, 120 marks, 40% of final grade)

- Carbon & Water Cycles
- Hot Deserts
- Hazards
- Ecosystems Under Stress

Component 2: Human Geography

(Paper 2; 2 hrs 30 mins, 120 marks, 40% of final grade)

- Global Systems & Governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Population & the Environment

Component 3: Geography Fieldwork Investigation

(Written report between 3,000-4,000 words; 60 marks, 20% of final grade; marked by teachers, moderated by AQA).

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

*“The school has produced an ambitious and broad curriculum that runs right through to the sixth form”
- Ofsted 2024*



Health and Social Care

Level 3

Course Summary

A broad basis of study for the health and social care sector. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Health and Social Care is part of everybody's life, from birth. Our goal is to inspire you to work in a sector which has a huge impact on people.

Course Details

The mandatory content of the qualification incorporates topics relevant across the health and social care sector:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Learners can select one optional unit that covers the biological and sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector to support their progression to specialised degree programmes in the sector.

How will it be delivered and assessed?

There is a written exam, a controlled assessment and internal units.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths.

*“I’ve learned so much about supporting others and the importance of empathy.”
- Former Sixth Form Student*





History

A Level

Course Summary

This course offers scope for students to investigate topics on both European and American History.

Historical investigation allows students to research a wide range of media including texts, feature films, archive footage and historical journals. You will need to be prepared to read widely and work hard on your own initiative, as such, a genuine interest in history is a prerequisite for this course.

In addition, you will need to be willing to discuss your ideas with others in the group.

Course Details

- **Develops critical thinking and analysis skills:** History requires you to analyse complex events, evaluate different perspectives, and form your own well-supported arguments.
- **Enhances understanding of the world:** Studying History can help you understand the historical context of current events and issues. It can also give you a better understanding of different cultures and societies.
- **Improves writing and communication skills:** History A-level involves a lot of writing, including essays, reports and presentations. This can help you develop your writing style and your ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and concisely.
- **Opens up a range of career options:** A History A-level can be a valuable qualification for a variety of careers, including law, journalism, teaching and public service. It can also be a good foundation for further study in history, politics, or related subjects.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, Grade 6 in History.

“History has sparked my passion for the past and inspired me to learn more about the world.”

- Year 13 Student



Mathematics

A Level

Course Summary

The course enables students to understand Mathematics and Mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for those who opt to study the subject further. Students will extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and understand how different areas of mathematics are connected. They will be encouraged to use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving challenging problems. They will draw diagrams and sketch graphs to help explore mathematical situations and interpret solutions. They will be expected to take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development.

Course Details

The course covers three main areas of mathematics; pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. Students will develop an enhanced understanding of a range of topics that they will already be familiar with from the higher tier GCSE in mathematics. These include algebra, trigonometry, geometry, statistics and sequences. They will apply their knowledge of these topics to solve a range of problems. Students will also cover a variety of new topics including differentiation, integration, exponentials, logarithms, mechanics, probability and hypothesis testing. Students will need to draw on a range of skills from across all topics to solve problems and interpret questions focused on different contexts.

How will it be delivered and assessed?

This is a linear course, which is examined via three 2 hour written examination papers. Two of the papers examine pure Mathematics, whilst the third paper assesses pupils knowledge and understanding of the statistics and mechanics elements of the course. The three papers carry equal weighting. Calculators are allowed in the examinations.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English. Additionally, Grade 7 in Maths.

“There’s nothing better than solving a tough problem and seeing how it all fits.”

- Former Sixth Form Student



Performing Arts

BTEC-Level 3

Course Summary

The BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts is a vocational qualification with a focus on developing practical skills and techniques in a range of performing arts disciplines and critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of practitioners' work. Learners will gain a taste and an appreciation of performing arts, through knowledge and experience of the performance process. Learners will also have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, techniques and personal attributes which will be valuable across all areas of future study and work. This course will encompass both drama and dance and can adapt according to the cohort.

Studying this course offers a unique blend of creative expression, personal development, and career opportunities. Here's why it's worth considering:

- **Self-Expression:** Performing Arts provides a powerful platform to express your emotions, thoughts and experiences in a creative and meaningful way.
- **Empathy and Understanding:** Stepping into the shoes of different characters helps you develop empathy, understanding, and a deeper connection with others.
- **Confidence and Self-Esteem:** Performing in front of an audience boosts your self-confidence and public speaking skills.
- **Resilience and Adaptability:** Overcoming challenges in rehearsals and performances builds resilience and the ability to adapt to change.

How will it be delivered and assessed?

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' Work.

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance.

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths.

*“The support from teachers has been invaluable, they've always been there to guide and encourage me.”
- Year 13 Student*



Photography

A Level

Course Summary

It may be easy to take a photograph, you may have taken several today already, but it is a highly valued skill to be able to harness photography to communicate messages, feelings and ideas. The world is addicted to an almost constant flow of visual traffic. Companies need photographers to tell their story just as cultures need photographers to tell theirs. Now, more than ever there is a huge market for photography.

A Level Photography aims to embrace different styles and interests giving students freedom to explore photographs through a range of innovative techniques and processes. Students will take part in a series of exciting workshops before going on to develop highly personal investigations that draw together their visual and analytical understanding.

Course Details

At The Whitstable School we use websites as a means to record and submit all photographic projects. The websites allow for professional presentation of work that echoes the use of websites in the industry. We also work with our hands. Developing film photographs from scratch using chemicals and designing and making magazines, photobooks and large scale photo-montages.

Trips to galleries in London and Margate are always combined with photo-walks to capture new environments with a variety of focuses. Homework is mainly practical and will demand that you explore your local area and bring images back to the studio to enrich your coursework.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

Unit 1- Non-exam Portfolio -The portfolio is marked across four assessment objectives (60%) with a total mark of 96.

Students also submit an essay (1000-3000 words) based on contextual studies related to their practical project.

Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment - An externally set project that will have an emphasis on the development of ideas.

A choice of questions will be issued by the exam board as a starting point for a personal project. A supervised practical exam of 15 hours will take place at the end of the project (40%).

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English, Maths and Photography (GCSE or equivalent).

If students have not studied Photography at Key Stage 4 they may be permitted to follow the course if they provide a portfolio to demonstrate suitable artistic ability and motivation to succeed in the course.

*“The best decision I've made was choosing this sixth form”
- Year 13 Student*





Politics

A Level

Course Summary

Politics is one of the most interesting, academically rigorous and relevant subjects available. You will study societal and political issues in the modern world as well as conflicts on both a national and international scale. Politics shapes the laws, policies and social structures that govern our lives. By studying politics, you can gain a deeper understanding of how power is exercised, how decisions are made and how societies function. This knowledge can help you become a more informed and engaged citizen.

Course Details

This course is entirely relevant in an ever-changing world. You will engage in lively and informed debate. If you want to learn about the changes and challenges that are happening in the world today, this is the course for you.

Key topics in this course are:

- Who has power? Is this fair?
- How can we encourage political participation?
- How does politics impact us on a local, national and international level?
- What is the role of the media in politics? Why is it important?

How it will be delivered and assessed?

- Unit 1: UK politics - You will explore the nature of politics in the UK and how people engage in the political process.
- Unit 2: UK Government - You will explore the nature of power in the UK.
- Unit 3: Political ideologies - You will explore socialism, conservatism, feminism and multiculturalism.
- Unit 4: Global politics - You will explore a range of real world issues and challenges. You will discuss current affairs on a global scale.

This will be assessed with exams at the end of Year 13.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, at least one Grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or another Arts, Humanities or Social Science subject.

“ Politics helps me understand how decisions shape our world.”

- Year 13 Student



Product Design

A Level

Course Summary

Product design aims to encourage students to develop a broad understanding of design and technology and to develop their skills to design and make products fit for a purpose and meet the needs and wants of their chosen client. The course will also teach the complex relations between design, materials, manufactures and marketing.

Course Details

This course combines teaching methodologies such as, collaborative small group discussions and design critiques, whole class questions and answer activities, exam questions and some hands-on project-based learning, to encourage students to actively engage with real-world design.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

- Paper 1: Technical Principle (30% of final grade).
- Paper 2: Designing & Making Principles (20% of final grade).
- NEA - practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. (50% of final grade).
- Examinations are all taken at the end of Year 13. The NEA will start in Year 12 and be completed by the Easter of Year 13 for submission to the exam board.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English, Maths and Design & Technology (GCSE or equivalent).

If students have not studied Design & Technology at Key Stage 4 they may be permitted to follow the course if they provide a portfolio to demonstrate suitable ability and motivation to succeed in the course.

“The supportive environment, challenging coursework and extracurricular opportunities helped me grow both academically and personally.”

- Former TWS Student



Psychology

A Level

Course Summary

The mind is something intangible that exists within our brain; an unseen process of enzymes, chemicals and electric currents. But why is it that some people suffer from stress or mental illness? Or that others are considered abnormal for deviating from social norms? Psychology looks at questions like these and more. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems.

Course Details

- Introductory topics in psychology: learn about conformity, social norms, how the mind remembers and forgets and how children form attachments.
- Psychology in context: learn more about the different approaches in psychology and how to design and conduct your own research.
- Issues and options in psychology: you'll learn more about psychological concepts, research methods and ethical issues.
- Issues and debates in psychology: learn about the fascinating tendencies of human behaviour, with options looking into gender differences and the criminal mind. Then one choice from each option:
 1. Option one: relationships, gender or cognition and development.
 2. Option two: schizophrenia, eating behaviour or stress.
 3. Option three: aggression, forensic psychology or addiction.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

In the AQA A-level there are three exams, each accounting for one third of your A-level. The three exams each last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, at least one Grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or another Arts, Humanities or Social Science subject.

“Psychology is fascinating; it’s all about understanding why people think and act.”
- Year 13 Student



Physics

A Level

Course Summary

A-level Physics is a course that is ideal for those students interested in the physical world, engineering and maths and allows a clear progression onto higher education and employment. This course covers some of the key concepts in physics, whilst practical skills are embedded throughout the content of the specification and through required practicals. As learners progress through the course they will build on their knowledge of the laws of physics, applying their understanding to areas from subatomic particles to the entire universe.

Course Details

- The course is split into six modules:
- Module 1: The development of practical skills in physics (practical endorsement)
- Module 2: The foundations of physics (physical quantities, making measurements and analysing data)
- Module 3: Forces and motion (motion, work, energy, power, materials and momentum)
- Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons (Electrical circuit design, waves and quantum theory)
- Module 5: The Newtonian world and astrophysics (Thermal energy control, circular motion, orbits, astrophysics and cosmology)
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics (Electric fields, electromagnetism, nuclear and particle physics, plus medical imaging)

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English. Additionally, Grade 6 in Maths, Grade 6 in Physics or Grade 66 in Combined Science

“The feeling of building your future makes the independence and the hard work genuinely exciting.” - Year 12 Student



Religious Studies

A Level

Course Summary

Our course offers a choice of different religions, ensuring students have a thorough understanding of diverse philosophical and ethical viewpoints. Students gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics and the media. Religious studies is a thought provoking subject and our contemporary themes will help you inspire engaging classroom discussion.

Course Details

Component 1 - Philosophy of religion and ethics

Section A: Philosophy of religion, arguments for the existence of God, evil and suffering, miracles, self and life after death.

Section B: Ethics & religion, ethical theories, issues of life & death, meta ethics, free will, moral responsibility, conscience, Bentham and Kant.

Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues

Section A: Study of religion – for each faith option the following topics are covered:

- Sources of wisdom and authority, God/Gods/ultimate reality, self, death and the afterlife, good conduct and key moral principles, expression of religious identity, religion, gender and sexuality, religion and science, religion and secularisation and religious pluralism.

Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.

- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied.

Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.

- How religion is influenced by, and has an influence on ethical studies in relation to the issues studied.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

This subject is assessed by exam.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, at least one Grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or another Arts, Humanities or Social Science subject.

“Religious Studies at A-Level offers a rare academic blend: you engage in sophisticated philosophical debate while simultaneously developing the empathy required to truly understand global conflicts”

- TWS Teacher



Sociology

A Level

Course Summary

Sociology is the study of society - how people interact in groups. A level Sociology examines social behaviour from a variety of perspectives: how it originates and then develops and the ways people are organised into groups according to distinctions such as class, gender and race. We also look at the institutions and forces which shape and are shaped by groups within a society, such as the media, religion and education. It helps you to develop knowledge and understanding of the essential sociological theories and methods (such as Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism) with which sociologists make sense of the diversity of societies, and of the forces which have and will continue to shape social change. Sociology will help you to think about society in a new and critical light, questioning the status quo and developing a sophisticated understanding of the real issues that affect the society we live in.

Course Details

In AQA A-level Sociology there are three exams, each accounting for one third of your A-level. The three exams each last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you live in so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life.

Year 12: Topics of Study - Education, Methods in context, Theory and methods, Culture and Identity or Families and Households.

Year 13: Topics of Study - Crime and deviance, Theory and methods, Beliefs in society or Stratification and differentiation.

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, at least one Grade 6 in English Language, English Literature or another Arts, Humanities or Social Science subject.

“Sociology has opened my eyes to the complexities of society and inspired me to make a positive impact on the world.”

- Year 13 Student



Sports Studies

Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate (Single award)

Course Summary

Students will cover a range of units which will be assessed both internally and externally. An introduction to the sport sector through applied learning that supports progression to higher education.

Course Details

- Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology - Students explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being - Students explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.
- Unit 3 Professional Development in the Sports Industry Students - explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

There is also a selection of optional units/

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, Grade 5 in Biology or Grade 55 in Combined Science.

BTEC- Level 3 Diploma (Double award)

Course Summary

The BTEC Level 3 National diploma is equivalent to two A levels. This course is designed to provide a specialist work related programme of study that covers the skills and knowledge required for a career or further education in the sports sector.

Course Details

Mandatory units covered, include;

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Optional units that may be covered include;

- Sports Leadership
- Application of Fitness Testing
- Practical Sports Performance

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 4 or higher including English and Maths. Additionally, Grade 5 in Biology or Grade 55 in Combined Science.

“Sixth form was a turning point in my life. It prepared me for university and beyond.”

- Former TWS Student



Textiles

A Level

Course Summary

This is an exciting and challenging art based course which aims to encourage a personal approach to a variety of Textiles pathways. Students will be assessed on their creative and technical ability and be expected to develop their work independently with teacher guidance and support. Throughout the course students will master a wide variety of textile media and techniques including felt-making, free-machine embroidery, printing, surface manipulation and constructed textiles. Students will have the option of working within a Fashion, Interiors or Fine Art Textiles direction suited to their interests and career aspirations.

Course Details

- Within their portfolio units students will decide on their own suitable project theme to encourage ownership and a high level of motivation. Themes will be explored independently and developed in a personal way.
- Students will explore relevant contemporary and historical artists and designers work in any appropriate textile field.
- Ideas for projects will begin with observational drawing and design work using a variety of media with a focus on experimentation, pattern and texture.
- Drawings and ideas will develop into textile samples mastering a huge range of textile skills and techniques informed by the student's interests and approaches.
- Students will translate their sketchbook sampling into sophisticated and innovative final textile pieces in the area of fashion, interior design or gallery pieces.

How it will be delivered and assessed?

Unit 1 - Non-exam portfolio - The portfolio is marked across four assessment objectives (60%).

Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment - An externally set project that will have an emphasis on the development of ideas. A choice of questions will be used as a starting point for a personal project. A supervised practical exam of 15 hours will take place at the end of the project (40%).

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or higher including English, Maths and Art/Textiles (GCSE or equivalent).

If students have not studied Art at Key stage 4 they may be permitted to follow the course if they provide a portfolio to demonstrate suitable artistic ability and motivation to succeed in the course.

“Textiles has allowed me to express my creativity and learn valuable technical skills.”

- Year 13 Student



THE ACCELERATE PATHWAY

Course Summary

This is a standalone pathway for students who need to resit both Mathematics and English at GCSE/Level 2 and who did not secure grades in the required number of GCSE/Level 2 subjects needed to progress into Level 3.

Course details

This exciting one year pathway aims to:

- Equip you with English and Maths skills required for Level 3 study, apprenticeships and employability.
- Build resilience, team work skills and communication through our enrichment programme.
- Boost your digital skills ready for the world of work or further study.
- Enable you to develop the skills needed to graduate into The Whitstable School's Level 3 pathway.
- Develop your employability skills with bespoke work experience opportunities and placements.

Students will be required to spend a day a week in a work experience placement. Our current cohort are undertaking work experience in a range of organisations including local nurseries, care homes, stables and a car dealership.

This pathway is tailored to meet the needs of individual students and therefore will adapt to the new cohort.

Content

Functional and/or GCSE Mathematics and English.

Employability skills including Functional Digital Skills, work experience placements and bespoke careers advice and training.

How to apply

Students will only need to apply for this one course.

“It's incredibly rewarding to see our Sixth Form students develop into confident, independent learners.”

- TWS Sixth Form Teacher



PASTORAL AND ENRICHMENT

Life in the Sixth Form is very much based around the idea of a community, the centre of which is our dedicated sixth form study area.

Facilities

We have chromebooks and computers for you to complete your studies as well as a small kitchen area for hot drinks and making/storing your lunch. We also have a tuck shop and areas for you to relax between lessons. You are also welcome to use the wider school facilities such as the 3G pitch and subject specific areas such as the dance studio, rehearsal rooms and the visual arts department to support your self study.

Enrichment Opportunities

Beyond the classroom, we offer a wealth of opportunities to explore your interests and passions. From dance and drama productions to sports matches and film club to peer mentoring, you'll find your niche and develop the skills to succeed. We encourage students to enter local and national academic competitions and support students throughout the process. Students are also invited to become Ambassadors representing the school and sixth form at events and working with the lower school to support and raise aspirations.

We have a guest speaker programme for all students with recent guests including an Olympian, an actor, a film director as well a range of university and careers speakers.

Working with our local community is also an important part of our enrichment offer. Our students regularly volunteer at charity events such as Macmillan coffee mornings, take part in local litter picking and beach cleans, gain placements at local charity shops and participate in community events.

Trips

We encourage attendance on enrichment trips with students regularly attending the theatre, going to local and national galleries and visiting academic organisations such as the British Library, Houses of Parliament and the BFI.

Students participate in team-building trips, including activities such as Gravity, Go Ape, and bowling. Additionally, our Sixth Form students will embark on international trips to France and Barcelona.

“The school's commitment to academic excellence and pastoral care has been invaluable.”

- Parent



CAREERS SUPPORT

Our dedicated careers team are here to support you in making informed decisions about your future. We offer a range of services to help you navigate the complexities of higher education, apprenticeships, and employment.

Our services include:

- **Individual Guidance:** Personalised advice tailored to your specific goals and aspirations. You will have your own access to UniFrog, a universal destinations platform.
- **University Applications:** Guidance on the UCAS application process, personal statements, and interview preparation.
- **Oxbridge and Russell Group:** Bespoke guidance on applying and interviewing at Oxbridge.
- **Apprenticeship Advice:** Information on apprenticeship opportunities, application processes, and interview techniques.
- **Work Experience:** Assistance in securing work experience placements to gain valuable industry insights.
- **CV and Cover Letter Writing:** Expert advice on creating effective CVs and cover letters.
- **Mock Interviews:** Practice interview techniques to boost your confidence and improve your performance.

By taking advantage of our career guidance services, you can increase your chances of securing your desired future.

All Sixth Form students are supported to undertake a week of work experience in Year 12, we host regular guest speakers from a variety of industries and education pathways and we hold an annual careers fair.

Over 95% of our cohort last year secured places in education or employment with a growing number gaining places on coveted apprenticeship schemes. In recent years students have gone on to study at a range of universities including Bath, Loughborough, Kent, CCCU, Newcastle, Bournemouth and UCA to name a few.

By taking advantage of our careers guidance services, you can increase your chances of securing your desired future.

“The careers advice and guidance I received in Sixth Form was invaluable in helping me choose the right path for my future.”

-Former TWS Student



ALUMNI CASE STUDIES



Luke- First Officer with British Airways.
Studied at TWS: *Maths, Computing and Business and EPQ.*

“I appreciated the teachers having a genuine interest in my career aspirations and always supporting me whenever they could towards achieving that.”



Logan- Freelance Script Writer.
Studied at TWS: *Photography, Creative I Media and Forensic Investigation.*

“It was the school staff that made it for me- the relationships that you can build with the teachers and the time they gave me to push me on.”



Jake- Electrical Engineer
Studied at TWS: *A Levels in Maths, Biology, Sport and Finance*

“Sixth Form gave me time for further study and time to consider what I wanted to do. It helped me achieve my goals for the future.”



MEGAN
Radiographer

Megan- Diagnostic Radiographer after graduating from CCCU.
Studied at TWS: *Sociology and Psychology*

“Attending TWS Sixth Form helped to bridge the educational gap between leaving school and starting college/university.”



HOW TO APPLY

At **The Whitstable School Sixth Form** we offer a bespoke timetable. Therefore we advise any student who is considering attending our Sixth Form to put in an application. This will then allow us to create a timetable tailored to our incoming cohort.

It is important to note that our vocational offer is subject to change in line with the Government's Post-16 Qualification Review. However, we remain confident that we will be able to offer qualifications in all subjects listed on Kent Choices.

How to apply

1. **Choose your courses:** Students should choose a minimum of 3 courses. The EPQ or one of our sporting academies are in addition to 3 Level 3 courses.
2. **Accelerate Pathway:** If your child is interested in applying to our Level 2 pathway they only need to apply to this course.
3. **Submit an application:** Once students have made the decision to make an application they should do this via Kent Choices.
4. **Still unsure:** Students are able to apply for multiple educational settings. The Whitstable School Sixth Form will also be accepting multiple applications for the different pathways on offer.
5. **Attend an interview:** Interviews will be conducted to assess students' suitability for the Sixth Form and an offer will be made.

For more information on how to apply and deadlines, please visit Kent Choices: <https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk>

**KENT
CHOICES**

"I'm proud of what I've achieved and excited for the future."

-Year 13 Student





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