JOHN PORT
SPENCER ACADEMY



6 FORM

COURSES SEPTEMBER 2027

SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS SEPTEMBER 2027

The requirements for entry into the Sixth Form for A level and Level 3 study:

A minimum of five 9 - 4 grades at GCSE, (or equivalent), including Grade 5 or above in English Language and Mathematics.

Students should also meet the specified entry requirements for the courses they wish to study and must choose to study either an EPQ or Core Maths in addition to their three courses.

Students will be interviewed by the Head of Sixth Form or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

- We are offering Engineering this year as the equivalent to two A levels and so only one other A level is needed alongside it.
- Students wishing to take four A level subjects should be achieving mostly grade 9/8 in all subjects.
- All courses are subject to appropriate numbers and any government changes relating to funding.

A levels

	Course	Entry Requirements
☐	Biology	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Biology Triple Science or a grade 66 in Trilogy Science
		Desirable grade 6 GCSE Mathematics
☐	Business	Grade 5 in GCSE Business (if taken)
		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
		Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	Chemistry	Desirable grade 6 in Triple Science or a grade 66 in Trilogy Science
		Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	Computer Science	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science
		Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	Drama and Theatre	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama. If GCSE Drama was not taken, entry would be by audition and evidence of relevant Drama experience outside of school.
☐	Economics	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
		Grade 5 in GCSE Physics Triple Science or a Grade 55 in Trilogy Science
		Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	English Language	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
☐	English Literature	Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature
☐	Fine Art	Grade 5 in GCSE Art or a portfolio of creative work that illustrates a skill level and interest in the subject
☐	French	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE French
☐	Geography	Grade 5 in Geography (if taken)
		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
☐	German	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE German
☐	Government and Politics	Grade 5 GCSE in English Language

☐	History	Grade 5 in History (if taken)
		Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
☐	Mathematics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
		A level Mathematics must also be taken as an option.
☐	Media	Desirable grade 5 in English Language or Literature
☐	Music	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Music. You should also be at least working towards Grade 6 on your chosen instrument /voice as well as working towards Grade 5 Theory.
		Students who have not studied GCSE Music will be considered with equivalent qualifications: this could be Grade 5 theory and Grade 6 on voice or instrument.
		Grade 4 in Biology (Triple) or 44 in Trilogy
☐	Physical Education	GCSE grade 5 in Biology (Triple) or 55 in Trilogy
		Desirable grade 6 in Physical Education, or Merit at BTEC level if taken. If GCSE Physical Education or BTEC Sport was not taken, entry would be by interview, and relevant Physical Education experience outside of school.
☐	Physics	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Physics Triple Science or 66 in Trilogy Science
		Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	Photography	Grade 5 in GCSE Photography or a portfolio of creative work that illustrates a skill level and interest in the subject
☐	Product Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology
		Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
☐	Psychology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and maths Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Biology Triple Science or a grade 66 in Trilogy Science
☐	Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE Sociology (if taken)
		Grade 5 in English Language
		Grade 5 in Mathematics
☐	Spanish	Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
☐	Textiles	Grade 5 in an art-based subject or a portfolio of creative work that illustrates skill level and interest in the subject

Level 3

	Course	Entry Requirements
☐	Applied Diploma in Criminology	Grade 5 in English Language
☐	Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media	Grade M2 in Cambridge National iMedia or equivalent
☐	Cambridge Technical Diploma in Engineering (double A level equivalent)	Grade M2 in Cambridge National Engineering
☐	Extended Qualification Project (EPQ)	Sixth Form Entry Requirements
☐	Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)*	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

*You cannot choose this if you are taking A level Mathematics

AAQ Courses

	Course	Entry Requirements
☐	Advanced Cambridge National in Health and Social Care	Sixth form entry requirements
		Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
		Grade 4 in Biology (triple) or 44 in Trilogy
☐	Medical Science	Sixth form entry requirements.

LIST OF SUBJECTS

- Creative Arts & Sport
- A level Drama and Theatre
- A level Fine Art
- A level Music
- A level Photography
- A level Physical Education
- A level Textiles
- English
- A level English Language
- A level English Literature
- A level Media
- Design & Technology
- A level Computer Science
- A level Product Design
- Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Engineering
- Level 3 Cambridge Extended Certificate in Digital Media
- Mathematics
- A level Mathematics
- A level Further Mathematics
- Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)
- Modern Foreign Languages
- A level French
- A level German
- A level Spanish
- Science
- A level Biology
- A level Chemistry
- A level Physics
- Social Science
- A level Business
- A level Economics
- A level Government and Politics
- A level Psychology
- A level Sociology
- BTEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology
- BTEC Level 3 Cambridge Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care
- BTEC Level 3 Cambridge Extended Certificate in Medical Science
- Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Humanities
- A level Geography
- A level History

A LEVEL DRAMA AND THEATRE

CONTACT EMAIL:

LWiggins@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE Drama. If GCSE Drama was not taken, entry would be by audition and evidence of relevant Drama experience outside of school.

EXAM BOARD:

Edexcel - Specification 9DR0

UNITS STUDIED:

Component 1: Devised Performance

Component 2: Scripted Text in Performance

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

COURSE INFORMATION:

This two-year course is comprised of three assessed units:

Component 1 – develop an original performance in response to the work of a theatre practitioner, documented in an accompanying portfolio.

Component 2 – perform two extracts from a play text with a focus on both group and solo or paired performances.

Component 3 – end of course written examination evaluating a live theatre performance and detailing ideas for the performance and direction of two studied set texts.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

This course would be useful for anyone looking for a career in the Arts or Media. However, the skills of teamwork, communication, creativity and resilience which are essential in Drama are valued in most occupations.

Examples of careers in this area of interest:

actor / drama therapist / entertainer / prop maker / stage manager / theatre director / teacher / writer / A career in the music and the creative arts industry (currently worth around £115.9 billion per year in the UK).

ENRICHMENT:

A number of visits to the theatre are arranged throughout the two years of the course. There will also be outside theatre companies doing workshops within school.

Students are encouraged to take part in the whole school production to develop their performance skills and support with the lower school Drama Club in order to develop their directorial skills.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "A very enjoyable course, with a lot more practical than I thought there would be when first looking at the course overview." – **Luke Trickey**

QUOTE:

> "Great Theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasise about a world we aspire to." – **Willem Dafoe**

A LEVEL FINE ART

CONTACT EMAIL:

HUdall@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 GCSE Art or a portfolio of creative work that illustrates skill level and interest in the subject.

EXAM BOARD:

EDUQAS- Specification C651QS

UNITS STUDIED:

A linear course with 2 assessed units

Unit 1: Personal Investigation 60% of final grade completed by January 31st of second year.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of final grade. Starting in February of the final year and leading to a 15 hour practical exam in the art rooms. Marks are given for preparation work and the final outcome.

COURSE INFORMATION:

A demanding but enjoyable programme of study, where you will have the opportunity of extending your skills and control in a wide range of materials, processes and techniques. Creative work and an independent, imaginative approach are underpinned by a strong emphasis on observational work in a variety of media. Students explore the work of other artists in depth and this analysis will develop individual artistic skills and ideas.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

- Fine Artist
- Architect
- Animator
- Graphic designer
- Illustrator
- Art therapist
- Museum curator
- Product designer
- Interior designer

ENRICHMENT:

Students are provided with space to work in their independent study time and are encouraged to use the art facilities after school. Staff are often available to support students' independent research and refining at these times.

Students are encouraged to support the Art Club and get involved with the school production in order to develop their creative skills.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "Fine art is a hard but rewarding A level subject. It requires you to look at the world in a different way and work through ideas in depth. I have really developed my skills through year 12 and the teachers have helped to guide me to create work that is individual to me." - Former Student

QUOTE:

> "I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way'- things I had no words for." – **Georgia O'Keeffe**

> "That stroke you are about to make on a painting is as much you as the next word you utter or the next breath you take." – **Harley Brown**

A LEVEL MUSIC

CONTACT EMAIL:

JStares@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Music. You should also be at least working towards Grade 6 on your chosen instrument/voice as well as working towards Grade 5 Theory. Students who have not studied GCSE Music will be considered with equivalent qualifications: this could be Grade 5 theory and Grade 6 on voice or instrument.

EXAM BOARD:

Eduqas – Specification B660QS

UNITS STUDIED:

Component 1: Performing

Component 2: Composing

Component 3: Listening and Appraising

COURSE INFORMATION:

This two-year course comprises three assessed units.

On this course you can choose to specialise in Performance or in Composition, with your preferred option making up 35% of the A Level, and the other component making up 25%.

Component 1 – Performance is assessed in a recital with a visiting examiner. The standard of performance expected in your final recital towards the end of the course is Grade 6/7, whichever option you choose.

Component 2 – Students compose two- or three-pieces dependent on their specialism. Learners are required to compose a brief set by the exam board as well as completing a free composition.

Component 3 – end of course Listening and Appraising examination responding to music from the areas of study and set works. Areas of Study include The Western Classical Tradition, one from Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre, or Jazz, and one from 'Into the Twentieth Century' or 'Into the Twenty-First Century.'

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Music A level is excellent preparation for aspiring musicians, whether they want to specialise in performing, composing or history of music. Music A level is considered to be very challenging and rigorous and is acceptable as a third A level in university offers for almost all subjects, including at Oxbridge.

Examples of careers in this area of interest are:

Performer, Music Producer, Composer, Sound Designer, Events Manager, Music Journalist / Blogger, Music Therapy, Arts Administrator, Music Publishing, Music Librarian, Orchestral Manager, Teaching, Musicologist, Promoter, Sound Editor, Plugger, Music Editor, Music Theatre Coach, Music Research (Film/TV), Session Musician.

ENRICHMENT:

A number of visits to concerts will be arranged over the two-year course. Students are encouraged to take part in the instrumental ensembles within school and with the whole school production to develop their performance skills.

QUOTE:

> "Without music, life would be a mistake." – **Friedrich Nietzshe**

A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

CONTACT EMAIL:

HUdall@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 GCSE Art or Photography or a portfolio of creative work that illustrates skill level and interest in the subject.

EXAM BOARD:

EDUQAS- Specification C656QS

UNITS STUDIED:

A linear course with 2 assessed units.

Unit 1: Personal Investigation 60% of final grade completed by January 31st of second year.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of final grade. Started in February of the final year, leading to a 15 hour practical exam in the art rooms. Marks are given for preparation work and the final outcome.

COURSE INFORMATION:

A demanding but enjoyable programme of study, where you will have the opportunity of extending your skills and control in a wide range of photographic processes and techniques. You can take this opportunity to look, learn and communicate ideas in a way that is personal to you. Areas of study include portraiture, documentary photography, fashion photography and experimental imagery. Students explore the work of other artists in depth and this analysis will develop individual artistic skills and ideas.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

- Advertising art director
- Film/video editor
- Graphic designer
- Magazine features editor
- Medical illustrator
- Photographer
- Nature photographer
- Press photographer
- Television camera operator

ENRICHMENT:

Students are provided with space to work in their independent study time and are encouraged to use the art facilities after school. Staff are often available to support students' independent research and refining at these times.

Students are encouraged to support the Art Club and get involved with the school production in order to develop their creative skills.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "I thought photography would be simple but I have learnt that there is much more to it. Not only the technical skills needed but the necessity of looking and seeing things that others don't".

Former Student

QUOTE:

> "Taking an image, freezing a moment, reveals how rich reality truly is." – **Anonymous**

> "We are making photographs to understand what our lives mean to us." – **Ralph Hattersley**

A LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CONTACT EMAIL:

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SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

GCSE grade 5 in Biology (Triple) or 55 in Trilogy

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education, or Merit at BTEC level. If GCSE Physical Education or BTEC Sport was not taken, entry would be by interview, and relevant Physical Education experience outside of school.

EXAM BOARD:

OCR – Specification H555

UNITS STUDIED:

- Physiological factors affecting performance (Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics)
- Psychological factors affecting performance (Skill Acquisition, Sports Psychology)
- Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (Sport and Society, Contemporary Issues)
- Performance in physical education (Practical Performance and Evaluation of Performance)

COURSE INFORMATION:

This two-year course consists of three examinations at the end of Year 13 as well as practical performance and coursework.

The Physiological Factors unit is assessed in a 2-hour paper worth 90 marks and is worth 30% of the final A-level grade.

The Psychological Factors unit is assessed in a 1-hour paper worth 60 marks and is worth 20% of the final A-level grade.

The Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity is assessed in a 1-hour paper worth 60 marks and is worth 20% of the final A-level grade.

The Performance in Physical Education unit consists of Performance/Coaching and the EAPI (Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement).

Each learner will be assessed as either a performer or a coach in one sport from the approved list.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

This course would be useful for anyone looking for a career in sport or physical activity.

Examples of careers in this area of interest:

Sports Coach, Teacher of Physical Education, Sports Development Officer, Sports Psychologist, Sports Physiotherapist, Sports Media/Journalism and Sports Science.

ENRICHMENT:

Enrichment opportunities in the subject may include performing in our 6th form sports teams or extracurricular activities. It may also include assisting with coaching and leading younger students.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "I thoroughly enjoy the A level PE course, the structure of the course is simple to follow, and the actual course content is extremely interesting and engaging. I look forward to every lesson, as the learning environment is calm and focused, yet the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming."

QUOTE:

> "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to ignite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than the government in breaking down racial barriers." – **Nelson Mandela**

A LEVEL TEXTILES

CONTACT EMAIL:

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SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

EXAM BOARD:

EDUQAS- Specification C653QS

UNITS STUDIED:

A linear course with 2 assessed units.

Unit 1: Personal Investigation 60% of final grade completed by January 31st of second year

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of final grade. Started in February of final year and leading to a 15 hour practical exam in the art rooms. Marks are given for preparation work and the final outcome

COURSE INFORMATION:

Designed to encourage an individual creative response through personal expression of ideas and feelings, the Textile Design course is approached from an art-based perspective. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes.

Students will work in one or more areas of Textile Design which can include fashion, printed and/or dyed fabric and materials, domestic textiles and wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles and textile installation. Drawing will be explored using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales, using sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin work where appropriate and showing an understanding of the four assessment objectives.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

- Theatre Costume Designer
- Fashion/Clothing Designer
- Fashion Illustrator
- Fashion Journalism
- Footwear Designer
- Tailor/Dressmaker
- Textile Designer
- Interior Designer

ENRICHMENT:

Students are provided with space to work in their independent study time and are encouraged to use the art facilities after school. Staff are often available to support students' independent research and refining at these times.

Students can take part in supporting the Costume Club which provides costumes for the school show. This is a good way to hone skills learned and apply them to real situations.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "I have loved the textiles course although there is lots of work. Getting to work with fabrics and create costumes has enabled me to realise that this is something I want to do in the future." – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "I think there is beauty in everything. What 'normal' people perceive as ugly, I can usually see something of beauty in it." – **Alexander McQueen**

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CONTACT EMAIL:

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@JPSA_English

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7702

UNITS STUDIED:

- How Language Changes over Time
- How Language Represents Society and Individuals
- How Children Learn to Speak and Write
- NEW: Investigating an Aspect of Language and Completing your own Creative Writing

COURSE INFORMATION:

This is the study of the diverse ways in which the English Language is structured and used. You will investigate how the language we use is affected by our power, gender, class, accent, dialect, the social groups we belong to and the work we do. You will get the chance to develop your creative writing skills, your independent research skills and you will explore how children learn to speak and write!

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

An A level qualification in English Language is testament to your communication skills and is therefore viewed favourably by employers.

- Journalism and the media
- Law
- Teaching
- Business/Marketing roles
- Publishing

ENRICHMENT:

- University Linguistics taster days
- Field trips to explore language in use
- Trips to local primacy schools to investigate child language acquisition

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "The study of English Language gives an insight into the intrinsic link between identity and language. I would not have followed my aspiration to become a writer without this course!" – **former student**

QUOTE:

> 'Vax' – **Word of the Year 2021**

> 'Pandemic' – **Word of the Year 2020**

> 'Youthquake' – **Word of the Year 2017**

> 'Post-truth' – **Word of the Year 2016**

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

CONTACT EMAIL:

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SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature

EXAM BOARD:

Edexcel - Specification 9ET0

UNITS STUDIED:

- Shakespeare.
- Modern Seen and Unseen Poetry.
- Mediaeval Poetry
- Comparative Prose
- Modern Drama
- NEA (Coursework): Independent Comparative Essay

COURSE INFORMATION:

English Literature is the study of poetry, prose and drama. If you love exploring genre, structure and language to analyse how meaning is conveyed then this is the course for you! We also explore the historical and social contexts of literary works and how different readers might respond to them.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

An A level qualification in English Literature is testament to your communication skills and this therefore viewed favourably by employers.

- Journalism and the media
- Law
- Teaching
- Business/Marketing roles
- Publishing

ENRICHMENT:

- University taster days
- Theatre trips and RSC/NT screenings.
- Author signings and interviews.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "The most important skill I learned was critical thinking; I've been encouraged to discuss the very core of human civilisation. It's really helped me expand my horizons!" – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "A reader lives a thousand lives before they die. A person who does not read lives only one." – **George R.R. Martin**

A LEVEL MEDIA

CONTACT EMAIL:

AHoward@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 5 in English Language or Literature

EXAM BOARD:

AQA – Specification

UNITS STUDIED:

Media One

Section A will focus on Media Language and Media Representations. Questions in this section will test the following forms:

- advertising and marketing
- music video.

Section B will focus on Media Industries and Media Audiences. Questions in this section can test any two of the following forms:

- radio
- newspapers
- film (industries only).

Media Two

Questions will focus on the in-depth media forms of television, magazines and online, social and participatory media/ video games.

Non examination assessment: Creating a cross-media production

COURSE INFORMATION:

Over the two years we will study a wide range of media products in their contexts: films, television programmes, websites, computer games, newspapers, magazines, radio programmes and music videos. The focus will be on deconstructing these to better understand how they make meaning - and to use them as models for our own creative media products.

Media Studies is a truly contemporary subject that is relevant to all our lives. If you enjoy learning about how and why media products are made and you want to make your own media products then this is the A-level for you. You'll find contemporary, diverse topics and varied and engaging content, helping you to develop research and problem-solving skills as well as your creativity. You will also refine your debating skills through the discussion of contemporary issues from a range of perspectives

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

If you choose to continue with Media Studies at university you could use it as a stepping stone into a wide range of media jobs such as media planner, television/film/video producer, journalist, public relations officer, programme researcher, market researcher, editorial assistant, advertising account executive, event manager. Past students have gone on to study other subjects at university, such as sociology, business, psychology and many more.

QUOTE:

> "Social media is the new context within which the conventional broadcasters operate."' – **The Guardian**

A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

CONTACT EMAIL:

AnSmith@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

AQA – Specification 7517

UNITS STUDIED:

Paper 1: On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of A-level.

Questions on 1-4 below plus questions on programming and supplied Skeleton code

Paper 2: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of A-level.

Questions on 5-12 below.

- Non-exam assessment: (Coursework) 75 marks. 20% of A-level.
- Fundamentals of Programming
- Fundamentals of Data Structures
- Fundamentals of Algorithms
- Theory of Computation
- Fundamentals of Data Representation
- Fundamentals of Computer Systems
- Fundamentals of Computer Organisation and Architecture
- Consequences of Uses of Computing
- Fundamentals of Communication and Networking
- Fundamentals of Databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of Functional Programming
- Systematic Approach to Problem Solving
- Non-exam assessment: the Computing Practical Project

COURSE INFORMATION:

This course develops both programming and problem-solving skills as well as building on computer science theory. For those who have completed the GCSE course, clear progression can be seen, with the added bonus of the coursework (NEA) counting towards the final grade. The theory in both years is delivered in a way that the more complex elements are met in year 13.

Units are taught (3 lessons a week) and support materials are used to help understanding. End of unit tests are used for both students and teachers to check progress.

Students are encouraged to read around the topics covered. During the course (two lessons a week) more complex programming skills in Python will be developed. This gives a good foundation for the coursework (NEA) to be started before the end of year 12, the outcome of which depends on the complexity of the problem being solved and the programming concepts used.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Many of the students continue with a Computer Science related degree with some entering computing type apprenticeships. Computer Science professionals are in high demand and current research shows a major shortage in this field.

REQUIRED READING:

- AQA AS and A level Computer Science Textbook (supplied)
  ISBN: 978-1-910523-07-0
- AQA A level Computer Science (useful)
  ISBN-13: 978-1471839511

COURSE COSTS:

No direct costs. There is a need to have a computer that can run Python.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "A conquerable challenge that pays off" – **Sam Walters 2018**

QUOTE:

> "One man's constant is another man's variable." – **Alan J. Perlis 1982**

A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN

CONTACT EMAIL:

MDoherty@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

OCR – Specification H406

UNITS STUDIED:

Unit 01: Principles of Product Design - 26.7%

Unit 02: Problem Solving in Product Design - 23.3%

Unit 03: Iterative Design Project - 50%

COURSE INFORMATION:

Linear A level Product Design is a dynamic course that enables students to develop their ability to design and manufacture commercial products over a two-year period.

The course consists of three units, of which two are examination based. All three units are taken in the same examination series at the end of the course as part of Year 13 study.

In Year 12, students will undertake a number of focused practical tasks using a range of manufacturing methods. This will allow students to develop their skills from GCSE level, as well as giving them a breadth of knowledge to allow them to select materials, construction methods and tools for a chosen design solution. Students will also have dedicated theory periods where they will continue to develop their knowledge in preparation for the examinations.

In the summer term of Year 12, pupils will begin the 'Iterative Design Project'.

This requires learners to undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate.

Learners identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of their own choice and create a portfolio of evidence in real time through the project to demonstrate their competence.

The folio should be completed in approximately 65 hours and is worth 50% of the final grade achieved.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Various universities (including Russell Group), and employment opportunities with the Design and Technology field such as; architecture, product design, engineering (aeronautical, automotive, structural), furniture, packaging design, Level 4/5 Apprenticeships, CAD. The skills developed throughout the A level also support non related courses such as project management, Research & Development, critical analysis, client management etc.

REQUIRED READING:

- OCR Design and Technology for AS/A Level
  ISBN: 9781510402652

COURSE COSTS:

In Year 12 we ask for a contribution of £10 to cover the cost of the materials used.

In Year 13 we will provide you with the first £15 of your final product. The remainder will need to be funded by the student.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "A level Design and Technology was an excellent course for me. I enjoyed the high level of independence and freedom the staff allowed me to have, which was backed up with incredible amounts of support both in and out of school from my teachers. I now study Product Design at Lincoln University and have received a first for my first year." – **Lucy Evans**

QUOTE:

> "Creativity is the lifeblood of design and technology. It is what sets the subject apart from its scientific counterparts. Students can take what they have learnt in maths and science and use their creativity to make something that works." – **James Dyson**

LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING (2 A LEVEL EQUIVALENT)

CONTACT EMAIL:

MDoherty@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade M2 in Cambridge National Engineering

Grade 5 in GCSE Physics Triple Science or Grade 66 in Trilogy Science

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

OCR -Specification RSA5825

UNITS STUDIED:

Mandatory Units

Unit 1: Mathematics for Engineering

Unit 2: Science in Engineering

Unit 3: Principles of Mechanical Engineering

Unit 4: Principles of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Selected Units

Unit 6: Circuit Simulation and Manufacture

Unit 9: Mechanical Design

Unit 10: Computer Aided Design

Unit 13: Mechanical Operation

Unit 16: Systems and Programming

Unit 17: Computer Aided Manufacture

Unit 18: Lean and Quality

Unit 19: Inspection and Testing

COURSE INFORMATION:

This qualification is designed for learners aged 16 -19 years old who want to specialise in the engineering sector to enable them to undertake further study in engineering or go on to engineering-related apprenticeships or employment.

Students take two specialist pathways in this qualification:

- Automation, Systems and Control
- Manufacturing.

Students undertake 12 units in total that are delivered in 60 GLH blocks. The course is graded using pass, merit and distinction assessment criteria.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

This course can lead to employment through an apprenticeship in engineering such as Higher Apprenticeships in Manufacturing Engineering, Power Engineering or Engineering Environmental Technologies. It could also lead directly to employment in engineering roles: electrical and electronic engineering; mechanical engineering and design; automation, systems and control; and manufacturing. As part of an academic study programme, it could also form part of the learner's basis for application to a higher education course in engineering, alongside complementary subjects, such as GCEs in maths and/or physics or other applied qualifications.

COURSE COSTS:

In Year 12 we ask for a contribution of £20 to cover the cost of the materials used throughout the duration of the course.

QUOTE:

> "The sooner we get high tech machinery into children's hands, the earlier we'll plug the engineering deficit." – **James Dyson**

LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN DIGITAL MEDIA

CONTACT EMAIL:

AnSmith@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade M2 in Cambridge National iMedia or equivalent.

EXAM BOARD:

OCR – Specification 05844

UNITS STUDIED:

Mandatory

Unit 1: Media Products and Audiences (exam)

Unit 2: Pre-Production and Planning (exam)

Unit 3: Create a Media Product (internally assessed)

Optional

Unit 20: Advertising Media

Unit 21: Plan and Deliver a Pitch for a Media Product

Unit 24: Cross-media awareness

COURSE INFORMATION:

This course will develop your practical skills in creative and media products.

Theoretical and technical knowledge will be developed to underpin these skills, your creativity will be harnessed in the design and production of media products used within the industry. You will develop conceptual ideas, and visualise these all the way through the production cycle; from planning and pre-production right through to production, editing, post-production and distribution of products.

You will also learn how to analyse target audience requirements, research market demand and bring a media concept alive working in line with legal and regulatory requirements.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media provides a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or work within the media industry and are recognised for UCAS tariff points. Careers include social media manager, graphic designer, director, digital marketer, animator, website developer, video producer, media manager, to name but a few.

REQUIRED READING:

- Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Digital Media (Cambridge Technicals 2016)
  ISBN-13: 978-1471874734

COURSE COSTS:

No direct costs, however there may be items that will be required to be supplied for media production.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "This course allows me to release my creativity. I love using specialist equipment and software to create my products. I've learnt all about the media industry behind the scenes which I never knew before." – **Laura 2022**

QUOTE:

> "Whoever controls the media, controls the mind." – **Jim Morrison**

A LEVEL MATHEMATICS

CONTACT EMAIL:

ASmith@johnportdspencer.org.uk

ABee@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7357

UNITS STUDIED:

Linear course examined at the end of two years.

COURSE INFORMATION:

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

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

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

ENRICHMENT:

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and Team Challenge. Sixth form students also have the opportunity to support students with their maths in other year groups.

QUOTE:

> "The world of Mathematics opens up a world that you never imagined when you take advantage of the possibilities it opens to you, whether it be seeing the beauty in things or opening up more lifelong opportunities" – **Unknown**

A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

CONTACT EMAIL:

ASmith@johnportdpencer.org.uk

ABee@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

A level Mathematics must also be taken as an option

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7367

UNITS STUDIED:

Linear course examined at the end of two years.

COURSE INFORMATION:

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

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Further Mathematics is sometimes a preferred A-level for specific degree courses. Please check with individual universities for entry requirements. Traditional careers being accountancy, analysts, computing & IT, education, engineering, financial services, operational research and sciences.

ENRICHMENT:

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Sixth form students also have the opportunity to support students with their maths in other year groups.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "The Further Maths A level has been a massive help during my degree as I could hit the ground running and get to grips with some really abstract maths." – **John Port, past student and Master's Degree Graduate in Electrical Engineering**

QUOTE:

> "Mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas." – **Albert Einstein**

LEVEL 3 MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (CORE MATHS)

CONTACT EMAIL:

ASmith@johnportspencer.org.uk

ABee@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 1350

UNITS STUDIED:

Linear, one year course examined at the end of the course and equivalent to an AS qualification.

COURSE INFORMATION:

A course designed for Post-16 students who want to continue studying mathematics but not at AS or A level. It is a practical mathematical course focusing on real-life problems. The skills gained will supplement the mathematical elements studied in other A level subjects including; Geography, Sciences, Psychology, Business and Economics.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Many technical and vocational qualifications and careers benefit from additional maths qualifications. There are also many degrees and subjects that Maths may be required for such as Sciences, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Geography, Psychology, Medicine, Accounting, Business Studies and Sociology, (some of these subjects may require A level Maths so if in doubt check with the subject or a university).

ENRICHMENT:

Sixth form students have the opportunity to support students with their maths in other year groups.

QUOTE:

> "Without Mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is Mathematics. Everything around you is numbers." – **Shakuntala Devi**

A LEVEL FRENCH

CONTACT EMAIL:

AClements@johnport.derbyshire.sch.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE French

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7652

UNITS STUDIED:

Paper 1:

Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of A-level)

Paper 2:

Writing (20% of A-level) based on the study of a film and a book

Paper 3:

Speaking (30% of A-level). The exam consists of two parts: a discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes) and a presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of an individual research project.

COURSE INFORMATION:

The topics and grammar build up from GCSE level. The topics are linked to countries where French is spoken and include aspects of history, geography, the arts, business and social studies. There will be a grammar lesson every week which will develop students' understanding of the language further, clarifying and developing points from the GCSE course.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

This course can provide you with the springboard to study languages at university or to undertake a wide variety of subjects alongside a modern foreign language. This often includes a year's study at a foreign university and provides students with an extra string to their bow; all the more necessary in competitive times. Potential employers look favourably on students who have studied a modern foreign language as this shows intellectual capacity, determination and an open mind.

Here are some examples of careers in this area of interest:

- Business
- Government
- Law
- Research
- Science
- Engineering
- Leisure
- Transport
- Media

ENRICHMENT:

Students will be encouraged to immerse themselves in the French language - reading of French newspapers, magazines and books, watching films/ TV programmes in French, listening to French radio - to give a few examples. Students are also encouraged to visit France (guidance can be given, this being one of the best opportunities to explore the culture first-hand and to authentically enhance their French speaking skills!

QUOTE:

> "Les limites de ma langue sont les limites de mon monde"
> "The limits of my language are the limits of my world."
> – **Ludwig Wittgenstein**

A LEVEL GERMAN

CONTACT EMAIL:

AClements@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE German

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7662

UNITS STUDIED:

Paper 1:

Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of A-level)

Paper 2:

Writing (20% of A-level) based on the study of a film and a book

Paper 3:

Speaking (30% of A-level). The exam consists of two parts: a discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes) and a presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of an individual research project.

COURSE INFORMATION:

The topics and grammar build up from GCSE level. The topics are linked to countries where German is spoken and include aspects of history, geography, the arts, business and social studies. There will be a grammar lesson every week which will develop students' understanding of the language further, clarifying and developing points from the GCSE course.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

This course can provide you with the springboard to study languages at university or to undertake a wide variety of subjects alongside a modern foreign language. This often includes a year's study at a foreign university and provides students with an extra string to their bow; all the more necessary in competitive times. Potential employers look favourably on students who have studied a modern foreign language as this shows intellectual capacity, determination and an open mind.

Here are some examples of careers in this area of interest:

- Business
- Government
- Law
- Research
- Science
- Engineering
- Leisure
- Transport
- Media

ENRICHMENT:

Students will be encouraged to immerse themselves in the German language - reading of German newspapers, magazines and books, watching films/ TV programmes in German, listening to German radio - to give a few examples. Students are also encouraged to visit Germany (guidance can be given) – this being one of the best opportunities to explore the culture first-hand and to authentically enhance their German speaking skills!

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "Studying languages has allowed me to explore many different cultures to a level I never thought possible. It has also allowed me to develop friendships with people from all around the world. In summer 2018, I was lucky enough to be awarded a scholarship to study in Europe's largest specialist translation and interpreting university in Germany, and I got to experience first-hand how languages can be used to bridge the gap between speakers of different languages. I'm just about to go on my year abroad (another reason to study languages) to go and study translation and interpreting at the University of the Basque Country in northern Spain and the Johannes-Gutenberg University in Germany." – **Tom Bratby, Former Student at John Port Academy Sixth Form and Graduate of Modern Languages with Translation**

QUOTE:

> "Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiß nichts von seiner eigenen."
> "Those who don't know a foreign language know nothing of their own." – **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

A LEVEL SPANISH

CONTACT EMAIL:

AClements@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7692

UNITS STUDIED:

Paper 1:

Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of A-level)

Paper 2:

Writing (20% of A-level) based on the study of a film and a book

Paper 3:

Speaking (30% of A-level). The exam consists of two parts: a discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes) and a presentation (2minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of an individual research project.

COURSE INFORMATION:

The topics and grammar build up from GCSE level. The topics are linked to countries where Spanish is spoken and includes aspects of history, geography, the arts, business and social studies. There will be a grammar lesson every week which will develop students' understanding of the language further, clarifying and developing points from the GCSE course.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

This course can provide you with the springboard to study languages at university or to undertake a wide variety of subjects alongside a modern foreign language. This often includes a year's study at a foreign university and provides students with an extra string to their bow; all the more necessary in competitive times. Potential employers look favourably on students who have studied a modern foreign language as this shows intellectual capacity, determination and an open mind.

Here are some examples of careers in this area of interest:

- Business
- Government
- Law
- Research
- Science
- Engineering
- Leisure
- Transport
- Media

ENRICHMENT:

Students will be encouraged to immerse themselves in the Spanish language - reading of Spanish newspapers, magazines and books, watching films/ TV programmes in Spanish, listening to Spanish radio - to give a few examples. Students are also encouraged to visit Spain (guidance can be given), this being one of the best opportunities to explore the culture first-hand and to authentically enhance their Spanish speaking skills!

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "I am currently studying Spanish with International Business at Nottingham Trent University and The University of Valencia. My degree is a 'Dual award' which means I study for two years in Valencia, Spain. I have just completed my first year at The University of Valencia, where I have utilised my Spanish in a completely natural and practical setting, completing entire business modules in Spanish and communicating comfortably with hundreds of native speakers! I will also be there next year to complete an internship in an entirely Spanish speaking company. Living and studying in Spain has allowed me to advance on the Spanish I learned at A-level and put it all into practice, whilst building life-long relationships with native speakers and giving me the opportunity to learn Spanish in a more Business oriented manner. In the future I hope to further build on my Spanish and work within a Spanish speaking company in South America in the financial sector, or in a South American company with strong corporate social responsibility and sustainability goals." – **Robyn Welch**

A LEVEL BIOLOGY

CONTACT EMAIL:

RJarvis@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Biology Triple Science or a grade 66 in Trilogy Science

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7402

UNITS STUDIED:

- Biological Molecules
- Cells
- Organisms Exchange Substances with their Environment
- Genetic Information, Variation and Relationships between Organisms
- Energy Transfers in and Between Organisms
- Organisms Respond to Changes in their Internal and External Environments
- Genetics, Populations, Evolution and Ecosystems
- The Control of Gene Expression

COURSE INFORMATION:

The course will help you to understand how living organisms function from a unicellular to a multi-cellular level, and the biological processes that occur within these organisms in order to keep them alive. There is opportunity to develop practical skills alongside developing an understanding of key concepts and principles in Biology.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Medicine, dentistry, microbiology, physiotherapy, neuroscience, nursing, audiology, biological sciences, pharmacy, forensic science, biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical science, veterinary science, environmental sciences

ENRICHMENT:

You will be required to carry out an in-depth study of field techniques and sampling methods which involves a visit to Attenborough Nature Reserve.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "A level Biology is very interesting and has a fantastic range of topics. However, to do well it requires extra reading and a genuine interest and commitment to the course, but I think it is my favourite A level and the most interesting." – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life." – **Charles Darwin**

A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

CONTACT EMAIL:

RJarvis@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry Triple Science or a grade 66 in Trilogy Science

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7405

UNITS STUDIED:

Physical Chemistry

Covers atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle, oxidation, reduction and redox equations, thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant Kc for homogeneous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, acids and bases.

Inorganic Chemistry

Covers periodicity, group 2, the alkaline earth metals, group 7(17), the halogens, properties of period 3, elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

Organic Chemistry

Covers Introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and chromatography.

COURSE INFORMATION:

The increased depth of study will develop literacy, mathematical, analytical, reasoning and visualisation skills.

Students learn new ways to represent information in the form of energy diagrams and organic reaction mechanisms. Chemistry A level is generally regarded as the pinnacle of academic achievement and as such it is a vital component for entry into many prestigious courses: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

The following are some of the other careers you could consider:

Pharmacy, Radiography, Forensic Science, Dietetics (the study of nutrition), Physiotherapy, Nursing, Archaeology, Geology, Engineering, Law, Finance.

ENRICHMENT:

Visit to Ecton Mine which will allow students to study the Transition metals from the samples they collect

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "I really enjoyed learning about atomic structure there's so much more to it than they'd have you believe at GCSE! It's a lot more in depth but much better for it." – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "With monads and diads, and pentads and triads, my brain has been addled completely; And what's really meant by something-valent, is a question I give up discretely." – **John Cargill Brough**

A LEVEL PHYSICS

CONTACT EMAIL:

RJarvis@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Physics Triple Science or a grade 66 in Trilogy Science

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

AQA - Specification 7408

UNITS STUDIED:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and Radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and Materials
- Electricity
- Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
- Fields and their Consequences
- Nuclear Physics
- Astrophysics

COURSE INFORMATION:

Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences, with its ultimate goal being to understand any and all aspects of how our universe, from the apparently simple (e.g. the motion of a dropped object) to the highly complex (e.g. the search for the Higgs Boson at CERN). This course is for those who want to know just how and why the natural world works as it does, and covers a wide range of physics topics from the tiniest scale of sub-atomic particles to the evolution of the cosmos. It aims to develop an interest and enthusiasm for the subject along with the full skill-set needed to be successful within it (practising Physics requires a high level of mathematical, communication and thinking skills). Former student

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

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

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "Physics will challenge you to think about things in a different way... You will feel enlightened!" – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "The black holes of nature are the most perfect macroscopic objects there are in the universe: the only elements in their construction are our concepts of space and time." – **Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (1910 - 1995)**

A LEVEL BUSINESS

CONTACT EMAIL:

DMahal@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE Business (if taken)

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

EXAM BOARD:

OCR – Specification H431

UNITS STUDIED:

Unit 1: Operating in the Local Business Environment

Unit 2: The UK Business Environment

Unit 3: The Global Business Environment

COURSE INFORMATION:

Students will explore how businesses are organised, the business environment including the political, social, economic, legal, technological context in which they operate. The course involves a consideration of the key business functions: marketing, human resource management, finance and production. As well as this, students will analyse and evaluate the use of different business tools when applying these to different business situations.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Our students have taken various successful paths towards university, apprenticeships and careers after completing the course. Possible undergraduate courses could include; Business Law, Finance, Accountancy, Human Resources Management, Advertising and Industrial Economics. As for possible careers, some of our previous students have secured apprenticeships at Rolls Royce, HSBC, BMW and Lloyds Banking Group.

ENRICHMENT:

Students are given the opportunity to participate in the "Investor Challenge" where they work in teams fictitiously buying and selling shares. There have been visits to Alton Towers and students are invited to support KS4 students in lessons and in the planning and organising of an enterprise event.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "I have really enjoyed learning about different topic areas in A level Business because it has given me an insight into what businesses do and the way they operate. I like developing my awareness of different industries, job roles, products, and services that I may potentially work in." – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "Every risk is worth taking as long as it's for a good cause and contributes to a good life." – **Richard Branson**

A LEVEL ECONOMICS

CONTACT EMAIL:

AJama@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

EXAM BOARD:

AQA – Specification 7136

UNITS STUDIED:

The specification is split into two main sections; the first section introduces students to microeconomic issues and the second section covers mainly macroeconomic issues. However, students should appreciate that microeconomics and macroeconomics are not entirely distinct areas of study. For example, microeconomic principles often provide fundamental insights into understanding aspects of the macroeconomy. Similarly, economic issues and problems often contain both a microeconomic and macroeconomic dimension.

COURSE INFORMATION:

The course will allow you to develop an interest and enthusiasm for economics and its contribution to the wider social environment, while acquiring an understanding of a range of concepts and acquire an ability to use these concepts in a variety of different contexts.

During your studies you will develop skills, qualities and attitudes which will equip you for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

You will develop an understanding of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect your everyday life.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

If you have studied Economics, you will have gained skills useful in both the private and public sectors.

Careers that an Economics qualification can lead to include: economist, accountancy, stockbroking, financial analyst, banking, civil service, statistician, business management, journalism and teaching.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "It challenges your understanding of the economy and how it works. It's a fascinating subject that deals with real life events such as the credit crunch, Brexit and stock market crashes." – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones." – **John Maynard Keynes**

A LEVEL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

CONTACT EMAIL:

MCoxon@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in English Language

EXAM BOARD:

Edexcel – Specification 9PL0

UNITS STUDIED:

UK Politics: Political Participation; students will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. Students will also study the core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

UK Government: students will study the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. Students will also study the ideas of feminism.

Comparative Politics: students will study the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation, comparative theories.

COURSE INFORMATION:

This A level Government and Politics Course gives you the knowledge to understand how government works, particularly in the UK, but also in other countries. Politics will help you develop your research and analysis skills. It will provide you with a deeper understanding of governments and give you more information on careers in politics. Politics is a truly engaging and living subject where events change on a daily basis and have profound consequences for all of our lives.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

If you have studied Politics, you'll have gained skills useful in both the public and private sectors, in roles which are more varied than you might expect.

Careers that a Politics qualification can lead to include:

Journalism, Law, Military, The Civil Service, Education, Political Research and Teaching.

ENRICHMENT:

We organise debates throughout the year and politics students and other subjects can join the Bar Mock Trials team.

There are opportunities to visit Parliament.

Former students have used our contacts to arrange work experience placements with local MPs.

QUOTE:

> "In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues." – **George Orwell.**

A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

CONTACT EMAIL:

MSatchwell@johnportspencer.org.uk

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY CRITERIA:

Grade 5 in GCSE Psychology (if taken, not compulsory)

Desirable grade 6 in GCSE Biology Triple Science or grade 66 in Trilogy Science

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Maths

EXAM BOARD:

AQA – Specification 7182

UNITS STUDIED:

Unit 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Unit 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Unit 3: Issues and Debates in Psychology

- The Psychology of Gender
- The Psychology of Addiction
- The Psychology of Schizophrenia

COURSE INFORMATION:

A level Psychology at the John Port Spencer Academy is a two-year, 100% examination course which aims to equip students with the ability to understand human behaviour from a variety of perspectives. In Year 1, students learn to use both scientific and unscientific methods to explore causes of behaviour in a variety of fascinating topic areas, probing students to find answers to questions; such as What causes phobias? How and why are people influenced by others? What happens when children don't form secure attachments? and the biology and functionality of the brain.

In year 2, students tackle more challenging topics such as the psychology of gender, the origin and treatment of disorders like Schizophrenia and theories on addiction, together with a more rigorous look at statistical testing and the scientific nature of Psychology.

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS:

Clinical Psychology, Education, Medicine, Social Work, Public Service, Marketing, Human Resource Management.

ENRICHMENT:

Additional reading, a writing competition, taking part in debates, University visits, guest speakers and trip to Freud's house in London.

STUDENT QUOTE:

> "Psychology reaches parts of life that I never expected, it is an intriguing subject that requires a range of skills. The teachers are also extremely supportive which makes the subject so enjoyable." – **former student**

QUOTE:

> "If you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all the days of your life." – **Abraham Maslow**