



SILVERDALE

SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS

For entry in September 2024



THE SUNDAY TIMES
**SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2021**
NORTH
STATE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
OF THE DECADE

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WELCOME





Welcome to Silverdale Sixth Form

Selecting a Sixth Form is one of the most important decisions that you will make after your GCSEs. Here at Silverdale Sixth Form our students thrive and flourish, both academically and personally, in a welcoming and supportive learning community.

When students join our Sixth Form they join one with a track record of high achievement and success, centred on a close relationship between teachers and students. Students enjoy learning with highly experienced members of staff across a wide range of disciplines. The Head and Deputy Head of Sixth Form, a team of tutors and Sixth Form support staff ensure that their progress and wellbeing are closely monitored and interventions put in place where and when it is required.

Silverdale Sixth Form is a vibrant and exciting place to learn, develop and grow as an individual. I thank you for your interest in joining us and hope to welcome you into our Sixth Form in the future.

“When students join our Sixth Form they join one with a track record of high achievement and success, centred on a close relationship between teachers and students. Students enjoy learning with highly experienced members of staff across a wide range of disciplines.”

John Naylor
Head of Silverdale Sixth Form



Outstanding Achievement for All

Silverdale Sixth Form sits at the heart of our organisation – Chorus Education Trust. The Trust grew from Silverdale School and Sixth Form and now includes Westfield School and Malin Bridge Primary School in Sheffield, Eckington School and Hope Valley College in Derbyshire.

We believe in harnessing the best in education and ensuring that it's accessible to all students. We are not an anonymous, national academy chain but a local Trust grown from local schools. By working together we are stronger, building a sustainable, resilient organisation that puts students at the very heart of our work.

We have built this Sixth Form on firm foundations: our belief that every child can achieve beyond their expectations; and our commitment to outstanding teaching and learning. Combined with our inclusive approach to education, it creates an environment where students flourish during this important stage in their lives.

So how do we know that our approach works? You can look at the results over past years. Our results are consistently amongst the best in Sheffield. And you can look at the destinations of former students, which include Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and a range of other institutions.

But for me the proof is when, every year, students return to Silverdale, keen to share their stories of success. They have gone on to achieve so very much and in so many different ways. Every story is as individual as the student.

We are rightfully proud of them and we hope to welcome you to our Sixth Form community in the near future.

Chris James
Executive Headteacher, Chorus Education Trust



Outstanding Achievement for All

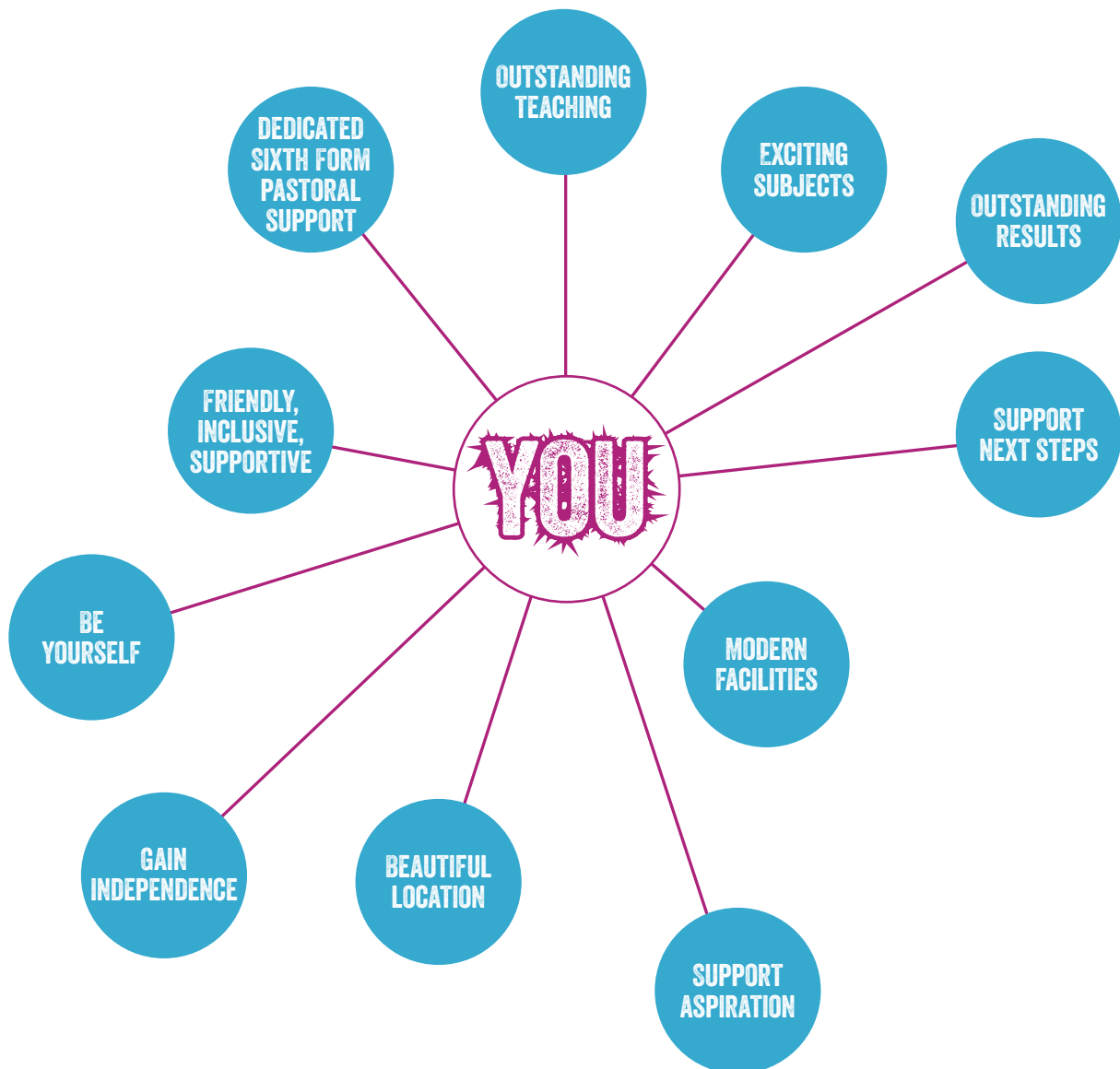
“We work hard to ensure that students are challenged and motivated by the wide range of courses on offer. This is a chance to gain independence and pursue new ways of working, in preparation for careers and further study in future years.”



WHY SILVERDALE?

We have everything you need to make a success of your time in Sixth Form.

The only missing ingredient is you!





OUTSTANDING RESULTS

Not just one of the best in the city, but one of the best in the country!

Silverdale Sixth Form is one of the most successful in the city, indeed in the entire country. We pride ourselves on the exceptionally high levels of attainment and progress achieved by our students. The close academic and pastoral relationship between students and staff results in sixth formers fulfilling their potential and beyond.

Silverdale sixth formers achieve consistently strong results that open doors for their next steps. Last year, 84% of Silverdale students gained a place at their first choice university 60% of which were Russell Group universities. In addition, a number of students regularly opt for a different pathway, securing higher apprenticeships as a means to furthering their education while entering the world of work.

2023 results – Silverdale Sixth Form

- 86% of all grades were A*-C
- 65% of all grades are A*-B
- 41% of all grades were A*-A
- 13% of all grades were A*
- Our average grade was B



Students from Silverdale School, which is on the same site as Silverdale Sixth Form.





STUDENT WELFARE

Strong pastoral care is one of the pillars of our success. All students have a form tutor who follows the tutor programme with the form each day including topical discussions, a weekly quiz and one-to-one mentoring. A team of teaching staff deliver a personal development programme through timetabled tutorial sessions covering study skills, personal finance, health and relationships as well as post-18 career options.

An experienced pastoral team oversee the year groups (Year 12 and Year 13) and undertake academic mentoring and monitor progress.

We closely monitor their progress during Year 12 and, if it looks like they are not making the expected levels of progress, we will talk to them and their parents/carers. We will investigate whether they need additional academic or pastoral support, as well as ensuring that they have chosen a course that is right for them.

Beyond the system of tutors there is an extensive Sixth Form team:

Mr Naylor, Head of Sixth Form

Mr Naylor has a wealth of experience in post-16 education. He currently supports students in making the important move into Year 13 and preparation for final exams. He coordinates and leads the UCAS process, overseeing applications, managing personal statements and finalising references. He further supports students with interview guidance and technique, provides academic mentoring in the run up to exams and offers advice about student finance. He is also an accredited Apprenticeship Champion.

Ms Warren, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Ms Warren currently works with our students making the transition from GCSE to A-level studies, especially Year 12 students new to Silverdale Sixth Form. She supports them in becoming independent learners and liaises closely with subject departments, students and home to ensure students receive the appropriate support and intervention they require, when they require it.

Mrs Mountain, Key Stage 5 Pastoral Manager

Mrs Mountain provides both support to students and staff. She provides important social and wellbeing care to students in Sixth Form. Mrs Mountain also oversees the 16-19 bursary.

Mrs Bird, Key Stage 5 Administration Assistant

Mrs Bird ensures that the valuable qualities of punctuality and attendance, essential to Sixth Form success, are followed.

SEND and Inclusion team

Silverdale prides itself on having a strong inclusion team, who work extremely hard to ensure that all students can access their education and feel included within our organisation. This includes mental health support from a dedicated social, emotional and mental health support co-ordinator who will work with the Sixth Form team.

Our team of professionals also provides rigorous support and advice on safeguarding, inclusion, dyslexia and literacy, autism and communication, behaviour and engagement. We also have an onsite Deaf and Hearing Impaired Integrated Resource.

“A team of teaching staff deliver a personal development programme covering study skills, personal finance, health and relationships as well as post-18 careers options.”



At Silverdale School Sixth Form we support academic and individual aspiration for all students.

We encourage all students to view university as an ambition to follow and provide an array of opportunities to assist students in fulfilling this.

In the summer term all Y12 students undertake a full day at at Sheffield Hallam or University of Nottingham.

Sheffield Hallam University
Knowledge Applied



We are most fortunate to have a strong association with **Sheffield Hallam University**, which has been named the UK University of the Year for teaching quality in the Sunday Times Good University Guide. In the summer term our entire Year 12 cohort undertake a full day at a local university (Sheffield Hallam or Nottingham). This allows us access to university experiences for our students focused on course choice, career aspiration, apprenticeships and preparing for university life.

We work in partnership with the **University of Sheffield** through their *Discover* outreach programme. This provides our students with a wonderful range of experiences in dentistry, medicine, engineering, law and humanities subjects.

As a school we encourage all students irrespective of social or economic background and we are passionate in our belief that education is a chief means of achieving social mobility. To this end we work with the Social Mobility Foundation and the Sutton Trust to ensure our able students from disadvantaged backgrounds have equal access to the opportunities available, including residential courses with

major employers and mentoring from Year 12 until university graduation. Through this work students from Silverdale Sixth Form have gone on to become the first generation in their family to achieve degrees and post graduate employment.

With attainment and progress at Silverdale Sixth Form being amongst the highest nationally we also focus aspiration to the highest national level. To support this aim we run Oxbridge and Russell Group sessions within school as well as attending the Sheffield Oxbridge Conference each year. Furthermore, we are a member of the Villiers Park Educational Trust *Inspiring Excellence Programme* allowing our most able students to take part in subject specific residential courses run by leading experts in the field. The courses have helped our students to enhance their skills and knowledge in a chosen subject and extend their higher education and career goals.

Social Mobility Foundation



With attainment and progress at Silverdale Sixth Form being amongst the highest nationally, we also focus aspiration to the highest national level.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Silverdale Sixth Form we passionately believe that a broad and balanced curriculum is important in the development of young minds and bodies. It enhances our students' experience in class, develops lifelong skills and provides the essential qualities that set our students apart when applying for

university, apprenticeships or employment. To this end, alongside our A-level and academic programmes we offer a wide variety of enrichment options which take place each week. These include:

Hospital volunteering and work experience

Providing students with the real life career experiences in their chosen career path to support application to university or onto apprenticeships.

Future Learn MOOCs

Free online courses which allow students to take a specific aspect of a subject or skill and study this in more detail with resources and support from some of the most prestigious universities and professionals worldwide.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

An independent piece of research on a topic or areas of most interest to the student, allowing them to demonstrate some of the attributes most sought after in higher education and employment.

School based sessions

We run programmes where students put something back into the school: paired reading with Y7 students, mentoring Y10 and Y11 students, contributing to digital media and school communications, or volunteering in Learning Support and the Hearing Impaired Integrated Resource.

Students can also take on additional studies, such as Core Maths.

Students can also complete First Aid and British Sign Language courses, join the Maths Academy at Sheffield University, undertake work experience, complete fitness challenges or learn new skills such as digital photography or Photoshop.

Home languages

We aim to support students who are bilingual or multilingual in gaining accreditation in their home languages. Students can take GCSE or A-level exams in a number of languages, such as Urdu, Persian, Japanese, Polish, Tamil, Mandarin Chinese.

Student societies and other activities

As well as our enrichment programme numerous extracurricular activities take place including sports clubs, academic clubs and the debating society. Alongside this our students have a vibrant social society led by the Head Student Team, who organise events, charity fundraising and the most anticipated celebration of the year – Year 13 Prom, where students and staff come together to celebrate the achievement of students over their two years in our Sixth Form.

Leadership skills are demonstrated by our students through the Head Student Team, who work together to help provide student involvement and participation within the school. They are actively involved in school open evenings, making the student voice heard and co-ordinating the School Council. Further opportunities to lead and be involved in the wider school community are afforded by the opportunity for Sixth Form students to become paid lunchtime supervisors, providing the positive role models for students in Years 7 to 11 at social times and school events.



“Alongside our A-level and academic programmes we offer a wide variety of over 15 enrichment options which take place on a Wednesday afternoon each week.”



Friendly and welcoming

Whilst students from schools within our Trust are given priority access to our Sixth Form, we still take in a large number of students from other schools in the region. But, wherever you come from, you will soon find that you settle in and feel part of Silverdale Sixth Form.

Our current students say it was one of the first things they highlighted about their experience with us: “After a few weeks you just forgot who was from which school originally because it’s such a friendly place”.

Getting here

Regular buses run from the city centre to local bus stops, which take just over 30 minutes in rush hour, and just over 20 minutes the rest of the day.

Extra curricular activities

As explained in the previous section, ‘Beyond the classroom’, there are many activities taking place in Silverdale Sixth Form.

If you have a passion or interest you’d like to pursue then we encourage you to work with other students to set up a club or activity.

Throughout the year there are also numerous trips and visits that you can get involved in. In previous years, some of our students went to Peru on a World Challenge expedition – an experience that always proves life-changing, as well as being an impressive addition to a CV.

The purpose-built Sixth Form centre, opened in September 2023, offers Silverdale Sixth Formers a state of the art study facility.





STUDENT LIFE

Understanding the worlds of work and university

As well as studying, Sixth Form is a time when you decide on the next, important steps in your life. That's why we run lots of activities to help inform your decisions. We have extremely close links with both the universities in Sheffield and frequently send students to events such as a mock trial and philosophy taster days.

You can find out more about our support for higher education applications in the *Preparing for university and careers* section on page 15.



Photos above, below and at top of page: Year 13 Prom.



Social life

Sixth Form is a great time to make new friends. Our students organise a variety of social activities for everyone, including the end of Year 13 Prom – which provides a fantastic, memorable end to your two years with us. Our Sixth Form was the first in Sheffield to have its own LGBT+ group.



Manage your own time

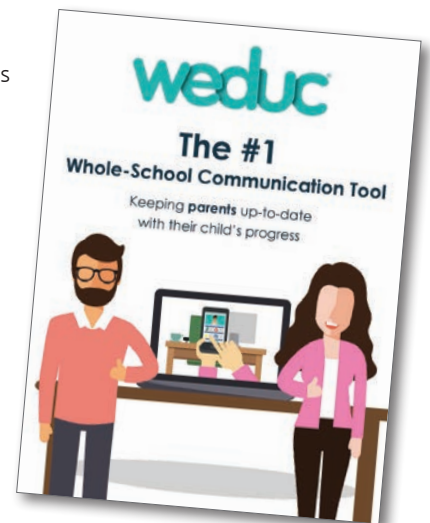
Sixth Form is an opportunity to work more independently, as you prepare for university or starting work. So we expect our students to take responsibility for managing their own time.

We expect you to use any time when you don't have scheduled lessons as study time—but this can take place in the Sixth Form, in the library, at home or at a suitable location elsewhere.

Of course we do all we can to support you as you transition to this new way of working and, if you face any problems, our team will do all they can to help you.

A communications app to keep in touch with Sixth Form

Parents can keep in touch with the latest news from school via our communications app, Weduc. It also provides a full timetable for students, lists all their teachers and provides a calendar and messaging service.



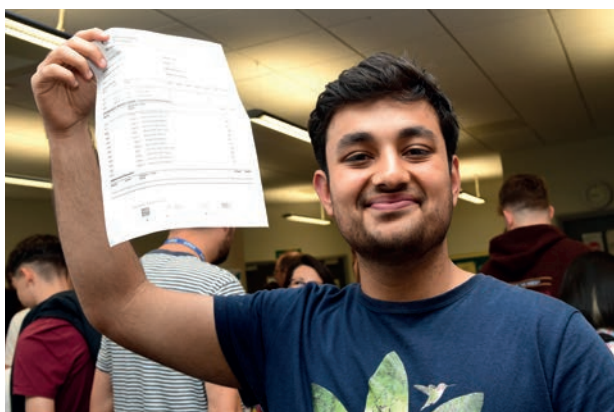


DESTINATIONS



Each year we celebrate the success of students through awards and events, but this success is nowhere more apparent than in the destinations of our students. Every year all of our students from Year 13 leave Silverdale to take up a university place, a further education course, a degree apprenticeship, gap year or job. A significant number of former students now attend both Oxford and Cambridge universities.

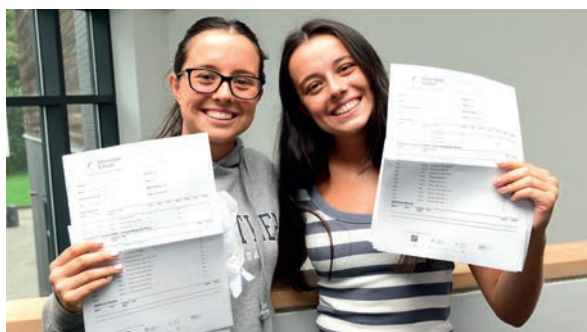
Our students celebrating their results in 2023.



Universities and courses

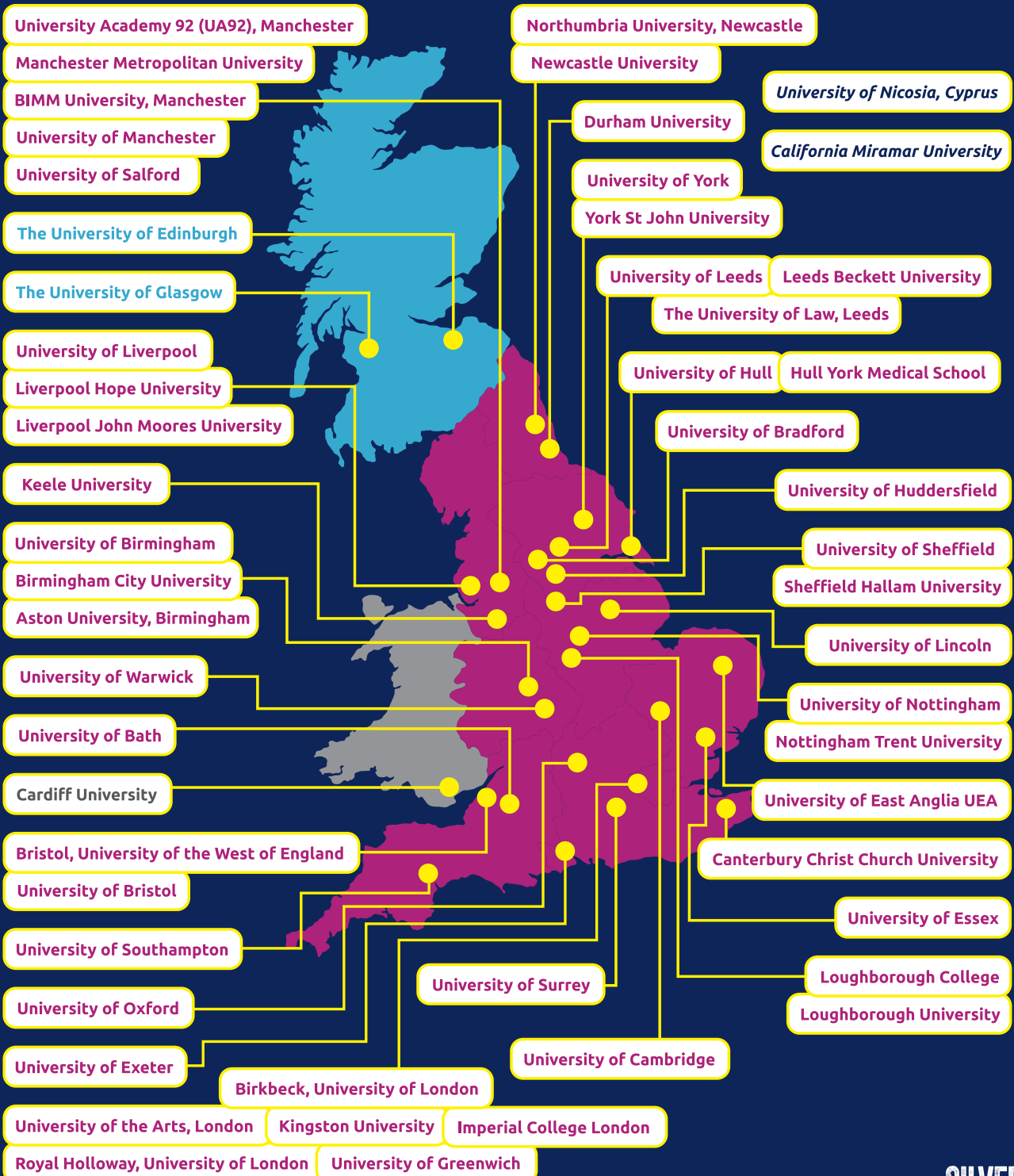
In 2023:

- 96% of our students secured university places, with 84% placed in their first choice.
- 60% of our students who went on to higher education, gained places at Russell Group Universities.
- 6 students went to Oxbridge.
- 15 students have gone on to study medicine, 2 dentistry and 1 veterinary science.
- Students have secured competitive apprenticeships in accountancy, quantity surveying, business management and engineering.
- One student has obtained a scholarship at California's Miramar University.





UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2023





PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS

Ensuring that our students are prepared for the next, important stage in their lives is of the utmost importance to us. So we work extremely hard to ensure you start thinking about your choices once you join us.

“Ensuring that our students are prepared for the next, important stage in their lives is of the utmost importance to us.”

This process starts with discussions in tutor groups about possible career paths, when we encourage students to ‘long-list’ their possible options.

The work is supported by visiting speakers who inform students about issues such as student finance, gap years, career paths, degree apprenticeships, CVs and interviews. We also organise visits to higher education and careers conferences.

Focused support is given to potential applicants to Oxbridge and to competitive courses such as medicine and law.

We encourage Year 12 students to be pro-active over their summer break in researching courses, degree apprenticeships and possible career routes. It is vital that all of our students (regardless of their post-18 choices) return to school with a draft of a personal statement so that



we can work with them to build up a strong CV and/or UCAS application.

When students return in Year 13, their tutor will take a particular interest in their personal progress and welfare, and will help them to manage the transition to university, higher level degree apprenticeships or the world of work.

Along with our post-18 careers specialist advisor, our tutors will provide the advice and guidance needed to decide on future career paths, both in taught tutorial sessions and in individual interviews. They help students to complete their applications to higher education or employment. They will also write references for their students using the academic references provided by subject teachers as guidance.

Once students have completed their applications we will provide interview practice should students require it. As they receive replies from universities via UCAS both tutors and the Sixth Form team will continue to support students in making decisions.

On results day the Sixth Form team, along with our post-18 careers specialist advisor, will be available to help students with any issues that arise and can advise on alternative routes if needed.

“When students return in Year 13, their tutor will take a particular interest in their personal progress and welfare, and will help them to manage the transition to university, higher level degree apprenticeships or the world of work.”



BURSARY

At Silverdale Sixth Form, there is an opportunity for students to receive financial support to contribute towards their studies.

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is money from the government to provide for students who need financial help to stay in education.



There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

1. A discretionary bursary for young people on free school meals or with a household income below £17,005.
2. A vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the following groups:
 - In care.
 - Care leaver.
 - Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit.
 - Receiving Employment Support Allowance.
 - Receiving Disability Living Allowance.

Students are advised to apply for the bursary at the start of term in September, as the funding is limited. Applications can be made throughout the year if their household circumstances change; however, it is not guaranteed there will be sufficient funds. Please note that funding is not backdated and commences from the point of the application being successful. Application is via an online form.

“The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is money from the government to provide for students who need financial help to stay in education.”





APPLYING TO SILVERDALE SIXTH FORM

We have a growing number of applications, both from within Year 11 at Silverdale and from schools across the Sheffield City Region and north-east Derbyshire.

Application timetable

Applications are welcomed following our Open Evening. You can apply any time from then until the end of January 2024.

Open Evening

This is being held on **Thursday 23 November 2023**.

It will be a great chance to have your questions answered, as well as hear from our Sixth Form team.



Our teachers have also created some videos, explaining more about their subject, which you can view at www.silverdale.chorustrust.org/joinoursixthform.

Entry criteria

Students who meet the entry criteria of 5 subjects at grades 4 to 9, including English and maths and the individual subject entry requirements as stipulated in this prospectus will be offered a place at Silverdale Sixth Form.

If students do not meet the entry requirements for a course they have applied for, they will be offered alternatives. We cannot guarantee that a student will gain a place on their original course, if they do subsequently achieve the grade to study the subject in their GCSE exam in the summer. We operate a waiting list process once the maximum number for a course is reached.

Students who are predicted to meet the general minimum requirement of 5 subjects at grade 4 to 9 (plus any subject specific entry requirements) and who attend a school within Chorus Education Trust will get priority over other non-Silverdale/Chorus students.

Other criteria for priority treatment can apply (such as students in care; students facing exceptional circumstances, such as illness) and are detailed in Sheffield City Council's *A Guide for Parents: Transfer to Secondary School* guidance. In the event of there being insufficient places for students from other schools the tiebreaker would be straight line distance between home and Silverdale School as stipulated in the Sheffield City Council guidance.

Apply online

You can apply online via Sheffield Progress at: www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

Please note that all courses are subject to change, depending on the number of students who apply and the availability of teaching staff.



OPTION BLOCKS

Students should pick courses from separate blocks. On the whole, students should choose three subjects. However, students with an grade average of 7+ can opt to study four subjects.

Blue	Red	Green	Yellow
Applied Science	Biology	Biology	Biology
Art	Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry
Biology	Computer Science	Drama	Economics
Chemistry	Economics	Further Maths & Maths	English Literature
English Language	English Literature	Geography	French
History	Music	Health & Social Care	Media Studies
Maths	Physical Education	History	Physics
Psychology	Physics	Maths	Psychology
Sociology	Psychology	Psychology	Religious Studies
	Spanish	Sociology	

Watch our video about life in our Sixth Form

View at: www.silverdale.chorustrust.org/joinoursixthform





OUR

COURSES



APPLIED SCIENCE

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE | PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM BOARD

An exploration of applied science

This course is aimed at students who want to continue to study all three sciences: biology, chemistry and physics.

The course is assessed using a mixture of coursework and examination and there is a large focus on practical skills. It is a vocational course that links directly to scientific careers e.g. healthcare, lab work, environmental science etc. It's also suitable for students who aim to progress to higher education and is equivalent in size to one A-level.

The course

Unit 1 – Principles and applications of science

- Chemistry - Periodicity and properties of elements
- Biology – Structure and function of cells and tissues
- Physics – Waves in communication

Unit 2 – Practical scientific procedures and techniques

- Undertake titration and colorimetry to determine the concentration of solutions
- Undertake calorimetry to study cooling curves
- Undertake chromatographic techniques to identify components in mixtures
- Review personal development of scientific skills for laboratory work

Unit 3 – Science investigation skills

- Planning a scientific investigation
- Data collection, processing and analysis/interpretation
- Drawing conclusions and evaluation
- Enzymes in action
- Diffusion of molecules
- Plants and their environment
- Energy content of fuels
- Electrical circuits

Unit 8 - Physiology of human body systems

Beyond the classroom

The Science Department is very active, running numerous clubs and activities for students across all years.

Progression

Paired with another subject such as maths, PE, health & social care or geography, students completing the BTEC Applied Science course can go on to study courses in engineering, sports psychology, nursing and environmental science at university to name a few.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths and Grade 5 or above in all three GCSE Science subjects or a 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science.

The course is equivalent of one A-level.





ART AND DESIGN (FINE ART)

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Success, creativity and a range of techniques

The Art Department offers an exciting, broad, and diverse A-level experience. Students can work on canvas, create large scale prints, etchings and paintings, explore mixed medias, photography and film and use fabric and sewing in their work, coupled with the opportunity to make large scale sculpture and installations. There are very few avenues we won't explore! These diverse opportunities and our knowledgeable staff who have expertise in fine art, ceramics, sculpture, installation art, textiles, jewellery design and photography - mean that students do well, and often go on to study in a creative environment. Students have the opportunity to undertake workshops and experiment with wider ranges of materials, techniques and processes at the beginning of the course, which gives them confidence in their own creative processes and more willing to take risks with their own aesthetic.

The course

The first year of the course is a mixture of small projects and skills workshops. Students spend this important time developing their practice. They explore what it means to be an artist and how to develop their work and explore a huge variety of techniques, materials and processes that help them discover their strengths and interests. We take students to life drawing classes at Sheffield Hallam University and there are opportunities to talk to and work with practising artists, throughout the course.

At the end of the first year and into the second year, students work on the personal investigation project, a project that is student driven and where they will work independently to develop their ideas and creative vision. This project will make up 60% of the overall grade and will consist of an in-depth and personal portfolio of work that includes a written element of between 1,000-3,000 words.

Beyond the classroom

Varied outside learning experiences are part of the course, including visits to Sheffield Hallam University where students experience life drawings and exhibition openings; sketch crawls in both the Peak District and

Sheffield city centre, during which students draw, take photographs, and observe the contrasting environments; and a residential trip, previously visiting London and next academic year we plan to visit Paris. Students will immerse themselves in the historical city of art, visiting the Louvre, Pompidou Centre, Musée d'Orsay and Eiffel Tower to enable them to appreciate the diversity of this culture. The impact of these experiences is evident in the way students' work becomes more personalised.

Progression

There are many opportunities for students who have studied Art A-level, with many universities seeing a creative subject as the key to giving students a strong foundation for problem-solving skills and creativity. Increasingly, students' art portfolios are warmly received for careers in subjects like engineering, science or medicine.

Almost all universities accept art as an A-level for UCAS applications, and the portfolio of work is a welcome addition at interview to show a range of skills and strengths of the candidate. Many of our students go on to study art foundation courses that lead to university courses in fashion, textiles, architecture, fine art, sculpture, set design, game design, graphics, 3D design and ceramics, marketing, PR, business and medicine. An art A-level can lead to a career in the creative industries like festivals, curating, publishing, TV and radio.

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 or above in any of the GCSE Art and Design specifications (including 3D Design, Clay, Photography and Fine Art).

“Our elephant, which now lives in Silverdale's reception area, was displayed in the Crucible theatre as part of Sheffield's 'Herd' project.”





BIOLOGY

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Hands-on lessons taught by subject specialists

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

We have excellent practical resources and technical support, allowing teachers to incorporate practical work into lessons whenever possible—well beyond the 'required practicals' of the curriculum.

With extremely strong results over the past decade our Biology Department brings a passion and commitment that evokes very positive feedback from students. Our teaching staff are specialists in biology, aiming to inspire all students to enjoy their subject and achieve their best, regardless of ability. High quality marking, feedback, exam preparation and planning next steps all support students' progress.

The course

Students will learn about:

- biological molecules.
- cells.
- how organisms exchange substances with their environment.
- genetic information.
- variation.
- relationships between organisms.
- energy transfers in and between organisms.
- how organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Intermediate Biology and Biology Olympiad competition.

- Science Week—wide range of speakers, competitions and events.
- 'Science in the news' club.
- STEM Challenge events.
- 'Student of the half term'—rewards system to recognise and celebrate achievements and progress of all students.
- High quality textbooks available to students to help with independent work.
- One day of field work.

Progression

Our students progress onto a very broad range of science related courses at universities across the country. Students apply for university courses leading to careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, natural sciences, psychology, nursing, midwifery, biomedical science, physiotherapy and research. Some go on to non-science related courses and careers such as law where their achievements in science have served to develop skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths, Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or Grade 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science.

“High quality marking, feedback, exam preparation and planning next steps all support students' progress.”





CHEMISTRY

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Hands-on lessons taught by subject specialists

Chemistry touches every aspect of our lives from the bodily functions within us to the atmosphere around us. This course is for students who want to understand this and the physical universe better. With extremely strong results over the past decade, our Chemistry Department brings a passion and commitment that evokes very positive feedback from students.

Our teaching staff are specialists in chemistry, aiming to inspire all students to enjoy the subject and achieve their best, regardless of ability. High quality marking, feedback, exam preparation and planning next steps all support students' progress.

We have excellent practical resources and technical support, allowing teachers to incorporate practical work into lessons whenever possible—well beyond the 'required practicals' of the curriculum.

The course

Physical chemistry is the study of the physical structure of chemical compounds. Students will explore how chemicals react with one another and the bonds that hold them together. Physical chemistry is used in everyday life whether that's baking or in medicinal fields.

Inorganic chemistry is concerned with the properties and behaviour of inorganic compounds, which include metals, minerals, and organometallic compounds. Typically, an inorganic compound is a chemical compound that lacks carbon-hydrogen bonds. Inorganic chemistry is used to study and develop catalysts, coatings, fuels, surfactants, materials, superconductors, and medicines.

Organic chemistry is a branch of chemistry that studies the structure, properties and reactions of organic compounds, which contain carbon in covalent bonding. These structurally diverse compounds vary from naturally occurring petroleum fuels to DNA and the molecules in living systems. Many of

these compounds are used as drugs, medicines and plastics.

There is a broad range of sectors for employment within organic chemistry including, industry, healthcare and research.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Science Week—wide range of speakers, competitions and events.
- Royal Society science writing book judging panel.
- Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' annual competition.
- Sixth Form Journal Club.
- STEM Challenge events.
- Visit to the Big-Bang' Fair.
- 'Student of the half term' – rewards system to recognise and celebrate achievements and progress of all students.
- High quality textbooks loaned to students to help with independent work.

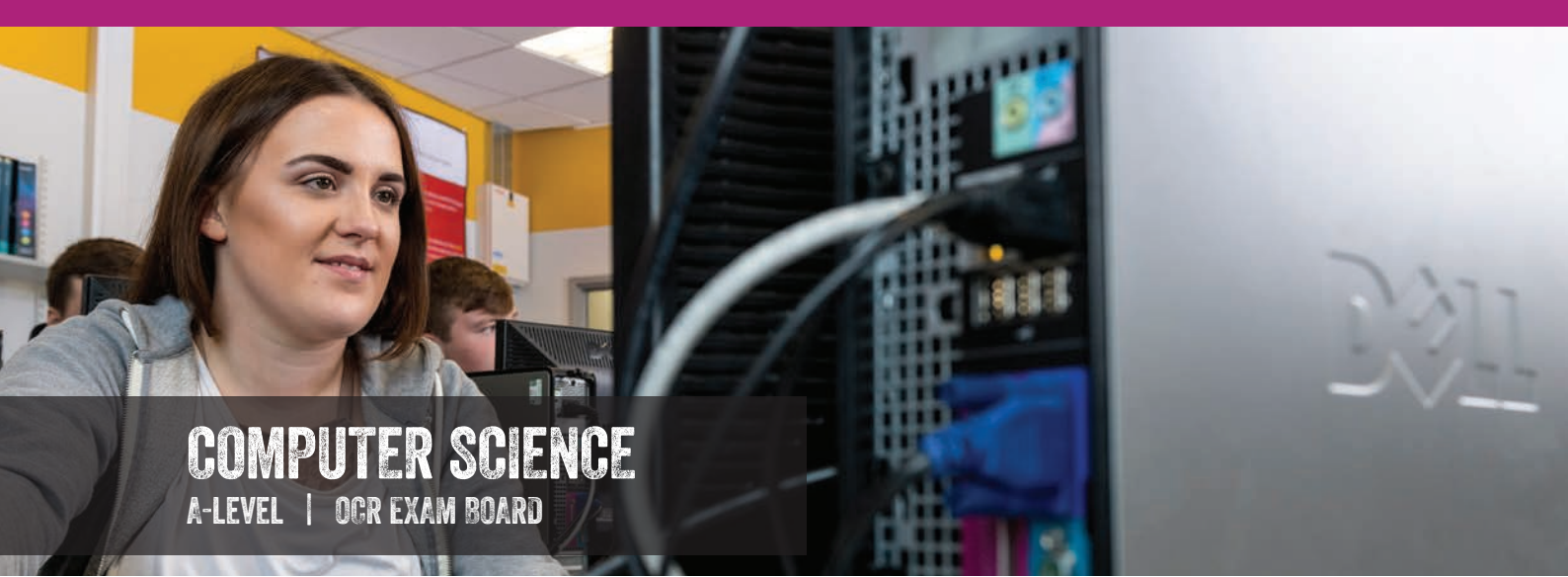
Progression

After A-level, students could go on to study chemistry at university which could then lead to a career as: analytical, formulation, medicinal or process chemist, biotechnologist, chemical engineer, environmental, food technologist, geochemical engineer, nanotechnologist, pharmacologist, science writer, scientific laboratory technician, teacher, toxicologist. These job roles stretch across multiple industries and can involve working on some ground-breaking areas of science and technology.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science.

“Our teaching staff are specialists in their area, aiming to inspire students to enjoy their subject.”





COMPUTER SCIENCE

A-LEVEL | OCR EXAM BOARD

Look at the natural world through a digital prism

A-level Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems.

Computer Science splits learning into three sections: computer fundamentals, programming techniques and logical methods, and a programming project. It provides the perfect springboard for students looking at specialising in a computing-based career. Within the course, students study a range of theory topics, which include the principles and understanding linked to programming, topics such as hardware and software, networks, systems development life cycles and implications of computer use.

The course values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

The course

The course includes:

- Characteristics of contemporary systems architecture: operating systems.
- Software and software development: introduction to programming.
- Exchanging data: databases, networks and web technologies.
- Data types, representation and structures: using Boolean algebra.
- Legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues: computing-related laws.
- Elements of computational thinking: understanding computational thinking.
- Problem solving and programming: programming techniques, software development methodologies.
- Algorithms: analysis and design.

Mathematical skills are embedded throughout the content of the three components. They will be assessed in the written papers and through the non-examined assessment where appropriate.

Beyond the classroom

Our Computer Science department has friendly, supportive staff who run extra-curricular activities such as Coding Club and the Digital Ambassadors scheme. We are also constantly developing links with local businesses.

Progression

Following successful completion of this course, there are many routes which can be followed. University, employment and level 4 higher apprenticeships are the main options but each one has a wide range of potential options. Typical career paths can include:

- Application analyst.
- Applications developer.
- Cyber security analyst.
- Data analyst.
- Database administrator.
- Forensic computer analyst.
- Game designer.
- Games developer.
- Information systems manager.
- IT consultant.
- Software engineer.
- Systems analyst.
- UX designer.
- Web designer.
- Web developer.

This course will give you a deeper understanding and allow you to gain valuable knowledge and explore potential career choices.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Computer Science and Grade 5 or above in Maths. If Computer Science GCSE has not been studied, students should have an interest or experience in programming.

“It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement.”



DRAMA AND THEATRE

A-LEVEL | PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM BOARD



An in-depth exploration of theatre

This course involves the study of theatre with a clear focus on practitioners and understanding the different mediums found within the theatre – from acting to design realisation.

The course also allows students to workshop and meet artists in industry.

The course

Students will develop either their performance or design skills, and further advance their skills of analysis, as they are encouraged to think critically about theatre and interpreting life itself. Students learn how to analyse play texts, both historical and contemporary, whilst incorporating practitioners' styles and methods. Equally, they will develop their written word through in-depth critical comment on live theatre.

Components one and two explore a theatre practitioner in depth and apply this knowledge to the different texts being studied. This is a fantastic insight into contemporary theatre and develops each individual's understanding, creativity and ability to analyse and evaluate their own response to professional works.

In examination students will be asked to respond to live theatre performances they have seen and extracts from studied texts. This involves skills of both critical evaluation and reimagining the extract for performance from the perspective of a performer and a designer. They will also have the opportunity to demonstrate how the work of their chosen theatre practitioner has influenced their overall production concept and demonstrate an awareness of the performance text in its original performance conditions.

Assessment is split as follows:

• Devising (40%)

Split between: *portfolio* (60 marks) and *realisation performance/design* (20 marks).

• Text in performance (20%)

Split between: *group performance/design realisation* (36 marks) and *monologue or duologue/design realisation* (24 marks).

• Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

Split between: *live theatre evaluation* (20 marks); *page to stage - realising a performance text* (36 marks); and *interpreting a performance text* (24 marks).

Beyond the classroom

Our performing arts department is very active. There are regular performances and shows throughout the year – both inside the school and within the wider city. We have good links with Sheffield Theatres (where some students have had work experience) and other theatre groups, with many students taking part in performances outside of school time. Students can also take part in clubs within school, or take on a leadership role working with lower school students. There are regular trips organised to local theatres, where students are encouraged to sign up for the discounted membership cards.

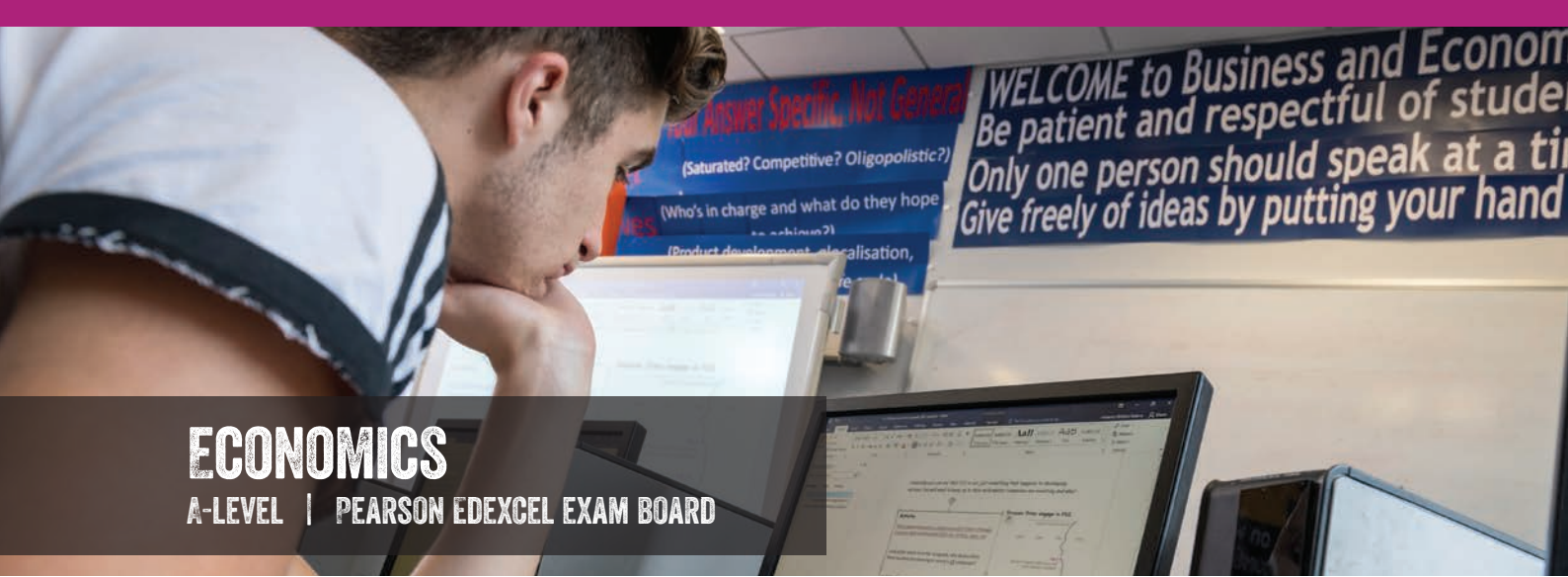
Progression

The qualification is a perfect accompaniment for students wanting to go on to any further education it obviously significantly supports the arts and the study of law and media. However it is supported as a gateway subject to any higher education subject at all redbrick universities regard its merit therefore, if this is your strongest subject it should be a definite yes for study at A level. Stage and screen is a multibillion industry of the arts in the UK therefore this is a step in the right direction.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

“The course allows students to workshop and meet artists in the industry.”





ECONOMICS

A-LEVEL | PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM BOARD

A subject that prepares you for life

Studying business prepares everyone for future life. Ultimately all students will be involved with the world of business - as a consumer, an entrepreneur or an employee.

The course, officially titled 'Economics B' is taught by three subject specialists who have over 50 years' teaching experience between them, plus experience in the commercial world. We pride ourselves on getting students to reach beyond their initial aspirations.

We work exceptionally hard as a team to ensure the best outcomes and have strong relationships with students, who often stay in touch long after their education at Silverdale Sixth Form has finished.

The overall aim of this course is to help you build knowledge of business and economic concepts and apply them to different business situations and economic environments. The course will help students demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies and make informed judgements about the role of economics and business in society.

The course

The course takes economic theory and asks student to apply this to business world.

Theme 1: Markets, consumers and firms

- Scarcity, choice and potential conflicts.
- Enterprise, business and the economy.
- Market failure and government intervention.

Theme 2: The wider economic environment

- Business growth and competitive advantage.
- Life in a global economy.
- Introduction to macroeconomic policy.

Theme 3: The global economy

- Economic factors in business expansion.
- Impact of globalisation on global companies.
- Inequality and redistribution.

Theme 4: Making markets work

- Competition and market power.
- Macroeconomic policies and impact on firms

and individuals.

- Risk and the financial sector.

We attract around 50% of students who have never studied GCSE Business or Economics; as a result lessons are differentiated, catering for those who have some prior knowledge and for those who have none.

We teach active lessons designed to engage students whilst building crucial skills such as evaluation and analysis for their examination. We encourage reading around the subject and an active interest in our dynamic subject to ensure that the perspective you bring to answers is fully rounded. We also have a Twitter page: @SilverdaleEcon.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Visiting JCB to investigate lean production.
- Visiting speakers from The Bank of England, WASE, British Business Bank, The Ordinary and ARF Football.

Progression

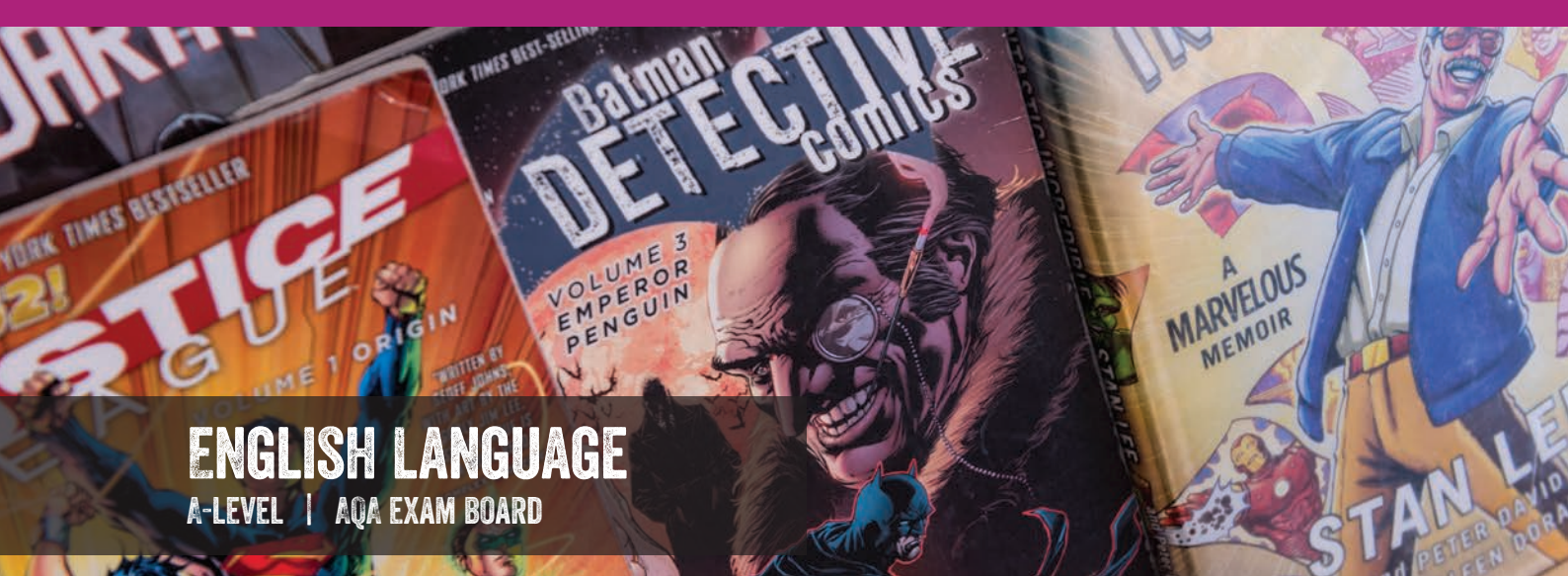
Many students have used their skills to work in a variety of careers linked to Business and Economics and beyond – from finance to marketing, sales to law, banking to setting up their own business.

Alumni include the CEO of *Deciem*, an Investment Banker at *Morgan Stanley*, owners of *5 Rivers café* in Broomhill, the MD of *Resolve IT Solutions*, the Marketing Manager at *HD Sports Sheffield*, as well as teachers, accountants, and postgraduate academics.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths.

“Our student survey showed that 93% of students really enjoy studying Economics with us.”





ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

A fascinating exploration of language in our society

In this course we will study English both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right. Using a multitude of texts, we will consider the roots of English, explore theories about its influence on our attitudes, and evaluate different views of its power and usage – both positive and negative!

There are no set texts to study and students are encouraged to apply skills learned in lessons to everyday material but we ask students all to have a copy of the Language Handbook (Clayton, D. 2018. (2nd ed.) London: English & Media Centre.)

Language is more than a tool for communication, it shapes our thoughts and in doing so it shapes our world.

The course

We study the way groups such as young people, those with ethnic backgrounds and those with a disability are represented in the media. To do so, we will use key theories of language to better understand how and why language can influence society's attitudes towards these groups.

We will also explore how children learn to speak, read and write language and debate how education and society affects children's development and social status.

Skills developed include writing for a non-specialist audience, discursive essay writing, detailed analysis and evaluation of data, and applying a variety of theories and concepts to answers confidently.

Students will sit two exam papers at the end of Year 13 which together make up 80% of the grade. The non-examined component (worth 20%) is an independent language investigation and a piece of original writing. Past examples include:

- Does gender affect the language used in social network posts.

- The language of a specific social group.
- How is language used by a political group?
- How a child with autism communicates with close family members.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- A debating club.
- Public speaking competitions.
- Trips to the theatre and cinema.
- Support for entering students into national creative writing competitions.

Progression

An English A-level is a valuable asset when applying to university or to potential employers. It shows that you have good communication skills, and that you are able to persuade, inform or connect with someone. It can lead to a higher or further education course in English or communications, as well as careers in journalism, teaching, the media, public relations, marketing, broadcasting, linguistics and law. It is a useful qualification for all courses, developing analytical skills and providing evidence of the ability to use language successfully.

“We want all pupils to be skilled and fluent communicators, adept in reading, writing, speaking and listening.”



Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

An exploration of great literature

The study of great literature is nothing less than entering into a conversation with the finest minds in human history! If you enjoy reading and like discussing big ideas and the ways they are presented by great authors, then this is the course for you.

The course

Over the two years we will look at classic drama, poetry and prose fiction. As well as studying texts closely with your teachers in class, students will have the opportunity to encounter extracts and whole texts independently and in a variety of creative and stimulating ways.

The selected areas that we cover are tragedy and elements of social and political protest. The taught texts include King Lear, Songs of Innocence and Experience, The Great Gatsby and The Kite Runner.

Continuous assessment will be used to inform the students progression in both years. All content from both years of the course will be examined by two 2 hour exam papers in June of the second year of study. The two exams at the end of Year 13 make up 80% of the final grade. The non-examined component (coursework) worth 20% of marks asks students to write two critical essays on texts of their choice. This area of the course provides a challenging and wide-ranging opportunity for an introduction to different ways of reading texts and for independent study.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- A debating club.
- Public speaking competitions.

- Trips to the theatre and cinema.
- Support for entering students into national creative writing competitions.

Progression

An English A-level is a valuable asset when applying to university or to potential employers. It shows that you can analyse and interpret sophisticated and complex language and ideas and also construct a coherent line of thinking based on your point of view and supported by textual evidence. It can lead to a higher or further education course in English or communications, as well as careers in journalism, teaching, the media, public relations, marketing, broadcasting and law. It is a useful qualification for all courses, developing analytical skills and providing evidence of the ability to use language successfully.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

“Enter into a conversation with the finest minds in human history!”



FRENCH

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Learn French in a specialist language setting

The Languages Department at Silverdale has a proud history: the school was originally a specialist language college and our Teaching Hub runs the only national teacher-training course in modern languages in the UK.

We aim to develop skills and confidence in four key areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Our teachers are very experienced and enthusiastic, using a wide range of activities and strategies to help students enjoy learning foreign languages. We have a French language assistant who gives each A-level student conversation classes in small groups to develop their speaking and fluency. Authentic resources and the use of the foreign language in lessons are a key part of language teaching at Silverdale. We offer an amazing trip to Nice, France to enhance your language learning experience.

The department is based in six classrooms, all of which have interactive whiteboards, and a language lab. We have excellent online textbooks and a range of support material. We guide students in choosing films, websites and podcasts of interest and have DVDs and books available to borrow. In addition, we subscribe to a number of excellent language websites and use a wide range of interactive resources which students can access at home.

The course

Students follow the AQA specification, which covers a wide range of topics, e.g. social issues and trends, aspects of French-speaking society, multiculturalism, political and artistic culture, as well as aspects of political life in the French-speaking world.

In the first year of A-level students will study a film, and in the second year they will also study a book.

All students will complete an internal transition exam at the end of Year 12.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Communicating with penpals from the Lycée Masséna
- Year 12 study visit to Nice, France
- Visits to local universities

Progression

The government has recognised that there is a modern languages skills gap. Choosing to study a language at degree level is a significant way of boosting your employability.

Besides the traditional paths of interpreting, translating and teaching, students with language skills are in demand. These skills can be used in almost any career, particularly in businesses that trade internationally. There are also opportunities to work for the diplomatic service.

There are many degree courses in languages but you could also choose to combine French with a new language or a subject from a different area, such as politics, music or engineering. Students often study French alongside two sciences to follow a career in medicine.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

Silverdale leads the way in languages, having been chosen to train modern languages teachers nationally.





GEOGRAPHY

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Understanding and improvement

Geography is about understanding the world we live in with the aim of improving the way we use it. We aim to understand the physical processes which shape and create our wonderful world. We want to understand how we use and shape our landscape and the impact this has on us and different people around the world. We can use this understanding to plan, or modify our future use of the environment in a sustainable way which ensures people have the highest possible quality of life. The course covers a very wide range of content, which is examined in considerable detail to develop a real depth of knowledge and understanding. The first year tends to focus on smaller scale often more localised issues which influence our lives. The second year tends to have a more global outlook addressing some of the big and thorny questions of today.

The course

Physical geography

- Natural hazards.
- Cold environments.
- The water and carbon cycle.

Human geography

- Changing places.
- Global governance and global systems.
- Contemporary urban environments.

Geography fieldwork investigation (non examined assessment)

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Year 12 residential trip to the Lake District to investigate a glaciated landscape and develop fieldwork skills. Includes work in Keswick and Kelham Island, Sheffield.
- Year 12 coursework pilot study–data collection in Sheffield.

- 2016 winners of the Yorkshire & Humberside Shell Bright Ideas competition.
- Involved with the University of Sheffield ITT students, who have placements at Silverdale and organise activities, such as field workdays.
- Lectures at the University of Sheffield.
- Students are encouraged to attend the local branches of the Geography Association and the Royal Geographical Society.

Progression

Geography A-level is an enabling subject facilitating access to the Russell Group of universities. At degree level geography is an extremely diverse subject, including many things not offered in a school curriculum. Geography fits well with a range of other subjects for joint honours degrees, especially a language.

There are many other potential courses and careers which may follow on from Geography A-level. For example, law, journalism, teaching and lecturing, local and national government, travel and tourism, resource (heritage and landscape) management, conservation, overseas development and environmental services.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography.

“This is the only Sixth Form where you can get an ‘I Love Geography’ hoodie!”





HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE | PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM BOARD

Learn about the health and social care sector

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care aims to provide an introduction to the sector. It is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is equivalent in size to one A-level.

The course

The following are mandatory topics relevant across the health and social care sector:

- **Human lifespan development (externally assessed by exam):** students cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.
- **Working in health and social care (externally assessed by exam):** students explore what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.
- **Meeting individual care and support needs (internally assessed by assignments):** students focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

Students will also study one of the optional units from the specification (all internally assessed). At Silverdale we study physiological disorders and their care as this unit supports students who wish to progress on to health related courses at university.

Beyond the classroom

Our friendly, supportive staff frequently run support sessions for students outside of class.

Progression

Taken alongside other level 3 courses such as biology, psychology, sociology, BTEC applied science, health & social care can lead to degree courses in nursing, education, social studies or health related courses.

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 or above in GCSE English. A BTEC Health and Social Care Level 2 pass will also be considered when applying.

Equivalent to one A-level, it works with many other subjects for university admissions.





HISTORY

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Develop a critical understanding of the past

History involves the study of both British and Modern American History, with separate teachers. Students further develop their skills of analysis and are encouraged to think critically about different interpretations of events. Students learn how to construct discursive essays and to evaluate the reliability of sources and analyse the evidence and perspective they present, to a higher level.

The course

The course covers the following topics:

The Tudors in England 1485–1603

This topic allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through the following key questions:

- How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
- In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
- How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?
- How did English society and economy change and with what effects?
- How far did intellectual and religious ideas change and develop and with what effects?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

The American Dream: reality and illusion 1945–1980

This topic provides for a study in depth of:

- The challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a superpower.
- How for many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American dream' but the prosperity was not shared by all.

- How significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality.
- Concepts such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states' rights.
- The nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media.

Coursework

Independent coursework centred on Germany 1865 - 1945; a personal study topic of the student's choice (4,500 words).

Beyond the classroom

Previous activities include trips related to topics in the curriculum.

Progression

History shows a range of research skills and the ability to develop reasoned and substantiated arguments. This could help lead to careers such as journalism, law, accountancy, librarianship, museum studies, and teaching.

History provides access to a wide variety of degree courses including history, law, social sciences, English, philosophy and many combined degrees.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Grade 5 or above in GCSE History.

“The course helps students develop as independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers.”





MATHS

A-LEVEL | PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM BOARD

Outstanding results with an experienced team

A-level Mathematics (Edexcel) is a fascinating subject to study. The course deals with developing logic and problem-solving skills that can be applied in a wide range of areas. Studying the course will develop your fluency in key mathematical topics and teach you how to construct an organised and logical argument.

Whilst the course covers and extends many of the GCSE topics, such as algebra and geometry, it also quickly moves on to new topics, introducing students to calculus, exponential functions and logarithms. Alongside the pure mathematics topics, we also learn about applications of maths through the study of statistics and mechanics. Maths helps to support the study of subjects including physics, chemistry, engineering, IT, economics, business, psychology and biology.

The course

In Year 12 we cover the following topics:

- Algebra.
- Linear & circle geometry.
- Trigonometry.
- Vectors.
- Differentiation.
- Integration.
- Exponentials & logarithms.
- Collecting & analysing data.
- Correlation.
- Probability.
- Statistical distributions.
- Hypothesis testing.
- Kinematics.
- Forces.
- Variable acceleration.

In Year 13 we cover the following topics:

- Functions.
- Sequences & series.
- Binomial expansions.
- Further trigonometry.
- Further calculus.
- Parametric equations.

- Numerical methods.
- Conditional probability.
- Normal distribution.
- Moments.
- Friction.
- Projectiles.

Beyond the classroom

Our Maths Department has friendly, supportive staff who frequently run support sessions for students outside of class. Interventions and revision sessions are held near exam time on specific modules.

Progression

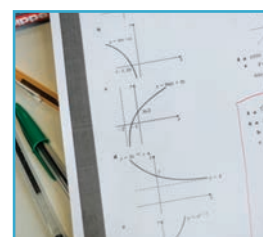
Mathematics helps us in all aspects of life, whether it be when we're out shopping, adapting a recipe or general problem solving, so mathematics will aid all students whatever path they choose to take. Students who enjoy mathematics can go on to study any of the following courses at university:

- Mathematics.
- Any engineering related course.
- Any science related courses.
- Any business/economics courses.
- Any computing courses.

Numerous students have gone on to study mathematics or a mathematics related degree at highly prestigious universities, with successful admissions to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Many employers favour applicants who have a good mathematics background. Employers generally want to employ people who have shown that they can solve problems and a solid maths qualification provides this proof.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Numerous students have gone on to highly prestigious universities.





MATHS (FURTHER)

A-LEVEL | PEARSON EDEXCEL EXAM BOARD

Extending the breadth and depth of maths study

Further Mathematics demands a real love for the subject – and that shines through from both our staff and students.

Our experienced, committed and passionate teaching team ensures that students who take this subject really do get to stretch and challenge themselves. That includes providing extensive support to students all year round, to ensure they achieve success.

A-level Further Mathematics is a fascinating subject to study. The course deals with developing logic and problem-solving skills that can be applied in a wide range of areas. As mathematics is such a vast subject, it is impossible to cover it all in one course. Further mathematics extends the breadth and depth of study; some of the concepts met in A-level mathematics are extended, whilst some topics not met on the standard A-level course are introduced.

The course

Further Maths is equivalent to two A-levels. It incorporates the entirety of the Maths A-level and the more challenging Further Maths A-level. Students will begin covering roughly the same content as the Maths A-level, but at a significantly faster pace, to allow for the increased amount of content.

In Year 12 we cover a lot of the Year 13 A-level Maths course, as well as the following topics:

- Complex numbers.
- Series.
- Matrices.
- Roots of polynomials.
- Proof.

In Year 13 we cover:

- Polar coordinates.
- Hyperbolic functions.
- Differential equations.
- Conic sections.
- Taylor series.
- Further mechanics.

Beyond the classroom

Our Maths Department has friendly, supportive staff who frequently run support sessions for students outside of class. Interventions and revision sessions are held near exam time on specific modules.

Every year the department enters both individual students and teams in the national Maths Challenge competition.

Progression

Mathematics helps us in all aspects of life, whether it be when we're out shopping, adapting a recipe or general problem solving, so mathematics will aid all students whatever path they choose to take. Students who enjoy mathematics can go onto study any of the following courses at university:

- Mathematics.
- Any engineering related course.
- Any science related courses.
- Any business/economics courses.
- Any computing courses.

“Further mathematics extends the breadth and depth of the study of mathematics.”



Numerous students have gone on to study mathematics or a mathematics related degree at highly prestigious universities, with successful admissions to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Many employers favour applicants who have a good mathematics background. Employers generally want to employ people who have shown that they can solve problems and a solid maths qualification provides this proof.

Entry Requirements: Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

MEDIA STUDIES

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Discover how the media shape our lives

"We make the media and then the media make us" is the starting-point for this exciting course. How has a global, non-stop media changed the ways we see the world and experience our lives? And what part will we play in the media of the future?

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 are interested in how television, newspapers, films, magazines, computer games, social media and the internet influence and shape the way the world we live in, then A-level Media Studies may be for you.

The course

The course comprises two exams (70% of the grade) and a coursework component involving the creation of media products (30%). Continuous assessment will be used to inform the student's progression in Year 13 and their registration for the A-level exam.

We look closely and seriously at a range of media products such as television crime dramas, music videos and magazines. To do so, we apply theories about the media (sociological, psychological, and political) and debate the theories' usefulness and relevance today. For example, we look at the ownership of newspapers and the impact that might have on the news we are receiving; and we look at how gender and ethnicity are represented in video games.

As well as studying media products, students have the opportunity to make their own. This means that students apply their knowledge of media products studied in the course to their own creative work.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Attended special screenings at the *Into Film* festival.
- Visited the Museum of the Moving Image in Bradford.
- Guest speakers from the worlds of marketing and media.
- Students are encouraged to take part in events organised by the Showroom in Sheffield.
- Students are encouraged to enter competitions as they arise.
- Some students have got involved in media projects within school, e.g. filming and editing a school concert.

Progression

You could move on to a Media Studies or related degree such as journalism, marketing, TV/radio/film, advertising, or public relations course. There are apprenticeship opportunities in broadcasting and journalism and junior roles in marketing. You'll have transferable skills including the following: analysis, visual communication, problem-solving, presentation and organisational skills as well as technical skills such as using creative media software.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature; or a Grade 4 in either English Language or English Literature together with a good result in a technical media related subject e.g. iMedia.

Media Studies is a truly contemporary subject that is relevant to all our lives.





MUSIC

A-LEVEL | WJEC EDUQAS EXAM BOARD

Listening, performance and composition are brought to life

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression. That's why we are offering a relevant and contemporary A-level qualification that provides students with the chance to study a wide range of musical genres. Our A-level brings listening, performance and composition to life in new and engaging ways. It allows students to specialise in either composition or performance, giving the very best opportunity to succeed.

This A-level values all music styles, skills and instruments. The course can broaden your mind and foster a love of all music, with a qualification that students of all abilities and backgrounds will enjoy. We aim to offer you the best chance of success in a supportive and creative environment.

The course

Component 1: Performance (25% or 35%)

A minimum of six minutes of performance in total is required. Performing as a solo and/or ensemble as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology).

Note: Students must choose either option A or option B in both components 1 and 2.

- Option A (35%): total duration of performances – 10-12 minutes.
- Option B (25%): total duration of performances – 6-8 minutes.

Component 2: Composition (25% or 35%)

Writing a minimum of two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical language techniques and conventions of the western classical tradition, and a free choice composition. A minimum of four pieces of music in total is required.

Note: Learners must choose either option A or option B in both components 1 and 2.

- Option A (25%): total duration of compositions – 4-6 minutes.
- Option B (35%): total duration of compositions – 8-10 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising music (40%)

Students listen to and choose from a vast range of genres.

Assessment is by exam, with listening and written questions using excerpts of music lasting 2 hours 15 mins (approx.). This will assess knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study, one of which (the western classical tradition) is compulsory. Two further contrasting areas of study are chosen: one from rock and pop or musical theatre or jazz; the second from 'into the 20th century' or 'into the 21st century'.

Beyond the classroom

Students will enjoy many additional opportunities whilst studying music at Silverdale. We perform in several concerts in the wider community and have a highly successful range of musical ensembles. You can look forward to being able to use a variety of facilities from our recording studio through to our well-stocked practice rooms.

Progression


There are many employment opportunities for successful ensemble practitioners in the areas of live performance, session music, musical theatre, community music and commercial bands. The qualification supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines, depending on the subjects taken alongside. It could lead to university courses such as Performing Arts, Music Industry Management, Music Business and Arts Management, and Popular Music Performance.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music or a Merit or above in BTEC Level 2 Music. If Music has not been studied at Key Stage 4 students can still access this course if they play a musical instrument to grade 5 standard or above. We also welcome students who DJ or use music technology to create performance pieces.

Students have the opportunity to perform at events both at school and in the wider city.





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

A long track record of sporting achievement

If you are passionate about PE then our department is the place to be! We have seen numerous students go on to lead highly successful careers both on and off the field. Our teaching and learning has ensured that students learn in a challenging, productive, disciplined, safe and enjoyable working environment.

The course

Physical Education is studied over two years and made up of three units. In each year students study 10 hours over two weeks: nine theory lessons and one practical/analysis lesson.

• Unit 1 – exam paper 1:

Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport.

• Unit 2 – exam paper 2:

Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport.

• Unit 3 – non-exam assessment:

Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Requirement to be a competent performer of one sport from the specification.

Units 1 and 2 are assessed through 2 x two-hour, written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Unit 3 involves students collecting video evidence of themselves performing in one practical sport in a full competitive context. Evidence needs to be collected in accordance with the practical specification over the course of the two years and will need to be submitted at the latest by March of Year 13. Students will also have to complete a piece of coursework as part of this unit.

Beyond the classroom

The PE department is extremely busy, running numerous extra-curricular clubs and teams. There are ample opportunities to help with these and other events, e.g. school sports day.

Progression

Our PE department has grown numerous national champions in a wide range of sports – the most famous probably being Michael Vaughan, the former England cricket captain. More recently Cameron Dawson and George Long went on to become goalkeepers for Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United respectively. Others have gone on to become leading lights in diving, basketball, badminton, dancing, water polo, golf, tennis and racketball.

A-level PE can help you access a variety of sports-related higher education courses and careers, such as: psychologist, journalist, photographer, administrator, coach, leisure management, teaching, physiotherapy, fitness instructor.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Physical Education theory exam paper or Grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology, if not completed GCSE PE.

“We are proud that former England cricket captain, Michael Vaughan is a past student.”



PHYSICS

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Hands-on lessons taught by subject specialists

Physics is the branch of science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy. It seeks to describe and predict the way the Universe operates, at all scales, by identifying and applying the fundamental laws and principles which govern how it operates. Though it deals with the fundamentals of existence its scope is broad from interpreting the night sky, to revealing the structure of a virus from the giant infrastructure projects of modern cities to a trip for an MRI scan at the local hospital. If it isn't Physics it doesn't exist!

Our teaching staff are specialists in physics, aiming to inspire all students to enjoy the subject and achieve their best, regardless of ability. High quality marking and feedback support students' progress.

We have excellent practical resources and technical support, allowing teachers to incorporate practical work into lessons whenever possible well beyond the 'required practicals' of the curriculum.

The course

- Measurements and their errors: underpinning the whole course, the fundamentals of practical measurements and their limitations.
- Fundamental particles, radiation and quantum phenomena: including sub-atomic particles and wave-particle duality.
- Wave phenomena: the behaviour of energy transfer as a wave including superposition.
- Mechanics and materials: an extension of GCSE work on linear motion, Newton's laws and the properties of materials under the influence of forces.
- Electricity: building upon GCSE work on the behaviour of electrical circuits.
- Further mechanics and thermal physics: circular and simple harmonic motion; heat transfer, gas laws and the kinetic theory of gases.
- Fields and their consequences: gravitational, electric and magnetic fields and their applications.

- Nuclear physics: building on the earlier particles topic; the nature of unstable nuclei including nuclear radiation and the relationship between mass and energy.
- Medical physics.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

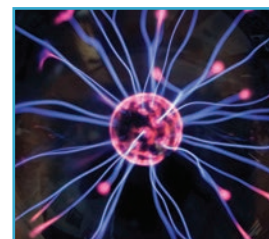
- Trip to the CERN laboratory in Geneva.
- Science Week—wide range of speakers, competitions and events.
- Royal Society science writing book judging panel.
- Sixth Form Journal Club.
- STEM Challenge events.
- Visit to the 'Big-Bang' Fair.
- 'Student of the half term' – rewards system to recognise and celebrate achievements and progress of all students.
- High quality textbooks available to students to help with independent work.

Progression

After studying A-level Physics, students can progress to study a broad range of science-related courses at universities including physics, maths, engineering, natural science, medicine and computing. Students can also progress onto non-science related courses such as law where their achievements in physics have served to develop key skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking. It also provides excellent opportunities to progress to higher level apprenticeships and full time employment.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics or Grade 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science.

We have a long track record of achieving outstanding results in Physics.





PSYCHOLOGY

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

A fascinating exploration of our brains and behaviour

Psychology is a well established subject at Silverdale and forms part of the social sciences department, alongside sociology. Our expert staff are very experienced and passionate about their subject and are members of the network group for psychology teachers in South Yorkshire, helping us to provide first class teaching for all of our students. This is demonstrated by our strong track record of achievement.

Psychology is a very useful subject and works particularly well with biology, sociology, English language, PE and chemistry. Ten percent of the marks at A-level are for mathematical and statistical skills.

The course

Psychology is a very broad and fascinating subject, which involves the scientific study of the human brain and its functions, especially those affecting behaviour in a given context. There are many different types of psychologists from cognitive to behavioural. As well as being interesting and a good way of getting a science A-level to help you progress in a science career, it has many practical benefits for your own personal life. For example, it is really useful to learn how your memory works and how children make attachments, and how to promote your own sense of wellbeing and mental health.

The broad topics covered are:

- Social influence, memory, attachment and abnormal psychology.
- Approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.
- Gender, aggression, schizophrenia and issues and debates.

Beyond the classroom

There is a planned trip in Year 12 to Chester Zoo to support topics such as attachment and social learning theory as well as the use of animal studies

in research. The department also has an active Social Science Club run by staff in the department, which explores contemporary issues in social sciences beyond the classroom. Past topics have included freedom of speech on campus, masculinity and femininity, and the dark side of TikTok. Students who take part are encouraged to bring their own topics for discussion which sometimes centre around interesting documentaries, podcasts or articles.

Progression


Psychology is a suitable course for a wide range of careers which involve working with people, as well as for progression on to higher education courses in social sciences, natural sciences and humanities. Possible career options include forensic psychology, health psychology, research, neuropsychology, educational psychology, occupational psychology, counselling, criminology and as a pathway into teaching and social work.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

“In terms of value added, our department is in the top 10% of schools offering this subject.”





RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A-LEVEL | OCR EXAM BOARD

Change the way you think forever

Philosophy, ethics and religion is a popular fascinating course providing a rich and diverse study of the most highly debated questions of all: are we free? Does God exist? What happens when we die? How do we make the correct moral decisions?

Our students consistently achieve A* and A grades each year. We are keen for students to shape their own learning and welcome independent work, ideas and revision strategies. We believe there must be an element of debate in lessons. In previous years diverse learning strategies that include developing philosophically named drinks, lessons outside, music, video making, model building, whole class pictograms and much more enhance the general classroom experience. We are also very keen to support memory of the key course content, using retrieval activities in every lesson.

This course studies a deep and interesting blend of subject matter and leads to an A-level in Religious Studies.

Qualities required:

An open and enquiring mind with a willingness to examine issues in a rigorous and logical fashion. By the end of the course you will have honed your analytical and deep thinking skills having the ability to process a large amount of complex material in a quick and efficient way.

The course

Philosophy of religion

- Ancient Greek influences on philosophy including Plato and Aristotle.
- The nature of the soul, mind and body.
- Arguments for the existence and non-existence of God.
- Issues in religious language.
- The nature and impact of religious experience.
- The problem of evil and suffering.

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories such as Kantian ethics, natural law and situation ethics.
- The application of ethical theory to euthanasia and business ethics.

- Ethical language (metaethics).
- Conscience and free will.
- Sexual ethics.

Developments in religious thought

- Beliefs, teachings and ideas about human life.
- Science and philosophy.
- Gender equality.
- Tolerance, justice and liberation theology.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- A trip to Keele University for an intensive revision course.
- A debating society, run by students where they compete with their self-chosen topics.
- In the future we are planning to run a philosophy trip to Athens, Greece where philosophy began.

Progression

Students have gone on to have successful careers in: law, the civil service, the charity sector, medicine, journalism, the police force, personal management and academia. One former student has gone on to be a world renowned philosopher as an expert on Aristotelian Virtue Ethics. There really is no limit to what career you can choose and often world leaders have a grounding in the study of philosophy, ethics and religion. The highly sought after 'soft skills' are the main stay of this course where you will learn to form complex opinions, debate challenging ethical issues, process large bodies of information in a quick, logical manner.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature or a Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies.

“We believe there must be an element of fun in lessons.”





SOCIOLOGY

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

From the Gruffalo and Brassed Off, to punk music and teddy boys—to state crime and the criminal justice system!

Many previous students have described studying sociology as a ‘game changer’, having chosen it as an unknown additional subject and then end up studying it at university.

Lessons tend to be discursive in nature with students being encouraged to voice their opinions based on their understanding of the various studies conducted by the sociologists specialising in each topic. We reflect on contemporary debates and relevant issues raised in the media. It greatly helps if students have an interest in sociologically relevant issues.

Our staff have a real enthusiasm for the subject and believe that teaching and learning should be an enjoyable experience for all concerned. Lessons are punctuated by regular discussions about topical news stories, to enhance discussion and sociological debate. Staff also provide invaluable support and mentoring to students who may be experiencing difficulties in adjusting to Sixth Form.

The course

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organisations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. We consider what factors determine this behaviour and consider the ideas of norms and values, socialisation, and conformity and deviance in shaping who we are.

Sociology works well combined with psychology, English, health and social care, economics, geography, history, or any other essay-based subjects.

Topics covered include:

- Culture and Identity: including socialisation and the construction of identity, and youth subcultures.
- Education: including ‘why do girls outperform boys?’ and how the middle class have economic and cultural advantages in the education system.
- Media: including the mass media and the impact

of new media and social media, and media representations of gender, sexuality, disability etc.

- Crime and Deviance: including policing and institutional racism, and state crime and human rights abuse.
- Theory and Methods: including the different sociological theories: functionalism, Marxism, feminism, interactionism and postmodernism.

Beyond the classroom

We have a planned trip in Year 13 to Shrewsbury Prison, an 18th century jail which closed in 2013, to support the Crime and Deviance unit. The department also has an active Social Science Club, which explores contemporary issues in social sciences beyond the classroom. Past topics have included freedom of speech on campus, masculinity and femininity, and the dark side of TikTok. Students who take part are encouraged to bring their own topics for discussion.

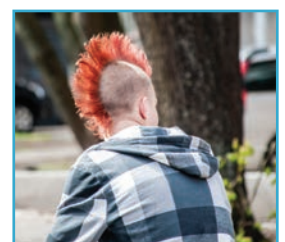
Progression

A vast range of higher education courses and career options are available, from research to social work, marketing to PR, the health service, law, journalism, teaching, criminology, politics, social policy and government research. A Sociology A-level can give access to a very wide range of university courses including those offered by Russell Group universities.

Former students have successfully applied to courses in medicine, sciences and languages. One former student is a senior correspondent for the Guardian newspaper.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

“Many previous students describe studying sociology as a ‘game changer’.”



SPANISH

A-LEVEL | AQA EXAM BOARD

Learn Spanish in a specialist language setting

The Languages Department at Silverdale has a proud history: the school was originally a specialist language college and our Teaching Hub runs the only national teacher-training course in modern languages in the UK.

We aim to develop skills and confidence in the four key areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Teachers are specialised, experienced and enthusiastic, using a wide range of activities and strategies to help students enjoy learning foreign languages while developing their linguistic ability. Authentic resources and the use of the foreign language in and outside the classroom are considered a vital part of languages teaching at Silverdale and the department offers a range of extracurricular activities and trips abroad in order to enhance the language learning experience at our school.

The department is based in six classrooms, all of which have interactive whiteboards, and a language lab. We have excellent online textbooks and a range of support materials. We guide students in choosing films, websites and podcasts of interest, and have DVDs and books available to borrow. In addition, we subscribe to a number of excellent language websites and use a wide range of interactive resources which students can access at home.

The course

The course covers a wide range of topics, e.g. social issues and trends, multiculturalism in Spanish-speaking society, political and artistic culture, as well as aspects of political life in the Spanish-speaking world.

In the first year of A-level students will study a film, and in the second year they will study a book.

Beyond the classroom

Past activities have included:

- Year 12 study visit to Madrid, Spain.
- Visits to local universities.
- Showroom Cinema events.

Progression

The government has recognised that there is a modern languages skills gap. Choosing to study a language at degree level is a way of boosting your employability.

Besides the traditional paths of interpreting, translating and teaching, students with language skills are in demand.

These skills can be used in almost any career, particularly in businesses that trade internationally. There are also opportunities to work for the diplomatic service.

There are many degree courses in languages but you could also choose to combine Spanish with a new language or a subject from a different area such as politics, music, engineering or law.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.

Silverdale leads the way in languages, having been chosen to train modern languages teachers nationally.





CONTACT



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All courses offered are subject to change, depending on the numbers of students who apply, and the availability of teaching staff.

