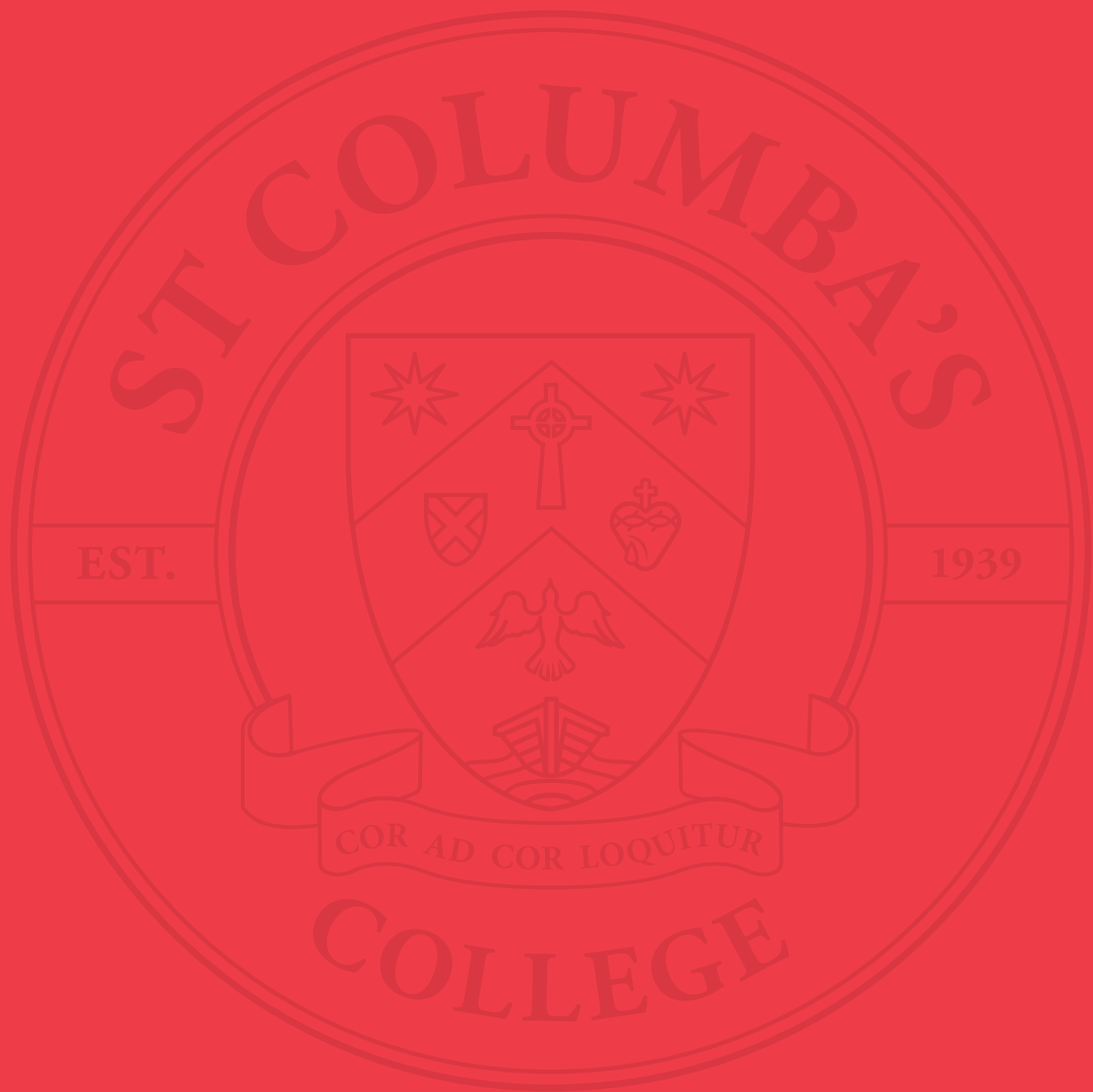


Where young
people are
**known,
valued &
treasured**



Sixth Form Prospectus

2026-2027





Welcome to the Sixth Form

We like to think of our Sixth Form as a College within a College.

Students at St Columba's are asked to think seriously about their next steps in life, the importance of academic rigour, of their performance in their subjects and whether a University or Apprenticeship pathway would be more suitable. We challenge our students to work hard and achieve well, to create a portfolio of work that sets them on a higher plane to their competitors for undergraduate degrees and in the workplace. Our students get fantastic results and go on to do extraordinary things.

However, what sets them apart is the development of their character, the leadership they show and the legacy they leave behind. Students in the Sixth Form willingly give up their time to lead across the College, from the Prep School to the Senior School, within academic departments, as Pastoral and Academic Mentors, through Drama, Music and Sport. The impact made by our students' within St Columba's and outside our school gates is profound. The students' commitment to service and charity is significant. Our students are challenged in the wider holistic sense of the word, but also supported. Availability is central to the teaching of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and is particularly manifest at Sixth Form. Classes are small, and staff tailor their teaching to students' individual needs, making themselves available outside the classroom as well.

What is it that makes St Columba's Sixth Form distinctive? By listening to the students, and their parents, we endeavour to create a personalised educational experience which is as enriching as it is demanding, which maintains structure but also offers flexibility. It has a modern feel, but we also maintains a continuity of tradition and all of that is important to us, resulting in an educational environment that allows each student to thrive and be prepared for the wider world.

David Waters

Head of Sixth Form, Teacher of History and Politics



Sixth Form Admissions Journey

The information below explains the admissions process for both internal and external applicants, together with the entry requirements for Sixth Form study.

Entry requirements

A minimum of Grade 6 is required in subjects chosen to study at A Level, with exceptions for certain subjects. Please refer to the subject pages for further details. (Students are expected to start with 4 A Levels.) Grade 5 in English and Maths are also required. A Grade Point Average of 5 across subjects studied at GCSE is needed for A Level study.

Students looking to take vocational qualifications (AAQ's) will need a Grade point average (GPA) of 4.5, with the minimum of a grade 4 in Maths and English, and ideally a grade 5 in their chosen subject.

Internal applicants

At St Columba's, we believe in supporting students throughout their educational journey. Internal students are not required to complete a formal application. Instead, families receive a conditional Sixth Form offer at October half-term, subject to students achieving the entry requirements for their chosen courses.

External applicants

All external candidates must complete the Sixth Form application form and provide a reference and a copy of their latest school report. The deadline for applications is Friday 4th December 2026.

Scholarships

Academic, Music, Drama and Sport Scholarships are offered to internal and external applicants for Sixth Form. Those students currently receiving a Scholarship will be reviewed and notified if this continues through to Sixth Form.

Academic Scholarships are given in recognition of excellent academic performance and are at the discretion of the Headmaster.

Music Scholarships are dependent on the applicant's audition and satisfying the current academic entry requirement into the Sixth Form.

Sports Scholarships recognise sporting excellence, commitment and future potential. Students must have attained the current academic entry requirement into the Sixth Form.

Induction week

All students are invited to attend a Sixth Form induction on Thursday 24th June 2027, where they will meet Heads of Department, explore Sixth Form life and get a head start on their Careers Programme.

External applicants are also invited to an additional induction day on Wednesday 23rd June 2027. Further details will follow.

Admissions

Candidates successful at the application stage will be invited to attend an interview with the Head of Sixth Form.

For more information or to arrange a private tour of our Sixth Form, please contact our Admissions Team on admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or 01727 892040.

Sixth Form Staff



David Waters

**Head of Sixth Form
Teacher of History**

I joined St Columba's College as Head of Sixth Form in 2020 as we moved towards a co-educational setting.

I studied History at Liverpool University before taking a PGCE in History at Cambridge University.

I taught for 16 years at St George's Harpenden, rising to Assistant Headteacher in charge of Teaching & Learning and Curriculum. My subject specialism is History, and my experiences as a Senior Leader, examiner and consultant have given me insight into a range of educational settings as well as a deep understanding of the challenges that A Level students face.

In the Sixth Form at St Columba's, we see ourselves as a College within a College. We provide strong pastoral support and give the students a range of leadership opportunities they can grow into. I look forward to helping to nurture and develop the students' academic potential and provide them with an enriching and fulfilling time with us, as they contribute to the wider Sixth Form and College life.



Rachel Hambly

**Deputy Head of Sixth Form
Teacher of Latin**

I have been a Latin teacher at St Columba's since 2020, starting my career here as a Sixth Form tutor for McClancy House, before being appointed to Deputy Head of Sixth Form.

I obtained my Undergraduate degree in Classics at the University of Cambridge, staying there for a PGCE (in Latin and Classics) and a Master's in Education. I am also an examiner for OCR and teach at a Latin Summer School over the school holidays. I deploy my academic background to assist with Stretch and Challenge within the Sixth Form and with preparation for applications to prestigious universities.

As Deputy Head of Sixth Form, I primarily oversee the induction process for new 16+ students and look after their well-being as they transition into the Columban education system. The Sixth Form is an extremely vibrant place to work in and it is a true honour to support our students as they prepare for the next exciting steps in their lives.



Sal Griffiths Plunkett

**Head of Careers and Higher
Education Teacher of English**

My role at St Columba's College is to provide careers advice to students, support with applications and lead the school's careers curriculum.

Having taught at primary, secondary and university level, I have a well-rounded understanding of education and I am completing a level 6 diploma in Career Guidance and Development.

I read English Literature at Cardiff University and spent my third year at the University of California, Berkeley. The Arts and Humanities Research Council then funded my Masters' in the Teaching and Practice of Creative Writing back at Cardiff.

Before teaching, I pursued a career in publishing at Macmillan, The Economist and then The Guardian. I went on to work as a people team consultant so I understand recruitment and employment in the corporate world.

I am enjoying making our renowned programme event better, as well as enlightening students about potential future careers. I am available for one-to-one advice through the year.



Maria Adair

**Stretch and Challenge Coordinator
Teacher of Religious Studies**

I took my undergraduate degree at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, and have worked at St Columba's College for 21 years. As Stretch and Challenge coordinator for Key Stage 5, my role involves working with Scholars to ensure they are doing their best; helping to prepare those applying for competitive courses, (especially the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge) and generally ensuring that students are challenged and have enough support to succeed.

I like to encourage students to read as widely as they can, to develop critical thinking skills and also to lead sessions to challenge pupils lower down the school.

I am also a Joseph House Sixth Form tutor, and consequently I am involved in the exciting process of university applications; from reference writing to helping with Personal Statements.

Our Sixth Form is a fantastic place to be and it is a privilege to be working alongside students who are learning to think more independently and, in doing so, become role models to younger students.



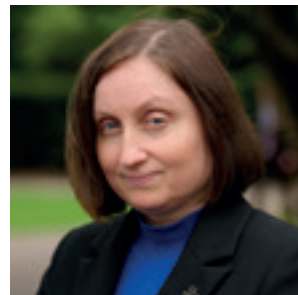
Juliet Foxwell

Sixth Form & Music Coordinator

As Sixth Form Coordinator, my role involves supervising the students in their private study and carrying out administrative tasks, but also, and perhaps more importantly, gives the Sixth Form students a team member who is based in their study room full-time, to whom they can turn with any question.

I have a wealth of experience in the retail industry, both working for large corporations and running my own business and hope to help the students in their transition to self-sufficiency as they proceed through their studies. I am here to support students new to the school, or new to Sixth Form life, adjust to the freedoms and pressures of their curriculum, also helping students who struggle to focus in the less structured private study time to reach their full potential.

My role here is one of reassurance and support, both emotionally and organisationally, at this key stage in their learning journeys. It is a true honour to support our students as they prepare for the next exciting steps in their lives.



Lucy Cronin

Director of Studies

I completed my degree in Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge University and as a teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy I have worked at St Columba's College for 18 years and was formerly Head of RE and then Assistant Headteacher in charge of Teaching and Learning.

I maintain a keen interest in the fields of theology, world religion, philosophy and social ethics. Throughout my years at St Columba's College, I have greatly enjoyed teaching A Level and seeing students grow in their ability to think critically and to challenge injustice but also to develop their spiritual life. I feel excited to be part of this strong community where gospel values, such as humility, solidarity, justice and integrity are able to be lived out.

As Director of Studies, my role is to help guide students during the process of choosing subjects and to put together the option blocks following the initial choices. I have oversight both of the timetable and of assessment and reporting; in this context I am always happy to talk through any issues relating to revision, wider reading or independent learning to help everyone maximise their potential and improve their grades.



37%
A* - A

65%
A* - B

Outstanding Examination Results

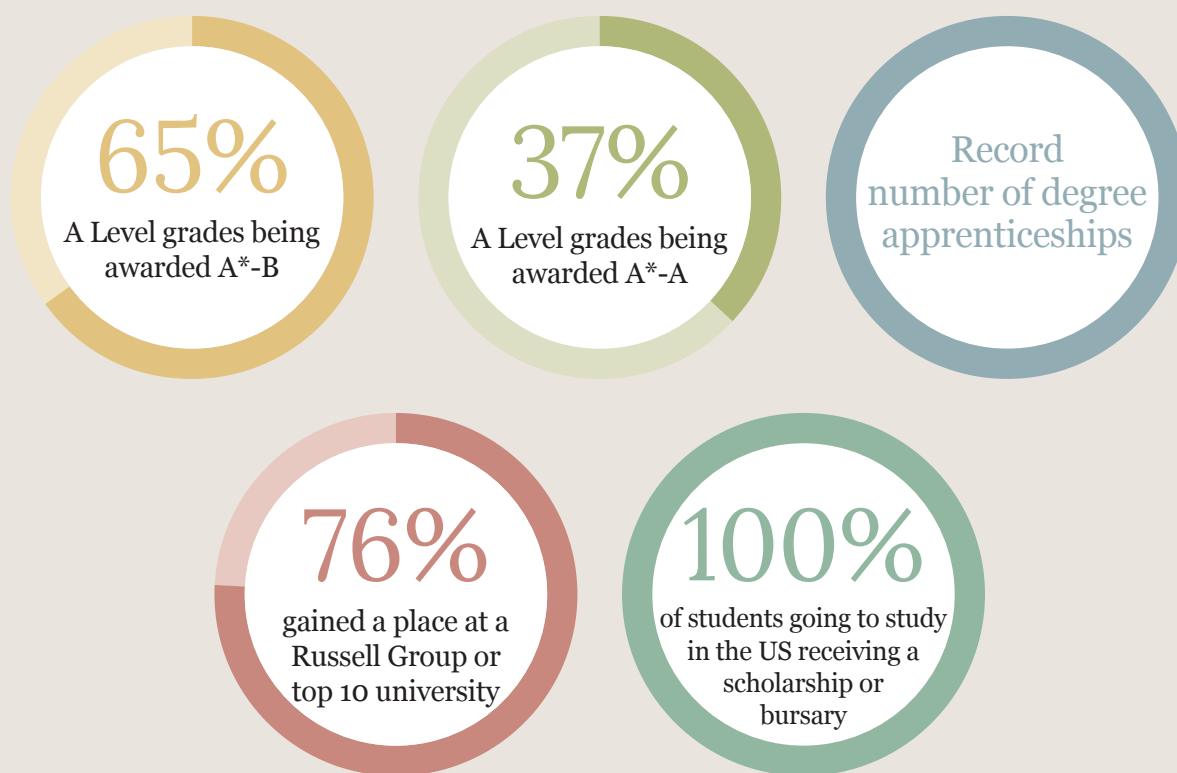
We are incredibly proud of our A Level results in Summer 2026, with 37% of grades awarded at A* to A and 65% at A* to B. A more detailed breakdown of our results can be found on our website under the 'Exam Results' section.

The success of our young people reflects their hard work and dedication to their studies, together with the commitment of our staff, excellent teaching and timely support where required. A growing number of students have also gained

acceptance onto highly competitive degree apprenticeship courses, for which the College has developed a bespoke programme to guide them through the applications process.

These outstanding results, combined with the expert support our students receive when making decisions about Higher Education, meant that 76% gained a place at a Russell Group University or a top 10 university including Oxford, Imperial, LSE, Bath and Loughborough.

A Level Examination Results 2026



UK University Destinations 2026

University of Exeter	8	University of Bristol	1
University of Southampton	2	Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)	1
University of Warwick	5	University of Leeds	7
University of Birmingham	4	University of Leicester	1
University of Reading	4	University of York	1
Newcastle University	2	University of Oxford	1
Nottingham Trent University	2	University of Portsmouth	1
University of Liverpool	6	Imperial College London	2
King's College London	1	University of the Arts London	1
Loughborough University	3	University of Brighton	3
LSE University College London	1	Aston University, Birmingham	1
University of Bath	2	ASU London	1

Alternative Academic Qualifications

(AAQs)

Different routes. The same ambition.

St Columba's has a proud tradition of academic excellence. As the world of higher education and employment continues to evolve, we believe an outstanding education must also give young people the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, experience and confidence they will need beyond school.

Alongside our extensive A Level programme, St Columba's offers a growing range of Alternative Academic Qualifications and technical programmes, providing students with greater choice in how they learn and how they prepare for their future.

These Level 3 qualifications combine academic study with applied and practical learning. They can lead to university, higher education, degree apprenticeships or employment, enabling students to select a Sixth Form programme that best reflects their strengths, aspirations and preferred way of learning.

Futures+

Supporting this development is Futures+, St Columba's whole-school approach to connecting education with the world beyond the classroom.

Beginning before Sixth Form and developing as students progress through the College, Futures+ brings together vocational qualifications, employer engagement, workplace experiences, professional skills, enrichment and personalised support.

Its purpose is simple: to help every Columban understand their strengths, explore the opportunities available to them and make informed and ambitious choices about their future. Academic knowledge matters. So does knowing what you can do with it. Futures+ brings the two together.

Academic learning. Applied differently.

Alternative Academic Qualifications provide another way to achieve at Level 3 while developing knowledge and skills through a combination of academic and applied learning.

They are particularly well suited to students who enjoy connecting what they learn in the classroom to real situations, projects and professional contexts

At St Columba's, these qualifications sit alongside our A Level offer and allow us to create more personalised Sixth Form programmes around the strengths, interests and future aspirations of individual students.

What makes them different?

01 – Examinations

Demonstrating strong subject knowledge and understanding.

02 – Coursework

Applying learning through assignments, investigations and projects.

03 – Applied Learning

Connecting theory with realistic situations and challenges.

04 – Transferable Skills

Developing communication, teamwork, organisation, research and problem-solving.

05 – Preparation for the Future

Building the independence and professional behaviours valued by universities and employers.

T-Levels

Study it. Experience it. Make it your future.

From September 2027, St Columba's College will introduce two T-Levels as an exciting new addition to our Sixth Form curriculum:

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION and MEDIA, BROADCAST & PRODUCTION

T-Levels are substantial two-year Level 3 programmes developed with employers and designed to give young people the knowledge and practical skills required by industry.

One T-Level is equivalent in size to three A Levels.

What makes a T-Level particularly distinctive is the combination of high-quality classroom learning with an extensive industry placement of at least 45 days. Students therefore have the opportunity to apply their learning in a genuine professional environment before they leave Sixth Form.

Progression

- University
- Employment
- Apprenticeships

More than classroom learning

T-Level students will experience a different type of Sixth Form programme.

LEARN Develop substantial Level 3 knowledge and understanding within a specialist professional sector.

APPLY Respond to employer-set projects and realistic industry challenges.

EXPERIENCE Complete at least 45 days of meaningful industry placement with an employer.

PROGRESS Prepare for university, degree and higher apprenticeships, or skilled employment.

The Futures+ experience

At St Columba's, the T-Level experience will extend beyond the qualification itself.

Through Futures+, students will have opportunities to engage with employers and professionals, develop workplace and leadership skills, explore different industries and receive personalised support as they consider their next steps.

The ambition is that a T-Level student leaves St Columba's with much more than a qualification.

They leave with knowledge, experience, confidence and professional networks already beginning to develop.

1 T-LEVEL

2 YEARS | LEVEL 3 | 3 A LEVEL EQUIVALENT | A MINIMUM OF 45 DAYS INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

UNIVERSITY • APPRENTICESHIP • CAREER



We will coordinate over 100 hours of Work Experience



Over 95% of UK universities accept AAQs



Students can select from a range of study pathways based on their strengths, interests, and preferred way of learning. Most students begin with either 3 or 4 study blocks, depending on their programme of study.



A Levels

- **1 block per subject**
- Usually studied alongside other A Levels, CTECs or BTECs
- Students typically start with **4 blocks**
- **Some coursework elements but predominantly end of course exam focus**



CTECs and BTECs

- **Business, Applied Psychology, Music Technology: 1 block**
- **Sport: 2 blocks**
- Can be combined with each other and/or with A Levels
- Students typically start with **3 or 4 blocks**
- **Coursework and modular exams with a higher emphasis on coursework**



T-Levels

- Equivalent to **3 blocks**
- Students focus on **one specialist subject area only**
- Minimum of 45 day work placement
- Course is assessed via examination and industry placement related coursework





Art and Design

(Craft and Design route)

A Level



Studying Art at A Level is really unique because you get to build your own personal body of work that keeps evolving as you go.

John Art Student

Board/Specification

A Level Eduqas A650QS

Course Content

Students explore a range of disciplines including:

- Drawing (including Life Drawing)
- Mixed media
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Digital Art

In Lower Sixth, students complete two structured projects: *Surfaces and Structures* and *The Human Body*. Alongside teacher-led tutorials, independent work encourages experimentation, material exploration and research-informed practice. Towards the end of the year, students begin their Personal Study, laying the foundations for their Upper Sixth portfolio.

How is it assessed?

Coursework: 60%

Exam: 40%. As part of the exam, students will need to produce a 15-hour timed personal response to their chosen art theme.

Why study Art and Design?

Many skills are developed including: creative, technical and critical thinking skills; independence and presentation skills; hands-on experience with different media and artistic processes; interdisciplinary understanding of how art, craft and design connect across contexts; the ability to connect learning to creative and professional industries; cultural insight and building awareness of different roles and audiences in Art and Design.

Career Pathways

Former students have enjoyed international success across a wide range of creative industries. Alumnus, Benjamin Hawkins, founded a jewellery studio in Hatton Garden and has had his work featured in Vogue.

A Level Art and Design can lead to opportunities in:

- Creative industries, including design, illustration and visual communication
- Architecture and the built environment
- Museums, galleries and heritage organisations
- Community arts and wellbeing projects
- Media, advertising and branding

Entry Requirements

GCSE Art or Photography and a passion for creative practice. Applicants who have not previously studied this subject may be invited to submit a portfolio of work and attend an interview, through which we can determine their suitability for the course.







**NEW A LEVEL SUBJECT
2026 – 2027**

Art and Design (Photography route)

A Level

Board/Specification

A Level Eduqas A656QS

Course Content

Students develop technical, creative and critical photography skills through a series of structured projects covering:

- Visual analysis
- Camera operation
- Lighting
- Composition
- Digital workflow

Independent practical assignments encourage personal responses to a range of themes, while research helps students place their work within wider artistic, cultural and historical contexts.

As the course progresses, students take increasing ownership of their creative direction, refining ideas and evaluating their work. Towards the end of Lower Sixth, they begin an investigative project that forms the foundation of their Upper Sixth portfolio, which accounts for 60% of the final grade.

Possible areas of study include:

- Photographing people
- Photographing places
- Still-life photography
- Documentary photography
- Photojournalism
- Experimental imagery
- Photographic installation
- Fashion photography
- Digital imaging
- Moving image (video, film, animation)

How is it assessed?

Coursework: 60%

Exam: 40%. The exam involves a personal response to a varied range of stimuli and a 15-hour sustained focused study. This will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Why study Photography?

Studying Photography develops creative, technical and critical thinking skills, alongside independence, research and presentation skills. Students gain hands-on experience with cameras, lighting, digital editing and a range of photographic processes, while exploring how photography communicates ideas, emotions and narratives. The course develops cultural awareness, visual communication and an understanding of how photography connects to creative and professional industries and different audiences.

Career Pathways

Former students have progressed into a variety of creative and media-related careers.

Photography can provide a route into:

- Creative media and content production
- Journalism and documentary work
- Advertising, marketing and digital campaigns
- Film, television and visual storytelling
- Galleries, archives and cultural institutions

Entry Requirements

GCSE Art grade 6 or Photography and a passion for photography and digital media. Applicants who have not previously studied this subject may be invited to submit a portfolio of work and attend an interview, through which we can determine their suitability for the course.



Biology

A Level

Biology A level has really changed how I see the world around me. It's demanding and challenging at times, but the lightbulb moments where you finally see how everything that we learn links into real life are so rewarding.

Katie Biology Student

Board/Specification

OCR A Level in Biology A (H420)

Course Content

Students study a broad range of biological concepts, from cellular processes to ecosystems and evolution. Topics include:

- Development of practical skills in Biology
- Foundations in Biology
- Exchange and transport systems in living organisms
- Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

How is it assessed?

The theory of the course is assessed through three terminal exam papers with 37%, 37%, 26% weightings.

Paper 1: Biological Processes (100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins):
Assesses Modules 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Paper 2: Biological Diversity (100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins):
Assesses Modules 1, 2, 4, and 6.

Paper 3: Unified Biology (70 marks, 1 hr 30 mins): Assesses all modules, focusing on synoptic links.

Practical skills are examined via a separate endorsement.

Why study Biology?

A Level Biology opens the door to understanding the living world in all its complexity. From the inner workings of cells to the dynamics of entire ecosystems, this subject gives you the tools to explore the processes that shape life. It is a course for curious thinkers, students who enjoy asking questions, solving problems, and making sense of how and why living organisms function as they do. Studying Biology develops a powerful combination of analytical, practical and evaluative skills. You will learn to design and carry out experiments, interpret data with confidence and communicate scientific ideas clearly. These are abilities that universities and employers value across a wide range of fields.

Career Pathways

Recent Biology students have gone on to study Medicine, Dentistry and a range of Biological Sciences degrees, including Human Biology.

Future career areas can include:

- Biotechnology and pharmaceuticals
- Healthcare, veterinary and medical sciences
- Environmental and ecological management
- Agriculture, food and sustainability sectors
- Science communication and public policy

Entry Requirements

GCSE Mathematics grade 7, GCSE Biology grade 7 or GCSE Combined Science grade 77, and GCSE English grade 7.





Business

A Level

Studying Business opens up so many options both for university study and future careers. I really enjoy the fact that the subject relates to real-world situations and gives me skills that I can use in later life.

George Business A Level Student

Board/Specification

A Level AQA (7132)

Course Content

The course begins with the question “What is business” before moving on to key operational areas, including:

- Marketing
- Finance
- People management
- Operations

Students also study:

- Different forms of business
- Stakeholder mapping
- Business culture
- The external environment
- Business strategy

How is it assessed?

Exam: 100%. There are three exams worth 33% each.
Each paper is based on two case studies.

Why study Business?

Business A Level provides a strong and broad understanding of how companies operate, how to optimise decision-making and how companies can compete in a globalised world. It is focused on making a positive real-world impact and grounded in reality, equipping students with critical thinking, financial literacy, and management skills, and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

Career Pathways

From launching a start-up company to joining the board of a multinational organisation, Business A Level provides relevant and transferable skills.

Career pathways can include:

- Corporate business and management
- Marketing, advertising and communications
- Finance, banking and professional services
- Operations, logistics and supplychain industries
- Entrepreneurship and startup environments

From launching a start-up company to taking a seat on the board of a trans-national company, Business A level provides relevant and important skills that boost employability.

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in GCSE Business is desirable. Students wishing to study Business must have a grade 6 or above at GCSE Maths and a GCSE essay-based subject such as English or a Humanities subject at grade 7.



Business

AAQ - CTEC

The CTEC business course strikes a great balance between exams and coursework, keeping the workload manageable yet challenging. It's genuinely engaging and significantly reduces pressure going into Year 13's final exams.

Nathan Business CTEC Student

Board/Specification

Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Extended Certificate OCR (05834)

(Equivalent to one A Level)

Course Content

We study the following five units from the qualification:

- The Business Environment
- Working in Business
- Customers and Communications
- Marketing and Market Research
- Introduction to Human Resources

How is it assessed?

- Two exams: 50%
- Three pieces of coursework: 50%

Why study this subject?

Students learn analysis and decision-making, communication, teamwork, project management, digital skills and problem-solving through real business scenarios.

Career Pathways

Career pathways can include:

- Retail and customer experience sectors
- Digital marketing and ecommerce
- Administration and business support services
- Hospitality, events and leisure industries
- Finance and accounting

Entry Requirements

Students looking to vocational qualifications will need a GPA of 4.5, with the minimum of grade 4 in Maths and English, and ideally a grade 5 in their chosen subject.





Chemistry

A Level

A Level Chemistry is genuinely fascinating because it allows you to study the world at a minute level. Although the course is challenging, it is rewarding when the different topics begin to connect and form a clearer overall understanding.

Alec Chemistry Student

Board/Specification

OCR A Level in Chemistry A (H432)

Course Content

Students develop their understanding of both physical and organic chemistry through the study of:

- Development of practical skills in Chemistry
- Foundations in Chemistry: atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; amount of substance; acid-base and redox reactions; electrons, bonding and structure
- Periodic Table and energy: the periodic table and periodicity; Group 2 and the halogens; qualitative analysis, enthalpy changes; reaction rates and equilibrium
- Core organic chemistry: basic concepts; hydrocarbons; alcohols and haloalkanes; organic synthesis; analytical techniques (IR and MS)
- Physical chemistry and transition elements: Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative); pH and buffers; enthalpy, entropy and free energy; redox and electrode potentials, transition elements
- Organic chemistry and analysis: aromatic compounds; carbonyl compounds; carboxylic acids and esters, nitrogen compounds; polymers; organic synthesis; chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

How is it assessed?

The theory of the course is assessed through three terminal exam papers with 37%, 37% and 26% weightings.

Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements & Physical Chemistry (100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins): Assesses Modules 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Paper 2: Synthesis & Analytical Techniques (100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins): Assesses Modules 1, 2, 4, and 6.

Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (70 marks, 1 hr 30 mins): Assesses all modules, focusing on synoptic links.

Practical skills are examined via a separate endorsement.

Why study Chemistry?

Studying A Level Chemistry develops an individual's skills in analytical thinking, data analysis, complex problem solving, logical thinking, mathematical competence, methodical organisation, written communication and hands-on practical work.

Career Pathways

Recent Chemistry students have gone on to careers in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Healthcare, the Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Environmental Protection, Material Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Manufacturing, Law and Finance.

Sectors it can directly lead to include:

- Pharmaceuticals and drug development
- Chemical and materials manufacturing
- Environmental science and sustainability
- Forensic and analytical laboratories
- Energy, engineering and industrial processes

Entry Requirements

GCSE Mathematics grade 7, GCSE Chemistry grade 7 or GCSE Combined Science grade 7, and GCSE English grade 7.







Computer Science

A Level

A Level Computer Science is challenging but incredibly rewarding - the mix of programming, problem-solving and real-world computing have introduced me to ideas and careers that I hadn't even considered and given me a wide range of skills for the future.

Lis Computer Science Student

Board/Specification

AQA A Level 7517 (Option D)

Course Content

Students develop a strong foundation in both the theoretical and practical aspects of computing. Key areas of study include:

- Programming fundamentals: procedural and objectoriented programming, problemsolving, algorithms, and code development
- Data structures: arrays, stacks, queues, trees, graphs, hash tables, dictionaries, and abstract data types
- Theory of computation: automata, regular languages, Turing machines, and algorithmic complexity
- Computer systems: hardware, processors, architecture, assembly language, and machine-level operations
- Networking and communication: protocols, topologies, network security and the structure of the internet
- Big Data: characteristics, processing techniques and real-world applications
- Functional programming: using a functional paradigm to solve data and algorithmic problems (with Haskell)
- NEA Practical Project: students design and build a real programming solution of their choice using an appropriate language

How is it assessed?

Paper 1 (On Screen): (40%, 2 hr 30 mins): Testing the programming and computational thinking-based units

Paper 2 (Paper): (40%, 2 hr 30 mins): Testing the theory-based units

Coursework: (20%): Free choice programming project or investigation

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science develops logical thinking, creativity and resilience - this is essential in a world driven by data, automation and digital innovation. Students learn how systems, networks and software operate, giving them the ability to solve complex problems and create real technological solutions. The subject offers excellent preparation for degrees and careers in STEM, business, design, and emerging fields such as AI and cybersecurity.

Career Pathways

Computer Science can lead to a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and careers, including:

- Software and technology development
- Cybersecurity and digital protection
- Data science, AI and analytics
- Network and systems infrastructure
- Games, interactive media and digital entertainment

Entry Requirements

Students require at least a grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science, but a grade 6 is preferable. Students that did not take GCSE Computer Science are welcome, but a minimum of grade 6 in Maths is required. Prior Python programming experience is beneficial (but not essential); staff can provide guidance on the programming requirements of the course where necessary.

Design and Technology (Product Design)

A Level



Product Design helped me discover how ideas become real products. The mix of creativity and hands-on making made every lesson exciting and the NEA was the most rewarding project I've ever completed.

Rob Product Design Student

Board/Specification

AQA – A Level Product Design (7552)

Course Content

A Level Product Design gives students the opportunity to explore the world of contemporary design, combining creativity with technical understanding while developing skills in:

- Problem solving
- Prototyping and modelling
- Material testing
- Manufacturing techniques
- Using industry standard design tools

Key areas of study include:

- Core technical principles – materials, processes, digital technologies, design theory
- Specialist knowledge – product development, advanced manufacturing, CAD/CAM
- Design and making principles – user centred design, sustainability, iterative design, industrial practices
- Major Design & Make Project (NEA) – an individual extended design challenge with realworld context

How is it assessed?

- **Paper 1: Technical Principles** (30%, 2 hr 30 mins written exam)
- **Paper 2: Designing & Making Principles** (20%, 1 hr 30 mins written exam plus product analysis and design task)
- **NEA: Design & Make Project** (50%, approximately 45 hours of independent work). The NEA allows students to take a project from initial concept through prototyping to a fully justified final design, mirroring industry practice.

Why study Product Design?

Product Design is the perfect blend of creativity, innovation, and purposeful problem solving. Students gain highly transferable skills including critical thinking, research, project management, sketching, modelling, CAD proficiency, and resilience through iterative development. The subject connects with wider technological, environmental, and social issues and offers rich cocurricular opportunities - from design competitions to collaborative STEM projects.

Career Pathways

Former students have progressed to leading universities, design consultancies, engineering firms and entrepreneurial startups.

Areas this subject can open pathways to, include:

- Product and industrial design
- Design engineering and advanced manufacturing
- Engineering pathways
- Architecture and spatial design
- Creative industries and prototyping
- Technology, innovation and Research & Design sectors

Former students have progressed to leading universities, design consultancies, engineering firms, and entrepreneurial startups.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Design & Technology (or equivalent) and Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths. A genuine interest in creative problem solving and practical design work is essential.





Drama & Theatre

A Level

This subject offers you a broad range of opportunities. Drama and Theatre is a practical 'hands-on' subject with a strong academic profile.

Board/Specification

AQA 7262

Course content you will learn:

- How to apply the principles and devices of an exciting range of theatre practitioners/ companies from Stanislavski and Brecht to the contemporary Frantic Assembly, Alecky Blythe and Punchdrunk.
- How to devise theatre in the style of a chosen theatre practitioner/company and develop your ideas into a full production to be performed to an audience.
- How to select a suitable play-text, and approach rehearsing and staging a script for an audience.
- How to workshop play-texts to develop a deep appreciation for the context and themes within them.
- How to evaluate and analyse your own performances and the work of established theatre makers.
- Through watching live performances in theatres, you will learn to evaluate and analyse the work of Professional Actors, Designers and Directors.

How is it assessed?

Component 1 – Written examination completed at the end of the course. Worth 40%

Component 2 – A devised performance in the style of a chosen practitioner or theatre company and an essay to be completed in the first year. Worth 30%

Component 3 – A performance of an extract from a chosen script in the style of a chosen practitioner or theatre company and an essay to be completed in the second year. Worth 30%.

Why study Drama & Theatre?

A-Level Drama and Theatre is a course which fosters your creativity and encourages you to express yourself through performing, directing, designing and writing. Our approach to learning here is highly practical, allowing you to immerse yourself not only in the roles which you will play, but also engage with, and appreciate, the texts that you will study on a deeper level.

Skills such as collaboration, communication, accountability, problem-solving and critical thinking are developed on the course. The course open doors to higher education and careers in the performing arts, including acting, directing, playwriting, stage management, theatre design and theatre education. It also equips students with a huge range of skills applicable to a wider range of professions, making it a compelling choice for those passionate about theatre and seeking a well-rounded education.

Career Pathways

While students have progressed into the Arts, Drama and Theatre can lead to a variety of careers. Career pathways include:

- Performance and production
- Education and Therapy
- Film, television and media
- Arts, events and cultural industries
- Marketing, Journalism, public relations, corporate training, customer engagement and entrepreneurship

Entry requirement

Grade 6 or higher in Drama, English Literature or Language.



Economics

A Level

Studying Economics has given me a better understanding of the world in which I live which helps me to make more informed decisions. The teachers know us well and treat us as individuals which helps us to achieve more than we thought.

Flora Economics Student

Board/Specification

Pearson Edexcel A Level Economics A (9EC0)

Course Content

In the first year, students explore how markets operate, why they sometimes fail, and how governments and organisations respond. Topics include:

- Market failure and possible solutions
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy

In the second year, we look at:

- Competitive market structures
- The labour market
- International economics
- Economic development

How is it assessed?

100% exam. Students will sit 3 examinations of 2 hours each.

Why study Economics?

Economics is not simply all about numbers. It is the study of the world around us from a social, financial and cultural perspective, gaining an understanding of economic theories and interrelationships between macro and micro economic issues. The subject provides a comprehensive understanding of how individuals, firms, and governments make decisions, offering crucial insights into global events, financial systems, and policy-making that affects our everyday lives.

Career Pathways

While many students progress into Banking and Finance, Economics offers a much wider range of career opportunities. Previous students have also gone on to work with international development organisations such as the UN and World Bank.

Career pathways can include:

- Finance, banking and investment
- Government, policy and public administration
- Business strategy and consultancy
- International trade and development
- Data analytics and market research

Entry Requirements

Students wishing to study Economics must have a grade 7 or above at GCSE Maths and a GCSE essay-based subject at grade 7.





English Literature

A Level

Choosing English Literature at A-level has been one of my best decisions at Columba's. I loved it at GCSE for the big ideas and class debates, and A-level has only built on that.

Will English Literature Student

Board/Specification

Edexcel 9ETO A Level English Literature

Course Content

Students study a range of drama, prose and poetry, exploring how writers use language, structure and form to shape meaning. The course encourages discussion, interpretation and debate, helping students develop their own responses to texts while considering different critical viewpoints.

Areas of study include:

- Drama
- Prose
- Poetry
- Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

Through reading texts from different periods and contexts, students explore ideas about society, culture, relationships and what it means to be human.

How is it assessed?

Coursework: 20%

Exams: 80% through three exams, weighted 30% drama, 20% prose and 30% poetry.

Why study English Literature?

English Literature develops valuable transferable skills including clear communication, critical thinking, research, independent study and the ability to construct well-supported arguments. It is an excellent choice for students who enjoy reading, discussion and exploring different perspectives. The subject is highly regarded by universities and complements a wide range of degree courses and career pathways.

As F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote:

"That is part of the beauty of literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong."

Career Pathways

Career pathways can include:

- Publishing and literary industries
- Media, journalism and communications
- Law
- Creative industries and content creation
- Public relations and corporate communications
- Marketing and advertising

Entry Requirements

Grade 6s in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.



French

A Level

When I first started A-Level French, it definitely felt like a step up from GCSE, but with the support of the Modern Foreign Languages Department I settled in quickly and enjoyed the course.

James A Level French Student

Board/Specification

AQA A Level 7652

Course Content

Students explore a range of contemporary and cultural topics, including:

- Current Trends in French-Speaking Society (cyberspace, the family, criminality, voluntary work)
- Artistic Culture in the French-Speaking World (music, cinema, cultural heritage)
- Aspects of Political Life (youth engagement in politics, demonstrations and strikes, immigration)
- Film and Literature

How is it assessed?

50%: Listening, Reading and Writing

20%: Writing

30%: Speaking

Why study French?

As well as discovering and investigating relevant and exciting topics - from criminality to the cyber society, diversity to politics and the arts - you will use real-time news, radio and film to master the language, and be supported to explore books, films and plays. Everything we do is aimed at helping you to feel more confident, and the vast breadth of topics you cover will develop skills such as inquiry, problem-solving and analysis which will help in your other subject choices and serve you well at university or in the workplace. Good linguists are in demand for their skills, and your two years studying French at A Level will not only be enjoyable but will also provide you with an impressive and very sought-after portfolio of skills.

Career Pathways

Previous Columban linguists have used their language skills as a springboard to careers and university courses in areas including Law, International Relations and Medicine.

Career pathways can also include:

- International business and trade
- Diplomacy and global affairs
- Tourism, travel and hospitality
- Translation and language services
- Education and cultural exchange

Entry Requirements

We would prefer a Level 7 at GCSE French, although commitment to the course is the most desirable quality.



Geography

A Level

Geography is a fascinating subject that helps us understand the world around us and the delicate balance between natural processes and human activity that shapes the planet we live on.

Camilla Geography Student

Board/Specification

Cambridge International A Level (CIE) – 9696

Course Content

Students explore both Physical and Human Geography.

Physical Geography includes:

- Hydrology and river processes
- Atmospheric processes and climate change
- Plate tectonics and mass movement
- Coastal environments
- Natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, cyclones and wildfires

Human Geography includes:

- Population and migration
- Water resources
- Urban growth
- Sustainable development
- Environmental management, pollution, degradation, and geography of disease

The curriculum ensures a thorough understanding of how natural systems and human decisions shape the modern world.

How is it assessed?

Exam: 100%. Students complete four written examinations at the end of Upper Sixth, each worth 25%.

Why study Geography?

Geography is highly relevant, helping us understand issues such as climate change, natural hazards, migration, urbanisation, and sustainability. A Level Geography explores natural processes and human impacts, deepening knowledge of resource management and global challenges. The subject develops critical thinking, evidence evaluation, and an ability to analyse complex problems. Students undertake a Lower Sixth residential field trip to North Devon for hands-on investigation of coastal and river landscapes, and can also participate in international trips to places like Iceland, the Azores, and Costa Rica.

Career Pathways

Geography is highly regarded by universities for fostering analytical thinking, research skills and global awareness. It pairs well with both the arts and the sciences, keeping future options open.

Students can pursue diverse careers, including:

- Environmental management and sustainability
- Urban planning and development
- Geospatial and mapping technologies
- Geography can count as a science for some university applications
- Humanitarian and international development
- Conservation and ecological research

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Geography.



History

A Level

Studying A Level History has given me a deeper understanding of the forces of change that have shaped the world we live in. It has been a fascinating journey, and it's really strengthened the way I think and approach complex ideas.

Rosie History Student

Board/Specification

Edexcel A Level 9HI0/E6

Course Content

Students explore major political, social and ideological developments that have shaped the modern world. The course combines the study of twentieth-century international history with an independent investigation and a deeper exploration of British history.

Lower Sixth

- Russia, 1917–91: the development of Communist rule from Lenin to Yeltsin
- China, 1949–76: the establishment and evolution of Mao's regime

Upper Sixth

- Coursework: a 3000–4000-word independent investigation
- Britain, c1780–1928: protest, agitation, and the development of parliamentary democracy

How is it assessed?

Paper 1: Russia, 1917–91 (30%, 2 hr 15 mins exam)

Paper 2: Mao's China, 1949–76 (20%, 1 hr 30 mins exam)

Paper 3: Britain, 1780–1928 (20%, 2 hr 15 mins exam)

Coursework Essay (20%, 3000–4000 words)

Why study History?

History develops critical thinking, analytical skills and excellent written communication. Students learn to evaluate evidence, form balanced arguments, and understand how major events and ideas have shaped the modern world. It fosters independence, intellectual curiosity, and strong research skills.

Career Pathways

History equips students with skills that are valued across a wide range of professions.

Career pathways can include:

- Law, politics and public administration
- Heritage, museums and cultural sectors
- Media, journalism and research
- Education and academic study
- Policy, analysis and thinktank work

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE History.



Latin

A Level

Latin is of the highlights of my week — Ancient History is far more interesting than anything I have studied before and Latin lessons are genuinely enjoyable. Even though the grammar can be complex, it's incredibly satisfying once the rules start to click.

Nikita Latin Student

Board/Specification

OCR A Level Latin H443

Course Content

Students develop advanced language and analytical skills through the study of Latin language and literature. Alongside translation work, the course explores the history, culture and ideas of the ancient world through a range of prose and verse texts.

Areas of study include:

- Latin-to-English Translation
- English-to-Latin Translation
- Latin Prose Literature (History)
- Latin Verse Literature (Mythology)

How is it assessed?

All written exams

Weighted 50/50 Translation and Literature

Latin-to-English Translation: 1 hr 45 mins

English-to-Latin Translation: 1 hr 15 mins

Why study Latin?

Latin offers the opportunity to explore the Ancient World through its language, literature and history. Students engage with fascinating topics ranging from the rise of Rome and Caesar's conquest of Gaul to mythology, philosophy and politics. The course also develops a high level of grammatical understanding and linguistic analysis, making it an excellent choice for students who enjoy language, history and intellectual challenge.

Career Pathways

Career pathways can include:

- Law and analytical professions
- Heritage, archaeology and museum sectors
- Linguistics and languagebased industries
- Publishing and editorial work
- Education and academic research

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Latin.



Management and Administration

T-Level



**NEW T-LEVEL
COURSE FOR 2027**

Board/Specification

**City & Guilds T-Level Technical Qualification in
Management and Administration
Level 3 – equivalent in size to three A Levels**

Course Content

A T-Level combines academic study with practical, employer-led learning and substantial industry placement.

Students develop a broad understanding of how successful organisations operate, studying:

- Business context
- People and stakeholders
- Finance
- Project and change management
- Business behaviours

Students also develop practical skills in communication, collaborative working, research, problem-solving and project management.

Alongside the core programme, students complete an occupational specialism in Team Leadership/Management, Business Improvement or Business Support, applying their learning to realistic workplace situations.

A minimum of 45 days industry placement provides students with significant experience in a real organisation and the opportunity to develop professional skills alongside employers.

How is it assessed?

- Two 2.5-hour examinations: 60%
- Employer-set project: 40%
- Occupational specialism: externally assessed practical assignment

The employer-set project uses a industry-style brief, requiring students to apply their business knowledge alongside English, maths and digital skills.

Why study Management and Administration?

Students who want to understand business by doing business and combining rigorous Level 3 study with practical experience make this course appealing.

Students learn about organisational decisions, managing people, delivering projects, responding to change and continuous improvement to performance. It develops highly transferable skills including leadership, communication, teamwork, commercial awareness, problem-solving and project management.

Developed with employers, the qualification provides excellent preparation for university, higher and degree apprenticeships or progression directly into skilled employment.

Career Pathways

- Business leadership and management
- Project and operations management
- Human resources and people management
- Finance and professional services
- Marketing and commercial management
- Entrepreneurship and business development

Entry Requirements

Students need a GPA of 4.5, with a minimum Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English.



Mathematics

A Level

The course has really helped me sharpen my logical thinking, tackle harder problem-solving, and build the kind of maths foundation that's really useful for subjects I want to study at university.

Adam Maths Student

Board/Specification

Edexcel A Level 9MA0

Course Content

Students develop their understanding of mathematical concepts, techniques and reasoning across pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. The course builds confidence in problem-solving, logical thinking and analytical skills, enabling students to apply mathematics in a wide range of contexts and preparing them for further study, employment and careers in STEM-related fields.

The course is divided into three main areas of study:

- Pure Mathematics (algebra, trigonometry, and calculus)
- Statistics (probability, distributions, and hypothesis testing)
- Mechanics (kinematics, forces, and moments)

How is it assessed?

100% Exam. There are three examinations. Each paper is a 2-hour written examination of 100 marks which comprises 33.33% of the qualification.

Why study Mathematics?

Studying A Level Mathematics develops essential problem-solving, logical reasoning, and analytical skills highly valued by universities and employers. It acts as a facilitating subject for degrees in STEM, Economics, and Finance, while enhancing career prospects in technology, data analysis, and engineering. It also improves everyday decision-making and mathematical confidence.

Career Pathways

Future roles can include those in:

- Finance, actuarial and investment sectors
- Engineering and technical industries
- Data science, analytics and AI
- Technology and software development
- Research, academia and education

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.



Further Mathematics

A Level

Taking A Level Further Mathematics has been a great way to explore the more advanced side of the subject. I really enjoy going beyond the standard syllabus and tackling the trickier ideas.

Charlie Further Maths Student

Board/Specification

Edexcel A Level 9FM0

Course Content

Students build on the knowledge and skills developed in A Level Mathematics through the study of:

- Core Pure Mathematics (complex numbers, matrices and calculus)
- Decision Maths (algorithms, networks and optimisation)
- Further Statistics (distributions, hypothesis testing and chi-squared) or Further Mechanics (momentum, energy, collisions)

How is it assessed?

100% Exam. There are four examinations. Each paper is a 1.5-hour written examination of 75 marks which comprises 25% of the qualification.

Why study Further Mathematics?

Studying A Level Further Mathematics is a challenging but highly rewarding qualification designed for students with a strong aptitude for and interest in mathematics. It is taken in addition to standard A Level Mathematics and can help if pursuing highly quantitative degrees such as Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Computer Science.

Career Pathways

Career pathways can include:

- Advanced engineering and physical sciences
- Quantitative finance and risk analysis
- Data modelling, AI and computational fields
- Research intensive STEM industries
- Higher level mathematics and academic pathways

Entry Requirements

Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics.



**NEW T-LEVEL
COURSE FOR 2027**

Media, Broadcast and Production

T-Level

Board/Specification

Pearson T-Level Technical Qualification in Media, Broadcast and Production (Level 3)
Equivalent in size to three A Levels

Course Content

This T-Level combines creative and technical learning with practical production experience and substantial industry placements.

Students explore the rapidly evolving media and creative industries through topics including:

- The creative economy
- Audiences and cultural contexts
- Media legislation and regulation
- Professionalism and ethics
- Research and creative development
- Professional development

Students apply their learning through an occupational specialism, developing practical industry skills in content creation and production, creative media technology or events and venues.

Depending on the specialism, students can develop ideas, pitch concepts, plan productions and create content across moving image, audio, photography, digital and online platforms.

A minimum of 45 days industry placement allows students to experience the creative industries first-hand and build professional skills and networks.

How is it assessed?

- 2.5-hour written examination: 60%
- Employer-set project: 40%
- Occupational specialism: substantial practical project

Assessment combines knowledge with practical application, requiring students to respond to industry-style briefs and demonstrate creative, technical and professional skills.

Why study Media, Broadcast and Production?

Media is increasingly shaped by streaming, social platforms, digital production and rapidly developing technologies. The T-Level gives students the opportunity to study that world and to study the world and create within in.

Students develop ideas from concept to final production, learning how to research audiences, pitch ideas, plan projects, produce content and evaluate its impact. They develop creativity alongside communication, collaboration, digital fluency, project management and commercial awareness.

The qualification has been developed with industry expertise and provides progression into university, apprenticeships and employment across the creative economy.

Career Pathways

- Film and television production
- Broadcasting and streaming
- Digital content creation
- Social media and digital marketing
- Audio, radio and podcast production
- Events and live production
- Post-production and visual effects
- Creative media technology

Entry Requirements

Students need a GPA of 4.5, with a minimum Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English.





Music

A Level

Choosing Music A Level was the best decision I made. It's pushed me creatively, improved my confidence as a performer and helped me understand music on a much deeper level. I genuinely look forward to every lesson.

Lewis Music Student

Board/Specification

Edexcel A Level (9MU0)

Course Content

- **Internally Assessed Units (67%):** These are practical projects and portfolios completed throughout the course (such as sequencing, mixing, mastering, and remixing). You will use Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) like Apple Logic Pro to create finished tracks, which you then document with project logs and written evaluations.
- **Externally Assessed Units (33%):** These are larger synoptic projects set and marked by the exam board. For the DAW production skills assessment, you typically work under controlled conditions – such as a 15-hour window over two weeks – to respond to a specific client brief. You will produce a final track from provided audio samples and submit production notes detailing your process

How is it assessed?

The Edexcel A Level qualifications in Music are 100% externally assessed, and consist of one written paper and two non-examined assessments (NEA).

30% Performance: recorded in the form of a (minimum 8 minutes) recital towards the end of the course. Students are expected to perform music at Grade 7 level or above.

30% Composition: 2 compositions (totalling a minimum of 6 minutes) in the second year of study.

40%: Appraising: a 2-hour exam at the end of the course. It covers 6 areas of study from musical history including vocal, instrumental, film, popular music and jazz, fusions and new directions.

Why study A Level Music?

Studying Music A Level develops creativity, analytical thinking, and cultural understanding while giving students the confidence to express themselves through performance and composition. It also builds transferable skills such as discipline, collaboration, and critical listening that are valued in a wide range of university courses and careers.

Career Pathways

Future areas of work can include:

- Performing arts and creative industries
- Education and music tuition
- Arts administration and cultural management
- Community arts and wellbeing sectors
- Media, film and entertainment

Entry Requirements

Entry requirement Grade 5 level ABRSM instrumental (or equivalent) instrumental at start of course. In addition to grade 6 in Music at GCSE.



Music Technology Digital Music Production

AAQ-BTEC



**NEW AAQ
COURSE FOR 2027**

Board/Specification

**Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate
(360 GLH) (603/1232/4) (Equivalent to one A Level)**

Course Content

This course provides technical skills and knowledge for careers in music technology or further university study.

Students develop practical skills in digital music production through the study of:

- DAW production using industry-standard software
- Creative Synthesis and Sampling including sound creation and manipulation
- Music and Sound for Media including creation of audio for games, film, and TV
- Mixing and Mastering Techniques: Finalising audio productions

How is it assessed?

Internally Assessed Units (67%): These are practical projects and portfolios completed throughout the course (such as sequencing, mixing, mastering, and remixing). You will use Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) like Apple Logic Pro to create finished tracks, which you then document with project logs and written evaluations.

Externally Assessed Units (33%): These are larger synoptic projects set and marked by the exam board. For the DAW production skills assessment, you typically work under controlled conditions – such as a 15-hour window over two weeks – to respond to a specific client brief. You will produce a final track from provided audio samples and submit production notes detailing your process

Why study BTEC Level 3 in Music Technology – Digital Music Production?

The BTEC Digital Music Production course is ideal for students who want to learn how modern music is created, recorded, and produced. It offers hands-on, practical experience with industry standard software, equipment, and production techniques, helping students build real-world skills for today's music and media industries. Students develop creative and technical abilities in areas such as audio recording, mixing, sound design, composition for media, and music technology in performance. The course suits learners who enjoy working independently, experimenting with sound, and building a professional standard portfolio.

The qualification is highly regarded by universities, apprenticeships, and employers across the creative sector because it demonstrates technical competency, creativity, problem-solving, and the ability to manage projects from concept to completion.

Career Pathways

Future career pathways can include:

- Audio engineering and music production
- Live events, broadcast and technical theatre
- Film, TV and gaming audio
- Radio, podcasting and digital media
- Creative industries and content creation

Entry Requirements

Grade 4,5 or above in GCSE Music and an average GPA of 4.5 across all subjects.



Physical Education

A Level

The thing I love most about PE is learning in depth about the changes in the body physiologically and psychologically when preparing and playing sport and how it's made to be interactive and fascinating.

Harriet PE A Level Student

Board/Specification

OCR A Level Physical Education (H555)

Course Content

Students develop knowledge and understanding across three major academic areas:

Sport Science

- Anatomy and physiology
- Biomechanics
- Training methods
- Energy systems

Sport Psychology

- Skill learning
- Motivation
- Personality
- Leadership
- Stress management

Sociology of Sport

- Sport and society
- Ethics and deviance in sport
- Global sporting events
- Technology and media

How is it assessed?

The qualification is divided into five assessed components (three exams + two NEA practical tasks). Students must complete all components to receive the full A Level qualification.

Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance (30%, 2 hr exam)

Component 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance (20%, 1 hr exam)

Component 3: Socio-Cultural Issues in Sport (20%, 1 hr exam)

Component 4: Practical Performance (performer or coach) (15%, coursework)

Component 5: Evaluating & Analysing Performance for Improvement (EAPI) (15%, coursework)

Why study PE?

Students develop many transferable skills such as: performance analysis; scientific data interpretation; coaching and leadership; evaluation and critical thinking; understanding human physiology; communication and teamwork.

Career Pathways

St Columba's alumni currently work across a range of professions, including:

- Sports performance and coaching
- Health, fitness and wellbeing industries
- Sports science and rehabilitation
- Education and sports development at university and school level
- Sports management and events

Entry Requirements

Ideally grade 6 or above at GCSE Physical Education in addition to one strong practical sport. Students do not need to have taken GCSE PE to join the A Level PE course. Students with a strong science grade (6 and above) are accepted onto the course.



Sports Studies

AAQ - CTEC

I chose CTEC sport because I enjoy the opportunity this gives me to balance coursework, Exam work, and practical elements. I love that the teachers help to make this course inclusive for everyone.

Lilah CTEC Sport Student

Board/Specification

OCR CTEC Level 3 Diploma 05829 Sports Studies
(equivalent to two A Levels)

Course Content

Students study a combination of compulsory and optional units.

Compulsory units include:

- Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity
- Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership
- Sports Organisation and Development
- Working Safely in Sport, Exercise and Health
- Physical Activity for Specific Groups

Optional units may include:

- Performance and Sports Science
- Coaching and Practical Sports
- Health and Exercise
- Sport Industry

These units allow students to specialise in areas like coaching, fitness or sport science.

How is it assessed?

Exams: 40%

Coursework: 60%

Units are taken throughout the two years of study.

Why study CTEC Sport?

Students develop a wide range of academic and practical skills, including an understanding of anatomy and physiology, performance analysis, fitness testing, coaching, leadership and communication. Students also gain valuable industry knowledge through areas such as event organisation, risk assessment, safeguarding and working with different populations. Unlike A Level PE, which is primarily exam-based, CTEC Sport includes a greater proportion of coursework and places a stronger emphasis on the real-world sport industry. It is an excellent choice for students who enjoy applied learning and want to combine academic study with practical experience.

Career Pathways

The qualification is widely accepted by universities and can lead to degrees such as Sport Science, Health and Therapy, Coaching and Education.

Career pathways can include:

- Fitness, leisure and personal training
- Coaching and community sport
- Sports facility and operations management
- Retail, marketing and sports business
- Health and rehabilitation support sectors

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Science and an average GCSE grade of 4.5 across all subjects.







Politics

A Level

Politics is genuinely one of the most current subjects you can study. Every week something happens in the news that links directly to what we've been learning in class.

Rosie Politics Student

Board/Specification

Edexcel A Level Politics (9PL0)

Course Content

Students explore how political systems operate in the UK and around the world, examining the ideas, institutions and events that shape society. The course encourages students to engage with current affairs while developing a deeper understanding of government, democracy and political change.

Areas of study include:

- Component 1: UK Politics - democracy, parties, elections and voting behaviour
- Component 2: UK Government - constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the judiciary
- Component 3A: Comparative Politics - US Constitution, Congress, Presidency, Supreme Court and civil rights
- Political Ideas - Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism

How is it assessed?

Three written exams at the end of Year 13. No coursework.

Paper 1: UK Politics (33.3%, 2 hr exam)

Paper 2: UK Government (33.3%, 2 hr exam)

Paper 3: Comparative Politics (USA) (33.3%, 2 hr exam)

Why study Politics?

Politics helps students understand the systems that shape society, government and global affairs. Alongside developing analytical and essay-writing skills, students engage with live political debates and issues that affect everyday life. An active co-curricular programme includes debates, mock elections and student parliament, while recent visits have included Parliament, Number 10, the UK Supreme Court, Washington DC and South Korea. Politics is excellent preparation for a wide range of degree subjects, including Law, History, Economics, PPE and International Relations.

Career Pathways

Former students have gone on to study Politics, International Relations, History and Law at universities including Russell Group institutions.

Career pathways can include:

- Government, civil service and public policy
- International relations and diplomacy
- Journalism, media and political communication
- Research, campaigning and advocacy
- Charity, NGO and global development sectors

Entry Requirements

- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature.
- Prior study of Politics is not a requirement, but History and Geography at GCSE are both helpful.
- An interest in current affairs and a willingness to engage with complex ideas.



Psychology

A Level

Starting a new subject at A-Level can seem daunting but Psychology is such an interesting subject. It has strengthened my analytical skills and has given me the confidence to try new things.

Daniel Psychology A Level Student

Board/Specification

AQA A Level (7182)

Course Content

Students explore a wide range of psychological theories and topics, including:

- Social Influence (conformity, obedience and minority influence)
- Memory (how we learn, why we forget and impact on eyewitness testimony)
- Attachment (childhood attachments and later relationships)
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology (brain structure and function, and how it impacts our behaviour)
- Research Methods
- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

How is it assessed?

100% Exam

Paper 1: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health

Paper 2: Approaches, Biopsychology, Research Methods

Paper 3: Issues and Debates, Relationships, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology

Why study Psychology?

Psychology helps us understand how people think, feel and behave, making it one of the most interesting and useful subjects you can study. It teaches you why we react the way we do, how the brain works, and what affects our behaviour - from memory and learning to stress and mental health. By studying psychology, you become better at understanding yourself and others, solving problems, and thinking critically about the world around you.

Career Pathways

These skills are valuable for everyday life and can open doors to a wide range of careers, including:

- Mental health and wellbeing sectors
- Human resources and organisational development
- Marketing, UX and consumer insight
- Social care and community services
- Psychology can count as a science for some university applications
- Research and behavioural science

Entry Requirements

Preferably a grade 6 in GCSE Biology, grade 5 in GCSE Maths and grade 6 in GCSE English.



Applied Psychology

AAQ - BTEC

Starting Applied Psychology has been an amazing experience so far. I really enjoy learning about why people think and behave in different ways and it has already helped me understand people in a whole new light.

Lois BTEC Applied Psychology Student

Board/Specification

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology (603/3057/0)

Course Content

This course is divided into four units:

- Psychological Approaches and Applications - social, cognitive, learning and biological approaches to Psychology and applying them to contemporary society
- Conducting Psychological Research - developing knowledge, understanding and skills in the scientific process and in psychological research methodology through your own psychological research project
- Health Psychology - exploring psychological approaches and theories related to lifestyle choices, unhealthy behaviours and behavioural change, linking them to their specific contexts
- Criminal and Forensic Psychology - exploring the different theories used to explain criminal behaviour and the application of criminal and forensic psychology in the criminal justice system

How is it assessed?

External Assessments (exams: 58% of total qualification)

Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications (1 hr 30 mins exam). The assessment includes short- and long-answer questions relating to applied approaches.

Unit 3: Health Psychology (2 hr exam). You will be assessed through a number of short- and long-answer questions relating to three different contexts.

Internal Assessments (coursework: 42% of total qualification)

Unit 2: Conducting Psychological Research – 3 tasks where you will: a) Understand research methods and their importance in psychological inquiry; b) Plan research to

investigate psychological questions; c/d) Carry out a pilot study to explore current issues in psychology and Review implications of research into psychological inquiry.

Unit 4: Criminal and Forensic Psychology - 3 tasks where you will: a) Understand different psychological approaches to explaining criminal behaviour; b) Investigate punishment strategies and behaviour modification of criminal behaviour; c) Apply different methods to create an offender profile.

Why study Applied Psychology?

Psychology is a fascinating subject because it helps us make sense of how people think, feel, and act. When you study it, you learn about everything from memory and behaviour to emotions and mental health, giving you a deeper understanding of yourself and the people around you. Psychology also builds important skills like problem-solving, analysing information, and thinking carefully about evidence. This course has more coursework than the A Level Psychology course.

Career Pathways

These skills are useful in everyday situations and valued across a wide range of professions.

Career pathways can include:

- Health and socialcare sectors
- Community, sport and youth support services
- HR, training and peoplefocused industries
- Education and learning support
- Customerfacing and servicebased industries

Entry Requirements

Preferably grade 5 in GCSE Biology/Science Trilogy (but will accept grade 4), grade 4 in GCSE Maths and grade 4 in GCSE English.

Physics

A Level

Board/Specification

OCR A Level in Physics A (H556)

Course Content

Students study a range of topics that develop both theoretical knowledge and practical scientific skills, including:

- Development of practical skills in Physics
- Foundations of Physics: physical quantities and units; scalars and vectors; measurements
- Forces and motion: motion; forces in action; work, energy and power; materials; Newton's laws of motion and momentum
- Electrons, waves and photons: charge and current; energy, power and resistance; electrical circuits; waves; quantum physics
- Newtonian world and astrophysics: thermal Physics; circular motion; oscillations; gravitational fields; astrophysics
- Particles and medical Physics: capacitors; electric fields; electromagnetism; nuclear and particle physics; medical imaging

How is it assessed?

The theory of the course is assessed through three terminal exam papers with 37%, 37% and 26% weightings.

Paper 1: Forces and motion: motion; forces in action; work, energy and power; materials; Newton's laws of motion and momentum, Newtonian world and astrophysics: thermal Physics; circular motion; oscillations; gravitational fields; astrophysics (100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins): Assesses Modules 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Paper 2: Electrons, waves and photons: charge and current; energy, power and resistance; electrical circuits; waves; quantum physics, Particles and medical Physics: capacitors;

electric fields; electromagnetism; nuclear and particle physics; medical imaging (100 marks, 2 hr 15 mins): Assesses Modules 1, 2, 4, and 6.

Paper 3: Unified Physics (70 marks, 1 hr 30 mins): Assesses all modules, focusing on synoptic links.

Practical skills are examined via a separate endorsement.

Why study Physics?

Studying A Level Physics develops an individual's skills in practical science (planning, implementing, analysing and evaluating), complex problem-solving and mathematical skills, scientific communication and teamwork. It will encourage you to use 'first principle' thinking to understand and explain scientific ideas.

Career Pathways

Recent Physics students have gone on to study Engineering at university and through apprenticeship routes.

Career pathways can also include:

- Space, astrophysics and research sectors
- Data science, modelling and computation
- Finance, including investment banking
- Renewable energy and environmental technology
- Electronics, robotics and instrumentation

Entry Requirements

GCSE Mathematics grade 7, GCSE Physics grade 7 or GCSE Combined Science grade 7, and GCSE English grade 7.



"I really enjoy A Level Physics because it helps me understand how the world works, from the behaviour of tiny particles to the motion of planets."

Charlie Physics Student

Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

A Level



The RE department at St Columba's is incredible, I absolutely adore the subject even though I struggled at the start as it really is quite different to GCSE. I would like to inspire other people to take Philosophy and share the love of it that I do.

Lily Religious Studies Student

Board/Specification

OCR A Level (H573A)

Course Content

Students explore a range of topics in Philosophy, Ethics and Theology, including:

- Utilitarianism
- Business Ethics
- Sexual Ethics
- Arguments for the Existence of God
- Gender and Society
- Secularism and Atheism
- Liberation Theology
- Marx

How is it assessed?

Three 2-hour exams at the end of the course, each with equal weighting. For each paper, students complete three essays from a choice of four.

Why study Philosophy and Ethics?

It is important to study this subject in a world where critical thinking is increasingly necessary. Philosophy trains the brain to think and is the foundation of all other subjects. It encourages independent and flexible thought which will take you well beyond the classroom and into the world of work and leadership.

Career Pathways

Students regularly go on to study Philosophy and related subjects at university.

Career pathways can include:

- Law, public policy and civil service
- Journalism, media and communications
- Education and academic research
- Charity, NGO and community leadership
- Ethics consultancy in business, medicine and technology

Entry Requirements

We would normally expect to see several grade 6s at GCSE level. It is expected that students will have a grade 6 in RE GCSE; alternatively where students have not studied RE, students would be expected to have a grade 6 in English GCSE.





Sociology

A Level

Sociology has always interested me because it helps me make sense of how people behave, how society fits together, and why different issues affect people in such different ways.

Ben Sociology Student

Board/Specification

Eduqas A Level A200QS

Course Content

Students investigate how societies are organised and how social groups influence the way we live. The course explores key social issues and encourages students to question and analyse the world around them.

Areas of study include:

Year 12

- Families and Households
- Religion
- Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Year 13:

- Social Inequality
- Crime and Deviance

How is it assessed?

100% exam with three taken at the end of Year 13.

Component 1: Families and Households / Religion
(40%, 2 hrs 30 mins exam)

Component 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry
(20%, 1 hr 45 mins exam)

Component 3: Social Inequality / Crime and Deviance
(40%, 2 hrs 30 mins exam)

Why study Sociology?

“The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.” - Pierre Bourdieu.

Sociology is the study of societies and, unlike other disciplines, it looks at how people live, behave and work together in groups. It asks questions about the world that we live in and tries to explain why it is the way it is. For example:

Why do some groups do better in education than others? Who benefits from politics? Why do some people commit more crime than others? What influence does religion have on our lives? Do we live in a postmodern world?

Career Pathways

Sociology students progress into a wide range of professions.

Career pathways can include:

- Social research and policy development
- Social care, youth work and community services
- HR, diversity and organisational culture
- Media, communications and public relations
- Charity, NGO and public sector roles

Entry Requirements

In order to study Sociology, ideally you should have attained at least a GCSE grade 6 in a similar subject such as History or English. It does not matter that you have not taken Sociology at GCSE because only at A Level do you really start to use a theoretical approach to the subject.



Spanish

A Level

Learning Spanish is rewarding because it broadens my cultural understanding and communication skills. I believe it will open many opportunities for me in the future by allowing me to connect to more people on a deeper level.

Seb Spanish Student

Board/Specification

AQA A Level 7692

Course Content

Students explore a range of contemporary and cultural topics, including:

- Aspects of Hispanic Society (family, cyberspace and gender equality)
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society (immigration, integration and racism)
- Artistic Life in the Hispanic World (idols, regional identity, cultural heritage, art and architecture)
- Politic Life in the Hispanic World
- Film and Literature

How is it assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (50%)

Paper 2: Writing (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Why study Spanish?

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Your status as an A Level linguist defines you as somebody willing to work at developing a new skill, open to new people and cultures, and adept at communicating. As well as mastering the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing Spanish, you will also access authentic Spanish describing a huge variety of different topics and contexts and become a truly global citizen. You will be able to understand and discuss topics in fluent Spanish, and will be encouraged to spend as much time in a Spanish-speaking country as you can. Although many people speak Spanish, it takes a degree of passion and commitment to reach A Level standard, and the rewards for taking this challenge are many.

Career Pathways

Recent Columban linguists have used their language skills as a springboard to careers and university courses in areas including Law, International Relations and Medicine.

Career pathways can also include:

- International business and global trade
- Diplomacy and international relations
- Tourism, hospitality and travel
- Translation and language services
- Education and cultural exchange

Entry Requirements

We would prefer a grade 7 at GCSE Spanish, although commitment to the course is the most desirable quality.



Stretch and Challenge

Our Sixth Form Stretch and Challenge Programme is designed to recognise that students grow and develop at different stages and paces. We aim to provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment for all, with opportunities for students to build on their strengths, explore new interests and continue developing a lifelong love of learning. This may take the form of Leadership Courses when students first join Sixth Form, or participation in the Lower Sixth Competitive Application Programme, laying the foundations for successful university applications.

Alongside the extensive Careers Programme, we recognise that certain universities and courses have different admissions criteria. Students considering Medicine, Veterinary Science, Oxford, Cambridge and other competitive universities receive additional support. This involves preparing students for admissions tests, allocating them mentors and providing a rigorous programme of interview preparation. We work with a wide network of schools and professionals to ensure that every student called for interview is thoroughly prepared by the College. Our Stretch and Challenge Programme is designed to help students aim high, while providing the guidance and support they need to achieve their goals.



The EPQ made me much more confident when I started my degree as I knew how to approach my studies and how to present work. I was able to talk about my project on my UCAS application form to make me stand out.

Robert EPQ student

Extended Project Qualification

Why choose the EPQ?

If there's an area of study you really love – whether it is engineering, languages, sport or art-based – an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) gives you the chance to develop your skills and knowledge AND impress universities at the same time.

The benefits of doing an EPQ include:

- Enhancing your UCAS application and potentially helping you meet the conditions of a university place offer, as it is worth extra points.
- The opportunity to produce a piece of work that is truly individual and says something about you as a person, whether it is a written research report, event or creative artefact (like a computer game or artwork).
- Demonstrating to universities that you are enthusiastic about the subject you are applying to study.
- Proving to future employers that you are a self-motivated character with useful skills in your chosen field.
- Allows you to investigate a topic you are interested in but not offered at A Level.

What will you learn?

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.
- Alongside this, students are taught the skills necessary to carry out the project such as referencing, using a library, time management, research skills, report methodology and effective presentation.

Entry requirement

Each student is considered on their individual strengths and needs.

GCE AS EPQ (Level 3) Examination Board

AQA

Careers University, Apprenticeships and Employment

“To make a life, not just a living”

Careers education is about far more than choosing a profession; it is about inspiring ambition, nurturing potential and empowering young people to make informed decisions about their future. Students are encouraged to explore a wide range of pathways, from leading universities and competitive apprenticeships to rewarding careers. Through personalised guidance, exceptional opportunities and expert support, students are prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Careers Advice

Four or more careers guidance appointments are held with the Head of Careers and a team of experts. Bespoke advice is available about professions, higher education, apprenticeships and alternative pathways, ensuring that every decision reflects their individual interests, talents and ambitions.

Supported by specialist resources, including detailed psychometric tests, students are encouraged to explore possibilities with confidence and make choices that are right for them.

Employability and Recruitment Skills

Students participate in practical workshops designed to equip them with the skills sought by universities and employers alike. They learn how to produce professional CVs and compelling cover letters, complete high-quality application forms and present themselves with confidence throughout the recruitment process. Through mock interviews and assessment centre activities, students develop the communication, resilience and self-awareness for interviews and selection processes. Bespoke practice sessions are offered to students invited to interview. Understanding how to succeed in competitive recruitment processes is an integral part of our careers programme.



University and Apprenticeship Success

Guidance and mentoring prepare students for every stage of the post-18 application process. From researching courses and career pathways to writing personal statements, completing UCAS and apprenticeship applications, and applying for student finance, students receive expert guidance throughout. Support continues beyond examinations, ensuring every student feels well prepared as they transition to the next stage of their education or career.

Employer Engagement and Career Exploration

Students engage with a range of employers, alumni, industry professionals and higher education representatives through an extensive programme of guest speakers at our Inspiration Conference and enrichment events. These experiences broaden horizons, deepen understanding of career journeys, introduce them to a wide range of professions and inspire students to pursue their ambitions with confidence. By hearing first-hand accounts from those working across diverse sectors and developing networking skills, students gain valuable insight into the skills, values and qualities required for future success.

Work Experience and Professional Development

Meaningful workplace experiences form an essential part of the Sixth Form journey. Through virtual work experience, opportunities and a week dedicated to in-person placements, students develop professional skills, independence and confidence while gaining a realistic understanding of the world of work. These opportunities encourage reflection, strengthen applications and help students appreciate how their academic learning can be applied beyond the classroom.



St Columba's Connects

 stcolumbasconnects.org

 [@stcolumbasconnects](https://www.instagram.com/stcolumbasconnects)

St Columba's Connects is a global community of alumni, friends and supporters of St Columba's. It exists to provide lifelong friendships and support for Columbans long after they leave school, as well as to current students.

Simply by attending St Columba's, you are, and always will be, a valued Columban.

When you leave us, you will be invited to join St Columba's Connects as a member of your class.

Our alumni work across a wide range of professions and industries. We know, because they come back and tell us, passing on their experience and sharing their passions

through our college events; Inspiration Day and from our Business Directory.

They inspire and support our young people in many ways, as career and education role models, mentors, work experience providers, governors, donors and fundraisers.

We organise events and social occasions throughout the year, from class reunions and formal dinners to sporting events and networking opportunities.

Beyond the curriculum



Trips, Exchanges and Outdoor Adventure

Sixth Form at St Columba's extends far beyond the classroom, students are encouraged to challenge themselves, broaden their horizons and develop a truly global perspective.

Academic enrichment, cultural exchange and adventure travel play a significant role in Sixth Form life. Recent destinations have included Houston for STEM, South Korea for Politics, the Azores for Geography, Rome for Religious Education and the USA for History. Sports tours have taken students to Milan for football, Malta for netball and the USA for basketball, combining competition, team-building and unforgettable experiences.

For more than 30 years, Project Respond has provided Sixth Form students with a life-changing opportunity to serve communities in Zambia. Students contribute to educational and building projects, visit local initiatives and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing communities around the world. The experience develops empathy, resilience and a stronger sense of social responsibility, while creating memories that last a lifetime. It remains one of the most powerful formation experiences we offer.

As part of the global network of Brothers of the Sacred Heart schools, students benefit from a range of international exchanges and visits to our sister schools. Recent destinations have included Queens, Boston, Rhode Island and New Orleans. Shared values and traditions enable students to build strong connections quickly, often forming friendships that continue long after the exchange has ended.

Duke of Edinburgh

St Columba's has a long tradition of success in Hertfordshire's Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award programme. The award encourages students to step outside their comfort zones, develop new skills and discover new interests, while building confidence, independence and resilience. These qualities are highly valued by universities and employers alike. Previous participation in DofE is not required, only enthusiasm, commitment and a spirit of adventure.

Combined Cadet Forces

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a vibrant part of Sixth Form life, providing opportunities for adventure, leadership and personal development. Meeting each Friday evening, students take part in training exercises, competitions and fieldcraft weekends while assuming increasing levels of responsibility. Sixth Form students play a key leadership role within the contingent, and in two of the past three years the St Columba's contingent has produced the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for Hertfordshire.

Leadership Opportunities

Leadership opportunities extend throughout the Sixth Form experience. Through initiatives such as the Leadership Foundations Course, Model United Nations (MUN) and a wide range of student leadership positions, students develop the confidence and skills to make a positive impact. Depending on their interests, Sixth Formers can serve as prefects, subject ambassadors, House leaders, buddies and members of the Student Voice Committee, becoming role models for younger pupils and helping to shape the life of the school.



Service and charity are central to what makes St Columba's such a special community. Lower Sixth students can volunteer in local primary schools, while our long-standing partnership with Watling View School gives students the opportunity to support pupils with a range of educational and physical disabilities. Many students also undertake additional volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Charity Work

Working closely with CAFOD, students have raised tens of thousands of pounds through ambitious fundraising initiatives, including the school's legendary Bake Off. Through these projects, Sixth Formers learn to lead social justice initiatives, collaborate with students from other schools and make a meaningful contribution to causes they care about. The Sixth Form also supports a wide range of local community projects, including the Borehamwood Food Bank appeal and fundraising initiatives for the Open Door homeless shelter in St Albans.

Sport

Sport is a valued and energetic part of Sixth Form life at St Columba's. Whether competing at regional and national level or participating recreationally with friends, students are encouraged to challenge themselves, work as part of a team and maintain a healthy balance alongside their academic studies.

The school has a long-established tradition of representative sport and offers opportunities for students of all abilities to participate and develop. Alongside our major sports of

basketball, netball, rugby, football, athletics and cricket, students can also enjoy cross-country running, fencing, fitness training, pickleball, tennis and swimming. Whatever their level of experience, students are encouraged to pursue excellence, enjoy competition and develop lifelong habits of physical wellbeing.

Music

Music is a vibrant and much-loved part of Sixth Form life, offering opportunities for students of all abilities to perform, lead and develop their talents. Whether students are experienced performers or simply passionate about music, there is a place for everyone within the department's thriving musical community.

Our aim is to be as inclusive as possible while continuing to challenge and inspire talented musicians. Students can take part in an extensive programme of concerts, performances and productions throughout the year, including a large-scale musical every other year.

A wide range of ensembles caters for different musical interests and styles, including the Samba Band, Rock Band, Senior Choir, Orchestra and Jazz Band. Sixth Form students also play a leading role in some of the school's most cherished traditions, from directing and performing in the famous House Shout competition at the Eisteddfod to writing and performing the annual Sixth Form Christmas song for the school community.

Through these experiences, students develop confidence, creativity, teamwork and leadership while creating lasting memories and contributing to the rich cultural life of the school.





We're not here to
fit the mould.
We're here to
shape the future.



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THE
GOOD
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