

# HITCHIN SCHOOLS' SIXTH FORM CONSORTIUM



Prospectus 2019-2021



**Ruby**  
– Head Girl at HGS

I think at A Level, it is really important to study subjects that you have a passion for. I am currently studying History, Politics and French, and although I don't find French particularly easy, the challenge is a part of my love and motivation for the subject. I have found that working in the Consortium is an enjoyable experience and getting to know members of your year from the other schools is something to look forward to. The extra-curricular opportunities in Sixth Form are definitely not limited and I recently took part in the SGLI programme in India, which was an experience I will never forget.

# CONTENTS

<b>Foreword</b>	3	Mathematics & Further Mathematics	18
<b>Introduction</b>	4 - 5	Media Studies	19
<b>Courses</b>		Modern Foreign Languages: French, German & Spanish	20
Art & Design	6	Music	21
Biology	6	Music Technology L3 BTEC	21
Business	7	Performing Arts L3 BTEC	22
Business L3 BTEC	8	Philosophy & Ethics	23
Chemistry	8	Photography	23
Classical Civilisation	9	Physical Education	24
Computer Science	9	Physics	25
Drama & Theatre	10	Politics	25
Economics	11	Product Design	26
English Language & Literature	12	Psychology	27
English Literature	13	Sociology	27
Fashion & Textiles	14	<b>Enrichment</b>	
Food Science & Nutrition L3 Diploma	14	Extended Project Qualification	28
Geography	15	Mathematics - Core	28
Health & Social Care L3 BTEC	16	Sports Leaders	28
Health & Social Care L3 Technical	16	Delivery of Courses	29
History	17	Entry Requirements	30
ICT L3 BTEC	17		
Latin	18	Contact Details and Key Dates	IBC

# FOREWORD

We are pleased that you are seriously considering remaining in full-time education and doing so in the Hitchin Schools' Sixth Form Consortium. It is a Consortium of Hitchin Boys' School, Hitchin Girls' School and The Priory School. Being part of a school Sixth Form is more than studying for qualifications. There are other benefits to be had from working with people you know, in a familiar environment. There is also a very significant contribution you can make as a sixth form student to your school and to the Consortium in a whole variety of ways which, in turn, will be of further benefit to you when you move on to higher education or employment.

The Consortium has existed for many years and we constantly review what we offer and seek ways of improving still further the opportunities for post-16 students across the Consortium. All schools are now facing significant financial challenges, particularly with further reductions to post-16 funding. However, by working closely and creatively together as a Consortium we are able to continue to offer a wide range of A level, L3 BTEC and L3 Technical qualifications.

Each of the schools in the Consortium has excellent arrangements in place to guide you in making your choices. We will provide advice, designed to offer you the most appropriate programme. After reading this prospectus carefully do talk to your teachers, Heads of Year, Heads of Sixth Form, Careers Advisers and students already following the courses in which you are interested. You will then be able to make your choices from an informed position.

**In the meantime we wish you every success in your examinations.**



M. Brown  
Head Teacher  
Hitchin Boys' School



G. Edwards  
Head Teacher  
The Priory School



F. Manning  
Head Teacher  
Hitchin Girls' School





**Tommy**  
– Deputy Head Boy, HBS

In year 12, I chose to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry. I struggled when deciding which subjects to pick and my best advice is to go with what you enjoy. You can easily over think it and end up regretting your decision. I now plan to study engineering at university at the end of year 13 and I'm enjoying every step of the way.

Day to day life in Sixth Form is a really great experience and the Consortium system brings lots of extra socialising and learning opportunities and has a great atmosphere around work and support. It has helped me improve skills like independence and timekeeping. All the teachers are very supportive and always go the extra mile for their students. I strongly recommend choosing Hitchin Consortium to study your A levels.

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Hitchin Schools' Sixth Form Consortium Prospectus for the period September 2019 to July 2021. We hope that you find the information contained in it useful. Further information is available from the Head of Sixth Form at each of the schools and at the Sixth Form Open Evenings.

The three Hitchin secondary schools, Hitchin Boys', Hitchin Girls' and The Priory are working together as a Sixth Form Consortium to enable over 700 students to have access to a wide range of academic and vocational courses.

## Consortium Aims and Objectives

- To offer learning environments where you feel safe, valued and informed.
- To meet the needs of all students through a high quality provision of appropriate learning and enrichment opportunities.
- To provide clear progression opportunities along relevant and flexible pathways.
- To ensure you receive comprehensive and impartial advice and guidance in order to achieve your full potential.
- To give you the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to set yourself demanding targets and the determination to achieve them.
- To provide you with a platform from which you can progress to employment or to higher or further education.
- To provide best value through effective deployment of resources and specialist staff.

## Entry to the Sixth Form

You are encouraged to move on to the Sixth Form provided that you are capable of benefiting from the courses which are available and that you have a positive approach to your work. The level of course you could progress onto will depend on the results you achieve at Key Stage 4. Standard entry requirement to our Consortium is five Grade 9 – 4 GCSEs or equivalent, including a grade 4 or above in both Maths and English. Some subjects will have additional entry requirements and all have a recommended GCSE Average Points Score (APS) as detailed in the Entry Requirements table on page 30. You must be under 18 on 31st August 2019 to join the Sixth Form.

After the Open Evening you will be asked to complete a registration form indicating the courses which you would like to take in the Sixth Form. These choices will be discussed with you in individual meetings and induction sessions will be held in each school. Taster lessons in each subject are run across the Consortium during a designated period in the second half of the summer term.

## Advice and Guidance

All three schools have been awarded the Youth Connexions Quality Award in Careers Education and Guidance and hold the Investors in Careers Awards. Impartial advice and guidance regarding options after Key Stage 4 is available for you from a variety of sources including subject teachers, Year Heads, Careers Co-ordinators, Heads of Sixth Form and Head Teachers. Career advisers are available in school on a regular basis and will be in attendance at the Sixth Form Open Evenings.

In the Sixth Form you will be assigned to a tutor and a tutor group for the whole of your Sixth Form course. The tutor, supported by your Head of Sixth, is responsible for your academic guidance and pastoral care. Careers education and guidance is an integral part of the Sixth Form programme with the aim of helping you to make informed, appropriate choices about your future.

You will receive advice and assistance from nominated personnel at each school when making applications to university or

college, and for apprenticeships and work experience. There is an integrated reference process for UCAS applications between the three schools, via the Unifrog programme. Where talks and presentations are made from industry representatives, we aim to make these accessible to students across the Consortium wherever possible.

## Life in the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form provides a series of opportunities for you to develop not only your academic and vocational attainments but also your self-confidence and skills such as communication, team working and management of your own learning. You will be encouraged to take more responsibility for your work, particularly with regard to its planning and completion, the preparation required for lessons and the amount of reading needed to gain the necessary depth and breadth of knowledge in each subject. With more lessons in each subject than at Key Stage 4, there is more chance to develop a closer contact with teachers and receive more individual attention.

You will have a number of private study or assisted learning periods during each week. You will be expected to use this time constructively either on further study, research or wider reading. For each hour of taught lessons in school, you will need to spend upwards of one hour on independent study in order to achieve your full potential. There is a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities for you to continue to develop your own skills and abilities and

increase your range of interests. There are also opportunities for you to assist with the running of activities for other students in your school and to participate in sport, music and drama. It is to be hoped that you will take up some of the opportunities available.

The important factor overall is to maintain a good balance between the demands of academic work and all the other demands on your time.

## How The Consortium Operates

Each school offers a range of Sixth Form courses with the opportunity to take courses at other schools within the Consortium. Generally, it will be possible to accommodate you on the courses of your choice, however, where demand dictates, the following criteria will apply:

- 1 Some courses are joint-taught across two or more schools. Students from all three schools have equal right of access to these courses.
- 2 Some courses are only delivered at one or two of the three schools. Places on these courses will be given to students from the other schools once the demand for places in the host school has been assessed.
- 3 In some cases it is difficult to timetable all the subjects which you would like to take without there being a timetable clash. Most often in this situation it will be possible for you to take a subject at one of the other schools to resolve the clash.

- 4 Please note that in cases where only a small number of students choose a particular course it may not be possible to run it.

You must negotiate your courses with your own Head of Sixth Form. Students from outside the area wishing to be taught within the Consortium need first to apply to the Sixth Form in one of the schools.

Transport is provided at certain times during the school day to move you between sites, where required, for consortium lessons. You are expected to make your own way to and from your teaching site at the beginning and end of the day.

## The Sixth Form Curriculum

Students joining the Sixth Form are encouraged to follow a broad, challenging curriculum. Most students will select three courses for their studies from over thirty different A level or Vocational courses available within the Consortium.

All of the A level courses are now linear, with assessment by examination taking place at the end of two years of study. These courses are graded on a six point scale with pass grades from A\* to E.

Most of the vocational courses offered are equivalent to one A level. BTEC Business is a double award, equivalent to two A levels. These courses are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\* and are assessed through assignments, both internally & externally marked, and examinations.



Alex – Head Boy at TPS

I've thoroughly enjoyed Sixth Form over the past academic year, and hope the same for this upcoming year. I have and continue to study Performing Arts BTEC, History and Psychology A level. I haven't completely decided on what I want to do next. I plan on applying to university and exploring a variety of courses from Film and Theatre studies to Philosophy, but I have really found a passion for music, so I would like to pursue this first in a year out. The schools support for their Sixth Form students has been brilliant, really encouraging and helping you to find and move in the direction that is right for you. This extends across year 12 and 13, the close relationship between students and staff giving you a supportive network beyond that of previous years. The experience is challenging, but certainly enjoyable in the company of all the friends and staff.



## Art & Design – A Level

This course will enable you to develop the creative and intellectual skills for imaginative growth and to access the vast array of art and design further study and careers. It is an excellent complement to many other areas of study, as it teaches you to be analytical, to solve problems creatively and to gain a cultural awareness.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above if taken at GCSE**  
 Course Specification:  
**OCR H600-H606 (HGS and TPS)**  
**Pearson 9FA0 (HBS)**

### Component 01: Personal Investigation

A portfolio of work based on a self-directed theme leading to finished outcome/s. The course begins with an initial 'foundation' course, working with a variety of 2D and 3D media in various formats. As you identify strengths and interests, you will select a more focused pathway, exploring personally selected subject matter and methods of working. The portfolio may be presented as sketchbooks, mounted sheets, maquettes, digital presentations or animation. Accompanying the portfolio is a written and visual related study of an artist, theme or process which features within your practical work. The related study enables you to develop and communicate your knowledge and understanding of art historical movements, genres, practitioners and artworks. It also builds your understanding of the relationship between society and art: art historical terms, concepts and issues.

### Component 02: Externally Set Task

A pre-released paper is issued with a choice of themes, each with written and/or visual starting points, briefs or stimuli. You will choose one option for which you will generate an appropriate personal response, during a set amount of supervised time, for assessment. You will be given a preparatory period for research, planning and development of ideas.

## Biology – A Level

The aim of the course is to gain an insight into the Science of Life. You will study exciting and sometimes controversial issues such as genetic engineering, recent medical developments, biotechnology and environmental issues. You will develop practical skills by planning experiments, collecting data, analysing experimental results and making conclusions. Biology is essential for careers in medicine and veterinary sciences as well as in disciplines such as biochemistry, microbiology, ecology and environmental sciences. We recommend that Biology is taken in conjunction with complementary subjects such as the other Sciences and you must have confidence in basic mathematical methods.

This course is split into six modules and combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitutes the full A Level qualification. The modules can be summarised as:

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

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with theoretical topics and they are both assessed through the written exam papers. For the practical endorsement, your class teachers will assess your practical skills in lessons, with a minimum of 12 practical activities to be carried out over the 2 years. At the end of the course, this will be reported separately to the exam grade as a pass or fail.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
**6 or above in GCSE Biology or 7/6 or above in GCSE Combined Science**  
 Course Specification:  
**OCR H420**



## Business – A Level

The **WJEC course** will introduce you to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth.

You will be encouraged to develop an understanding of business in a range of contexts and develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants. You will learn that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives; to generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, problems and issues; and to become aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals. During the course you will acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills, including decision making, problem solving, the challenging of assumptions and critical analysis and you will apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

The A Level qualification is comprised of 3 components, all assessed by written exam:

- 1 Business Opportunities & Functions
- 2 Business Analysis and Strategy
- 3 Business in a Changing World

The focus of the course is to nurture an enthusiasm for studying business using contemporary contexts, allowing you to develop an holistic understanding of business issues from a local to global perspective while analysing the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues both nationally and internationally.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**WJEC Eduqas (HGS)**

In this **AQA course**, we demonstrate the interrelated nature of Business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The content of the course is designed to engage you through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society, through key contemporary developments such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation topics. The complete A Level course covers the following topics:

- What is Business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7132 (HBS)**

For the A Level, there will be three 2 hour exams, assessing all of the topics above.



## Business – L3 BTEC

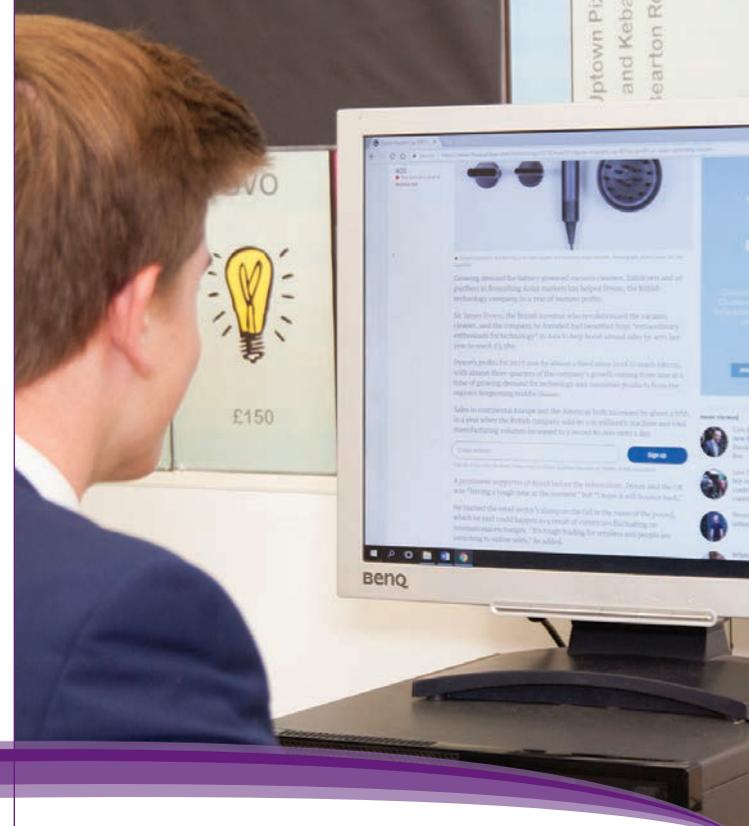
The BTEC National Diploma in Business gives you the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the business sector and that are required for further or higher education. It is a double award qualification equivalent to 2 A Levels. You will study specific topics including marketing, international business, management and finance and will complete eight units throughout the course. You will develop a number of transferable skills, including the ability to work independently, to undertake methodical research and to work effectively in a group. The units covered will be as follows:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Managing an Event
- International Business
- Principles of Management
- Recruitment and Selection Process
- Market Research

Personal and Business Finance is assessed by written exam, two units are assessed by carrying out a task under supervision, and the other five units are assessed by the completion of assignments.

This qualification can lead on to a number of university courses, higher level apprenticeships or directly into employment. Areas of employment could include marketing, events management, human resources, administration and finance.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**Standard entry requirements apply**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business**



Business – L3 BTEC

## Chemistry – A Level

The aims of the course are to develop your interest in chemistry, to appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues, to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and to develop knowledge and understanding of different areas of chemistry and how they relate to each other. A pass at A Level is essential for a chemistry degree as well as for medicine and veterinary qualifications. It can be taken as an only science, because although chemistry contributes well to other subjects, it does not rely on knowledge from other areas, although to do well, a candidate must have confidence in basic mathematical methods.

The course is split into six modules and combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitutes the full A Level qualification.

**The modules can be summarised as:**

- Development of practical skills
- Foundations in chemistry covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules including atoms, compounds, molecules and equations.
- Periodic table and energy
- Core organic chemistry
- Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Organic chemistry and analysis

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
**6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or**  
**7/6 or above in GCSE Combined**  
**Science**  
Course Specification:  
**OCR H432**

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with theoretical topics and they are both assessed through the written exam papers. For the practical endorsement, your class teachers will assess your practical skills in lessons, with a minimum of 12 practical activities to be carried out over the 2 years. At the end of the course, this will be reported separately to the exam grade as a pass or fail.

Chemistry – A Level

## Classical Civilisation – A Level

This course provides you with the opportunity to study Greek and Roman civilisation through a range of topics. As well as appreciating classical literature in translation and various background topics we also focus on the culture of Greek and Roman society.

There are three components that will be studied over the two year course as follows:-

### Year 12

- The World of the Hero. This is the compulsory study of literature in translation and we will be undertaking an in depth study of Homer's Odyssey.
- Beliefs and Ideas. This component looks at one area of classical thought in combination with both literature in translation and visual/material culture. We will be studying Democracy and the Athenians.

### Year 13

- The World of the Hero. We will be undertaking our second in-depth study of Virgil's Aeneid.
- Culture and the Arts. This is the study of visual and material culture and we will be looking at Greek Art.

Lessons will focus on discussion of the topics and the wider social and historical context. An element of independent study is expected, and regular essays/context questions are set. All units are assessed by written examination. There is no coursework option.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**Standard Entry Requirements apply**  
Course Specification:  
**OCR H408**



Classical Civilisation  
– A Level



## Computer Science – A Level

Advances in computing are transforming the way we work and this course has been designed to allow you to gain a broad understanding of Computer Science. It offers you excellent progression opportunities into higher education and the ability to thrive in the work place. You will have a chance to study the following areas:

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming

- Systematic approach to problem solving
- The computing practical project

You will be assessed at the end of the two years by one on-screen exam, one written exam and a practical computing project.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7517**

Computer Science  
– A Level



## Drama & Theatre – A Level

By studying Drama and Theatre Studies you will develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This course will refine your collaborative skills, your analytical thinking and your approach to research.

This course requires you to demonstrate a practical understanding of a minimum of two complete and substantial performance texts and at least three key extracts from three different texts placed in the context of the whole text. You will study the work and methodologies of two influential theatre practitioners (individual or companies) and you will be required to participate in a minimum of two performances, one devised and one from a performance text studied during the course.

The key skills being developed are:

- The ability to recognise and understand the interrelationship between performer, designer and director.
- The understanding that texts and extracts studied may represent a range of social, historical and cultural contexts.
- The ability to analyse and evaluate your work and the work of others.
- The ability to understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed.

The course will be assessed through a combination of a written exam and non-examined assessment.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson 9Dr01 (HGS)**  
**AQA 7262 (HBS)**



## Economics – A Level

You will be introduced to this Economics course through developing your knowledge of core microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts. There are four themes, as follows, and each one investigates economic theory through real world businesses and the environments in which they operate.

- Markets, consumers and firms
- The wider economic environment
- The global economy
- Making markets work

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson - Economics B (9EBO) – TPS**

The topic areas include enterprise, government intervention, globalisation and market power. You will be required to apply your knowledge and understanding and demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies. The course is assessed through three exam papers of two hours duration. The third paper is based on a pre-released context such as a specific industry, market or economic issue.

You will develop transferable skills, such as quantitative and analytical analysis that will support your study in a wide range of subjects at further or higher education including any degree in economics or business. You can progress into a wide range of careers ranging from finance, banking, insurance, accountancy and management.

In this course, our approach to Economics is to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, encouraging you to appreciate the interrelationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics.

The content of the course covers:

### **The operation of markets and market failure**

- Economic methodology and the economic problem.
- Price determination in a competitive market.
- Production, costs and revenue.
- Competitive and concentrated markets.
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7136 - HBS**

### **The national economy in a global context**

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance.
- How the macroeconomy works : the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts.
- Economic performance.
- Macroeconomic policy.

You will be assessed at the end of the course by three written examinations.





# English Language & Literature – A Level

This English Language and Literature course offers opportunities for you to develop your subject expertise by engaging creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. You will learn to use literary and linguistic concepts and methods to analyse literary and non-literary texts from a range of modes and genres. You will develop your skills as writers and your skills in analysis through essay writing and re-creative writing.

You will study a range of set texts throughout the course. These will consist of a collection of themed non-fiction texts (including autobiography, advertisements and transcripts of speech), a drama text, a collection of poetry and classic prose fiction. Currently, our set texts include *The Great Gatsby*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Frankenstein* and the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Please be aware that there can be slight changes to this list.

The course will be assessed as follows:

Paper 1: Telling Stories (non-fiction anthology, prose fiction and poetry anthology) – written examination.

Paper 2: Exploring Conflict (re-creative writing based on a prose set text with critical commentary and study of a play) – written examination.

Non-exam Assessment: Making Connections (an independent investigation on a chosen theme and texts) – centre assessed and moderated by the exam board.

English Language and Literature is a useful introduction to further study of linguistics and/or literature. English qualifications open doors to many careers and higher/ further education courses, and provide you with the skills you need for effective and sophisticated written and spoken communication.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7707**



# English Literature – A Level

Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, these courses encourage you to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables you to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. In each task, you will be required to argue and to show personal responses and critical preferences, supported by the terminology relevant to the topics and contexts with which you are engaging.

**Specification A:** The three units for this qualification are:

**Unit 1: Love through the Ages**

Study of three texts: one poetry text (pre-1900 Anthology) and one prose text (*The Great Gatsby*), and one Shakespeare play (*Othello*). Assessed by examination which will include two unseen poems.

**Unit 2: Texts in Shared Contexts - Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day**

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000. Assessed by examination which will include an unseen extract.

**Unit 3: Coursework:**

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900. One extended essay (2500 words).

**Specification B:** The three units for this qualification are:

**Paper 1: Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy (closed book exam)**

Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text (*Othello*), one drama text (*Death of a Salesman*) and one further pre-1900 text (*Tess of the D'Urbervilles*).

**Paper 2: Texts and genres: Elements of Crime Writing (open book exam)**

Study of three texts: one post-2000 (*When Will There Be Good News*), one poetry (Crabbe, Browning and Wilde) and one further text (*Atonement*).

**Non-exam assessment: Theory and Independence**

Study of 2 texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by the study of the Critical Anthology.

Two essays of 1250-1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology. One essay can be re-creative but will need to be accompanied by a commentary.

The specifications encourage independent study of a range of texts within a shared context. Studied together they create an understanding of English Literature that will deepen your knowledge and love of the subject.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above in GCSE English Literature**  
Course Specifications  
**AQA Lit A 7712 (HBS & HGS)**  
**AQA Lit B 7717 (TPS)**



Jessica  
– Deputy Head Girl at HGS

Hi, I'm Jess and am currently studying English Literature, History and Philosophy & Ethics at HGS. Sixth Form offers a balance of freedom along with support regarding my personal life and future career. HGS allows me to discover my own unique self in terms of character development and finding a subject field that I am particularly interested in developing further.



## Fashion & Textiles – A Level

In the first year of the course you will learn how to research and develop your own designs and create final pieces. You explore a wide range of techniques including dyed textiles, traditional and digital print, and embellishment using stitch and mixed media.

Alongside this you will gain theoretical knowledge about a range of aspects within the fashion industry, such as marketing, supply chain and commercial manufacturing methods.

In the second half of the first year you will complete a self led personal response identified by your own interests and enquiry, resulting in a rich diversity of approaches on the course and ambitious final outcomes. A supportive, creative environment nurtures your individual talents and prepares you well for Higher Education. In this hands-on course you will learn about the history and future of clothes, accessories and

fashion while creating your very own products.

You will be taught a wide range of advanced techniques in using inspiration and design techniques to create beautiful fashion illustrations and products to help you begin building a portfolio of work. The new specification will also draw upon your application of Science and Mathematics to real life situations.

Fashion and Textiles encompasses a wide range of employment opportunities, but the course is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. To achieve success in Fashion and Textiles, you will combine practical and intellectual skills with an understanding of creativity, aesthetics, cultural, social, economic and environmental issues.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7562**

## Food Science & Nutrition – L3 Diploma

Food Science and Nutrition is an applied qualification that offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus on gaining and applying knowledge through understanding purposeful and work-related contexts that are linked to the food industry.

The course allows you to develop a range of complex and specific food-related practical skills, as well as a range of generic and transferable vital life-skills including independent learning, problem-solving skills and project-based research skills. You will complete three units, two mandatory and one optional.

**Unit 1:** Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups will be completed in year 12 and enables you to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition

and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts. Through on-going practical sessions you will gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

**Unit 2 and Unit 3 or 4** will be completed in year 13. Unit 2: Mandatory: Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat enables you to develop an understanding of the hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks. Unit 3: Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems (optional) enables you to understand the properties of food in order to plan and carry out experimental work. The results would be used to propose options to solve food production problems. Unit

4: Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition (optional) enables you to develop the skills needed to plan, carry out and present a research project on current related to food science and nutrition.

The range of units available would support your progress, from GCSE in particular GCSEs in Hospitality and Catering, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Biology, Physical Education, Humanities and Design & Technology.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition**



Connor  
– Deputy Head Boy at HBS

I am currently studying history, geography and economics and intend to study law at university to meet the end goal of being a solicitor. I am extremely excited and grateful for the opportunity to be deputy head boy and want to leave a lasting effect on the school. My subjects are extremely relevant to a law degree and also prepare me for future life. Sixth Form has been great experience for me as I have the ability to work independently but with great support from teachers when needed. My time in Sixth Form as been greatly enjoyable and rewarding and has helped shape the person I am today. The Sixth Form is a closely-knit community with everyone being friendly and always willing to help. Sixth Form offers a range of opportunities such as completing an EPQ or a range of clubs.

## Geography – A Level

The course aims to study the relationship between people and their environment at a variety of scales from local to global. It develops an understanding and knowledge of geographical issues and offers the opportunity to use and develop geographical skills. A Level Geography enables you to appreciate the dynamic nature of the subject; how places, environments and issues change and how people respond to those changes.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
**5 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7037**

The course covers a range of physical and human geography topics with each school studying a slightly different combination. In addition all students are required to investigate an area of geography of interest to them. As part of this they are expected to collect data in the field. You will be supported through this with residential fieldwork opportunities.

The Physical Geography options include; coastal systems and landscapes, hazards, water and carbon cycles and cold environments. Human Geography options include; changing places, contemporary urban environments and global systems and global governance. You will also complete a non-examined assessment worth 20% of the overall qualification.

Geography is a rigorous A Level and is recognised as such by universities and employers alike. Its wide ranging skills, which include analytical, ICT, statistical, research and presentation, and subject area, means geography students go on to study a wide range of subjects from law to engineering and enter many professions such as working for the Environment Agency, accountancy and marketing.



## Health & Social Care – L3 BTEC

This is a vocationally-related qualification which develops themes required for work or further study in the rewarding Health and Social Care sector. You will study for two years, taking the National Extended Certificate which is equivalent to one A Level.

Core units include:

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

Other units may include Sociological and Psychological Perspective.

Assessment is varied; two of the core units are externally assessed with examination. Other forms of assessment include presentations, role plays, written assessments and reflective diary entries. The course is excellent for university level study or working life in an occupation within the health or social care sectors.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**Standard Entry Requirements apply**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care**

## Health & Social Care – L3 Technical

This course focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand. You will develop professional and personal skills through interaction with people who either work in the sector or require care or support, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills. This will allow you to offer specific, person-centred care and support and build positive relationships with the people you are working with, so that their needs and requirements are met whilst they maintain control of their own care and support. You will consider the impacts to people living with conditions or illnesses such as the social, financial and psychological. You will also learn about the legislation and guidance supporting health and social care.

Over the two years you will complete 6 units – (3 coursework assignments and 3 examinations).

### The four mandatory units are

- Building positive relationships in health and social care
- Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care
- Health, safety and security in health and social care
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care

### And then two further optional units which could include

- Nutrition for health
- Public health
- Psychology for health and social care
- Sociology for health and social care
- Infection control
- Supporting people with mental health conditions

Course Entry Requirements:  
**Standard entry requirements apply**  
Course Specification:  
**OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care**



Ella  
– Deputy Head Girl at HGS

I have been thoroughly enjoying my studies at Hitchin Girls' where I study Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy and Ethics. I have loved my time at HGS - the friendly environment that the school creates has allowed me to grow in achievements but also as a person.

There are many opportunities outside of lessons and through participation in school traditions such as the annual Gym and Dance display which is my personal favourite

## History – A Level

History as a subject is highly valued by both universities and employers, due to the knowledge and transferable skills it develops, ranging from analysis and comprehension to research and presentation skills.

In addition to enhancing your knowledge of periods of British and European history, this course will broaden your awareness of aspects such as politics, religion, culture and society, and provide an understanding of how and why changes have occurred over time, and how all of this impacts on the world today.

### History A Level Units at HGS

- Russia, 1917-91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
- The German Democratic Republic, 1949-90
- Protest, Agitation and Parliamentary Reform in Britain 1780-1928
- Coursework – The Russian Revolution, 1917

### History A Level Units at TPS

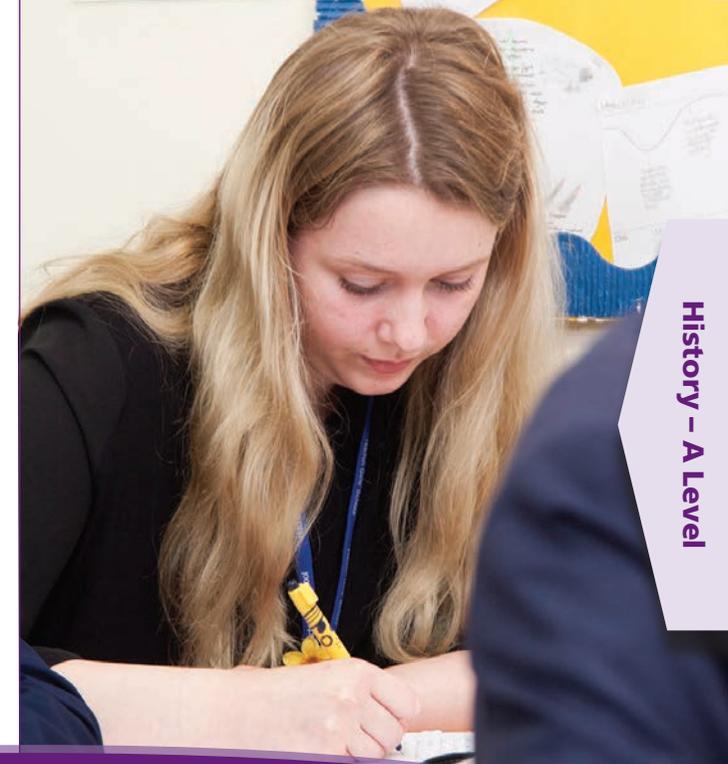
- Germany and West Germany 1918-89
- Spain, the Civil War, Dictatorship and Democracy: 1930-78
- Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485-1603
- Coursework: The Causes of the First World War

### History A Level Units at HBS

- Britain c1785-c1870, Democracy, Protest and Reform
- The Unification of Germany 1840-71
- Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA 1850 - 2009
- Coursework – The Civil Rights Movement: 1870-1970

A key course if you are planning to continue on to university to study history related subjects. It also provides a strong grounding for further study in humanities and social sciences. It combines well with subjects such as English Literature, Economics, and Politics.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
**5 or above in English Language or Literature**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson 9H10**



History – A Level

## Information Technology – L3 BTEC

This qualification is designed for students who are interested in an introduction into the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. The qualification is equivalent to one A Level.

**There are 4 units that are assessed in a variety of ways:**

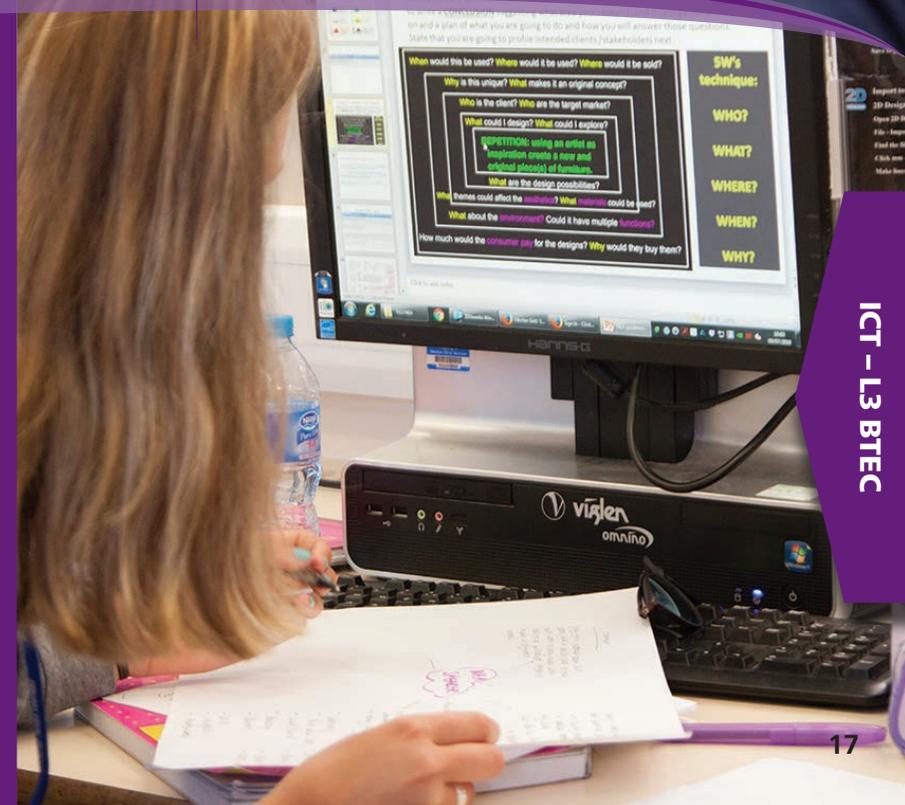
- Information Technology Systems - exam based.
- Creating systems to manage information – task set by exam board.
- Using social media in business - assignment based.
- Website development – assignment based.

Within these four units you will learn about databases, specialist ICT software; multimedia design e.g. computer

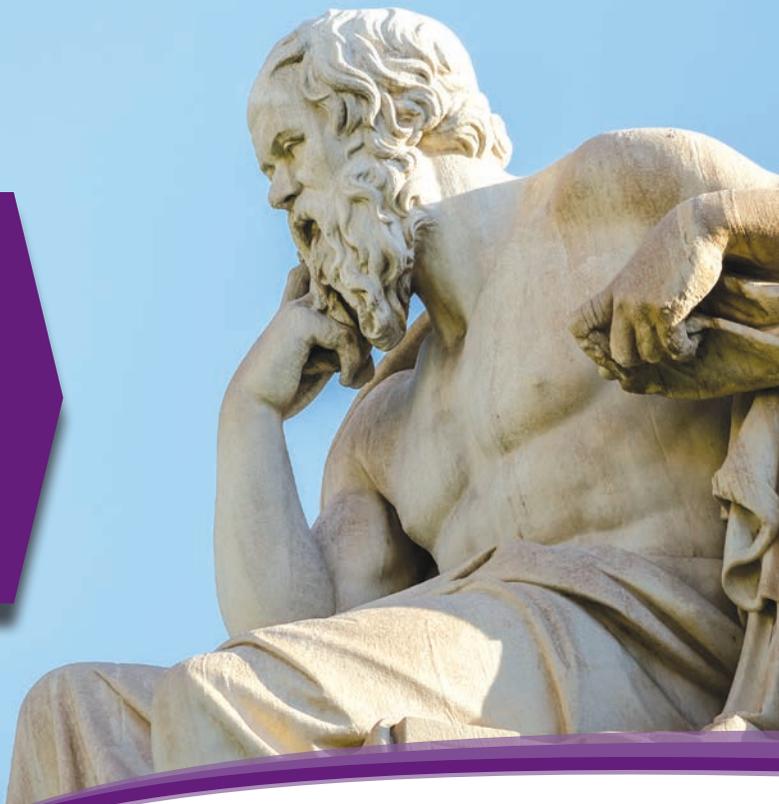
game, animation or video, and systems analysis and design. They will provide opportunities for a detailed study of the Internet and learning how to produce a high quality website.

You will develop an understanding of the relationships between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

Course Entry Requirements  
**Standard entry requirements apply**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology**



ICT – L3 BTEC



## Latin – A Level

This course will help you to acquire some understanding of the culture, politics and social life of Rome at significant periods in history, whilst studying elements of the language and literature of the Classical world.

There are four components:

- Unseen Translation (Prose and Verse)
- Prose Composition or Comprehension
- Prose Literature (two Prose texts are studied in depth, and you also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken)
- Verse Literature (two Verse texts are studied in depth, and you also study additional literature in translation in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken).

Course Entry Requirements:

**Grade 6 or above in Latin at Key Stage 4**

Course Specification:

**OCR H443**

Two hours per week will be devoted to the study of the prescribed texts; the rest will be spent on language work. An element of private study is expected.

All units are assessed at the end of the two years by written examination. There is no coursework option.

## Mathematics – A Level Further Mathematics – A Level

Mathematics is a useful, elegant and powerful tool which examines and defines relationships and can analyse abstract ideas. It models and solves problems which arise in many areas of life. Mathematics is challenging but interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE, and also introduces ideas that some of the greatest minds of the last millennium have produced. It is a sought-after qualification, both for courses in higher education and for the workplace. Mathematics at A Level is a course worth studying in its own right, and as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences as well as encouraging the logical thinking which is needed in Law, History and most other disciplines. Mathematics is a popular option across the Consortium and is available in combination with most other subjects. The course involves both pure maths and applied maths.

Good mathematicians will want to consider taking both Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level. This course is offered as a fourth option, but must be accompanied by Mathematics A Level. The study of Further Mathematics adds breadth and depth to the topics covered in A Level Mathematics. It introduces new topics for example matrices, complex numbers, differential equations, polar coordinates. Such topics form an important part of Maths-rich degrees in areas such as the Sciences, Engineering, Statistics, Economics and Computing in addition to Mathematics itself. The content of Further Mathematics enables the study of additional pure modules as well as a wider variety of applied modules.

Course Entry Requirements:

**6 or above at GCSE for Mathematics**

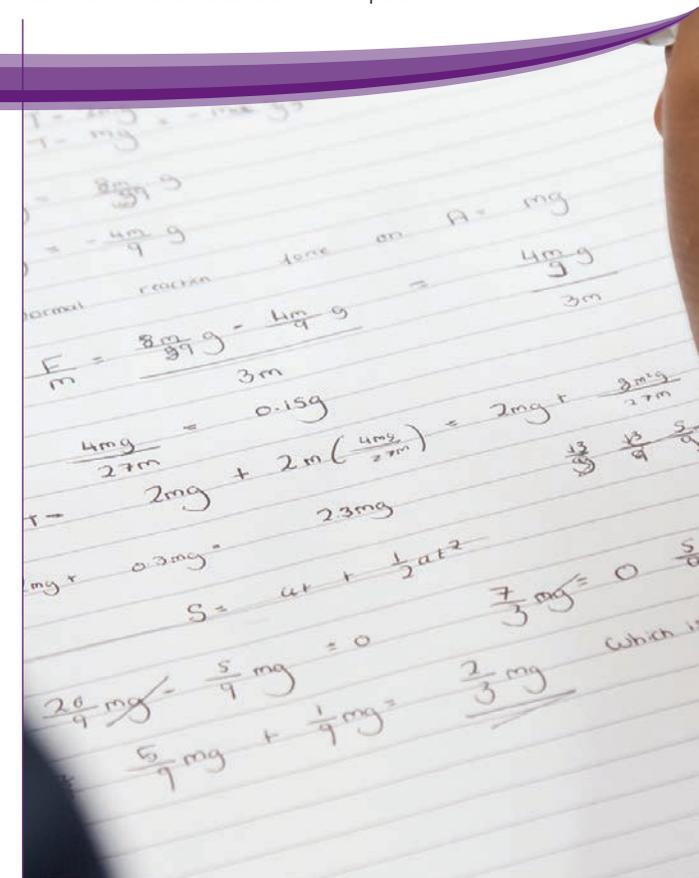
**7 or above at GCSE for Further Mathematics**

Course Specification:

**Pearson 9MA0 and 9FM0 (HGS)**

**AQA 7357 and 7367 (HBS)**

**OCR MEI H640 and H645 (TPS)**



## Media Studies – A Level

Media Studies is an exciting but demanding course. It combines critical analysis of a range of media forms including TV, film marketing, magazines, advertising, websites and video games with written research skills and creative practical productions. The course teaches you key media concepts and theories which will deepen your understanding of the way we read and understand the media.

You will study a range of set texts for two written examinations and also work independently to a set brief for your practical non-exam assessment. You will need to be prepared to be analytical and creative. Essay writing and practical production skills, for example use of photo editing software, are desirable.

### Media Studies Units at HGS

- Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences (written examination)
- Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth (written examination)
- Component 3: Cross-Media Production (non-exam assessment)

### Media Studies Units at TPS

- Component 1: Media Messages (written examination)
- Component 2: Evolving Media (written examination)
- Component 3: Making Media (non-exam assessment)

It is an excellent starting point to develop into media specialists and progress academically to study the subject further. Employers recognise it as a subject that demonstrates both academic and practical ability. A combination of practical tasks and theoretical study enables you to develop the skills and knowledge required in many industries, such as advertising, broadcasting, journalism, film production, web and graphic design.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken or 5 or above in English Language or Literature**  
Course Specification:  
**WJEC Eduqas A1680QS (HGS)**  
**OCR H409 (TPS)**



# Modern Foreign Languages – A Level

## French, German and Spanish

Modern Foreign Languages are becoming increasingly important because of their ever-increasing relevance to the world of work. As well as providing a fascinating insight into other cultures, the course is designed to provide the opportunity to explore intellectually stimulating topics including social issues and current affairs.

**Building on GCSE, the Year 12 units focus on the following topic areas:**

**French:**

The Changing Nature of Families in France; "Cyber-society"; Voluntary Work; Heritage; Contemporary Music and Cinema Movements in the French-speaking World.

**German:**

The Changing Nature of Families in Germany; The Digital World; Youth Culture: Fashion and Trends, Music and Television; Festivals and Traditions; Art and Architecture and Cultural Life in Berlin.

**Spanish:**

Modern and Traditional Values; Cyberspace; Equal Rights; Modern Day Idols; Spanish Regional Identity; Cultural Heritage.

**In Year 13, you will also go on to study the following topic areas:**

**French:**

Contemporary Society, Criminality, Political Engagement and the Right to Vote, Politics and Immigration.

**German:**

Immigration, Integration and Racism; Germany and the European Union; Politics and Youth; German Re-unification and its Consequences.

**Spanish:**

Immigration, Racism, Integration; "Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Citizens"; Monarchies and Dictatorships; Popular Movements.

In Paper 1 (worth 50% of the A Level) you are required to tackle listening and reading comprehension tasks that relate to these topics and to translate short passages from English into your chosen language and your chosen language into English. In Paper 2 (20%) you are required to write about two novels, or a novel and a film, that you have studied during the course (texts / films would be selected by the teacher from the AQA prescribed list). In Paper 3, the Speaking Exam, (30%), you will be expected to discuss issues relating to any of the topic areas listed and to talk about a personal area of research that you have undertaken in Year 13.

Language skills are increasingly sought by employers in a wide range of fields; indeed, many international companies expect competence in more than one foreign language. As far as the Consortium and universities are concerned, languages are compatible with almost any combination of support subjects, whether arts, sciences, or a mixture of both.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above at GCSE in your chosen language**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7652 – French**  
**AQA 7662 – German**  
**AQA 7692 – Spanish**



Josie – Head Girl at TPS

I am very excited to be representing the Priory School as Head Girl this academic year. I currently study Psychology, Physical Education and Biology; with intentions of furthering my study of Psychology at University, and then moving into field of Forensic Psychology after this. What I love most about Sixth Form is being able to explore subjects that I love in so much more depth compared to at GCSE, and with the increased independence given to you within these two years I have seen my resilience and confidence grow massively. Being a part of the Consortium Sixth Form really does offer you such a wide range of opportunities and support to help further yourself both personally and in particularly within your academic career, it has also allowed me to meet new people and expand my social circle- which is a massive highlight of Sixth Form life.



## Music – A Level

This course prepares you for any career or university course that involves music or performing arts. It gives you experience of performance and allows you to further develop all your musical skills and interests.

During the course you will continue the key skills of composing, performing and appraising music that you studied at GCSE and study music from a wide range of styles and periods. You will take part in lots of performances and go to see and work alongside professional musicians.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above at GCSE if taken, or Grade 5 or above in your chosen instrument**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson 9MU0**

You will learn extended composing skills and analyse a variety of instrumental, vocal, film and fusion music. You will evaluate your own performing abilities and prepare a varied and interesting recital programme, as well as learning about the history and development of music.

- Component 1: Performing
- Component 2: Composing
- Component 3: Appraising Music

Performance will be assessed regularly, giving you opportunities to refine and enhance your skills. You will have practice concerts before your final recital in March/April of Year 13. All units are externally assessed; performance and composition each make up 30% of the final mark and the final examination is worth 40%.

Music – A Level

## Music Technology – L3 BTEC

This course is particularly focused on preparing students for future careers in music production, editing, and recording. It will also support students who have an interest in media or backstage theatre work. This course is weighted as a 1.5 A Level equivalent qualification.

There are 7 units for the qualification – two of these are externally assessed tasks that are set by the board at key points in the year. These are research-based activities and are related to developments in the music industry. Other units include:

- Music Technology in Context
- Working as a Production Team
- Music and Sound for Media

You will work on IMac machines running Logic X, a range of recording equipment and 32 channel digital mixing desk.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**Merit at Level 2 in Music Technology or Music Production if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology**



Music Technology – L3 BTEC



Course Entry Requirements:  
**Merit at Level 2 in Performing Arts if taken**  
Course specification:  
**Pearson BTEC Level 3 National  
Extended Certificate in Performing Arts**

## Performing Arts (Acting) – L3 BTEC

This course uses a combination of assessment styles to give students confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace – and have the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career. The range of vocational assessments – practical and written – mean you can showcase your learning and achievements to best effect when you take your next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.

**The course consists of 4 units – 3 mandatory and one optional as follows:**

### **Unit 1 Investigation Practitioners Workshop**

This unit is externally marked and contains a practical and written study looking at a particular practitioner or practitioners.

### **Unit 2 Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance**

This unit is internally assessed and moderated by the exam board. It contains a series of workshops aimed at developing your skills and will involve live performance.

### **Unit 3 Group Performance Workshop**

This is a major performance designed to showcase all the key performance and analytical skills encountered on the course.

There will be one other internally assessed optional unit which will be decided based on the skillset of the learning group.

The course is essentially practical with written analysis and research based learning. The external assessment means that you need to be equipped with strong analytical skills as well as well-developed ability in performance.



Emily – Deputy Head Girl at TPS

I am very excited to be representing The Priory School as Deputy Head Girl for 2018-19. I currently study Media Studies, BTEC Performing Arts and BTEC Music Practitioners and hope to become a performer in the future and to go on to widen my skills to aid me with getting into the industry. I am lucky that the Sixth Form offers a range of opportunities to help me get closer to my hopeful career choice, as well as introducing a Consortium for us to gain more from our neighbouring schools. This has also meant I have met new people who can help me along the way to help push me in the right direction, from new friends to new teachers.

## Philosophy and Ethics – A Level

The aims of this course are to encourage you to identify fundamental questions of human existence and morality and to explore such questions within the context of a religious tradition.

**The Course is broken into two sections;**

**Component 1: Philosophy & Religion**

**Component 2: Ethics, Religion & Society**

**Component 1 will study Philosophy & Ethics and is divided into two sections:**

Section A: Philosophy of religion

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Evil and suffering

- Religious experience
- Religious language
- Miracles
- Self and life after death

Section B: Ethics and religion

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life and death
- Issues of animal life and death
- Introduction to meta ethics
- Free will and moral responsibility
- Conscience
- Bentham and Kant.

**Component 2 will study Christianity Dialogues and will look at:**

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- God/gods/ultimate reality

- Self, death and the afterlife
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Expression of religious identity
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Religion and religious pluralism.

The Dialogues section is synoptic and explores how Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics work together as disciplines.

Both components are assessed by written examination.

Philosophy and Ethics is a highly respected qualification that leads into a wide range of university qualifications and careers that require good verbal and reasoning skills such as journalism, law, medicine and politics as well as careers that involve a good understanding of people such as nursing, psychology, social work, teaching and police work to name just a few.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken or 5 or above in English Language or Literature**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7062**

## Photography – A Level

This course will enable you to develop the creative and intellectual skills for imaginative growth and to access the vast array of art and design further study and careers. It is an excellent complement to many other areas of study, as it teaches you to be analytical, to solve problems creatively and to gain a cultural awareness.

### **Component 01: Personal Investigation**

This specialist pathway is an opportunity to explore techniques and approaches specific to photography. You will learn about traditional analogue and digital photography, editing and image manipulation. After an initial 'foundation' course, you will identify personal themes and processes to pursue. You present a portfolio in the format of journals, mounted sheets, digital presentations or animation, leading to a final outcome/s in form of still and/or moving images. Accompanying the portfolio is a related study of a photographer, theme

or process which features within your practical work. The related study enables you to develop and communicate your knowledge and understanding of art historical movements, genres, practitioners and artworks. It also builds your understanding of the relationship between society and art: art historical terms, concepts and issues.

### **Component 02: Externally Set Task**

This component is externally set by the examining board. A pre-released paper is issued to candidates with a choice of themes, each with written and/or visual starting points. You will choose one option for which you will generate an appropriate personal response, during a set amount of supervised time, for assessment. You will be given a preparatory period for research, planning and development of ideas.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above if taken at GCSE**  
Course Specification:  
**OCR H600-H606 (HGS and TPS)**  
**Pearson 9PY01 (HBS)**





## Physical Education – A Level

The course takes a multi-disciplinary approach encouraging the development of different methods of enquiry drawn from a range of disciplines. The focus is on participation and performance in physical activity and sport, as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle and encourages you to develop a broad but detailed knowledge of the theoretical aspects that underpin performance sport and physical activity.

**During this course, you will cover four units;**

**Paper 1 (30%) Physiological factors affecting performance, including:**

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Exercise Physiology, and
- Biomechanics.

**Paper 2 (20%) Psychological factors affecting performance, including:**

- Skill Acquisition, and
- Sports psychology

**Paper 3 (20%) Socio Cultural issues in physical activity and sport, including:**

- Sport and Society, and
- Contemporary issues in Physical Activity and Sport

**Non- Examined Assessment (30%) Performance in P.E., including:**

- Performance or coaching of one sport, and
- Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI).

You will be expected to work in groups and engage in independent learning. You must be able to participate practically and show commitment to our practical area outside of lesson time. This will probably involve training and competitive commitments ranging from at least school team level and beyond.

This course is excellent preparation if you wish to progress to degree level study in Physical Education, Sports Science, Sports Studies, Teaching, Leisure and Tourism, Sports Management, Sports Technology, Physiotherapy and Coaching.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
**5-5 or above in Combined Science**  
 Course Specification:  
**OCR H555**



## Physics – A Level

The aims of the course are to develop your interest in Physics; the course builds upon concepts you have met at GCSE, and will also introduce new theories, ideas and techniques which are fundamental to understanding the world around us. Physics is the most fundamental science, and a deeper understanding of physics will be invaluable if you intend to pursue any science or engineering based courses. Physics is also strongly recommended for courses in Astronomy and Mathematics as it unlocks a deeper understanding to these subjects. Although it is not essential to also be studying Mathematics at A Level it is strongly advisable. Those who do not will be expected to maintain the level of mathematical techniques and new mathematical concepts that will be introduced in their free time in order to succeed in A Level Physics.

This course is split into six modules and combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitutes the full A Level qualification.

The modules can be summarised as:

- 1 Development of practical skills in physics
- 2 Foundations of physics
- 3 Forces and motion
- 4 Electrons waves and photons
- 5 Newtonian world and astrophysics
- 6 Particles and medical physics

Teaching of practical skills is integrated with theoretical topics and they are both assessed through the written exam papers. For the practical endorsement, your class teachers will assess your practical skills in lessons, with a minimum of 12 practical activities to be carried out over the 2 years . At the end of the course, this will be reported separately to the exam grade as a pass or fail.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**6 or above in GCSE Mathematics**  
**6 or above in GCSE Physics or**  
**7-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science**  
 Course Specification:  
**OCR H556**

## Politics – A Level

This course will encourage you to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas, institutions and processes. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political systems of the UK, EU and USA, plus an informed understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the individual.

The course will be made up of 4 units. In Year 12 your studies will include UK political parties, pressure groups, electoral systems and referenda, UK parliamentary elections and voting behaviour in the UK, the constitution, the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the European Union.

In year 13 you will study US Government and Politics including elections, presidential and congressional, political parties, pressure groups, the constitution, congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court and civil rights and liberties. Finally you will undertake a

comparative unit comparing and contrasting different features of British and American politics and, where relevant, making connections to and comparisons with the political system of the European Union.

In addition to your timetabled lessons you will be expected to be alert to the course of events in the world of politics through newspapers, television and on the internet. All units are assessed by written examination.

The study of politics provides a solid basis for those proceeding into higher education. The subject is well viewed by universities and is recognised as a sound base for further study in the arts, humanities and social sciences. It provides a capacity for analysis, an ability to communicate and an understanding of the decision-making process.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above in English Language or Literature**  
 Course Specification:  
**Pearson 9PLO**





## Product Design – A Level

This course will encourage you to take a broad view of Product Design, to develop your capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. Product design encompasses a wide range of design disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. Design studies will focus on the work of past designers, design movements of the 20th Century and contemporary design. The new specification will also draw upon your knowledge of Science and Mathematics.

### Product Design at HGS

At HGS we will help you to develop a range of ICT skills using industry standard software (Photoshop, Illustrator and AutoDesk inventor) and practical skills in the workshop. You will choose a number of modules ranging from 3D products, packaging designs, promotional merchandise, branding, and environments through to architectural scale models of buildings, to best suit your intended path into Design/Product Design/Engineering. A range of outcomes in year 12 that are fit for purpose, satisfy wants and needs, and enhance our daily lives, will demonstrate your creativity and growing ability, and will prepare you for the non-exam assessment (coursework) in year 13.

### Product Design at HBS

At HBS the course will be more of a manufacturing bias and will lend itself to students who wish to study Product Design post 18. In Year 12 the focus will be firmly rooted in the workshop where a range of mini projects will be set. This will include modelling, jewellery manufacture, cabinet work, casting and a town centre seating project which will equip you with the necessary skills to undertake the major project in Year 13.

### Product Design at TPS

At The Priory School you will learn a wide range of practical and theoretical skills focusing around key design needs and problem solving. Projects will be centralised around a sole client and a design need to help students transition smoothly onto creative higher education. Year 12 will be taught through a range of mini projects and a trip to 100% Design to prepare you for the non-exam assessment (coursework).

To achieve success in Product Design, you will combine practical and intellectual skills with an understanding of creativity, aesthetics, cultural, social, economic and environmental issues.

Course Entry Requirements:  
**5 or above at GCSE if taken**  
Course Specification:  
**AQA 7552**



Felix  
– Deputy Head Boy, HBS

I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to be Deputy Head Boy for such a fantastic school. My A levels are English Literature, History and Politics and at university I want to study Politics and Philosophy. Sixth Form has not only allowed me to pursue the subjects I love but also has supported my whole academic journey with clubs such as the debating society and the school newspaper. Writing has always been my strongest academic ability and after university I'd like to continue that with a career possibly in Journalism. To be able to write my own articles about things that I'm interested in would be the most ideal career for me.

## Psychology – A Level

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of key topics and the knowledge and skills required in the academic study of psychology. This is done through looking at some of the main approaches in psychology – biological, cognitive, behavioural, psychodynamic and humanistic. You will be expected to take an active part in all lessons to fully develop your understanding.

You will learn about the origins of psychology and its emergence as a science. You will also learn about the structure and function of the nervous system and the role of hormones in human behaviour. You will gain an understanding of the research methods and data handling techniques used in psychology. You will also develop an understanding of ethical issues and carry out practical research activities.

All units are assessed by written examination.

### Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology:

Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

### Paper 2: Psychology in Context:

Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.

### Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology:

Issues and Debates in Psychology and three further topics from the following:

- 1 from Relationships or Gender or Cognition and Development
- 1 from Schizophrenia or Eating Behaviour or Stress; and
- 1 from Aggression, Forensic Psychology or Addiction.

Studying psychology will help you gain a greater understanding of yourself and other people. You will better understand your interaction with others and increase your understanding of the causes of psychological disorders.

The focus on critical thinking and analysis of evidence make this A Level relevant to further study and careers in psychology, biological sciences, nursing & health, education, the police, human resources, the prison service, sport, business, marketing, the media and more!

Course Entry Requirements

**5 or above at GCSE if taken**

**5-5 or above in Combined Science**

**5 or above in Mathematics at GCSE**

**5 or above in English Language or Literature at GCSE**

Course specification:

**AQA 7182**



Psychology – A Level



## Sociology – A Level

During the course you will be encouraged to develop your own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary world. Sociologists are interested in explaining why society works the way it does and the extent to which our behaviour, experiences and life chances are shaped by our social class, age, gender, ethnicity and locality. Those interested in the subject will want to understand the world in which they live – how and why it functions as it does and who has power and who does not.

The subject is a two-year linear course which will enable you to demonstrate a wide range and depth of knowledge and understanding and develop skills of application, analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

The topics studied in the first year are **education, research methods** and your teachers will choose from a choice of

topics including **families and households, culture and identity, health and work or poverty and welfare**. In the second year **theory, research methods and crime and deviance are compulsory** and teachers again will choose from a choice of topics including **beliefs in society, global development, the media or stratification and differentiation**.

All units are assessed by written examination.

Sociology is a well-respected academic discipline. The course will be excellent preparation for further study at university and is useful for a number of careers including law, teaching, social work, journalism, television, the police, nursing, the civil service as well as the world of business and commerce.

Course Entry Requirements

**5 or above at GCSE if taken**

**5 or above in English Language or Literature**

Course specification:

**AQA 7192**

Sociology – A Level

## Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Level 3 Extended Project offers you a free project choice so you can explore in depth an aspect of a subject you are studying or a topic in which you have a personal interest. It is worth up to 28 UCAS points.

The EPQ will help you develop and improve your critical, reflective and independent learning and to apply your decision-making and problem solving skills. You will need to utilise and extend your skills in planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation. You will need to apply all these skills creatively and demonstrate initiative and enterprise.

You will be assigned to a staff mentor/supervisor who will deliver the taught element of the project to include project management skills, research and presentation techniques, and methods of evaluation and analysis. These sessions may be teacher-led or include group discussion and feedback between peers.

There are four assessment objectives: Manage; Use Resources; Develop and Realise; and Review.

The Project can take a variety of forms i.e. dissertation, investigation, artefact, performance or design. The final outcome needs to be accompanied by a written component and presentation. The Project will be internally assessed and externally moderated on the skills demonstrated throughout the whole process.

The Extended Project Qualification will be a valuable addition to your studies if you are considering making an Oxbridge / Medicine application, considering applying for a highly competitive undergraduate degree course or if you have a particular area of interest that you would like to develop further.

Course Specification:  
**OCR H856B (HGS)**  
**AQA 7993 (TPS and HBS)**

## Sports Leaders

There are opportunities within the Consortium to take either a L2 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership or a L3 Higher Sports Leadership as an enrichment qualification both of which are awarded by Sports Leaders UK.

### COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADERSHIP – L2 Award

This qualification enables you to lead groups of people in sport/activity, under indirect supervision. You will learn leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication, observation, evaluation and teamwork through the medium of sport within the community. It is a fun and practical qualification with no entrance requirements or final examinations to sit.

The two and half term course will cover 4 units. They are developing leadership skills, planning, leading and evaluating activity sessions, organising sports events, leading sport or activity within school or the community.

You will be assessed by the tutor, completing 10 hours of voluntary service and achieving and producing evidence for the assessment criteria for each unit.

### HIGHER SPORTS LEADERSHIP – L3 Certificate

This qualification enables you to lead unsupervised groups of people in sport and recreational activities. It teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport. To access the course you should have successfully completed a Level 2 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership. Units covered are:

- Unit 1 – Developing leadership skills
- Unit 2 – Plan, lead and evaluate a sports/physical activity event



- Unit 3 – Lead safe sport/physical activity sessions
- Unit 4 – Plan, lead and evaluate sport/physical activity sessions for children
- Unit 5 – Plan, lead and evaluate sport/physical activity sessions in the community (optional unit)
- Unit 6 – Plan, lead and evaluate sport/physical activity sessions for disabled people (optional unit)
- Unit 7 – Lead sport/activity sessions for older people (optional unit)

In order for you to complete your Level 3 Certificate you must complete 30 hours demonstration of leadership. These must be 10 hours in the mandatory unit 4 and two from the three optional units. There are no final examinations to sit and the course is a mixture of practical and classroom lessons. The award is worth 16 UCAS points.

## Enrichment – Core Maths

As a Consortium we are looking at developing a core maths provision for our post-16 students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE. The aim of the provision will be to develop mathematical skills and thinking to support courses such as A Level Psychology, Sciences and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications. Further information will be available later this academic year.

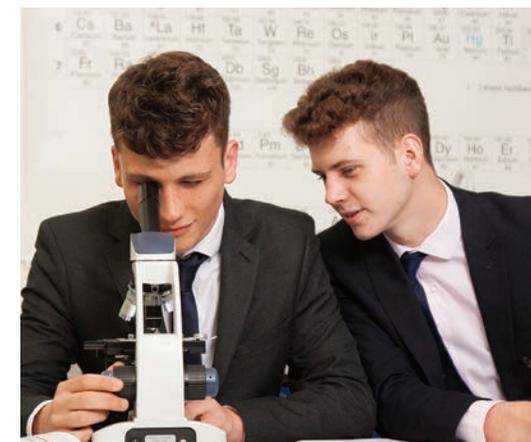


**Adam**  
– Head Boy at HBS

After considering many different subjects, I decided on History, Sociology and PE. This decision, although a long and difficult process, was well worth it. They are subjects that I am passionate about and have a genuine love for. Doing something you love is the beauty of Sixth Form, having the freedom of choice to focus your education on subjects that you are interested in and will help you in the future. I want to go on to study Primary Education with PE at university and the Consortium have continued to support me in pursuing my passion, finding the best ways of achieving my goals and helping me in the admission process.

Sixth Form is a unique opportunity to become more independent, have more responsibility and freedom over your own work and how you learn, giving you a solid base from which to enter the world of work or move onto higher education.

Course Title	HBS	HGS	TPS
Art & Design	✓	✓	✓
Biology	✓	✓	✓
Business	✓	✓	
Business BTEC			✓
Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
Classical Civilisation		✓	
Computer Science	✓		✓
Drama & Theatre	✓	✓	
Fashion & Textiles		✓	
Food Science & Nutrition		✓	
Economics	✓		✓
English Language & Literature	✓	✓	✓
English Literature	✓	✓	✓
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	✓	✓	✓
French	✓	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓	✓
German	✓		
Health & Social Care BTEC			✓
Health & Social Care Technical		✓	
History	✓	✓	✓
ICT BTEC	✓		
Latin		✓	
Mathematics & Further Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
Media Studies		✓	✓
Music	✓	✓	✓
Music Technology			✓
Performing Arts BTEC			✓
Philosophy & Ethics	✓	✓	✓
Photography	✓	✓	✓
Physical Education	✓	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓	✓
Politics	✓	✓	
Product Design	✓	✓	✓
Psychology	✓	✓	✓
Sociology	✓	✓	✓
Spanish	✓	✓	✓
Sports Leaders	✓	✓	✓



✓ = Provisional planned delivery by schools(s) indicated. Teaching will be shared for some subjects by at least two schools.

**HBS** = Hitchin Boys' School

**HGS** = Hitchin Girls' School

**TPS** = The Priory School

## Hitchin Post-16 Consortium - 2019 Entry Requirements

Standard entry requirement for the Hitchin Consortium is five Grade 9-4 GCSEs or equivalent including English and Maths at Grade 4 or above. Some subjects will have additional entry requirements and all have a recommended GCSE Average Points Score (APS), this GCSE APS can be used as a guide when looking at post-16 choices.

The APS numbers in the table alongside are the recommended minimum requirement for entry to the course. Using national averages as a guideline, students achieving only the stated APS at GCSE can expect to achieve at least a low D grade at A level in those subject areas. For Level 3 BTEC/ Technical courses the expected minimum outcome with the APS shown would be a Merit grade. Of course we expect all students to aim for the highest grades.

\*If you have not taken a subject at GCSE, it may in some instances still be possible to take the A level course even if there is a minimum GCSE grade in the entry requirements. You should discuss this with your Head of Sixth Form.

Subject	APS	Additional GCSE Entry Requirements
Art & Design	3.75	Grade 5 in Art if taken at GCSE*.
Biology	5	Grade 6 in Biology or Grade 7-6 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics
Business	4	Grade 5 in Business if taken at GCSE*
Chemistry	5	Grade 6 in Chemistry or Grade 7-6 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics
Classical Civilisation	4	Standard entry requirements.
Computer Science	4.5	Grade 6 in Mathematics. Grade 5 in Computer Science if taken at GCSE*
Drama & Theatre Studies	4	Grade 5 in Drama if taken at GCSE*
Economics	4.5	Grade 6 in Mathematics
English Language & Literature	4.5	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
English Literature	4.5	Grade 5 in English Literature
Fashion & Textiles	4	Grade 5 in Product Design if taken at GCSE*
French	4.5	Grade 6 in French
Geography	4.5	Grade 5 in Geography if taken at GCSE* Grade 5 in Mathematics
German	4.5	Grade 6 in German
History	4.5	Grade 5 in History if taken at GCSE*. Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
L3 BTEC National Diploma in Business	3.5	Standard entry requirements.
L3 Food Science and Nutrition	3.5	Grade 5 in Food Technology if taken at GCSE*
L3 BTEC/Technical Health & Social Care	3.5	Standard entry requirements
L3 BTEC/Technical in IT	3.5	Grade 4 in ICT if taken at GCSE*
L3 BTEC in Music Technology	3.5	Merit in Music Production or Technology if taken at Level 2*
L3 BTEC Performing Arts (Acting)	3.5	Merit in Performing Arts if taken at Level 2*
Latin	4.5	Grade 6 in Latin
Mathematics	4.5	Grade 6 in Mathematics
Mathematics – Further	4.5	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Media Studies	4	Grade 5 in Media Studies if taken at GCSE or Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Music	4	Grade 6 in Music if taken at GCSE or Grade 5 in your chosen instrument.
Philosophy & Ethics	4.5	Grade 5 in Philosophy & Ethics if taken at GCSE or Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Photography	3.75	Grade 5 in Art Photography if taken at GCSE*
Physical Education	4	Grade 5 in PE if taken at GCSE* Grade 5-5 in Combined Science
Physics	5	Grade 6 in Physics or Grade 7-6 in Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics.
Politics	4.5	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Product Design	4	Grade 5 in Product Design if taken at GCSE*
Psychology	4.5	Grade 5-5 in Combined Science. Grade 5 in Mathematics and Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.
Sociology	4	Grade 5 in Sociology if taken at GCSE*. Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Spanish	4.5	Grade 6 in Spanish.

## Ronan – Deputy Head Boy, TPS

Currently I am studying chemistry, computer science and maths, all very hard, academic subjects – but not an essay in sight! I love studying all my subjects because they lead well into the career path that I am planning, a degree in computing with specialisation in either software development or cyber security. I am hoping to continue studying with a degree level apprenticeship with a company local to Hitchin and the surrounding area. Overall, I adore 6th Form - from the freedom, having somewhere quiet to study in the common room and being able to confidently wear a suit that I chose and genuinely love to be in! Sixth Form is a great way to continue your studies after GCSEs.



## Contact Details

We hope that you found the information contained in the Prospectus useful.  
Further information is available from the Head of Sixth Form at each of the schools and at the Sixth Form Open Evenings.

### Hitchin Boys' School

Hitchin Boys' School  
Grammar School Walk  
Hitchin SG5 1JB  
01462 432181  
Headteacher: Mr M Brown  
Head of Sixth: Mrs J Lansdown

### The Priory School

The Priory School  
Bedford Road  
Hitchin SG5 2UR  
01462 622300  
Headteacher: Mr G Edwards  
Head of Sixth: Mrs Z Armitage

### Hitchin Girls' School

Hitchin Girls' School  
Highbury Road  
Hitchin SG4 9RS  
01462 621300  
Headteacher: Mrs F Manning  
Head of Sixth: Miss T Stojko

### Hitchin 14-19 Consortium Co-ordinator

Mrs E Leigh, Tel: 01462 621300 ext. 4855

## Key Dates

Tuesday 23 October 2018

Open Evening at Hitchin Boys' School

Wednesday 24 October 2018

Open Evening at Hitchin Girls' School

Thursday 25 October 2018

Open Evening at The Priory School

