

# Year 12 Subject Options

September 2018



# A new place to learn

Great Western Academy will open in September 2018, providing new sixth form opportunities for students in North Swindon.

Using fantastic facilities and the best quality teaching, GWA will see students progress and flourish, gaining excellent results and developing into influential citizens of the future.

The Academy will encourage high aspirations and will expect the very highest standards of both staff and students at all times. Students will enjoy learning and the staff will enjoy teaching them and inspire them to make the most of their talents. GWA will become a centre of excellence and an asset to the local community and we will welcome parents and businesses to support learning.

The Academy will offer a wide range of popular A Level and vocational courses. Our close links to New College provide students with the unique opportunity to study additional courses to ensure they personalise their studies to suit their future plans. We will meet with all applicants to arrange the very best possible combination of subject choices for each individual, using New College courses to supplement our own if appropriate.

The Academy's approach is based on the belief that pupils should become enterprising people ready to embark on new ventures full of boldness and initiative. Adults of tomorrow need to be independent thinkers and lifelong learners since their careers may include many different jobs - some of which have not yet been created. Our curriculum and extra-curricular enrichment opportunities will be the foundation of this.

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# Entry Requirements

All students must meet the following academic entry criteria to be offered a place:

- Applicants will normally be required to have at least five grade A\* to C or grade 9-4 passes at GCSE, including English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics.
- All applicants must meet the minimum requirements for the individual A Level or vocational subjects they wish to study (as listed).

Students not having met a grade requirement in their chosen subjects will be offered alternative subjects (if available) for which they have met the required standard. This information is available on our website at [www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form](http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form)

- Applicants must be under the age of 19 at the start of their programme of study, have not completed two years of sixth form study at another provider and meet regulations regarding nationality, residency and eligibility for study in the UK.

Where there are more eligible students than places, oversubscription criteria will determine who is submitted.

The full admission policy can be found at [www.gwacademy.co.uk/admissions](http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/admissions)

# How to apply

Applications can be made for September 2018 from September 2017. A GWA Sixth Form application form should be completed and returned to Great Western Academy by **22nd December 2017**.

The application form is available from the Great Western Academy website at [www.gwacademy.co.uk/admissions](http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/admissions).

Applications received by the closing date of **22nd December 2017** will be considered as 'on-time'. Any received after this date will be treated as 'late' and will be considered after all on-time applications have been considered.

GWA is committed to ensuring that all students receive information, advice and guidance about their application to ensure that they are making the right choices for their studies. After the application has been submitted, all applicants will be invited to discuss their course choices. Please note the application is considered solely on the student meeting the entry requirements listed.

Conditional offers will be made as soon as possible but no later than **31st May 2018**.

Should the situation arise that the DfE has not yet given the final agreement for the school (called the 'funding agreement') before the offer day, then the place you will be given is a conditional offer. Once the funding agreement has been signed and entry requirements have been confirmed, then unconditional offers will be confirmed.

# English Language A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7702

**Assessment:**

80% exam 20% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

English GCSE grade C/4

The A Level English Language specification offers opportunities for students to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Students will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. The specification explores the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use.

Students will study:

- Language, the individual and society
- Language diversity and change
- Language in action.

# English Literature A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7712 A

**Assessment:**

80% exam 20% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

English GCSE grade C/4

English Literature (Specification A) encourages students 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 students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. The course not only equips students with the knowledge and skills needed for both exams and non-exam assessment, but also opens up a rich, challenging and coherent approach to English literature that provides an excellent basis for studying the subject at university.

Students will study English literature through the following topics:

- Love through the ages
- Texts in shared contexts
- Texts across time.

# Mathematics A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7357

**Assessment:**  
100% exam

**Entry requirements:**  
Maths GCSE grade B/6

Mathematics is one of the biggest facilitating subjects. As well as being a stimulating subject in its own right, Mathematics is an essential A Level course for many higher education courses and careers in science, technology and engineering and a highly desirable qualification for other courses in areas such as economics, geography, psychology and business.

In Pure Mathematics, students will study topics including sequences and series, trigonometry, co-ordinate geometry, exponentials and logarithms, vectors, proof and calculus. Excellent algebraic skills will be essential for success in these areas. For the Applied element of the course, students cover a range of topics in both Mechanics and Statistics.

# Further Mathematics A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7367

**Assessment:**  
100% exam

**Entry requirements:**  
Maths GCSE grade A/7

This A Level qualification builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the whole GCSE subject content for mathematics and the subject content for A Level Mathematics. Further Mathematics is an excellent choice for students who have enjoyed GCSE and are considering studying a mathematics related course at university. All students will study:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling.

Two of the following options will be studied (according to demand):

- Mechanics
- Statistics
- Discrete Mathematics.

# Computer Science A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7517

**Assessment:**

80% exam 20% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

Maths GCSE grade B/5

A Level Computer Science involves a good deal more than just “playing about with computers!” It is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. The emphasis is on computational thinking and understanding computer design.

Although practical ‘hands-on’ computing is an enjoyable part of the course, Computer Science is about a systematic approach to solving problems. Students will learn the problem-solving and programming strands of Computing alongside theory that covers topics such as computer architecture, networks and system development.

# Biology A Level

**Exam Board:**

OCR H420 A

**Assessment:**

100% exam

**Entry requirements:**

Science/Biology GCSE grade B/5

Biology is the study of living things. The course is divided into topics, each containing key concepts in Biology and their applications. During this course students will study some of these important processes through the use of a range of resources, practical work, small group discussions and lectures.

Students will study the following modules:

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Foundations in biology
- Exchange and transport
- Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics and ecosystems.

# Chemistry A Level

**Exam Board:**

OCR H432 A

**Assessment:**

100% exam

**Entry requirements:**

Science/Chemistry GCSE grade B/5

A knowledge of Chemistry is vital in understanding many of the processes which occur in nature and in new technological developments. During this Chemistry course students will study some of these important processes through the use of a range of resources, practical work, small group discussions and lectures.

Students will study the following modules:

- Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Foundations in chemistry
- Periodic table and energy
- Core organic chemistry
- Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Further study of organic chemistry and analysis.

# Physics A Level

**Exam Board:**

OCR H556 A

**Assessment:**

100% exam

**Entry requirements:**

Science/Physics GCSE grade B/5

Physics is not only a course for future physicists and engineers, but can also provide a good qualification for many other careers. Physics is held in high regard as a challenging and rewarding A Level subject. Due to the nature of the content we would expect students to either be studying A Level Mathematics or have a very strong grade in GCSE Mathematics. Students will study the following modules:

- Development of practical skills in physics
- Foundations of physics
- Forces and motion
- Electrons, waves and photons
- Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Particles and medical physics

# Psychology A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7182

**Assessment:**  
100% exam

**Entry requirements:**  
Science GCSE grade C/4

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour, and tries to understand why people behave in the way they do. During the course, students will learn how we relate to other people, and how we are influenced by experience, situations and people.

Students will also study the process of development, how changes influence people throughout life, and consider the issues involved in mental illness, the similarities and differences between people. Students will discover how the brain functions and how it controls aspects of our behaviour. As part of the course students will conduct a variety of experiments and look at both the results of these studies as well as the ethical implications involved in studying and treating people.

# Business A Level

**Exam Board:**  
Edexcel 9BS0

**Assessment:**  
100% exam

**Entry requirements:**  
Maths GCSE grade C/4

Everyone will go on to be involved in or run a business of some sort, so Business A Level is a great choice for anybody and fits well within GWA's focus on enterprise. Students are introduced to knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Studying business decisions, strategy and global business, students will see a strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

This A Level is structured into four themes:

- Marketing and people
- Managing business activities
- Business decisions and strategy
- Global business.

# History A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7042

**Assessment:**

80% exam 20% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

History GCSE grade C/4

This A Level course looks at aspects of modern history in both America and Britain of the twentieth century - including politics, foreign policy, society and the economy.

In addition to examined subjects at the end of the course, students will be required to identify an issue they wish to study and develop a question from this which will be the focus of the historical investigation. Through undertaking the historical investigation, students will develop an enhanced understanding of the nature and purpose of history as a discipline and how historians work. They will broaden their study of the past whilst having the opportunity to study a specific issue in great depth.

# Geography A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7037

**Assessment:**

80% exam 20% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

Geography GCSE grade C/4

Geography is a diverse and engaging subject that covers issues relevant to our world today. The course embraces contemporary geography whilst retaining key elements of traditional geography. The subject content follows an 'issues and impacts' approach throughout. Students will study:

- Physical geography
- Human geography
- People and the environment
- Geography fieldwork investigation
- Geographical skills

# Philosophy & Ethics (RS) A Level

**Exam Board:**  
OCR H573

**Assessment:**  
100% exam

**Entry requirements:**  
English GCSE grade C/4

Students will explore philosophical issues raised by religion and belief, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. Ethical theory will be applied to issues of importance; e.g. euthanasia and sexual ethics. The final module will provide an opportunity through the systematic study of one religious tradition (to be determined) including beliefs, values, teaching and practices that shape the religious identity.

Within this A Level students will study three modules:

- Philosophy of religion
- Religion and ethics
- Developments in religious thought.

*Note: Although the basis of the course is Philosophy and Ethics, the final qualification is A Level Religious Studies.*

# Economics A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7136

**Assessment:**  
80% exam 20% coursework

**Entry requirements:**  
Maths GCSE grade C/4

Within this course students will study how economics affects individuals, companies and markets. Students will also learn about market failure and about the national and international economy. Students will acquire knowledge of trends and developments in the economy both over a longer term and in recent history.

Students will be provided with opportunities to use economic models to explore current economic behaviour and apply their knowledge to a wide variety of situations and different markets.

# Sociology A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7192

**Assessment:**  
100% exam

**Entry requirements:**  
English GCSE grade C/4

Sociology is the study of how people create society through their relationships, and the ways in which society shapes people's behaviour and ideas.

Students will examine topics such as education, crime and deviance and religion, and ideas such as power, identity, socialisation and social control. The course calls for the questioning of so-called 'taken-for-granted' views of society and individuals. The following modules will be studied:

- Education with Theory and Methods
- Topics in Sociology
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

# French A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7652

**Assessment:**  
100% exam (inc. oral)

**Entry requirements:**  
French GCSE grade B/5

This course is not just about speaking French! By studying A Level French students will study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. They will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and learn about political engagement and who wields political power in the French-speaking world.

Students also explore the influence of the past on present-day French speaking communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research in an area of their choice.

# Spanish A Level

**Exam Board:**  
AQA 7692

**Assessment:**  
100% exam (inc. oral)

**Entry requirements:**  
Spanish GCSE grade B/5

This course is not just about speaking Spanish! Students will study technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society. They will study highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations. They will learn about aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world.

Students will explore the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities. Throughout their studies, they learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

# Art, Craft and Design A Level

**Exam Board:**  
OCR H600

**Assessment:**  
100% coursework

**Entry requirements:**  
Art GCSE grade C/4

Art, Craft and Design – Combined Specialisms is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media.

Students will be required to work in two or more specialisms from those listed below dependent on their skills and interests:

- Fine Art
- Graphic communication
- Photography
- Three-dimensional design
- Critical and contextual studies.

# Product Design A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7552

**Assessment:**

50% exam 50% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

Design &amp; Tech. GCSE grade C/4

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice.

Students will study:

- Materials and their applications
- Performance characteristics of materials
- Enhancement of materials
- Design and making principles.

# Music A Level

**Exam Board:**

OCR H543

**Assessment:**

40% exam 60% performance

**Entry requirements:**

Music GCSE grade B/5 \*

Those studying Music A Level will access a contemporary and creative course enabling them to perform, compose and appraise. They will be encouraged to be creative and broaden their musical horizons and understanding. By studying music with different styles and from different ages students will study:

- musical elements and their interdependence
- musical contexts
- musical language.

*\* To succeed at a high level students taking Music A Level need to be proficient in reading music and play an instrument or sing, ideally having completed graded exams.*

# Physical Education A Level

**Exam Board:**

AQA 7582

**Assessment:**

70% exam 30% coursework

**Entry requirements:**

Science/Biology GCSE grade C/4

The A Level Physical Education qualification allows students to play to their strengths and gain dynamic theoretical and practical skills by studying factors which affect participation and performance in physical activity and sport. It is important to understand that the course is 70% theory based and students should have the ability and desire to study the theory, which will include:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement
- Sport psychology
- The role of technology in physical activity and sport.





# Enterprise & Entrepreneurship

## BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

**Exam Board:**  
Edexcel

**Assessment:**  
Internal & external assessment

**Entry requirements:**  
5 GCSEs grade C/4

Equivalent to a full A Level, students will study the importance of both enterprise and entrepreneurs to the local and national economy. The course allows students to explore their creativity and mindset and study real-life enterprise and entrepreneurs and investigate the skills required to be successful. The course looks at the risks, opportunities and constraints faced by entrepreneurs in setting up their venture, teaches how to assess the feasibility of a range of potential enterprise opportunities and then develop and present one idea for a local enterprise. Students will study the following units:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Personal and Business Finance
- Developing a marketing campaign
- Social enterprise or Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship in practice.



# Information Technology

## BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

**Exam Board:**  
Edexcel

**Assessment:**  
Internal & external assessment

**Entry requirements:**  
5 GCSEs grade C/4

Equivalent to a full A Level, this course is designed for learners who are interested in a basic introduction to the study of IT alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Students will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

Students will study the following modules:

- Information Technology
- Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Using Social Media in Business
- Data Modelling or Website Development.



# Performing Arts (Dance or Drama) BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

**Exam Board:**  
Edexcel

**Assessment:**  
Internal & external assessment

**Entry requirements:**  
5 GCSEs grade C/4

The Performing Arts BTEC is an ideal course for students who want to continue with dance or drama as part of their post-16 studies. Equivalent to a full A Level, the Certificate offers an introduction to the performing arts vocational sector through applied learning. For learners for whom an element of performing arts would be complementary, the qualification supports progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other vocational or general qualifications. Students will be able to focus on either dance or drama by studying:

- Investigating practitioner's work
- Developing skills and techniques for live performance.

*There will be opportunities to take part in GWA productions and Performing Arts students should anticipate taking lead roles.*



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All information is correct at time of printing, however course content and availability is subject to change dependent on demand.