

ACHIEVEMENT, CARE AND EXCELLENCE AT



SIXTH FORM

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

SEPTEMBER 2021



William Morris Way, Tadpole Garden Village, SN25 2PP

Telephone: 01793 209700

Email: office@gwacademy.co.uk

Web: www.gwacademy.co.uk



SIXTH FORM

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

OPEN EVENING



THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER
5:30-7:30 PM

Welcome to GWA Sixth Form



Mr Davis
Principal



Mr Smith
Head of Sixth Form

Since opening in 2019, GWA Sixth Form has grown from strength to strength. GWA is proud to provide state of the art facilities in North Swindon and to be able to offer students access to exceptional Sixth Form education. Our first set of A Level results in 2021 showed that our students had made exceptional progress. With 100% pass rate, 42% of students achieved A* and A grades and 38% of students achieved BBB or better. We were also very proud of the destinations our students progressed to with over a third of students achieving places at Russell Group Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge and others securing apprenticeships with top employers including BMW and Aculab.

By joining GWA, Sixth Form students will experience the very best teaching with fabulous resources, including their own laptop. Our size means that every student will know every teacher and they will be fully supported in their learning and future plans. Students will also get the opportunity to shape the way the Sixth Form operates as it grows and establishes itself as a leading provider of Post 16 education.

As well as providing a strong academic foundation we ensure our students have the skills to thrive as independent thinkers, creative problem solvers and adaptable lifelong learners. Our excellent teachers provide inspirational teaching and in addition to this, students will be able to take part in enrichment sessions and many other opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. The mix of curriculum and non-curriculum activities combine to give every student who attends GWA the best possible chance to succeed in whatever they want to do. This is embedded in our ethos of Achievement, Care and Excellence.

Within this prospectus you will see an outline of the A Level courses that we are committed to offering at GWA, subject to there being enough demand for a course to run. As we are a growing school, we have the advantage of being able to be flexible with our offer of courses. If you would like to take an option that is not listed in this booklet, please indicate this on your application form and, if there is sufficient demand, we will endeavour to offer it.

As standard, we would expect students to select 4 A-Level courses to provide them with flexibility and the chance to explore their subject area before settling onto three core A-Levels. We ask you to indicate a fifth choice as a reserve in case courses do not have sufficient demand to run. After applying you will be invited to visit us for a guidance meeting discussion about your application and your subject choices.

If you would like to visit beforehand or have questions, please contact office@gwacademy.co.uk

Mr Davis
Principal

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'D' followed by a dot.

Mr Smith
Assistant Principal & Head of Sixth Form

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'S' and 'M' with a dot at the end.

The Subjects We Offer

Mathematics

- Mathematics A Level
- Further Mathematics AS/A Level
- Core Mathematics (Level 3)

Business & Computing

- Business A Level
- Economics A Level
- Computer Science A Level
- Information Technology (BTEC Level 3 National Diploma)

English and Modern Foreign Languages

- English Language A Level
- English Literature A Level
- Media Studies A Level
- French A Level
- Spanish A Level

Sciences

- Biology A Level
- Chemistry A Level
- Physics A Level

Humanities

- Geography A Level
- History A Level
- Law A Level
- Philosophy and Ethics (RS) A Level
- Politics A Level
- Psychology A Level
- Sociology A Level

Art and Design Technology

- Art and Design (Fine Art) A Level
- Art and Design (Photography) A Level
- Art and Design (Textile Design) A Level
- Design Technology (Product Design) A Level

Performing Arts

- Drama and Theatre A Level
- Music A Level

Other Subjects

- Physical Education A Level
- Extended Project Qualification – Level 3



FACILITIES

As a modern school for the 21st century, Great Western Academy boasts state of the art facilities. We are an ICT rich school environment. The whole school is covered by Wi-Fi network and all pupils will have their own laptop issued to support them in their studies, both in and out of school.

All the classrooms have a modern, bright feeling and are well equipped to deliver an exceptional educational experience, including state of the art science laboratories and practical spaces for arts and technology. We make good use of cloud-based technologies to deliver teaching and learning and the use of technology is embedded into the learning experience.

The Sixth Form have their own Common Room area on the top floor of the school. This comprises a main common room space, a Café area and a stunning balcony that looks out towards Gloucestershire. Food is served for the Sixth Form in their Café area by our caterers, and there are facilities for them to make their own. Sixth Form also have access to the sports and music facilities to use for agreed sessions in their non-contact time.

EXCELLENT OUTCOMES FOR ALL

Every student can expect to feel important and will be appropriately stretched and challenged. We have high expectations of students and encourage them to have high aspirations for their learning and their future. We believe that every student can realise and maximise their potential with the right teaching and support. The Academy operates in a caring, friendly but professional environment, with clear rights and responsibilities understood by all. Lessons are conducted in a business-like manner where teachers can focus on teaching and students on learning.

Excellent teaching, underpinned by high quality professional development and learning resources, is vital. Our staff have been carefully recruited to ensure they meet the aims and ethos of the Academy and are excellent classroom practitioners. We personalise learning and make good use of data to improve teaching to ensure that no student is left behind. We draw on evidence and experience of the best ways to achieve excellent outcomes for all. Classroom learning is supplemented by many visits and trips to bring learning alive for our students.



CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Careers provision in the Sixth Form will ensure that every student has access to high quality information, advice and guidance. At GWA we want all our students to strive to achieve at the highest level in their studies, and outside of the classroom. The careers curriculum will provide opportunities for the students to have meaningful interactions with a wide variety of employers and educators to ensure they are able to make informed choices about their next steps. Our experienced form tutors and teaching staff will support students through the UCAS application process or their applications for apprenticeship programmes and employment. Students will have opportunities to engage in work experience placements and professional mentoring. Our careers programme is supported by our independent careers advisor Jess Pieri, AKA the Careers Lady.

PASTORAL CARE

Every student will be a member of a tutor group and a House team. Their form tutor will play an important role in supporting them through their Sixth Form journey and is the key point of contact for the students and their parents. The form tutor is responsible for monitoring student's academic and pastoral welfare. They also lead the tutor group in House competitions against others in a variety of activities.

The House system facilitates a wide range of friendly competition in sport, the arts and academic activities, encouraging teamwork and leadership across the year groups. Many activities are led by Sixth formers. In line with the Academy's focus on enterprise, the Houses will choose and contribute to a local charity or community programme and some House competitions have a focus on business and enterprise.

Our Houses are named after leaders within the British space industry – Aderin, Peake and Sharman – to reflect our high aspirations and our focus on technology, enterprise and hard work.

A FANTASTIC FIRST SET OF RESULTS AT GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

Great Western Academy is immensely proud of the A-Level results achieved by our 2021 Year 13 cohort and the destinations they can now progress to, especially in such a disrupted year. This includes two students who have secured places at Oxford and Cambridge and over a third progressing to other Russell Group universities.

The key information below summarises the school's first ever A-Level results:

- Pass rate: 100%
- On average our students achieved over a quarter of a grade higher than their forecast outcomes and were in line with the top 25% of students against national benchmarks.
- 42% of students achieved A* and A Grades
- 29% of students achieved AAB or better
- 38% of students achieved BBB or better
- 62% of students are progressing to university. This includes Oxford and Cambridge and 35% going to Russell Group universities
- All our students secured appropriate progression routes including apprenticeships with top employers such as BMW, Aculab, Barratts Homes



ENRICHMENT AND EXTRA CURRICULAR

All students at GWA are given the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities through our Enrichment Programme. The range of activities include sports, arts, academic pursuits, alternative and additional qualifications, extended projects, social enterprise, community service and outdoor education. Sixth Formers are encouraged to support and lead these activities but also work with the Sixth Form team to develop a programme of their own enrichment activities. The Sixth Form will be able to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Gold level. This is one of the most widely recognised extra-curricular awards and is highly regarded by universities and employers.

Each afternoon the Sixth Form will take part in our ACE-HUB activities. This will provide them with opportunities to support students lower down the school and to engage with academic mentoring, careers support and study support.

GETTING TO SCHOOL

We are keen to encourage sustainable transport and therefore we hope that students will walk, cycle or catch the bus to school whenever possible. There is provision for students to store their bicycles and helmets during the school day.

Bus routes 9 and 957 run to GWA. We also operate a minibus service to and from Highworth and Blunsdon for the Sixth Form. Bus route 51 comes from Cirencester, via Cricklade to Groundwell West, from there the number 9 can be taken to GWA.



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 9-4 (or A* to C) 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
- 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/school-information/policies

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be made for September 2022 from September 2021. A GWA Sixth Form application form should be completed and returned to Great Western Academy by 17th December 2021. The application form is available from the Great Western Academy website at www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form or by contacting the Academy.

Application received by the deadline will be given full consideration and we will endeavour to be able to provide for chosen subject combinations. Applications received after 17th December 2021 will still be accepted, but there may be restrictions on the combinations of subjects that can be chosen.

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 attend a guidance meeting to discuss their application and 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 following the guidance meeting.





Mathematics - A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

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, coordinate 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.

What it could lead to: Further study in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Accounting & Finance, Actuarial Science, : STEM, Statistics, and many more.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 6

Further Mathematics - AS/A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

This A Level qualification is an opportunity to build on some previously learnt skills but also discover completely new elements of maths. You will be introduced to new concepts such as imaginary numbers, matrices, roots of polynomials and many more new topics. Further Mathematics is an excellent choice for students who enjoy maths and/or are considering studying a mathematics related course at University.

This course can be taken as either an AS Level (over one year) or a full A level (over two years). The topic headings for both years will be the same but the second year will involve studying each of the topics in more depth.

Each year the students will study Pure Mathematics content alongside any two of the following options (according to demand):

- Mechanics
- Statistics
- Discrete Mathematics

What it could lead to: Further study in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Accounting & Finance, Actuarial Science, STEM, Statistics, and many more.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 7

Core Mathematics - Level 3 - OCR

100% Examination

Core maths is a new qualification which has been developed in the last 5 years to provide progression from GCSE Mathematics for those students not wanting to follow an A level course in the subject. It is specifically designed to equip learners to develop and apply real-world maths skills and support progression to university, employment or higher apprenticeships.

The course is designed to motivate learners and aims to engage them with the maths around them in every day life. If you are considering studying subjects such as Science, Geography, Business, Economics or social sciences at A level, core maths will be useful to help refine and develop skills to support your other subjects.

Core maths is different from both GCSE and A Level mathematics. It uses real-world, relevant, content and offers opportunities for learners with context-based problem-solving tasks and opportunities. The course helps learners to view mathematics in context and equips them for the world around them, it supports studies in other subjects and prepares students for the next step in education or employment.

Core Maths is about students doing meaningful mathematical problems to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment. It has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills. What students study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis, whether in work, study or life.

Most Core Maths courses will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other A level subjects, in particular with science, geography, business studies, economics and psychology. Mathematical skills are becoming increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education - studying Core Maths will help students to keep up these essential skills.

What it could lead to: Further study in a variety of subjects at university, progressing to a higher apprenticeship or employment in a wide range of industry sectors or professional training opportunities. Further study in science, geography, business studies, economics and psychology. Skills you will need in any workplace.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 4

*Core Mathematics can only be chosen as a 4th subject alongside 3 full A Levels

Business - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

This A Level Business course introduces you to all you need to know about working in business, providing a solid foundation for further study. With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker, you'll learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver.

These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers. The course will cover 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 the strategic direction
- Strategic methods – how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

What it could lead to: Business A Level can lead to a wide variety of business, management, economics or finance subjects at university.

The course will prepare you well for entering the world of work, particularly for management and leadership roles or for running your own business.

Entry Qualification: Mathematics and English GCSE grade 4, plus Business grade 4 (if taken) or another Humanities subject
GCSE Business is not a requirement

Economics - A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

Economics doesn't just happen in banks and governments. It is everywhere and influences everything we do, and see, from the cinema screen to the streets. It can explain some of life's most intriguing questions.

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices. In Year 12 you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail, consumer choices and enterprise in the economy. You will also consider the role of banks and life in a global economy. In Year 13 you will explore the impact of globalisation on consumers, firms and the labour market. You will also investigate the role of the government and have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

What it could lead to: Studying economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation and essay writing. You will also develop commercial awareness. Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service. You might choose a career in banking, sales, product management or general management.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Mathematics grade 6



Information Technology - BTEC Level 3 National Diploma - OCR

External assessment – written exam / controlled coursework – 46%

Internally assessed coursework 54%

This course consists of eight modules, with six of the eight being mandatory and two optional. The optional modules allow students to explore a topic of further interest outside of the mandatory content. The optional modules will be chosen on a majority basis, meaning all students will study the same optional modules based on a consensus of interests. The mandatory modules are

- Information Technology systems
- Creating systems to manage information
- Using social media as a business
- Programming
- IT Project Management
- Cyber security and incident management

There are many optional modules available e.g. website development; mobile app development; digital 2D and 3D graphics; enterprise in IT; business process modelling tools; cloud storage and collaboration tools.

The qualification is designed to be studied over two years and carries UCAS tariff points.

Students will also find that the course develops many transferable skills such as communication, independent research, project management, numeracy, report writing and digital literacy making them a potentially invaluable employee for any hiring company.

What it could lead to: It meets entry requirements in its own right for some courses in IT or related study such as an HNC or HND in Computing, Engineering or Business Management.

For progression to a degree course, learners should normally study this qualification alongside other qualifications, such as an A Level or BTEC Extended Certificate in a different or complementary subject area.

Entry Qualification: 5 GCSEs grade 4 and above

Computer Science - A Level - OCR

80% Examination

20% Coursework

Computer Science is not just about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead it is about computational thinking and creativity. Computational thinking is a method of reasoning used by both humans and machines and the creativity element allows us to analyse problems and design new and innovative solutions within a range of disciplines from mobile app development to human computer interaction.

This course has an emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, and scientific and engineering-based thinking. Students cover the following content under the main headings of Computer Science and Algorithms and Programming:

- Characteristics of contemporary processors
- Software and Software development
- Exchanging Data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, Moral and Cultural issues
- Elements of Computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

What it could lead to: The majority of Computer Science students progress onto University to read Computer Science, Information Systems (mixture of Business and Computer Science), Engineering, Software Development, Game Design and even Maths and Physics to name a few. Students will also find that A Level Computing will open a range of employment opportunities as well as access to entry level positions through apprenticeships and accelerated management programs. Computing students will also find that the course develops many transferable skills such as communication, independent research, project management, numeracy, report writing and digital literacy inclusive of programming and web design, making them a potentially invaluable employee for any hiring company.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Computing Grade 6

English Language - A Level - AQA

80% Examination
20% Coursework

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.

What it could lead to: Higher level English Language degrees, linguistics roles, Speech and Language Therapy, Teaching, Public Relations, Public Speaking, Public Sector roles, Marketing, Journalism, Health and Social care, Creative Writing, Marketing and Digital and Social Marketing

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 5

English Literature - A Level - AQA

80% Examination
20% Coursework

The philosophy of this course centres on teaching the students the different ways of reading and the connections which exist between texts. There is a clear focus on understanding genre, whereby the students will become experts in these areas as they explore a plethora of texts. Study of texts with the chosen literary and cultural genres in the examined topic areas is enhanced by the study of critical theory in Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways so that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers.

By the end of the course, students will have gained a broad and rich literary experience, whilst also acquiring the necessary exam and non-exam skills, which will undoubtedly prepare them for studying the subject, or those closely linked, further afield.

Students will study English Literature through the following topics

- Aspects of tragedy
- Elements of crime writing
- Non-examined assessment (critical theory and independent study of texts)
-

What it could lead to: English Literature degrees, Classics degrees, Writing, Broadcasting, Publishing, Teaching, Advertising, Law, Librarian, Theatre and the arts, Museums, Editor, Marketing and Digital and Social Marketing.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 6

Media Studies - A Level - Eduqas

70% Examination
30% Coursework

The media is the most dynamic, innovative and influential method of mass communication of modern times. It has been reported that adults in Great Britain are consuming media for almost 8 hours a day. That's 8 hours a day watching films and television, reading newspapers, and sifting through online media. Within that time, we are bombarded by other people's representations of the world and how we respond to these representations can affect our perceptions of people, places and society, of politics and culture, of ourselves and of our place in the world. Media Studies is a vital tool necessary to understanding the media's significance and its power.

As a GCE Media Studies student, you will analyse how media products use language and representations to create meaning. You will learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made. You will investigate media audiences, exploring who are the people who watch, read and consume the products and considering how different people might respond to products differently, and why.

What it could lead to: Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies in the UK. A Level Media Studies helps you to progress to these courses, as well as to those in other areas such English, Humanities and Social Sciences. There is a huge array of career opportunities in the media, which is an industry that is growing at an exponential rate. According to PWC the entertainment and media sector will be worth £76 billion in 2021.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4

French - A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination (including oral)

A Level French at GWA aims to build your knowledge and skills gained at GCSE! The course will give you the opportunity to explore new areas of French culture, traditions and history through the language, as well as focusing on modern day themes which link to francophone communities.

You will discover new opinions on in depth topics while gaining confidence in your French abilities. Language is not the only focus of this course...as students will study a literary piece to enrich their understanding of the target language.

Through studying A Level French, you will have the opportunity to enhance your employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving your linguistic abilities.

What it could lead to: University (not just languages) – Russell group universities now look for a foreign language at A level! Working and living abroad. Apprenticeships for world renowned companies

Entry Qualification: GCSE French grade 5

Spanish - A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination (including oral)

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 will learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries, covering the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study literary texts and film, and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

What it could lead to: A career in teaching, translation, interpreting, business, tourism, etc. It would also complement any other degree course, opening doors to work as a professional in a Spanish-speaking country as well as any context where proficiency in Spanish language is required.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Spanish grade 5



Biology - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

Biology is the study of living things; how they function, how they evolved and how they interact. There is a strong practical element involving both lab and field work and students will develop their scientific investigation skills throughout the course, earning their practical endorsement. The course is divided into the following topics:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Transport across membranes
- Cell recognition and the immune system
- Organisms and the environment
- Genetic variation, information and relationships
- Energy transfer
- Responding to changes in the environment
- Populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

What it could lead to: Studying this A Level is a good foundation for degree courses in biological sciences, zoology, genetics, nursing and medicine. It could also unlock a life-long interest in living things and the environment we live in as well as developing laboratory skills and an enquiring mind.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Biology grade 6 (or combined science 66) and GCSE Mathematics grade 5 on Higher Paper

Chemistry - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

Chemistry is essential to understanding the world around us. Chemistry is a practical subject, but it also offers an opportunity to apply your mathematical skills and test your problem solving. The subject is split up into three main branches

- | Organic | Inorganic | Physical |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| • Alkanes | • Periodicity | • Atomic structure |
| • Haloalkanes | • Group 2 | • Moles |
| • Alkenes | • Group 7 | • Bonding |
| • Alcohols | | • Kinetics |
| • Analysis | | • Equilibria |
| | | • Redox |

What it could lead to: Studying this A Level is a good foundation for degree courses in Chemistry, Accounting, Engineering, Veterinary and Medicine. It could also unlock a life-long interest in living things and the environment we live in as well as developing laboratory skills and an enquiring mind.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Chemistry grade 6 (or combined science grade 66) and GCSE Mathematics grade 5 on Higher Paper

Physics - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

The AQA A Level Physics course is interesting, exciting and relevant to the real world. The focus upon practical work, and the range of optional topics available for Year 13, make this a particularly attractive specification for teaching and learning.

Students will learn about measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and energy, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and nuclear physics. In addition, one optional subject will be studied in greater depth in the second year from a range including astrophysics, medical physics and engineering physics.

What it could lead to: The course is intended to inspire students, nurture a passion for physics and lay the groundwork for further study in science or engineering. In addition, Physics is held in high regard as a challenging and rewarding A Level subject and therefore provides a good qualification to support entry into many other careers.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Physics grade 6 (or combined science grade 66) and GCSE Mathematics grade 6



Geography - A Level - AQA

80% Examination (40% Physical, 40% Human Geography)
20% Fieldwork

Geography is a diverse and relevant subject, with topics carefully chosen to reflect the world today. The wide range of topics give students an opportunity to broaden their understanding of the world around us, challenge their perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. The course embraces contemporary Geography whilst retaining key elements of traditional Geography. Students will study:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Physical geography | Human geography |
| • Water and carbon cycles | • Global systems and global governance |
| • Hazards | • Changing places |
| • Coastal systems and landscapes | • Population and the environment |

What it could lead to: Higher education, studying not only geography but subjects such as Geology, Earth Sciences, Meteorology, Climate Science, Oceanography, Archaeology and many others. Careers in fields such as environmental consultancy, urban planning, conservation, GIS, tourism, education and many others.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Geography and Mathematics Grade 4 or equivalent

History - A Level - Edexcel

80% Examination
20% Coursework

This fascinating A Level course focuses primarily on challenges to the authority of the state in the late 18th and 19th century. This was period of great upheaval with revolution challenging the traditional established elites. It was a period where strong leaders emerged, inspiring the masses and causing radical changes across Europe.

- **Unit 1** – Protest and Reform c1785 to c1870: how the changing nature of Britain caused the people to protest for reforms and demand greater democratic representation and living conditions.
- **Unit 2** – Italian unification: how through conflict, revolution and political change the traditional elites of separate Italian states succumbed to liberalism and nationalism so that by 1870 a unified nation of Italy emerged in southern Europe.
- **Unit 3** – The Witch Craze: how the witch craze of the 17th century in Britain, Northern Europe and America to uncover the causes and consequences of this astonishing period. Burnings, torture, hangings and total panic – what was at the heart of an unparalleled phenomenon that led to the execution of over 100,000 innocent people?
- **Unit 4** – Independent coursework: students will be required to identify an issue they wish to study and develop a question from this, which will be the focus of a historical investigation

What it could lead to: Studying History opens the door to further study at university. History A level provides skills of analysis, evaluation and explanation. All of which are essential skills for any professional career. A Level History complements further study in all subjects but has particularly strong links to Government & politics, Law and Economics. History is a highly regarded academic subject by all universities and employers.

Entry Qualification: GCSE History and English grade 5

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics - A Level - Eduqas

100% Examination

This course is broken down into 3 separate units – Religion (Christianity), Philosophy and Ethics.

Christianity is a complex religion and we will ask questions about Jesus: his birth and the resurrection, whether we think God must be male, how the Bible can support Christian life as well as asking whether the UK really is a Christian nation and what the effects have been of secularisation.

In Philosophy, we study arguments for and against the existence of God. We look at the very nature of arguments themselves and are able to assess how strong or weak they really are. As well as this we consider the challenges faced by religious believers today such as the problem of evil and suffering and question whether religion is in fact a product of the mind.

In Ethics, we ask questions around how someone can be guided by their moral principles and the wider effect this may have. We look at various theories which may help someone to make a more decision for example Utilitarianism and Situation Ethics.

What it could lead to: A career in law, medicine, accountancy, teaching, a religious sector, charity work – essentially any position where you may need to demonstrate an understanding of people!

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4. GCSE Religious Studies is not a requirement

Politics - A Level - Edexcel

100% Examination

In this course students will explore the nature of politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK; including the study of democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour and the media. The course also covers three core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

The first year will focus on UK Government and Politics, whilst the second year will look at different international political systems.

What it could lead to: Politics is a very broad subject which, as well as leading naturally to further study of Politics, can also greatly complement courses such as Law, History and Economics.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 5

Sociology - A Level - OCR

100% Examination

Our A Level in Sociology inspires students to reflect upon the world we live in, fostering an understanding of the inter-relationships between individuals, groups, institutions and societies. It enables students to develop critical thinking and appreciate theoretical and conceptual issues.

During the course you will develop a wide range of transferable skills which are sought after by higher education and employers alike. The course looks at a range of topics including:

- Culture, Identity and Socialisation
- Social Inequalities in Society
- Research Methods used in Sociology
- The Media
- Globalisation and the Digital World
- Education

What it could lead to: A lead into further study of similar subjects or subjects with a similar skill set. Many Sociology students move on to careers in the NHS, Policing, Social Work, Teaching, Public Services, Researchers for Business and Government Think Tanks.

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4

Law - A Level - Eduqas

100% Examination

Studying Law gives students an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills alongside the ability to construct legal arguments. All these transferable skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers. The course includes looking at case studies and theories to keep content fresh, relevant and engaging. Topics are clearly structured and include:

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Criminal Law
- Law of Tort
- Law of Contract
- Human Rights Law

What it could lead to: A career in law, medicine, accountancy, teaching, a religious sector, charity work – essentially any position where you may need to demonstrate an understanding of people!

Entry Qualification: GCSE English grade 4

Psychology - A Level - AQA

100% Examination

Psychology will allow you to have a better understanding of the human mind and how everyday behaviour is influenced by the world around us. It will enable you to develop your critical thinking and evaluative skills and have a better understanding of many social, scientific and contemporary issues involved in our daily life.

There are three papers that will be sat at the end of the course, all equally weighted. Topics that will be covered over the two year course include Psychopathology, Attachment, Memory, Biopsychology and many more!

What it could lead to: Counselling, psychotherapist, social work, teaching, human resources, police, research roles.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Biology (or Science), English and Mathematics grade 5

Art & Design (Fine Art) - A Level - AQA

60% Portfolio (Coursework)

40% Externally set assignment (Practical Exam)

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of art media, processes and techniques. Traditional and new media are explored.

Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in the following areas;

- Appreciation of different approaches to recording images, such as observation, analysis, expression and imagination
- Awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen areas of fine art
- Understanding of the conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery or genres
- Appreciation of different ways of working, such as, using underpainting, wash, impasto, modelling, carving, casting, constructing, assembling, etching, engraving, drypoint, mono printing, lino printing, screen printing, photo silk and lithography
- Understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure
- Appreciation of colour, line, tone, texture, shape and form

What it could lead to: The course to lead to further education and in addition the following careers; Animator, Fine Artist, Book Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Cartoonist, Commercial Artist, Special Effects Make Up, Mural Artist, Art Therapist, Art Teacher, Architect, Arts Administrator, Costumer Designer, Florist, Prop Maker, Set Design, Tattoo Artist.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Art grade 4

Art & Design (Photography) - A Level - AQA

60% Portfolio (Coursework)

40% Externally set assignment (Practical Exam)

In addition to the Art and Design (Fine Art) course above, we are now offering this exciting Photography course.

You will be required to work in **one or more** area(s) of Photography such as

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Portraiture | • Fashion |
| • Landscape (urban, rural and/or coastal environment) | • Experimental |
| • Still Life (working from objects or the natural world) | • Multimedia |
| • Documentary, photojournalism | • Photographic Installation |

Students will be required to demonstrate skills in all the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture | • appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement |
| • awareness of intended audience | • appropriate use of camera, lenses, filters |
| • ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea | • understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and where appropriate, presentation and layout |

What it could lead to: This A Level can lead you into some exciting jobs such as; Forensic Photographer, Military Photographer, Secondary School or University Teacher in Photography/Arts, Photojournalist, Nature Photographer, Fashion Photographer & Photo Editor.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Art grade 4

Art & Design (Textile Design) - A Level - AQA

60% Portfolio (Coursework)

40% Externally set assignment (Practical Exam)

In A Level Art and Design: Textile Design you will develop your own skills and knowledge through creative exploration. You will be given themes to inspire, together with technical guidance & contextual stimulus you will develop original projects and fashion & textile outcomes. You will learn how to use an extensive range of techniques and processes that embrace the 3 areas of embroidery, print & weave. Fashion illustration & portfolio & sketchbook presentation is also taught and individual style is nurtured.

What happens in lessons?

Lessons are practical where students develop their project while receiving support and guidance to help further their own creative journey. New techniques and skills are fed into the course and students create a technical & contextual sketchbooks that supports their own project development.

What it could lead to: Students have gone on to study foundation courses in Art and Design at Bournemouth, Oxford Brookes and Surrey. Post foundation students have continued to study a range of courses in fashion design (menswear/women's wear/children's wear), textile art, pattern cutting and textile design (weave, print and embroidery). Other career options include visual merchandiser, jewellery design fashion journalism, costume design or fashion buying.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Art or Design Technology grade 4 (if taken)

Ideally the experience of having studied GCSE art and design &/or design and technology is advantageous but is NOT essential.

Design & Technology (Product Design) - A Level - AQA

50% Examination

50% Non-Examined Assessment

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 using the iterative design process.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. A key requirement of the course is the use of mathematical skills and these will be tested in the exams. An understanding of scientific theory is also expected. Students will study materials and their applications; performance characteristics of materials; enhancement of materials and design and making principles

What it could lead to: An understanding of product design can lead to a large variety of career opportunities in; publishing, ICT, advertising, architecture, public works, building, animation, production/manufacturing, mechanical maintenance (e.g. cars/bikes etc.). Alternatively, this course can provide access to a wide range of other university and college courses.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Design and Technology grade 5



Drama & Theatre - A Level - Eduqas

40% Examination
60% Coursework

A Level Drama and Theatre is a creative and challenging course that allows students to explore a wide range of practical and theoretical skills. Lessons will cover devised, scripted, and written elements of theatre. Students will explore three set texts from the perspective of an actor, director and designer, as well as the historical, social and cultural context of the plays. Students will also engage with a variety of theatre practitioners, and learn how to apply these methods to their own devised work, as well as scripted performances.

Live Theatre is an integral part of the course and theatre trips will be organised regularly. Students will study drama through the following components:

- Theatre Workshop
- Text in Action
- Text in Performance

Students can be assessed as actors or as technical candidates.

What it could lead to: This is an excellent A Level to enrich communication, creative, analytical and reflective skills. Careers include, but are not limited to, – actor; teacher; director; law; journalism, media; writer; arts; social worker; drama therapist; project manager.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Drama and English grade 5 with proven participation in performing arts activities

Music - A Level - AQA

40% Examination
35% 10-min Recorded Performance
25% Two Compositions

Those studying Music A Level will access a contemporary and creative course enabling them to study a wide range of musical genres, and to develop their own particular strengths and interests. The course values all music styles, skills and instruments. It is divided into three strands: listening/appraising, performing and composing. The Music Department at GWA boasts 5 bookable practice rooms, as well as a grand piano located in the Hall.

Areas of study include:

- Music from the Western Classical Tradition
- Pop Music
- Music for Media

What it could lead to: Music Degree (BMus) at a University or a Music Conservatoire, Professional Musician in the Music Industry (e.g. Classical, Popular, Folk, World Music, etc...), Arts Administration, Music Teacher, Film Scoring.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Music grade 5



Physical Education - A Level - AQA

70% Examination
30% Coursework

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

What it could lead to: The sports industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of modern society. You only have to look at the rise of performance analysis in Premier League football or at the growth of the Olympic and Paralympic movements to see that with the right qualifications and a passion for sport, there are a huge number of exciting opportunities open to talented young people.

Possible career pathways for those with A Level PE include Performance Analyst, Nutritionist, Journalist, Sports Development Officer, Physiotherapist, Teaching, Personal Training, Sports Psychology, Sports Consultancy, Coaching and many more.

Entry Qualification: GCSE Science / Biology grade 5

Students **must** be taking part in competitive sport outside of school



Extended Project Qualification - Level 3 - Edexcel

100% Examination

The Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) is different to other courses because it enables you to undertake independent research in a topic you find interesting. It is valued by many universities.

You will research a project of your choosing, which you will then develop into either a 5,000 word report, performance or artefact. Alongside your research you will communicate your findings in a presentation at the end of the course. Throughout your course you will be supported by a tutor.

The EPQ is worth 50% of an A level, and gives you more UCAS points than an AS level (20 for grade E, up to 70 for a grade A*).

What it could lead to: The Extended Project allows learners to study a topic area which extends their learning in their area of study, as a standalone qualification. The qualification will allow learners to develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners. They will develop and apply skills, creatively demonstrating initiative and enterprise to allow them to transfer skills developed as part of their project to other areas of study. The EPQ supports their personal aspirations for further education and/or career development and is seen as a great qualification to bridge the gap between A levels and university.

Entry Qualification: no specific requirements



Great Western Academy
William Morris Way, Tadpole Garden Village, Swindon, SN25 2PP

www.gwacademy.co.uk
office@gwacademy.co.uk
01793 209700

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