

# SIXTH FORM



Lancaster Royal  
Grammar School

State Day and Boarding School for Boys Aged 11 to 18  
Coeducational Sixth Form

**CHALLENGE**

Be your best

**CHOICE**

Pick from over 20 courses

**CONTRIBUTE**

Get involved

**CARE**

Feel supported

“ My son got 4 A\* in the A-level exams, and he succeeded in being admitted to Imperial College studying Physics. I have to show my gratitude to your care and guidance for his two years studying and boarding life. Lancaster Royal Grammar School is a great school and the boarding house is really a great experience.

Boarding parent

”

“ I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your wisdom and heart, and all the things that you all have done for my son and our family in the past five years. I will always be grateful to you for being there for us. Thank you for giving him a sense of belonging, happiness, and comfort in your house while he was far away from home. Thank you so much for keeping him loved, cared for and encouraged every day, and especially, paying close attention to his emotional issues and for not hesitating to bring them to my attention. You all are awesome housemasters indeed. My gratitude to you for all you have done, which I will never forget. Thank you very much for being such a wonderful housemaster to my child. As a parent, I know perfect housemasters are hard to find, but I am extremely lucky and blessed to have four during my son's study journey at LRGS!

Boarding parent

”

# Welcome



Life in the Sixth Form is different!

The moment when you step up from GCSEs to Sixth Form study is one of the most exciting times in your school career.

Our Sixth Form is all about challenge, choice and care – whether you are considering LRGS for the first time, with us already in Year 11, or looking at the special opportunities of boarding. You will develop academically as you dig deep into your chosen A-level subjects. You have much more freedom about how and where to use your time, and we will help you use it wisely! The LRGS Sixth Form is full of opportunities to contribute outside the classroom, and

we will look to you to volunteer, mentor and lead – whether in clubs, societies, sport, music, drama or much else besides. Get involved! The school is small enough for us to know you well, and we will guide you as you start to shape your future. Our overarching Sixth Form aim is to encourage and support you as you step out towards independence and responsibility. I hope that you will join us for the journey ahead.

Headmaster Dr Chris Pyle

*Praesis ut Prosis*



Left to Right: Toby (Deputy Head), Leila (Deputy Head), Edward (Head of School), Jessica (Deputy Head) and Joe (Deputy Head).

## Sixth Form Team



Head of Sixth Form Allen Martin

LRGS has a thriving co-educational Sixth Form that welcomes students from local, national and international settings. Our Sixth Form brings together pupils from all backgrounds in order that they might learn, work and socialise together in the fabulous spaces provided for both studying and recreational time.

We're confident that the range of subject choices, teacher specialisms, facilities, opportunities, and sense of community will suit what you're looking for in your Sixth Form studies. Whether you are a new or returning student, LRGS will offer you the perfect blend of challenge and support.

We will encourage you to achieve your very best at an academic level; to get actively involved in leading within the school and the local community; and to excel in your diverse extracurricular pursuits. Success breeds success, and it is normal here for pupils to have high aspirations and to strive for excellence. That our Sixth Formers

can achieve at this level is, in part, due to the outstanding levels of pastoral support that our Sixth Form team provides and to the mutually respectful relationships that exist between students and staff. We have a terrific teacher, tutor and admin team that will stretch and support you every step of the way through your two years with us. We are very proud of the welcoming, friendly and nurturing environment of our Sixth Form and we're confident that you'll find our Sixth Form to be a special place to learn, grow and be inspired.

Allen Martin  
Head of Sixth Form

## Head of School 2025

Welcome to Lancaster Royal Grammar School and thank you for considering our school. Here at LRGS we appreciate that these big decisions can be tough and even overwhelming and so our close-knit and supportive community of students and staff are here to help you every step of the way.

No matter your interests, I truly believe that Sixth Form at LRGS has something for you. There is a remarkable selection of extracurricular activities, sporting opportunities and school trips. From rugby and cricket on the sports fields and rowing along the River Lune to clubs that include CCF, Medical, Debating, History, Chess and Lego Societies and so much more. Opportunity for trips to places as near as Morecambe Bay and the Scottish Highlands and as far as Sri Lanka, South Africa

and Norway will challenge and inspire you. All of this sits alongside fantastic academic opportunities like the Arkwright Scholarship, EPQ and an all-round great learning environment making LRGS the place it is today, where so many Sixth Form students like me, love every minute and are so thankful for the decision we made when in your shoes just a couple of years ago.

My goal as Head of School, is to support and guide students in reaching their full potential, be that academically, in a sport they enjoy or whatever other amazing things you are passionate about. Considering new things and giving them a go is what LRGS is all about. Bring your own ideas! I hope you can enjoy and gain from this amazing school as much as I have.

Head of School, Ed



Deputy Head Rachael Gibson



Deputy Head Sarah Boak



Administrator Carol Haywood

# Academic Values

Consistently placed amongst the top state schools in the country and one of the leading state boarding schools in the UK. "Sixth Form Provision is outstanding" Ofsted

Students achieved A and A\* grades in more than 43% of all the exams that they sat



"In the sixth form, the range of courses is also ambitious. Leaders tailor the curriculum to meet students' needs exceptionally well" Ofsted

We pride ourselves on our academic achievements, which have always been consistently high. We expect three-quarters of our A-level results to be at A\*, A or B grade. Almost all of our leavers go on to university with up to 15 each year to Oxford and Cambridge. This level of excellence is born out of an unrivalled level of commitment from staff and pupils. Our staff's passion for their subject has a contagious effect on our pupils.

Our students are highly motivated but also know how to combine their studies with a sense of fun and adventure and keep a healthy work-life balance.

## Choice

At LRGS we aim to allow pupils to do a combination of subjects of their choosing. You will be asked to choose three subjects to study at A-level. A Four A-level combination may be available for some students that meet the rigorous criteria and where the timetable permits. It is generally advisable to choose the subjects that interest you the most, and that you most enjoy working on, but you should also consider the way your choices combine, and the future pathways they will allow you to access. We do not encourage students to begin on four A-levels in the hope of narrowing down their choices to a final three A-levels after a few weeks in the Sixth Form. We expect those starting on four A-levels to complete all four.

## Choose from:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Ancient Greek,   | Geography                                 |
| Art  | German                                    |
| Biology  | History                                   |
| Business Studies                                       | Latin                                     |
| Chemistry  | Mathematics                               |
| Classical Civilisation                                 | Music                                     |
| Computer Science                                       | Photography                               |
| Design and Technology                                  | Physical Education                        |
| Drama and Theatre                                      | Physics                                   |
| Economics  | Politics                                  |
| English Literature                                     | Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics) |
| French   | Spanish                                   |
| Further Mathematics (only available as a 4th A-level), |   |

We expect our Sixth Formers to learn to work independently and to build on what they have been studying in lessons, for example by doing extra reading and research and finding practical ways of applying their knowledge and skills. Sixth Form students are also highly involved in leading the school and have a positive impact on the younger pupils. They play an active part in every aspect of school life, including societies, music, drama, clubs and sport. Many of them like to work with younger pupils in a mentoring or coaching role, ensuring that relationships are particularly strong.

A significant number will also be awarded prefect status, allowing them opportunities to develop their leadership skills further. We value the contribution of our Sixth Formers in the day-to-day running of the school and we believe that they learn a lot and enhance their own skill set by putting themselves in positions of responsibility.

## Care

One aspect of LRGS life that shines through when pupils talk about their experiences as Sixth Formers, is the unending support offered at a pastoral level. All Sixth Formers start each day with their tutor group and form tutor who will keep this pastoral role for the full two years, meaning that the tutor knows each student in his or her form incredibly well. Each day will start with either a tutor period or an assembly.

Form tutors also offer general help and guidance with planning for life beyond school, and provide the student's reference for employment or higher education, in close consultation with other teachers and with the pupil. Students also have the opportunity to meet with our independent careers adviser Mrs Carol Hope.

A number of teachers are trained to offer a listening support service to pupils who may be experiencing difficulties in or out of school. We also have a School Nurse on site and two councillors linked to the school. In addition, we work very closely with our Learning Support team to ensure that we are doing everything we can to meet the individual needs of pupils. The sixth form students receive mental health training and support younger students as part of their leadership and service.

"I just wanted to pass on my sincere thanks and gratitude to you for the encouragement, support and guidance which you have offered my daughter over the last two years. I am convinced that without the outstanding standard of teaching which she has received from all of you at LRGS that she would not have secured the grades which she did or have been successful in meeting her Oxford offer. You have all stretched and challenged her to achieve her true potential and for that I am extremely

grateful. As she has said herself, joining the Sixth Form at LRGS was the best decision she has ever made and she has embraced the wealth of extra-curricular activities which have been made available to her over the last two years-such as her involvement in Parallel Histories, Slavery Project, mixed rugby tag team etc

Parent

"High levels of subject expertise from staff allow students to gain a deep knowledge and understanding of the subjects that they study. As a result, students' progress through their subject curriculums extremely well. They develop a deep body of subject expertise." Ofsted

# The Sixth Form Centre

The Sixth Form Centre occupies the top and bottom floors of Old School House. On the top floor, students have access to a large cafe and a social learning space. On the ground floor, there is a silent supervised study room with access to a bank of computers, a seminar room for visiting speakers and careers talks, and a second café. At break and lunchtimes, the cafés become a meeting

point, making it very easy to feel part of the school community. During lesson time, the cafés remain open and pupils can opt to study here in a relaxed, collaborative way over coffee. At LRGS we believe in being forward thinking and innovative, whilst embracing our rich history and tradition: the best of the old and the new.



Studying: Maths, Economics and Business Studies

Sixth form provides an exceptionally supportive and inclusive environment. The dedication of teachers to their students and their academic and personal success means that they often go above and beyond. This support and advice given throughout Sixth Form provides students with the best opportunities to thrive and achieve their full potential, instilling strong values.

Alongside the academic success, LRGS offers a diverse range of extra-curricular activities, from competitive rugby, cricket and cross country to drama, debating and music. Mixed with pupil led societies, there is something for everybody.

Personally, sport has played a huge role in my school experience. Having

represented the school in rugby and cricket, I have had the fortunate opportunity to be a part of two international cricket tours to Dubai and Abu Dhabi in 2023 and Sri Lanka in 2025 and have a forthcoming rugby tour to South Africa in July 2026. These trips go beyond representing the school in sport, they provide the tourists with cultural experiences and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Through these extra-curriculum activities with school, I have learned the importance of teamwork, resilience and leadership.

Overall, LRGS has been the perfect environment for me to not only grow academically, but also as a well-rounded individual.



Studying: Biology, Business Studies and Chemistry

My time at LRGS as an international student coming from Zambia, has been one of the most fulfilling experiences; mostly because of the homely nature of boarding. The support and family I have found within Ashton House has truly helped me grow and adjust to the new environment. LRGS has provided me with many opportunities to give back to the community by assisting with open days, tours, parents' evenings, and OL dinners.

I have always had my mind set on going into veterinary, which my biology class has assisted me with incredibly, by enabling us to research and present projects based on our own interests. The school as a whole has encouraged me- in addition to investing in my future veterinary career- to also explore more

post-18 options via societies such as MedSoc, the biology Olympiad and the chemistry analyst competitions, and numerous visits to different universities to help progress into medicine and biology after A-levels. I wouldn't have been able to adapt so well to a drastically different lifestyle compared to an international school in Africa, without the integral support of the caring staff in boarding. The weekend boarding house trips to escape rooms, waterparks, theme parks, ice skating, mall trips, arts and crafts evenings and Great British Bake-off competitions have been fun and family-oriented activities that created the most warm and welcoming environment.



## Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is an additional qualification that students can opt to do at Sixth Form. It provides an opportunity for you to extend your abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and to stand out and prepare for university or your future career. It can also be used to earn extra UCAS points, being worth the equivalent of half an A-level.

The EPQ is an excellent way of stretching your knowledge and understanding of an area that you feel passionately about and to show your ambition to study at a higher level and with more independence. Students wishing to be considered for an EPQ will need to demonstrate their suitability and go through a selection process to make sure that they will thrive on the EPQ course

## Employability

It is important to us that we equip our Sixth Form students not just with excellent academic qualifications but also with the necessary skills to make them competitive in the jobs market.

Our award-winning Praesis ut Prosis Award seeks to embody the school motto (Lead In Order To Serve), encouraging students to lead and serve within the school and wider community. In preparation for Post 18 options, the Praesis ut Prosis Award recognises, develops and enhances experience and achievement in a work-related environment through a variety of activities including work experience, community volunteering, in-school service and careers workshops.

## Clubs and Societies

Many clubs, societies and events occur in lunchtimes or after school, and numerous trips and expeditions take place at weekends and during school holidays. Games sessions take place on Wednesday afternoons and are compulsory for all students.

There are always exciting opportunities on offer to suit all personalities and interests. Lancaster Royal Grammar School is one of the top sporting schools in the North of England. Former pupils include: Brian Ashton, England's Head Coach at the 2007 Rugby World Cup; Olympic cycling champion Jason Queally and fellow Olympic gold medallist Scott Durant, who learned to row at LRGS. Extra-curricular drama flourishes and recent productions and large-scale musicals have included *Strolling with Shakespeare*, *Twelfth Night*, *Les Miserables* and *Our Country's Good*.



“There is a strong, purposeful learning community at Lancaster Royal Grammar School, where pupils and staff support each other equally well.” *Ofsted*

## Admissions

To join our Sixth Form, we ask applicants for a minimum of 48 points in their best 8 GCSEs with a minimum of grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics. Students need a minimum of a grade 6 in any subject to be taken to A-level and a minimum of a grade 7 is required for A-level Mathematics. Further Mathematics is available as a fourth A-level and requires a grade 8 at GCSE Mathematics. Students who would like to study four A-levels must achieve at least five grade 8s at GCSE and will need to pass a rigorous selection process. However, if some of your courses are not GCSEs and you are uncertain if you will qualify, do ask us.

Applications for entry to the Sixth Form are accepted at any time of the year, but the deadline for course choices is the end of January 2026 for September 2026 entry. Later applications can be considered, but some combinations of subjects may no longer be possible. Students should apply before Christmas if they want to be invited to the Taster Day in January. Pupils applying to us from other schools will not be tested or interviewed for entry to LRGS Sixth Form. You just need to complete the online form available on our website and we will then stay in regular contact with you to help you prepare for your move to LRGS, for example, by inviting you in for transition days. If you have any

enquiries, please contact Miss Kelly Lightfoot on 01524 580629 or via email: [sixthformadmissions@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:sixthformadmissions@lrgs.org.uk)

## Bursaries

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a nationally funded scheme for expenses during the current academic year, which assists young people who may struggle financially to stay in full time education. For eligible students the fund can help towards essential educational related costs such as travel to school, equipment, books, essential trips and attending university/job interviews. If you have any enquiries please contact: Mrs C Haywood on 01524 580600 or via email: [chaywood@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:chaywood@lrgs.org.uk)

## Boarding

Boarding has consistently been awarded Outstanding in Ofsted visits. We welcome applications from boys and girls into boarding. Boarding applications should also be made via our website, please visit the Sixth Form Admissions page and click on Sixth Form Application Form. Boarding at Sixth Form is great preparation for university. We offer full boarding and flexible boarding for those who wish to return home at the weekend. We can occasionally accommodate short term stays in Boarding, please contact Mrs Emma Jones for further information on the various boarding options on 01524 580632 or by email: [ejones@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:ejones@lrgs.org.uk)



“ Having been a pupil at LRGS since Year 7, Sixth Form has expanded on the opportunities available previously and provided new things to take part in. My roles in societies such as the Cadet Force, Armchair Generals, and History Society have progressed from being led to one of those leading; this allowed me to use my experiences to serve as a role model for younger pupils whilst being instilled with more confidence and developing new skills from the responsibilities. The closer relationship between students and staff has made this easier, as they are always ready to offer their advice and guidance in a comforting environment.”

*Studying: Physics, Latin, History and Chemistry*

Sixth Form has also allowed me to pursue my academic interests further, as not only am I able to continue studying Latin, a subject that most other schools cannot offer at A-level, but I was also able to undertake an EPQ, which allowed me to hone my interest in the classical world further. This, alongside the unparalleled support LRGS Sixth form provides, has driven me to confidently reach towards an exciting future.”



“ Since joining LRGS, I have felt truly welcomed into a community where every student is supported to achieve their best. The opportunities here are exceptional, both academically and beyond the classroom. In my first year, I was proud to represent the school in netball, rounders, and rugby fixtures, which helped me build confidence as well as resilience and teamwork skills. Sport at LRGS is fantastic, not only for those competing at a higher level but also for anyone who wants to try something new. In February, I had the amazing opportunity to go on the ski trip to Austria, where I made

*Studying: Biology, Business Studies and Chemistry*

memories I will never forget. I have also really valued the visits to Lancaster University, which have been so helpful in guiding me as I think about my future. The combination of support, encouragement, and opportunity at LRGS makes it a special place to learn and grow – moving here for Sixth Form is without doubt the best decision I have ever made.”

[www.lrgs.org.uk](http://www.lrgs.org.uk)

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# A-level Art & Design (Fine Art)

A-level Art students must not only seek to develop their own powers of perception and extend the ways in which they create visual works; they must also be prepared to engage fully with the study of Art as a form of cultural discourse and students are fully involved with developing a body of practical work, informed by art-historical and other pertinent sources.

Among much else, study of Art at this level:

- promotes creativity and lateral thinking;
- enhances the ability to communicate through visual means;
- makes pupils more technically adept
- encourages pupils to analyse
- makes pupils more culturally aware.

In the UK economy, the Creative Sector (underpinned by visual artists) is the second only to the Financial Sector as a generator of income for the Exchequer.

## What are lessons like?

Much of the learning at A-level takes place through individual tuition. Students will receive several art historical lectures throughout the year. Students will be guided in

practical techniques and are expected to continue working practically outside lesson time. Great importance is attached to seeing art at first hand in galleries and museums. The Art Department has run trips for sixth form artists to galleries in London, Edinburgh and Liverpool. Conditions permitting we will continue to do so.

## What can Art lead to?

A-level Art is an important subject for pupils wanting to pursue a career in Architecture, Fine Art, Photography, Advertising, Web Design, Graphic/Product Design, Fashion, Theatre, the History of Art and conservational/curatorial fields. It is also a very good subject for broadening perspectives and seeing the world, in a general sense, with greater insight.

**Exam board: AQA**

**Contact: Mr C Bagnold, Head of Department**  
**cbagnold@lrgs.org.uk**

**X: @LRGS Art**

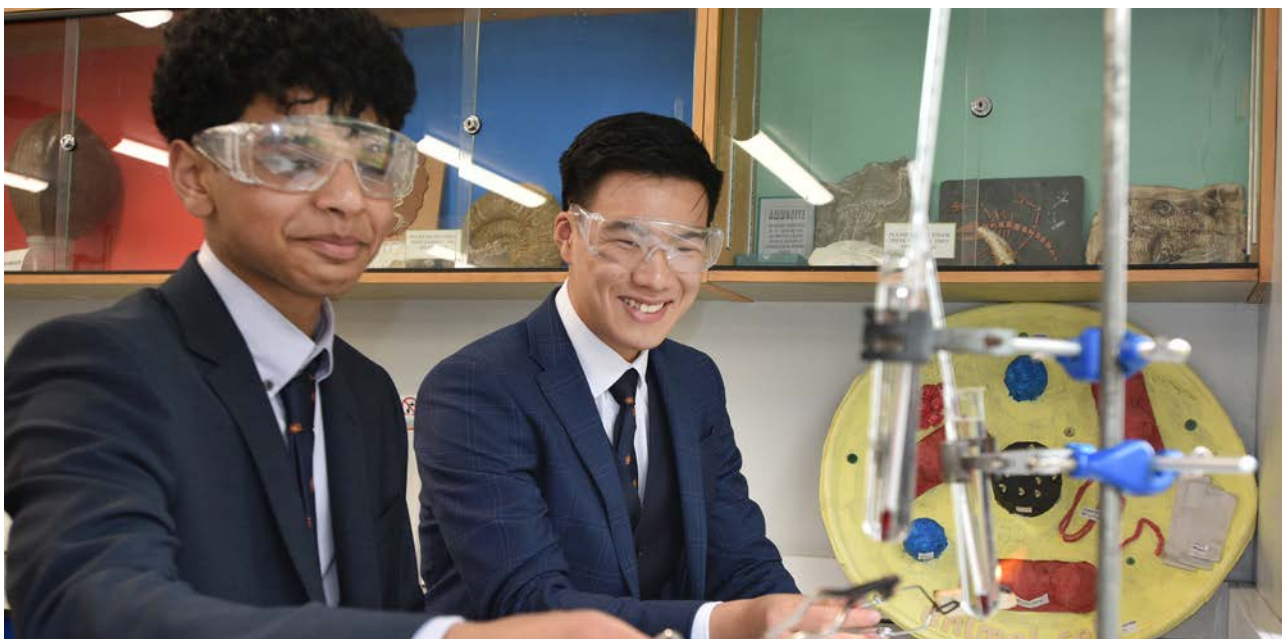
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# A-level Biology

The Biology course at LRGs is very popular; and students are taught by a team of experienced, knowledgeable and supportive teachers. Students are taught in well-equipped labs and carry out a lot of practical work. The students are entered in national subject competitions such as the Intermediate Biology and British Biology Olympiad where considerable success has been achieved. There is also the opportunity to enter competitions run by the Royal Society of Biology such as the Photography Competition, BioArtAttack (2D) competition and the NW regional Quiz. Sixth Formers are also strongly encouraged to enter numerous Essay Competitions facilitated by leading universities.

Linking with the Praesis ut Prosis award, Sixth Form Biologists are expected to show leadership by coordinating activities within the department such as: Biology Club, Biology Art Club, Psychology Club, MedSoc, Biology Week, British Science Week and are encouraged to volunteer in their local communities.

Students study various topics including: Bio- molecules, cells, how organisms exchange substances with their environment and genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms. They also research how energy transfers in and between organisms, how organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments and genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.

## What can Biology lead to?

A-level Biology is a requirement for university courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, forensic science, environmental science, sport and physiology, conservation, genetics, zoology, food science and technology, laboratory work, environment and health and other medically related degrees. It also provides a useful background to a wide variety of higher education courses.

"I have just finished my degree and have graduated with a first in biology from Imperial College London. I owe a huge amount of this to your help and support throughout my time at LRGs in laying the foundations for me in biology and helping light that spark for me to continue to study it. Without it I really wouldn't have got anywhere near where I have." Former A-level student.

**Exam board: AQA**

**Contact: Mr J Millatt, Head of Department**

**[jmillatt@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:jmillatt@lrgs.org.uk)**

**X: @LRGSBiology**

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# A-level Chemistry

There are three major areas of Chemistry: Physical, Inorganic and Organic. Overarching these is the practical aspect of Chemistry. The Chemistry department is at the forefront

of bringing a wide variety of teaching and learning styles into the learning experience. On average, one double lesson per week is devoted to practical work. The theory lessons might involve some traditional teacher-led learning and note-taking but could just as likely involve some internet activity or group work. Independent and inter-dependent learning is encouraged. Chemistry is one of the most popular subjects in the school and we usually have over 80 Lower Sixth students.

The Royal Society of Chemistry organises the Chemistry Olympiad and a number of students from LRGs prepare for and take part in the competition each year.

We have had a number of successful visits from speakers from universities and elsewhere. Recent topics have included 'Atmospheric Chemistry' and 'The Chemistry of Smell'.

## What can Chemistry lead to?

Chemistry and chemical engineering are traditional career routes but others find their way into: medicine, veterinary science, biochemistry, biology, microbiology, ecology, pharmacy, pharmacology, oceanography, biotechnology, materials science, metallurgy, engineering, agriculture.

These are all probably fairly obvious but did you know that there is a surprisingly high correlation between Chemistry and Accountancy?

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**Exam board: AQA**

**Contact: Mr D King MA(Oxon)**

**Head of Department**

**dking@lrgs.org.uk**

**X: @LRGSCHEMISTRY**

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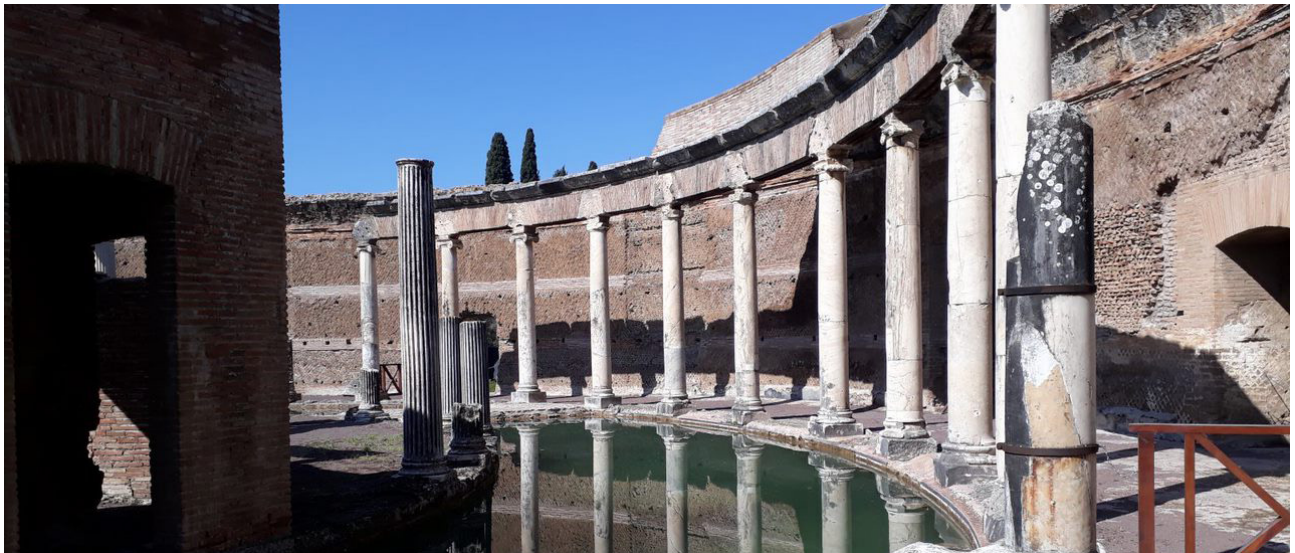
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# A-level Latin/Greek

LRGS is unusual (particularly in the North West) in offering both Latin and Ancient Greek to A-level. At A-level students continue to develop the language skills they have already built at GCSE. This includes the opportunity to study prose composition (writing in Latin/Greek) although this is optional in the final exam. By the end of two years you will be able to translate real unedited ancient authors with confidence and will have developed a sophisticated understanding of grammar and linguistic structures.

You will study four texts over the two years of the A-level, which will be a mixture of history, poetry and political speeches. This will allow you to develop a lasting interest in, and enthusiasm for, the literary, historical and cultural features of the ancient world.

Small teaching groups enable a discursive approach where everyone is expected to contribute to lessons. If you can think, reason, analyse, compare, argue, justify, defend, criticise, ask, answer, listen and remember you will enjoy Latin/Greek lessons and learn a huge amount from them.

## Assessment

The assessment consists of four written exams (no coursework):

- Unseen Translation
- Prose Literature
- Prose Composition or Comprehension
- Verse Literature

## Trips

The Classics department regularly runs trips, both in the UK and abroad. There are annual trips to the Newcastle Classics Conference and the British Museum and to watch a Greek play in translation. Every other year, the students travel to Rome and the Bay of Naples, Sicily or mainland Greece to visit the archaeological sites which are so central to the study of Latin and Ancient Greek.

## What can Classics lead to?

Latin and Greek have been combined with pretty much every combination of A-levels over the past few years. We have had students wishing to pursue modern languages, history, computer science, mathematics and medicine (veterinary and human) as well as classics and linguistics. Our students frequently go on to study at Oxbridge and other top universities.

"Latin lessons have been a genuine highlight of my time at LRGS, rewarding in more ways than I could have imagined."  
Former A-level student.

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## Exam board: OCR

Contact: Mrs Andrena Hobbs and Mrs E Morris  
[ahobbs@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:ahobbs@lrgs.org.uk) | [emorris@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:emorris@lrgs.org.uk)

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# A-level Classical Civilisation

This course is all about the Greeks and the Romans and their world. No knowledge of Latin or Greek is required and all sources are read in English! You will develop an understanding, appreciation and knowledge of the Greeks and Romans through their buildings, art, poetry, plays and philosophy.

Critical analysis and evaluation of written and visual sources form a key part of the course and of the exams. You will learn to use a range of appropriate evidence to formulate coherent arguments and evidence based judgements.

Classical Civilisation is about the whole of ancient society. It therefore combines elements of history, geography, english, art, archaeology, philosophy, politics, sociology and economics. If you have enjoyed reading about myths and legends, if you have an interest in ancient history, if you want to engage with artefacts rather than just written sources, this could be the course for you. You must enjoy reading and be prepared to write short essays!

**Assessment** The assessment consists of three written exams (no coursework).

- The World of the Hero (which focuses on the epics of Homer and Virgil)
- Two further modules, one from each of the groups below:

Culture and Arts	Belief and Ideas
Greek Theatre	Greek Religion
Imperial Image	Love and Relationships
Invention of the Barbarian	Politics of the Late Republic
Greek Art	Democracy and the Athenians

## Trips

There are annual trips to the Newcastle Classics Conference and the British Museum and to watch a Greek play in translation. Every other year, the students travel to Rome and the Bay of Naples, Sicily or mainland Greece to visit the archaeological sites which are so central to the study of Latin and Ancient Greek.

## What can Classics lead to?

Classical Civilisation is a well-regarded humanities subject. Students go on to study a wide range of things at university from history and politics to sciences and mathematics as well as classics itself.

**Exam board: OCR**

**Contact: Mrs A Hobbs and Mrs E Morris**  
[ahobbs@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:ahobbs@lrgs.org.uk) | [emorris@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:emorris@lrgs.org.uk)

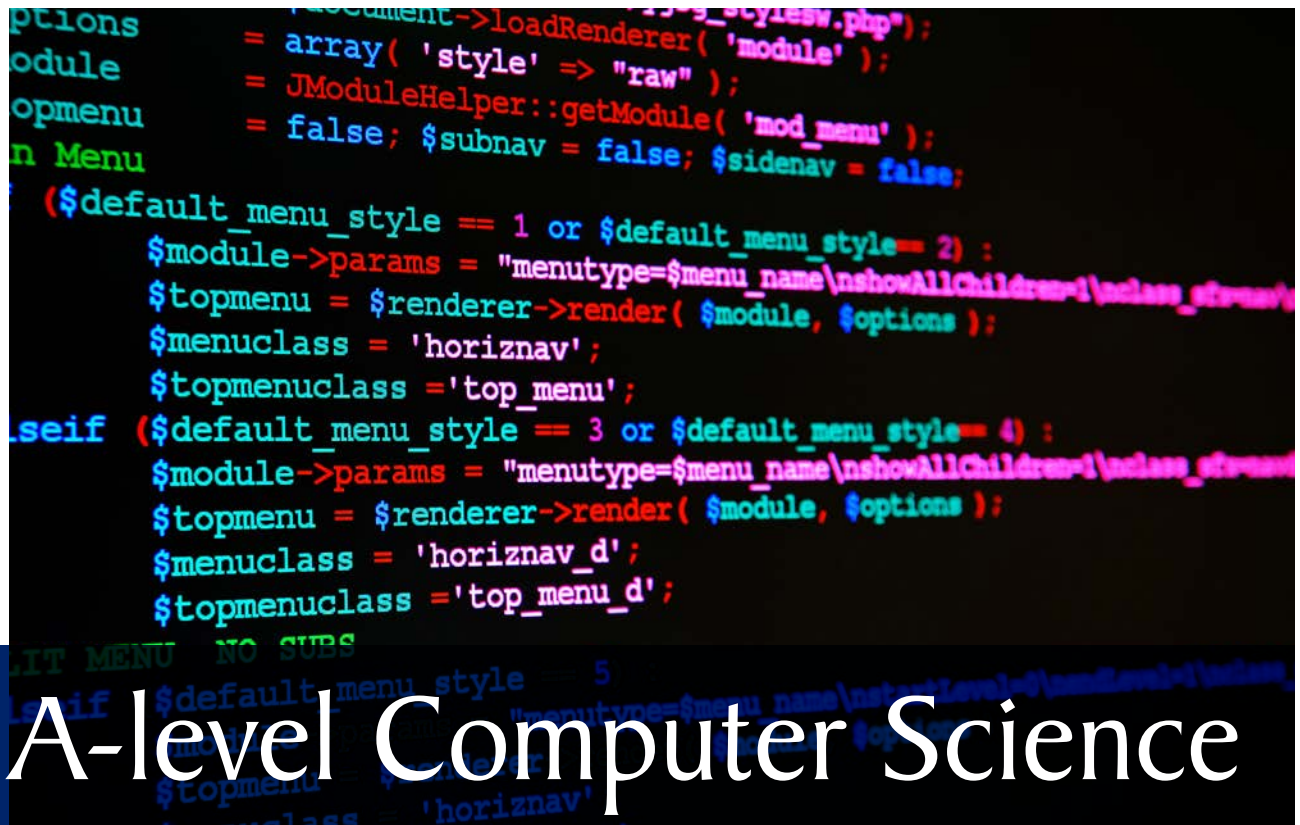
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## A-level Computer Science

Computing is a subject that increasingly underpins all other subject areas. Universities and employers routinely demand coding skills for seemingly unrelated subject areas. Computing is a fast moving and highly topical subject. Computing promotes logical thinking and problem solving skills.

### What are lessons like?

Computing lessons contain a mixture of practical coding and theory based topics. A great deal of Computing involves problem solving and as such discussion is encouraged. Notes are taken digitally using OneNote to make it simple to integrate examples of code into your notes.

### What technologies will I use?

Most of our programming will be completed in the Python. It is free to use and easy to install at home. It is also a language which is gaining ever more traction in industry. We will dip into other languages for parts of the course, for example SQL, Prolog, SML and PHP, mainly to exemplify other paradigms.

Each workstation is equipped with a fully networked Raspberry Pi Model 3B. The possibilities are endless with these devices, particularly for the Non Exam Assessment Task.

## What topics are covered?

For a full list of topics covered, visit the AQA website and search for course 7517. But here are some of the topics:

- Programming
- Database design and normalisation
- Networks and the internet
- Data representation, including binary
- Systems architecture (how does a processor work)
- The stored program concept
- Systems life cycle and consequences of Computing

## What can A-level Computing lead to?

The classic computing route includes roles such as developer, software engineer, electrical engineering, games developer, IT consultant, database administrator, business analyst.

However many other disciplines are now reliant upon the various aspects of computing. Even seemingly unrelated areas like Molecular Biology have become heavily dependent upon Computing.

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### Exam board: AQA

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# A-level Drama & Theatre

Drama and Theatre is an exciting option that combines the creation, practice and appreciation of live theatre. It gives students an opportunity to develop their creativity, confidence and communication skills through live performance, critical review, text analysis and focused research.

There are regular theatre trips and in recent years students have visited The Globe and The National Theatre. In 2022, the department ran a three-day trip to London which included watching performances of *Wicked* and *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* at The Gillian Lynne Theatre and a brilliant backstage tour of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Regular trips are also run to The Bolton Octagon, The Manchester Royal Exchange, The Lowry Theatre, and more locally at The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster.

The department holds a Drama Club for Years 7 and 8 which is run by the A-level students and this leads into the annual junior productions which are staged at Christmas and directed entirely by the Sixth Form. A-level students will have the opportunity to be involved in a theatre production during their two years studying Theatre Studies. Over the past years opportunities have included 'Strolling with Shakespeare', an outdoor promenade production showcasing Shakespeare's wonderful plays and sonnets and a two-night run of 'Twelfth Night' in The Round space at The Dukes Theatre. Past productions also include *Our Country's Good*, *Les Misérables*, *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Cabaret*.

## What can Drama and Theatre lead to?

Students go on to drama schools as well as English, Theatre Studies and Media degree courses at a range of universities. More recently pupils have used Drama and Theatre as a facilitating subject in Law, Business and Medicine. "My highlight of the year was directing and producing a performance of *Lord of the Flies* with a group of thirteen Year 10 boys. Working on everything from scripting to fight choreography, sound design to venue booking, I was able to work with my company to produce the professional standard of performance I wanted" A-level student. "Working on *Mojo* was a challenging but thoroughly rewarding period. To create a production that encapsulated Butterworth's unique style in such a short space of time required dedication from every cast member. Dedication that everyone was willing to give thanks to the open and creative atmosphere that was maintained throughout the rehearsal process. Working on *Mojo* pushed me as an actor and allowed me to discover and develop more interesting ways to embody characters". A-level student.

.....  
**Exam board: Edexcel**

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.....

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# A-level Economics

Economics is a well-regarded and interesting A-level. It doesn't matter if you haven't studied Economics before. You will tend to have an interest in current affairs and it is suggested that a Grade 7 (minimum) in GCSE Maths or Physics would be very useful. Pupils will learn to become critical thinkers and be able to review current economic policy. Economics is the right subject for you if you enjoy: debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and pay in the NHS, using and interpreting data, discussing alternative policy options and keeping up to date with national and international trends.

"Economics is a great subject for those with questioning minds, curious about what goes on around them."

L Rock, News Editor, The Observer

## What will I learn?

Economics is broadly split between micro and macroeconomics. Topics include: strategies to reduce unemployment, are monopolies bad? should we impose tariffs on imports? should a firm increase its prices?

## How is economics examined?

Three external exams at the end of the two year course. Economics is a flourishing department at LRGs. A large number of pupils choose the subject and our results are excellent. The department teaching staff are very experienced and a number of students get into Oxbridge economics related courses. Economics is a demanding and fun A-level!

"The course is demanding but great fun. I can actually understand the economic news now!" Sixth Form student.

There are plenty of extra-curricular opportunities for our young economists. Examples include Young Enterprise and the Next Gen Entrepreneur Challenge.

**Exam board: Edexcel (specification A)**

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# A-level English Literature

Students who respond well to new ideas, embrace challenging texts and enjoy lively classroom discussions thrive at this school. We are passionate about our subject in the English department and are still excited about reading and teaching texts ranging from classic to contemporary literature.

It's important that you enjoy and appreciate Literature, develop your own views and responses as well as improve your technical and analytical skills. We'll help you refine your skills of analysis and interpretation so that you can express yourself in a structured and thoughtful manner.

We want you to consider, debate and explore the thoughts of some of the greatest writers ever to put pen to paper, fingers to keyboards, but, above all, we want you to think for yourselves.

The taught elements of the course encourage the study of a wide range of texts with a focus on two particular genres. Our students enjoy investigating crime writing and fully immerse themselves in tragedy, both of these options are ideal for people with an inquisitive and enquiring mind. On top of this, the "Theory and Independence Unit" allows you to explore your own choice of texts alongside a "Critical Anthology" which will open your eyes to thought-provoking ideologies such as the more traditional areas like feminist and Marxist theory and as well as post-colonialism and eco-criticism.

This is really an excellent chance to not only pursue your interests through coursework but also develop a passion for almost any aspect of the subject. We continue to serve our students well in terms of results and are rated highly on value added measures. Our department results are better than those for similar centres nationally and last year over 50% of our students gained an A or A\* grade. For 70% of last year's cohort their Literature grade was the best, or joint best, result they achieved across all of their A levels.

Continued overleaf

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Not only do we encourage students to thrive academically, but we want to see students flourish by taking part in extracurricular activities. The English department has strong links with the school's senior debating society which dates back to the early twentieth century and is still going strong; we have continued to compete in the ESU Mace Debating competition (the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales) and last year were regional finalists. There are opportunities to enter writing competitions, to shadow book awards, enjoy theatre visits and experience talks from guest speakers including writers and academics. Last year we had a residential trip to Stratford, taking in two plays at the RSC and look forward to enjoying more of these events with our pupils. We are very much open to suggestions for more activities and look forward to hearing about what our students want to get involved with.

### **What can English Literature lead to?**

English Literature opens up the opportunity to study a wide range of courses at university and makes you an attractive prospect to future employers who value the skills of analysis, clarity of expression and creative thinking. As well as English and English Literature our students go on to university to study a variety of subjects including: Journalism, Economics, Law, Languages, History, Divinity, Classics, Theatre, Art, Media Studies and even Medicine.

Those who choose English Literature at this school typically combine it with studying two or three of the following: History, Philosophy, Business Studies, Latin, Theatre Studies, Modern Languages, Art, Music and Geography. However, many also choose Literature as a means of broadening their options and combine it with Mathematics or the Sciences to make them stand out as candidates for oversubscribed courses.

"The teachers strike a perfect balance between guided learning and independent study.

The staff are always open to any interpretation - as long as you can back it up. They encourage you to come up with your own ideas about the text, and question those of others, which can only be positive, especially when preparing for university level studies." Sixth Form pupil.

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**Exam Board: AQA Specification B**

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# A-level French

Students can expect to develop their language skills and will gain huge insight and knowledge of the country and its culture. Lessons are varied, all happening in an encouraging, supportive, yet challenging environment, with experienced and highly qualified teaching staff.

You will study a genuine literary work such as Albert Camus' 'L'Etranger', one of the great novels of the 20th century, and the work of a film director, principally Mathieu Kassovitz and his ground-breaking film 'La Haine'. Both of which will take your language to another level, as well as giving you an insight into two of the great masterpieces of modern social criticism.

All students have the opportunity to take part in the French exchange to Lyon where you will be partnered with a like-minded French lycée student to spend a week with in France then back in the UK. You will also have the chance to have one-to-one conversation classes with our French assistant to boost your spoken confidence and fluency.

A-level students lead a variety of modern language extracurricular clubs such as the Linguistics Society, MFL Film Club and compete in essay competitions with other schools.

## What can French lead to?

Continuing on to higher education to study a vast range of subjects from languages themselves, and we have an excellent track record of Oxbridge success, to engineering and medicine, as a facilitating subject.

**Linguists are one of the most employable graduate categories, leading to work in all kinds of different areas – international business, law, management, marketing, publishing, journalism and living and working abroad.**

"I really enjoy studying French at A-level because it has given me the chance to immerse myself in a different culture, especially when participating in the French Exchange, as well as developing speaking skills which I have been able to use outside of school. Using classroom discussions to understand current events and putting the skills you've learned into practical use is extremely gratifying and is why I want to continue studying French at university."  
Former Sixth Form pupil.

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**Exam board: AQA**

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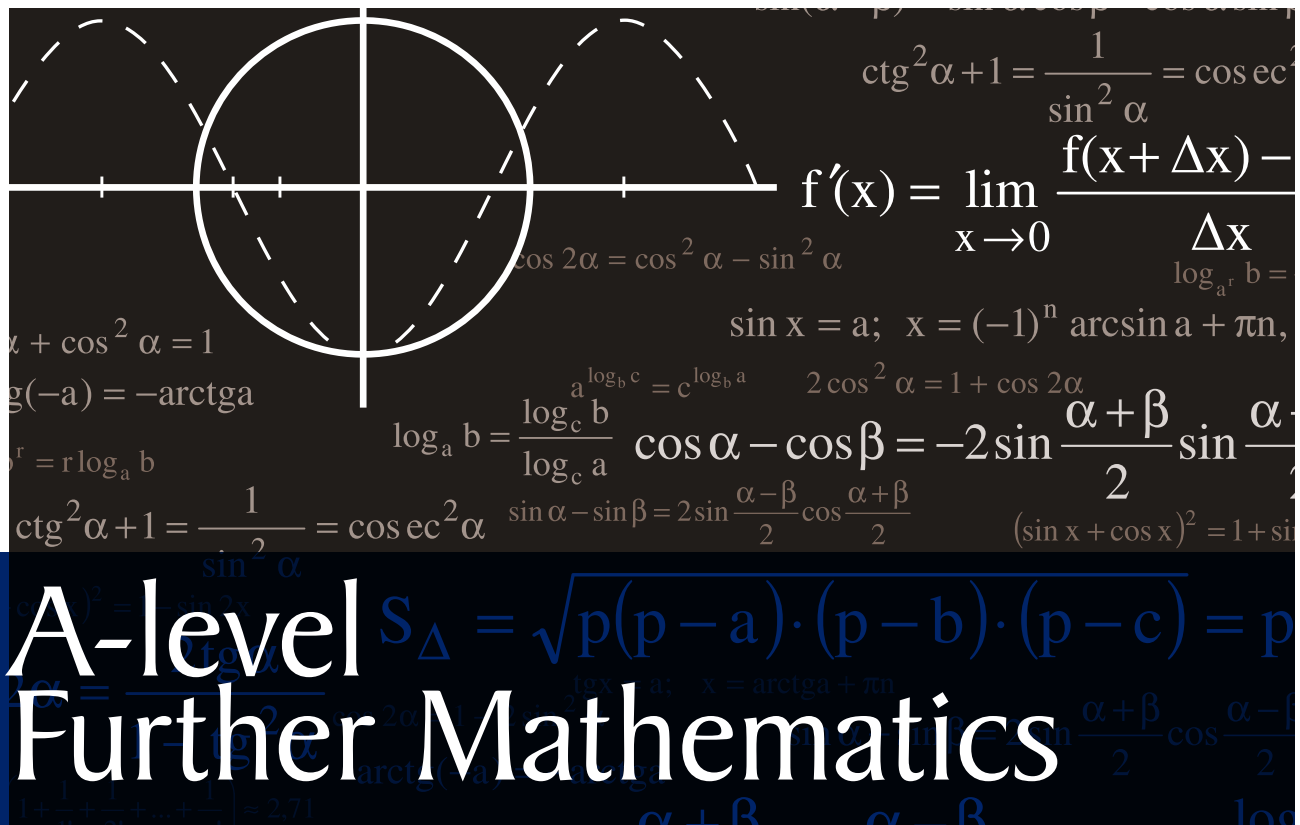
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# A-level Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics is an A-level qualification which both broadens and deepens the material covered in A-level Mathematics and they must be taken alongside each other.

It is a very demanding course requiring a high degree of both algebraic and numerical skill. A grade 8 at GCSE is the minimum entry requirement and those studying Maths and Further Maths should be capable of studying four A-levels overall to maintain a broader academic experience in the sixth form.

Further Mathematics qualifications are prestigious and strongly welcomed by universities as students are demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies. The course is very suitable for anyone considering reading Maths, Engineering, Computer Science or Physics at university, or indeed, anyone who relishes an intellectual challenge. Due to its growth in popularity this qualification has become an expectation for several of the top 'mathematically rich' degree courses in the country (including some engineering courses). Those who are considering Medicine as a career need to recognise that many medical schools will only recognise Maths and Further Maths as one A-level (some recognise them as two).

The LRGS Further Maths course is taught by a very experienced team of teachers, some of whom are also

external examiners for Pearson Edexcel. Historically the course has helped prepare numerous students for Oxbridge applications and other competitive university courses. The new A-level has 50% prescribed Pure Mathematics content and the remainder can be selected from modules in Mechanics, Statistics or more Pure Mathematics.

## What can Further Mathematics lead to?

Many Further Mathematics students go on to University courses which are 'mathematically-rich' such as Maths, all types of Engineering, Physics, Computer Science and Economics. At LRGS we encourage students to keep a breadth of subject knowledge which is why the Further Maths course is typically for those mathematicians who are studying four A-levels.

"I enjoy the experience of being academically challenged each day and the satisfaction of solving something very complicated" Former Sixth Form student.

**Exam board: Pearson Edexcel**

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# A-Level Geography

“Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose”. Michael Palin

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human worlds, using different scales of enquiry to view them from different perspectives. It develops knowledge of places and environments throughout the world, an understanding of maps, and a range of investigative and problem-solving skills both inside and outside the classroom. As such, it prepares pupils for adult life and employment. It is also an important link between natural and social sciences. As pupils study Geography they encounter different societies and cultures. This helps them realise how nations rely on each other: It can inspire them to think about their own place in the world, their values, and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment. There are four units of study in the OCR A-Level: Physical Systems, Human Interaction, Geographical Debates and Investigative Geography. Within these topics we cover some of the most relevant geographical themes of the 21st century including the earth's life support systems, global migration and power and borders. Students are expected to gain an understanding of some of the key issues facing our planet: climate change, disease dilemmas, global migration, power and borders and hazardous earth. A further

component of A-level Geography is that all students carry out an independent investigation into an area of particular interest to them, related to any aspect of the specification. Field work is a vital element of the course and enables students to apply the theories learnt in the classroom to the real world. In the Lent term there will be a residential fieldtrip to Blencathra Field Study Centre in the Lake District.

## What can Geography lead to?

Leading UK universities have identified Geography as a very worthwhile subject to study. It can lead on to a great variety of university courses and careers, from town planning to business management, environmental work to international development. Geography's position between science and social science, the skills developed and variety of issues covered help to prepare students for their next steps post A-level.

**Exam Board: OCR:**

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# A-level German

Studying German at A-level is an immensely rewarding challenge, allowing students to develop their cultural knowledge and linguistic skills. You will gain huge insight and knowledge of the country and culture through a range of topics, such as the digital world, TV, art, music, architecture, politics and Berlin's rich history and culture. You will also study a film – 'Das Leben der Anderen' and the novel – 'Der Vorleser', which not only enhance your language skills, but also compliment your work on German history and society.

With access to a vast amount of resources and with dedicated professionals to guide you, the tutoring in languages at LRGS is very much personalised and dedicated to your needs. Whether it is through access to our online resources or our detailed course-specific materials, you will have everything you need to flourish and succeed in your studies.

To give you the authentic experience, all of our Lower Sixth students may have the opportunity to take part in the German exchange. This will give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the language and culture, as well as making friends and contacts which can last a lifetime.

Past visits to Berlin have complemented our work on the capital's history and culture. There is also the opportunity to get involved in a number of extra-curricular clubs

## What can German lead to?

Many of our students continue to study languages at higher education. Whether on their own, or as part of an arts subjects combination, a business combination with an international element or to add diversity to a social scientific or legal degree. Employers look for linguists not just for their practical language skills, but their cognitive flexibility and analytical skills. Indeed, linguists are one of the most employable graduate categories, leading to work in all kinds of different areas – international business, law, management, marketing, publishing, engineering journalism and living and working abroad to name a few.

"Small teaching groups gives us a great learning environment which is tailored to our individual needs." A-level student.

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**Exam board: AQA**

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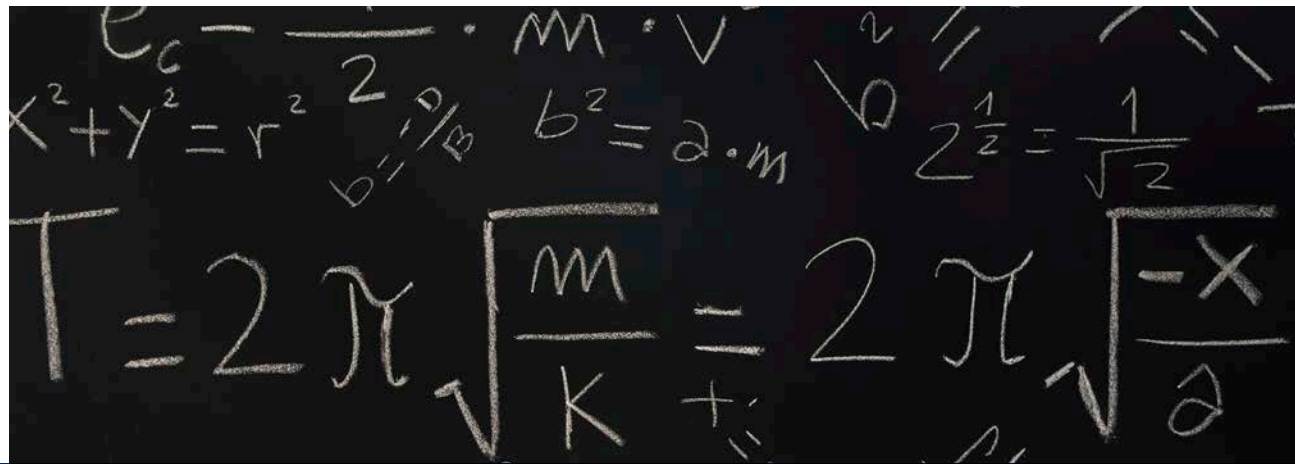
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# A-level Mathematics

A Level Mathematics is more than just numbers - it's a gateway to understanding the world in a deeper, more structured way. Whether you're solving equations or modelling real-world scenarios, Maths trains your brain to think critically, logically, and creatively.

- **Universally Respected:** Maths is one of the most highly regarded subjects by universities and employers alike. It signals intellectual rigor and discipline.
- **Versatile Pathways:** Opens doors to degrees in engineering, physics, economics, computer science, architecture, medicine, and even law.
- **Boosts Other Subjects:** Supports success in sciences, geography, psychology, and business studies by enhancing analytical and problem-solving skills.

Choosing Mathematics at LRGs means joining an experienced and highly successful department. Our teachers are passionate about the subject and committed to helping students achieve outstanding results. Mathematics is one of the most popular A Level choices here, and our track record speaks for itself.

#### Students who thrive in A Level Maths develop:

- Strong independent study habits
- Clear and precise mathematical communication
- Resilience and discipline through regular practice beyond the classroom
- The course is built around Pure Mathematics, which forms the foundation of mathematical theory. Alongside this, you'll explore its real-world applications through:
  - Mechanics – the study of forces and motion
  - Statistics – interpreting and analysing data to make informed decisions.

Mathematics pairs well with a wide range of Sixth Form subjects, making it a versatile and strategic choice.

#### Are there any entry requirements?

There is a minimum entry requirement of a Grade 7 at GCSE Mathematics.

It's challenging—but that's the point. A Level Maths pushes you to grow intellectually and builds resilience. The satisfaction of solving a tough problem is unmatched. It teaches perseverance and rewards curiosity.

#### What can Mathematics lead to?

Many University courses are 'mathematically-rich' such as the Sciences, all types of Engineering, Computer Science, Economics, Accountancy and not forgetting Mathematics. A good A-level in Mathematics will be expected for entry to these courses. It is also highly recommended for courses such as Medicine and Veterinary Science to complement the Science A-levels.

**Exam board: Pearson Edexcel**

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# A-level Music

Music students at LRGS are taught in small groups with plenty of opportunity for individual support and extension. The varied nature of the Music A-level is challenging but fulfilling as it encourages our students to become thinking and creative musicians. Not only will you work on performance skills, but also learn to compose creatively and to write analytically. A-level Music will prepare you for things in later life that you are not even thinking of yet!

Extra-curricular ensemble activities form a key part of learning in Music, not only to improve instrumental and vocal skills, but to improve aural skills and to inspire younger students. We also look to our Sixth Formers to set up and lead extracurricular groups to strengthen their knowledge and skills across a range of areas.

Students have access to the practice rooms during free periods, lunchtimes and after school. We encourage students to start their own groups and develop their talents further showcasing them in a great variety of school events and concerts.

A-level Music is an academic subject where you learn to apply yourself to written work and learn how to write persuasively, critically and evaluatively. It is an option for students who didn't take GCSE Music, but we ask that you are a strong and enthusiastic performer and love to be creative with your musical ideas in composition. A good working knowledge of music theory is helpful (ideally to around Grade 5 level) but can be achieved alongside and as part of the course. The most important thing is that you are motivated and hard working.

## Assessment

40% of the A-level is assessed in the form of a written exam, containing listening questions, some analysis of musical scores, more extended questions and finally an essay. The areas of study provide focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.

Students study three out of a choice of seven areas of study:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory) | 4. Music for theatre              |
| 2. Pop music  | 5. Jazz                           |
| 3. Music for media                                    | 6. Contemporary traditional music |
|   | 7. Art music since 1910           |

Students must study Area of Study 1 and choose two from Areas of Study 2–7. 35% is a performance of a minimum of 10 minutes, using one or both of the following: instrumental/vocal: as a soloist, and/or as part of an ensemble or production: via music technology. Students will prepare for this component throughout the course but record their final performance between March and May of Year 13.

The final 25% is composition in the form of two pieces – one in response to a set brief and one free - lasting a combined minimum of 4.5 minutes. Both will be completed in the second year of study.

## What can Music lead to?

Music A-level gives you a strong foundation for higher education and a career composing or performing music, or to work in the music industry for TV, radio or film companies.

Music has been a key part of why some of our students have been accepted on to demanding non-musical courses such as medicine as it showcases plenty of transferable skills such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving and communication, all of which make them an attractive prospect for potential employers across range of industries.

**Exam board: AQA**

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“Studying Physical Education enabled me to apply and get accepted onto a course to study radiography at university.” Former A-level student

# A-level Physical Education

The A-level PE course at LRGS combines analysis of practical performance and rigorous academic study. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their prowess in one practical sport throughout the course and are graded based on their ability to show core skills and actions in competitive scenarios.

The academic side of the course delves into the physiological, psychological, and ethical influences in sport and physical activity.

## **Paper 1** - Physiological Factors Affecting Performance: (30%)

- Exercise Physiology - Diet and Nutrition, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation, Impact of Lifestyle Diseases, Principles of Training, Ergogenic Aids.
- Biomechanics and Movement Analysis
- Anatomy and physiology - Recovery Systems, Musculoskeletal and Cardiorespiratory Systems.

## **Paper 2** - Psychological Factors Affecting Performance: (20%)

- Skill Acquisition - how performers acquire the skills necessary to be successful in sport and physical activity.
- Sport Psychology considers the influence that a performer's individual make-up has on their chances of success and failure. Including sections on personality, leadership, confidence, motivation, arousal, anxiety and aggression.

## **Paper 3** - Sociocultural and Contemporary Influences: (20%)

- Explore the use of performance enhancing drugs and the influence of modern technology on physical activity and sport
- Commercialisation
- Historical factors influencing sport

## **Part 4** - NEA & EAPI (30%)

- Practical Performance - coaching or performing
- Evaluation and Analysis Task

The LRGS PE Department have been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark for 2024/25. This award is from a Government led awards scheme launched to reward schools for their commitment to the development of sporting activity and competition across their school and into the community.

## **What can Physical Education lead to?**

This course is an excellent base for a University degree in sport and exercise science, sports management, healthcare, physiotherapy.

**Exam board: OCR**

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# A-level Photography

A-level Photography at LRGS will appeal to students who enjoy the technical and creative challenges of working with lens and light based media. The course gives them an exciting mix of traditional and new technologies, covering a wide range of photographic disciplines such as:

- portraiture;
- landscape and location;
- documentary and photojournalism;
- fashion;
- experimental and multimedia;
- installation;
- moving image and film.

Students will learn to master all aspects of photography including:

- developing a deep knowledge of camera mechanisms, film, lenses, lighting;
- developing an advanced appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement;
- creative approaches and an awareness of audience and purpose.

## What are lessons like?

The start of the course will focus on a series of specific briefs where we learn to master the more complex technical, conceptual and cultural aspects of photography. As the year progresses photography students are given an increasing level of freedom which leads to a tutorial approach where each individual student determines the focus of their creative work.

A-level Photography students will often work closely with A-level Fine Art students with a mix of collaborative and separate tasks; the outcomes for photography students in collaborative tasks will always have a photographic focus.

## What can A-level Photography lead to?

With 3.12 million jobs in the creative economy in 2017 (1 in 11 UK jobs)\* education linked to the creative sector can lead to a wide variety of places.

Nicola Mendelsohn, Industry Chair of Creative Industry Council, said: "British creativity is world-renowned across a plethora of disciplines – from TV and film to media and advertising, from gaming and visual effects to music and art. What makes British creative industries unique is the diversity of the people that make it. And indeed, it's thrilling to see that towns like Milton Keynes, Birmingham, Luton and Manchester are driving growth, entrepreneurship and innovation across the UK. These creative powerhouses are creating new jobs weekly and help paving the way to reach one million new creative jobs by 2030."

\*Source: DCMS Statistics July 2018

**Exam board: AQA**

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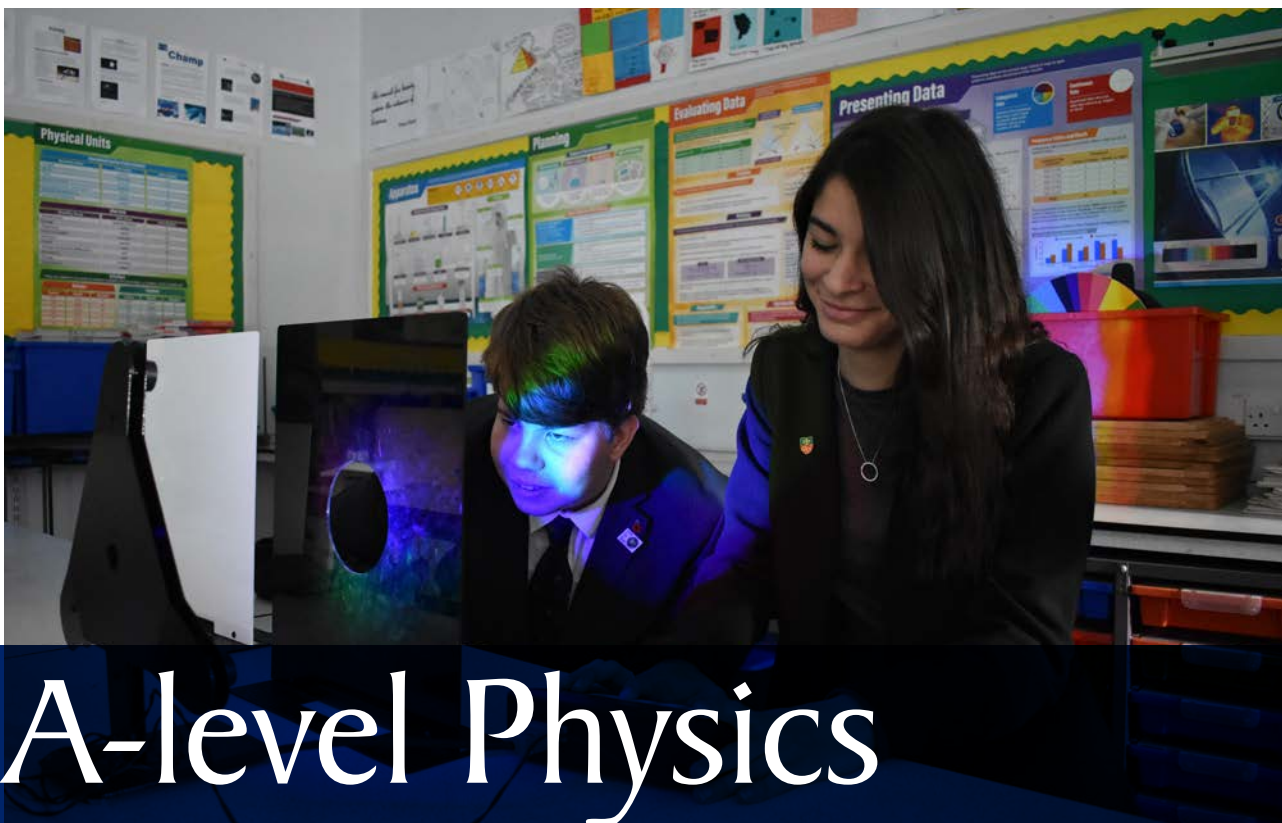
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# A-level Physics

Why is the sky blue? What are you made of? How does Joe Root hit the ball so far? How does your mobile phone work? In Physics we look at things from quarks (and they make atoms look gigantic!) right up to galaxies.

This course aims to bring Physics alive and make it relevant to your everyday life. The world (and Universe) around you works in a very special way and we are trying to understand it as much as possible and to use what we find out to improve the lives of those on this planet.

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of the Laws of Physics. They govern the Universe and each of our lives. As if that is not enough, you will learn how to design and carry out experiments, to think logically, how to apply what you know to new situations and develop many new skills.

## What does the course consist of?

We will introduce you gradually to new ideas which you will be able to test out by doing practical work. You will do plenty of practical work to improve your skills, to help you to understand the theory and because it is an important part of Physics. There will be helpful demonstrations, audio-visual resources and practice questions which will help you to develop your understanding of Physics.

There will also be opportunities to discuss concepts and to ask questions and then you'll be able to start coming up with your own ideas which you can bring back to the rest of the group.

You will study topics including: Particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics and nuclear physics.

## What can Physics lead to?

You will probably want to keep on finding out more. There are many different degrees in aspects of Physics; Astronomy, Electronics and Engineering. Or you could apply what you have learned to the study of medicine, medical and biological science, computing, accountancy, journalism, business, design, law... in fact just about anything.

An A-level in Physics is highly regarded across a broad spectrum of university courses, careers and other opportunities. The sky is not the limit in Physics!

**Exam board: AQA**

**Contact: Mr S Bell, Head of Department**  
**sbell@lrgs.org.uk**

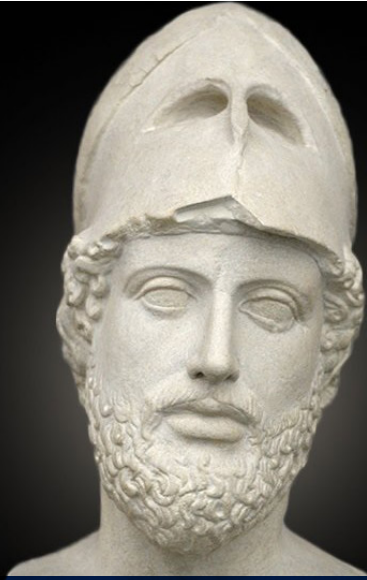
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Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean **politics won't take an interest in you!**

— *Pericles*

# A-level Politics

Have you ever wondered why the King reigns but doesn't rule? Or where the name Prime Minister comes from? Or indeed why a group of important ministers is called a Cabinet?

Politics A-level is a hugely exciting, ever changing and vibrant course which unites and divides students through the study of issues that are directly relevant to all our lives: health, economy, education, crime, the role of the state, war and peace. We will also consider global issues such as the financial crisis, the resurgence of populism and nationalism, inequality, the rise of China, and the impact of Brexit, climate change, the wars in Ukraine and Gaza and much more. We have found that subjects like history, economics, geography and philosophy combine well for those who are focused on humanities and social sciences but equally politics stands on its own merit, as regardless of your interest in politics, its reach into all areas of modern life means it influences much of what you do (including what you study).

To make sense of the seemingly disordered world of 21st century politics consider studying A level politics with us.

**The course followed is Edexcel A-level Politics. The topics covered are:**

- **UK Politics** – democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the

media.

- **UK Government** – the Constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and the executive, relationship between the institutions, core political ideas- Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism.
- **Political Ideology** – Nationalism.
- **Global politics** – sovereignty and globalisation in terms of governance, institutions and theories.

## What next?

Politics A-level is viewed as a traditional academic subject which develops a student's capacity to analyse and evaluate written information in a sophisticated way. Crafting and justifying perspectives and points of view are invaluable skills valued by many professions. The course is an excellent preparation for a wide variety of university courses and people orientated careers such as law, journalism, human resources, international relations, media, civil service, public relations, management and, of course, politics and local government.

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**Exam board: Edexcel A-level Politics**

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# A-Level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

In this subject you will consider abstract subjects and apply them to everyday life. Philosophy is about using rational argument and logical thinking to shine a light on life's big questions. In doing so, you'll get a greater understanding of the world we live in, and yourself.

Religion, Ethics and Philosophy has links to History, English Literature and Art, as well Politics, Sociology and Psychology.

Lessons involve lots of discussion and debate. These will help you gain a number of skills, including:

- How to think for yourself and question the norm
- How to examine information in a critical way
- How to form judgments based on clear evaluation of information
- How to put your point across clearly

Philosophy is primarily assessed through essays and you should be prepared for this. You will need to read texts independently and a love of the written word would be a major advantage for studying this subject.

**Philosophy Paper-** This paper focuses on the philosophical implications of faith. We'll study the arguments for and against God's existence, including the challenges from science and evil. We'll also consider the implications of free will and language on how humans interact with the world,

and what it means to actually 'know' anything.

**Ethics paper-** Ethics is primarily focused on how we decide what is right or wrong, and ethical theories such as Utilitarianism and those of Kant will be considered, as well as the potential implications of whether we have a conscience. There will also be some applied ethics, so issues around business ethics, euthanasia and sexuality will be considered.

**Theology paper-** This paper focuses on the role and development of the Christian faith and its impact on society. Topics include the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a theologian and Nazi resister), death and the afterlife, gender and theology, secularism and pluralism and liberation theology.

## What can philosophy lead to?

Philosophy is a popular subject to study at university, and many of our students do choose to go on and study Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies. Philosophy will fine tune your reasoning, and this will be useful for a wide range of careers including Law, Politics, Civil Service, Journalism, Advertising and Education - to name but a few.

**Exam board: OCR**

**Contact: Mr D O'Kane, Head of Department  
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# A-level Business Studies

The department follows the eduqas specification for A-level Business.

Business Studies at LRGS has an excellent reputation with a large number of pupils in both Lower and Upper Sixth. The department is led by a former Chief Examiner with a further member of staff currently examining for eduqas. We achieve superb results and have won a variety of national teaching certificates. There is a very extensive and successful extra-curricular program on offer and our department is in a recently refurbished area within the Sixth Form Centre.

You do not need to have studied this subject at GCSE. Ideally you need to have reasonable numerical skills (GCSE maths min grade 6) and also be able to write in a fluent manner (GCSE English language/literature min grade 6). Student who enjoy this subject often have an entrepreneurial instinct and enjoy problem solving.

### What will I study?

Six modules: Marketing, Accounts & Finance, Operations Management, Human Resources, The Business Environment and Business Strategy.

### What skills will I develop?

Decision making, problem solving, analytical skills, research skills, numeracy skills, writing and independent study skills.

### Extra-curricular opportunities and achievements:

- Last year the department won a number of prizes in Young Enterprise
- Won the national LUMS 100 day enterprise challenge

### How will I be examined?

Three external exams at the end of the two year course. There is no coursework.

“Great results, award winning department and good teaching. I am really glad I decided to study this subject”.  
Sixth Form student.

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### Exam board: Eduqas A-level

**Contact: Mr R Wareing,  
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# A-level Design & Technology: Product Design (3D)

Product Design at LRGS is a forward thinking and innovative course. We look to university and industry for our inspiration, encouraging students to seek out and solve real world problems as they would do during further study or in a future career.

All students are given a completely free choice in their coursework and are encouraged to investigate creative ways of solving problems through iterative 3D model production and virtual prototyping.

All students are trained in the most up to date CAD software available and taught advanced additive and subtractive manufacturing methods. Students are given the opportunity to download a copy of the software for home use. The department boasts four 3D printers, CNC routers and Laser cutters as well as a comprehensive heat treatment and metal forming area.

As part of the Product Design A-level, students are encouraged to enter local and national competitions.

We have had success at all levels including in the Rotary challenge tournament, which we have won on several occasions and the Triumph Design award where our students have been to the national finals on numerous occasions. One LRGS student won the national prize in 2019 with his design for a fire evacuation device inspired by the Grenfell tower disaster. Students are also encouraged to work with real life clients and follow industry standard practices in order to prepare them for university and the 'real world' of engineering and design.

## What can Product Design lead to?

Many of our students go on to further study in a variety of related fields including: Product Design, Industrial Design, Motorsport Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Bio-Medical Engineering.

**Exam board: AQA**

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**X: @LRGS\_DT**

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# A-level History

A-level History is an exciting and dynamic option. In a supportive environment we aim to stretch our students according to their ability so that they develop the skills they will need after leaving LRGS. Students opting for History normally gain a grade 7 at GCSE, but a grade 6 is acceptable.

**Lower Sixth:** We avoid revisiting ground covered at GCSE and instead broaden our students' understanding of how the modern age was shaped through the investigation of "Revolutions" and their consequences.

- British History 1625-1701 (30%)
- The Origins and Course of the French Revolution 1774 to 1799 (20%)

**Upper Sixth:** Alongside the British unit (which continues into Upper Sixth) we move from France to Ireland, exploring the relationship between England and Ireland from the American Revolution of the 1770s to the First World War and the Easter Rising of 1916. Students are also given a free choice for their topic of coursework, looking at how historians contest and argue over the past.

- Anglo-Irish Relations (1774-1923) (30%)
- Coursework: Research a historical controversy of your choice (historiography) (20%)
- Foreign trip to either Ireland or France

## What next?

Every year LRGS students go on to thrive studying History at the top universities and we provide tuition to help them in this process. Many study History at A-level for the skills that History promotes and these are highly sought after by employers across a range of occupations; law, journalism, politics and broadcasting. The most commonly held first degree for Chairmen of the Fortune 500 Companies is History.

"Lessons are always lively with our teachers constantly challenging us to debate and improve our ideas. The History department is notably vibrant; there is always a talk, field trip or project to look forward to." Current Sixth Form pupil

"I have found the History Society a really interesting way of exploring my interests, but the highlight for me this term as part of an LRGS Oral History project was interviewing a WW2 veteran, who was amongst the first to enter Belsen concentration camp." Current Sixth Form pupil

**Exam board: Edexcel**

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# A-level Spanish

Students will cover the historic, political and cultural landscape of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world and also cover two, popular cultural topics; Del Toro's El Laberinto del Fauno and Lorca's La Casa de Bernarda Alba. These topics look at Spain both before and after the Spanish Civil War and explore themes of repression vs freedom and reality vs fantasy. Students are encouraged to explore the Spanish-speaking world outside of the classroom to supplement their learning and broaden their horizons.

A-level students are offered the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Andalucia, Spain. Staff also organise trips to and visits from universities so that students can explore post-18 options.

### What can Spanish lead to?

Being the official language in at least twenty countries, and widely spoken in many more, with Spanish the world really is your oyster!

Overseas inward investment into Spanish-speaking countries means that linguists are needed in the UK. The latest 'Languages for the Future' report by the British Council, published in November 2017, cited Spanish as the most important language for people in the UK to learn.

Traditional career routes include diplomacy, teaching, interpretation and translation as well as working in business on an international scale but languages can also compliment many STEM subjects and careers.

"I like studying Spanish at A-level as it offers a very enjoyable way of improving communicative and argumentative ability, while developing a skill that can be used outside of school no matter what other subjects you do"

Current Sixth Form pupil

**Exam board: AQA**

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