

Aylesbury Sixth Form

Aylesbury Sixth Form

Sixth Form Options

2027 - 2028

Insignis Academy Trust

Collaborate To Succeed

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Welcome - to a new chapter of your education.

At the heart of the Insignis Academy Trust is a simple but powerful conviction: we are stronger when we work together.

Our motto, "**Collaborate to Succeed**," isn't just a phrase we've printed on the walls; it is the blueprint for our Sixth Form. By bridging two distinct schools and locations, we have created a unique educational landscape that offers a breadth of subjects and a wealth of expertise that a single site simply couldn't match. This partnership allows you to access the best of both worlds—specialist facilities, diverse teaching styles, and a wider community of peers.

In the "real world," success rarely happens in a vacuum. It happens when people pool their talents, navigate different environments, and challenge one another to think differently.

We are incredibly proud of this collaborative model, and we can't wait to see how you will thrive within it.

Why Our Collaborative Model Works:

- **Expanded Choice:** Access a wider variety of subjects and combinations that fit your specific career goals.
- **Joint Expertise:** Benefit from the specialised strengths and teaching resources of two established institutions.
- **Future-Ready Skills:** Develop the adaptability and networking skills required for life beyond the classroom.

Yours Sincerely,

Garret Fay
Chief Executive Officer

Aylesbury Sixth Form



The Kingsbrook School

I am really excited to welcome you to the Aylesbury Sixth Form. Since The Kingsbrook School opened in September 2022, we have had our sights firmly set on providing a strong academic and vocational offer for students to progress with us, and to join us, to study in our sixth form. Our school motto, "achieve & flourish," reflects this deep commitment. We focus relentlessly on the highest possible academic standards while cultivating the essential character virtues you need to become a well-rounded and successful member of society in later life.

By collaborating as a group of IAT schools, we are able to offer an exceptionally broad range of Level 3 courses, utilising the very best staff expertise from across our family of schools. Here, you will experience greater independence, variety in ways of learning, and a wider network of peers broadening your horizons and supporting your journey toward higher education and your future career.

As we have grown, we have appointed experienced teachers who have the skills and expertise to deliver a wide range of A-Level and vocational subjects in the sixth form. Beyond the classroom, our robust enrichment program is designed to sharpen your leadership skills, build your independence, and guide you step-by-step through university and career planning.

Joining our sixth form is both a privilege and an opportunity. You will have the chance to learn in our beautiful, state-of-the-art building, paired with the rewarding responsibility of acting as a role model for younger students. Whether through student leadership, running extracurricular clubs, or actively shaping our school community, you will genuinely establish the culture and legacy of our sixth form for years to come.

I am really looking forward to welcoming students from both TKS and TMS to our joint sixth form, alongside external candidates who may also choose to join us to study in our beautiful, state-of-the-art building.

I am incredibly excited to welcome students from both TKS and TMS, alongside our external candidates, as we embark on this journey together.

Nancy Simpson
Headteacher
The Kingsbrook School



Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

The Mandeville School

It is a great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you from The Aylesbury Sixth Form. At The Mandeville School (TMS), our core values are 'believe, achieve, succeed' and this permeates all we do. I am incredibly excited to be entering the next stage of our journey by re-opening our 6th form.

The motto for Insignis Academy Trust (IAT) is 'Collaborate to Succeed' and we are delighted to be working with The Kingsbrook School to offer the best possible post 16 education. By collaborating, we are able to offer a broader curriculum of both vocational and academic qualifications and an inspiring enrichment offer. We will be able to offer state of the art facilities across our two sites to support you in attaining the best possible academic outcomes. In addition to this, you can be assured that you will be taught by highly committed subject specialists from across our schools.

Transitioning into post-16 education is one of the most defining chapters of your academic journey—a time to discover who you are and where you want to go. The Aylesbury Sixth Form will provide a vibrant, inclusive and ambitious environment where you are recognised as an individual and given the platform to succeed. Everything we do is grounded in a simple yet transformative belief: that every student has unique potential waiting to be unlocked.

Alongside our broad curriculum offer, you will have a varied enrichment programme, including student leadership opportunities, additional qualifications, co- curricular activities, trips, visits and essential careers guidance and advice to ensure every student leaves us with a clear destination in sight.

We will offer a community that champions your ambitions every step of the way. We invite you to explore our prospectus, discover our subject pathways, and see how The Aylesbury Sixth Form can support you to become successful citizens, equipped to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Whether you are an existing TMS or TKS student or new to the IAT family, I look forward to welcoming you to our Open Evening and meeting you in person.

Sara Durose
Head of School
The Mandeville School



Sixth Form Mindset and Culture

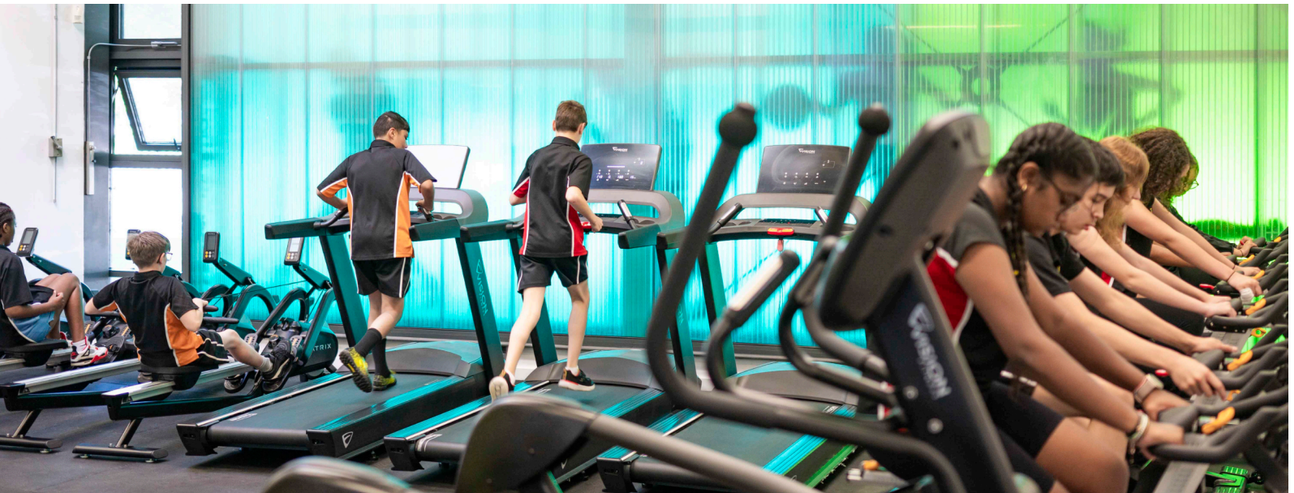
At Insignis Academy Trust we '**Collaborate to Succeed**'. Our Aylesbury Sixth Form is a consortium model, where the Kingsbrook and Mandeville schools are committed to working collaboratively to provide an appropriate sixth form pathway and to ensure success for every student. Depending on individual subject choices, students may study on one or both school sites. There are also consortium opportunities for students in some subjects at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, subject to specific school subject entry tariffs. We will work with all our students to 'believe and flourish', drawing on our shared values as schools to develop character and support students as they enter this next stage in their education.

As a Sixth Form we understand that success has many different pathways, and we are here to support students to build a mindset that embraces independence and ambition in a supportive environment. Depending on their subject choices, students will be able to study on one or both sites, taking advantage of the breadth of curriculum offered by working as a consortium and the additional independence that this brings. Together, we will support students to believe in their potential, take ownership of their progress and become self determining learners in charge of their next steps.

Students at the Aylesbury Sixth Form are expected to prepare for, attend and engage in all lessons. Teachers will guide students to become autonomous learners, helping students to build independent study routines that will build a strong foundation for future success. Aylesbury Sixth Form students are also expected to be active participants in the wider community of both schools, and to make connections with the wider community and broaden their experiences through participation in enrichment opportunities. These will include formal opportunities timetabled into the school day, alongside informal leadership opportunities over the two academic years.

At the heart of the Aylesbury Sixth Form is the commitment to student wellbeing. We will promote compassion and respect with all Sixth Form students leading by example, contributing positively to our wider trust community. Collaboration is modelled by staff and encouraged within the student body. We will support students to build their intellectual curiosity and emotional intelligence, fostering independence in an environment of trust with wellbeing at its foundation.

Together, at the Aylesbury Sixth Form, we will provide a Sixth Form experience where students do not just succeed, but are ready to flourish in their next steps.



Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Subjects Offered

Subject
Accounting and Finance – V Level
Art and Design - A Level
Biology - A Level
Business - A Level
Chemistry - A Level
Drama - A Level
Early Years Education* - V Level
English Literature - A Level
Film Studies - A Level
Geography - A Level
History - A Level
Maths - A Level
Media - A Level
Performing Arts - BTEC
Physics - A Level
Sociology - A Level
Spanish - A Level
Sport Studies (vocational)

**Students studying the V Level in Early Years Education will spend considerable time at Ashmead Combined school as part of their studies*

The following subjects are offered as part of our consortium at SHFGS. Students choosing these subjects must meet the subject entry criteria set by SHFGS for the course (see subject information). Places on these courses are offered subject to there being surplus places on these courses once all places have been allocated to SHFGS 6th form students.

Subject
Dance – A Level
Economics – A Level
French – A Level
Music – A Level
Physical Education – A Level
Politics – A Level
Psychology – A Level

Accounting and Finance - V Level

The Pearson Level 3 V Level in Accounting and Finance is a newly developed vocational qualification designed to sit alongside A Levels and T Levels. Equivalent in size to a single A Level (360 Guided Learning Hours), this future-focused course allows you to develop applied, work-relevant knowledge and skills in accounting and finance within real organisational contexts, while retaining the flexibility to combine it with A Levels or other Level 3 courses.

Throughout the course, you will develop essential analytical, numerical, and communication skills by learning to interpret and evaluate key financial information, including:

- Financial statements and financial ratios
- Budgets and cost management
- Investment appraisal and financial planning
- Ethical, evidence-based financial decision-making

Designed to meet modern employer and occupational standards, the course bridges academic theory with practical application—helping you understand how organisations manage money, assess financial performance, and make strategic decisions. To succeed on the course, you will need strong numeracy skills, attention to detail, and an interest in how businesses and financial institutions operate.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A minimum of grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 5 in GCSE English Language is required.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The V Level in Accounting and Finance is a 360 Guided Learning Hour (GLH) Level 3 qualification (equivalent to one A Level), launching for first teaching in September 2027 with the first external assessments taking place in 2029.

(Note: Pearson's draft specification and detailed unit-by-unit assessment weightings are scheduled for release in November 2026. Once published, students considering this course should review this information)

EXAMINATION BOARD Pearson Edexcel **Specification** Level 3 V Level in Accounting and Finance

Links with Other Subjects
V Level Accounting and Finance combines flexibly with A Levels and other vocational qualifications, linking particularly well with business, economics, mathematics, politics, and computer science.

Options after V Level
Because V Level content is aligned with occupational standards and designed for broad post-16 progression, studying Accounting and Finance supports entry into higher education degrees, higher and degree apprenticeships, and direct employment. Students may consider university courses in accounting, finance, business management, economics, banking, and financial mathematics. It also provides strong preparation for professional accountancy training (such as AAT, ACCA, CIMA, or ICAEW) and careers across corporate finance, banking, auditing, taxation, financial consultancy, and business management.

Note: Specifications are currently in development for first teaching in September 2027 and may be subject to change in line with Department for Education post-16 qualification reforms.

Art and Design - A Level (Fine Art)

The Eduqas A level in Art and Design has been designed to provide engaging and innovative creative learning experiences, where art, craft and design practice is meaningfully integrated with theoretical knowledge and understanding.

A Level art provides learners with opportunities to develop a broad foundation of critical, practical and theoretical skills that offers learners a holistic understanding of a range of practices. The ability to innovate, adapt and work independently. By the end of the course you will have acquired a broad appreciation of art and design and its role in society, and advanced practical artistic skills.

In the early stages the course is structured to encourage a fundamental understanding of the language of art and design: colour, line, shape, form, tone, pattern and texture. You will study drawing techniques and use a variety of colour media. You will also be doing photographic work, digital work and linking ideas to artists and craftspeople, contextual and historical studies are integrated with practical activities.

For your coursework project you will be carrying out research in an area of art which interests you. During the latter stages of Year 12 you will be expected to develop your own ideas, style and methods of working to a greater extent. You will end with several bodies of work in a portfolio style showing all of your work throughout A level.

A Level art & design is a demanding subject that requires initiative, determination and a willingness to become thoroughly involved in all aspects of the course. You will need to show evidence of a high level of observational skill.
Students will be expected to provide some of their own materials. The initial outlay is around £30.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE Art. Students with grade 6 or above in textiles or graphics
related subjects will be considered.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
At A Level, the assessment pattern is very similar to that at GCSE, with a range of preparatory work underpinning the project outcomes. There are a number of coursework units and an externally set assignment involving a fifteen-hour timed examination.

EXAMINATION BOARD Eduqas **Specification** A651QS

Component	AO1 Weighting % Marks	AO2 Weighting % Marks	AO3 Weighting % Marks	AO4 Weighting % Marks
Component 1: Personal Investigation 60% of A Level 120 marks	**15% 30**	**15% 30**	**15% 30**	**15% 30**
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of A Level 80 marks	**10% 20**	**10% 20**	**10% 20**	**10% 20**
Total Weighting Total Marks (200)	**25% 50**	**25% 50**	**25% 50**	**25% 50**

Art and Design - A Level (Fine Art)

Links with Other Subjects
Art & design links closely with graphic design, English, history, music, drama, psychology and STEM subjects.

Options after A Level
Students of A Level art & design can progress to many university and Higher Education courses with a creative or cultural element such as English, fine art, art history, cultural studies, interior design, architecture, graphic design, history. Studying at a specialist art school can lead to work as a professional artist. Entry to art school often follows a year's Art Foundation course. Art restoration, digital animation, gallery management, art dealing, exhibition management, teaching, arts administration, fashion and journalism are other possible career paths. The highly creative skills acquired through visual arts can also be useful in a wide variety of careers such as advertising, events management and broadcasting.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Biology - A Level

Nationally Biology is a very popular subject at A Level, with links to many careers and future university courses in biological and biomedical sciences. Students considering such courses should consider taking chemistry to A Level as many universities make this a course requirement.The OCR syllabus is both interesting and challenging, stimulating students to develop a wider interest in the subject. Students considering such courses should consider taking chemistry to A Level as many universities make this a course requirement.

The specification is divided into six units, each covering different key concepts in biology. Applications of biology are covered throughout the course. Further information can be found on the OCR website.

Practical skills are an important part of the course with assessed experiments occurring throughout.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE biology, or two grade 6s in GCSE double award science, and at least a grade 5 in GCSE mathematics.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is linear with three examinations sat in June of Year 13.
There are three written exams, two of 2 1/4 hours duration, one of 90 minutes. These all test knowledge, understanding and practical skills. Candidates must also receive a 'practical skills endorsement' from their teacher to pass the examination.

EXAMINATION BOARD OCR **Specification** H420

Links with Other Subjects
Biology is a diverse subject and links well with many other disciplines. It is closely associated with chemistry, mathematics and physics, most of which use data analysis, numeracy and scientific investigation. It also supports other subjects such as dance, PE and psychology.

Options after A Level
Studying biology in the sixth form is a pathway to a wide variety of degrees, HND/HNC qualifications at universities and other Higher Education institutions.

Biology students may like to consider the following courses among others: anatomy, animal behaviour, audiology, biological sciences, biology combined with business studies or a foreign language, biomedical science, biotechnology, marine biology, botany, microbiology, bacteriology, countryside management, crop science, dance, dentistry, environmental toxicology, equine studies, food studies, genetics, health sciences, medicine, midwifery, neuroscience, nursing, pharmacology, physiotherapy, psychology, sports and exercise science, veterinary science, zoology.

The transferable skills gained from a degree in a science subject are highly valued in the corporate world.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Business - A Level

There are a huge number of pathways for someone studying business - from creating the next technology start-up company to managing a key team of pharmaceutical research scientists. Studying business offers a good understanding of how companies and organisations work and what the current business world is like.

Among the topics studied are:

- tactical and strategic management
- financial management
- budgets and cash flow
- operations management
- marketing
- human resources
- the political, social, technological and economic environment.

The interrelated nature of business is demonstrated using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The subject is developed through a case study approach; after learning the theory students are given a business situation which they must then analyse and evaluate in order to put into practice what they have learned. The content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society, including key developments such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
If you have studied business at GCSE then the minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE business. If you have not studied business at GCSE, a minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Language is required.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is linear with three examinations sat in June of Year 13, each 2 hours long and worth one third of the total marks.

Subject Content

3.1 Unit: What is business? Managing marketing and finance
- 3.1.1 Business and objectives
- 3.1.2 Forms of business and stakeholders
- 3.1.3 Marketing management
- 3.1.4 Financial management

3.2 Unit: Managing people and operations
- 3.2.1 People management
- 3.2.2 Operations management
- 3.2.3 Managing business culture (A-level)

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Business - A Level

3.3 Unit: Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy (A-level only)
- 3.3.1 Business and society
- 3.3.2 Business and the external environment
- 3.3.3 Strategy
- 3.3.4 Change

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7138

Links with Other Subjects
Business can complement any other subject. Popular subjects are languages, sports science, English, politics, economics, psychology and history.

Options after A Level
There are a huge range of business degrees available. These include a broad business degree, sometimes called business management, or a more specialised degree for example marketing, accounting or even economics of contemporary China. There is also the option to study a joint degree where business is combined with another subject such as a language or law.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Chemistry - A Level

Chemistry is the science that explains how materials behave and how new materials can be made. Chemistry is at the forefront of advancing new technologies in these areas, as well as developing alternative energy resources and working towards reducing pollution. The course will give students an in-depth understanding of current theories, offer an opportunity for developing practical skills and provide plenty of links between what is being studied and its applications.

The successful A Level chemist will be a deep thinker and an independent learner. The ability to picture and imagine behaviour of particles too small to be seen is essential. Chemistry suits a student who likes to find things out by experiment but who can also consider and evaluate evidence in arriving at a theory or solution to a problem.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE chemistry, or two grade 6s in GCSE double award science and at least a grade 6 in GCSE mathematics.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is linear with three examinations sat in June of Year 13.

Component	Marks	Duration
Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry-paper 1	**100**	**2 hours 15 minutes**
Synthesis and analytical techniques-paper 2	**100**	**2 hours 15 minutes**
Unified chemistry-paper 3	**70**	**1 hour 30 minutes**

EXAMINATION BOARD OCR **Specification** Chemistry A- H432,

Links with Other Subjects
Chemistry links with mathematics, biology, physics and geography. Study of chemistry itself at university usually requires A Level mathematics.

Options after A Level
Studying chemistry in the sixth form is a pathway to a wide variety of degrees, HND and HNC qualifications at universities and other Higher Education institutions.

Chemistry students may like to consider the following courses among others: medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, pharmacology, pharmacy, chemical engineering, biochemistry, biomedical science, material science, forensic science, engineering, environmental science, earth science, geology, agriculture, archaeology.

The transferable skills gained from a degree in a science subject are highly valued in the corporate world.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Dance - A Level (SHFGS)

Dance is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

The A Level dance course is designed to:
- enable students to experience performance and choreography
- extend students' appreciation of dance and to develop critical thinking skills in relation to dance as an art form
- allow a diverse range of genres and styles to be studied, therefore looking at a range of dance works and choreographers
- develop a significant foundation of knowledge for the study of dance through higher education
- develop a healthy lifestyle through an awareness of the importance of exercise and training

Assessment Objectives are:
- knowledge, understanding and experience of performance, choreography and appreciation of dance as an art form. This will be achieved through exploring and making connections between theory and practice, critically engaging in the analysis of professional repertoire, leading to a holistic approach to the study of the subject
- their artistic and historical knowledge of dance in the wider cultural context
- a range of skills relating to problem solving, organisation, team-work and leadership

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
If GCSE dance has been taken, the minimum requirement is grade 6. If you have not studied dance at GCSE, you will need to have had dance classes outside of school and will be asked to provide evidence of the practical grades attained.

EQUIPMENT
You will need black trousers and a top suitable to dance in. Tops that expose midriffs or very short shorts are not permitted.

VISITS AND WORKSHOPS
Students will be expected to take part in at least one trip/visit and at least one workshop during each year of their A Level studies, the department usually subsidises one of these workshops. There will also be non compulsory visits and extracurricular opportunities.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Component 1: Performance and Choreography (practical examination, worth 50% of final marks)
- Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group Choreography

Component 2: Critical Engagement (written examination - 21/2 hours, worth 50% of final marks)
- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of a compulsory set work and its location within a corresponding area of study.
- Knowledge, understanding and critical engagement of one optional set work and its location within a corresponding area of study.

Dance - A Level (SHFGS)

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7237

Links with Other Subjects
Dance ideally complements the other performing arts of music and drama & theatre studies, the interpretive and analytical elements of English and contextual aspects of history.

Options after A Level
A level dance is valued as part of a well-rounded education. It instils physical and mental discipline as well as nurturing creativity.

Students of A Level dance can progress to choreography, dance and musical theatre courses at universities and specialist dance colleges. Teaching, journalism and arts administration are possible career paths as well as professional work in the entertainment field.

The creative and collaborative skills acquired through dance can also be useful in a wide variety of careers, such as business and events management.

Drama - A Level

Drama and Theatre A Level aims to extend your knowledge, imagination, sensitivity and insight into the complexities of theatre and to explore the nature of dramatic experience. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as develop your performing and analytical skills, operating more autonomously, and with confidence, within a drama and theatre context.
To follow the course successfully, a genuine interest in the theatre and drama is necessary. You will need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical aspects of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Moreover, you must be able to work cooperatively within the group.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
If GCSE drama has been taken, the minimum requirement is grade 6. If you have not studied drama at GCSE, you will need to have a minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

EQUIPMENT
In some practical lessons, you will need a black T-shirt and loose 'jogging bottoms'.

VISITS
You will be expected to attend at least two theatre visits, with the drama department, in order to complete the course successfully.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
Component 1: Theatre Workshop - Internally assessed practical work and written creative log (20%) Create, develop and perform a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text, based on the work of an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company.
Component 2: Text in Action - Externally assessed practical work and written process and evaluation report (40%)
Create, develop and perform two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus. One devised and one scripted piece.
Component 3: Text in Performance - Externally assessed 21/2 hour written examination (40%)

EXAMINATION BOARD WJEC Eduqas **Specification** A690QSL

Links with Other Subjects
Drama and theatre ideally complements the other performing arts of music and dance, as well as English.

Options after A Level
A Level drama and theatre is valued as part of a well-rounded education. It instils self-confidence and nurtures creativity.

Students of A Level drama and theatre can progress to many university and Higher Education courses with a creative or cultural element such as English, drama, creative writing, theatre production, stage management, dance, music, choreography, musical theatre. Studying at a specialist drama school can lead to professional work in the entertainment field. Teaching, arts administration and journalism are other possible career paths.

The creative and collaborative skills acquired through drama & theatre can also be useful in a wide variety of careers such as business, events management and broadcasting.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Early Years Education - V Level

The Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education is a newly developed vocational qualification designed to sit alongside A Levels and T Levels. Equivalent in size to a single A Level (360 Guided Learning Hours), this broad, classroom-based course blends applied learning with practical assessment, providing a strong foundation in education, child development, and support services while retaining the flexibility to be studied alongside A Levels or other Level 3 courses.

Throughout the two-year course, you will develop professional knowledge and practical skills across core areas of education and early years, including:

- Child and young person development: understanding how cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development influence learning
- Health, safety, and safeguarding: adhering to legal responsibilities, sharing information securely, and planning and completing risk assessments for learning activities
- Inclusive planning and safe practice: designing purposeful, safe, and appropriate learning experiences tailored to different learners
- Communication and assessment for progress: developing effective communication strategies and using assessment to support learner progression

Set nationally and linked to occupational standards, the qualification equips you with the analytical, communication, and planning skills valued by universities and employers. To succeed on the course, you will need a genuine interest in working with children and young people, strong interpersonal and organisational skills, and the ability to apply theoretical principles to practical educational scenarios.

Students studying the V Level in Education and Early Years will spend considerable time at Ashmead Combined school as part of their studies.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A minimum of grade 5 in GCSE English Language is required alongside grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and Science.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The V Level in Education is a 360 Guided Learning Hour (GLH) Level 3 qualification (launching for first teaching in September 2027, with first external assessment in summer 2029). It is modular with mandatory synopticity, graded A*–E (plus a Pass grade P), and assessed through 60% Pearson-set non-exam assessment (NEA) and 40% external written examination:

- Unit 1: Inclusive Planning and Safe Practice (108 GLH, 30% of qualification) – Centre-marked, Pearson-moderated non-exam assessment (11 hours)
- Unit 2: Communication and Assessment for Progress (108 GLH, 30% of qualification) – Centre-marked, Pearson-moderated non-exam assessment (11 hours)
- Unit 3: Education Practice: Core Principles (144 GLH, 40% of qualification) – Externally assessed terminal written examination (2 hours 15 minutes)

(Note: Assessment durations and NEA release windows are subject to final regulatory accreditation.)

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Early Years Education - V Level

EXAMINATION BOARD Pearson Edexcel **Specification** Level 3 V Level in Education

Links with Other Subjects
V Level Education combines flexibly with A Levels and other vocational qualifications, linking particularly well with psychology, sociology, biology, health and social care, English, and drama & theatre.

Options after V Level
Because V Level content is aligned with occupational standards and carries UCAS Tariff points matching A Level grades, studying Education supports progression into higher education degrees, higher and degree apprenticeships, and further professional training. Students may consider university courses in primary education, early childhood studies, education studies, child development, special educational needs and disability (SEND), psychology, and social work. It also provides strong preparation for apprenticeships and careers across early years settings, primary and secondary schools (such as teaching assistant and learning support roles), youth work, and children's support services.

Note: Specifications are currently in development for first teaching in September 2027 and may be subject to accreditation, funding confirmation, and Department for Education post-16 qualification reforms.

Economics – A Level (SHFGS)

Economics is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

Economics is essential to understanding the world in which we live and work. Some of the topics you will be covering are: the environmental impact of producing a good/service; why footballers earn more than nurses?; development economics; impact of Covid on the UK and global economy; BREXIT; market rigging in the financial sector; study of economists such as Marx, Hayek; behavioural economics.

In addition to introducing you to analytical thinking about topical issues, the study of economics at A level offers you the benefit of being highly regarded by employers and universities. The department's record in terms of grades achieved is extremely good. Many students who take up the course in Year 12 go on to study economics, or a related subject at university.

Competitions and conferences are used to deepen your knowledge and understanding. Specialist economics magazines are available to subscribe to if you choose, and there are a range of digital resources to assist too.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
If you have studied economics at GCSE then the minimum requirement is grade 6 in this subject. If you
have not studied economics at GCSE, a minimum grade 6 in GCSE mathematics is required.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
This comprises three units which are all examined at the end of Year 13. Each of the units is worth a third of the total marks for the qualification, and each examination will last for 2 hours. Exams consisting of multiple-choice, short answers, data responses and essays The three units are as follows:

Paper 1: **Microeconomics** – this looks at how individuals make decisions, applied to the world in which we live. It covers the topics of: scarcity and choice; how competitive markets work; competition and power; labour markets; and market failure and government intervention

Paper 2: **Macroeconomics** – this looks at issues that affect economies as a whole, applied to the world in which we live. It covers the topics of: macroeconomic policy objectives and performance; aggregate demand and aggregate supply; the application of policies; the global context; and the financial sector

Paper 3: **Synoptic Paper** - this final unit draws on all the content of components 1 and 2, asking candidates to apply the theories that have been learnt to unseen real world scenarios.

EXAMINATION BOARD Edexcel **Specification** 9ECO

Links with Other Subjects
Economics is a diverse subject with links to many subjects but particularly mathematics, government & politics, history and geography. Some universities require A Level mathematics in order to study for a degree in economics.

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Economics – A Level (SHFGS)

Options after A Level
Economics students may like to consider the following courses among others: economics, econometrics, economic history, PPE, accountancy, business management, finance, politics, international relations or global sustainability. Many European universities teach economics courses in English.

International companies, banks, governments and humanitarian organisations are large employers of economics graduates.

English Literature - A Level

Do you enjoy discussing novels, plays and poems in order to analyse their meaning? Do you sometimes think a character is quite different from what other people seem to believe? Do you think words are interesting? If you answered "Yes" to these questions it could be that A Level English literature is for you. At this level you will have to think for yourself far more than you did at GCSE; any text has several interpretations and you will have the opportunity to discuss these in class. You will also be expected to have good essay writing skills. Obviously you should enjoy reading.

So why do students choose to study English literature? For most, it is because they liked the subject at GCSE, and usually do well at it. For some it is because it complements their other choices. When considering English literature as an A level choice you should bear in mind that:

- some of the texts you study will be difficult. You will need to persevere, because you will have to do some independent reading
- The texts will be varied. You will look at prose, poetry and drama and you will be expected to have an open-minded approach. You don't have to like everything we study but you must be prepared to give it a go - whether it's 14th century poetry or the most recent modern novel
- there will be regular written assignments and you will be expected to meet deadlines
- you will need to read and research independently
- you should be willing to express your views and exchange ideas freely in class. Discussion is a vital part of all lessons and we look for an informed personal response. You will be expected to form your own interpretations of the texts.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum entry requirement for this course is a grade 6 in English literature or English language at GCSE. Sixth form students are expected to pay for their own texts, as all copies need to be heavily annotated. We estimate the cost to be £30 for Year 12 and a further £30 for the Year 13. Where exams are open book, the school will provide clean copies of texts for students to use in exams. Books to be studied will be recommended by the department to ensure approved editions are used.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
NB: The texts listed below are included as examples; your teacher will tell you which texts you will study at the beginning of your course.

Paper 1: Literary Genres – Tragedy or Comedy (2 hour 30 minute examination: 40%) Study of three texts: one Shakespeare (e.g. Othello or Taming of the Shrew), one drama text (e.g. Death of a Salesman or The Importance of Being Earnest), and one further text (e.g. poetry by John Keats or an anthology of modern poetry).

Paper 2: Texts and Genres – Political and Social Protest Writing (3 hour examination: 40%) Study of three texts: two prose (e.g. The Handmaid's Tale, The Kite Runner), one poetry (e.g. Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake) and the study of unseen passages of political and social protest writing.

Paper 3: Non-exam assessment – Theory and Independence (coursework: 20%) Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose, informed by the study of a Critical Anthology. Production of two essays of 1250-1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical Anthology.

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

English Literature - A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** Literature B 7717

Links with Other Subjects
English complements every other subject but especially history, theatre studies, modern foreign languages and fine art.

Options after A Level
English is a very popular course at university and is an acceptable subject for all courses, not just those leading to an arts or humanities degree. Possible careers range from the obvious choices of journalism, media, creative and dramatic writing, publishing and librarianship to law, the Civil Service, politics, teaching and advertising. The rigorous academic skills acquired through a degree in English are highly regarded by corporate graduate employers.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Film Studies - A Level

Film Studies is an academic, analytical, and creative course. You will study the key elements of film form—including cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound, and performance—which combine to create meaning and generate audience response. You will also consider film as an aesthetic medium as well as a means of representation.

Beyond the text itself, the course places films firmly in their contexts, examining the social, cultural, political, historical, and institutional factors that influence their final form. Over the two years, you will closely analyse a diverse range of cinema, including:

- Documentary, silent era, experimental, and short films
- The Hollywood model alongside British, European, and global cinema industries
- The differences between film as a mainstream, profit-driven form and film as artistic expression

As well as studying a wide range of films and genres, you will complete a practical production project, creating your own short film or screenplay in response to a brief set by the exam board.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is assessed through a combination of written examinations and creative coursework:
Written examination: 70% of the total A Level
Coursework (short film or screenplay production): 30% of the total A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD WJEC Eduqas

Links with Other Subjects
Film Studies links closely with English Literature, sociology, history, and philosophy, as films are studied as expressions of socio-political thinking at a particular moment in time and place. It also complements media studies, drama & theatre, and art & design.

Options after A Level
Film Studies is an ideal vehicle to study film, media, journalism, or communications at university, and its focus on critical thinking, academic theory, and evaluative discussion complements a wide range of Higher Education subjects. Alternatively, students can progress directly into work in the screen and media industries through one of the many apprenticeships available in this field. With the UK screen and media sector growing rapidly, opportunities in film production, screenwriting, broadcasting, journalism, and digital media are at a record high.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

French – A Level (SHFGS)

French is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

To broaden your horizons and improve your communication skills, continue to study at least one foreign language at A Level if you can. You will certainly enhance your travel and job prospects in, for example, teaching, business, finance and law.

In the sixth form you will build on the basic knowledge that you already have. At A Level the course is not simply the study of language, but the civilisation and culture of the country as well. You must be prepared to take every opportunity to speak, read widely, listen to the radio and watch television - all in the foreign language. There is the opportunity to complement your other studies by pursuing particular areas of interest in greater depth, and developing a personal and independent response to them.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement to study French is grade 7 in that language at GCSE.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Paper 1: 2 hours 30 minutes: listening, reading, translation to and from the language (50% of total A level)

Paper 2: 2 hours: writing about a book and a film studied during the course. (20% of total A level)

Paper 3: 21 – 23 minutes: speaking
Discussion of a stimulus card, presentation and discussion of an individual research topic (30% of total A level)

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7652

Links with Other Subjects
Modern foreign languages link with a wide range of other subjects such as PRE, Business, Politics, History, Geography, etc.

Options after A Level
Studying a modern foreign language at university, whether on its own or paired with another subject, equips you with far more than fluency. You gain sharp analytical skills, intercultural competence, and a global mindset that sets you apart in the job market.

Language skills are highly sought after across competitive global industries. Career paths commonly include:

- Diplomacy & Public Service: Foreign Office, Diplomatic Corps, international relations, NGOs, and humanitarian work.
- Business & Tech: International banking, management consultancy, global marketing, e-commerce, and software localisation.
- Media & Communications: Journalism, broadcasting, publishing, PR, and content creation.
- Specialist Roles: Professional translation, conference interpreting, intelligence analysis, corporate law, and secondary/higher education.

French – A Level (SHFGS)

Linguists develop sharp analytical thinking, high-level attention to detail, and advanced cognitive agility, allowing them to decode complex structures and communicate with precision. Equally important is the deep intercultural competence and empathy gained through exploring different societies and perspectives. In an increasingly interconnected yet fragmented modern world, these qualities are invaluable. As global markets expand, remote cross-border collaboration becomes the norm, and emerging technologies like AI rely heavily on natural language understanding, linguists possess the unique adaptability, critical nuance, and global mindset needed to bridge cultural divides and lead effectively in international environments.

Geography - A Level

Geography is a fascinating subject which at A level engages with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global. The subject links particularly effectively to other humanities subjects such as history and philosophy, to social sciences such as politics and economics, and also combines well with biology, maths and computer science. Geographers gain a great deal of skills in ICT, such as presentation and use of G.I.S., as well as statistical data analysis, report writing and critical evaluation.

Most importantly geographers gain a true understanding of the world around us: of the constant changes taking place in both the human and the physical environment. As a result they are better prepared to tackle the challenges that the remainder of the 21st century will throw at us, and will be sought after by employers for their ability to adapt to these changes. Geography teaching aims to prepare students for the problems that we will all face, and to equip them with the skills and long-sightedness to find sustainable solutions to them.

The geography course content follows an 'issues to impacts to responses' theme throughout. It has a developmental structure designed to facilitate progression through the course and beyond to link with the demands of higher level study. Concepts covered at GCSE may be revisited at A-Level, but not repeated.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE geography, if already taken at GCSE. There is no prerequisite to have studied geography at GCSE, but in this case a grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Language or English Literature is required.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
There will be two examinations at the end of Year 13, one on Physical Geography and one on Human Geography. During the two year course students will also be required to produce a piece of coursework that is internally assessed.

Paper 1: Physical Geography (40% of A level, 2 hrs 30 mins)
Units of study: Water & Carbon Cycles; Coastal Systems and Landscapes; Hazards.

Paper 2: Human Geography (40% of A level, 2 hrs 30 mins)
Units of Study: Global Systems and Global Governance; Changing Places; Population and the Environment.

Coursework (20% of A level, roughly 3000-4000 words)
Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation will be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

VISITS
In Year 12 we run a residential field trip in order to collect data for the fieldwork component. The approximate cost of the trip will be around £300.00 for 3 days. We would strongly recommend that all students take part in any field trips during the course.

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7037

Geography - A Level

Options after A level
Many of our geography students opt to choose geography at degree level. However, many also progress to a diverse range of university courses including: economics, politics, business and management, global sustainability, geology, geophysics, land management, architecture, town planning, transport management, tourism, meteorology, earth sciences, environmental science, and oceanography.

Geographers find themselves in increasing demand from employers in sectors such as renewable energies, geotechnical engineering, public services, logistical and management services, and international humanitarian organisations. However, geographers are particularly employable since they will have gained a range of transferable and adaptable skills that are more relevant than ever in today's fast changing job market.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

History - A Level

Studying A level history offers you the opportunity to think for yourself about some of the people and issues that have shaped the past. It gives you an appreciation of human behaviour, a deeper understanding of current affairs and an ability to think independently and make decisions and judgements.

"Historians are dangerous people - they have ways of upsetting people." (Khrushchev)

"History is a pack of lies we play on the dead." (Voltaire)

"The past is a foreign country – they do things differently there." (L P Hartley)

What are the benefits of the course?

As well as studying interesting topics, you will learn and develop valuable communication and critical thinking skills, such as analysing data, assessing evidence, formulating arguments and making judgements.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE history.

VISITS
It is likely that there will be day trips to relevant historical sites within the UK.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
Units 1 and 3 are worth 30%, unit 2 is worth 20%. Unit 4 is a coursework assignment worth 20%. Questions are set on historical enquiry, interpretation and source analysis.

1. Britain transformed, 1918–97 – examining political, economic and social changes such as the rise of political challenge, creation of a welfare state and popular culture.
2. The USA, 1955–92; conformity and challenge – examining protest, economic, political and social changes such as civil rights, the Watergate scandal and cultural challenge.
3. The witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580–c1750.
4. Coursework – an independent enquiry into the reasons for the start of the Cold War.

EXAMINATION BOARD Edexcel **Specification** 9H10

Links with Other Subjects
History links with English, politics, economics, business, psychology, religious studies, modern foreign languages, drama, art and geography.

Options after A Level
History is a very popular course at university and is an acceptable subject for entry to all courses, not just those leading to an arts or humanities degree. Possible careers include law, journalism, archaeology, building conservation, museum and archive services, the Civil Service, politics, broadcasting and teaching.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Maths - A Level

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?
Both employers and universities see mathematics as evidence of significant ability and real career potential. The study of mathematical methods greatly helps to develop logical and ordered thought and the techniques learned complement almost all combinations of A Level subjects. Over the two year course content will be studied leading to three examinations. Two will cover the Pure Mathematics content and a third paper will be half Mechanics and half Statistics.

Pure Mathematics will form the core of your study. You will extend your knowledge of algebra and trigonometry to a much deeper level, and meet some new ideas such as numerical analysis and calculus.

Statistics will develop your ability to handle data confidently in order to draw conclusions about it. This study will be useful for many subjects such as business, economics, psychology or geography, and is a necessary skill for many future careers.

Mechanics shares content with the physics A level syllabus such as constant and variable acceleration, moments and applications of forces. Here you will use Newton's laws of motion and mathematics to solve a range of problems.

Students studying mathematics in Year 12 may be given the opportunity to sit the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge. All mathematics students are also expected to give support to the school by attending a lower school class once each week to work with students who find mathematics challenging.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 7 in GCSE mathematics

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is examined at the end of Year 13.

EXAMINATION BOARD	Edexcel	**Specification**	Mathematics	9MA0
			Further Mathematics	9FM0

Links with Other Subjects
Mathematics links with all three sciences, geography, economics and business.

Options after A Level
Mathematics, particularly statistics, is an integral part of many university and other higher education courses. Suitable courses include: accounting, finance, business and management, statistics, economics, econometrics, physics, engineering, chemistry, psychology, computer science, and philosophy. Graduates of courses with significant mathematical content are highly sought after in the corporate world, public services, global industries and international organisations with careers ranging from stockbroking to logistics to internet entrepreneurship.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Media - A Level

This exciting course offers the opportunity to study a range of areas within the media industry. It is an extremely contemporary subject and allows students to combine practical production elements with the theoretical study of a wide range of media topics.

The nature of this course provides an opportunity for individual interpretation of current media within the assessment parameters, permitting a dynamic and accessible course of study covering this rapidly growing subject area. You will develop both analytical and critical thinking skills throughout the course, applying academic theory to decode meaning from a diverse range of historical and contemporary texts. You will also develop practical production skills in print, digital, and moving image platforms using the latest industry-standard software.

Throughout the course, you will study:

- Media language: the signs and symbolic meaning created in media texts
- Audiences: how audiences are categorised, targeted, and involved in media products
- Media industries: the changing nature of media institutions
- Representations: how and why different social groups are represented in the media
- Contexts: how social, historical, political, and cultural contexts shape media content
- Production: moving image, print, and online media

The course covers a wide variety of media platforms, including radio, television, newspapers, advertising and marketing, film, computer games, magazines, websites, and music videos.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is assessed through a combination of written examinations and practical coursework:

- Written examination: 70% of the total A Level
- Coursework (non-exam assessment): 30% of the total A Level

EXAMINATION BOARD WJEC Eduqas

Links with Other Subjects
Media Studies complements a range of subjects through its focus on critical thinking, academic theory, and evaluative discussion, linking closely with English, film studies, sociology, business, art & design, and politics.

Options after A Level
Media Studies is an ideal vehicle to study media, film, journalism, or communications at university, and the critical and analytical skills gained support progression into a wide variety of Higher Education degrees. Alternatively, students can progress directly into work in the media industry through one of the many apprenticeships available in this field. The media industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK, with opportunities for employment in broadcasting, journalism, advertising, marketing, digital content creation, and public relations at a record high.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Music – A Level (SHFGS)

Music is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

The Eduqas A level music course allows students to further develop the composition and performance skills introduced at GCSE. Students also learn to apply more detailed background and musical knowledge and a high level of analytical skills to a range of musical scores in a variety of genres. Students learn how to identify and describe a wide range of musical styles, and to place musical examples within a historical and social context.

As part of the A Level, students choose either a performance or composition pathway, which allows them to specialise in an area of their choosing. Their specialism will form a larger percentage of their final mark.

	Option A	Option B
Performing	35%	25%
Composing	25%	35%
Appraising	40%	40%

The A level music course offers students the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge required in preparation for university or music college, whilst also providing them the opportunity to pursue and develop their own preferred musical interests.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum entry requirement is a GCSE grade 6 in music. All students must be accomplished performers in their main instrument. Typically students should be at least grade five standard on their main instrument by the start of the course and need to be a minimum of grade 6 standard by the beginning of Year 13. An understanding in music theory to grade 5 is also desirable. Students who have not taken GCSE Music must have Grade 5 Music Theory.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Component 1: Performing Music (35%/25%)
This unit gives students the opportunity to extend their performance skills as soloists and/or as part of an ensemble. They will perform a recital to a visiting examiner, consisting of a range of pieces. Students choosing the heavier performance weighting must perform for between 10-12 minutes,including at least 3 pieces. Students choosing the lower performance weighting must perform for 6-8 minutes, including at least 2 pieces. Students must be a minimum of Grade 6 at the time of their recital.

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Music – A Level (SHFGS)

Component 2: Composing (35%/25%)
For this unit students choosing the lower weighting complete a total of two compositions: one as a free composition and one in a western classical style, to a brief set by Eduqas. These will last 4-6 minutes across the portfolio. Students choosing the heavier weighted composition option will compose 3 pieces: the two listed above and a third piece inspired by a different optional unit. The three compositions combined should last between 8-10 minutes.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)
This unit develops students' knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language. It builds on the listening, appraising and analysis skills taught at GCSE. This is applied through two areas of study: The Western Classical Period and the Development of the Symphony, and an optional area of study (currently Jazz Music). Students will answer a range of short answer questions and essay questions, based both on unheard pieces music, and their understanding of the chosen units.

EXAMINATION BOARD Eduqas **Specification** A660QS

Links with Other Subjects
Music ideally complements the other performing arts of dance and theatre studies, as well as mathematics, English, history, and art & design. It is also an excellent 'stand alone' subject for students who wish to broaden their curriculum in the sixth form.

Options after A Level
Music is considered a rigorous academic subject and is valued as part of a well-rounded education. It instils physical and mental discipline as well as nurturing creativity.

Students can follow many degree courses: music, musical theatre, music technology, English, cultural studies, world music, popular music and sound recording among others. Gifted performers may consider applying to a conservatoire such as the Royal Academy of Music. Composition, music management, recording engineering, teaching, journalism and arts administration are also possible career paths as well as professional work in the entertainment field.

The creative and collaborative skills acquired through music can also be beneficial in a wide variety of careers such as business and events management.

Performing Arts – BTEC

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is a practical, work-related qualification equivalent in size to a single A Level (360 Guided Learning Hours). Designed to be studied alongside A Levels or other Level 3 qualifications, this dynamic course combines hands-on performance training with theoretical exploration, giving you a broad introduction to the performing arts sector while developing transferable creative, collaborative, and analytical skills.

Throughout the two-year course, you will develop your practical technique, creative devising skills, and critical understanding of professional practitioners through three mandatory core units:

- Investigating Practitioners' Work: analysing the contextual factors, creative intentions, and stylistic features of influential performing arts practitioners
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance: refining technical and interpretative performance skills in acting, dance, or musical theatre through workshops and live performance
- Group Performance Workshop: responding to a stimulus as part of a company to devise, rehearse, and perform an original piece of work while reflecting on the creative process

In addition to the mandatory core units, you will complete one specialist optional unit (60 GLH)—such as Acting Styles, Musical Theatre Techniques, Jazz Dance, Contemporary Dance, Interpreting Classical Text, or Improvisation—tailored to your performance strengths. To succeed on the course, you will need a genuine passion for live performance, the ability to work collaboratively within an ensemble, and strong self-discipline during rehearsals.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
If GCSE Drama, Dance, or Performing Arts (or a Level 2 BTEC in Performing Arts) has been taken, the minimum requirement is grade 5 or Merit. If you have not studied a performing arts subject at GCSE, a minimum grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature is required, alongside demonstrated practical performance experience.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is assessed through a combination of externally set tasks and internally assessed, externally verified practical and written coursework assignments. For the Level 3 National Extended Certificate (360 GLH), students complete four units (58% externally assessed, 42% internally assessed):

- Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' Work (90 GLH, Mandatory) – Externally assessed written task set by Pearson
- Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance (90 GLH, Mandatory) – Internally assessed practical and written portfolio
- Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop (120 GLH, Mandatory) – Externally assessed practical performance and written digital process log set by Pearson
- Optional Specialist Unit (60 GLH, e.g. Acting Styles, Musical Theatre Techniques, or Contemporary Dance) – Internally assessed practical and written coursework

EXAMINATION BOARD Pearson Edexcel **Specification** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (QN: 601/7233/2)

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Performing Arts – BTEC

Links with Other Subjects
Performing Arts complements other creative and expressive subjects such as music, drama & theatre, dance, and art & design, as well as English literature, media studies, history, and business.

Options after BTEC Performing Arts
The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts carries UCAS Tariff points equivalent to an A Level and supports progression to a wide variety of university degrees, specialist drama schools and conservatoires, and creative apprenticeships. Students may consider Higher Education courses in acting, musical theatre, dance, drama and theatre studies, performing arts, stage management, and theatre production. The confidence, teamwork, communication, and creative problem-solving skills gained on the course are also highly valued in careers across the entertainment industry, broadcasting, arts administration, teaching, events management, and public relations.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. Vocational qualification structures and funding arrangements are reviewed periodically in line with Department for Education post-16 qualification reforms.

Physical Education – A Level (SHFGS)

A' Level PE is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

The course offers an in-depth study of sport and physical education and requires high academic standards, as well as practical sport or coaching ability. It is expected that students will participate in their chosen activity outside the school curriculum.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in GCSE PE. In addition, students must be able to demonstrate a high sporting or coaching ability in an activity from the approved DfE list which must be evidenced. It is essential that they regularly participate in their chosen activity outside school to reach this level.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed:

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
Section B: Skill acquisition
Section C: Sport and society

How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed:

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
Section B: Sport psychology
Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Physical Education – A Level (SHFGS)

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed:

Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity.

Plus:

written/verbal analysis of performance.

How it's assessed:

- Internal assessment, external moderation
- 90 marks
- 30% of A-level

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Syllabus** 7582

Links with Other Subjects
The course complements studies in biology and psychology.

Options after A Level

Students of physical education may like to consider the following university courses: sports & exercise science, sports physiotherapy, football studies, golf studies, sports coaching, sports management, psychology, activity leadership, sports administration and governance, leisure operations and management, spectator safety, sports journalism, sports performance, sports photography. For gifted sportsmen and women generous sports scholarships are available to study at US universities.

It is useful for careers in the leisure, sport, health and fitness industries; medical advisory and therapy services; the emergency services and the armed forces; sports journalism; sports photography; sports management; teaching.

Physics - A Level

- How can light behave as both waves and particles?
- How can electrons behave as both particles and waves?
- What are pulsars and black holes?
- What are CERN looking for?

These and many other questions are discussed in a wide-ranging course which includes a large amount of practical work. Physics requires determined effort and ability in science, but for those who have an aptitude and work hard, the rewards are great - a genuine scientific training, a valuable examination qualification and the opportunity to understand many of the great scientific ideas.

To undertake the course you will be expected to have shown interest and ability in the physics that you have studied so far, and to have demonstrated the capacity to work diligently. **You will need a good grasp of mathematics and will be encouraged to study A level mathematics.** The course involves a systematic approach containing careful and clear explanations, together with linked assignments and practical work. It raises and develops your understanding of electrical circuits, mechanics, radioactivity, light and heat as well as introducing you to new areas such as astrophysics and quantum mechanics.

Physics is highly desirable as a qualification for a career in engineering, medicine, dentistry, ophthalmics and pharmacy, but it also opens up opportunities in a very wide variety of other areas. Physics students are in great demand.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 7 in GCSE physics, or two grade 7s in GCSE double award science and at least a grade 6 in GCSE mathematics.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Content is in six modules:

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

Linear examinations sat at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 : Modelling Physics - assessing modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2 hours 15 mins)
Paper 2 : Exploring Physics - assessing modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2 hours and 15 mins)
Paper 3 : Unified Physics - assessing all modules (1 hour 30 mins)

EXAMINATION BOARD OCR **Syllabus** Physics A (H556)

Links with Other Subjects
Physics links closely with mathematics. It also complements chemistry, biology and geography.

Aylesbury Sixth Form Options

Physics - A Level

Options after A Level
Studying physics in the sixth form is a pathway to a wide variety of degrees, HND and HNC qualifications at universities and other Higher Education institutions.

Physics students may like to consider the following courses among others: engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, electronic engineering, structural engineering, aeronautical engineering, architecture, surveying, physics, astrophysics, nuclear physics, medical physics, telecommunications, oceanography, computer science, material science, environmental science, earth science, geography, geophysics, radiography, meteorology.

The transferable skills gained from a degree in a science subject are highly valued in the corporate world.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Politics – A Level (SHFGS)

Politics is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

This course looks at how the political systems of Britain and the USA operate and examines the ideas that impact contemporary politics.

It examines issues such as:
- What is the best way for people and countries to make decisions?
- How does the government work?
- Why did people vote the way that they did in recent elections, including the election of Donald Trump and the Brexit vote?
- How and why do people participate in politics?
- Do Americans choose the best people to be their Presidents?
- What philosophical thinking impacts on today's politicians?
- Has feminism achieved its goals?
-

Lively, relevant, controversial; there are many ways to describe A level politics. It is one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose.

Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK and US are run and develops research, written communication and debate skills.

What you need to study politics:
- No previous knowledge required – you'll get this from the course
- You need to be able to express your ideas clearly on paper
- You must be willing to read books, articles and newspapers, and to watch TV news
- You must have an open mind and a lively interest in what's going on around you.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 in any one of GCSE history, geography, religious studies or English Language.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
Each paper is worth a third of the total A Level marks, all to be taken at the end of the two year course.
- Paper 1: The government and politics of the UK
- Paper 2: The government and politics of the USA, and comparative politics
- Paper 3: Political ideas (Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism)

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7152

Links with Other Subjects
Politics links closely with history, philosophy, geography, economics and English.

Options after A Level
Politics A Level is accepted as an academic subject for all university and Higher Education courses.

Students of politics may consider courses in: history, English, American studies, economics, international relations, political science, politics and PPE (philosophy, politics & economics). Careers open to politics graduates include the Civil Service, the Diplomatic Service, journalism, media, law, public relations and parliamentary work. Corporate graduate employers appreciate the rigorous academic skills acquired through a degree in politics.

Psychology – A Level (SHFGS)

Psychology is offered as part of our consortium at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School (SHFGS). Students choosing this subject must meet the overall entry criteria for The Aylesbury Sixth Form and the specific entry criteria set by SHFGS for this course (see below). Places on this course are offered subject to there being surplus places available once places have been allocated to existing SHFGS 6th form students.

This course will appeal to you if you enjoy thinking about why people behave the way they do. For example, how does people's behaviour link to their environment, why do people forget some things yet remember others and what do investigations reveal about our choices of partner and our behaviour within romantic relationships?

During the course you will:

- Develop understanding of psychological theories, research, case studies and data collection methods
- Investigate contemporary issues in the context of psychological knowledge
- Explore different approaches to understanding human behaviour, including from the cognitive, humanistic and biological perspectives
- Conduct small psychological practical investigations, collecting data from human participants
- Apply quantitative and qualitative research methods to analyse, interpret and evaluate data
- Address ethical issues associated with psychological research and practice

Psychology requires a methodical approach. It entails detailed learning of a large number of studies and theories and one third of the marks awarded are for scientific methodology. You therefore need a good background level of scientific knowledge and understanding.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
If studied, a grade 6 in GCSE psychology is required. If not already studied, a grade 6 in maths is required.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The linear A Level in psychology was introduced in September 2015. It comprises three units that are all examined at the end of Year 13. Statistical calculations are involved in the examinations, but formulae and statistical tables will be provided. The three units are as follows:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology – you will be assessed on the compulsory topics of social influence, memory, attachment, and psychopathology. The assessment lasts two hours and is worth 96 marks; the paper is 33.3% of the total qualification.

Paper 2: Applications of Psychology – you will be assessed on the compulsory topics of approaches in psychology, biopsychology, and research methods. The assessment lasts two hours and is worth 96 marks; the paper is 33.3% of the total qualification.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology - you will be assessed on the compulsory topic of issues and debates in psychology; and on three topics comprising one from each of the following three option groups: (1) relationships, gender, cognition and development; (2) schizophrenia, eating behaviour, stress; (3) aggression, forensic psychology, addiction. The assessment lasts two hours and is worth 96 marks; the paper is 33.3% of the total qualification.

Psychology – A Level (SHFGS)

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Syllabus** A2 7182

Links with Other Subjects

Psychology complements subjects such as religious studies, philosophy and ethics, business, English and history, which all analyse the underlying truths behind human behaviour.

Options after A Level
Students may consider university and Higher Education courses in a wide variety of subjects, including: psychology, behavioural biology, sports science, psychiatry, psychotherapy, counselling, marketing, advertising, animal behaviour, equine studies, business & management, neuroscience, philosophy, hotel management, recruitment. Psychology graduates are highly valued by corporate employers whose businesses rely on interaction with the public. Students not planning to study for a postgraduate psychology degree can consider alternative careers including research, marketing, advertising, human resources, retail, journalism, broadcasting, policy making, speech writing and tourism as well as counselling, motivational and lifestyle industries and teaching.

Sociology - A Level

Sociology offers an engaging and effective introduction to understanding contemporary UK society within a globalised context. Through this course, you will explore how human behaviour is shaped by social structures, culture, and identity, while developing key skills valued by both universities and employers—including critical analysis, independent thinking, and social research.

Throughout the two-year course, your studies will revolve around two core themes:
- socialisation, culture, and identity
- social differentiation, power, and stratification.

You will examine these themes through compulsory core areas—such as Education and Crime and Deviance—alongside optional topics chosen from areas like Families and Households, Culture and Identity, Health, Work, Poverty and Welfare, Beliefs in Society, Global Development, The Media, or Stratification and Differentiation. In every topic, you will engage with sociological theories, perspectives, and debates (such as conflict versus consensus, and social structure versus social action) and evaluate the research methods used to gather sociological evidence.

The specification appeals to a wide cross-section of students regardless of whether you have studied sociology before. Because the course requires you to evaluate different theoretical perspectives and write structured arguments, you will need a genuine interest in current affairs and society, as well as strong essay-writing skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A minimum grade 6 in GCSE English Language or a humanities subject (such as history or geography) is required.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The course is linear with three written examinations sat at the end of Year 13. Each paper lasts 2 hours, is worth 80 marks, and accounts for 33.3% of the total A-level qualification. Assessments use a combination of short-answer and extended writing/essay questions.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A-level)
- Education: short answer and extended writing (50 marks)
- Methods in Context: extended writing (20 marks)
- Theory and Methods: extended writing (10 marks)

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A-level)
- Section A: extended writing on one Option 1 topic—Culture and Identity; Families and Households; Health; or Work, Poverty and Welfare (40 marks)
- Section B: extended writing on one Option 2 topic—Beliefs in Society; Global Development; The Media; or Stratification and Differentiation (40 marks)

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A-level)
- Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing (50 marks)
- Theory and Methods: extended writing (30 marks)

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7192

Sociology - A Level

Links with Other Subjects
Sociology builds on skills developed in both the sciences and humanities, and links closely with psychology, politics, history, English, geography, economics, and religious studies.

Options after A Level
Studying sociology in the sixth form enables progression into a wide variety of university degrees and Higher Education courses, including sociology, criminology, social policy, law, politics, psychology, anthropology, media studies, and international relations. The critical analysis, research, and communication skills gained from sociology are highly valued across many career paths, including the Civil Service, social work, criminal justice and policing, law, journalism, public relations, human resources, teaching, market research, and charitable or non-governmental organisations.

Note: Specifications may be subject to change. The core A' Level course content is set by the Joint Council for Qualifications with minor variations between examination boards.

Spanish - A Level

To broaden your horizons and improve your communication skills, continue to study at least one foreign language at A Level if you can. You will certainly enhance your travel and job prospects in, for example, teaching, business, finance and law.

In the sixth form you will build on the basic knowledge that you already have. At A Level the course is not simply the study of language, but the civilisation and culture of the country as well. You must be prepared to take every opportunity to speak, read widely, listen to the radio and watch television - all in the foreign language. There is the opportunity to complement your other studies by pursuing particular areas of interest in greater depth, and developing a personal and independent response to them.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement to study Spanish is grade 6 in that language at GCSE.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

Paper 1: 2 hours 30 minutes: listening, reading, translation to and from the language (50% of total A level)

Paper 2: 2 hours: writing about a book and a film studied during the course. (20% of total A level)

Paper 3: 21 – 23 minutes: speaking
Discussion of a stimulus card, presentation and discussion of an individual research topic (30% of total A level)

EXAMINATION BOARD AQA **Specification** 7652

Links with Other Subjects
Modern foreign languages link with a wide range of other subjects such as PRE, Business, Politics, History, Geography, etc.

Options after A Level
Studying a modern foreign language at university, whether on its own or paired with another subject, equips you with far more than fluency. You gain sharp analytical skills, intercultural competence, and a global mindset that sets you apart in the job market.

Language skills are highly sought after across competitive global industries. Career paths commonly include:

- Diplomacy & Public Service: Foreign Office, Diplomatic Corps, international relations, NGOs, and humanitarian work.
- Business & Tech: International banking, management consultancy, global marketing, e-commerce, and software localisation.
- Media & Communications: Journalism, broadcasting, publishing, PR, and content creation.
- Specialist Roles: Professional translation, conference interpreting, intelligence analysis, corporate law, and secondary/higher education.

Linguists develop sharp analytical thinking, high-level attention to detail, and advanced cognitive agility, allowing them to decode complex structures and communicate with precision. Equally important is the deep intercultural competence and empathy gained through exploring different societies and perspectives. In an increasingly interconnected yet fragmented modern world, these qualities are invaluable. As global markets expand, remote cross-border collaboration becomes the norm, and emerging technologies like AI rely heavily on natural language understanding, linguists possess the unique adaptability, critical nuance, and global mindset needed to bridge cultural divides and lead effectively in international environments.

Sport - BTEC (vocational)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is an applied, vocational qualification equivalent in size to one or two A Levels. Designed in collaboration with employers, professional bodies, and universities, the course provides a broad foundation of knowledge and practical skills for the sport, fitness, and leisure sectors.

Students develop practical, interpersonal, and analytical skills through a combination of theoretical study, independent research, project-based coursework, and applied scenarios. It is ideal for motivated students who enjoy sport and physical activity and wish to combine an applied, coursework-and-exam pathway alongside two A Level subjects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
The minimum requirement is grade 6 or Merit in GCSE/L2 PE (if studied), or grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science / Biology alongside a genuine interest and regular participation in sport, coaching, or fitness outside of school.

EXAMINATION STRUCTURE
The qualification comprises 4 units in total: 3 mandatory units (83% of the course) and 1 optional unit (17% of the course). Assessment is a blend of external assessment (67%) set and marked by Pearson, and internal assessment (33%) completed through a portfolio of coursework assignments.

Mandatory Units:

- **Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology** (Externally assessed written examination – 120 GLH) Explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems function and how they respond and adapt to exercise and sport.
- **Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being** (Externally assessed controlled task – 120 GLH) Assess client lifestyle and fitness needs, interpret health screening data, and design justified nutrition and training programmes.
- **Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry** (Internally assessed coursework – 60 GLH) Research career pathways in the sport sector, audit personal skills, and complete a practical recruitment and interview portfolio.

Optional Units (1 unit studied, internally assessed coursework – 60 GLH):

- **Unit 4: Sports Leadership** – Plan, lead, and evaluate safe, effective sports and physical activity sessions.
- **Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing** – Administer, interpret, and evaluate a range of laboratory and field-based fitness tests.
- **Unit 6: Sports Psychology** – Examine how personality, motivation, stress, and group dynamics impact sports performance.
- **Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance** – Analyse and demonstrate technical, tactical, and officiating skills in individual and team sports.

Sport Studies - BTEC (vocational)

EXAMINATION BOARD Pearson
Specification BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (601/7218/6)

Links with Other Subjects
BTEC Sport complements studies in biology, psychology, business, and economics, and can be taken alongside two A Levels as part of a balanced Sixth Form study programme.

Options after Sixth Form
This qualification is accepted by over 150 UK universities and higher education institutions when combined with A Levels. Students may consider university courses in sports & exercise science, sports coaching, sports management, sports therapy, physical education & school sport, health & fitness, leisure operations, and sports journalism. It also provides strong preparation for higher apprenticeships and careers in the sport, health, fitness, and leisure industries, emergency services, and armed forces.

Insignis Academy Trust
PO Box 1128
Aylesbury
HP20 9NE

Tel: 01296 744 351

www.insignis.org.uk

Financial support:

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is made available from the government through its funding body for 16-18 year olds - to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. Details of the bursary and application process will be shared with all students and their parents/ carers upon entry to the sixth form. Alternatively, please email finance@insignis.org.uk for further information.

The Kingsbrook School
Armstrongs Fields
Broughton
Aylesbury
BUckinghamshire
HP22 7BR

Tel: 01296 761401
www.kingsbrook.org.uk

The Mandeville School
Ellen Road
Stoke Mandeville
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP21 8ES

Tel: 01296 745400
www.mandeville.bucks.sch.uk

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School
Oxford Road

Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP21 8PE

Tel: 01296 424781
www.sirhenryfloyd.co.uk

Aylesbury Sixth Form