





Penistone Grammar School Post 16

Never Stop Flying

Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education



Never Stop Flying

"Penistone Grammar School Post-16 Centre is definitely the place to be. The staff are supportive and encouraging, and challenge you to achieve more than you think is possible at every stage of your A Level journey. There is so much going on outside your lessons to supplement your learning, and the atmosphere is amazing. I really can't imagine studying anywhere else."

We make your future success our priority and pride ourselves on the proportion of our students who are able to secure their first choice university place (on average, 95%). This includes those students progressing on to Russell Group universities and universities which are in the top third nationally (over four-times the average nationally)

Our personalised approach to learning and support ensures that even if you are a student who is applying to join us from another school, you will settle quickly into a fulfilling Post-16 experience.

We will give you access to excellent facilities, teaching of the highest quality and a support structure which will ensure a successful future is inevitable. Above all, we will encourage you to get the most from your Post-16 experience and ensure it is one that you will remember for the rest of your life.





Studying at PGS

We believe that your Post-16 experience extends beyond the classroom and we will strive to provide you with all the opportunities which, if embraced, will secure your future success.

As well as access to first class teaching facilities, our Post-16 Centre includes a large common room area in which to relax and work, a dedicated ICT suite which provides you with all-day access to internet-linked computers and a café which is open throughout the day serving hot and cold food and drinks.

Enrichment

Enrichment is a central part of what we do at Penistone. Not only will it form a key part of any UCAS application, signing up for the various enrichment programmes on offer will also develop your self-confidence, skills and leadership qualities. We have a range of opportunities available which include a student union and the chance to participate in a variety of sports teams, music and drama productions, work experience, the World Challenge and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Tutor Programme

It's no secret that A Levels are very different to GCSEs. Our bespoke tutor programme, based around the VESPA (Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice and Attitude) A Level mindset initiative, enables you to unlock the skills and attributes within you that you need to succeed. During tutorials there will also be a real focus on preparing you for life after Post-16. This will include careers guidance, where you will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers, higher apprenticeship providers and attend UCAS and apprenticeship fairs. We also offer specialised support for a variety of career paths including Oxbridge Medicine, Engineering, Teaching and Nursing.

Work Experience

We recognise the value universities and apprenticeship providers place upon work experience. As a year 12 student you will complete a one-week work experience programme in a workplace of your choosing. You will be encouraged to use the careerplanning tools within UNIFROG to help you to choose a suitable placement and will be supported to secure a work placement across a variety of fields. We will also encourage you to complete additional work experience and university engagement, often as part of the enrichment programme, or as a summer school or taster event. We know that by creating and facilitating opportunities across your two-year journey with us, you will be in the strongest possible position to move on to your next step beyond 18.

As a Post-16 Student at Penistone Grammar School, we guarantee we will provide the climate you need to succeed.

Why should you study with us?

Aim High

We believe you deserve excellent teaching, a 'Values Driven' approach to learning and to be part of a strong school what we provide, and the reason why we are one of the Nation's leading A Level providers.



Be Brave

Whether you are progressing into the Post-16 Centre or joining us from another school, with a dedicated team of staff and first class facilities, we guarantee that you will settle quickly into a Post-16 experience that is challenging, fulfilling and rewarding.

Be Supportive

your Post-16 journey with a tailored



Be Determined

Your Post-16 experience extends beyond the classroom; we will strive to provide you with the wider opportunities which make success inevitable. Enrichment is central in all we do, it forms a key part of any UCAS application and enables leadership qualities.



Be Proud

We pride ourselves on the high number of students securing excellent examination results and accessing their preferred progression routes. We will encourage you to get the most from your time with us, ensuring that your Post-16 experience is one you will remember for the rest of your life.



Page

08 Art

80 **Biology**

Business Studies

Course Index

11 Chemistry

12 Computing

13 Criminology

Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles

15 **Design & Technology: Product Design**

17 **Drama & Theatre Studies**

18 **English Language**

18 **English Literature**

English Language & Literature

21 **Further Mathematics**

22 Geography

23 **Government & Politics**

24 **History**

27 **Mathematics**

27 Media

28 **Modern Languages**

28 Music

Physical Education 31

31 **Physics**

32 Psychology

33 Sociology



Art

Explore your creativity and develop a range of practical skills inspired by your research of other art and design practitioners.

During this two year course, you will experience a variety of media, techniques and processes in both two and three dimensions. You will also explore the work of artists and designers, both past and present.

The first year will provide a strong and broad foundation to develop skills in a range of areas including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, mixed media, digital photography and digital media. During the second year you will be able to specialise in a narrower range of disciplines depending on your strengths and preferences. The use of a sketchbook underpins all practical investigations.

Coursework projects allow for independent and personalised responses and will develop you as a creative individual, fully equipped with the skills required for further study and for employment in a related field.

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)
A practical project supported by a written piece of work of up to 3,000 words.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%) Issued by AQA and conducted in 15 hours of supervised time.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Art can open the door to many Art/ Design-based Higher Education courses.

The department has a proven track record of academic success, with all students who applied for further or higher education successfully securing places.

This course provides an excellent foundation for any Art & Design career. You will also learn many skills that are transferable to other sectors.

Career Opportunities can include Fine Art, Fashion/ Creative Textiles, Sculpture, Animation, Theatre Set Design and Printmaking.

Biology

If you enjoyed GCSE Biology, have an interest in learning more in depth, complex biological processes and are considering studying a science-based subject at university, then this is the right course for you.

Biology is a demanding but fulfilling course. Throughout, you will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of scientific processes in a theoretical and practical context.

You will study Edexcel Advanced GCE Biology A (9BN0), studying 8 topics over two years. In your first year topics will include the cardiovascular system, gene expression and protein synthesis and structures of biological molecules. In year two, you will progress on to ecology, photosynthesis, immunity, microbiology, respiration and the nervous system.

You will develop your skills by completing a range of practical competencies, together with 18 core practical experiments. These will count towards a separate Science Practical Endorsement.

You will be assessed through three examinations at the end of your second year, each accounting for 33.33% of the total qualification:

Paper 1: The Natural Environment and Species Survival.

Paper 2: Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination.

Paper 3: General and Practical Applications in Biology.

You will find studying this course alongside another science advantageous.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

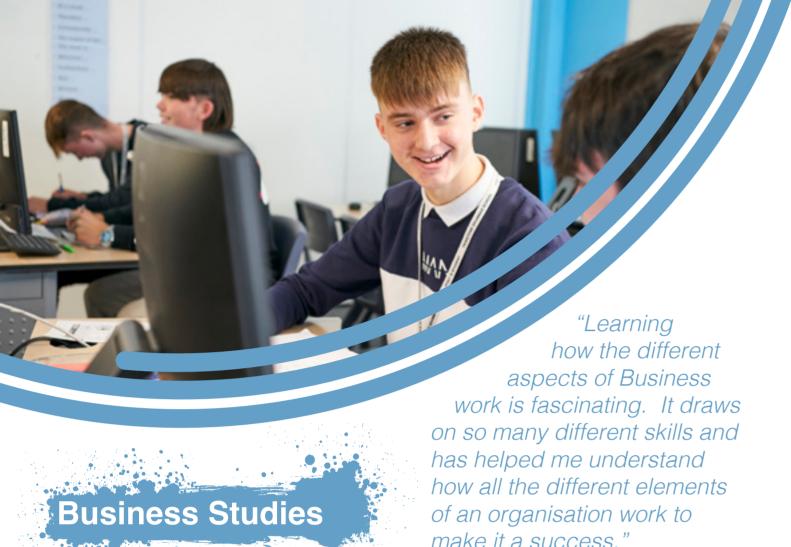
Biology is a facilitating subject. Choosing facilitating subjects at A Level leaves open a wide range of options for Post-18 choices.

It is a requirement for those who want to study Biological Sciences, Ecology, Genetics, Marine Biology, Microbiology, Midwifery, Neuroscience, Nursing, Physiology, Radiography & Zoology at degree level.

A Level Biology is also preferred but not essential for studying Pharmacology and Medicine. An A Level in Biology can lead to many career opportunities.



"The topics covered in Art help me to explore my creativity. The Teachers make the lessons engaging, have a clear love of the subject and a really indepth knowledge of different techniques which have enabled me to develop as an artist."



If you want to be a business leader, run your own business or achieve top management positions, this course will set you up for life.

In Business Studies you will explore the solutions to business problems that help firms succeed. You will understand the different types of organisations, how they operate and how they make a profit, alongside gaining a real understanding of how the business world operates. You will also be introduced to a wide range of new and existing business and economic models which will help give you a greater understanding of the business world from a theoretical perspective. By showing a future employer that you understand and appreciate how their operations work, you will be one step closer to achieving a successful career in ANY organisation you choose to work for.

In year one you will study three topics:

- A Background to Business
- Managers and Leaders
- Decision making in Marketing, Production, Human Resources and Finance

In year two you will cover a further three topics:

- The strategic position of a business
- Choosing a strategic direction to take and how to execute the strategy
- How to manage strategic change

You will also be tested on all the work covered across the two years to gain a full A Level.

This is a dynamic, fast paced and relevant course that continually focuses on the current business climate and which helps students appreciate and understand the theory that is taught.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Business can lead to degrees in Business Management, Accounting and Marketing.

Potential career routes underpinned by a Business qualification include Entrepreneurship, Banking and Finance, Sales and Marketing, Business Management, Accountancy, Human Resources, Production Management, Public Relations and Retail Management.

Chemistry

If you enjoy Chemistry and want to know more about how chemicals interact both naturally and in a laboratory, then Chemistry will appeal to you.

Chemistry is a challenging but rewarding subject and throughout the two years you will develop many new skills. A Level Chemistry combines theory with practical and analytical experience, encouraging imaginative, critical and logical thinking. You will have the opportunity to appreciate Chemistry and its relevance beyond the laboratory.

You will study the AQA specification, studying the three areas of physical, organic and inorganic chemistry, with practical work providing an investigative approach to your learning. There is a wide range of topics studied, ranging from the structure of the atom, to how to synthesise organic chemicals and how to calculate pH. At the end of year two there are three examinations based on theory and practical

Future Study and Career Opportunities

A qualification in Chemistry is highly valued and is a key subject for many degree courses, such as Medicine and Biochemistry. An A Level in Chemistry can directly lead to Higher Education opportunities in Dentistry, Forensic Science, Food Sciences, Petroleum Engineering, Meteorology and Material Technology. Most Biological and Environmental degrees require Chemistry.

As it requires analytical powers and academic rigour, Chemistry creates a suitable foundation for careers in Law, Accountancy and Economics.



Computing

Choosing an A Level in Computer Science will provide you with a stimulating programme of study fit for the 21st century. It will enable you to progress within the computing industry and equip you with the knowledge and skills required to continue into Higher Education, or on to industry-recognised qualifications with organisations such as Microsoft and Cisco.

The course focuses on effective programming techniques in Python and Pseudocode and builds on programming techniques studied in GCSE Computer Science.

At the core of the course is computational thinking. It will appeal to those who enjoy solving problems, designing systems and investigating human and machine intelligence.

As part of the course you will be given opportunity to investigate and debate recent advancements in computer science, for example AI.

You will learn how to apply the academic principles from in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging learning environment, with highly trained teachers.

Throughout, you will demonstrate how principles from other subjects such as Mathematics and Physics are combined with computational theory to enable computer, systems to process and store data.

In year one you will study:

- Characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage
- Software Development
- Enhanced programming skills combined with your NEA.

In year two you will study:

- Exchanging Data
- Data types, structures and algorithms
- Computational thinking and problem solving

To access an A Level in Computer Science you must achieve a minimum of Grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE. In addition, a Grade 5 or above in Computer Science at GCSE is essential.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

Higher Education courses accessible with an A Level in Computer Science include Computer Network Technologies, Computing and Games Programming. An A Level in Computer Science can lead to opportunities in careers such as ICT, Network Technician, Junior Programmer and Computer Forensics.



Criminology is the scientific study of the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of criminal behaviour.

As a student of Criminology, you will explore the different types of crime that occur in our society and why certain people are more likely, than others, to commit and be convicted of a criminal offense. You will also study how various police departments investigate crime, how crime is prosecuted, via our court system, and how it is punished.

If you wish to study Criminology, you will need a good foundation in English (minimum Grade 5 at GCSE). You will be assessed through two extended pieces of coursework and two external exams. Criminology is a course that works very well, and promotes excellent levels of understanding and progress, when studied alongside other Social Science disciplines such as A Level Psychology and Sociology. Your units of study will be:

Year 12 Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime Internally assessed assignment

This part of the course will allow you to understand a wide range of different crimes that are committed and the reasons why people may not always report such crimes.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories External exam

You will begin by looking at how we define crime by exploring the relationship between criminal behaviour and deviance. In addition, you will explore psychological and sociological explanations for criminal behaviour and what leads people to commit different types of crimes.

Year 13 Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom Internally assessed assignment

You will look at the different methods of investigating crime, including crime scene investigation and forensic science in order to justify their effectiveness in criminal investigations. You will then analyse how the evidence gathered is used within the criminal trial process in order to reach a guilty or not guilty verdict.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment External exam

In this unit you will study types of punishment for criminal behaviour, why we use these various methods and how effective they are. You will also look at the different agencies who work to stop people getting involved in criminal activity or prevent those with previous convictions from re-offending.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

Criminology is a course that links well to degree level courses such as Law, Politics, Psychology, Sociology and Forensic Science.

In addition, this qualification enables learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within many aspects of the Criminal Justice System, Social Work, Counselling or Police Force.





Design Technology: Fashion & Textiles

Fashion & Textiles A Level examines the social, economic, and technological elements which influence the textiles industry. Through studying this course you will gain an understanding of how market forces have driven consumer choices relating to fashion and the functional use of fibres and fabrics. You will develop a wide variety of pattern drafting skills alongside many new techniques and skills to ensure you are knowledgeable and prepared for any further education courses within the Fashion and Textiles Industry.

You will benefit most from a GCE in Fashion and Textiles Technology if you have already studied a textile subject at GCSE and achieved a Grade 9 to 6. Through your studies you will have the opportunity to develop new and complex skills, working with a wide range of textile materials and equipment. You will be encouraged, with the support of your teachers who you will find approachable and willing to offer help

and advice, to take responsibility for your own work. Coursework is a large part of this course and there is significant use of ICT for research and presentation purposes.

A Levels have moved to a linear approach meaning that all examinations and assessments are taken at the end of the 2 year course.

Paper 1: Technical Principles (30% of final grade) **Paper 2:** Designing and Making Principles (20% of final grade)

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA 50% of final grade)

This will be a substantial design-and-make project consisting of a written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of your final piece. An A Level in Design Technology: Fashion and Textiles will compliment subjects such as Product Design, Science, Mathematics, Business Studies, ICT and Art.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Fashion & Textiles can lead to Higher Education and career opportunities in courses such as Textiles, Fashion and Interior Design. Textile Technology can lead to careers in Management, Marketing and Sales, Advertising, Administration, Retailing, Design, Technical Manufacture, Fashion, Textile Design, Textile Conservation, Theatre, TV and Film Production and Fashion Journalism.

Design & Technology: Product Design

Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This course will encourage you to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs. You will design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

You would benefit most from this course if you have already studied Design & Technology at GCSE and achieved a Grade 5, or an equivalent Level 2 vocational qualification to merit standard.

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology

For the first course component you will study the "Principles of Design and Technology" which will be assessed through a 2.5 hour examination, contributing 50% to your final grade. The first component will cover the following elements:

- Materials
- Performance characteristics of materials
- Processes and techniques
- Digital technologies
- Factors influencing the development of products
- Effects of technological developments
- Potential hazards and risk assessment
- Features of manufacturing industriesDesigning for maintenance and the
- Current legislation

cleaner environment

- Information handling, modelling and forward planning
- Further processes and techniques

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Product

Component two will be your "Independent Design and Make Product". This will be a non-examined assessment (NEA) which will contribute 50% to your final grade. For this element you will produce a substantial design, make and evaluate project which will consist of a portfolio of evidence and a final prototype product.

There will be four parts to the assessment, covering the identification of a design problem, developing the design, making the prototype and evaluating both the design and the final prototype.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Design & Technology: Product Design can lead to courses in Design, Mechanical Engineering and Product Design.

Product Design can lead to careers in most areas of engineering including Mechanical, Electrical and Systems Engineering, as well as Product Design, Industrial Design, Production Management and Manufacturing.





Drama & Theatre Studies

Do you have you a passion for theatre, stories and performance? Do you have questions about how people live their diverse lives, social justice, entertainment and the big questions of our time? If so, this course is for you.

This A Level is a strongly practical course with theatre-making at its heart, underpinned by rigorous academic standards. It is an active, creative course which grows your enthusiasm and expertise as a theatre-maker, critic, actor, writer, designer, analyst and as an audience member. We explore the past and the present through exciting classic and contemporary writers, plays, companies and practitioners.

Unit 1: Theatre Workshop 20% / 60 marks

You will create a piece of unique theatre based on an extract from a published play text explored and reconstructed using the techniques or an influential theatre practitioner or recognised theatre company. This will involve research, development, reflection and assessed performance.

There are **two parts** to the assessment:

- 1) A 1200 1500 word creative log justifying process decisions
- 2) The performance

Unit 2: Text in Performance 40% / 120 marks

You will rehearse and perform two pieces externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Both will be inspired and informed by the same set stimulus. Your devised piece will apply the methods of an influential theatre practitioner or theatre company. Your scripted piece will be from a published text in a different style to the devised piece.

There are **two parts** to the assessment:

- 1. A Process and Evaluation Log of 1300 1600 words analysing both rehearsal processes and performances commenting on connections between theory and practice, and to what extent you met your artistic intentions.
- 2. Both performances

Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice 40% / 120 marks

You will sit one written exam of 2hrs and 30 mins. Learners study three plays and refer to a range of practitioners and live performances to access top band marks.

Section A: 40 marks on your first text (learners take in a clean copy)

Based on rehearsal and characterisation of one set text, in a series of questions.

Section B: 40 marks on your second text (learners take in a clean copy)

One essay demonstrating interpretation for a contemporary audience considering context, original performance conditions, structure, and performance impact.

Section C: 40 marks on a pre-release extract from a third text

One essay (including diagrams) demonstrating understanding of creating live theatre as performers, directors and designers.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

A good A Level in Drama/Theatre Studies will open doors for any drama or theatre graduate or vocational course, (in acting, design and arts related specialisms) as well as being welcome in fields of English, Humanities, Law, Media, Journalism, Education, Events Management, Arts Therapies, Advertising, Public Relations, Human Resources, Business and Politics, and any profession that values expert understanding and knowledge, empathy, curiosity, communication, collaboration, problem solving, creativity, a work ethic, a sense of humour and leadership.

English Language

Why do we use the words 'princess' and 'madam' to describe someone who is being a nuisance, when the words 'prince' and 'sir' have only positive connotations? Can you explain the grammar of text messaging? Do you ever read newspaper headlines and consider how the writer conveys opinion?

English Language is a challenging and dynamic course that explores the links between language and gender, occupation, region and social groups, as well as giving you the basic tools of analysis that you need in order to understand how English works all around us. You will be learning about lexis, grammar, phonology, semantics and pragmatics

and making links across texts, as well as learning theories in order to deepen your understanding of language. You will learn how children acquire and develop their language, why we don't speak like Shakespeare anymore, and question the popular belief that language is in decline. In addition to this, you will have the opportunity to carry out your own Language Investigation and piece of Original Writing as part of your coursework.

You will learn about:

- How texts can be compared and contrasted.
- How society influences language
- Different writing styles and techniques and how you can recreate them.
- Child Language Acquisition
- The influence parents might have on the way children learn to communicate
- Language Change
- Language Diversity
- Language and gender

Future Study and Career Opportunities

Higher Education opportunities following successful completion of the course include English, Creative Writing and Cultural Studies.





Do you have a love of reading and a critical mind? This demanding but rewarding course will encourage you to read a wide variety of British and American literature.

Texts currently studied cover both modern and classic periods, ranging from the 1600s to the 21st century. The best universities and high-powered professions, such as Law, prize the analytical skills this course will give you above many others. It fits well with other Humanities A Levels such as History and Social Sciences such as Sociology and Psychology. You will begin the course with the study of some of the most iconic literature in the English

language including prose, poetry and drama. This will build on your close analysis skills from GCSE and allow you to begin to interpret texts independently and offer alternative ideas and theories. Writers such as Shakespeare and Bronte, alongside many modern writers, will be studied. Independent study will also allow you to pursue a detailed and sustained analysis of an area of literature of particular interest to you in a piece of extended coursework, to develop original and creative responses to a range of literary texts

The breadth of literature studied encourages you to become a critical reader and will give you the confidence to approach any text with an open mind and a wealth of knowledge.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in English Literature can lead to Higher Education opportunities in courses such as English, Creative Writing and Cultural Studies. Careers such as Publishing, Advertising and Public Relations benefit from a qualification in English Literature.





English Language & Literature

This subject bridges the gap between language and literary study, offering you the best of both worlds.

Students will analyse all kinds of texts from non-fiction articles and transcripts to some of the most influential works of literature which will be informed by a secure understanding of how language is constructed and how it works. You will study how writers use language in different contexts for an ever-shifting variety of audiences and purposes, in order to create distinctive styles. You will also have the opportunity to create your own original texts and reflect analytically upon your methods of composition.

In the first year, you will study three set texts (An AQA Anthology of non-fiction texts, one novel and a collection of poetry) and consider them through the themes of Remembered Places, Imagined Worlds and Poetic Voices.

In the second year, you will produce creative writing in response to a novel on the theme of Society and you will study a work of drama through the theme of Conflict. In addition to this, you will carry out an original analytical investigation into an issue/theme in language and literature. You will be encouraged in your own wider reading, and to develop your familiarity with the course authors by reading around the set texts.

English Language & Literature requires you to take a serious-minded interest in both stories and in language, developing a wide-ranging analytical vocabulary involving grammatical, rhetorical and structural techniques. You will, therefore, develop your analytical essay writing skills, but significant emphasis is also placed on developing your powers of independent research and of linguistic creativity.

A respected academic subject, English Language & Literature is often combined with other Humanities subjects like History and Politics, or with Media and Film Studies, but it also goes well with Social Sciences and with Languages - it is extremely flexible.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in English Language & Literature can lead to Higher Education opportunities in English, Creative Writing and Cultural Studies. English Language & Literature is extremely flexible in terms of supporting future careers: it can lead towards Journalism and the Media, but also towards Publishing, Law, Therapy, Advertising, as well as towards teaching and academic life.

Further Mathematics

What is an imaginary number? Why can we achieve higher acceleration at lower speeds than at higher speeds? What is the difference between Maths and Further Maths? Further Mathematics is designed to extend the knowledge acquired at GCSE in more abstract and complicated ways than A Level Mathematics allows for.

If you are thinking of taking Mathematics or Engineering courses at University, then Further Mathematics is always useful and can sometimes be a requirement.

The new Edexcel Further Mathematics A Level consists of four papers of equal credit, taken at the end of year 13.

Papers 1 and 2: Pure Mathematics

Topics include:



Topics include:

- Momentum and Impulse
- Work, Energy and Power
- Elasticity

Paper 4: Decision Mathematics

Topics include:

- Algorithms
- Graph Theory

To access Further Mathematics at A Level you are required to achieve a Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics. You are required to take this course alongside an A Level in Mathematics.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Further Mathematics will support future study opportunities in Mathematics, Physics, Biomedical Science, Molecular Biology, Engineering (Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical), Aerospace, Computer Science, Economics. An A Level in Further Mathematics is often an entry requirement for science-based qualifications.

Career opportunities include Scientific Research, Accountancy and Finance, Computer Science, Teaching and many more!





Geography

"The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together." President Barack Obama

We will be following the AQA Geography course in which you study two human and two physical geography topics each year. In addition you will study geographical skills such as map work, data presentation and investigation skills. You will carry out geographical fieldwork which will be assessed through the submission of an independent investigation at the end of year 13.

In year 12 you will study the following topics:

Unit 1: Physical Geography: Water and Carbon Cycles

Unit 2: Human Geography: Changing Places and Contemporary Urban Environments.

In year 13 you will study the following topics:

Unit 1: Physical Geography: Hazards, Coastal Systems and Landscapes

Unit 2: Human Geography: Global Systems and Global Governance

Unit 3: Independent Geographical Investigation You will have two teachers throughout the year and you will learn through a variety of teaching styles:

 Classroom activities such as teacher presentation, discussion, note making, group work, videos, student presentations and through ICT.

- Independent work such as research, case study investigations and wider reading.

Fieldwork Opportunities

There will be an opportunity for fieldwork as part of the course with a 3 day/2 night residential in North Yorkshire in preparation for the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) which contributes 20% towards your final grade. This course also offers an optional enrichment study visit to New York City in April 2022.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

Higher Education Geography Graduates are amongst the most sought after in the place of work. A qualification in Geography can lead to careers in Town Planning, Travel, Tourism, Media and Environmental Protection.

Government & Politics

Government and Politics fosters debate and lateral thinking which not only create success at A Level, but also well rounded students who are prepared for the challenge of university.

Due to the dynamic nature of the subject, students are encouraged to become involved in political events. Additionally, the department organises a visit to the Houses of Parliament and areas of political interest in London. To complement this our constituency Member of Parliament visits school to enlighten students about the intricacies of the Westminster Village and its incumbents.

In year 12 you will gain an overview of the political and electoral systems in the UK, developing a strong understanding of how our system works, as well as evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of these processes. You will also explore the origins of our Constitution and key institutions such as the role of the Cabinet, Lords and the Judiciary. "Why people vote in the way that they do" is also a key question that we cover in year 12 and you will be expected to refer to recent events such as the 2015 General Election, the 2014 Scottish Referendum for independence and, most recently, the EU Referendum to explain your views. You will also study political ideologies across both years.

In the second half of the course you will study the Politics of the USA and identify similarities and differences between our system and the one in the States. You will research and investigate the role of pressure groups in American society, as well as the important roles of the President, Congress and the Supreme Court.

If you opt to study A Level Government and Politics you must have a keen interest in current affairs and follow political developments as they arise. You will be expected to read a high quality newspaper on a regular basis, watch BBC or Channel 4 news, as well as other political programmes such as News Night, Question Time and The Politics Show. In addition, students should engage with social media in order to track politicians' views and keep abreast of new announcements. Debate and discussion are key features of Government and Politics lessons so it is important that you are fully informed so that you engage appropriately in your lessons.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

This course can lead to Higher Education opportunities in Politics and International Relations and will open the doors to a variety of careers including those within the Civil Service, Human Resources, Diplomatic Services, Public Affairs and Market Research.





History is diverse, engaging and thought provoking. The course covers key periods of History and provides a strong foundation to build upon for students who go on to study the subject at University.

This course will offer you a wide range of historical perspectives to study and explore with key topics spanning from the origins of the Russian Revolution in the late 1800s, to the inauguration of President Obama in 2009. Modules have been chosen to inspire you so that you can share our enthusiasm for the subject and understand its intrinsic value and significance in today's ever-changing world.

In year 12 you will study a British History unit. You will look closely at the social, economic and political change in Britain under two very important Prime Ministers, William Pitt and Robert Peel. The course starts in the aftermath of the American and French Revolutions which sent great shock waves across Britain as more radical viewpoints were heard. We will investigate how the Prime Ministers dealt with these important issues, as well as the growing threat from abroad, the problem of poverty and the campaign to win the right to vote.

The second module explores the Russian Revolution, taking you through the origins of the uprising and the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. You will research the extent of opposition and discontent within the country and explore what happened next with the establishment of a Provisional Government and the Communist regime under the autocratic leadership of Lenin and Stalin.

As well as the two topics covered in year 12, in year 13 you will be required to sit a further examination and submit a historical enquiry set in advance by the exam board. The examined unit covers a wide period of American History starting with the emancipation of the slaves in the USA and the subsequent battle that African-Americans faced in their quest to achieve equality. As well as looking at the development of rights of African Americans in the USA, you will also investigate the position of Native Americans, workers and women to reach conclusions on how far their position improved between 1865 and 1992.

Finally, you will be given the opportunity to independently research a key topic, identify your own lines of enquiry within key historical debates and reach clear and sustained judgements throughout. This topic will link to your Y12 work on the study of Soviet Russia, particularly considering the role of Stalin in the Second World War. You research will lead to you to writing a final extended essay exploring. Your teacher will support you through this process, but the overall approach will be similar to writing an undergraduate essay.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in History can lead to future study opportunities in History, Law, Journalism, Education, Politics and International Relations.

The skills learned from studying History underpin a variety of careers in a range of sectors including Law, Politics, the Civil Service, with the Police Force, Teaching and Journalism.

"History is a hugely respected and acclaimed A Level subject by universities. The topics we study are all really interesting and the teachers offer lots of valuable support. I heartily recommend it."





"I would recommend everyone considers studying maths as it helps you to understand so much more outside the subject. It is challenging but I had the support of my teachers throughout the course who were dedicated to ensuring I succeeded."

Mathematics

When is algebra used in everyday life? How are logarithms and population growths related? Why do airlines overbook flights? Questions such as these are just some of the problems we will seek to answer through A Level Mathematics.

Mathematics is one of the most sought-after skills in the world today. Studying A Level Mathematics builds on the skills acquired at GCSE and naturally progresses your understanding of key principles, as well as introducing new concepts such as calculus. The new Edexcel Mathematics A Level consists of three papers of equal credit, all taken at the end of year 13.

Papers 1 and 2: Pure Mathematics Topics include:

- Coordinate Geometry
- Algebra and Functions

- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- Vectors
- Exponentials and Logarithms
- Numerical Methods

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics Topics include:

- Statistical Sampling
- Data Representation and Interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical Distributions
- Statistical Hypothesis Testing
- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics

You will need to achieve a Grade 6 or above at GCSE to access A Level Mathematics.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Mathematics can lead to Higher Education opportunities in Mathematics, Physics, Biomedical Science, Molecular Biology, Engineering (Mechanical, Chemical and Electrical), Aerospace, Computer Science and Economics. An A Level in Mathematics is often an entry requirement for science-based subjects.



The media is the most dynamic, innovative and influential method of mass communication of modern times. It has been reported that adults in Great Britain are consuming media for almost 8 hours a day.

That's 8 hours a day watching films and television, reading newspapers, and sifting through online media. Within that time, we are bombarded by other people's representations of the world and how we respond to these representations can affect our perceptions of people, places and society, of politics and culture, of ourselves and of our place in the world. Media Studies is a vital tool necessary to understanding the media's significance and its power. Media Studies allows you to experience a dynamic and exciting journey covering multiple aspects of 21st Century Media.

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

Component 1 (Written Exam)

News and Online Media (Daily Mail vs Guardian) Magazines (The Big Issue) Advertising and marketing (Lucozade; Old Spice; Shelter) Music videos (Emeli Sande & David Guetta)

Component 2 (Written Exam)

Radio (BBC Radio One Breakfast Show)
Games (Minecraft)
Films (The Jungle Book from 1967 and 2016)
Television Drama (Stranger Things & Deutschland 83)

Component 3 (Coursework)

As part of a set project you will research, plan and develop a media product. This could be a magazine cover, podcast or music video which will have a 2-page website to accompany it.

You will also have the opportunity to apply what you have learned through the production of your own media texts, exploring and creating media forms such as music videos, magazines, television, websites and film marketing.

To access an A Level in Media Studies you must achieve a minimum of Grade 6 in English at GCSE. In addition, a Grade 5 or above in Media or Creative iMedia at GCSE is desirable.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

Further/Higher Education opportunities include Media Production, Information Technology, Design and Social Science. The course is very popular and is a superb steppingstone to careers in Journalism, Film and Cinematography, Advertising, Sound and Lighting or Photography.



Modern Languages

Studying French or Spanish at A Level will give practical competency as well as providing a basis for further study. We will expect you to be keen to develop your skills and to be increasingly independent in your studies. Motivation, commitment and enthusiasm for the subject are essential.

The A Level course is designed to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills you have gained at GCSE. It has a focus on language, culture and society as well as on grammar. You will develop a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

In year 1 we will cover a variety of topic areas including:

- Aspects of French/Spanish-speaking society: current trends
- Artistic culture in the French/Spanish-speaking world
- The study of a film

In year 2, you will study the following topics:

- Aspects of French/Spanish-speaking society:
- Aspects of political life in the French/Spanishspeaking world
- The study of a set text

You will sit exams which will cover all four skills:

- Listening, reading and writing exam, to include translation to and/or from English
- Writing exam, based on the texts or film studied
- Speaking exam

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in French or Spanish can lead to Higher and Further study opportunities in Foreign Languages and International Studies. A qualification in a foreign language is recognised as being valuable across a variety of sectors including Translation & Interpreting, Travel & Tourism, Hospitality, Journalism and Teaching.

Music

A Level Music is a subject which will allow you to further develop the listening, composing and performing skills that you will have acquired through studying GCSE Music.

Component 1: Performing (30%)

Final Performance of 10-12 minutes (solo or ensemble or both) of Grade 6 standard – Non Examined Coursework marked by external examiner.

Component 2: Composing (30%)

Two compositions; the first will be a free choice and the second will be to a chosen brief (non-examined assessment (NEA)).

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

Covering two to four set works and three areas of study: listening; analysis and essay writing. You will be assessed through a 2.5 hour exam.

To fulfil your potential at A Level Music it is essential that you are regularly involved within the school's extra-curricular activities and musical performance opportunities in the wider community.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

A Level Music can lead to a variety of degree courses in Higher Education ranging from Pop, Music and Production to Performance.

Career opportunities open to you following an A Level in this subject include Session Work, Entertainment, Arts, Journalism, Film Music Composition, Advertising and Media.



"Studying Music at Penistone Grammar School Post-16 Centre has been the best decision I could have made. Having the opportunity to immerse myself in the subject and being encouraged by my teachers to spend as much time as I can in the Music department, surrounded by the fantastic facilities and people with a shared passion, have absolutely enriched my experience."



Physical Education

If you have a passion for historical, physiological, sociological, psychological and biomechanical elements of sport, as well as an up to date knowledge of contemporary and current issues in the industry then this is the course for you.

You will need to demonstrate a high level of motivation and commitment to work independently, demonstrating a desire to succeed.

You will be assessed practically in the fully competitive version of one sport as either a performer or coach. You will also be assessed theoretically across six areas; three in Paper 1 and three in Paper 2. Success in A Level PE is heavily reliant on your willingness and ability to compete or coach regularly in sport.

Paper 1: (35% of final grade)

Section A - Applied Anatomy & Physiology

Section B - Skill Acquisition

Section C - Sport & Society

Paper 2: (35% of final grade)

Section A - Exercise Physiology & Biomechanics

Section B - Sport Psychology

Section C - Sport & Society and Technology in Sport

Practical Performance: (15% of final grade)

Practical performance in/through the fully competitive version of one sport as either a performer or coach (internally assessed and moderated by AQA). This will be submitted via a video recording of at least three fully competitive events/games which are compiled and filmed by you in your own time. This video recording must be ready for assessment by the spring term of year 13. You will be assigned a practical teacher/mentor who will support you with this.

Performance Analysis & Evaluation: (15% of final grade)

Written and/or verbal account of analysis & evaluation of self (internally assessed and moderated by AQA).

Future Study and Career Opportunities

This course can lead on to a variety of physical education and sports study-related courses in Higher Education.

Careers in Teaching, Coaching, Sports Development, Recreational Management, Health, Leisure and Fitness, the Leisure Industry and Professional Sports are all supported by an A Level in Sport.

Physics

Physics is taught in our well-equipped laboratories by experienced teachers who pride themselves on the amount of support and guidance they provide to students.

This course will help you to:

- Progress smoothly from GCSE on to A Levels
- Develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principles of physics
- Gain hands-on practical and data analysis skills
- Appreciate 'How Science Works' and its relevance beyond the laboratory
- See how Physics links to other sciences and how the subject underpins important technologies

This course will appeal to students who are curious about how things work on every scale, from the smallest particles to the ends of the universe, and to those who enjoy solving applied mathematical problems.

Students will work individually or in small groups and learn through a number of different approaches including practical experiments, problem solving, research, teacher explanations and demonstrations.

This AQA Physics course is a well-respected qualification with a good mixture of topics.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

This qualification can provide a stepping stone to further studies in Physics, including university degrees.

A Level Physics supports careers in Communications, Environment and Climate, the Energy Sector, Medicine, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Law and Finance.



mental disorders, such as depression and phobias, and how these disorders can be treated.

Paper 2

Approaches: how psychologists investigate and explain human behaviour. This unit evaluates whether our behaviour is due to our biology or our environment.

Biopsychology: the ways in which the brain and neurotransmitters influence our behaviours, thoughts and feelings.

Research methods: the methods psychologists employ to gather data on behaviour.

Paper 3

Schizophrenia: the causes, explanations and treatments of schizophrenia.

Forensics: why do people commit crimes? How do we try and catch offenders? How do we deal with offenders once caught?

Gender: what do we mean by gender and sex? How does our gender develop? Why do some people have

atypical gender?

Issues and Debates: where does psychology fit in a range of interesting issues and debates?

Future Study and Career Opportunities

Psychology is a multi-disciplinary A Level and therefore complements a variety of other areas of study, from the natural sciences and maths to the arts and humanity-based subjects.

Career opportunities include Medicine, Teaching, Counselling, Occupational Psychology, Sport & Exercise Psychology and Health Psychology.



Sociology is the academic study of social behaviour; it focuses on how both individuals and groups are influenced by institutions such as the family and education.

The subject matter is diverse and ranges from dysfunction and deviance to beliefs and the notions of dominance and fundamentalism. Unifying these key areas of study is Sociology's main objective: to understand the extent to which human behaviour and action both shape and are shaped by surrounding social and cultural structures. It empowers students to be able to ask and answer key questions regarding social justice such as who and what is responsible for groups of students failing to achieve, increasing crime levels and domestic violence.

Students wishing to study A Level Sociology require a good foundation in English (minimum Grade 5 at GCSE), in order to investigate and analyse, via extended writing.

Students will work towards being assessed in three advanced level examinations:

This paper investigates how variables, such as social class, ethnicity and gender, can shape outcomes. It examines and educational evaluates how research methods and theoretical perspectives are employed to interpret the effects government policies, factors and home circumstances student

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

- Topic 1 Families and Households The focus of this unit is on which types of families are common, whether there is such a thing as a 'normal' family and the damage that can be done within the private sphere of family life.
- Topic 2 Beliefs in Society This unit concentrates on the significance of religion in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of a reduction in religious beliefs, the spread of religious fundamentalism as well as questioning if science has reduced the need for religion.

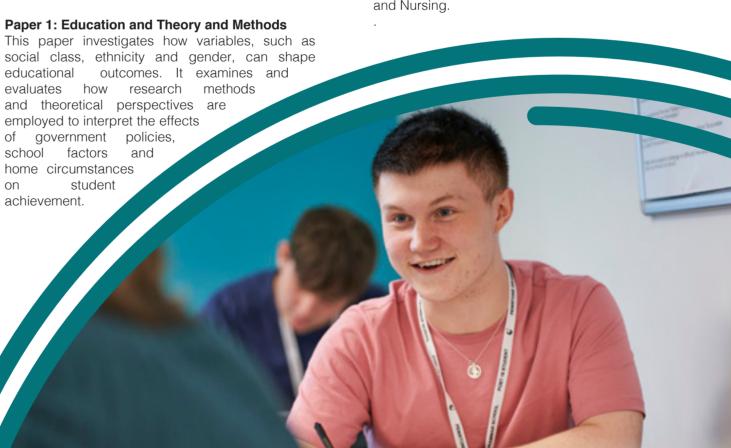
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

This paper looks at the various theories on why people commit crimes, the differences in the profiles of criminals, why certain people are more likely to commit a crime or be labelled as a criminal and how our definition of what is criminal has changed with new technology.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Sociology can lead to Higher Education courses in Sociology, Social Policy, Psychology, Journalism, Law and Criminology.

Sociology supports careers in Law, Business, Teaching, Research, Journalism, Police, Social Work and Nursing.



Psychology is the scientific study of the

Psychology

human mind and behaviour: it focuses on why we think, feel, act and interact as we do both as individuals and as members of a social group.

As an A Level Psychology student you will be given the opportunity to study the core areas of Psychology, as well as having the option to specialise in topics such as mental illness and criminology. You will also experience what it is like to be a research psychologist; planning and carrying out practical investigations into areas such as memory.

Students wishing to study A Level Psychology will need a good foundation in English (minimum Grade 5 at GCSE). 10% of the course involves application and analysis of mathematical data so students are required to have a Grade 5 at GCSE in this subject or study core mathematics.

Students will work towards being assessed in three advanced level examinations:





New Courses from September 2023

Never Stop Flying

Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

Extended Project Qualification Mark Andrews

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is designed to develop the academic skills of students and allows for students to develop a research project in a subject area of their choice. This may come from an existing subject studied at A level or it may go beyond the curriculum, including areas of study at degree level. It compliments existing A levels perfectly and allows students to gain an insight into the skills required beyond Post-

Students complete a project which takes the form of a Production Log charting their progress and a 5,000-word written report.

During the EPQ, students will learn to:

Manage - identify, design, plan, and complete a project applying organisational skills and strategies to meet their stated objectives.

- Use resources/research obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply it relevantly, and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate connections and complexities of their topic.
- Develop and realise use a range of skills, including using new technologies, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve their aims.
- Review evaluate the outcome, including their learning and performance.

At the start of the course students will be required to attend study skills session designed to give students the skills required to complete the project successfully. This will include planning, research skills, referencing, report writing and presenting to an audience.

Students are assessed on the final product of their project and on the process itself. There is no examination for the EPQ. The qualification will assess the students' ability to manage, develop, record, realise and evaluate their projects.

During the process, students will develop as independent, reflective learners and acquire knowledge and transferable skills that are invaluable for further study and the workplace. Universities support and value the EPQ as evidence of a student's ability to use a range of skills that are vital for successful study in higher education. The qualification is graded A* -E and is worth half of an A Level e.g. 28 UCAS points for an A*.



thought, to grappling with contemporary ethical issues, this subject is designed to enthuse learners who like to ponder life's biggest questions and challenge the theories of academics alike.

The course is separated into three major disciplines: The Study of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

Future Study and Career Opportunities

An A Level in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is relevant to a number of careers within public services. health care and medicine, politics, international aid/ development, social work, youth work, teaching and journalism. Students often progress to study other humanities subjects within higher education such as History, Philosophy, Theology, English and Politics. The transferable skills in this subject involve critical thinking, academic writing, problem solving and articulate communication. You will gain a deeper awareness of society, which will help you to better understand, support and relate to people from different walks of life.

Religion

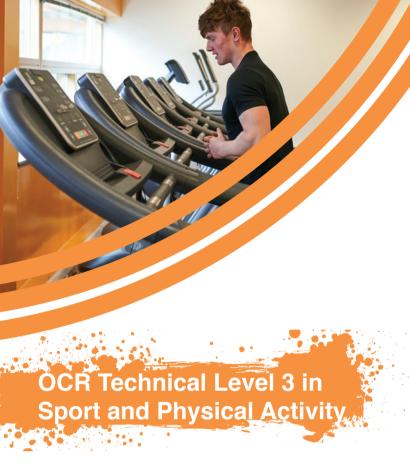
You will study one major world religion, related figures and texts. Here you will develop an understanding of the diversity within religious traditions and the ways in which this can impact identity and behaviour. Opportunities to challenge religious thought by exploring criticisms will also enable you to express your own beliefs and values. For example, analysing the context of religion in secular society and other significant social and historical developments.

Philosophy

Students will study ancient philosophical influences and their responses to the arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering and the validity of religious experiences. Students will gain a substantial understanding of the works of ancient philosophical scholars and make comparisons between these and contemporary thought. You will explore questions of morality, human behaviour and how these are influenced by our experiences with the world.

Ethics is the fundamental study of the moral principles which guide our human behaviour. You will be required to think deeply about what intrinsically constitutes as moral behaviour and analyse the academic theories related to moral decision making. You will guestion the intrinsic principles which are believed to guide our choices when faced with issues of life, death, and relationships. You will also explore the extent of which humans are considered free agents with full moral responsibility, or rather determined by biological and social factors.

If you wish to study Religion, Philosophy and Ethics a GCSE in RE is desirable but not essential. The course does require you to have gained a minimum of a grade 5 in English. This course is assessed through examinations only.



If you have a passion for sport and physical activity in a range of different areas such as sports events, sports leadership, sport psychology and many more then this course is for you.

You will be assessed in a variety of different units, each of which is assessed using the same framework of a pass, merit or distinction. The diploma offered is equivalent to 2 A-Levels and over the course you will study the following units:

Body systems and the Effects of Physical Activity (Exam)

An understanding of the structures and functions of the key body systems, how these support and impact performance in sport and physical activity and the effects that physical activity, training and lifestyle can have on them.

Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership (Written and Practical)

The theory of what makes good sports coaches and activity leaders and methods that can be employed to improve the performance of participants. You will explore the roles and responsibilities of coaches and leaders and how these differ from each other and others involved in delivering and teaching sport and physical activity.

Sports Organisation and Development (Exam)

Understanding the organisations involved in sport in the UK, their roles and responsibilities and how they work together. You will also gain an understanding of sports development, who sports development is targeted at and why, how sports development is carried out and how the success of sports development initiatives can be measured

Organisation and Sports Events (Written and Practical)

Designed for you to develop skills in planning, promoting and delivering a sports event, this unit will enable you to establish transferrable skills which can be used within sport and active leisure

as well as within the fitness industry. It will also enhance skills such as team work, organisation and safeguarding awareness.

Practical Skills in Sport and Physical Activities (Written and Practical)

Providing opportunity to participate in a number of different sports and outdoor and adventurous activities, this unit allows you to experience first-hand situations that you may later be coaching or leading.

Working Safely in Sport, Exercise, Health and Leisure (Exam)

You will gain an understanding of key safety requirements to be able to ensure your own, and your clients' safety. Topics include: understanding key health and safety legislations, knowing how to administer emergency first aid, understanding roles, responsibilities and reporting duties in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and finally, knowledge of key health and safety documents, including how to carry out risk assessments.

Performance Analysis in Sport and Exercise (Written and Practical)

You will develop the skills and knowledge required to carry out performance profiling and analysis and deliver feedback to the performers in a manner that is suitable for them.

Physical Activity for Specific Groups (Written and Practical)

You will develop a knowledge and understanding of the different groups of individuals who would benefit physiologically, psychologically and sociologically from participating in physical activity and why these particular groups are targeted by initiatives.

Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation (Written and Practical)

How to recognise and treat common sports injuries both immediately and through long-term rehabilitation programmes, the possible psychological impacts of sports injuries and how to minimise the risk of sports injuries occurring in the first instance.

Health and Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise (Written and Practical)

Covering a range of fitness tests, what they test and their advantages and disadvantages. You will learn how to complete client consultations which will give you the background knowledge you need about a client to be able to plan and deliver appropriate fitness tests. You will also interpret the data acquired from fitness tests and understand how best to feed this back so that the client can go on to make informed decisions about their health and fitness training.

Sport and Exercise Psychology (Written and Practical)

Understanding the different motivations that people have for participating in sport and exercise and how performance can be managed through an understanding of attribution theory, stress and group dynamics.



Principal: P Crook (B.Ed Hons) Huddersfield Road, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 7BX

Tel: 01226 762114

Email: post16@penistone-gs.uk Website: www.penistone-gs.uk

How to Apply

Entry Requirements

To secure a place at our Post-16 Centre you will need five or more GCSE passes at Grade 5 or above and a minimum of a Grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics. You will also need a Grade 5 at GCSE (or equivalent vocational qualification) for most subjects you want to study at A Level.

For new subjects not previously studied at GCSE, for example; Criminology, Government and Politics, Psychology and Sociology you must have achieved a Grade 5 in English Language. To study Psychology you also need a Grade 5 in Mathematics or be willing to study Core Mathematics. Notwithstanding this, if you are applying to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics you must achieve a minimum of Grade 6 in the respective science at GCSE, or at least 6-6 in the Combined Trilogy Course, as well as (for Biology and Chemistry) a Grade 5 or higher in Mathematics or (for Physics) a Grade 6 at GCSE.

For Further Mathematics A Level you will require a Grade 8 at GCSE Mathematics.

Application Process

Application forms should be completed online through the school website (www.penistone-gs.uk). Alternatively you can downloaded a paper copy from the school website and post your completed form to: Mr Stevens (Assistant Principal: Post-16) Penistone Grammar School, Post-16 Centre Penistone, Sheffield, S36 7BX

The deadline for applications is February half term.

Please direct all enquiries to post-16@penistone-gs.uk.









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Sheffield, S36 7BX Tel: 01226 762114

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