



BOLTON
SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION

A Level Courses
Years 12 & 13

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GIRLS' DIVISION
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BOLTON SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM

A LEVEL SUBJECTS



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

Choosing your A Levels is one of the most exciting decisions you will make as you prepare for Sixth Form. For the first time, you can focus on the subjects that interest you most and build a programme around your strengths, interests and future ambitions.

At Bolton School, we offer a broad range of A Level subjects, allowing you to combine familiar subjects with new ones that you may not have had the opportunity to study at GCSE.

Your choices matter, but you don't have to make them alone. Subject teachers and the Sixth Form team will help you understand what different courses involve and whether they are right for you. If you already have a university course, degree apprenticeship or career in mind, our Futures Team can advise whether there are subjects you should consider taking.

When making your choices, think about the subjects you enjoy, the areas in which you are likely to thrive and where your choices might take you next.

Above all, choose a combination that will give you an engaging and rewarding two years of study.

DISCOVER YOUR SUBJECTS

Each of the following pages introduces the A Level subjects offered at Bolton School. As you explore them, look beyond the course title: find out what you will study, how you will learn, the skills you will develop and where the subject could take you.

You will be asked to choose three subjects to study at A Level. When choosing your options, please note:

- Further Mathematics is a separate subject and an A Level in its own right, which can be a third or fourth A Level but must be chosen alongside A Level Mathematics; and
- Due to their common element, you cannot choose both DTE – Design Engineering and DTE – Product Design.

In early October, students in Year 11 are invited to an Open Evening which begins with a presentation followed by an opportunity for you to visit departments to hear about their subject at A Level. We strongly recommend that you attend this event to help with your decision making around subject choices.

MAKING YOUR CHOICES

As you prepare for Sixth Form, take time to explore your options carefully. Read about the subjects that interest you, speak to teachers, visit departments and ask questions. Think about what you enjoy now, but also where your choices might lead. If you are unsure, ask for advice – we would much rather help you explore your options than expect you to have everything decided already.

Our Sixth Form and Futures teams are here to help you make choices that keep the right opportunities open for your future.





ART & DESIGN: FINE ART (EDUQAS) A651QS MRS K STARBUCK

WHY STUDY ART & DESIGN: FINE ART AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Art and Design at Bolton School provides you with an exciting opportunity to create your own personal art works. The course is structured to allow you to develop your skills in lots of new areas, before you embark on your own Personal Investigation (60%). The Personal Investigation is your assessed body of work, which you will start in the Spring Term of Year 12, where you have the opportunity to work under your own brief and explore topics that are meaningful to you. You are encouraged to try out new ways of working and there is no restriction on how you work: the term Fine Art means that you can paint, draw, print, sculpt, animate, photograph or film, all of which will provide you with a portfolio of work that you can use to apply for any art course. At A Level you have more time and focus to work on developing your ideas, and more space to go big!

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

We follow the Eduqas A Level in Fine Art: Personal Investigation 60% / Externally Set Assignment 40%.

	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term	Workshops of techniques and ways of working.	Personal Investigation continues.
Spring Term	Personal Investigation begins.	Externally Set Assignment (10 themes are given by the exam board from which you choose one to work from).
Summer Term	Personal Investigation continues.	15-hour exam (beginning of May).

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Your own designated A Level Art room which you can use in your free time.
- Small class sizes enable enhanced feedback. Staff will work with you individually.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD ME?

- You can go on to study any art discipline at university: such as Architecture, Interior Design, Fine Art, Sculpture, Photography, Product Design, Set and Costume Design. The list is endless;
- Careers in the fashion industry – design, marketing or buying;
- Careers in graphic design, marketing or advertising;
- Careers in teaching and academia; and
- Any career that requires a creative mind.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Overnight trips to London, Edinburgh or abroad, to visit world renowned art galleries and museums;
- Local exhibition visits;
- Artist workshop; and
- National Art Competitions, for example the Royal Academy of Arts 'Young Artists' Summer Show'.



Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





ART & DESIGN: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION (EDUQAS A654QS) MRS K STARBUCK

WHY STUDY GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Here, you will have many opportunities to try out new skills and improve existing skills in design. Subject specialist staff will help you to create ideas and visualise them, showing you how to design for social media, websites, printed designs, film and packaging.

Would you like to try photography, digital software, filming and editing, creating animations or experimenting with illustration and character design? We have a dedicated A Level room for you to use, the option to have your own Macbook loaded with the full Adobe Creative Suite and even a professional photography studio with lighting for all your photoshoots. You will be free to choose and work on your own project independently and at times work together in teams, helping each other on photoshoots, location filming and idea generation.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1 - Personal Investigation (60%)

A full coursework project with no written examination. The whole of Unit 1 is based on a personally chosen theme or starting point and then a creative journey that evidences research, experimentation, own ideas and an outcome. One extended piece of writing is required that reflects on learning.

Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment (40%)

A second project with no written examination. Similar to Unit 1, although this time a selection must be made from the themes provided by the exam board and then a project is to be produced. Finally, an outcome should be produced within a controlled 15 hour time frame under exam conditions.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- One-to-one technical help and project guidance and examples;
- A skills-building mini project in the Autumn Term of Year 12, including digital and traditional creative techniques;
- Photography workshop; and
- Careers guidance and portfolio building for interviews.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- University – graphic design, illustration, film & TV, photography, animation, concept art & video games, architecture and marketing;
- Apprenticeships – Manchester-based Design Companies and Media City offer a variety of opportunities; and
- Freelance careers – Setup your own website and feature your portfolio of design work, offering affordable design solutions for small to medium businesses.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- London trip – a three-day residential;
- Portfolio building and interview skills; and
- Promotional work for upcoming theatre productions at Bolton School.

Scan the QR code to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject.



BIOLOGY (AQA 7402)

MRS A FUREY



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Being such a broad subject, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, opening the door to a wide range of interesting careers.

Small class sizes, well-resourced laboratories, lots of practical work and excellent technical support enable us to deliver the course in an exciting and engaging manner. Links with Alumni and guest speakers about Biology-related careers really emphasise the value of studying it at A Level.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 12 Topics:

- Biological molecules;
- Cells;
- Organisms exchanging substances with their environment;
- External environments; and
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

Year 13 Topics:

- Energy transfers in and between organisms;
- Organisms responding to changes in their internal;
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; and
- The control of gene expression.

Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division;
- dissection of animal or plant systems;
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth;
- investigating activity within cells;
- investigating animal behaviours;
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes with additional support available within lessons if needed;
- Well-resourced laboratories with excellent technical support;
- School subscriptions to *Biological Sciences Review*, *The British Medical Journal*, *Nature* and *New Scientist* magazines; and
- Weekly clinics where staff are available for additional support and intervention if needed.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Those studying A Level Biology have gone on to careers in medicine and dentistry; clinical molecular geneticism; nature conservation; pharmacy; healthcare professions; and science research.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Biology fieldwork at the end of Year 12;
- Medical and Dental Society;
- Biology Olympiad competitions and Essay competitions;
- External and Alumni speakers on a wide range of careers within the healthcare profession; and
- Links with UCL Medical School.

Scan the QR code to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject.





MISS L JONES

WHY STUDY BUSINESS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Business at Bolton School Girls' Division provides you with the opportunity to be taught by highly knowledgeable staff, with a wealth of examining experience. Students are encouraged to use an enquiring and critical approach through the use of contemporary case study materials from a range of industries. This initiates discussion of current business topics alongside business theory enabling students to develop their business acumen, economic awareness and application skills: key for examination success.

There are opportunities for super-curricular activities, including an Economics Society in the Spring Term which requires wider reading and participation in topical debates.

COURSE CONTENT

- Themes 1 and 2 build knowledge of core business concepts and apply them to a variety of business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work, including finance, marketing, human resources and external influences.
- Themes 3 and 4 seek to develop a more strategic approach to business opportunities and issues. Students will examine decision-making techniques, and methods to assess competitiveness and managing change, often within a global business context.
- Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach, recognising that business behaviour should be explored from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

The Business and Economics Department run two drop-in clinics per week where we provide one-to-one support to help consolidate knowledge and understanding.

Business students have access to the online resource EzyBusiness which provides a wealth of video and assessment resources covering our exam board specification.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Business Manager;
- Banking and Finance;
- Business specialisms, and Marketing, HR and Operations;
- Business analyst;
- Logistics.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Trip to Cadbury's World to attend a workshop on business ethics and sustainability;
- Residential trip to London;
- Entrepreneurship Scheme; and
- Alumni leadership opportunities supporting the Year 10 Tycoon Competition.

Scan the QR code to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject.



CHEMISTRY (AQA 7405)

MRS S RICH



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

At Bolton School Girls' Division, you will be taught by an experienced and stable department, including current examiners, in small class sizes which will give time for individual support. There will be the opportunity to do a lot of practical work with good technician support and equipment availability. We offer different extension opportunities to help those aiming for A* or Oxbridge entry, including collaboration with the Boys' Division to provide a wider range of opportunities – activities are very much the norm here. This all combines to enhance your CV and prepare you for writing your UCAS Personal Statement at the end of Year 12, as well as developing your understanding of the Chemistry topics to achieve success in the A Level examination.

COURSE CONTENT

The A Level content is separated into three main areas: organic, inorganic and physical chemistry.

Topics studied in Year 12 lead on from GCSE and include familiar topics such as:

- Atomic Structure;
- Chemical Calculations;
- Structure and Bonding;
- Energetics;
- Rates and Equilibrium; and
- Organic Chemistry.

Year 13 builds on the foundations laid in Year 12 and explores some previous topics in greater depth as well as introducing new ones including Electrochemical Cells, Spectroscopy and Transition Metals.

You will also complete practical work regularly. Many of these practical tasks will be required practicals and are a key part of the curriculum.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes with additional support available during lessons;
- Weekly clinics;
- Individual support by arrangement with class teachers;
- Revision workbook provided for independent study; and
- School subscriptions to *Chemistry Review*, *Nature* and *New Scientist* magazines.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Chemistry is a required subject for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science. It can also lead to a varied range of careers, including pharmaceuticals; chemical engineering; optometry; geological sciences; materials science; biochemistry; and environmental science.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (Year 12) and Chemistry Olympiad (Year 13);
- Calculations Club for Year 13 students;
- Opportunity to complete the Gold CREST Award;
- Subject and careers related lectures;
- Annual 'Young Analyst' Chemistry Competition.



Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





CLASSICS (OCR H443/H444/H408) (LATIN, GREEK & CLASSICAL CIVILISATION) MR D LAMB

WHY STUDY CLASSICS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying with the Classics Department will allow you a full choice of continuing with Latin or Greek, or starting Classical Civilisation (which is all about the ancient world but the texts are in English). Our small classes, taught with students from the Boys' Division, allow for plenty of discussion and development of your ideas in a safe environment.

If you study the language, you will be one of very few people nationally who are prepared to challenge themselves with a most academic subject (only about 150 - 200 people take Greek at A Level!) and will develop your language skills extraordinarily. You'll be able to read ancient sources fluently and with a keen understanding of the author's context.

Classical Civilisation is a new subject at A Level and allows you to explore a wide range of concepts and ideas such as philosophy, love, relationships, gender, the heroic ideal, the development of art (statues, paintings and architecture) and the foundation of democratic Athens and Imperial Rome. For this course all you'll need is an enthusiasm to learn, a willingness to discuss your opinions and an openness to exploring new ideas.

COURSE CONTENT

You can study (all are separate courses): Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation.

Latin and Greek both involve studying for a language component (50%) and for set texts of prose (25%) and verse (25%) writing. The language element involves learning vocabulary and developing the grammatical knowledge needed to tackle a passage for translation. The Set Texts change regularly but can involve the likes of Cicero (laugh as Cicero turns the courtroom into a stage to persuade the jury), Catullus (swoon as Catullus courts and then loses his lover), Horner (gasp as the hero Achilles enters the battle knowing he is fated not to survive the war) and Plato (wonder at the advancements in human thought and understanding from over two thousand years ago).

Classical Civilisation contains three components. The variety and choice is staggering but we currently study:

- World of the Hero (40%): looking at the foundation surrounding the Trojan War, *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad* explore the struggles of the victors and *The Aeneid* looks at the suffering of the vanquished.
- Greek Theatre (30%): using two tragedies and one comedy, we explore the range of human emotion and experience. Illicit desire, respect for the gods, civic pride, base and bawdy jokes, anger, revenge, madness... you name it, the Greek playwrights wrote about it!
- Love and Relationships (30%): think gender politics and identity is new to the world? The Greek and Roman philosophers and poets were wrestling with the question of what it is to be human thousands of years ago.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes enable bespoke feedback tailored to your needs (Latin and Greek usually have four to six students, Classical Civilisation has around eight);
- Senior Classics Society allows you to explore new ideas and deliver anything you have been working on; and
- University applications tailored to your interests (lots of people start the course not knowing what it's about and go on to study it at university).

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Developing your powers of reason and critical thinking will be transferable into any sphere but recent leavers have gone into the following areas:

- Law/finance;
- Medicine/dentistry;
- Politics/civil service;
- Business management; and
- Academia/teaching.



CLASSICS (OCR H443/H444/H408) (LATIN, GREEK & CLASSICAL CIVILISATION) MR D LAMB



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Overseas residential trips to Italy and Greece;
- UK trips to archaeological sites (in Chester, Bath and London);
- Theatre trips to see plays (most recently, Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*).
- University visits (to hear lectures and watch student plays at Warwick, Kings College London and UCL); and
- Competitions galore (via various Classical Association branches and Oxford colleges).

Scan the QR code to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject.



COMPUTER SCIENCE (AQA 7517D Python) MRS S BRACE



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Computer Science at Bolton School will enable you to develop your Python programming skills with a specialist teacher; inspiring you to take risks within your coding work and produce programs that demonstrate a wide range of features, including some gaming programming. You will have the opportunity to develop one major piece of work that can support any interests you have, which can be particularly useful if you wish to study a subject besides Computer Science at degree level and you will be supported throughout this with small group and one-to-one support. There are opportunities to take on a range of coding challenges, attend/support the weekly Programming Club and discuss the intricacies of computers and their future as well as the advent of AI. Computer Science staff will be on hand to guide you through the course and your move onto the next stage!

COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1 (on screen exam) – 40%

Assess programming, data structures, algorithms and the theory of computation. You will answer a short series of questions on theoretical knowledge of Computer Science then write/adapt/extend programs within the exam with questions relating to a pre-release program set by AQA.

Paper 2 (written exam) – 40%

Assess data representation, computer systems, organisation and architecture, communication and networking, databases, functional programming, big data and the consequences of uses of computing.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) – 20%

This is a project that enables you to develop your practical skills in the context of solving a realistic problem or carrying out an investigation. You are assessed on the ability to create a programmed solution supported by its analysis, the design of a solution or plan of an investigation, testing and evaluation.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Computing Hub – available as a weekly drop-in on any aspect of the course;
- One-to-one support both in the classroom, when required, and outside of classes;
- Small class sizes (usually no more than 11) enabling a more personalised approach to the subject; and
- A range of online resources enabling support outside of the classroom and the use of iPad apps such as Showbie, to share resources and links to materials as well as a way to communicate with the teacher outside of class time.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Computer Science can be useful for careers in the following areas: sciences, engineering, medicine/healthcare, creative sectors, business, finance, logistics and Education. Popular future careers include:

- Software Engineering;
- Network Management;
- Computer Analyst.
- Information Systems;
- Cyber Security;

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- BEBRAS competition – Computational Thinking Challenge, taken during November;
- Programming Club – experiment with buggies, other languages and tech equipment;
- Residential trip to Patterdale – focus on AI, cryptography and hands-on activities and challenges;
- Talks by Alumni who have chosen a Computer Science career.



Scan the QR code to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

DESIGN ENGINEERING (OCR H404)

MR C COFFEY

WHY STUDY DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which gives an insight into the way the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries function. Design Engineering is focussed towards engineered, electronic, programmable and mechanical products and systems – this course is studied in the Boys' Division.

Learning about Design and Technology develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling you to identify market needs and opportunities for new products and to develop and make prototypes that solve real world problems and have commercial viability. The Design Engineering course is highly practical and is assessed through written examinations and an extensive practical coursework project in which you follow an iterative process to design and make a prototype product.

COURSE CONTENT

The following topics are studied:

- Identifying requirements;
- Learning from existing products and practice;
- Implications of wider issues;
- Design thinking and communication;
- Material considerations;
- Technical understanding;
- Manufacturing processes and techniques;
- Viability of design solutions; and
- Health and safety.

The three components of the specification are:

Paper 1: Principles of Design Engineering:
Paper 2: Problem Solving in Design Engineering
Iterative Design Project (NEA):

2 hours, 30 minutes – 120 marks (26.7%)
1 hour, 30 minutes – 80 marks (23.3%)
Substantial design and make project – 100 marks (50%)

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes, so detailed feedback can easily be given by your teachers;
- Superbly-equipped rooms with all the latest equipment;
- Dedicated and highly-knowledgeable technicians to assist with practical work; and
- Design and Technology clinic to develop prototypes.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Mechanical Engineering;
- Electrical Engineering;
- Aeronautical Engineering;
- Civil Engineering; and
- Environmental Engineering.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Year 12 and 13 trip to Winter Hill TV transmitter;
- Excellent links with Arkwright Scholarships;
- Past pupils who have Degree Apprenticeships regularly return to speak with Year 12 and Year 13 students;
- Year 12 trip to LUXFER – a materials testing experience; and
- Year 12 and 13 trip to a materials and metals fabrication factory.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

FASHION & TEXTILES (AQA 7562)

MRS R STAFFORD

WHY STUDY FASHION & TEXTILES AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Bolton School pupils studying this subject have lots of opportunities to develop their creativity alongside gaining an understanding of the technical, historical and marketing side of the industry. The small teaching groups often work collaboratively, encouraging each other and engaging in design discussions. The course allows you the opportunity to develop autonomous study skills that will be of direct use in higher education and professional work. The A Level course follows on effectively from the GCSE course, focusing entirely on Fashion and Textiles. Interested, enthusiastic and highly motivated students can join direct to A Level without having studied the subject at GCSE. In Year 12, you will have the opportunity to choose the direction of study for your own Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) coursework.

COURSE CONTENT

The specification is AQA D&T: Fashion and Textiles. Assessment is made by 50% written examination and 50% NEA. The skills for the NEA are practised through project work. An overview of the topics is listed below:

- **Design Theory** – History of fashion, looking at the influence of iconic designers such as Vivienne Westwood and Dior, design movements such as pop art and the impact of social and political events over the decades such as World War Two.
- **Materials** – investigate how new fibres and fabrics are created and used in both contemporary fashion and commercial applications such as the military and medical sciences. Investigations into smart and e-textiles including the use of conductive threads and LEDs in wearable technology such as fabrics engineered to harness energy from the sun and the motion of the person wearing them;
- **Modern Manufacturing** – How fibres, fabrics and textile products are produced, taking into account sustainable ethical and environmental considerations; and
- **Enterprise and Marketing** – looking at product life cycles, advertising and branding companies such as Hollister and Topshop.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

Small teaching groups offer the opportunity for lots of one-to-one advice and assistance. Open workshop times are available for several periods every day where you can come to continue your project work and still get support and help when you need it. You will receive detailed feedback on your Year 12 project work to help you improve your NEA skills.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

There are a range of courses specific to the textiles industry, although past students have also entered into dentistry, accountancy and psychology. Design courses include fashion design; interior design; costume design; textiles and surface pattern design. Business and marketing courses include fashion marketing and journalism and sustainability management in the textiles sector. Science courses include materials science and textiles technology.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

Old Girl, Jo Czutkowna: Founder & CEO of 'I Went Shopping Today' works with the Girls' Division's Textiles Department on student projects and is a guest speaker. Jo works with companies in the textiles industry to develop circular garment business models for sustainability. You will also be offered the opportunity to enter competitions including Wool 4 School and Student Textile Artist and there are opportunities to lead clubs for younger students.

Scan the QR code below to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

PRODUCT DESIGN (AQA 7552)

MRS R LANGLEY

WHY STUDY PRODUCT DESIGN AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Product Design at Bolton School Girls' Division provides you with the opportunity to study in detail the two sides of the subject with specialist teachers. Designing and making prototypes in well-equipped rooms and separately exploring the theory, ensures you will receive thorough coverage of the specification. This exciting and forward-thinking A Level course is more academic than other Design A Level courses you may be offered elsewhere, and is highly suited to a wide range of degree applications. Our small classes allow for highly personalised expert teaching and extensive encouragement around independence and creative learning. You will work on inspirational and practical problem-solving tasks and explore a wide range of materials and processes (including CAD/CAM), allowing you to develop confidence in your own innovative ability when responding to design briefs and making unique prototypes. Teachers are able to get to know your design and writing style well and consequently support your needs, especially with regard to Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) work.

COURSE CONTENT/ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Product Design is focused on consumer products, their applications and their analysis in respect of materials and components. The specific units covered are as follows:

- Paper 1:** Technical Principles (30%): you will study all aspects of materials from classifications to performance, enhancement, processing and the use of CAD/CAM;
- Paper 2:** Designing & Making Principles (20%): you will study the iterative design process, designers' work, social and cultural influence and environmental design work;
- NEA:** A single iterative design-and-make project for which you will develop your own design brief based on an area you enjoyed during your Year 12 designing and prototyping work.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Three lunchtime clinics where teachers assist you with every step of your class and coursework;
- Small class sizes (ordinarily fewer than ten) enable enhanced feedback. Staff will talk you through your design and written work on a one-to-one basis; and
- School subscriptions to online resources including 'Focus Educational' and *DATA* magazine publication (contemporary design topics featured) enable you to research your topics, and encourage you to look further afield.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Product Design is recognised as an excellent basis for a number of higher education courses and leads on to interesting and varied career paths. The course is, however, ideal for those intending to follow a career in product design, industrial design, architecture, design engineering, graphic design, interior design, surface pattern design, 3D design, animation and film/video.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Trips to local furniture design and manufacturing companies;
- Links with Alumni who have pursued a career in the area of Product Design; and
- Support with university application portfolio building.

Scan the QR code below to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



DRAMA & THEATRE (WJEC EDUQAS A690QS) MRS A MARTIN



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY DRAMA & THEATRE AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

The Drama Department comprises highly qualified and dedicated teachers, committed to preparing the directors, designers, performers and audiences of tomorrow. As classes are small, you will enjoy a highly personalised approach to learning. This supports the highest levels of attainment, particularly around Non-Examination Assessment (NEA); there is no need for teachers to split their focus between multiple groups. You will enjoy exclusive access to the facilities. The Bolton School Theatre consists of 170 capacity seating, lighting rig, sound system, extensive costume and props store.

You will find that there is a high degree of autonomy as the course content is tailored to meet your needs and interests. A Level students choose which plays to study and which practitioners/theatre companies to explore. In the past year, students have selected dynamic texts, both ancient and modern and applied to their own work the practices of trail-blazing theatre makers. They have shaped the programme of theatre visits, enjoying West End extravaganzas as well as experimental pieces staged by internationally acclaimed companies. A range of coursework options have enabled some students to pursue performance opportunities, while others have developed design skills. They have received intensive, one-to-one support with applications to universities, conservatoires and drama schools. An exciting programme of study has been complemented by an extensive extra-curricular programme, which has provided opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals.

Rehearsals and workshops, as well as one-to-one tuition, will extend beyond timetabled hours to lunchtimes and hours after school.

COURSE CONTENT/ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Component 1 (20%): Theatre Workshop. Students will apply the working practices of a practitioner or theatre company to a reinterpretation of a classic text, opting to work as either an actor or designer (set, costume, lighting or sound).

Component 2 (40%): Text in Action. Students will make two pieces of theatre – one devised and one scripted – in response to a stimulus, opting to work as either an actor or designer (set, costume, lighting or sound).

Component 3 (40%): Text in Performance. Students will study three texts – one pre-1956 and two post-1956 – from the perspectives of actors and designers (set, costume, lighting or sound). Recent texts have included Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Lucy Kirkwood's *Chimerica* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens. This component is assessed via written exam.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Those studying Drama and Theatre have gone on to careers in acting; directing; producing; designing for theatre, film and television; arts criticism for broadcast and print media; arts administration; community outreach and law.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

The Bolton School extra-curricular drama programme is extensive and provides a diverse range of opportunities for students to develop their skills as performers, designers and directors. In 2025–2026, students embraced a wide variety of creative and collaborative opportunities, including large-scale productions, musical theatre and work with professional theatre practitioners. The year began with *The Glorious Chickmans*, a brand-new play commissioned by Bolton School as part of the 'Write the Girl' initiative, which gave students the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals and take on a range of roles both onstage and behind the scenes. Students also performed the much-loved musical *Guys and Dolls*, developing their skills in acting, singing and dance while bringing this classic musical to life on stage. The year also included opportunities for students to attend performances at local theatres and further afield. Through these experiences, students continued to develop their confidence, creativity, teamwork and understanding of the many different roles involved in producing live theatre.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





ECONOMICS (OCR H460)

MISS L JONES

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Economics at Bolton School Girls' Division provides you with the opportunity to be taught by expert staff, with a wealth of OCR examining experience. Our aim is to nurture a curiosity about the economic world and cultivate an enquiring mind and critical approach through discussion of traditional economic theory alongside current economic and political events. There is lots of support and guidance on essay writing as well as the necessary quantitative skills.

There are opportunities for super-curricular activities, including an Economics Society which requires wider reading and participation in topical debate as well as an annual residential trip to London in Year 13.

COURSE CONTENT

The Economics Specification is split into two broad sections. Both sections of the specification encourage students to consider the moral, ethical and sustainability issues that arise from economic activity:

- Microeconomics explores the fundamental principles of the basic economic problem and its impact on economic agents and the choices they make. We study the importance of competition within the marketplace and how these effect consumers in terms of prices, choice and welfare.
- Macroeconomics evaluate economic policy objectives and the indicators of macroeconomic performance, for example: economic growth, unemployment and inflation and question whether these do actually lead to an improvement in the quality of life.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

The Business and Economics Department run two drop-in Clinics per week where we provide one-to-one support to help consolidate knowledge and understanding.

Economic students have access to the online resource EzyEconomics which provides a wealth of video and assessment resources covering our exam board specification.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

The study of economics can lead on to interesting and varied career paths including investment banking; accountancy; actuary; economic consultancy; and financial analysis.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Residential trip to London;
- Economics Society;
- Junior Traders Competition;
- Essay Competitions; and
- Leadership opportunities supporting the Year 10 Tycoon Competition.

Scan the QR code below to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (OCR H470)

MRS A MARTIN



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying English Language at Bolton School Girls' Division offers students a comprehensive and enriching experience. With one-to-one support from specialist teaching staff, you will receive personalised guidance tailored to your individual needs. The way in which we structure the course also allows for complete autonomy over the choice of research topics for your Non Examination Assessment (NEA), fostering independent learning and critical thinking skills. You can engage in vibrant debates, honing your argumentation and public speaking abilities. Additionally, there is the exciting opportunity to contribute to and edit the school newspaper *The View*, allowing you to develop your writing and editorial skills in a real-world context. Beyond the classroom, numerous extra-curricular opportunities await, including trips and webinars with leading institutions and universities, ensuring you are ready for your future academic and professional endeavours.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Exploring Language

Students apply various methods of linguistic analysis and engage with current debates around language use.

- Section A: Language under the microscope;
- Section B: Writing about a topical language issue;
- Section C: Comparing and contrasting texts.

Component 2: Dimensions of Linguistic Variation

Students explore language use in particular contexts across time and place. There are three sections:

- Section A: Child language acquisition;
- Section B: Language in the media;
- Section C: Language change.

Component 3: Independent Language Research

Students pursue their own language investigation, developing valuable research and communication skills. There are two sections:

- Section A: An independent investigation – students pursue an area of study of particular interest to them;
- Section B: The academic poster – students present their research in a concise and visually accessible way.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes enable enhanced feedback. Staff will talk you through your written work on a one-to-one basis;
- School subscriptions to online resources including: 'Massolit' (short English Language lectures on diverse topics); A Level Review Journals; Complete Issues; eMag; News Library and JSTOR.
- All students are given their own copy of the OCR student guide.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Those studying English Language have gone on to careers in advertising, copywriting and publishing; journalism and media; public relationships and marketing; law; and speech and language therapy.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Opportunities in debate with the English Speaking Union and Rotary;
- External Qualifications with the English Speaking Board which offer the same number of UCAS points as an EPQ;
- Opportunities to write for and edit the school newspaper *The View*;
- Events: examples from previous years include attendance at lectures by linguist Dan Boyle and attendance at webinars with The School of Journalism.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying English Literature at Bolton School Girls' Division is an enriching experience that combines academic rigour with creative exploration. You will benefit from one-to-one support from passionate specialist teaching staff, ensuring personalised guidance and encouragement. We allow you complete autonomy over the selection of texts for the Non Examination Assessment (NEA), empowering you to pursue your literary interests deeply. There are a number of additional creative writing opportunities, including a yearly creative writing retreat at Patterdale Hall, where students can immerse themselves in their craft. Extra-curricular activities such as theatre trips and participation in school productions enrich the educational experience, fostering a love for literature and the performing arts.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Drama and poetry pre-1900

Section 1: Shakespeare – students study one Shakespeare play.

- *Hamlet*;
- *The Tempest*; or
- *Twelfth Night*

Section 2: Drama and poetry pre-1900 – students study one pre-1900 drama text and one pre-1900 poetry text.

Typical examples include:

- Henrik Ibsen: *A Doll's House*;
- Christina Rossetti: *Selected Poems*.

Component 2: Comparative and contextual study

There are five topic areas and students are prepared for one. Texts typically taught for each are listed below:

- American Literature 1880-1940: *The Great Gatsby* or *The Grapes of Wrath*;
- The Gothic: *Dracula*, *The Bloody Chamber*, *Beloved* or *Frankenstein*;
- Dystopia: *The Handmaid's Tale* or *1984*;
- Women in Literature: *Sense and Sensibility* or *Mrs Dalloway*; or
- The Immigrant Experience: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*/ *Call It Sleep*.

Component 3: Literature post-1900

This component encourages individual study, interest and enjoyment of modern literature. Students study three literary texts, which must include one prose text, one poetry text and one drama text. All texts must have been first published or performed after 1900, and at least one must have been first published or performed after 2000.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes (ordinarily fewer than ten) enable enhanced feedback. Staff will talk you through your written work on a one-to-one basis.
- School subscriptions to online resources including: 'Massolit' (short English Language lectures on diverse topics); A Level Review Journals; Complete Issues; eMag; News Library and JSTOR.
- We have access to streaming services which allow students to watch different interpretations of the texts studied on the course.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Those studying English Literature have gone on to careers in advertising, copywriting and publishing; journalism, writing and authorship; content creation and digital media; law; and arts and culture management.

ENGLISH LITERATURE (OCR H472)

MRS A MARTIN



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Opportunities to take part in performing arts and school productions;
- External Qualifications with the English Speaking Board which offer the same number of UCAS points as an EPQ;
- A yearly trip to Patterdale Hall for the creative writing retreat;
- Opportunities to write for and edit the school newspaper, *The View*.
- Theatre visits; and
- Events: the English Department are always looking for events during the academic year which will be enriching for students. Examples from previous years include theatre visits and attendance at university lectures.

Scan the QR code below to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject.



FRENCH (AQA 7652)

MR D O'NEILL



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY FRENCH AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying French at Bolton School Girls' Division takes place in small classes with individual support from highly skilled and fluent teachers. In addition, you will have the opportunity to work on a weekly basis with a native French speaking assistant to increase your confidence and fluency in the French language and also to discover more about French culture.

The topics studied allow you to discover more about life in the French speaking world, drawing on real life examples from up-to-date news sources. In Year 13, you will have the opportunity to find out about countries and topics that interest you by completing a research project of your choice. All of this takes place in a mutually supportive and nurturing environment. The study of this subject, by universities and employers alike, will allow you to become a confident communicator and independent thinker, essential skills for any chosen career path.

COURSE CONTENT

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends and current issues, including the changing nature of family, the place of voluntary work, the 'cyber-society', features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised and how criminals are treated;
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, including the topics; a culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music and cinema: the seventh art form;
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world, including the topics of teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power, politics and immigration;
- Study of a film;
- Study of a novel; and
- An individual research project on a topic of your choice based around the French-speaking world.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes with two different teachers who will focus on specific units of the specification;
- A weekly speaking class with a French native speaker to practise for the oral exam; and
- An MFL clinic every week with individual support as required.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Popular future career paths in recent cohorts include:

- Translating and interpreting;
- Journalism;
- Accountancy;
- Law; and
- Medicine.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- MFL Debating Competition;
- Manchester University MFL Taster Day;
- Oxbridge MFL Application Mentoring; and
- Opportunities to mentor younger students and lead MFL clubs.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



GEOGRAPHY (AQA 7037)

MISS L GILLIBRAND



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Geography at Bolton School Girls' Division brings many excellent opportunities to broaden your horizons about the world around you. You will re-visit some topics from GCSE such as Hazards as well as being introduced to new topics like Global Governance. The course includes four days of fieldwork at Scarborough, Salford Quays, Ainsdale and the River Dean Brook. Geography helps you to develop many transferable skills which are crucial to life beyond Bolton School.

COURSE CONTENT

We follow the AQA specification, with specific units as follows:

Paper 1 – 2.5 hours (40%):

- Topic 1 – Water and carbon cycles;
- Topic 2 – Coastal landscapes;
- Topic 3 – Hazards.

Paper 2 – 2.5 hours (40%):

- Topic 1 – Global systems and global governance;
- Topic 2 – Changing places;
- Topic 3 – Population and the environment.

NEA (20%):

Independent fieldwork investigation of coursework of your choice.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- NEA clinics and advice to help you understand how to structure the key sections of the introduction, methodology, data presentation, data analysis, evaluation and conclusion;
- Fieldtrips to provide a bespoke way of learning Geography, with a highlight being the residential trip to Cranedale in Year 12. This is a tailor-made course to help you prepare for your NEA project and you will have excellent specialists helping to guide you throughout the process; and
- Small class sizes (between five to fifteen students) enable enhanced feedback. We also have AQA examiners in the Geography Department to help provide additional advice of how to achieve the highest level of answers.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- There are many links to jobs with geographical themes including, teaching, urban planning, environmental consultancy, transport planning, sustainability consultancy and flying; and
- Indirect links to jobs like Law.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Cranedale residential trip;
- Bespoke NEA guidance;
- Salford Quays trip;
- Senior Geography Club; and
- Subscriptions to numerous geographical journals to support pupils with NEA research and wide reading.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



GERMAN (AQA 7662)

MR D O'NEILL

WHY STUDY GERMAN AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Class sizes are small, usually in the region of three to eight students, enabling you to receive the full attention of your teachers. Your course teachers are German specialists with extensive knowledge of the language, cultural life and history of Germany and the German-speaking world. They also have a considerable number of years of experience in delivering the A Level German curriculum in a variety of schools. We are also one of the few schools that is able to recruit a native-speaking German assistant directly from the British Council to assist you and offer you weekly one-to-one speaking and listening lessons. We are privy to many Goethe Institute and university enrichment opportunities and can assist you directly in getting involved with myriad activities and visits.

COURSE CONTENT

The course prepares you for three papers: Paper 1 (Listening, Reading and Writing); Paper 2 (Film and Literature Essays); and Paper 3: (Speaking, including an Independent Research Project, in which you will research, in depth, and present an area of personal interest relating to the German-speaking world).

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- You will have a one-to-one (or in a pair, if you prefer) lesson per week (50 mins) with the German assistant in order to hone your speaking and discursive skills with a sympathetic native speaker; and
- Your German teacher will be available to organise one-to-one support for you.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

According to CILT.org.uk, German is, and has been for almost ten years, THE most in-demand language by UK employers.

Any career that values communication, interpersonal skills and cultural understanding:

- Business and industry;
- Diplomacy;
- Technology;
- Pharmaceutical engineering.;
- Financial services;
- Banking; and
- Engineering.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Excellent links with Blue Stamp Travel to assist you with a work placement in Germany, Austria or Switzerland;
- Direct links with Manchester University and the opportunity to experience life as an undergraduate there;
- Direct links with the Goethe Institute in London to assist with all aspects of your learning, both linguistic and cultural; and
- Entry in the prestigious NW Schools' Debating Competition and Sheffield University's German Olympiad.

Scan the QR code below to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



HISTORY (AQA 7042)

MR C OWEN



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY HISTORY AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying History at Bolton School Girls' Division provides you with the opportunity to study two significant periods of major change, each with a specialist teacher. Beyond our small classes, you may wish to become involved in one of our many debating opportunities, or conduct some of your own research for a University Essay Competition. In addition, the prospect of attending Historical Association (Bolton Branch) lectures, held in school, will undoubtedly kindle your interest in a topic beyond the curriculum. Recently, we have heard academics from local universities deliver papers on diverse topics such as medieval Brittany and Bolton's connections with Ancient Egypt. You will develop interests that enable you to eventually choose your own coursework topic in Year 13. History teachers will help you to develop your skills in the selection and careful scrutiny of information, both of which are integral to success in your chosen career.

COURSE CONTENT

We follow the AQA specification, with specific units as follows:

Unit 1 – Breadth Study (40%): Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702. You will study how a power struggle between Kings and their parliaments in the 17th Century created the groundwork for modern Britain.

Unit 2 – Depth Study (40%): America: A Nation Divided, c. 1845-1877. Modern America's race relations have been shaped by the Civil War, fought in the 19th Century between North and South.

Unit 3 – Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) (20%): This is 4,500-word piece of coursework on a topic of your choice; popular topics include the French and Russian Revolutions.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes (ordinarily fewer than ten) enable enhanced feedback. Staff will talk you through your written work on a one-to-one basis; and
- School subscriptions to online resources including *History Today* magazine and MASSOLIT (short History lectures on diverse topics) enable you to research topics of interest.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Law;
- National and Local Government, the Civil Service;
- The Media and journalism;
- Archaeology, Architecture and Conservation; and
- Teaching and academia.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Historical Association Branch lectures are held in school every month from September-March.
- Beyond the Headlines is a club which uses resources produced by an education charity called Parallel Histories. This enables pupils to debate contested and controversial histories in a supportive environment. We host conferences in school attended by a range of schools;
- We offer support in entering university essay writing competitions, debating competitions and the MASSOLIT video essay competition; and
- Residential trips including to London and the Word Ware One battlefields of Belgium.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





MATHEMATICS (PEARSON EDEXCEL 9MA0) MR L JONES

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

The Mathematics teachers at Bolton School Girls' Division have a wealth of expertise and experience and are here to offer advice and support throughout the course. The achievement of pupils studying A Level Mathematics is outstanding. On average, a quarter of pupils achieve A* grades and around two-thirds achieve A* or A grades in this subject.

On this course, you will have two Mathematics teachers, one for Pure Mathematics and one for Applied Mathematics.

Small class sizes ensure that you can quickly develop a rapport with each of your Mathematics teachers and the course is supported using digital resources enabling easy access from anywhere at any time.

COURSE CONTENT

The Pearson Edexcel specification is assessed by three examination papers at the end of the two-year course.

A Level Mathematics is split into two branches. Pure (67%) and Applied (33%).

Pure Mathematics includes familiar content like algebra, trigonometry and graphs. It also includes calculus which is an important branch of this subject and a significant part of the course. Introduced in IGCSE and GCSE Further Mathematics, calculus at A Level dives more deeply into this field which is essential for many real-world applications in many disciplines.

Applied Mathematics is made up of statistics and mechanics. In the statistics component, you will learn about data distributions, data analysis and hypothesis testing.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes ensure that you can easily establish a good rapport with your Mathematics teachers;
- Mathematics teachers who are always on-hand for extra support outside of lessons; and
- A maths clinic for Sixth Formers that operates once per week – overseen by at least two teachers each week.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Mathematics is a facilitating subject that is either a prerequisite or a recommendation for a vast array of careers and university courses, including engineering, architecture, commerce (economics; finance; accounting), sciences, computer science and data science to list just a few.

Statistics is a hugely important subject area with rapid growth due to big tech companies. There is a huge potential for high-earning careers for those that attain a sound grasp of statistical techniques and methods.

Mechanics looks at the mathematics behind some of the topics you will have studied in physics. Energy, forces and motion are explored using a mathematical approach. This is essential for careers and courses in engineering and architecture.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

- Mathsinspiration lectures in Manchester;
- Mentoring opportunities – supporting younger pupils with maths (excellent for UCAS applications);
- UKMT maths challenges; and
- Maths Olympiads.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





FURTHER MATHEMATICS (PEARSON EDEXCEL 9FM0) MR L JONES

WHY STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

The Further Mathematics teachers at Bolton School Girls' Division have a wealth of expertise and experience and are on hand to offer advice and support throughout the course.

The achievement of students studying A Level Further Mathematics here is excellent. Most students tend to achieve A* or A grades in this subject.

On this course, you will have two to three Mathematics teachers teaching different elements of the course.

Small class sizes ensure that you can quickly develop a rapport with each of your Further Mathematics teachers. The course is supported using digital resources enabling easy access from anywhere at any time.

COURSE CONTENT

The Pearson Edexcel specification is assessed by four examination papers at the end of the two-year course.

A Level Further Mathematics is split into two branches. Pure (50%) and Applied (50%).

Pure Mathematics includes a lot of new concepts, such as complex numbers, matrices, proof by induction and hyperbolic functions, to list just a few.

Applied Mathematics includes a selection of modules from Statistics, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics. The Statistics component primarily investigates probability distributions.

In Mechanics you will focus on advanced kinematics including moments and collisions. Decision Mathematics looks at optimisation and use of algorithms to solve contextual problems.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small sixth form class sizes ensure that you can easily establish a good rapport with your Further Mathematics teachers;
- Your Further Mathematics teachers who are always on-hand for extra support outside of lessons; and
- A maths clinic for Sixth Formers that operates once per week – overseen by at least two teachers each week.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Further Mathematics is a highly respected qualification. Studying A Level Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for any degree with underlying mathematical content. Many university mathematics departments encourage students to take Further Mathematics due to the breadth and depth to which they will learn key content.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Mathsinspiration lectures in Manchester;
- Mentoring opportunities – supporting younger pupils with maths (excellent for UCAS applications);
- UKMT maths challenges; and
- Maths Olympiads.

Scan the QR code to find out more and to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject.



MUSIC (AQA 7272)

MR P LOVATT



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY MUSIC AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Music at Bolton School is extremely successful, with results consistently well-above the national average. The A Level Music course is taught by Boys' and Girls' Division staff and there are close links between the Music Departments of both Divisions, particularly for extra-curricular music. You will enjoy the benefit of being taught by a number of different colleagues for individual aspects of the course: composing, harmony, listening, appraising or performing.

As a musician at Bolton School, you will have the opportunity to be involved in a huge range of events ranging from solo performances at our in-house concerts right through to full-scale Gala concerts at venues such as the nationally renowned Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

There are a great many ensembles, groups and bands to join, enabling you to enhance your performing skills and open other social doors. The quality of these ensembles is first rate, with some being recognised nationally in competitions and festivals. Alongside the main concerts, we have internal competitions such as our 'Young Musician' and 'Young Composer of the Year', which feature a great number of students demonstrating their musical skills.

This is a wide-ranging A Level course which is designed to appeal to both prospective University or Music College students and to students who simply enjoy music, giving scope for the development of individual interests and aptitudes. The course covers and gives insight into a spectrum of musical styles and genres.

COURSE CONTENT

- **Component 1 'Appraising Music' (40%)**
Has a final examination including a listening test, analysis, and an essay, covering topics from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras, and two chosen from a selection (e.g. Jazz, Musical Theatre and Pop – studying five or six artists with three in detail).
- **Component 2 'Performance' (35%)**
Consists of a 10-12 minute solo recital, which include an optional ensemble element.
- **Component 3 'Composition' (25%)**
Consists of a coursework portfolio of two compositions, one following an exam board set brief, the other a free composition with both lasting a minimum of 4 ½ minutes.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes allow for course content to be tailored to your needs with enhanced feedback on a one- to-one basis.
- Support network of professional musicians and teachers on site to aid with NEA preparation and university/ music college applications and auditions.
- Direct links with visiting music teachers.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Professional musician/composer;
- Arts Management;
- Music Therapy;
- Music production/Sound engineer;
- Teaching and academia.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Ensembles and School productions;
- External performance opportunities;
- Music Tours abroad.
- Visits to concerts; and
- Links with higher education providers such as RNCM.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (OCR H555)

MRS S WALTERS



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Our aim is to foster your love of sport and share with you the many fascinating aspects of sports performance. Studying PE at Bolton School Girls' Division provides specialist teachers in each area of the course, learning is catered to individual needs and support is given throughout the Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) process. With small class sizes we provide opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, for example fitness testing, creating training programmes and group presentations. With the course being part practical, a high level of skill in your chosen discipline will give you a distinct advantage: we will support and nurture your sporting abilities throughout the two years.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance – 2 hour examination, 90 marks (30%)

Students gain a deeper understanding of key systems in the body and how they react to changes in diet and exercise.

Component 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance – 1 hour examination, 60 marks (20%)

Students study the models and theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities, how different methods of training and feedback work and why their effectiveness differs from person to person.

Component 3: Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity & Sport – 1 hour examination, 60 marks (20%)

This component focuses on the social and cultural factors that have shaped sports over time.

Components 5 and 6: Practical Performance and (EAPI) NEA, 60 marks (30%)

Performance or Coaching in one activity. Students are required to demonstrate effective performance, the use of tactics or techniques and the ability to observe the rules and conventions under applied conditions.

Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) – Oral Assessment. Students observe a recorded performance and provide an oral analysis and critical evaluation of the performance.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Teachers assist you with your coursework/EAPI step by step including opportunities to complete mock assessments and receive detailed feedback;
- Small class sizes (ordinarily fewer than ten) enable enhanced feedback;
- Staff will talk you through your written work on a one-to-one basis;
- School subscriptions to resources including *PE Review* magazine; and
- Lunch time clinics and additional one-to-one support available.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

PE is regarded as a valued academic qualification, it provides an excellence basis for a university degree in sports science, sports management, healthcare or exercise and health, as well as any other academic degree. It can also complement further study in biology, human biology, physics, psychology, nutrition and sociology.

A Level PE can also open up a range of career opportunities including sports development, sports coaching, professional sports person, physiotherapy, personal training, nutritionist or PE teaching.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Sixth Form trip to Leeds Beckett University to explore sports related degree courses;
- Guest speakers in the world of sport/sports industry;
- Visits to a sports science laboratory to apply theoretical knowledge into practice;
- University links with Liverpool John Moores; and
- Opportunities for leadership and coaching within the PE department;

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



PHYSICS (OCR H556)

MR B ICKRINGILL

WHY STUDY PHYSICS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

We invite students to adventure with us as we strive for a better appreciation of how our universe works, from the smallest particle out to the most distant galaxy.

In Physics, we ask questions that address the largest structures of the Universe to the smallest fundamental particles. But physics isn't just about asking these big questions which inspire awe and wonder: it's also about how to answer them. In Physics, we develop the tools you need to advance your knowledge of the Universe and provide solutions to the problems we face as individuals, communities and societies.

Small class sizes, well-resourced laboratories, lots of practical work and expert teachers enables us to deliver an exciting course in an engaging and personalised manner.

COURSE CONTENT

The OCR Physics A Level course allows you to study both practical and theoretical physics: your learning will be complemented by vast range of practical investigations to further investigate the phenomena you study. It forms an excellent foundation for a wide range of university courses and apprenticeships through a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental areas of University Physics.

Year 12 topics:

- Practical Skills;
- Measurements, Quantities and Units;
- Forces and Motion, Work and Energy, Materials, Momentum;
- Electrical Circuits;
- Electrons, Waves, Photons; and
- Quantum Physics.

Year 13 topics:

- Thermal Physics;
- Circular Motion;
- Electric and Magnetic Fields;
- Electromagnetism;
- Nuclear Physics;
- Particle Physics;
- Medical Physics;
- Astrophysics; and
- Cosmology.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes with additional support available within lessons if needed;
- Well-resourced laboratories with excellent technical support;
- School subscriptions to *Physics Sciences Review*, *Physics World*, *Nature* and *New Scientist* magazines.
- Weekly clinics where staff are available for additional support and intervention if needed.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Physics is incredibly versatile. There are exciting work opportunities in the fields of Astronomy, Electronics, Meteorology, Power Generation, Telecommunications, Scientific Journalism and the Aerospace industry. It is useful as a qualification for Architecture, Business, Dentistry, Engineering, Geophysics, Health Studies, Material Science, Medical Physics and Pharmacy, to name but a few.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Astrophysics Club;
- Astrobyte Residential to Patterdale;
- Range of talks from scientists and industry leaders in a wide range of careers; and
- Physics in the real-world visits.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



POLITICS (AQA 7152)

MRS B SCOTT

WHY STUDY POLITICS AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Primarily, you should study Government and Politics because you enjoy discussing current affairs and possess a desire to learn more about how governments and countries operate. Engaging in the study of politics is lively, relevant, controversial and ever changing.

You will be taught in small groups of around eight to twelve pupils, providing the opportunity to build strong working relationships with your peers and teachers. Your teachers will be dedicated to helping your progress, offering constructive feedback and assistance to ensure you reach your full potential. Politics is taught jointly with the Boys' Division.

The Politics department is well resourced and you will be provided with a wide range of books and textbooks to assist your learning. Bolton School also offers online and physical subscriptions to *Politics Review* magazine and the Senior Library further houses a wide range of books and journals. Throughout the course, you will be provided with articles relevant to the topics that you are studying, that you will debate with your teachers and peers.

COURSE CONTENT

There are three main units of study. You will be taught by two members of the department. One will guide you through the Politics of the UK and USA, and the other will guide you through the Government of the UK and the USA. Each member of staff will teach two political ideologies respectively, and the comparative study will be shared between teachers. An outline of the course content can be found below:

Year 12

- The Government of the UK (Paper 1)
- Politics of the UK (Paper 1)
- Political ideologies (Paper 3)

Year 13

- The Government of the USA (Paper 2)
- Politics of the USA (Paper 2)
- Comparative study of the UK and USA (Paper 2)

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

The Politics department run a Clinic once a week, where students are able to seek one-to-one support as well as participate in group revision and skills workshops. Staff also operate an open door policy, whereby you are welcome to drop in to see any member of the department and they will be happy to assist you.

One lesson a week is reserved for deliberate practice; an opportunity to work on the skills necessary to succeed in Politics and seek immediate feedback. Lessons will also contain several opportunities to conduct wider reading to deepen understanding of the taught material.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

A Level Politics is ideal if you are considering international relations, history, sociology, politics, philosophy or law at university. It is a highly respected qualification for many university courses as it develops a range of transferable skills.

An academic understanding of politics and government institutions is useful in many careers. Specialist jobs directly relating to politics include policy advisor, political risk analyst, government social researcher and the civil service, as well as roles within national and local government and NGOs. By studying Politics, you will develop your skills of judgement, analysis and research. These skills are routinely sought after by employers in a broad range of fields.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The annual Year 13 visit to the Houses of Parliament is one of the highlights of the course. Students also benefit from talks and visits from guest speakers who in recent years have included MPs, members of the House of Lords, lobbyists and the current speaker of the House of Commons.

Politics students are instrumental in the running of mock elections, with many opportunities to lead events in the run up to UK General Elections and US Presidential Elections. A newly-formed student led Politics Society will also be available for Year 12 pupils to join, where Year 13 students organise debates, polling, guest speakers and more.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



PSYCHOLOGY (AQA 7182)

MISS E COMPTON



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Studying Psychology at Bolton School offers a unique and enriching experience for any aspiring psychologist. With specialist subject teachers who are passionate about their field, students receive personalised and in-depth instruction. The curriculum is further enhanced by visits from expert speakers, such as those from the Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre, providing invaluable insights into cutting-edge research in brain tumours, stroke, brain imaging and rehabilitation. Additionally, students have the opportunity to enter the Psychology Olympiad and prestigious John Locke international Psychology essay writing competition, fostering critical thinking and advanced writing skills. We also encourage students to conduct their own psychological research, allowing them to explore their interests. Furthermore, students can take on leadership roles by helping to run a Psychology Club for younger students, inspiring the next generation of psychologists. This comprehensive and dynamic approach ensures that students are well-prepared for their future studies at university and beyond.

COURSE CONTENT

We follow the AQA specification, with specific units as follows:

Paper 1 – Introductory topics in Psychology (33.3%)

- Social influence;
- Memory;
- Attachment; and
- Psychopathology

Paper 2 – Psychology in Context (33.3%)

- Approaches in Psychology;
- Biopsychology; and
- Research methods

Paper 3 – Issues and debates in Psychology – and options (33.3%)

- Issues and debates;
- Relationships;
- Schizophrenia; and
- Forensic

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes – enables enhanced feedback;
- Staff will guide you through your written work;
- Clinics twice weekly or one-to-one support sessions; and
- Online resources including *Psychology Review* magazine and digital textbooks.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Psychology is involved in most careers in some capacity or another but here are some the most popular future career paths of recent students:

- Doctor;
- Dentist;
- Legal careers;
- Media;
- Sports psychologist; and
- Marketing/advertising.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Guest Speakers from the Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre;
- Competitions – support in entering the Psychology Olympiad, University Essay Writing competitions and Royal Holloway Psychology Poster Day competition;
- Links with university and opportunities to take part in real psychological research; and
- Opportunity to conduct your own psychology research.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:





RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (OCR H573) MRS K PORTER

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Religious Studies will help to develop and refine your critical thinking skills and will appeal to anyone who enjoys questioning the meaning of life. Understanding how arguments are constructed, analysing the evidence presented, identifying and responding to logical flaws in the thinking of others and constructing your own persuasive arguments are core to the philosophy and ethics course and are skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. The subject is very different from GCSE, focusing on philosophical ideas and arguments rather than facts about religion.

Small class sizes with highly experienced subject specialists will enable you to forge productive relationships with your peers and with teachers who know you well and understand your individual learning styles and your strengths and weaknesses. Lessons are largely discussion based, with a focus on ensuring that each member of the class is secure in their understanding of the material and is challenged to think critically about the subject. This approach to learning is excellent preparation for higher education.

COURSE CONTENT

Philosophy of Religion: This unit considers the question of whether or not it is possible to prove that God exists, whether religious experiences are genuine encounters with a higher power, if humans can really have free will if God knows our future, and whether there are any coherent answers to the problem of evil. This unit also asks questions about nature of the self and the age-old question of what, if anything, happens when we die.

Religion and Ethics: Ethics involves asking questions about right and wrong and whether it is possible, or even desirable, to develop a system for telling us how we ought to behave in every situation. You will learn about a range of ethical systems, such as Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics and Kantian Ethics, and you will apply these to real world topics, such as euthanasia, issues in business ethics and questions concerning personal identity, sex and sexuality in the 21st Century.

Developments in Christian Thought: This unit focuses on key areas of Christian theology which have shaped Western Philosophy and culture over the past two thousand years. It asks whether religion should play a part in public life in an increasingly secular modern world and examines the argument that religion is, in fact, invented by human beings as a way of overcoming fear of death and to control behaviour. The response of Christianity to other faiths is also explored, along with the extent to which Christianity has perpetuated misogynistic world views.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- You will be given booklets produced by the department to support each unit on the specification;
- There will be a dedicated lesson per fortnight for developing and practising essay skills;
- One-to-one support is available as required, plus a weekly drop-in clinic;
- Exam board endorsed textbooks are supplied to all students for the duration of the course; and
- You will have access to a departmental library to support wider reading.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Those studying Religious Studies have gone on to careers in law, politics, journalism and media, medicine, education and academia.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Visits and trips, including a residential trip to Poland, Business Ethics trip to Cadbury's and A Level conferences;
- Essay competitions;
- Exploring contemporary philosophical and ethical issues through film and media;
- Medical Ethics course to support those intending to pursue Medicine or Dentistry; and
- A weekly extra-curricular club for debate and discussion of topical issues.



RUSSIAN (PEARSON EDEXCEL 9RU0) MR N WYATT



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY RUSSIAN AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Few schools in Great Britain offer Russian beyond GCSE. Fewer still are able to match the breadth and depth of both knowledge and resources that the Russian Department here at Bolton School offers. Students are taught in small groups and in one-to-one sessions, allowing lessons to be easily tailored to the needs of each individual. You will benefit from a selection of teachers who have more than fifty years' experience of Sixth Form teaching between them and will have access to a wealth of material to give you the best possible chance to fulfil your potential. Departmental examination results are impressive, with almost every single candidate over the last five years attaining A* – B at A Level and many opting to continue their study of Russian at university, including at Oxford and Cambridge. Russian has a kudos value that makes admissions tutors and potential employers sit up and take note; it opens many doors, frequently reduces university entry requirements and is a talent that embellishes any CV. We are proud to launch our new Sixth Form study trip to Tallinn, Estonia next year, enabling pupils to immerse themselves in Russian-speaking culture, involving a wide range of excursions as well as intensive small-group language sessions.

This subject is taught within the Boys' Division.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is broad, offering you the chance to look at politics and social issues, through to the media and the arts. You can expect your understanding of Russia, its history, culture and literature, to expand immeasurably and your linguistic skills to develop considerably.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Those seeking to obtain an A Level qualification in Russian will sit three assessed papers at the end of Year 13. The speaking component will be sat in May and the written components in June.

Paper 1:	Listening, Reading and Translation (2 hours, 40%)
Paper 2:	Written Response to works and translation (2 hours 40 minutes, 30%)
Paper 3:	Speaking (21 – 23 minutes, 30%)*
	*This includes 5 minutes' preparation time

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS

Although the study of Russian at this level demands significant linguistic competence, crucially, a committed and focused approach is the more essential quality. Pupils achieving a wide range of GCSE grades have found great success at Russian A Level and all should feel empowered to join us for Sixth Form.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

Prior to the invasion of Ukraine, links between Russia, the former Soviet Republics and the West were growing rapidly. Employment opportunities exist in all spheres from journalism and publishing to business, tourism and industry, with diplomacy and international relations now playing an even more crucial role than before. With an eye on re-establishing productive diplomatic channels, knowledge of Russian language and politics, alongside a desire to communicate, are more essential than ever. Former students have found that they have received more favourable offers from universities, not just for the linguistic talents they possess, but also for the logical and deductive skills they have developed.

Scan the QR code adjacent to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



SPANISH (AQA 7692)

MRS E XERRI



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES

WHY STUDY SPANISH AT BOLTON SCHOOL?

Our aim is to help you to extend your linguistic skills in small classes so that you can both speak and write in Spanish confidently and fluently. You will develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills; expand your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and acquire new skills such as translation and interpreting; learn to analyse literary texts and films in the target language; recognise the importance of linguistic competence in today's global workplace; and learn about culture and topical issues in Spanish speaking countries.

COURSE CONTENT

The topics at A Level are broad and exciting, covering all aspects of Hispanic life across all Spanish speaking countries.

In Year 12, our topics are Modern and Traditional Values (*Los valores tradicionales y modernos*), Cyberspace (*El ciberespacio*) and Equal Rights (*La igualdad de los sexos*), Modern Day Idols (*La influencia de los ídolos*), Spanish Regional Identity (*La identidad regional en España*) and Cultural Heritage (*El patrimonio cultural*).

You will study a film in detail and look at cultural aspects that go hand-in-hand with the themes of the set text.

In Year 13, our topics are Immigration (*La inmigración*), Racism (*El racismo*), Integration (*La convivencia*), Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Citizens (*Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana*), Monarchies and Dictatorships (*Monarquías y dictaduras*) and Popular Movements (*Movimientos populares*).

You will also study a novel in detail and look at cultural aspects that go hand-in-hand with the themes of the set text.

The topics and set texts are assessed over a series of three papers, which include skills such as reading, listening, translating, summarising, writing and speaking.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Small class sizes (usually around seven to ten students) which enables you to build excellent relationships with your two teachers;
- At least 25 minutes a week (often more) of one-to-one speaking practice with our Spanish assistant, Núria Roig-Canellas;
- An MFL clinic that runs one lunchtime per week; and
- A by-request Grammar Club for Sixth Form students.

WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

- Law and international law;
- Travel and tourism e.g. tour operators, event planners;
- Global Business e.g. translating and interpreting;
- Marketing and media e.g. social media content creators, Netflix subtitlers and app designers; and
- Education e.g. teachers, professors and lecturers.

KEY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- A weekly Debating Club which leads to the yearly North Schools' MFL Debate Competition hosted by Cheadle Hulme School;
- Termly Spanish Film Evenings;
- Links with The University of Manchester and an opportunity to attend an MFL day on campus;
- An annual Christmas Tapas meal at a Spanish restaurant for Sixth Form and staff only;
- Opportunities for trips abroad; previous trips have included Valencia, Málaga and Madrid; and
- The Opportunity to complete a work experience placement abroad.

Scan the QR code to hear from our students about their experiences studying this subject:



NOTES



BOLTON SCHOOL
GIRLS' DIVISION
A LEVEL COURSES



