TONBRIDGE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Studying in the Sixth Form

Entry 2026

Overview

Our Sixth Form offers an exciting and challenging academic experience designed to prepare you for university, apprenticeships, and future careers. You will choose three or four A Level subjects, each taught in 10 one-hour lessons per fortnight, providing depth and focus in your chosen areas.

Alongside your A Level studies, all students follow a core weekly lesson throughout the two years, developing essential 21st Century skills such as digital literacy, critical thinking, and research techniques - skills that are highly valued in higher education and the workplace.

You will also have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), a nationally recognised qualification that allows you to explore a topic of your choice in depth, demonstrating independence and academic rigour.

A level subjects offered

- Art & Design (Fine Art)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- English Language & Literature
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Maths
- Maths - Further Maths
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

Courses are subject to viable student numbers and timetable constraints.

Recommended prior study

Minimum APS of 6.0 from the best 8 GCSE subjects, with the following conditions:

- At least grade 5 in Mathematics and English Language or Literature
- At least six GCSEs must be completed

We expect students to have attained a grade 7 GCSE in a suitable subject to indicate readiness for study at A Level. Students seeking to study Further Maths should have attained grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics.

Apply here

Applications will open on 5 December. Applications must be made via our online application form which will be available here: https://www.tgs.kent.sch.uk/apply-to-our-sixth-form or via the QR code:

21st Century Skills Programme

All Sixth Form students will take part in our new 21st Century Skills Programme: a one-hour-per-week course designed to give students the digital confidence, analytical ability and academic independence demanded by modern universities and workplaces. It strengthens everything they do in their A-Levels and gives them an edge that goes far beyond exam results.

The programme has three strands:

Digital Skills & AI Skills

Students build genuine professional digital fluency. They learn how to use AI tools intelligently, ethically and creatively; develop strong digital literacy; and understand how to use modern technologies to improve their learning, organisation, and communication. This isn't about "using apps"—it's about becoming confident digital problem solvers who can work effectively in the digital environments that universities and employers now expect.

Authentic Critical Thinking

This strand pushes students to think for themselves. Through structured debate, discussion of real-world issues and collaborative problem-solving across subject areas, students learn how to analyse arguments, evaluate evidence, and communicate clearly. It builds the kind of intellectual confidence that transforms classroom performance and interview presence.

Research Skills and the EPQ

Students gain advanced academic skills: how to conduct digital research, plan complex tasks, reference accurately, and write with clarity and authority. These skills support all A-Level subjects.

Students may also opt to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); those who do will use programme lessons to work closely with a supervisor, build their project and receive structured guidance from start to finish.

This programme is designed to prepare students for the world they are stepping into: one built on rapid technological change, complex global issues, and high expectations for independent learners. It helps them become adaptable, confident, and capable—ready not just to succeed in Sixth Form, but to thrive in whatever setting comes next.

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Specification

Eduqas

Why study Art and Design in the Sixth Form?

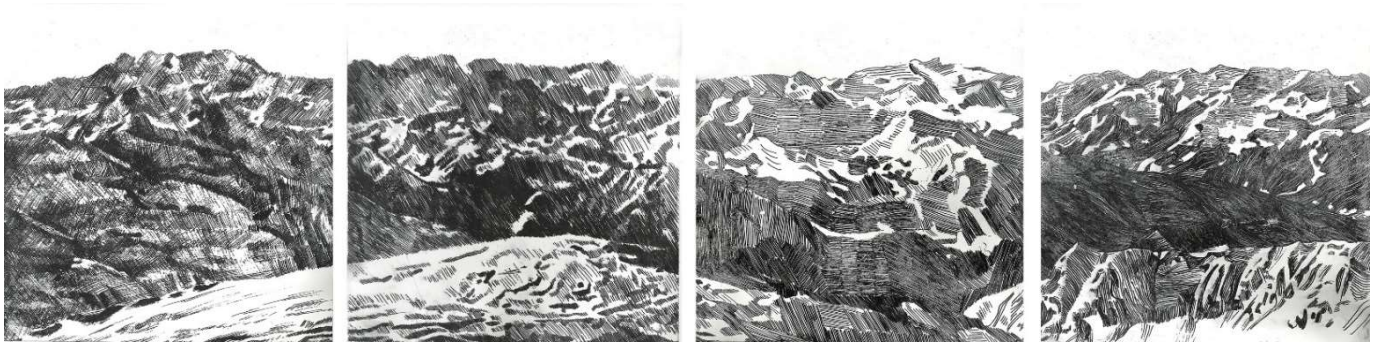
We live in a visual world that is ever changing and evolving. A study of Art equips us with highly developed skills to navigate, shape, comment on, and thrive in this dynamic visual landscape. Through studying Art, students learn to express ideas visually, explore complex concepts, and communicate in innovative and powerful ways. They develop intellectual curiosity, social and cultural awareness, risk taking and problem-solving skills that better equip them for further study in a range of higher education subjects and careers.

Why study Art and Design at TGS?

The Art and Design A Level course at TGS encourages students to investigate, gain inspiration from, and communicate personal ideas about the world around them.

Through exploring a range of media and processes we provide students with a comprehensive set of skills and knowledge to help them embark on an individual journey in the creation of a personal, meaningful, practical and in-depth portfolio based on subject matter of their own choice.

Students are encouraged to situate this within a range of appropriate personal and international contexts and critical analysis to make authentic art with meaning, that engages with and comments on the world we inhabit.



Where can A Level Art and Design take me?

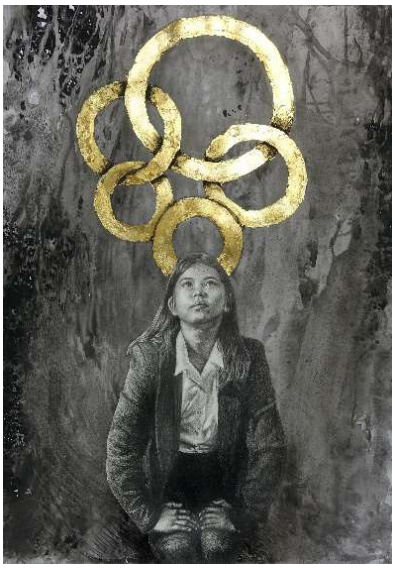
Many students complete Foundation courses before their specified degree. Former students have studied History of Art and Architecture degrees at the Courtauld Institute, Cambridge, UCL and Oxford Brookes. Students have also pursued degrees in traditional Fine Art disciplines, Illustration, Animation and Computer Games Design at a range of destinations.

The creative industries are a rapidly growing part of the economy. Possible careers include: Animation, Architecture, Art Director, Art Therapy, Curator, Fashion Design, Computer Game Design, Fine Artist, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Photographer, Spatial Design, Stylist, Textile Designer, Theatre Design, VFX Artist.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Visits to galleries and museums, participation in regional and national competitions. Students can also run clubs for younger year groups.

Course outline



An initial series of workshops is delivered to embed skills and give greater confidence within drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, and mixed media to enable students to make personalised choices to allow them to develop their own vision as an artist. Students will then embark on a personal journey, identifying their own line of inquiry, as they explore this through experimenting and refining their skills with appropriate media. Throughout this process, students will have been inspired by and responded to, a variety of selected art works and art forms to help them critically explore and analyse artworks to inform their own artistic practice.

Alongside their sketchbook and related studies and outcomes, students will create a piece of sustained prose (1,000 words minimum) that accompanies and supports their practical portfolio.

Assessment

Component 1 (60%)

Personal Investigation

Part 1: Practical Portfolio; a sustained in-depth critical, practical and investigative project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance;

Part 2: Personal Study

A piece of sustained, illustrated prose that accompanies their Practical Portfolio. 1,000 – 3,000 words.

Part 1 and part 2 are assessed holistically as one component.

Component 2: (40%)

Externally Set Assignment

The Examination paper is released on 1st February and provides a series of starting points for students to embark upon a short period of preparatory development before sitting a 15-hour timed Examination.

The preparatory work will follow a similar, but more concise, format to Component 1.

What do students say?

Georgi - TGS Alumna - BA Printmaking at Brighton University

What do you feel is special about TGS?

“TGS empowers students to honour their true ambitions, through excellent quality teaching that goes above and beyond establishing thorough understanding of content to feeling as though each teacher knows and caters to your needs well, both educational and pastoral. The outstanding memory for me will always be the dedication of the Art teachers to their subject and the way in which they empowered me to excel through genuine investment in my ambition as an artist. The well-being support was also invaluable and unforgettable.”

What did you do after TGS?

“I decided to pursue a higher education in art, inspired by the Art teachers who I admired who had done so, as well as an impassioned alumni who visited to talk about her experience on a BA Fine Art Painting course”.

“Art feels like a complete break from everything else. It is completely unique and stepping into an art room is like a breath of fresh air.” Jessica

"Art at TGS inspired me to continue my creative studies at university and as a career. The Art course was rewarding - I appreciated the support from the teachers and I enjoyed the range of media we used to create work with. " Arthur, TGS Alumna

Biology

Specification

AQA 7402

Why study Biology in the Sixth Form?

Biology is the study of life – and life is astonishingly complex. Studying Biology at A level gives you the tools to explore and understand the intricate systems that make up living organisms, from the tiniest biomolecules to entire ecosystems. Studying Biology reveals the beauty and complexity of the natural world by exploring topics like genetics, physiology and evolution. Biology also helps you connect to real-world issues like food security, climate change and medical breakthroughs – making it one of the most relevant subjects that you can study. It is a rapidly evolving field – from CRISPR gene editing to synthetic biology and vaccine development, new discoveries are transforming medicine, agriculture and conservation. Studying Biology puts you at the forefront of the scientific exciting developments and opens doors to careers in healthcare, research, biotechnology and beyond.

Why study Biology at TGS?

Our teachers show a passion and enthusiasm for Biology that is infectious, we are similarly keen to develop the passion of our students and will help to arrange any experiences or initiatives outside of the classroom that will benefit our sixth formers. When students expressed an interest in having discussions about Biology in the news, we set up BioSoc which is now in its fourth year. When students have wanted to investigate career opportunities in different fields of Biology, we have used our parent, alumni and professional network to facilitate work experiences, presentations and Q&A sessions. We believe that it is important to not constrain Biology to just the classroom or the syllabus that we study.

Where can A Level Biology take me?

Many of our Biology students have pursued further study and careers in Biology. We are proud to say that we have students who have embarked on a wide range of careers in medicine, radiography, marine biology, conservation and scientific research.

The transferable skills developed in Biology have also allowed past students to find their careers in investment and finance, psychology, forensic science, medical engineering, law and politics to name a few.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

BioSoc: A weekly group run by sixth form students for students of all ages who are interested in Biology beyond the classroom. We arrange guest speakers, experiments and debates to see how Biology has a vast range of real-world applications and learn beyond the confines of the curriculum.

Biology Week: Careers talks from members of the extensive TGS network who have careers linked to Biology. There is also an opportunity for sixth form students to run a session for other students on their passion.

Biology in Action lectures: An annual trip for Year 12 and Year 13 to listen to experts in their field in a London lecture theatre, whilst also receiving examination tips for the A Level syllabus.

Biology field trip: Locations in the past have included Slapton Ley, Flatford Mill and Marden Wildlife Reserve for students to learn ecological techniques with the aim to complete one of the required practicals of the course as well as developing essential biological research skills.

Biology Olympiad: An opportunity for Year 12 and Year 13 students to compete in an international Biology competition, our students have had success in winning awards and have been selected for the UK team.

Cambridge Biology Challenge: We facilitate collaboration between students to answer the regular questions posed by Cambridge University (Homerton college) to enter the nationwide competition, with several teams placing in the top 20.

Course outline

We will study 8 topics over the course of the 2 years:

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

There will also be 12 required practicals.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Topics 1-4 are assessed including relevant practical skills, a mixture of short and long answer questions
- Paper 2: Topics 5-8 are assessed including relevant practical skills, a mixture of short and long answer questions
- Paper 3: Topics 1-8 are assessed including relevant practical skills, a mixture of structured questions, critical analysis of experimental data and one synoptic essay from a choice of two.

What do students say?

"I studied Biology at TGS from 2018 – 2020 and went on to study it at the University of Birmingham. I am very thankful to my Biology teacher as it became my favourite subject and led me to study it for my Bachelor's degree. Biology provides you with a unique set of skills, combining critical thinking, technical problem-solving and analytical abilities, with communication, determination and resistance. Whether you choose to pursue a career in the field or not, it sets you up with foundational, diverse, highly transferable capabilities, which is recognised across a magnitude of employers"

"From making sure every single student truly grasps the course material to fostering discussions that push our thinking far beyond the syllabus, the Biology teachers bring an exceptional passion for their subject. This enthusiasm for learning and genuine desire to see their students succeed is what makes sixth form Biology lessons so consistently engaging and inspiring."

"Studying Biology at TGS has been one of the best parts of coming to this school - the teachers are amazing, helping with interview practice to making lessons fun, as well as the department offering many opportunities to learn and expand biological knowledge outside of lessons."

Chemistry

Specification

OCR Chemistry A

Why study Chemistry in the Sixth Form?

Chemistry is the central science and helps link many things that are covered in the other scientific disciplines. It will help explain why DNA is a double helix and how proteins fit together. It can be used to explain why materials behave how they do. It is useful in allowing us to control the speed of what we manufacture and to understand how to maximise the yield of chemical processes. It is a requirement of many medical courses as some of the concepts explain how parts of the body work and how drugs interact with the body.

Why study Chemistry at TGS?

We have an enthusiastic Chemistry team who are all specialists in this field of science; they consistently deliver exciting lessons that link and place the Chemistry on the A Level syllabus into everyday contexts. We support, and have a strong history of, students gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as other prestigious universities, to study Chemistry, Natural Science and Medicine. There are many super-curricula activities, including Chem Soc and Olympiads, that our 6th form students take part in and/or introduce and lead.

Where can A Level Chemistry take me?

A Level Chemistry opens doors into Medicine, Biochemistry, Biology, Chemical Engineering and other Science and Engineering courses as well as into further study of Chemistry. Chemistry is a unique mix of conceptual, mathematical and problem-solving skills. It produces highly analytical and evaluative students with skills that are in great demand across industries including business and finance.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Students can attend societies/activities like Chem Soc and also take part in the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) Chemistry Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Where students have an interest in a particular area of science or want to discuss or debate processes/ethics/current scientific thinking they can set up their own society with support from our dedicated team of teachers and lab technicians.

Course outline

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry
- Module 3 – Periodic table and energy
- Module 4 – Core organic chemistry
- Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment

Paper 1 Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (01)	2 hour 15 mins	37%	Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5
Paper 2 Synthesis and analytical techniques (02)	2 hour 15 mins	37%	Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
Paper 3 Unified chemistry (03)	1 hour 30 mins	26%	Assesses content from all modules (1 to 6)
Practical endorsement in chemistry (04)	-	-	Non-Exam Assessment

All components include synoptic assessment.

Students must complete all components (01, 02, 03, and 04) to be awarded the A Level in Chemistry A.

What do students say?

"I enjoy studying chemistry at this school because I feel consistently supported. My teachers invest extra time to help me overcome challenges, build connections between topics, and fill in any gaps from previous studies."

"The chemistry department at TGS is supportive and highly engaging, with opportunities to explore content beyond the curriculum. I would go as far as to say that we have one of the highest test tube to student ratios in the country, due to the hands-on style teaching."

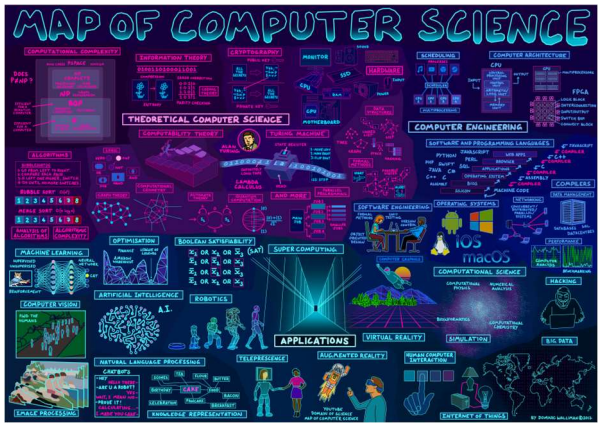
"Studying chemistry, I love how the depth of knowledge that you can have is limitless, and that you can always push your understanding of the subject further. And, when you do so, chemistry's interconnectedness means that it benefits your learning in all the other areas too, which is really satisfying."

"I have always loved chemistry, because every time I ask why (and I do that lots) the universe gives me a fun plot twist that either makes the world a little less confusing or wildly more so; either way it makes everything much more interesting."

"Studying chemistry is learning the art of how matter behaves and discovering the architecture of life. Through chemistry, the everyday ordinary becomes comprehensible, it explains why things work, why things change, and why we depend on what we do. This can range from: perfumes, the medicine we take, the batteries that power our devices, and even the flavour of foods."

"Everything is molecular; that is the true beauty behind chemistry."

Computer Science



Explore the digital world. Shape the future. Think globally.

"Everybody should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think" Steve Jobs

Specification

OCR A – Level Computer Science H446

Why study Computer Science in the Sixth Form?

A Level Computer Science is a dynamic and intellectually stimulating subject that explores how computers work, how we can solve problems using algorithms, and how software is developed to meet real-world needs. You'll learn to think logically, write code, and understand the ethical, legal, and cultural implications of technology in society. The A Level course builds on the foundational knowledge gained from GCSE Computer Science.

Computer Science isn't just about coding: it teaches you powerful thinking skills you can use anywhere in life! Skills such as problem-solving, computational thinking, critical thinking, logical thinking, abstraction, resilience, data skills and creativity, to name a few, that can be used in all subjects and careers.

Learning in Computer Science links with learning in many subjects e.g. Product Design (the Design cycle, user experience) Maths (logical reasoning, Boolean algebra), Humanities (data analysis, cultural awareness), Psychology (user interfaces, AI), English (communication), Natural Languages (AI), Music (pattern matching).

Why study Computer Science at TGS?

At Tonbridge Grammar School, Computer Science is more than a subject—it's a gateway to shaping the future and about becoming a responsible global citizen, a collaborative inquirer, and a positive agent for change. Whether you're passionate about solving global challenges, designing ethical technologies or collaborating across cultures, this course empowers you to make a real impact.

Our aim is to support you to be:

- The very best you can be in a nurturing and kind community
- Successful, happy, healthy and resilient in an ever-changing world
- Positive agents for change with the courage to challenge and innovate

Computer Science supports this vision by helping students to:

- Learn how to learn and think critically
- Engage with diverse cultures and perspectives
- Develop skills for a future world we don't yet know

TGS values intercultural understanding and global engagement. In Computer Science, you'll explore:

- How different countries approach data privacy and cybersecurity
- Ethical dilemmas in AI and surveillance across cultures

Where can A Level Computer Science take me?

- To the future – what can you invent?
- Degrees and apprenticeships in the UK and abroad in Computer Science, Games design, Business, International Relations, Engineering and Digital Art
- Create technology start-up companies e.g. 'Lineup Polo", "Team Repair"
- Senior positions centred on sustainability and software engineering
- Work all over the world e.g. Japan, Germany and Canada – this is a truly global subject.
- Raising awareness of minority groups in their industry (e.g. finance and defence)
- Work in AI
- Software engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Future careers that are not even thought of yet

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Your learning will be enriched by trips such as "Computer Science in Action Lectures" in London, external speakers, involvement in national and global Computer Science competitions and running coding clubs or mentoring students in younger years.

Students enjoyed the Computer Science in Action Lectures and the opportunity to speak with Matthew Leake, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Birmingham (pictured).

Course outline

The course is divided into three components:

(1) **Computer Systems** – Contains most of the content of the specification. The content covers characteristics of contemporary processors, inputs, output and storage devices, software and software development, exchanging data, data types, data structures and algorithms and legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues. Assed in a written paper recalling knowledge and understanding.

(2) **Algorithms and programming component** – Relates principally to problem solving skills needed by learners to apply the knowledge and understanding encountered in component 1. The content covers elements of computational thinking, problem solving and programming and algorithms.

(3) **Programming project components –** A practical portfolio-based assessment solving a problem chosen by the learner and agreed with the teacher's using python.

Assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed by a 2½ hour written paper exam. Each component is worth 40% of the overall grade.

Component 3 is internally assessed project worth 20% of the overall grade.

	Assessment Objectives
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of the principles and concepts of computer science including to analyse problems in computational terms
AO3	Design, program and evaluate computer systems that solve problems, making reasoned judgements about these and presenting conclusions

Component	% of A Level Computer Science (H446)			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total
Computer systems (H446/01)	21*	9*	10*	40
Algorithms and programming (H446/02)	15*	18*	7*	40
Programming project (H446/03 or H446/04)	0*	3*	17*	20
Total	**35***	**30***	**35***	**100**

* values rounded to the nearest whole %

What do students say?

"I truly treasured my time at TGS, and sixth form was by far the highlight of my experience. The most notable influence will always be the incredible support from the entire Computing department even when it meant giving up their free time! From guiding our braille e-reader project at lunchtimes, to discussing my apprenticeship offers, providing interview practice, and even just noticing when I was having a bad day, the support was unforgettable and inspired an ethic I strive to maintain within my own network too." Megan, Alum (Software Engineer at ARM)

"The best thing about Computer Science? The combination of skills, knowledge and confidence it brings allows you to be your own boss! I am currently in Japan, working remotely from my laptop for a company back in the UK." Torty, Alum (Co-Founder, Decima2. PhD in Explainable AI)

"Computer Science gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role of IT in every aspect of human life. It instilled in me a sense of wonder as to how our everyday lives are affected by and can be improved by the use of computing. Take every opportunity you can, and back yourself 100%. Make the best of your skill set but don't be afraid to push yourself to grow as a person. Never let anyone tell you that you are not capable! Women ARE the future of science." Nancy, Alum (eLearning Specialist // Articulate // Pharma & Healthcare)

Design and Technology

Specification

OCR A Level Design and Technology- Product Design (H406)

Why study Design and Technology in the Sixth Form?

"Design is intelligence made visible"- Alina Wheeler

A Level Design and Technology strengthens your critical thinking and problem-solving skills within a creative environment, enabling you to develop and make prototypes and products that solve real-world problems.

When studying A level Design and Technology at TGS, you will consider your own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values as you develop design proposals using the principles of user-centred design. You will be required to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes and products. During the course, you will acquire key, in depth subject knowledge that will take you from GCSE through to Higher Education study, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.

The theory content you will cover reflects authentic design practice, giving you an insight into the way that creative, engineering and manufacturing industries function. The specification we follow requires you to bring and apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills and reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

Why study Design and Technology at TGS?

Studying A level Design and Technology at TGS is more than just designing and making. It's about looking at and understanding the world around us, considering the big issues affecting society and the environment and thinking about the differences and impact that can be made through intelligent design.

We have excellent designing and prototyping facilities here at TGS, with a core team of staff experienced and skilled in supporting you as you bring your ideas into reality.

A wide range of manufacturing techniques are possible at TGS, including manufacture using timber, polymers, textiles and rapid prototyping using 3D printing and laser cutting. The school invests in Design and Technology, ensuring that we have the best possible facilities and equipment.

We are passionate about design that makes a difference, using knowledge skills and creativity to provide you with a voice and response to the big issues in a rapidly changing world.

We welcome those with a passion for fashion, innovative inventors, artistic architects, machine makers, CAD creators, empathetic engineers, and those who can think in 3D! If you are open-minded and have an eye for detail, this is the subject for you.

Where can A Level Design and Technology take me?

A Level Design and Technology can lead you into a myriad of next steps. From dedicated design and engineering degrees, apprenticeships and careers, to those courses and further study where the pathway from design may not seem obvious. Design teaches you to think differently, to see the world from a different view, and to understand that there are many solutions to the most difficult problems. Most of all, Design and Technology teaches you to recognise and understand the needs of others, and to work with them to find the best answer.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

In the Sixth Form, we offer visits to galleries and museums, the Product Design in Action conference and participation in regional and national competitions. Students run clubs for younger year groups in an area of design or making that interests them, and you will plan and lead outreach sessions for local schools. We also use our skills and knowledge to support other areas of school life.

Course outline

Through combined theory and practice, design challenges and lessons you will cover the following topics:

1. Identifying client and user requirements
2. Learning from existing products
3. Implications of wider issues (inc. design for manufacture, design for markets, and energy factors when manufacturing)
4. Design thinking and communication
5. Material and component considerations
6. Technical understanding
7. Manufacturing processes and techniques
8. Viability of design solutions
9. Health and safety

You will also prepare for and complete the NEA Iterative Design project

Assessment:

Component	Weighting
Principles of Design and Technology – written paper	26.7% of total A Level
Problem Solving – written paper	23.3% of total A Level
Iterative Design Project – Non-Examined Assessment	50% of total A Level

What do students say?

"It was an obvious choice for me to stay at TGS for DT, as I knew about the excellent quality of facilities, resources and teacher support in the subject. This not only makes DT easier to study and excel in but also enhances me as an innovator. I will take forward skills around having a keen eye for smaller details, accompanied by innovative skills. This will be essential and helpful not only in university, but I believe in the rest of my life; indispensable skills, to keep thinking outside the box."

"I really liked the sense of community and smaller group teaching that was available at TGS, especially in the DT department. Additionally, the range of resources and machines was very strong and allowed me to be open in my ideas when deciding on my design project."

"I want to study maths at university, though I originally took DT because I wanted to do engineering. I still, however, have noticed that it has helped me by allowing me to practically apply some of the maths I am learning."

"I find DT fascinating because I enjoy coming up with creative solutions to problems and learning about other people's creative solutions to design problems (as we learn about in DT). I find many of the topics that I have learned about in DT very interesting, such as learning about the design and manufacturing process and environmentally friendly designing. We have access to great resources such as 3D printers and laser cutters, which we can use for our projects. My favourite thing about DT is using CAD to create 3D models, which are then physically made using the 3D printers."

"I chose to study DT here at TGS as I enjoy the balance between creativity and technicality within DT. DT gives me a chance to explore creative solutions to everyday problems, developing a range of skills that can be carried over into everyday life. As I plan on studying Design at university, I am developing the skills that will be essential, from being able to use advanced 3D modelling software to knowing how to effectively communicate and solve problems."

Drama

Specification

Eduqas Drama and Theatre Qualification (601/8554/5)

Why study Drama in the Sixth Form?

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts"

Drama is about shaping confident, empathetic, creative, and critically aware individuals. Through this course, you'll master the art of communication, learn to collaborate effectively, and develop innovative problem-solving skills. These transferable qualities are highly sought after by universities and employers, making Drama an outstanding choice for students who want to stand out. By the end of the two years, you won't just understand theatre, you will have a deep knowledge of the Performing Arts Industry as a whole, including producing, directing, and designing. You will gain the ability to plan and deliver events from concept to completion, project manage and meet strict deadlines—skills that prepare you for success in any career path.

Why study Drama at TGS?

At TGS, Drama students experience theatre at a professional level. You'll enjoy:

- Theatre trips to see inspiring live performances.
- Leadership opportunities, directing and mentoring younger students at Key Stage 3 and 4, and supporting clubs and projects. There is a real opportunity at TGS to get involved with directing, designing and producing.
- Major productions and festivals, including the National Theatre Connections Festival and the whole-school musical.
- Creative freedom to produce, write, and direct your own work and showcase this work to invited audiences and KS3 and KS4 students.
- A professional approach—students are treated as working actors, learning about the performing arts industry. Practical work at A-level is always ambitious, diverse, and of the highest quality.
- Drama at TGS is led by subject specialists. Students benefit from expert guidance, industry-level standards, and a deep understanding of both practical and theoretical aspects of theatre.

music&drama education awards 2026 FINALIST

Where can A Level Drama take me?

The Industry: Drama opens doors to a wide range of roles in theatre, film, and television. You could become an actor, director, or stage manager, or explore a career in set, costume, and lighting design. Many graduates also move into playwriting or screenwriting, shaping stories for stage and screen.

Media and Communications: storytelling, presentation, and audience awareness are all highly valued in journalism, broadcasting, and digital media. Careers in marketing, advertising, and public relations often seek creative thinkers who can engage and persuade audiences.

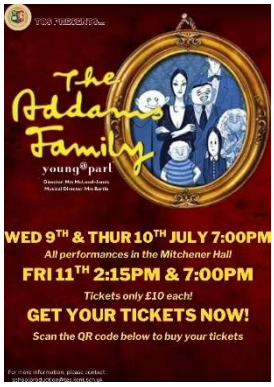
Education and Leadership: Drama nurtures confidence and communication, making it ideal for roles in teaching, training, and coaching. Many drama students go on to inspire others in schools, universities, or corporate environments.

Law and Business: Employers in law, business, and management appreciate the analytical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork Drama develops. Your ability to present ideas clearly and think on your feet is a huge asset in careers such as law, human resources, and leadership roles. Many lawyers who have an interest in entertainment law have a drama background.

Other Pathways: Drama graduates often branch into arts administration, event management, and community arts projects, combining creativity with organisational skills. Some even move into psychology or therapy, using drama techniques to support wellbeing and mental health.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

- Regular theatre trips to leading venues.
- Opportunities to lead drama clubs and mentor younger students.
- Participation in whole-school productions and National Theatre Connections either as a director or a Designer
- Workshops with professional practitioners and links with local theatres such as Trinity Theatre



Course outline

Learners study five performance texts (two complete texts and three key extracts from three different texts, studied in the context of the whole text) representing a range of social, historical and cultural contexts. The complete texts are studied for the written examination and the key extracts are divided between all three components. Learners also study two influential theatre practitioners (individuals or companies) and produce three performances: one text performance, one devised performance and one performance based on a creative reinterpretation of an extract from a text.

This content is divided as follows between the three components.

Component 1: Devising Theatre – Create original work based on a stimulus and practitioner.
Component 2: Text in Performance – Perform extracts from published plays.
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – Explore set texts and live theatre in a written exam.

You will develop practical performance skills alongside theoretical understanding of theatre.

Assessment

Assessment combines practical and written elements:

- ✓ Devised performance and portfolio (internally assessed, externally moderated).
- ✓ Performance of scripted extracts (externally assessed).
- ✓ Written examination on set texts and live theatre (externally assessed). This balance ensures you gain both creative and analytical expertise.

What do students say?

"Drama at TGS is special because it not only allows you to work on your performance skills, but it also gives you the support needed to excel in the technical side of theatre (like; lighting and sound). Furthermore, the Drama department is very welcoming and gives opportunities to those who don't take Drama allowing them to work on their confidence and communication skills. The department is very diverse and every year new production styles are explored expanding the knowledge of all who participate. In addition, the drama department encourages a sense of community amongst the student body nourishing strong relationships." Alexia

"*Drama at TGS, has truly been an absolute highlight throughout my school journey. Performing has meant a lot to me since a very young age, my love for the subject and performing has continued to grow. Working collaboratively with my friends to devise, without a doubt, my favourite memory so far throughout my secondary school education. Drama at TGS is unlike drama elsewhere; our community, passion and creativity exceed my expectations every time I step foot into the studio. Being part of the drama department over the past couple of years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my journey at TGS over the past 5 years. The opportunities are endless! We have worked on musical productions such as the most recent, The Addams Family, and offered clubs and projects such as; Production arts, TGS Shakespeare Theatre Co, Musical theatre Club and more. Drama at this school encourages individuality and self-expression; it is a place to be who you are and fully express your ideas to a community filled with love, friendship, and support. I am currently leader of Musical Theatre club, which has been a phenomenal project so far; I have had the honour to inspire young minds to be creative, expressive, and confident, and I must say that I am extraordinarily proud and grateful. I firmly believe that drama has contributed to who I am today, instilling confidence, teamwork and communication skills which have helped me in all aspects of my life and will continue to do so throughout my sixth form journey and beyond." Sam*

*"I've had the privilege of being involved in every aspect of the Drama Department—acting, directing, running clubs, and even working on tech—and it truly is one of the most welcoming and vibrant communities in the school. My journey began in Year 10 when I chose GCSE Drama, and since then, it has helped me form incredible friendships with people who share the same passion and creativity. Drama has been transformative for me, boosting my confidence and equipping me with invaluable skills such as teamwork, communication, and adaptability. What I love most about the TGS Drama Department is its inclusivity—there's something for everyone. Whether you want to perform, direct, design, or work behind the scenes, the teachers are approachable and always encourage creativity and involvement. I particularly enjoy the variety of experiences. A highlight for me was performing two completely contrasting genres at GCSE, which showcased the versatility and power of drama. The theatre trips were equally inspiring, giving us the chance to explore new ideas and genres beyond the classroom while creating unforgettable memories with friends****." Bryony***

Economics

Specification

AQA A-level Economics 7136

Why study Economics in the Sixth Form?

Economics is a dynamic and relevant subject that empowers students to understand and engage with the world around them. It explores how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions about scarce resources - decisions that shape societies and influence global challenges such as inequality, climate change, and financial stability. The subject naturally connects with other disciplines such as politics, geography, and mathematics, helping students see the bigger picture and make meaningful links across their studies. It is an ideal choice for those who are curious about current affairs and keen to explore how economic thinking can drive positive change and shape the future of our world.

Why study Economics at TGS?

Economics is taught in a way which reflects the school's commitment to authentic, interconnected learning: students engage with contemporary issues, question assumptions, and apply economic principles to real-world contexts. The approach to teaching fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. Lessons are designed to be intellectually stimulating and engaging, delivered in a supportive environment where students feel empowered to take academic risks and grow in confidence.

Where can A Level Economics take me?

Studying Economics prepares student not just for exams, but for life beyond school. It opens doors to a wide range of prestigious university courses and career pathways.

In 2025, nearly half of our Economics students progressed to related degrees including Economics at Warwick, Exeter and Manchester, Business at Durham and Queen's Belfast, and Law at top institutions such as York and Cardiff. Others pursued International Relations, PPE at Oxford, and even a degree apprenticeship with Amazon. Whether your ambition lies in finance, politics, law, or global business, Economics provides a solid foundation for success.

Did you know?

Economics graduates are among the highest paid in the UK, with average earnings of around £69,000 ten years after graduation—surpassing those in medicine, law, and engineering.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Economics students enjoy exciting enrichment opportunities, including the Wharton Global Investment Challenge (run by the University of Pennsylvania), where they compete internationally using real-world financial strategies. Inspiring talks from visiting experts - such as those from the Bank of England - bring economic theory to life and offer valuable insights into careers in finance and policy.

Course outline

Economics at A-Level offers a dynamic and thought-provoking journey through **microeconomics** (which considers how markets operate) to **macroeconomics** (which explores how economies function on a national and global scale).

Year One: How markets operate

Students start by exploring the foundations of economic decision-making and the trade-offs that shape our lives. They investigate what makes markets work or fail and consider how can we fix them. The dynamics of competition, monopoly power and innovation in different market structures are then explored, allowing students to evaluate why some firms dominate industries while others struggle to survive. Finally, in the summer term of Year Twelve, students delve into the economics of the labour market, gaining an understanding of why some people earn more than others and the forces behind inequality.

Year Two: How national and international economies work

Learning in the second year of study focuses on the powerful forces that influence entire economies, from national growth to global trade. Students will investigate how the macroeconomy works, what governments aim to achieve and how we can measure economic performance. The operation of financial markets is explored, the tools available to governments to influence the economy are considered and the implications of the global economy are evaluated. Big questions are tackled along the way, such as: Can governments really control the economy or are they just steering in the dark? Does economic growth always mean progress? Is globalisation a force for prosperity or inequality?

Assessment

100% external assessment | 3 Papers – microeconomics, macroeconomics and synoptic

What do students say?

“Since we couldn’t study Economics at GCSE, every lesson at sixth form feels like a fresh and exciting discovery, it’s a completely new subject that’s instantly engaging and relevant." – Mila

“My experience at TGS has inspired me to pursue Economics at University, where I’m excited to explore the subject in even greater depth.” – Oliver

English

Specifications

English Language and Literature: Pearson Edexcel 9ELO

English Literature: Pearson Edexcel 9ETO

Why study English in the Sixth Form?

Whether you want to be a journalist, teacher, lawyer, doctor, psychologist, cardiologist, or geologist – or you are as yet undecided - effective spoken and written communication lies at the heart of almost every career. Whatever your plans after leaving Sixth Form, studying English will provide essential skills for life, helping you make sense of the world and your place in it. English demands deep thinking; it challenges and affirms, broadens your perceptions, encourages empathy and aids the development of emotional intelligence.

At TGS, we offer a choice of two English A Levels: English Literature and English Language and Literature. If you are considering taking one of the more traditional English degrees, you will probably find that the English Literature course is the best fit for you. If, however, you are considering a more vocational or media-related English course or would like to combine the study of literary works with creative writing and analysing non-literary texts, then the content of the Language and Literature course is more directly relevant. For careers such as Law, either course would be appropriate. You will find an outline of each course further into this subject guide.

Why study English at TGS?

The English team is almost as diverse in background as the texts you will study. As subject specialists, avid readers, writers and lovers of English, we each bring our own particular expertise and interests. Educated all over the world from London, Oxford, York, Leeds, Exeter and St Andrews to France, Russia and Hong Kong, and with additional qualifications in Language and Literature, Creative Writing, Comparative Literature, Art History, Archaeology, Philosophy, Law, Modern Languages and English as a Foreign Language, we are uniquely equipped to bring literature and language to life in our classrooms.

Where can A Level English take me?

The variety of career pathways taken by students of English reflects the versatility of the subject and the highly transferable nature of the skills acquired through its study. Aside from those areas of employment often associated with English (journalism, marketing, the creative industries, law and education), substantial numbers of those with post-16 English qualifications can also be found working in less traditionally expected areas such as business, finance, information technology and welfare.

Sarah Waters, novelist, *explains the subject taught her "how to be a critical reader: how to understand that novels and stories are conversations we have with ourselves about the world, about what life means and how we should live it. It taught me that narratives of all kinds needn't be taken at face value: that they can be relished but also challenged, rewritten, overturned."*

Of her English degree, ***Dame Karen Jones, business executive and Chancellor of the University of East Anglia*** *says: "I treasure it daily for the worlds it allowed me to enter and the characters I met there. It taught me how to bring strands of thinking together and write succinctly. The ability I acquired to skim read has also proved extremely handy!"*

For **Alexandra Chesterfield, behavioural scientist**, studying English was "a lesson in empathy, feeling what it is like to be someone else and living their reality. A source of wisdom on human behaviour and culture that is richer, deeper and more realistic than any mathematical model. Pure joy."

What enrichment opportunities are there?

The range of activities offered to complement the formal study of English continues to grow. Opportunities have included access to the London Library and visits to the theatre and opera, as well as in-house Film and Poetry clubs and writer visits.

We have our own Writer-in-Residence programme: students will be offered opportunities to attend workshops with Dan Abnett, Oxford University English graduate, seven-times New York Times bestselling author and an award-winning comic book writer. He has written over fifty novels including the acclaimed Gaunt's Ghosts series and volumes of the million-selling Horus Heresy series. In comics, his 2008 run on *The Guardians of the Galaxy* for Marvel formed the inspiration for the blockbuster movies.

You will also have the chance to join the highly popular and successful TGS Debating Society. The society holds sessions every week and conducts regular friendly in-school debates. It also enters students into a range of national competitions including the University of Cambridge Schools Competition, the University of Oxford Schools Competition, the Warwick Schools competition, the English Speaking Union's Mace Competition and the ESU's Churchill Public Speaking Competition.

In recent years, the TGS debating society has gone from strength to strength, gaining national recognition: first, by winning through to the Cambridge Schools Finals Day where the school team represented the whole of the South East, and then by winning the ESU's Mace competition which is the oldest debating competition in the world.

Representing the South East at the University of Cambridge Schools Debating Competition.

Course outlines

English Language and Literature Course

Overview: English Language and Literature will allow you to explore a very broad range of texts: digital, media and non-fiction texts as well as more traditional literary ones. There is also a creative writing component in this course.	
Component 1	What you study
Voices in Speech and Writing: Open book (clean copies) 2hr 30m exam 40% of the total qualification	'Voices in Speech and Writing: an anthology' containing a collection of different types of literary, non-literary and digital texts (20th and 21st century) as well as one play. Examples of texts studied: *A Streetcar Named Desire*
Component 2	What you study
Varieties in Language and Literature: Open book (clean copies) 2hr 30m exam 40% of the total qualification	A wide range of non-fiction texts on a chosen theme, in preparation for an unseen text response. You will also study two literary texts from a chosen theme. Examples of texts studied: *The Great Gatsby, Othello*
Component 3	What you study
Coursework: Investigating and creating texts: Assignment one: two pieces of original writing Assignment two: two analytical commentaries 20% of the total qualification	At least one fiction and one non-fiction text. You will then produce two pieces of creative work and two commentaries based on your reading. Examples of texts studied: Born A Crime, The Thing Around Your Neck

English Literature Course

Overview: The English Literature course will develop your knowledge and enjoyment of a wide range of literary texts, honing your writing and thinking skills. In contrast to English Language & Literature, the focus of this A Level is solely on literary texts.	
Component 1	What you study
Drama: Open book (clean copies) of drama texts but NOT critical anthologies exam 2hr 15m exam 30% of the total qualification	One Shakespeare play and one other play from either tragedy or comedy, and a selection of critical essays relating to your Shakespeare play. Examples of texts studied: Othello, A Streetcar Named Desire
Component 2	What you study
Prose: Open book (clean copies) exam. A comparative essay 1hr 15m exam 20% of the total qualification	Two prose texts linked by a theme (one of them must be pre 1900). You compare them and their contexts. Examples of texts studied: Frankenstein, The Handmaid's Tale
Component 3	What you study
Poetry: Open book (clean copies) exam (one section unseen, one prepared) 2hr 15m exam	A range of modern poetry to prepare for the unseen exam, and a range of poetry from a selected poet or period.

30% of the total qualification	Example of selected periods: Metaphysical poetry, Romantic poetry, Victorian poetry
Component 4	What you study
Coursework: One essay. Total word count 2,500-3,000 words 20% of the total qualification	Two texts and then write an extended comparative essay. Examples of texts studied: *The Great Gatsby, Enron*

English at TGS: what do our students say?

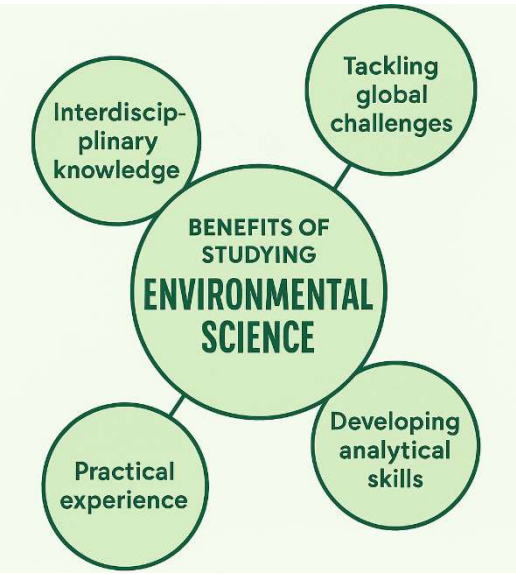
Environmental Science

Specification

AQA 7447

Why study Environmental Science in the Sixth Form?

Studying Environmental Science at A Level offers students a unique opportunity to explore some of the most pressing challenges facing our planet today, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and sustainable resource management. It is an interdisciplinary subject that draws on biology, chemistry, geography, and economics, helping students develop a broad scientific understanding and analytical skills. The course encourages critical thinking about human impacts on the environment and fosters a sense of global responsibility. It also provides practical experience through fieldwork and investigations, preparing students for further study or careers in environmental consultancy, conservation, renewable energy, and policy-making. With increasing demand for green skills and sustainable solutions, Environmental Science is a highly relevant and future-focused subject that empowers students to make informed decisions and contribute positively to the world around them.



Why study Environmental Science at TGS?

With passionate and experienced teachers, A Level Environmental Science lessons are designed to be exciting, relevant, and challenging, while remaining focused on the skills and knowledge needed to achieve the highest marks in examinations. You'll explore real-world environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and sustainability. Through engaging lessons, hands-on fieldwork, lab work and interactive projects, you'll develop valuable skills in scientific analysis, problem-solving, and communication. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course. There will also be opportunities to join international trips to destinations such as Iceland or Sicily, offering a unique chance to study environmental systems in diverse contexts.

Where can A Level Environmental Science take me?

Studying A Level Environmental Science can open the door to a wide range of exciting and impactful career paths. It provides a strong foundation for university courses in environmental science, ecology, sustainability, conservation, and related fields such as geography, biology, and earth sciences. Beyond academia, it can lead to careers in environmental consultancy, wildlife conservation, renewable energy, environmental law, climate policy, and green technology. Students may also pursue roles in government agencies, NGOs, or international organisations working on global environmental challenges. With the growing demand for green skills and sustainable solutions across industries, Environmental Science equips students with the knowledge and analytical tools to make a meaningful contribution to a more sustainable future.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

A Level Environmental Science offers a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to deepen students' understanding of ecological systems, sustainability, and global challenges. Students can take part in cross-curricular projects with subjects such as Biology, Geography, and Economics, exploring interconnected issues like climate change, resource management, and biodiversity. There are opportunities to engage with real-world applications through alumni talks during Green Careers Week, which highlight pathways into environmental consultancy, conservation, and policy-making. Fieldwork is a vital component, with both required and optional trips available, including the popular cross-curricular visit to Iceland. Virtual fieldwork using GIS tools and interactive lab work also supports investigative skills. Students are encouraged to explore current environmental issues through journals, magazines, podcasts, and documentaries, helping them stay informed and critically engaged. Additionally, they can become Environmental Science Ambassadors, leading sustainability initiatives within the school and promoting awareness of environmental issues among younger students.

Course outline

Topic	Description
The Living Environment	Study of ecosystems, biodiversity, conservation, and life-support systems.
The Physical Environment	Focus on atmospheric systems, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and climate processes.
Energy Resources	Exploration of renewable and non-renewable energy sources and their impacts.
Pollution	Types, sources, effects, and control of pollution in various environments.
Biological Resources	Management of food production, forestry, and fisheries.
Sustainability	Concepts of sustainable development and strategies for achieving it.
Research Methods	Scientific investigation techniques, data collection, and analysis.

Assessment

The course is assessed through two written exams, each 3 hours long and worth 50% of the A-level.

Paper 1 covers the physical environment, energy resources, pollution, and research methods.

Paper 2 covers the living environment, biological resources, sustainability, and research methods.

What do students say?

"Everything links - so if you revise one chunk in detail you can understand the next".

"It's a super relevant subject which links to the modern world we live in, so if you want to learn transferable skills to work in a modern workplace, I would select this subject."

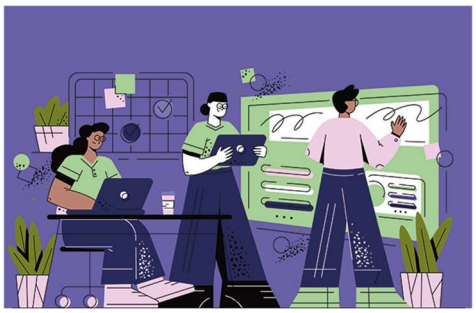
"It helps to put into perspective the environmental issues that we read or hear about and helps to promote and encourage us to think about what we can do to positively contribute. The content is very relevant and up to date and helps to build a greater understanding (knowledge and empathy) of our world."

"It incorporates elements of various subjects, making it versatile and relevant, no matter what your other subjects are."

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Specification

AQA 7993



Why study an EPQ in the Sixth Form?

The EPQ gives you the freedom to pursue an academic interest beyond your A Level subjects. If there is a question you want to explore, a problem you want to investigate or an idea you want to develop, the EPQ gives you the structure and independence to do it properly.

You will learn how to design, research and deliver a substantial piece of work – skills that universities consistently rank as essential. You will develop confidence with academic reading, critical analysis, extended writing and project management.

Your project can be used as a standout element of your UCAS application. It strengthens your personal statement, demonstrates genuine intellectual curiosity and provides concrete, impressive material to discuss at interview.

Why study an EPQ at TGS?

Every student studying three A Levels at TGS has the opportunity to complete an EPQ, making it a deliberate and integrated part of the Sixth Form experience rather than an optional add-on.

The EPQ is embedded within the school's **21st Century Skills programme**, where you are explicitly taught the research, critical thinking, academic writing and project-management skills required by the AQA specification. These sessions ensure that you understand each stage of the process – from proposal and planning through to research, production and evaluation.

Each student is assigned a dedicated supervisor who provides individual guidance throughout the project. With supervisors coming from a wide range of academic disciplines, we can support projects across the sciences, humanities, social sciences, arts and beyond. This means you will always have an expert sounding board to challenge your thinking and help you refine your work.

Where can the EPQ take me?

The EPQ gives you early, practical experience of the skills you will need at university: independent research, critical evaluation of sources, academic writing, analytical thinking and structured argument. You will understand how to manage a long-form piece of work before most students even arrive at university.

The project becomes strong evidence of your motivation and capability, making it a valuable asset in interviews and admissions decisions. Many universities openly acknowledge the EPQ in their offer-making and may reduce grade requirements for students who achieve a high grade.

Students regularly use the EPQ to test out areas of academic interest, strengthen applications to competitive courses, or build early expertise in a specialist field.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

EPQ students have regular access to the London Library, giving you the chance to work with a world-class collection of books and academic resources beyond those available in school.

You will also benefit from the school's visiting speaker programme, which brings in academics, researchers and professionals from a wide range of disciplines. These talks expose you to current debates, specialist research and real-world applications of academic work, helping you broaden your ideas and sharpen your project's direction.

Workshops linked to the 21st Century Skills programme further support you in developing high-level research, writing and presentation skills – all essential for producing a strong, well-evidenced final project

Course Outline

The EPQ forms one of the three strands of the 21st Century Skills programme (timetabled for one hour a week). Students can take up the EPQ in the spring term after having learned research skills and critical thinking in the Autumn. Students will learn how to select a viable research question, plan a long-term project, evaluate sources, take effective research notes, structure an argument, and reference correctly. They are introduced to academic research methods, project management techniques, and the fundamentals of critical analysis.

Following this taught phase, students move into the supervised project stage. Each student develops their own research question and proposal, conducts independent research, and produces either a 5,000-word dissertation or an artefact accompanied by a 1,000–2,000-word report. Throughout the process, students meet regularly with their supervisor to track progress, discuss challenges, and refine their argument or product. The course concludes with the production of a final written submission and a presentation in which students evaluate their approach, explain their findings, and reflect on their learning.

Assessment

The EPQ is internally graded and externally moderated. There are 4 assessment objectives:

- **AO1 – Manage (20%)**

Students are assessed on their ability to plan, organise, and manage a sustained project. This includes setting aims, creating a clear timeline, identifying resources, and adapting the project in response to challenges. Evidence is recorded in the Production Log.

- **AO2 – Use Resources (20%)**

This assesses the quality of research. Students must locate and evaluate a wide range of sources, demonstrate skilled note-taking, and show clear justification for the materials they use. Universities value this component highly, as it mirrors real academic research.

- **AO3 – Develop and Realise (40%)**

This is the main body of the project. For dissertation students, it includes the structure, coherence, and depth of the written argument. For artefact students, it focuses on the design, development, and technical execution of the final product, supported by research. Both routes must demonstrate sustained critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making.

- **AO4 – Review (20%)**

Students deliver a formal presentation summarising their project, explaining their research journey, and

evaluating the strengths, limitations, and skills gained. The ability to reflect honestly and analytically is essential here.

The final grade (A*–E) is awarded based on performance across the Production Log, the final written report or artefact, and the presentation. The EPQ carries UCAS points equivalent to half an A level and is widely recognised by universities as strong evidence of academic independence, discipline, and intellectual curiosity.

French

Specification

AQA 7652

Why study French in the Sixth Form?

Language study at Sixth Form Level will bring great rewards: a desire to see the world, to meet new people and to understand our own lives better as a result of a varied and shared experience.

Besides, studying French for A levels provides the opportunity to develop key competencies essential as a global citizen, that you will be able to transfer to other areas such as problem solving, organisation skills, media literacy and communication to name a few. Those will contribute to your adaptability in a fast-changing world and will be invaluable at university and in the world of work.

French is spoken by over 300 million people worldwide and is an official language of many international organizations. France alone is the most visited country in the world.

Studying French A Levels gives you:

- Language mastery for real-world communication.
- Cultural insight into diverse Francophone societies.
- Skills for global careers in business, diplomacy, and beyond.

Why study French at TGS?

At TGS, experienced and passionate teachers deliver a strong linguistic content together with an authentic cultural experience. The A Level French will broaden and deepen your knowledge of the language, to enable you to communicate clearly at a higher and more fluent level. You will also enhance your cultural understanding as the course covers a range of social and cultural aspects from the Francophone world.

Where can A Level French take me?

With estimates that 60% to 75% of the world's population are speakers of more than one language, ensuring that the literacy and intercultural understanding that comes from language study is at the forefront of your educational progress will help you to put your mark on the world. A broad educational background which builds in the multiple perspectives of a language learner will ensure that you are able to be an understanding member of a team with brilliant interpersonal skills and a valuable comprehension of a range of global issues. These are skills which are vital in any field of work, including those which don't yet exist.

Your A-Level in French can lead to exciting careers:

- International Business & Trade
- Diplomacy & International Relations
- Translation & Interpreting
- Education & Language Training
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Media & Journalism
- Law & Human Rights
- Technology & Localization

What enrichment opportunities are there?

TGS's International Society is where our language enrichment activities have a home, along with many other opportunities. Through the International Society, you will get a chance to directly running and organising events and club activities in School. We have a huge range including, but not limited to, the Foreign Film Club to the Team East Asia and Global Affairs club, in all of which you can see the direct involvement of languages, language learning and cultural understanding in the wide array of enrichment opportunities for yourselves and others. Students also regularly take part in writing competitions from the University of Oxford and we are involved in the United Kingdom Linguistic Olympiad (UKLO) competition.

We are preparing day trips at the French Institute and the British Film Institute in London as well as cultural travels to France.

Course outline

1. Social Issues and Trends

- Family and Relationships: Changing family structures, marriage, and partnerships.
- Technology in Everyday Life: Social media, digital communication, and its impact.
- Diversity and Immigration: Multiculturalism in French-speaking societies.

2. Political and Artistic Culture

- Music and Cinema: Role of arts in Francophone culture.
- Heritage: Historical monuments, traditions, and cultural identity.
- Politics and Society: Youth engagement, strikes, and political movements.

3. Global Issues

- Human Rights: Equality, freedom of expression.
- Environmental Challenges: Sustainability and climate change.
- Francophone World: Africa, Canada, Caribbean – cultural and social perspectives.

Literary Texts and Films

Students study **one literary text** and **one film** focusing on analysis, interpretation and cultural context. Examples include:

- Bonjour Tristesse (Françoise Sagan), l'Étranger (Albert Camus), Un sac de Billes (Joseph Joffo)
- *La Haine* (Mathieu Kassovitz), l'Auberge Espagnole (Cédric Klappish) ou Au Revoir Les Enfants (Louis Malle)

Assessment

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing (50%)
- Paper 2: Writing essays on text and film (20%)
- Paper 3: Speaking, including an Independent Research Project in an aspect of Francophone society or culture (30%)

What do students say?

"Studying a language in Sixth-Form has enabled me to further my linguistic skills through an eclectic range of topics, varying from literature to global politics. I have found this particularly enriching, as it allows you to learn the language in context, while constructing your own arguments on relevant issues".

"I have always found languages interesting, describing them as the doorways to the rest of the world. At TGS, I have been exposed to a wide range of languages, from Latin to Japanese to Spanish, and have adored learning about the different cultures, especially due to the constant encouragement and support of our wonderful language department."

"Languages fascinate me. Knowing more than one language has not only opened up a world of opportunities but has also allowed me to see things in multiple perspectives, giving me an entirely different outlook on life. I loved being challenged and stretched in French and Spanish Sixth Form, which has encouraged me to pursue my interest to university".

Geography

Specification

AQA 7037

Why study Geography in the Sixth Form?

Geography isn't just about learning facts — it's about understanding the world and your place in it. If you want a subject that's both academic and practical, local and global, then Geography is the perfect choice.

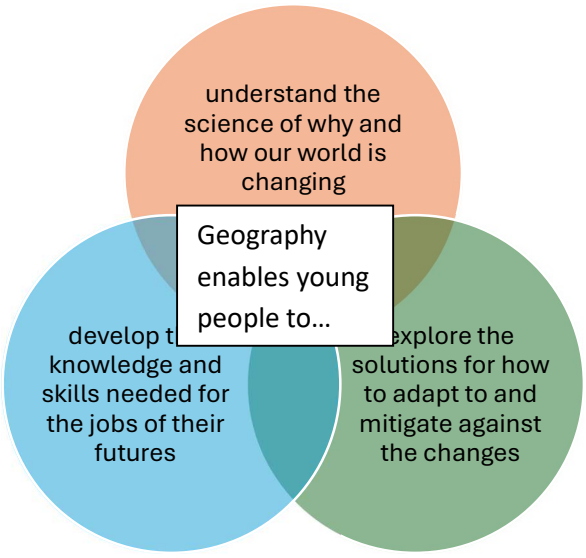
Understanding Geography is fundamental to the future of our planet. This course will appeal to students with lively and enquiring minds, an interest in the environment, sustainability, current affairs and a willingness to explore new ideas.

Geography A-Level combines extremely well with both Science and Humanities subjects and is highly regarded by universities.

Why study Geography at TGS?

With passionate and experienced teachers, lessons are designed to be exciting, relevant, and challenging, as well as, being focused on the requirements to achieve the highest marks in the examinations. You'll investigate real-world issues like climate change, global inequality, and environmental sustainability. Through engaging lessons, hands-on fieldwork, and interactive projects, you'll develop skills in analysis, problem-solving, and communication.

Integral to the Geography A Level course is fieldwork. We plan to run a required residential trip, as well as shorter trips into the local area (costing approximately £400 in total). There will also be the opportunity to join international trips to Iceland or Sicily.



Where can A Level Geography take me?

Geography can take you anywhere! You will develop a wide variety of transferable skills including collecting and analysing data, decision making, statistical analysis, communicating findings in different ways and exploring links between topics. These skills along with, working with others, and problem solving are intrinsic to success in Geography A-Level and beyond. Studying Geography opens up a wide range of career opportunities; an understanding of global issues and sustainability is increasingly important in today's workplace. As a bridge subject between Science and Humanities, Geography supports applications for many science-based degrees such as Engineering, Biology, Psychology, Medicine or Geology, as well as providing a useful understanding of global issues that will be useful in arts-based degrees. Geographers are among the most employable university graduates and there are a wide variety of Geography based degrees to choose from.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

There will be a variety of opportunities to help deepen students' understanding, broaden their perspectives, and enhance engagement with A Level Geography. Students can become Geography

Ambassadors, running clubs for younger students and engaging in discussions on global issues beyond the specification. They can enter geographical essay competitions, such as, the RGS Young Geographer of the Year, which encourage independent research and critical thinking. Fieldwork is a key component, with both required and optional trips available, including a cross-curricular visit to Iceland. Virtual fieldwork using GIS tools and Google Earth also supports geographical investigation. Students are encouraged to explore geography through reading journals and magazines, listening to podcasts and watching documentaries. During Green Careers Week, alumni talks will offer insights into real-world applications and career pathways. Finally, cross-curricular projects with Environmental Science, Biology, and Economics provide opportunities to explore interconnected global challenges and develop a broader academic perspective.

Course outline and Assessment

Paper 1: Physical Geography:

- Water and Carbon Cycles; Coastal Systems and Landscapes; Hazards
- 40% of A-Level – 2hr 30min examination

Paper 2: Human Geography:

- Global Systems and Global Governance; Changing Places; Resource Security
- 40% of A-Level – 2hr 30min examination

Questions in the examinations will be short answer, skills based and extended longer answers.

NEA: Geographical Investigation

- A report of 3,000-4,000 words; Write up of Fieldwork
- 20% of A-Level

Integral to the Geography A Level course is a required residential trip that will cost approximately £400.

What do students say?

"You should pick it because it is very interesting and helps you gain a broader awareness of the world around you both in the human sense and the natural sense".

"If you're not sure about what you do in the future then Geography is a really useful because it's so interlinked with other subjects and gives you many options for the future. It raises your awareness of real-life issues and global interconnection."

" The teachers in our Geography Department are great and will make all lessons as fun as possible!! Content is explored thoroughly, and it definitely builds up on any knowledge that you may have prior to GCSE".

'It's probably the most relevant subject in the world right now and connects to all parts of life, and because the course is so diverse there'll be something that interests you".

History

Specification

Edexcel 9H10 C9

Why study History in the Sixth Form?

A level History at Tonbridge Grammar School is intellectually challenging, stimulating and crafts students into inquisitive and insightful historians who develop a range of highly transferable skills. The TGS A level History course creates exceptional students who go on to make an excellent transition to undergraduate study in a range of subjects at Russell Group universities.

Why study History at TGS?

We are a highly experienced Department with years of experience of teaching A level History. In addition, we have a proven track record of students achieving the top grades and securing places at highly competitive and sought after universities and apprenticeships.

As a department we are committed to giving our students the best possible Sixth Form experience in opportunities within and beyond the classroom.

Where can A Level History take me?

A large number of our students have secured places at top universities either to read History or a related discipline. In the last year students have gone on study:

- History at Cambridge, Oxford, UCL, Birmingham, Bristol, Durham, Exeter, York and Queen's University of Belfast;
- Classics at Cambridge and Durham;
- Politics and International Relations at Durham, Bath and Queen Mary, London;
- Law at Oxford, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Exeter

In a time when many people will have more than one career in their working life, History gives students a range of highly desirable transferable skills. The study of History at A level can lead to a career in many areas such as: Academia, Media, Law, Politics, Advertising, Education, Journalism, International Relations, Advertising, Banking, Museum work, Accountancy, Publishing, Civil Service and Marketing.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

We are excited to be planning a trip to Westminster Abbey to look at the politics of Early Stuart Religion to complement the breadth of paper 1. There is also the opportunity to be part of wider department initiatives around events such as Black History Month, Remembrance and Windrush Day. In addition, we will be continuing our speaker series where we invite in academics who are interviewed by students as part of our 'TGS in Conversation' Programme. A wide variety of visiting speakers and alumni visit to speak with students. Recent speakers have included:

Dr Anna Maguire from UCL; Lecturer in Public History, currently working on a history of sanctuary for refugees in Britain from 1950 to 2000.

Dr Michael Collins, Associate Professor of Modern and Contemporary British History at UCL showed how it was possible to combine two passions such as sport and history in academic research.

Writer and historian, S I Martin who specialises in the fields of Black British History and Literature and has worked for a range of museums, galleries and archives.

Course outline

Paper 1, Option 1C: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

This paper is a study in breadth, in which students will learn about key features of monarchical and republican rule in Britain in the seventeenth century, set within the context of broader social, economic and religious change. The events of this period saw a decisive shift in the balance of power between crown and parliament. The focus of study is on developments and changes over a broad timescale and so the content is presented as themes spanning a significant duration: 1625–88.

This course also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations on a broad question that is contextualised by, and runs on from, the themes: how revolutionary, in the years to 1701, was the Glorious Revolution of 1688–89?

Paper 2, Option 2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

This course comprises a study in depth of the causes, course and consolidation of the Russian Revolution of 1917. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of revolutionary activity in Russia in the years 1894 to 1917, the response of successive governments to opposition to their rule, and the reasons for the successful consolidation of the revolution of October 1917 under Lenin and the Bolsheviks.

Paper 3, Option 39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009

This option comprises two parts: the Aspects in breadth focus on long-term changes and contextualise the Aspects in depth, which focus in detail on key episodes. Together, the breadth and depth topics explore developments that have shaped contemporary America and remain a fundamental issue in US society: the changing pattern of race relations between black and white Americans, both in terms of civil rights and also broader social and cultural changes over a period that began with millions of black Americans in slavery and ended with Barack Obama as President.

Assessment

Component	Weighting	Exam
Paper 1, Option 1C: Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement	30%	2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 2, Option 2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924	20%	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 3, Option 39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009	30%	2 hours 15 minutes
Coursework	20%	

Students will also complete a coursework assignment which will assess their ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, and organising and communicating the findings. This will be 3,000 – 4,000 words in length.

What do students say?

"I decided to study History because it constantly challenges me to think critically and develop my analytical skills through exposure to a wide variety of perspectives. The teachers are incredibly supportive, and I have learnt skills that will be valuable if I am able to study Politics at university. Above all, I love History, and in Sixth Form, I have found it to be highly engaging, exploratory and relevant, and look forward to learning more."

"Staying on to study History was an obvious choice for me, considering the support and enthusiasm that TGS has fostered for me since Year 7. History's ability to encourage questioning and build well-reasoned arguments has complemented my studies in philosophy very well, allowing me to become a more reflective thinker."

"I would love to go on to study law, and history is the perfect subject for that! It complements other subjects immensely, such as English, and has genuinely helped me improve and strengthen my arguments, a skill essential for my super-curricular hobby of debating, which I have taken with me to all my competitions! Furthermore, TGS's history department is lovely – every single teacher is empathetic, communicative, and supportive. I have had the same teacher for seven years, and still my passion for history has persisted, perhaps shown through my decision to continue studying history at sixth form. Not only are the teachers understanding, but they are experts at their subject; just as you may enjoy history, they evidently do too. This is such a unique quality I have seen at TGS, which makes learning such a more interactive and enjoyable experience. I have never regretted studying history. It is an invaluable subject to take, and something that we must appreciate, especially in our current world. Learning from the mistakes of the past is essential for shaping our future!"

"I have always found the History department are keen to nurture a genuine interest in the subject in its students and they consequently make the lessons engaging, interesting and fun. The atmosphere in the classroom encourages debate and helps us to think about what we are learning beyond the facts to consider the events' wider implications and significance for the world. It helped me to develop the critical thinking and research skills which are so key in university study, and I think studying History at TGS specifically would lead well into university courses like Politics, Global Studies and International Relations, but the subject complements any degree well thanks to the range of skills and knowledge developed from it."

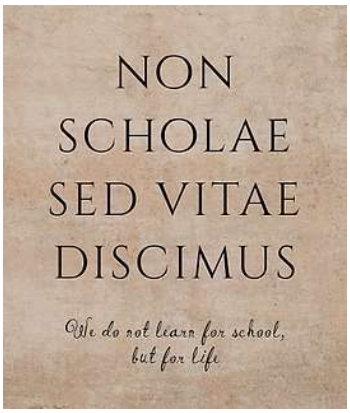
"I chose to stay at TGS to study History due to the interdisciplinary skills it provided me with. As a discipline, history helped me in so many areas of other subjects through evaluation, developing arguments and compiling effective research whilst also being incredibly engaging to learn."

Latin

Specification

OCR Latin H443

Why study Latin in the Sixth Form?



If you love the ancient world and want to know more, then study Latin for the intellectual challenge, the literary artistry and the cultural comparisons. If you're curious about trends in modern politics, expression in contemporary art, devices in storytelling or using the mistakes of the past to alter the fate of the future then Latin is for you. You've now learnt all the fundamentals of the language and studied some literature, so make use of those skills at A Level by exploring real Latin, unadapted and in a wider variety of genres and themes.

"Whilst many students have preconceptions of how the Romans lived, it is a delight to challenge those by delving deeper through discussion, prompted by literary texts or the students' own research. Guiding curious minds around these ancient uncertainties is one of the great joys of teaching Latin." Mr Waters

Why study Latin at TGS?

Passionate teachers with many years of teaching experience including at A Level. Intimate class sizes allow for personalised learning and individualised support.

"Exploring the Classical world through Latin opens up so many opportunities for topical discussion. The collaborative atmosphere in our classroom creates space for exploration of timeless, yet contemporary issues such as the cost of war, the consequences of human behaviour, the power of politics to influence and how emotional writing persuades and delights our souls. It's the students bringing their own experiences to the lessons which makes Latin language and literature such fun to teach." Mrs Hindocha

Where can A Level Latin take me?

Universities widely appreciate Latin due to its intellectual rigour and academic focus. You'll develop essay writing and text analysis skills as well as logical thinking and evaluative reasoning. The diverse nature of studying an era through many disciplines makes it a desirable subject for employers too, regardless of the direction this subject eventually takes you. Classics applicants to Oxbridge have one of the highest success rates at application along with other language degrees. Latin is a subject accessible to all with no limits on where it can take you.

Previous TGS students who have studied Latin recently in the Sixth Form have gone on to study degrees in many diverse subjects including: Classics, Law, Medicine, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Sports Science, Human Sciences, International Relations, Psychology, Management, English Literature, and Journalism at universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, York, Warwick, Cardiff, Loughborough.

Example career paths from previous TGS Latin students:

Student A Latin English Literature Philosophy	Student B Latin Biology Chemistry Geography	Student C Latin History English Chemistry	Student D Latin English Literature Chemistry
Degree: Classics at Oxford	Degree: Medicine at Nottingham	**Degree**: World History at Cambridge	Degree: English Literature & Linguistics at York
Current job: Trainee solicitor	Current job: Trainee doctor	Current job: Business Analyst	Current job: Grant Proposal Writer

What enrichment opportunities are there?

There are countless super-curricular activities in the department including theatre visits, university competitions, academic lectures and a trip to Italy at Easter. Sixth Form students often choose to run Classics Clubs for younger students and it is also possible to study Ancient Greek as part of a lunchtime club if desired.

Course outline

An OCR A Level in Latin offers a detailed study of prose and verse literature from a variety of authors, inspiring and motivating learners to gain a deeper understanding of the life and culture of the ancient world. This will enable them to translate unseen passages with more fluency, and **either** answer comprehension and grammar questions on an unseen prose passage **or** translate a passage of English into Latin. The qualification also requires learners to read additional literature in translation to understand the historical, social or political context from which the set texts have been taken.

Assessment

Component	**Weighting**	**Exam**
Unseen translation (01) Students are required to translate a passage of Latin written by the designated prose author (Livy) and the verse author (Ovid). Scansion skills are also tested in Ovid.	33%	1 hour 45 mins
Prose composition or comprehension (02) Students will learn both skills and make their own individual choice about which option to answer.	17%	1 hour 15 mins
Prose literature (03) Nepos' Life of Hannibal Tacitus' Annals Book 7 (Boudicca)	25%	2 hours
Verse literature (04) Tibullus' love poems Virgil Aeneid 4 (Dido and Aeneas)	25%	2 hours

What do students say?

"I really enjoyed Latin at GCSE so chose to continue. My favourite part so far has been the literature as it has allowed me to appreciate Latin from different perspectives, developing my understanding of the language and the wider context." Kea Year 13

"I chose Latin because I enjoy learning about our own language through it. I like that the course allows you to make some of your own decisions as you learn." Bonnie Year 13

"I chose to come to TGS specifically for Latin, a subject increasingly rare at Sixth Form Level, and I'm so glad I did. Studying the Aeneid has helped me in English and History. I can recognise how its iconic scenes are appropriated by modern authors to reflect the sentiments of their own time — particularly in post-war literature. For that reason, I think Latin complements any combination of subjects. Being so interdisciplinary, it has deepened my understanding of everything from literature to politics." Azzura Year 12

"I chose to take Latin because I find the structure of the language really interesting. The literature aspect I find really fascinating and I feel that I am partaking in the longest tradition of learning since the Romans." Matilda Year 13

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Specification

Edexcel-Mathematics (9MA0) A level Mathematics Specification

Edexcel-Further Mathematics (9FM0) A level Further Mathematics specification

Why study Mathematics in the Sixth Form?

Mathematics can be seen as a well-defined body of knowledge, as an abstract system of ideas, or as a useful tool. For many people it is probably a combination of these, but there is no doubt that mathematical knowledge provides an important key to understanding the world in which we live.

Mathematics can enter our lives in a number of ways: we buy produce in the market, consult a timetable, read a newspaper, time a process or estimate a length. Mathematics, for most of us, also extends into our chosen profession: visual artists need to learn about perspective; musicians need to appreciate the mathematical relationships within and between different rhythms; economists need to recognise trends in financial dealings; and engineers need to take account of stress patterns in physical materials. Scientists view Mathematics as a language that is central to our understanding of events that occur in the natural world. Some people enjoy the challenges offered by the logical methods of Mathematics and the adventure in reason that mathematical proof has to offer. Others appreciate Mathematics as an aesthetic experience or even as a cornerstone of philosophy.

This prevalence of Mathematics in our lives, with all its interdisciplinary connections, provides a clear and sufficient rationale for making the study of this subject essential for all students. Maths and Further Maths are A levels which hold a lot of value when applying for highly competitive degree courses.

Why study Mathematics at TGS?

The school fosters mathematical excellence through a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment. The staff in the Mathematics department will promote independent thinking and collaborative problem-solving, preparing students for university-level Mathematics and STEM fields. The school provides a very supportive learning environment and this is no different within the Maths department. Teachers provide individualized support through Maths clinic which will run 4 lunchtimes per week and they will also provide learning resources which will encourage students to challenge themselves outside the lesson.

The department firmly believe in enrichment outside the classroom to add to the student's academic profile prior to embarking on a pathway beyond the sixth form. This is why we offer many opportunities for enrichment through the UKMT Maths challenges, peer mentoring, subject ambassadors, competitions, Maths club and an exciting trip to the Netherlands to organise and facilitate an international Maths challenge for 40 bilingual schools.

Where can A Level Maths take me?

Mathematics nurtures essential skills such as logical reasoning, problem-solving, and the ability to analyse complex scenarios—competencies that are crucial across a broad spectrum of disciplines. A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics are highly respected qualifications, valued by both universities and employers for its academic rigour and practical relevance. Success in this subject demands sustained effort and independent study, crucial skills to develop for later life. Mathematics students go on to study, amongst

many other courses, Engineering at Cambridge, Physics at Imperial and Warwick, Economics at Durham, Bristol and Cambridge, Computer Science at Durham, Material Sciences at Oxford and Mathematics at Warwick and Edinburgh. There will be variation to entry requirements between the universities. It is important that you do some research, especially if you have your heart set on a particular course.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

UKMT Maths challenges

Students will have the opportunity to take part in the Senior Maths Challenge towards the beginning of the year. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The highest performers will then be invited to compete in the British Mathematical Olympiad and Senior Kangaroo follow on rounds. We also take part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls and the Mathematical competition for Girls. All challenges are highly regarded by universities.

Primary Maths Challenge

Students will be able to demonstrate leadership and organisational skills as we host a Primary Maths Challenge for local primary schools. Sixth form students will be creative in designing the questions for the challenge and running the entire event independently, working as a team.

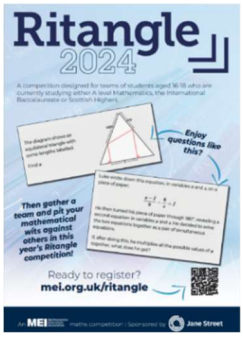
Maths Challenge in the Netherlands

A select number of students will have the opportunity to visit Utrecht, Netherlands in order to host a Mathematics competition for 40 schools nationwide. This challenges the students' ability to organise a huge event including introducing the rounds, managing difficult situations and rewarding success. Students will also take in the culture of the nearby city of Utrecht.

Maths Club

Sixth form students work together to run a weekly Maths club where younger students will explore Maths beyond that learnt in the classroom. There will also be a weekly puzzle of the week competition and prizes!

Competitions



We promote a number of internal and external competitions throughout the year such as Ritangle, and the National Cipher challenge. We have seen a lot of success in these competitions including national winners and cash prizes of £1000 presented at Blecthley Park.

University Admissions

Students will be given support in preparing for university admissions tests and signposted to useful resources. We collaborate with local schools to provide several practice interview opportunities. We work very closely with the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme to deliver problem solving and enrichment workshops to complement academic study.

The Maths Super-Curricular

"How to Think Like a Mathematician" – Kevin Houston

"Alex's Adventures in Numberland" – Alex Bellos

"The Joy of x" – Steven Strogatz

"Fermat's Last Theorem" – Simon Singh

More challenging reads:

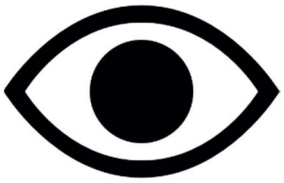
"What is Mathematics?" – Courant & Robbins

"G.H. Hardy: A Mathematician's Apology"

Numberfile Popular twitter, Youtube and podcast content

TEDtalks Maths talks to blow your mind

Parallel Live online Maths sessions with guest speakers



3Blue1Brown Grant Sanderson's animated Maths YouTube Channel

TomRocksMaths The YouTube channel of Tom Crawford, Oxford University

MoreOrLess BBC radio podcasts making sense of statistics

InOurTime BBC radio 4 podcasts on Scientific areas of interest

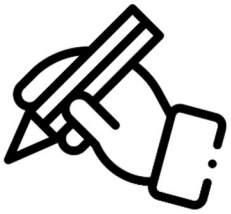
TheSecretsOfMathematics A series of talks from Oxford mathematicians

WomenInSTEM Articles and information about women in STEM careers

Millennium Mathematics Project A maths education and outreach initiative

PlusMagazine Podcasts and videos looking at current mathematical research

OxfordOnlineMathsClub A weekly livestream from the University of Oxford



Home | STEP Support Programme The Cambridge STEP Support programme

MathsAdmissionTest Resources to prepare for the Oxford MAT test

Home | NRICH Difficult enriching problem-solving activities

Brilliant | Learn by doing Practical and interactive problem-solving online

Parallel Free weekly Maths challenges by Dr Simon Singh

Home - UKMT UKMT Senior Math challenge competitions

Ritangle - MEI An exciting free team challenge designed for students

International Mathematical Olympiad World Championship Maths Competition

NationalCipherChallenge An annual online code-breaking competition

Course outline

We will be offering the opportunity to study two separate qualifications, an A level in Mathematics and an A level in Further Mathematics. A level Mathematics is compulsory for those looking to study Further A level Mathematics.

The Mathematics course is built around three key mathematical approaches:

- **Mathematical argument, language and proof**: Developing rigorous reasoning and communicating ideas clearly.
- **Mathematical problem solving**: Applying techniques to unfamiliar contexts and real-world scenarios.
- **Mathematical modelling**: Translating problems into mathematical form and interpreting solutions.

In the single A level Maths course, you'll explore three main branches of mathematics: **Pure Mathematics** includes algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and functions and focuses on abstract reasoning and foundational techniques. **Mechanics** applies Mathematics to physical systems and covers motion, forces, energy, and Newton's laws. **Statistics** Involves data analysis, probability, and statistical distributions including working with a large data set.

There will be a bigger emphasis on using technology and modern tools like graphing software and statistical packages. Students will make use of their calculator to solve problems efficiently.

The Further Maths A level course is very challenging and will delve much deeper into the sophistication of Mathematics. The pace of the learning is substantially greater and there will be an expectation that students are willing to commit to extensive independent study to consolidate their class learning. The compulsory **Core Pure Mathematics** element will extend their knowledge of calculus as well as experiencing topics such as matrices and complex numbers. Students will then study two further option modules which will extend their knowledge of **Mechanics** and **Decision** Maths.

Assessment

The Edexcel single A level Mathematics (9MA0) is assessed through three written exam papers at the end of the course, each lasting 2 hours and each of equal weighting. All papers permit the use of calculators. There is no coursework component.

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1
- Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2
- Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

The Edexcel A Level Further Mathematics (9FM0) is assessed through four externally examined papers, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. Two are compulsory core papers, and two are optional papers.

- Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1
- Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2
- Papers 3 & 4: Options

There is an emphasis on problem solving, mathematical modelling, and clear reasoning. Questions may integrate multiple topics and require interpretation of real-world scenarios.

What do students say?

“As a Maths Ambassador, I’ve organised assemblies celebrating the contributions of lesser-known women in Maths for International Women in Maths Day. While the assembly featured historic female figures in Mathematics, it also showcased how young women, close to my age, have made impactful changes in the field—something I found both fascinating and deeply motivating in my own mathematical journey. I’ve also enjoyed applying what I’ve learned in lessons in creative ways when tackling challenges like the UKMT, which has helped me think more flexibly and explore Maths beyond the classroom.”

“‘There is a real community of Maths at TGS. Although the Maths can be difficult, the Maths mentor programme as well as the immense support at Maths Clinic every day means that you never feel alone in your Maths journey.”

“A group of Year 12 students, including myself, ran a Maths challenge for students in the Netherlands. Before the visit we completed two other events; the first was observing and helping with the running of a maths challenge in the UK, the second involved leading a maths challenge for primary students in the UK. This experience helped us to run the challenge in the Netherlands as best as possible, my aim over this whole project was to contribute and be useful to the team and help specifically in the group round of the project.”

Music

Specification

Eduqas (WJEC) A660

TGS Musicians performing at Villa Ducale near Venice, Italy: Summer 2024

Why study Music in the Sixth Form?

A-level music is a rigorous academic subject which sets students up well for university study. A number of studies have shown that music benefits learning by activating all areas of the brain: auditory (sound processing); motor (rhythm processing); limbic (emotions). If you have a passion for the subject, you're much more likely to enjoy your study and be motivated to revise and practise.

A-level music involves so many transferable skills**:** written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as independent learning and having to be disciplined about practice; teamwork, particularly if you're involved in weekly groups or ensembles, concerts and performances; performance and presentation skills which are useful for any job/career; listening, this is a highly developed skill in musicians and it is an important part of the course; analytical and essay-writing skills; confidence and self-esteem which has a knock-on effect in all areas of life and learning; and finally, creativity and self-expression, helping young people to think differently and harness the power of their imagination.

Why study Music at TGS?

TGS has a thriving Music department, there is something for everyone! Whether you aspire to be in a rock band, conduct an orchestra, star on stage singing in a musical production or prefer to be involved in technical, recording and backstage requirements for performance. Perhaps you'd like to be a composer for film or just want to enjoy learning about the subject in more depth validating time you already spend on an instrument or voice.

Where can A Level Music take me?

Going on to study Music at university or at a conservatoire can lead to a career in performing, composing, conducting or teaching. Music can also lead to careers in the recording industry, publishing, arts management and the media. A level music is highly valued by universities for its rigorous academic and practical components.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

TGS Musicians performing at local 'Battle of the Bands' event, 2025

Performing (for example: Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Swing Band), lead groups (such as Ukulele Orchestra, Sixth form ensemble and Music Theatre Club) or mentor other students, learn with TGS specialist private music tutors. Tour with our groups abroad; Italy in Summer 2024, Spain and France in Summer 2026. Individual music exam

qualifications (such as ABRSM grades 6,7 and 8) also count towards the UCAS points required for university.

Course outline and Assessment

Component 1 NEA: Performing (externally assessed by a visiting examiner)

Candidates select from either Option A or B pathways below:

Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes: 35% of qualification	**Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes: 25% of qualification**
Performing (35%) A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other, different area of study.	Performing (25%) A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study.

Component 2 NEA: Composition (externally assessed by exam board)

Candidates select from either Option A or B pathways below in tandem with their performing option choice above:

Option A: Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes 25% of qualification	**Option B: Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes: 35% of qualification**
Composing (25%) Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition.	Composing (35%) Three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs, released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study (i.e. not the Western Classical Tradition) while the third composition is a free composition.

Component 3: Appraising Written examination: 40% of qualification

The new set works for A Level Music (for first teaching September 2026) are three Areas of Study:

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Area of Study A (Compulsory): The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes two set works. Choose one set work for detailed analysis and the other for general study.
• Haydn, Symphony No. 100 in G major, "Military" (all movements for A Level)
• Schubert, Symphony No. 5 (all movements for A Level)</td></tr>
<tr><td>A choice of <u>one</u> Area of Study from:
Area of Study B: Rock and Pop
Area of Study C: Musical Theatre
Area of Study D: Jazz</td><td>A further choice of <u>one</u> Area of Study from E or F:
Area of study E: Into the Twentieth Century including two set works:
• Poulenc, Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement I
• Debussy, Three Nocturnes, Number 2, "Fêtes"
Area of study F: Into the Twenty-first Century including two set works:
• Concerto Grosso, Movement 2 by Errolyn Wallen
• Frieze, Movement 4 by Mark Anthony Turnage</td></tr>
</table>

Questions for the listening exam will be based on Set Work analysis with a score, extended responses on wider context, unprepared extracts of music with and without a score and comparison questions.

What do students say?

TGS Musicians performing at Tonbridge School Chapel, Spring 2025

"The music department at TGS has been the most welcoming hub where I've made some of my fondest memories. A highlight was last year's trip to Italy but there are many events which I have loved performing at, such as the Spring concerts in the cathedral in Tonbridge school. As a Sixth-former, the music department offers us opportunities to lead as well as to celebrate communally a lifetime of passion for the subject."

"Music at TGS is incredibly freeing. You have the choice to go to pre-scheduled clubs or set up your own: I have done both in my time here, going to orchestra every week as well as setting up a club that I led, where I had the chance to conduct! Having taken music at Sixth Form level, we often go on educational trips to London, to venues like the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, which are deeply enjoyable as well as informative. As someone who also plays music outside the Western tradition, TGS has been an environment where my music, as well as others, is cherished, enjoyed and explored: I have been extremely lucky to have performed Indian Classical pieces several times at smaller-scale performances like the Sixth Form Showcase, where the anxiety of a big performance is removed yet still allowing an audience large enough to enjoy a variety of music. It's the large range of options that TGS has to offer musically that most appeals to me: however big a role you would like music to play in your experience, there are options for you".

"The Music Department at TGS is absolutely brilliant, I've taken part in various music groups and activities for. the past 5 years and I wouldn't change anything about my time in them. I've been in the choir since Year 7, Jazz Band since year 8, took Music for GCSE and went on the Italy trip last year. That experience was incredible, and I have the incredible opportunity to take part in the Spain and South France trip happening next year. Even though I no longer take Music as a subject, I still love being part of the department, and it's always a great place to be".

"Since I transferred to TGS in year 9, I have had the wonderful opportunity to join many music clubs in the school, such as various orchestras and choirs with the support of the music department. Despite not having done Music as a subject since year 9, my passion for flute and singing has been a driving force for my involvement with TGS Music. Especially after joining the school trip to Italy in the summer before sixth form, I have sharpened my skills in performing as a group, and I am grateful to the school for providing such a nurturing environment for us".

"The TGS music department really allows every student, no matter the skill level, to take part and flourish. The music trips have genuinely been the most enjoyable parts of my time here at TGS, and I am so grateful for the opportunities and community created here".

"As a new joiner this September to TGS, the music department have been excellent at helping me transition into the school. The range of clubs and opportunities to play alongside and lead others has been truly spectacular. The whole department is kind and helpful whenever you need something and it is lovely to be a part of it".

“From when I joined in Year 7 to now in Sixth Form, Music at TGS has given me so many great opportunities. Working on Year 9 group projects and writing GCSE Music compositions was not only an opportunity to use all the different music software but also a chance to work creatively. Above all, I have enjoyed all the performance opportunities over the years from Jazz Band to being a part of the orchestra for The Addams Family Musical”.

“Being part of the TGS Music Department has been one of the best parts of my school life. The Italy tour last year was an unforgettable musical experience that brought our group together and really inspired me. I’ve loved being involved in Jazz Band and Choir, where staff support you to grow and create your own opportunities. The performance calendar, especially events like the Carol Concert, is genuinely the best. Getting involved in Music at TGS has given me confidence, great friendships, and memories I’m so grateful for, a real highlight was being able to star as a main part in the school musical”.

“The Music department hugely enriched my time at TGS. Through the department I was given countless opportunities, including concerto performances which I would not have had access to elsewhere. My cohort felt that we had the encouragement and support of the department to explore any and all of our musical interests, including, for example, performing our own compositions or conducting the school orchestra. We all went on to study a wide variety of subjects - several went on to study Music at university or conservatoire, and others onto subjects such as Physics - but the musical opportunities we were given at TGS allowed us to develop so many skills, creatively, analytically and organisationally, which have undoubtedly helped us all in our various paths. Above all, though, the Music department provided me with so many great memories with my peers and teachers which I will always remember when I think back to my time at TGS”. Francesca recent alumni, currently studying Music at Oxford University

“One of the greatest things about my time at the TGS Music Department (other than the fantastic facilities and never-ending opportunities for performance) was the collaboration between staff and the student voice. A friend and I saw a gap in the extra-curricular groups on offer and expressed this to staff, resulting in us creating our own Musical Theatre group. It started very small but was a catalyst in the growing recognition of this genre throughout the school and a year later we were returning to watch the first full-scale school musical that had been put on in years! The club has been passed on and only growing in numbers, all thanks to the support and collaboration of the music department”. Ellen recent alumni, currently studying Music and Sound Recording: York University

“As a current undergraduate student, I am so grateful to have been involved in the TGS music department, as it has prepared me greatly for university life both in my current music department, and elsewhere. I gained valuable skills, such as collaboration and commitment, and was given many opportunities to improve my confidence and musical abilities by my wonderful teachers, who care so much about each student involved in the department, both personally and in terms of their musical development. The trips I have been able to go on with the department have been enriching experiences, which have given me an insight into music in society, as well as being very fun! There are new opportunities being available all the time, and the department is very flexible and open to new ideas from everyone and anyone”. Indira recent alumni, currently studying Music and Psychology at Leeds University

Philosophy

Specification:

AQA 7172

Why study Philosophy in the Sixth Form?

"The unexamined life is not worth living" ***Socrates***

We explore all kinds of questions examining the deeper meaning of existence and the nature of life and reality. We also study key ideas such as whether or not God exists, and what constitutes a good life? Philosophy completely changes the way you look at every aspect of life. It develops invaluable transferable skills such as critical questioning, logical argument, evaluation, analysis and debating.

The course is designed to develop students as Philosophers themselves and not merely be able to regurgitate the ideas of famous scholars. The range of topics is excellent and provides students with the ability to make links between different concepts in this entirely interconnected subject.

Why study Philosophy at TGS?

We have been offering Philosophy in our department for many years and have an excellent track record of outstanding results. Students and staff share a real love for the subject and all our teachers are experts in the field of Philosophy.

Where can A Level Philosophy take me?

This subject is perfect for students who enjoy debating, presenting persuasive arguments and exploring more abstract questions on the purpose of life. These are applicable to various fields such as Politics, Law, Journalism and Medicine. It is also a fantastic option for those looking to study medicine or veterinary medicine at university and will really help with those tricky ethics based interview questions!

University destinations 2025:

There were excellent range of courses at prestigious universities from students who took Philosophy.

University	Course
Oxford	PPE
Oxford	Law
Warwick	Philosophy & Psychology
Warwick	Law
Warwick	PPE
Edinburgh	Philosophy & Maths
Oxford	Philosophy & French

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Past events include conferences run by scholars affiliated with the New College of Humanities (including Simon Blackburn and Richard Dawkins) as well as Southampton University Philosophy conference where students explored questions such as ‘What makes you the same person you were yesterday?’.

We have also run seminars from the Philosophy Foundation. We have held interactive sessions from various speakers in school (Michael Lacewing, Nigel Warburton, Peter Vardy and A.C. Grayling). Visiting speaker Dr Stephen Law (Oxford University and editor of the philosophical journal 'Think') has delivered interactive sessions on a number of occasions discussing topics such as 'Do we need religion for morality'? And ‘Does AI differ from a human?’

We have run a series of talks for year 12 about the role of Philosophy in the real world, for example examining how Philosophy plays a part in different careers such as journalism.

Guest speakers visiting the school to explore how Philosophy has played a part in their job roles

Additionally, the Philosophy Society is run by a current year 12 student , Poppy, and has explored various philosophical thought experiments such as the Trolley problem.

The Christian Society run by current year 12 student, Divine, has explored questions such as ‘How do I truly know God?’ ‘How do I differentiate between God’s voice & my voice?’ ‘Faith - what is it?’

We have also advertised the Philosophy festival and numerous University Philosophy essay competitions which have involved a number of students and have supported them in achieving various prizes (for example most recently the John Locke essay competition).

Lastly, in terms of student support, Philosophy Clinic runs once a week to offer extra help to students outside of lessons.

Course outline

There are 4 key components within the A level course

1. Moral Philosophy- examining questions such as ‘ Is happiness inherently good?’
2. Metaphysics of Mind- which explores questions such as ‘ Is the human mind just physical?’
3. Metaphysics of God- exploring questions such as ‘ Can we speak meaningfully about God?’
4. Epistemology (the Philosophy of knowledge) - which examines questions such as ‘Is knowledge justified, true belief?’

Assessment

This course is assessed entirely through exams, of which there are two 3 hour papers. Each of the 4 components carry equal weighting in terms of the assessment.

What do students say?

Learning about a variety of philosophical perspectives that can better inform your opinions and values in a variety of fields, both academic and personal. Philosophy informs other subjects really well.” Isa

“Unlike most other subjects, philosophy allows you to form and challenge your own opinions on a variety of issues, teaching you to effectively construct an argument, whilst exploring engaging aspects of both ancient and modern philosophy.” Lucy

Physical Education

Specification

AQA A Level Physical Education 7582

Why study Physical Education in the Sixth Form?

Studying A Level Physical Education offers a powerful blend of academic challenge and practical application, ideal for students passionate about sport, health and human performance. Physical Education allows students to explore the science behind sport and an understanding of the human body. It also offers great interdisciplinary learning and complements subjects such as Biology, Psychology, Physics and Sociology, making it a versatile option for a broad academic profile.

Why study Physical Education at TGS?

The PE department is made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable teachers who have a wealth of experience in the Physical Education and Sport Science field. We emphasise teamwork, resilience, and confidence, creating a space where students feel encouraged to challenge themselves.

We also offer state-of-the-art resources such as our fitness suite, sports hall, all-weather astro and running track. This allows us to bring the theory of A level Physical Education to life in real sporting environments.

Where can A Level Physical Education take me?

A level PE is an excellent foundation for degrees in sports science, physiotherapy, sports psychology, coaching and physical education teaching.

Students go on to a range of careers in sport, health, fitness, education and science. It is a versatile subject that opens doors to both practical and academic pathways. Careers include physiotherapy, sports therapy, exercise or performance physiology, sports performance analysis, occupational therapy, PE teacher, sports coach, nutritionist.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Students have the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of sporting clubs offered throughout the week, either by actively participating in the sport itself or by taking on leadership roles such as coaching, organising sessions, mentoring younger peers and assisting the teacher. There are also opportunities for students to represent the school in a variety of roles, as players, coaches, or officials.

Course outline

1. Applied anatomy and physiology
2. Skill acquisition
3. Sport and society
4. Exercise physiology
5. Biomechanical movement
6. Sport psychology
7. Sport and society and the role technology

Assessment

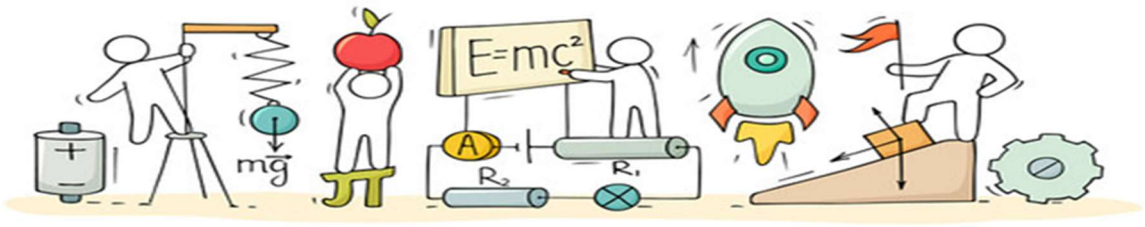
Component	Description	Marks	Weighting
Paper 1	Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport	105	35%
Paper 2	Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	105	35%
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Practical performance in physical activity and sport + written analysis	90	30%

- **Paper 1** includes:
  - Applied anatomy and physiology
  - Skill acquisition
  - Sport and society
- **Paper 2** includes:
  - Exercise physiology
  - Biomechanical movement
  - Sport psychology
  - Sport and society and the role of technology
- NEA:
  - Assessment in **one practical activity** as a performer or coach
  - Written analysis and evaluation of performance

Physics

Specification

AQA 7408



Why study Physics in the Sixth Form?

“Physics is a tortured assembly of contrary qualities: of scepticism and rationality, of freedom and revolution, of passion and aesthetics, and of soaring imagination and trained common sense.” Leon M Lederman

Physics tackles the biggest questions: How did the universe begin? What is dark matter? How do forces shape our world? It’s a subject that satisfies deep curiosity for those who want to understand how the universe works. You’ll study everything from the very smallest quantum particles to the vast distances between galaxies, gaining insight into both the microscopic and cosmic scales.

Studying Physics A level in the Sixth Form develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. You’ll learn to analyse data, apply mathematical models, and conduct experiments. It will train you to think logically and solve complex problems, skills that are highly valued in any career, whilst also opening doors to diverse careers in physics, engineering, technology and the natural sciences.

Physics is a highly regarded and respected subject, that is rigorous and intellectually stimulating. It’s ideal for students who:

- Enjoy maths and problem-solving
- Have an enquiring mind
- Want to be challenged and stretched academically.
- As well as Mathematics, Physics links closely with Chemistry, Biology, Product Design and Computing; and those studying Further Mathematics will particularly appreciate how closely it complements and deepens their understanding of Physics.

If you’re passionate about understanding the world and enjoy a challenge, Physics A level could be your launchpad to an exciting future.

Why study Physics at TGS?

Our Physics department is powered by a team of passionate, expert teachers who bring science to life with energy, clarity, and even a touch of fun. With years of experience and a knack for connecting Physics to the real world—and to other subjects—we inspire students to think big, ask bold questions, and discover how the universe really works. We aim to inspire you to think independently and build on the solid foundations of your Physics understanding from GCSE. Through regular practical in lessons, you will develop hands-on

scientific and teamwork skills, deepen your understanding of theory, and encourage you to become a capable, curious, and confident scientist.

Where can A Level Physics take me?

Physics A level is well respected and builds the skills required for **most** careers. It is specifically a gateway to careers in:

- Research and academia
- Engineering (mechanical, civil, aeronautical, design, electrical, general, biomedical and chemical)
- Computer science and AI
- Medicine and medical physics
- Finance and data analysis
- Patents
- the Space industry

Further study

Many of the students who study Physics choose related courses, for example Physics, Astrophysics, Engineering (including Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, General, Materials, Design and Biomedical), Aerospace, Architecture and Natural Sciences at university level. The destinations are varied but are heavily weighted in favour of Russell Group universities. In recent years, some students have also chosen to study Engineering courses abroad.

In the past three years, these were the destinations and subjects that some of our Physics students chose to study at University. This shows the love of the subject and the diversity of the courses that they can move onto afterwards.

University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences (Physical)
University of Oxford	Engineering
Imperial College London	Design Engineering
Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering
Queen Mary University of London	Physics
Queen Mary University of London	Design, Innovation and Creative Engineering
Queen Mary University of London	Aerospace Engineering
University of Exeter	Mechanical Engineering with Year in Industry
University of Exeter	Engineering
University of Manchester	Physics
Loughborough University	Materials Engineering

Surrey University	Mechanical Engineering
Sheffield University	Aerospace Engineering
University of Bath	Physics with theoretical Physics
Portsmouth University	Renewable energy engineering
University of Warwick	Mechanical Engineering
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Mechanical Engineering
University of Southampton	Engineering
University of Manchester	Physics
University of Sheffield	Robotics with a Foundation Year
University of the Arts London	Architecture
University of Nottingham	Architecture
University of St Andrews	Physics
University of Westminster, London	Architecture
University of Southampton	Physics
Loughborough University	Engineering
Loughborough University	Architectural Engineering (with placement year)

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Geneva residential trip: Y12 and Y13 are looking forward to going to CERN in February to visit the home of the Large Hadron Collider.

Institute of Physics (BPhO) competitions: You will have the chance to sit these in Y12 and Y13 and win awards. They are international Physics competitions and include the Physics Olympiad, Astro Olympiad and Physics Challenge, the Experimental Project and the Computational Challenge.

Physoc: A popular, self-run weekly group by Sixth Formers for each other, and other students from Y9 and above, to look at Physics wider than the classroom with competitions, talks and experiments.

Lectures: You also have the opportunity to attend Physics in Action lectures in London and others, for example at local schools, to see how Physics is applied in the real world. This year we have been to a lecture from the president of UKSpace called “The New space Race” and are due to go to the London lectures in March with Y12.

Essay competitions: Every year a few Y12 Physics students choose to enter national essay competitions, one of which has meant some have been awarded places on the CERN particle school in August.

Online chats with CERN scientists: Chats are had with CERN scientists where you can ask them any Physics questions you want to know about. Also, during Tomorrow's Engineers Week 2025 you can find out about different future study options and beyond.

Subject ambassadors and mentors: Helping the younger students in clinic and individually. Also planning and organising talks, open evenings etc as required.

Oxford masterclasses, lectures and taster sessions as they are advertised.

In the last year we also had visits from alumni students who came back to give talks about their experiences while at school with us and how the skills they developed here helped in their degrees in Physics, General Engineering, Design Engineering and Astrophysics. It was so lovely to welcome them back and to hear how well they are continuing to do. We also had an alumni engineering student who helped us

with a Rocket Science workshop we were running. They are very much still a part of our wider Physics family.







Pictured (l to r) students involved in the 'CERN Zone' online chats, students involved in the Astro Challenge, the experimental challenge in action and with silver award certificates, Olympiad Y13 students, last year's CERN Particle School trip including TGS students and our essay winner for last August's CERN trip

Course outline

1. Measurements and their errors 2. Particle Physics and Quantum Physics 3. Waves 4. Mechanics and materials 5. Electricity	6. Further mechanics and thermal physics 7. Fields and their consequences 8. Nuclear physics 9. Option – one of Turning Points or Astrophysics

Assessment

Paper	Details	What you will be examined on
Paper 1	2 hr exam 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content	On sections 1–5 and 6.1 (periodic motion)
Paper 2	2 hr exam 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content	On sections 6.2 (thermal physics), 7 and 8, with assumed knowledge from sections 1 to 6.1
Paper 3	2 hr exam 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic.	Section A: Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 – this is the option topic
Practical Component	Practicals are an integral part of the syllabus and so assessed not only as developed practical skills in paper 3, but also as compulsory regularly demonstrated skills.	12 required practicals but also practical skills built during other class practicals over the two years

What do students say?

"At the beginning of sixth form, I was surprised by how much I began to enjoy Physics, eventually realising that I wanted to continue with this subject at university. The Physics sixth form course introduces you to fascinating concepts throughout the course, and each time you wrap your head around them, you will understand the world in a new and interesting way. Furthermore, practical gives you a chance to be creative and conduct your own explorations." Rosalie

"Physics is unique in that you find yourself studying something on such a small scale and yet on such a large scale also. Not only does physics help you to build upon your mathematical skills it also, in my experience, makes you a more naturally curious person. There are many extracurricular opportunities outside of school to take part in, such as lectures at other schools or essay competitions, which is a great way to explore the subject outside of the classroom. Physics has links with both maths and parts of chemistry, so I often find myself learning about the physics aspect of a topic that I recently learnt in chemistry, which makes understanding it a whole lot easier!" Connie

"Physics has captured me from a young age. It explains the underlying principles that govern the entire universe. The classes enable me to express my views freely and I can clear up any queries or obtain individual support. The department also offers many extra-curricular opportunities such as helping with the KS4 students. Studying Physics not only allows me to progress into Higher Education but it is also a useful subject to have." Si Ling

Politics

Specification

Pearson Edexcel 9PL0

Why study Politics in the Sixth Form?

We live in interesting times - and there's never been a more exciting moment to study Politics. From Brexit and shifting global power to challenges like climate change and inequality, politics is at the heart of today's biggest debates.

This course helps you understand how decisions are made in the UK and internationally, explore major political ideas, and debate real-world issues as they happen. You'll develop critical thinking, analysis, and communication skills, learning to construct balanced arguments and evaluate competing perspectives - skills that are invaluable for future study and careers.

Why study Politics at TGS?

Politics at TGS offers a fresh and exciting opportunity to explore one of the most relevant subjects in today's world. Although this is a new A Level course, it will be delivered by experienced teachers who are subject specialists, ensuring high-quality teaching and support. Our approach emphasizes a global and interconnected outlook, helping you understand how UK politics links to international systems and major global challenges. Lessons are dynamic and discussion-based, encouraging you to engage with real-world issues and develop critical thinking, analytical, and communication - skills that will prepare you for success at university and beyond.

Where can A Level Politics take me?

A Level Politics opens doors to a wide range of opportunities. It is excellent preparation for university courses such as Politics, International Relations, Law, History, and PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics). The analytical, research, and communication skills you develop are highly valued across all academic disciplines and professions.

Career paths include law, journalism, media, civil service, diplomacy, public relations, and roles within international organisations and NGOs. In an increasingly interconnected world, understanding political systems and global governance gives you a real advantage in shaping your future.

In the last five years, our students have progressed to some of the UK's most prestigious universities to study Politics and related disciplines. Courses have included Politics and International Relations, Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), Economics and Politics, Social and Political Sciences, and International Politics with languages. Destinations have included Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Warwick, Bristol, Edinburgh, Exeter, and SOAS.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Studying Politics at TGS goes beyond the classroom. Students can take part in prestigious essay competitions such as the RA Butler Politics Prize and the LSEUPR Essay Competition, as well as engage in mock elections and Model United Nations. There will be opportunities to visit the Houses of Parliament, attend lectures from guest speakers, and explore contemporary issues through debates and discussions. Our super-curricular programme encourages wider reading, listening to podcasts, and staying informed about current affairs - helping you deepen your understanding and broaden your perspective.

Course outline

UK Politics	• Political Participation: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. • Core Political Ideas, students will study conservatism, liberalism and socialism.
UK Government	• UK Government: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches. • Non-core political ideas (one idea from the following): anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.
Comparative Politics	• Sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

Assessment

UK Politics	• Written examination: 2 hours, 33⅓% of the qualification, 84 marks • Two 30-mark questions and one 24-mark question (choice of two for each question)
UK Government	• Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks • Two 30-mark questions and one 24-mark question (choice of two for each question)
Comparative Politics	• Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of the qualification 84 marks • One 12-mark question from a choice of two, one compulsory 12-mark question and two 30-mark questions from a choice of three.

University destinations

University of Bristol	Politics and International Relations
University of Oxford	Philosophy Politics and Economics
University of Lancaster	Economics and Politics
University of Kent	Politics and International Relations
University of Southampton	Politics and Economics
UCL (University College London)	Politics, Sociology and East European Studies with Year Abroad
University of Exeter	Politics with Study Abroad
University of Edinburgh	Politics and Social Anthropology
University of Bath	Politics and International Relations.
University of York	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
University of Bath	International Politics & Language (Spanish advanced)
University of York	Social and Political Sciences with Philosophy
University of Brighton	Philosophy, Politics, Ethics
University of Warwick	Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
SOAS University of London	Politics and International Relations
SOAS University of London	Politics and Arabic
University of Nottingham	Politics and International Relations
University of Cambridge	Human, Social, and Political Sciences

Psychology

Specification

AQA A-level Psychology (Specification 7182)

Why study Psychology in the Sixth Form?

Psychology asks some of the most compelling questions of our time. Why do we conform? How are memories formed and misremembered? What drives relationships, resilience and mental health?

As a science of mind and behaviour, Psychology develops an exceptional blend of skills: critical thinking, data literacy, scientific writing and ethical awareness that transfer to every future pathway. You will learn to design studies, interpret evidence, and evaluate competing explanations, all while connecting classroom learning to real-world issues from social media to mental health and criminal justice.

Why study Psychology at TGS?

Tonbridge Grammar School brings a long tradition of Psychology teaching, now channelled into A-level. Lessons will be interactive and inquiry-driven: mini experiments, student-led investigations, debates on contemporary issues, and rigorous practice with A-level exam skills. Our programme will be enhanced by enrichment opportunities: visits, academic competitions, visiting speakers and alumni.

Where can A Level Psychology take me?

A-level Psychology is excellent preparation for degrees in Psychology, Neuroscience, Medicine, HSPS, Education, Law, Criminology and other social sciences. The analytical and people-centred skill set also suits careers in clinical, educational, occupational and forensic psychology, counselling and mental health, data and user research, marketing, HR, policy and the charity sector.

Recent TGS psychology students have progressed to highly selective courses including Experimental Psychology at Oxford, HSPS at Cambridge and Clinical Psychology pathways at Exeter, as well as joint honours such as Psychology and Criminology.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

Field trips:

- Bethlem Museum of the Mind explores the history and lived experience of mental health

Academic stretch and competitions:

- NCH (Northeastern University London) Psychology Essay Competition
- MASSOLIT Video Essay Competition
- Psychology in Action Conference

Community and leadership:

- Psychology Student Ambassadors (peer mentoring, events for lower years).
- Annual visiting speakers and alumni programme

Course outline

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence (conformity, obedience, resistance, minority influence)
- Memory (models of memory, forgetting, eyewitness testimony)
- Attachment (caregiver infant interactions, attachment types, deprivation)
- Psychopathology (definitions of abnormality, explanations and treatments)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology (learning, cognitive, biological, psychodynamic, humanistic)
- Biopsychology (nervous system, endocrine system, lateralisation, biological rhythms)
- Research Methods (experiments, observations, interviews, questionnaires; validity, reliability, ethics; data handling and analysis)

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates (nature-nurture, determinism, free will, reductionism, holism, ethics, culture and gender considerations)
- Options (selected annually from the AQA list), for example:
  One from: Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development
  One from: Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress
  One from: Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction
- Option choices will be reviewed each year to reflect cohort interest and enrichment links, proposed options are in bold above).

Assessment

Three exams (2 hours each), end of Year 13

- Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology 33⅓ per cent
- Paper 2 Psychology in Context 33⅓ per cent
- Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology 33⅓ per cent
- Question types: Multiple choice, short answers and extended essays requiring application, analysis and evaluation
- Research Methods and Mathematical skills: Assessed across papers, including study design, data presentation and interpretation (for example, descriptive statistics, graphical displays, simple probability)

What do students say?

"Psychology at TGS has given me a deeper understanding of the world I never would have had without studying it." - Alice.

"Studying psychology has broadened my horizons; everything I learn feels relevant and applicable." - Jemima.

"The visit to Bethlem Museum of the Mind was an eye-opening experience in understanding the development of therapies for mental disorders." - Lydia.

"I enjoyed the visit to UCL. We saw first-hand the technology used in groundbreaking psychological experiments." - Daisy.

"The real-world applications make it worth studying; its interdisciplinary nature lets you explore behaviour through biological, cognitive and sociocultural lenses." - Sophie.

Sociology

Specification

Exam board: AQA A-level Sociology (Specification 7192)

Why study Sociology in the Sixth Form?

Sociology explores the structures, cultures and inequalities that shape our lives from families and education to crime, religion and identity. It asks bold questions such as:

- Why do some groups experience more poverty or criminalisation than others?
- How do beliefs and values change across generations?
- What role does the media play in shaping our understanding of society?

As a discipline, Sociology develops critical thinking, argumentation, and research skills. You'll learn to evaluate competing theories, interpret evidence, and understand the social forces behind everyday experiences. It's a subject that connects directly to the world around you and challenges you to see it differently.

Why study Sociology at TGS?

At Tonbridge Grammar School, Sociology will be taught through discussion, investigation and debate. Lessons will be interactive, encouraging students to apply sociological thinking to contemporary issues. Our programme is enriched by opportunities to engage with real-world sociology in the classroom and you will be supported to develop strong essay-writing and analytical skills.

Where can A Level Sociology take me?

Sociology is an excellent foundation for degrees in Sociology, Criminology, Law, Politics, Education, Social Policy, Psychology, History and Anthropology. It suits careers in social research, journalism, law, teaching, public policy, healthcare, human rights, and the charity sector. Sociology graduates are valued for their ability to think critically, understand diverse perspectives, and analyse complex social issues, skills that are increasingly in demand across professions.

What enrichment opportunities are there?

- Field trips and events: We plan to attend events such as the 'Sociology in Action' study day hosted by Education in Action, where students hear from leading academics and practitioners on topics including crime, inequality, and social change.
- Academic stretch and competitions: Students will be encouraged to enter national competitions such as the British Sociological Association's 'Young Sociologist of the Year'. This competition invites students to write an essay on a sociological topic of their choice, with past winners exploring themes like identity, education, and protest movements. Participation in such events helps students develop their independent thinking, research skills, and confidence in communicating sociological ideas.

- Community and leadership: Sociology also offers opportunities for community and leadership through our Student Ambassador programme. Ambassadors play a key role in peer mentoring, supporting younger students with study skills and subject confidence, as well as promoting the subject to the wider school community.

Course outline

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

- Role and impact of education
- Educational policy and inequality
- Sociological research methods in context

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

- Families and Households: changing family structures, gender roles, childhood, demographic trends
- Beliefs in Society: religion and secularisation, globalisation, new religious movements

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- Crime, deviance, social control and justice
- Media and crime, green crime, state crime
- Sociological theory and debates about objectivity, values and policy

Assessment

Three exams (2 hours each), end of Year 13

- Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods – 33⅓%
- Paper 2 Topics in Sociology – 33⅓%
- Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – 33⅓%
- Question types: Short answers and extended essays requiring application, analysis and evaluation
- Research Methods: Assessed across papers, including study design, data interpretation and theoretical debates

Spanish

Specification

AQA 7692

Why study Spanish in the Sixth Form?

Spanish is the world's second most widely spoken language, making it an invaluable asset for global communication. It opens opportunities in a wide range of careers including business, law, politics, journalism, education, translation, tourism, and international relations.

Studying Spanish at A Level not only develops advanced linguistic skills but also broadens your understanding of the diverse cultures and societies of the Spanish-speaking world. You will learn to express yourself confidently in speech and writing, to analyse complex ideas, and to engage with authentic sources such as film, literature and media.

Why study Spanish at TGS?

At TGS, experienced and passionate teachers deliver a strong linguistic content together with an authentic cultural experience. The A Level Spanish will broaden and deepen your knowledge of the language, to enable you to communicate clearly at a higher and more fluent level. You will also enhance your cultural understanding as the course covers a range of social and cultural aspects from the Spanish speaking world.

Where can A Level Spanish take me?

With estimates that 60% to 75% of the world's population are speakers of more than one language, ensuring that the literacy and intercultural understanding that comes from language study is at the forefront of your educational progress will help you to put your mark on the world. A broad educational background which builds in the multiple perspectives of a language learner will ensure that you are able to be an understanding member of a team with brilliant interpersonal skills and a valuable comprehension of a range of global issues. These are skills which are vital in any field of work, including those which don't yet exist.

Your A-Level in Spanish can lead to exciting careers:

- International Business & Trade
- Diplomacy & International Relations
- Translation & Interpreting
- Education & Language Training
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Media & Journalism
- Law & Human Rights
- Technology & Localization

What enrichment opportunities are there?

TGS's International Society is where all of our language enrichment activities have a home, along with many other opportunities. Through the International Society, you will get a chance to directly running and organising events and club activities in School. We have a huge range including, but not limited to, the Foreign Film Club to the Team East Asia and Global Affairs club, in all of which you can see the direct involvement of languages, language learning and cultural understanding in the wide array of enrichment opportunities for yourselves and others. Students also regularly take part in writing competitions from the University of Oxford and we are involved in the United Kingdom Linguistic Olympiad (UKLO) competition.

We are preparing day trips at the Instituto Cervantes and the British Film Institute in London as well as cultural travels to Spain.

Course outline

Theme 1: Social Issues and Trends

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace and technology
- Equal rights

Theme 2: Political and Artistic Culture

- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage
- Music, cinema, and art in the Spanish-speaking world

Theme 3: Immigration and Multiculturalism

- Immigration trends
- Integration and racism
- Impact on society

Literary Texts and Films

Students study one literary text and one film focusing on analysis, interpretation and cultural context. Examples include:

- Federico García Lorca – La casa de Bernarda Alba • Gabriel García Márquez – Crónica de una muerte anunciada
- Volver – Pedro Almodóvar (2006) • Abel – Diego Luna (2010) • Las 13 rosas – Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2007)

Assessment

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Writing (50%)
- Paper 2: Writing essays on text and film (20%)
- Paper 3: Speaking, including an Independent Research Project in an aspect of Francophone society or culture (30%)

What do students say?

"Studying a language in Sixth Form has enabled me to further my linguistic skills through an eclectic range of topics, varying from literature to global politics. I have found this particularly enriching, as it allows you to learn the language in context, while constructing your own arguments on relevant issues". ***Lucy***

"I have always found languages interesting, describing them as the doorways to the rest of the world. At TGS, I have been exposed to a wide range of languages, from Latin to Japanese to Spanish, and have adored learning about the different cultures, especially due to the constant encouragement and support of our wonderful language department." ***Mia***

"Languages fascinate me. Knowing more than one language has not only opened up a world of opportunities but has also allowed me to see things in multiple perspectives, giving me an entirely different outlook on life. I loved being challenged and stretched in French and Spanish Sixth Form, which has encouraged me to pursue my interest to university". ***Rosalie***