



The Sixth Form at St Alban's

2024 COURSES

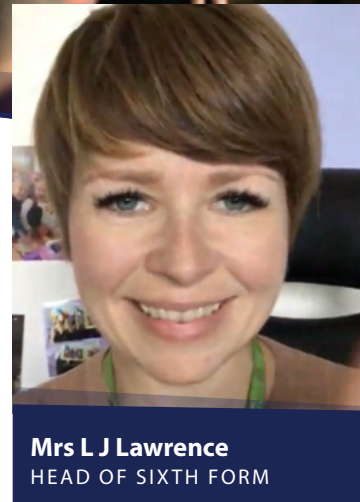


Friendly, aspirational and dedicated to your future



Welcome

The Sixth Form at St Alban's provides an outstanding education, equipping our students with much more than just **high academic attainment**. We are the friendly and inclusive Sixth Form – we are a **family**. One that cares not just about your grades, but **you as a person**.



Mrs L J Lawrence
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Our mission means that we are responsible not just for **academic success** but to ensure each young person leaves us as a **confident, kind, considerate** individual, equipped to face our ever-changing world.

We are proud that our Sixth Form students are taught to think for themselves, question everything and put across their views articulately and with a sense of moral purpose. Our young people grow and develop in a **respectful** and **caring environment**.

We have an extremely strong pastoral and chaplaincy team to **ease the pressure of A Level studies** and support any worries that you may have – we want your time at St Alban's Sixth Form to be a happy and successful one.

This booklet outlines our course offer for 2024 and we hope there is something to inspire you. You will find our application form on our website along with more information about our Sixth Form and the young people (past and present) who make it such a special place to learn.



2024 Courses

Sciences

- Biology 04
- Chemistry 05
- Physics 05
- Mathematics 06
- Further Mathematics 06
- Computer Science 07
- BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care 08

Humanities

- History 08
- Geography 09
- Philosophy, Ethics and Theology 10
- English Literature 10
- English Language 11

Languages

- French 12
- Spanish 12

Art and Design

- Art and Design 13
- Graphics 13
- Photography 14
- Product Design 15
- Textiles Design 15

Arts

- Drama 16
- Music 16

Social Sciences

- Economics A + B 17
- Certificate and Diploma in Financial Studies 18
- Sport and Physical Education 19
- Psychology 19
- Sociology 20
- Politics 20

Extended Studies & Enrichment

- Mathematical Studies 21
- Extended Project Qualification EPQ 21
- Society and Faith 22
- BTEC Level 3 Applied Law 22



Biology

What is the course about?

Biology is the study of living things and their environment. You will study the Pearson Biology B specification. The A Level course includes learning about biological molecules, life processes, the structure and function of cells, tissues and organs and classification of organisms. You will learn how metabolic processes, physiological and behavioural adaptations enhance species chances of survival. You will research how animals and plants are adapted to their environment, have evolved over time and how they compete with one another for resources. You will also develop an understanding of how ecosystems are threatened by human activities and how conservation strategies can be employed to protect threatened areas of the world and their populations of living things. Practical skills will be taught and assessed alongside the theoretical component to enhance your laboratory and ecological sampling techniques; the course includes a popular residential field trip.

What could I do next?

After successful completion of the two year A Level course you will be in a good position to study in higher education; many students go on to a wide range of university degree courses including medicine, earth, biological and biomedical sciences, biochemistry, veterinary science, nursing, dentistry, teaching, environmental science and conservation. There are also apprenticeship opportunities, for example scientific land management and commercial industry. There are also opportunities for apprenticeships in scientific land management and commercial industries.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Triple Science	6, 6, 6
or Combined Science with Biology module 7 equivalent	

Exam board	Pearson
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Chemistry

What is the course about?

The work of Chemists surrounds us – the materials with which we build, the clothes we wear, the medicines we rely upon, the paints and pigments which brighten our lives. Some of the solutions to the environmental problems of the world lie in the hands of chemists. The A Level course covers aspects of physical, organic and inorganic chemistry along with modern analytic techniques. During lessons you will learn how the structure of the atom and The Periodic Table are fundamental to understanding concepts such as bonding, redox reactions and the chemistry of transition metals. Practical work remains an integral part of the course with laboratory skills being assessed through Core Practicals. Chemistry at A Level is a stimulating mix of theory and practical work about the substances which make up our world and us.

What could I do next?

The majority of students are likely to proceed to Higher Education. Chemistry degree courses are widely available. These may be in Chemistry alone or in combination with other subjects. Chemistry at A Level is essential if students wish to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. Employment areas for chemists are vast and include forensics, biochemistry, environmental law, food chemistry, the plastics industry, biotechnology and teaching.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Triple Science	6, 6, 6
OR Combined Science with Chemistry module 7 equivalent	

Exam board	Pearson
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Physics

What is the course about?

We follow an exciting course called "Advancing Physics." This course has been designed by the Institute of Physics in conjunction with OCR. The course is thoroughly up to date in both content and modes of delivery, making full use of ICT. The course sets the physics in context, making it relevant to everyday life. It includes topics such as: nuclear and particle physics, astrophysics, quantum physics, relativity and electromagnetism.

What could I do next?

The majority of students are likely to proceed to Higher Education. Physics based degrees open a multitude of doors for both work and higher degree courses. The wide range of careers in physics includes – Medical physics, audiology, engineering, acoustics, systems analysis, meteorology, optometry, geophysics, oceanography, materials science, teaching, biophysics, radiography, metallurgy, medicine, astronomy and information technology. Students may also choose to access a career in Physics by leaving school at 18 and training as a technician.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Triple Science	6, 6, 6
OR Combined Science with Physics module 7 equivalent	

Exam board	OCR
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Mathematics

What is the course about?

Mathematics is an exciting new world waiting to be explored. It is our aim to make this journey as interesting and as varied as possible. Students will be taught to reason logically, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs. They will develop the ability to recognise how situations can be represented mathematically and to understand the relationship between 'real world' problems and possible mathematical models.

A Level Mathematics provides the skills and knowledge that underpin many scientific subjects such as Physics and Chemistry and the statistical analysis used in Psychology, Biology, Geography, Economics and Business Studies. Students must demonstrate an aptitude for the learning and study of Mathematics.

What could I do next?

A good Mathematics A Level would provide the skills needed for any of the mathematical based courses, apprenticeships or careers such as: Mathematics, Engineering, Finance, Social Sciences, Computer Sciences, Operational Research. Mathematicians, in an ever more technological world, have the ability to analyse, abstract and model situations and studying Mathematics is therefore seen as a real asset for a wide range of career choices. Mathematicians have an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to society by helping to solve problems in such diverse fields as medicine, economics, computer science, management, physics, astronomy, psychology, engineering and social science.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Mathematics	6

Exam board	Pearson
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Further Mathematics

What is the course about?

For those students with a deeper interest in mathematics, Further Mathematics A Level is a course that broadens the maths covered in A Level Mathematics. It develops mathematical ability and problem solving skills whilst introducing new topics, such as matrices and complex numbers, which are vital for maths-rich degrees in areas such as sciences, engineering, statistics and computing, as well as mathematics itself. A Level Further Mathematics is studied alongside the A Level Mathematics course and will help to boost performance in Mathematics.

What could I do next?

Studying Further Mathematics gives students applying for maths-rich courses an advantage and provides excellent preparation for courses in Mathematics, Engineering and Theoretical Physics, in addition to other higher education courses. In fact some prestigious university degrees courses now require a Further Mathematics qualification.

Mathematicians, in an ever more technological world, have the ability to analyse, abstract and model situations and studying Further Mathematics is therefore seen as a real asset for a range of career choices.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Mathematics	7

Exam board	Pearson Edexcel
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Computer Science

What is the course about?

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop an understanding of and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation; the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so; mathematical skills and the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

What could I do next?

This A Level provides the ideal foundation for those students who wish to pursue Computer Science at degree level or as a career, from games developer to manager of IT and communications services. Computer Science graduates have a range of opportunities open to them.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English	4
Mathematics	5
Computer Science	5

Exam board	OCR
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BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care

What is the course about?

A two-year qualification consists of four units three of which are mandatory and one optional, giving a broad introduction to Health & Social Care vocations.

Topics include "Human Lifespan Development", "Working in Health and Social Care" and "Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs"; we also study a fourth topic from a list of options. They are assessed through a combination of portfolio work and external assessment. Students will be able to experience both the theory and real life applications through case studies and are encouraged to extend their personal research where possible to enhance their portfolio assignments.

What could I do next?

This Health and Social Care course has been designed to form a qualification that provides knowledge and understanding of this vocational area, and how this is used in today's caring professions. It is an ideal qualification for those students who want a broad background in health, social care and early years' work that will allow them to progress to further or higher education, training or a responsible level of employment. It will equip you with the necessary background knowledge that will help you consider a range of possible career choices.



History

What is the course about?

A Level History offers students the opportunity to investigate the themes of rights, freedoms and greater equality in America and South Africa. They will explore the significance of individuals like Nelson Mandela, Ronald Reagan and in year 13 they will go on to study the British History unit on the Wars of the Roses and investigate the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV and Richard III. Students will also analyse different interpretations on a topic of their choice for the Individual Study. A Level History provides a broad and challenging syllabus that helps students prepare for their university studies or employment.

What could I do next?

An A Level in History will provide many opportunities for the future. Developing skills in sophisticated essay writing, analysis, debating and interpreting an argument are all appealing characteristics, and will make any student an attractive candidate for university or employment. Possible career routes are in law, education, journalism, business, tourism and many more.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
History	5

Exam board	Pearson
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Geography

What is the course about?

Geography is a dynamic and exciting course based on:

- The people-environment approach to Geography
- The enquiry approach to learning.

Through the course we look at questions, issues and problems arising from the interaction of people with their environments. Students are encouraged to extend their knowledge and understanding and to develop a wide range of skills. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. The new syllabi are certain to include all or most of these issues. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course and we try to keep costs as low as possible. The fieldtrips are determined around the students and we offer a range of day trips both human and physical. They cater for their interests as we collect the data for their NEA (non-examined assessment). This part of the A – Level course with is worth 20% of their final grade.

What could I do next?

Geographers are highly employable. Studying Geography requires you to use many skills such as problem solving, working in a group, numeracy, literacy and many more. So whatever your passion for the world - fascination with globalisation or concerns about climate changes - geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Geography	5
Maths	5
Exam board	AQA



Philosophy, Ethics and Theology

What is the course about?

Have you ever wondered what the meaning of life is? Where we come from? Why we get up, go to school, to get a Job, to earn, only to retire and feel end up feeling like there must be more? This course gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have wrestled with for centuries. What is the nature of reality? Why be moral? Is there life after death? Do we have free will?

Philosophy is an ancient subject that considers the key ideas from the ancient Greeks through to modern times; ethics considers the approaches of key figures like Kant and Thomas Aquinas and Christian Theology takes an in-depth look at some of the key ideas in Christianity. This course will stretch and challenge you and forms part of developing a deeper understanding of the Catholic Ethos of the School.

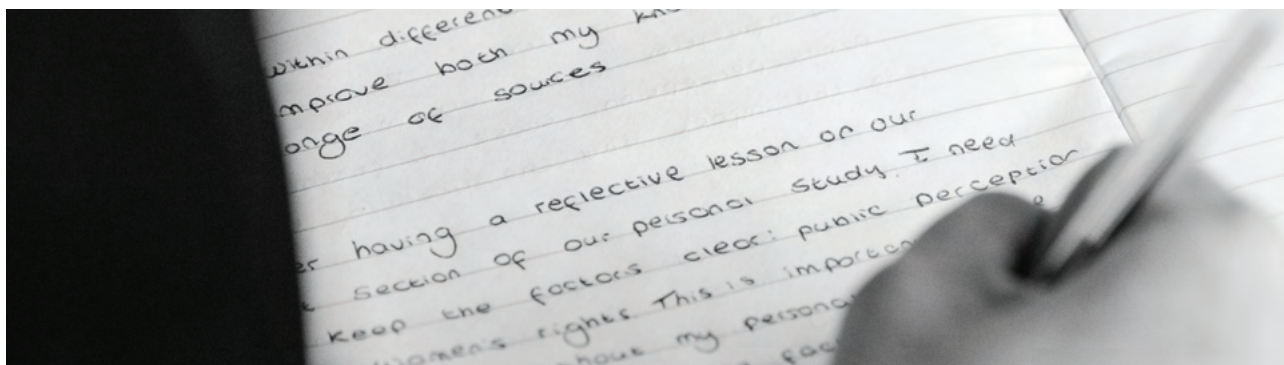
What could I do next?

Philosophy is one of the ten most employable degree subjects with over 65% of graduates going into work within six months of graduating. Colleges and universities place great value on Philosophy and Ethics because it helps develop a critical and reflective approach, the ability to structure an argument and it fosters intellectual curiosity and independent learning.

Useful for those planning to study law, history, sociology, politics, psychology, medical sciences and English as well as philosophy and religious education.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English language	4
Religious Studies	4
Exam board	OCR



English Literature

What is the course about?

AQA A-Level Literature offers students the opportunity to explore some of the most influential and moving texts both historically and of the modern age. You will get to study the works of the world's greatest writers such as Tennessee Williams, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Owen Sheers, Alice Walker and, of course, William Shakespeare, and explore the vibrant worlds and timeless characters these writers have crafted. You will also get the opportunity to examine how these writers explore major literary themes such as love and loss, race and ethnicity, gender and identity, and the individual in society, as well as interrogating the historical and contemporary factors which shaped these texts. With the support of our enthusiastic team of specialists, you can immerse yourself in the world of the 1920s Jazz-Era and meet the mysterious Jay Gatsby; you can follow the tragic story of Blanche, Stella and Stanley as they experience the catastrophe of the American Dream; you will stand with Celie as she battles against prejudice in the American South, and you can witness the downfall of the mighty Othello as he falls foul of the sinister Iago. In studying these texts, you will gain a greater understanding of what it means to be human.

What could I do next?

As A-Level Literature is a traditional discipline, it is highly respected by universities and employers alike. The course provides students with a wide array of skills, such as critical thinking and analytical skills, evidence-based enquiry, theoretical investigation and a fluency in oral and written expression. As the course allows you to develop a range of transferable skills, it is an ideal choice for those wishing to pursue a multitude of careers such as Law, Publishing, Education, Social Sciences, the Humanities, Science, academia and research, and professional fields which require the skills of communication and empathy. Advanced study of Literature expands your perception of life and your appreciation of it.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English Literature	5
English Language	5
Exam board	AQA



English Language

What is the course about?

The course offers students opportunities to develop their language skills by exploring key concepts and engaging with a range of authentic texts and discourses. This involves exploring written, spoken and electronic texts about a range of subjects, for various audiences and purposes, and in a variety of genres. Students will learn how personal, social and geographical contexts affect language use. In addition, the subject also requires students to study social attitudes to, and debates about language diversity. Consequently students will develop skills in writing discursively about language issues in an academic essay.

What could I do next?

The course equips students with essential knowledge and understanding of how texts work, thus developing their skills to communicate more effectively in a variety of genres, and for varied audiences and purposes.

As English Language is a traditional A Level, it is highly respected by universities and employers. It is a perfect choice for those planning a career where linguistic skills are prized. It is ideal for those wishing to pursue Higher Education courses in English, journalism, publishing, public relations, advertising, teaching, editing, law, psychology and the humanities.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English Language	5

Exam board	AQA
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French

What is the course about?

The course aims to maximise the use of French to be both enjoyable and intellectually stimulating; to enhance study skills; to research individual topics in depth, and develop a personal and independent response to them. You will develop an understanding of the language and its practical use in areas of work and leisure. You will spend one hour a week with our Foreign Language Assistant, to enhance your linguistic skills and develop your capacity for critical thinking. After 2 years, you will be completely fluent in French.

What could I do next?

Studying French at A Level leads to many courses at Higher Education. Universities offer a variety of degrees that give students the chance to specialise in the knowledge of one country or develop skill in two or more Foreign Languages. Many universities also offer courses with one unit in languages. Students are often able to study abroad for one term or a year. Students who take a language progress to a wide range of careers including: law, teaching, business, travel, journalism and many others in which languages are not the main skill but bring an advantage including promotion and leadership opportunities.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
French at higher tier paper	5
Exam board	AQA

Spanish

What is the course about?

Join us in learning and exploring a range of aspects of the Hispanic world, including discussion and analysis of both literary texts and films as well as submersing yourself in social issues & trends and political & artistic culture. Immerse yourself in multiculturalism and study Spanish A-Level.

What could I do next?

Suitable for students who wish to progress to further education or employment in diverse areas such as interpreting and translating, teaching, marketing, international aid worker and many more.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Spanish at higher tier paper	5
Exam board	AQA





Art and Design

What is the course about?

The A Level Art and Design course offers a wide variety of practical experiences through lessons, gallery visits both regional and abroad, and established links with practicing artists. The skills explored will be diverse, challenging and broadening. Amongst them you will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within Art, Craft and Design and learn the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings through your own artistic journey.

You will improve your imagination and creativity through experimental and analytical work which are key skills transferred to all academic practices. You will also develop a specialist critical vocabulary and the knowledge and understanding of the place of Art, Craft and Design in history and in contemporary society with an awareness of both traditional and new media. The Art course is the perfect opportunity for digital designers, multimedia and traditional artists.

What could I do next?

Those students with a wide creative skill set have an advantage in any career. Students may go on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or degree course for a career for which an art background is relevant. These might include Fine Art, Architecture, Advertising, Illustration, Publishing, Theatre/Interior Design or gallery/museums. Students will be well prepared for careers underpinned by creative skills and enthusiasm for visual learning.

Be aware there is a surge in demand for multimedia artists, animators, and illustrators – especially those who are computer and technology-savvy, due to companies' demand for advertising in online and digital formats. Fine artists can reach a worldwide market at the click of a button and the skills you learn will be relevant to all avenues of life.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Art and Design	5

or a portfolio of evidence of creative skills

Exam board	AQA
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Graphics

What is the course about?

This course is suitable for those prepared to complete extensive, consistent coursework. It is a chance to extend your skills and to learn more about Graphic Design as a form of Art and as a commercial and academic discipline.

Throughout the course you will be expected to keep a portfolio and work towards a theme. You will be involved in a variety of practical lessons which build on existing knowledge and also new methods of thinking, creating and producing finished work. The end result for each unit is determined by the student and the sketch book is required to 'tell a story' of how the product has been designed and created. You will investigate various print techniques, typography, methods of image making, digital imaging, 3-D installation graphics, graphic products and perhaps even animation.

What could I do next?

This is the best introduction to a career in the creative industries. We have 100% success rate for those students who want to study art and design at a higher level at top universities and art colleges such as UCS, Central St Martin's, Goldsmith's, Kingston, Brighton and Nottingham, leading to careers across a wide range of creative industries including product design, illustration, media graphics, film, television, advertising, marketing and so-on.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Design and Technology	4

or a portfolio of evidence of creative skills

Exam board	AQA
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Photography

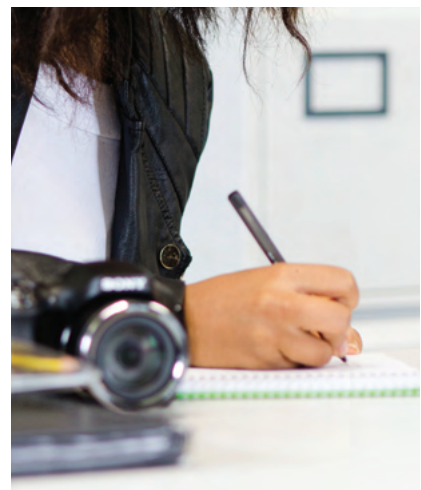
What is the course about?

In Photography, students have the opportunity to develop a wide range of light and lens-based skills ranging from traditional darkroom techniques to experimental image making, studio, location and digital work. Throughout the course, students will produce sketchbooks and practical outcomes that showcase the wide range of high quality images they create over the two years. This enables students to have an excellent record of their work for university interviews. Photography is taught in a specialist, purpose built studio and darkroom, equipped with studio lighting, backdrops, props, digital and black and white processing equipment.

You will be taught how to use SLR film and digital cameras, to process and print your own images, to manipulate and edit digitally and control studio lighting. You will also explore and analyse the work of other artists and photographers to inspire your own work. Photography students also have the opportunity to participate in visits to galleries and exhibitions with recent trips including an overnight stay to see the London galleries.

What could I do next?

This A Level will enable progression to university on to a Photography or Art-related degree course, or a pre-degree Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. Both could lead to an art or design-related career, and are also an excellent accompaniment for anyone wishing to enter a career within film, media, heritage, journalism or the television industry.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Art and Design	5
or a portfolio of evidence of creative skills	

Exam board	Eduqas
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Holding Time by Julia Kapkowska – Prize Winner of the annual SNAP photography competition 2015.

Product Design

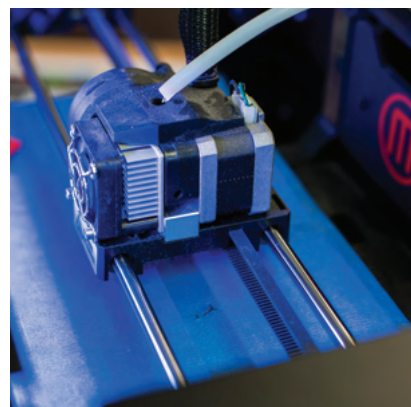
What is the course about?

This course is suitable for students with an enquiring mind and a commitment to learning how products work and, more significantly, how they should work. The course covers a range of materials and working properties but focusses mainly on woods, metals and plastics. This is a creative course, but one which demands an engineering-type analytical approach to make the products we use better and invent new ones to solve new and, as yet, unknown problems.

The A Level comprises a major design and make project and a written paper. Work will be research, writing and workshop based with sufficient time allocated to practical tasks to reinforce skills and knowledge of materials working properties. The course is supported by a full-time technician and excellent CAD/CAM equipment including laser cutting and 3-D printing.

What could I do next?

This course is a great introduction to the many facets of product design, engineering and manufacturing. Many of our students go on to study these subjects at degree level at top universities and design colleges such as UCL, Nottingham, Brighton and Central St Martin's.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Design and Technology	4

OR a portfolio of evidence of creative skills

Exam board	AQA
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Textiles Design

What is the course about?

The A Level Fashion and Textile Design course offers a wide variety of practical experiences through experimentation, visiting artists, gallery and regional trips. The skills you will learn and develop across the years would be an excellent starting point for a young fashion or textile designer who wants to be creative and innovative with their ideas. You will study through experimentation textile design, exploring fashion textiles, develop basic pattern making and dress making skills. This course is suitable for those prepared to complete extensive, consistent coursework.

Units 1 and 3 are personal investigations and Units 2 and 4 externally set by the exam board. The course is fast paced and you will be expected to continue your studies outside the classroom with research and application. Throughout the course you will be expected to keep a portfolio and work towards a finished product. You will be involved in a variety of practical lessons which build on existing knowledge. You will learn new methods of surface decoration with a view to produce your own fabrics and you will learn how to adapt patterns, draping and basic block making in order to create your own garments. If pupils choose to they can combine their own fabric designs with their own fashion design in order to create their own catwalk collection.

The end result for each unit is determined by the student and the sketch book is required to 'tell a story' of how the product has been designed and created. The course covers a wide range of Textile areas and will be open to your own interpretation as you develop your studies.

What could I do next?

This course is ideal for anyone who wishes to progress to college/university, pursue a career in the fashion design or the Design & Textile industry or those who are keen on embellishment and who are creative. Students who have completed this course may go on to study Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or degree course for a career for which a creative background is relevant. These might include Fashion, Print, Fabric Construction, Footwear Design, Fashion Buying, Costume Design, Theatre/Interior Design. Many students who have studied Textiles with us have continued to specialize at universities such as Nottingham Trent, Cardiff Metropolitan and Central St Martins, London. The fashion and Textile industry is big business in the UK worth over £66 billion; if you are keen to be a part of it this is the course for you!



Minimum entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Design and Technology	4

OR a portfolio of evidence of creative skills

Exam board	AQA
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Drama

What is the course about?

A Level Drama and Theatre will be assessed through a combination of a 40% written exam and 60% internal and external practical and written assessment. The course is both lively and stimulating. It is hard work but great fun and you will quickly become part of a very strong and supportive team. We look at theatre production and theatre practitioners in a very 'hands on' practical way. You can study either performance or production design as your main emphasis, both carry equal weighting. If you like working closely with others, as part of a team and are prepared to give up your own time to rehearse for examined performances and have a genuine love and interest in theatre then this is the course for you!

What could I do next?

Students can go on to study drama at university. Jobs directly related to an A Level or degree in Drama and Theatre include actor/actress stage manager, arts administrator, drama teacher, drama therapist, television production assistant, radio presenter, theatre director. Drama and Theatre is also useful for a range of other jobs, such as youth & community worker, personnel manager, social worker, journalist, marketing manager or charities administrator.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English	4
or an equivalent Arts GCSE at grade 4	
Exam board	Pearson



Music

What is the course about?

A Level Music is an interesting and varied course which allows a student to develop practical performance and composition skills alongside more academic, analytical skills. A range of activities will give students a greater understanding of the music that they listen to and play. There are opportunities to be involved in the thriving musical life of the school through performances and ensembles. The course focuses on performing, composing, listening and appraising. The performing aspect will be presented through a recital where you will perform for between 6-8 minutes. Composition will include free composition, composing to a set brief and also composition techniques - completing a piece following the stylistic rules of other composers. At the end of each year you will sit an exam which will test your analytical and aural skill and you will complete essays about the set pieces of music you have studied. The topics which you will study are Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music and Jazz, Fusions and New Directions.

What could I do next?

A Level music is an ideal subject to combine with a wide range of other subjects demonstrating a broad and balanced education. A Level music complements many degree courses, not purely musical degrees, as it requires disciplined self-study and rigorous attention to detail. The course is essential to pursue music at degree level and is also often needed for sound engineering courses.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

Preferred but not all essential

SUBJECT	GRADE
Music	5
ABRSM	Grade V Theory
Instrument or voice	Grade V
Exam board	Pearson

Economics A

What is the course about?

This qualification offers a pacey, exciting and scholarly A- level that introduces our students to the subject's core technical models as early as possible. Students use models and theories and apply these to economic problems, becoming more conscientious and socially aware global citizens. Students develop quantitative and qualitative skills and explore the impact of decisions on both a micro and macro level. The course is divided into 4 themes. Theme 1 introduces students to markets and market failure, Theme 2 introduces macro-economics and macro-economic policies. In Year thirteen, students will study Business behaviour and the labour market (Theme 3), followed by "A global perspective" (Theme 4).

What could I do next?

This A Level course is excellent preparation for those students intending to pursue economics at degree level, or for anyone considering a career with an economic angle. Some examples of careers with an economics include: Economist, investment banker, financial analyst, accountant, journalist, solicitor, international development consultant, stockbroker, actuary, trader, hedge fund manager. Economics goes very well with Politics, Geography, English, Maths and modern foreign languages. Economics is a social science and fits very well with any combination of subjects.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Mathematics	6
English	6

Exam board	Pearson
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Economics B

What is the course about?

This qualification requires the investigation of economic concepts and theories through real-world businesses and the environment in which they operate. Students use economic theory to explain events and develop an understanding of the strategies employed by businesses in responding to these events. This A Level is structured into four coherent themes, Theme 1 introduces students to markets, consumers and firms, Theme 2 introduces students to the wider economic environment, Theme 3 explores the global economy and Theme 4 explores making markets work.

What could I do next?

Students can progress from this qualification to Higher education courses such as Economics and Business degrees, degrees with a focus on theory, or degrees in applied economics such as environmental economics, labour economics, public sector economics or monetary economics. Alternatively, students may choose to study business economics, business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business.

The qualification provides a solid foundation for studies at a higher level. The qualification may also lead on to a career in the commercial world, for example in banking, sales, product management or general management. Business and management skills are also considered desirable skills to have in public sector organisations or charities.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Mathematics	4
English	4

Exam board	Pearson
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Certificate and Diploma in Financial Studies

(LONDON INSTITUTE OF BANKING AND FINANCE)

What is the course about?

The course encourages students to become responsible borrowers and sensible savers, and to appreciate the need for financial planning throughout their life. It prepares them for further study by developing the core skills of critical analysis and evaluation, verbal communication (through classroom discussion) and written communication. The course includes 4 units of study including; Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term, Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term, Sustainability of an Individual's Finances and Sustainability of the Financial Services Systems.

Throughout the course the student explores the political, economic, social, technological, ethical and legal impacts of personal finance in the short, medium and longer terms. Through this, a greater understanding of the impact that global events can have upon consumers and the wider financial services industry is developed and therefore enhances the ability to make informed financial decisions through effective planning to manage the risks and challenges involved in personal finance.

Each unit is assessed through a combination of Multiple Choice Questions (Part A) and a written paper (Part B). Part A can be sat via the LIBF e-test electronic testing system or via a paper-based MCQ examination. Part B will always be sat via paper-based examination.

What could I do next?

Once students have completed this qualification, they can progress into financial based apprenticeships or employment or continue their studies at University, equipped with the skills for the world of work or further study. The LIBF awarding body offer sponsored degree courses for high achieving students at a number of accredited universities.





Sport and Physical Education

What is the course about?

You will study anatomical, physiological and psychological theories and apply them to sporting activity. You will look at what contributes to an active and healthy lifestyle, and develop an insight into movement, behaviour and performance in relation to sport and play. You will develop ways to optimise your own practical performance as well as developing a range of transferable skills: leadership, communication and organisational skills. Your ability to research and analyse topics in theoretical aspects will also be developed through an extended coursework element during year 13.

What could I do next?

A Level Sport and Physical Education can help you enter higher education at a college or university to follow a degree course in a related subject. This could then open the door to jobs in teaching, coaching, fitness or sport science support. A Level Sport and Physical Education is also valuable for medical-related courses such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
PE	5
English	4
BTEC Sport	Level 2 Merit
GCSE Triple Science is desirable	

It is an advantage to be involved in competitive sport at club level or higher

Exam board	AQA
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Psychology

What is the course about?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. The course uses psychological topics to introduce the students to the foundations of Psychology before they develop their understanding and consider the various applications that help put their learning into real-world contexts. In the first year we cover topics such as obedience and prejudice in Social Psychology, how our memory works in Cognitive Psychology, and explanations for aggression in Biological Psychology. In the second year we go on to look at topics such as Eye Witness Testimony and Jury Decision Making in Criminological Psychology. In Clinical Psychology we explore explanations and treatments for both Schizophrenia and Anorexia. Students will also develop a multitude of skills, including numeracy, communication, practical skills and critical thinking in order to make a smooth transition to the next level of study.

What could I do next?

Students will take away an insight into human behaviour and how the mind and body interact. Psychology prepares you for careers working with people in a range of different fields. Psychologists work in many different areas of society and are concerned with a number of problems such as supporting the police and court system to perform more effectively, assisting athletes and sports people to perform better or speeding up the recovery from brain injury. Psychology opens doors for students interested in Counselling, Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Medicine, Nursing, Education and Human Resources.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Maths	4
English	4
Science	4

Exam board	Edexcel
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Sociology

What is the course about?

Sociology studies people in society, how society is shifting and how it can be improved. Sociology students will discuss questions such as: What is society? How and why is it changing? What are the opportunities for future change and development? Studying Sociology will give you the opportunity to gain an understanding of the world around you. You will be able to reflect on social issues and study how ethnicity, gender, age and social class may be related to issues of both identity and inequality. You will cover topics such as Youth Subcultures, Crime & Deviance and Globalisation. Sociology is a contemporary subject that fosters the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity.

What could I do next?

Sociology is centred around the world that we live in, therefore Sociology can give students the knowledge for a variety of career paths. Some students will go into Social Work, Youth work, social research, and Aid and Development work. Additionally, studying Sociology would be beneficial for those wishing to enter into areas such as Education, Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System as well as Human Resources.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Maths	4
English	4

Exam board	OCR
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Politics

What is the course about?

In order to be successful in this A Level you will need to have an interest in politics, enjoy debating and consider other people's views before coming to reasoned conclusions. You will learn how the political institutions of the UK work. You will also look at political action and political ideas that have emerged in the last century.

This A Level will allow you to develop and hone your analytical and writing skills. The course will comprise of a variety of study methods including debates, discussions, independent research and evidence based questions and essays.

What could I do next?

A Level Government & Politics will open the door to a variety of careers such politics, journalism, civil service, diplomatic service, law and teaching.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Maths	4
English	4

Exam board	Pearson Edexcel
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Extended Studies & Enrichment

Mathematical Studies

(Level 3: One-year course)

What is the course about?

All students who are not studying A Level Mathematics have the opportunity to undertake this one year qualification to develop the key mathematical skills which are needed in a number of higher level courses. Students will come out with a Level 3 qualification – with equivalent UCAS points to an AS Level.

Mathematical Studies builds on GCSE Mathematics with a sharper focus on problem solving skills by considering and tackling mathematics in meaningful contexts. This includes financial applications of mathematics as well as further statistical ideas that can support work in other subjects they will be studying such as psychology, geography, sociology and economics.

What could I do next?

The Mathematical Studies course has been designed in association with employers, universities and professional bodies as valuable preparation for employment and further studies. Universities and employers are increasingly looking for this qualification from applicants as they recognize the importance of the problem solving and reasoning skills.



Extended Project Qualification EPQ

What is the course about?

The EPQ is a component offered to all our students in January of their first year of study at St Alban's. Students can choose an area of their own research that comes from their personal interest, a leisure activity, a subject specific project, a career based project or community based project. The EPQ allows students to develop into independent learners, applying research, problem solving and analytical skills to something that they are passionate about. The Extended Project qualification is highly regarded by top universities as it helps students 'develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition to higher education' Cambridge University.

What could I do next?

The EPQ provides a valuable additional qualification to a student's A Level option subjects. Employers and universities alike appreciate the skills required to independently research and analyse material and present coherent and logical arguments. It allows students to demonstrate that they offer a notable qualification that sets them above others when competing for a university or employment position.



Society and Faith

At St Alban's every sixth form student gets the unique opportunity to engage in a timetabled lesson on society and faith. Students have the opportunity to discuss and debate issues that involve spirituality, morality, theology, philosophy, current affairs and other important topics. Students also develop their evaluative, reasoning and debating skills in a respectful and safe environment.

This allows our students to develop as a person morally and spiritually, as well as academically assisting them with the skills needed to achieve at A Level. We encourage all students whatever their beliefs to engage in meaningful and respectful debate. Society and faith allows students to understand and question ideas and beliefs as well as developing their views and opinions on important topics.



BTEC Level 3 Applied Law

What is the course about?

This course is the equivalent to 0.5 of an A level and is designed to complement a range of other courses: consider English, History, Languages, Psychology and other written subjects as natural partners to Law. It also carries a weighting for UCAS points.

Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law

We all need to be aware of how civil disputes are settled and where to seek advice when things go wrong. This unit uses the law of negligence and the way in which claims, such as damage or losses resulting from a car crash or causing injury to another person, are dealt with in English law. In this unit, you will learn about the courts that deal with civil law disputes, in addition to alternative methods of resolution.

Unit 2: Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System

Everyone has to live and operate within the law; punishments can be imposed for breach of the law. This unit will enable you to understand how laws are made and used, particularly criminal laws, and where advice on those laws can be obtained.

What could I do next?

The legal skills, knowledge and understanding covered in this BTEC will help you progress to higher education and professional qualifications, either in law or another sector. It will also help you to progress to employment in the legal profession or in other forms of business.



We aim to inspire everyone with the strength and purpose to begin the journey of learning for life and to prepare our students to lead by example in the modern world.



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St Alban's is part of the Our Lady of Walsingham
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