

The Sixth Form

at St Alban's

P R O S P E C T U S



learning | respecting | caring

Our vision

We strive to provide an excellent education for our students within a caring community where all are respected, valued and supported to achieve their potential. 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.





Head of Sixth Form Welcome

St Alban's Sixth Form is a friendly, vibrant and aspirational Sixth Form. Our mission statement is '*learning, respecting and caring*' and through this mission we aim to inspire, challenge, support and value every student to achieve their potential.

Our excellent academic results year on year are testimony to the hard work of our students, teachers and support staff. Our A Level results are consistently excellent. Many of our students have been at St Alban's and remain with us at Sixth Form; however, each year we welcome a number of external students who join us and quickly become part of the Sixth Form community. I am very proud of all the young people who make our Sixth Form community such a diverse and wonderful place to learn and to work.

I firmly believe that learning does not just happen in the classroom, but also beyond. We offer a range of facilities for students to study, to explore their future options and to socialise, including our recently built Sixth Form extension with purpose built Sixth Form library and A Level learning spaces. There are quiet working areas and those designated for collaborative learning, as well as the recently refurbished Common Room area, with kitchen area, is the hub of Sixth Form life.

Making the most of Sixth Form life is actively encouraged and there are lots of opportunities to take on leadership roles, organise fundraising and sociable events, take part in competitions or volunteer to help others. Such experiences develop character and develop the qualities and skills that provide a strong foundation for the future and are great fun.

I hope our prospectus gives you an overview of what St Alban's Sixth Form offers but please arrange to come and visit and find out more.

Application form is available on the school website and can be completed online or sent into school, before the end of January.

Studying at St Alban's Sixth Form

Sixth Form students follow an Individual Learning Plan with a combination of A Levels to support their interests and career aspirations.

The Sixth Form at St Alban's offers a wide range of A Level courses to choose from; these offer opportunities to combine traditional subjects with more specialised options. Entry requirements into our Sixth Form are six GCSE passes, or equivalent, at grade 4 or above, including a grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics.

It is important to choose the right A Level combination and keep future options open. Students will have a chance to talk about their subject choices in the Sixth Form application meetings and will be offered advice and guidance to support the important decision making process. Changes to your programme of study may be made with guidance, right up to the day you start in the Sixth Form. When your GCSE results are published in August you will be able to arrange an interview with a member of the Sixth Form staff, should you need to do so.

Some courses will also have their own specific entry requirements as indicated in the course pages. In exceptional circumstances, however, we will consider the applications of students who do not meet the set entry requirements.

Students will embark on an A Level programme of study that is enriched by the St Alban's Extended Programme of study. Our Extended Programme of study adds breadth to students' academic interests, it features a range of lectures and workshops that are designed to develop employability skills, life skills and support students to make informed decisions as they journey towards adult life, through our PYF programme (Preparing for your future) and our Society and Faith course.

Our Extended Programme of study includes the Cambridge Pre-U qualification and in addition all students have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). With the support of an individual supervisor, we encourage students to complete the full AQA Bacc Award. Top universities strongly support the EPQ for its emphasis on independent study. All students also have the opportunity to embark on Mathematical Studies course (Level 3). This supports their other subjects where applying mathematical skill is **essential**. We review our programme of study annually and are looking to widen our offer of courses, any additional courses will be published on our website.



Student Support

We are committed to the very best pastoral care and it is central to all that we do.

The Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Student Sixth Form Lead take an overall lead on pastoral care to ensure that all students have the necessary support to thrive both academically and personally. There is a strong guidance and support system in place and small tutorial groups mean our friendly and approachable team of experienced tutors will know you well.

The transition from GCSE to A Level studies is a steep learning curve and the Sixth Form staff are here to support students on their journey. Every student will have a personal tutor and will meet regularly to discuss their Individual Learning Plan; during this meeting targets are set, academic progress is measured and ambitions for the future are discussed and plans put in place.

Bursary

The 16-19 Bursary Scheme is offered to any eligible students to support with day to day life in the Sixth Form and accessing Higher Education Open Days and academic trips.



Higher Education and Careers Guidance

Preparation for university and employment has a high profile in the Sixth Form and throughout your time you will benefit from our expertise and extensive links with universities, industry and commerce! All Year 12 students this year also have the opportunity to participate in a week long work placement.

You will be able to attend our regular guest lectures from university lecturers and guest talks from leaders in industry. The majority of our students continue their studies at university in the UK or abroad while others successfully secure exciting higher apprenticeships. Our team of Sixth Form tutors, alongside our dedicated Student Sixth Form Lead, have an extensive knowledge on university courses and apprenticeship applications and will offer advice and support at every stage.

Life in the Sixth Form

We believe in preparing all our students for university, for the world of work and above all for life. We firmly believe that success in the classroom is supported by success beyond. Sixth Form offers the chance to expand your horizons, develop leadership skills, instil confidence and create a sense of responsibility towards others. We encourage every student to take initiative and to make the most of the opportunities on offer:

- **The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award** – Students complete five challenges: voluntary service, residential, expedition, skills and physical.
- Becoming a **Subject Ambassador** and taking the lead in creating and delivering presentations to other students, parents and staff at Sixth Form events.
- **RAG Week** is always a highlight of the year, and includes a range of fun activities organised by the Sixth Form students to raise money for charity – from dressing up to bake sales and competitions.
- **Taking part in sports or organising your own clubs** – such as the debating society.
- **Subject specific fieldtrips** are varied and enable students to explore their subject first hand.
- **CAFOD young leaders programme** – supporting fundraising to help people in the poorest parts of our world.
- **Guest Lectures and Future Learn** courses to enable students to develop specialist knowledge beyond their A Level studies.
- **Giving something back** – getting involved in local community work: this may be mentoring lower school students, working in local charity shops, or like our students hoping to study medicine – volunteering at the local hospital.
- As part of our commitment to **Faith in Action** we have formed a Sixth Form St Vincent de Paul 'Beatitudes' group with a specific focus to support needy causes within the extended community of St Alban's. Our prime purpose is to ensure that we act out our school mission and support the vulnerable where possible.
- We also offer **paid employment opportunities** to Sixth Formers as Lunchtime Supervisors, Wellbeing workshops run throughout the year to encourage positive wellbeing, from yoga to art classes.

We are very proud of all that we do and we encourage you to speak to our current students when you visit to find out from them about life at St Alban's Sixth Form.





Leadership opportunities

The Sixth Form students benefit from a range of leadership opportunities, developing important skills for life and having a lot of fun.

Head Boy & Head Girl

Our Sixth Form provides a friendly and caring atmosphere in which students are given the best opportunities to achieve academically, brightening their prospects for the future. Both teachers and students work hard to create a nurturing and supportive environment where everyone feels valued. Our dedicated staff strive to ensure that all individuals are able to reach their potential. A strong sense of community is promoted by the motivated students, who are heavily involved in all aspects of school life; from charity work to supporting their peers. It is evident that students are content and well catered for throughout their school life here at St Alban's Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing you in September.

House Captains

Our House system creates a sense of belonging and identity within our school community. It helps to create a supportive environment of respecting and caring, an element of teamwork and a healthy competition spirit. The House System is also the vehicle for student voice across the school. All six of us are committed to our House and our leaderships roles and over the coming year, we will be involved in organising sporting events and House competitions and our own Charity Days.

We aim to create a friendly atmosphere within each House by encouraging students to collaborate with other members of their House, regardless of their year group. This was certainly evident at sports day, which was combined with our Summer fête, with all proceeds going to charity.

Sixth Form Council

Our Sixth Form Council is led by a team of enthusiastic students who meet regularly to discuss any issues or new ideas that will enable us to get the best out of our Sixth Form experience, preparing us for further education and our future careers.

The Sixth Form Council is split into a number of committees; Finance, Events, Charity, Teaching and Learning, Environment, Community, Enrichment, Chaplaincy and Subject Ambassadors which give us lots of opportunities to develop key skills needed in our everyday lives.

“a nurturing and supportive environment where everyone feels valued”



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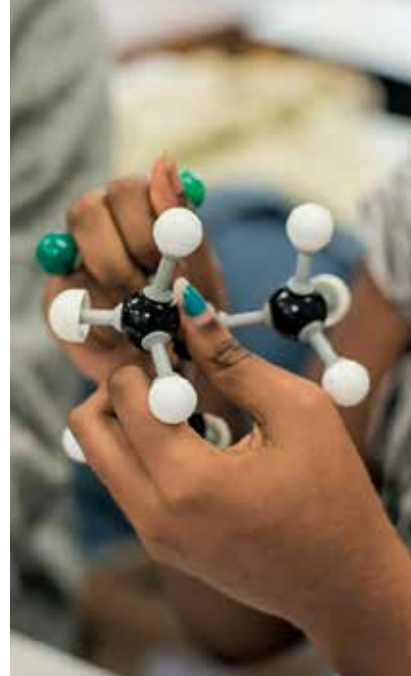
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Biology

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	AQA
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Outstanding
A Level Computer
Science results in top
10% nationally

Computer Science

What is the course about?

Computer Science A Level will encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It will provide insight into, and experience of how computer science works, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with computer science in their everyday lives. A variety of topics are covered for example: IPOs, Software Development, Algorithms, Legal and Ethical Issues, Computational Thinking and Problem Solving.

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. At university you will combine theoretical study and practical projects gain skills through work related placements, internships and voluntary work.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English	4
Mathematics	4
Computer Science	4

Exam board	OCR
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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 whilst we try to keep costs as low as possible, the fieldtrips will cost in the region of £300.

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

Exam board	AQA
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Outstanding
A Level Geography
results in top 10%
nationally

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.

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
History	5

Exam board	Pearson
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Outstanding
A Level History results
in top 25% nationally



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English language	4
Religious Studies	4

Exam board	OCR
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Outstanding
A Level Philosophy,
Ethics and Theology
results in top 25%
nationally

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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Outstanding
A Level English
Language results in
top 10% nationally

English Literature

What is the course about?

You will follow the AQA English Literature Specification A. You will study the A Level course which involves two examinations at the end of Y13. The two year course covers a diverse number of texts both pre and post 1914. You will also complete an Independent Critical Study which allows you to look closely at two texts and to write a piece of comparison. We will take any opportunities to allow students to watch live performances of the texts they study.

What could I do next?

As English Literature is a traditional A Level, it is highly respected by universities and employers. An A Level in English Literature will allow you to pursue a wide range of careers which involve the ability to communicate with others and to empathise. Many of our students go on to pursue study of English Literature at a higher level. An A Level in English Literature is highly regarded by all employers and is a desirable competence.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
English Literature	5
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 have the opportunity to do some work experience in France with the company Halsbury. At the end of your first year, you will be awarded the Language Leaders Award having taught in Primary Schools. 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.

German

What is the course about?

If you enjoy interactive lessons with lots of opportunities for group work, discussion and debate, then this course will suit you. You will learn to discuss modern issues, including the environment and relationships. You will learn about cultural aspects of the country through movies, music and literature. You will also develop the necessary skill to become confident to have a meaningful conversation with native speakers. You will also be given the opportunity to do some work experience in Germany with the company Halsbury.

What could I do next?

There will be a range of opportunities open to you, where you can continue to use and further develop your language skills. Having a language at A Level will certainly improve your employability in particular with companies which have international branches. There are many exciting opportunities for Modern Linguists in a range of careers such as: advertising, computing, business, interpreting, translating, tourism, leisure industry, communications, media, customs and excise and teaching. Most of the time, languages is not the main skill but can give you an advantage when looking for leadership or promotion.

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
French at higher tier paper	5

Exam board	AQA
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Outstanding
A Level French
results in top 10%
nationally

Outstanding
A Level German
results in top 10%
nationally

Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
German at higher tier paper	5

Exam board	AQA
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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 you will explore 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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Outstanding
Art & Design
results in top 10%
nationally

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	AQA
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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?

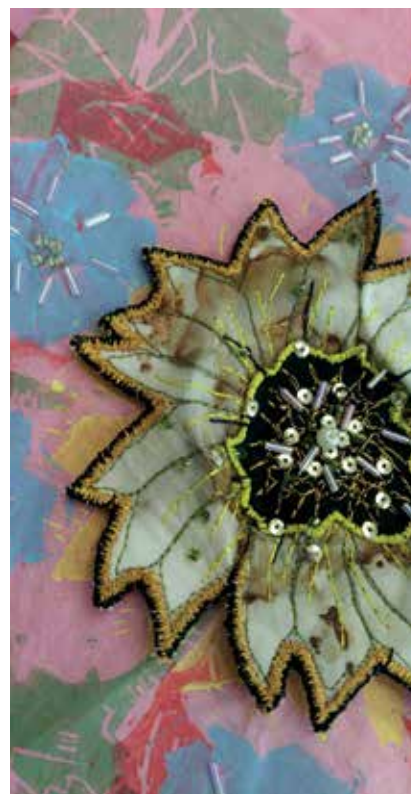
The A Level Fashion and Textile Design course offers a wide variety of practical experiences through experimentation, visiting artists, gallery and regional trips. The skills you will learn and develop across the years would be an excellent starting point for a young fashion or textile designer who wants 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
and an equivalent Arts GCSE at grade 4	

Exam board	Pearson
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Performance at Snape Maltings

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.

Outstanding
A Level Music
results in top
10% nationally

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
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Economics

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
English	4
Mathematics	4

Exam board	Pearson
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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
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, explanations for schizophrenia and developmental issues such as Autism. The 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?

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.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Maths	4
English	4

Exam board	OCR
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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 Families and Households, Crime and Deviance, as well as Poverty and Welfare. Sociology fosters the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity.

What could I do next?

Students with Sociology degrees go on to follow a variety of career paths. Whilst some will go into Social Work, there are opportunities in Youth work, social research, and Aid and Development work. Additionally, a Sociology degree would be beneficial for those wishing to enter into areas such as 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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Cambridge Pre-U

What is the course about?

The Pre-U is a qualification developed by Cambridge University to equip students with the skills needed to enter university and the workplace. The course includes an essay which is based on a topic of the student's choice, an exam paper focused on analysing two opposing arguments and a short presentation where students share findings on pre-released material. Throughout their two years at St Alban's students will be introduced to issues ranging from the refugee crisis to animal rights activism where they will develop the important cross-curricular skill of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of an argument before developing a supported viewpoint.

What could I do next?

The Pre-U gives students the opportunity to display the critical thinking skills employers and universities are looking for. It will undoubtedly make a job or university application stand out as well as easing their transition out of sixth form into their chosen career.



Mathematical Studies

(Level 3: One-year course)

What is the course about?

Mathematical Studies is a one year qualification for those who want to keep up their valuable mathematics skills but are not planning to take the A Level course. 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.



Minimum GCSE entry requirements

SUBJECT	GRADE
Mathematics	4

Exam board	AQA
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Extended Project Qualification EPQ

What is the course about?

The EPQ is a component offered in Year 13 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.

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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