



READ SCHOOL

DRAX

SIXTH FORM

CURRICULUM

September 2025

Read School Sixth Form Programmes of Study

General Entry Requirements

Minimum entry requirements to our Sixth Form are either 5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent, including Maths and English. Or 7 9-4 grades at GCSE including Maths OR English.

If students did not achieve grade 4 or above in Maths or English Government rules now require them to continue their studies in these subjects, therefore, this will be provided to our Sixth Form students where applicable. Courses may be subject to change.

The following academic subjects are currently offered:

A-level Subjects

Art & Design
(Art, Craft & Design or Fine Art)
Biology*
Business Studies
Chemistry*
Chinese
Classic Civilisation
Computer Science
Design Technology
Drama and Theatre
Economics*
English Literature*
French*
German*
Geography*
History*
Latin*
Mathematics*
Further Maths*
Music
PE
Photography (Art & Design)
Physics*
Psychology (with Criminology)
Spanish*
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

BTEC

Health & Social Care
Sport

Others

Institute of Leadership &
Management (ILM) Level 3
Leith Food & Wine Certificate

**facilitating subjects – subjects most commonly required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing them will keep more options open for you at university.*

Examination Boards

The examination boards used at Read School for A-level examinations & BTEC programmes are:

AQA www.aqa.org.uk

Edexcel www.edexcel.com

OCR www.ocr.org.uk

Eduqas www.eduqas.co.uk

Pearsons <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

ART CRAFT AND DESIGN / FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above including at least a grade 6 in GCSE

About the Course:

Art, Craft & Design and Fine Art - The AQA course allows for a broad study of Art & Design which explores the manipulation of varied media such as Fine Art painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles and printmaking. When opting for A level the title studied at GCSE Art & Design and the strengths of the students will be taken into consideration when making the best choice to study at A level.

The exploration of two and three-dimensional media processes and techniques is influenced strongly by Art & Design History and pupils explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of Art, Craft and Design or Fine Art from past and present times. Drawing is a fundamental part of the course using varying methods, media and scales, both outside and within sketchbooks.

Sketchbooks, workbooks and journals are essential, demonstrating a good working vocabulary, individual artistic journeys and thought processes.

Photography is new to Read this year and offers options in a diverse range of areas of the subject including portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, experimental imagery and photographic installation.

Skills and techniques include the ability to explore elements of visual language, awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of photography, the ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography, appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement, appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area(s) of photography and understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

As a Read School A level Art & Design pupil, you will be encouraged to grow as an artist through the understanding of others' work, nurture your own individuality and artistic responses to themes, but most of all enjoy reacting to the world in a creative and visual way.

Assessment

Component 1 is a Personal Investigation, set in school and assessed by the teacher then moderated by the exam board. This includes a piece of extended writing of approximately 2000 words. This forms 60% of the total qualification.

Component 2 is externally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated. This forms 40% of the total qualification.

Both components are assessed across the four assessment objectives, which are used at GCSE, so students are already familiar with how they are marked.

Careers and Further Study

The course is broad and allows for students to develop a wide range of skills. After studying the A level they may wish to study, Fine Art, Textiles Design, Photography, Graphic Design, Sculpture, theatre Design, Creative Media, Fashion Design, product Design, Printmaking or Three Dimensional Design.

‘I decided to continue A-level into higher education as I achieved a grade 7 at GCSE level and, I am hoping to replicate that same standard of work through higher education. My eventual aim is to use this to help me pursue a career in car design. By doing an A-level in art, I have enhanced my skills through multiple workshops, which have led me to improve my techniques throughout my coursework. This course allows me to explore my personal interests through my artwork and can help me to discover more about the topics I’m interested in outside of my school work. Through my A Level art, I’ve been given guidance as to how to use my skills in the future, allowing me to make my career prospects more achievable. My passion for art has fuelled my GCSE success, which I hope to replicate into my A-level courses, and this just goes to show that anything is possible if you have a passion for it’. – Lucy Barrick

BIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS or A-level

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at 5 or above including maths and English. Science GCSE should at least be a grade 6

About the Course

Biology is fundamentally an experimental subject and the exam specifications provides numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality and equip students with the essential practical skills they need.

Subject Content Areas

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Exchange of substances between organisms and the environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfer in and between organisms
6. How organisms respond to changes in their environment
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Assessment

At A2 there are three papers. Papers 1 and 2 are 2 hours and use short and long answers to assess unit 1-4 and 5-8 respectively. Paper 3 is 30% of A2 and examines practical techniques, data analysis as well as including a synoptic essay.

Practical endorsement

You will be required to carry out 12 practical activities, which will be assessed for practical competency.

Careers and Further Study

A level biology provides a route to higher educational courses and careers in a wide range of professions including medicine, agriculture, sports science, physiotherapy, nursing, biochemistry, forensic science, pharmacy and psychology.

This is a facilitating subject.

‘I chose to study A Level Biology after I had developed a clear passion for the subject during my GCSE’s. Prior to doing my GCSE’s I volunteered in the local veterinary care centre, and I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and therefore wanted to delve deeper into the world of biology. The subject itself is incredibly diverse and can be very complex when looking at body structures such as the kidneys. The exam is set out into 3 papers and everything learnt in the course is tested within those three papers. The last paper includes a 25 mark extended writing piece which allowed me to bring in my essay writing skills which complemented my other subjects, Business and History’. – Alex Marsh

BUSINESS STUDIES

BTEC Business Level 3 Nationals

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC Certificate, BTEC Extended Certificate BTEC Foundation Diploma

Length of Course: Certificate could be completed within one year (5 lessons per week). Extended Certificate is a two year course. The Foundation Diploma is also a two year course with more lessons.

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSE Grade 5 and above including Maths, it would be advantageous to have studied Business Studies at GCSE

About the Course:

The BTEC Level 3 Award is an alternative qualification to studying at A Level. We would expect pupils to study it in addition to one or two A Levels, although this isn't always the case and depends on the individual pupils' skills.

BTEC Level 3 can be studied to extended certificate level; this compares to 1 A Levels and requires pupils to study 4 units of work. BTEC Qualifications can be configured to different levels. Studying at level 3 the Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A Level, the Diploma to 2 A levels and the Extended Diploma to 3 A levels. The number of units studied varies from each level.

The course content is varied; a selection of the possible unit titles are shown below;

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- (optional unit) – Customer service
- (optional unit) – Recruitment and Selection Process

How you will be assessed

The main difference between BTEC and A Levels are in the way assessment takes place. BTEC Assessments can take many different forms; report, assessment, poster, leaflet, log book, video diary, video analysis, power point presentation, newspaper article, verbal questioning. Thus the requirement to study, learn and remember a year's worth of work for a single exam is removed, and replaced with an ongoing form of assessment.

There are mandatory units that are assessed externally; however most units are assessed internally. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses.

Careers and Further Study

BTEC Awards are not A Levels; some Universities and certain subjects will have an expectation that post 16 pupils will have studied A Levels. However many universities see the BTEC award as strong currency and progression to a degree course is typical. A student achieving an Extended certificate at Distinction Level in addition to an AS or full A Level will be a very strong degree candidate.

BTEC Business is an excellent course to study if you intend to pursue any career in the Business world around accountancy and finance, Human resource management, Operations and Marketing. Many organisations are now offering apprenticeships which is an alternative to going to university. The BTEC qualification can assist in gaining the right apprenticeship within industry.

CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS & A-level

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements: At least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including Maths and English. Science GCSE should be at least a grade 6

About the Course:

In Year 12 students are given a solid grounding in foundation Chemistry. The specification introduces the chemical reactivity of atoms and molecules and provides an understanding of their structures. The development and use of the periodic table is explained.

In Year 13 the specification develops the concepts of physical chemistry. Students will study kinetics, equilibria, organic chemistry and spectroscopic techniques to determine the molecular formulae and structures of organic compounds

Subject Content Areas

1. Physical chemistry
2. Inorganic chemistry
3. Organic chemistry

How you will be assessed

The A2 examination is divided into three papers of two hours. Paper 1 examines physical chemistry and inorganic chemistry and paper 2 examines physical chemistry and organic chemistry. Both of these papers are 35% of the examination and include long and short answers. Paper 3 is worth 30% and examines practical techniques and data analysis.

Practical competency is assessed via 12 practical activities.

Careers and Further Study

A Level Chemistry is essential to the study of Natural Sciences, Medicine and Chemical Engineering as well as being supportive to a wider spectrum of university courses which require some scientific appreciation, such as Business Studies, Economics and Geography. The skills developed in Chemistry A Level, such as the ability to analyse information logically, numeracy and problem solving skills, are also relevant to many other disciplines, including Law, Computing and Finance.

The chemical sciences hold the key to solving many of the global challenges that we face and an understanding of the relevance of Chemistry in our world is increasingly important.

This is a facilitating subject.

‘The reason I took Chemistry is because the subject involves skills that I can use in my later life especially at university studying Agriculture as some of the course involves topics like fertilisers with their chemical properties and their importance in the modern world. Studying Chemistry will hopefully take me to study Agricultural at Harper Adams where I can relate the Chemistry in my degree such as soil pH and the chemistry behind the fertilisers and sprays used on modern farms. Chemistry has benefitted me massively during my time at Read and would strongly recommend taking it as an A level here’. – Harry Woodall (Head Boy 2019-2020)

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Exam Board: OCR

Qualification: AS or A-Level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

You do not need any previous qualifications in any Classical subjects, simply come with the curiosity and desire to learn more about the ancient Greeks and Romans.

At least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including Maths and English are required to join the Read Sixth Form A Level programme

Why choose Classical Civilisation?

We study the civilisation, history, politics, culture and mythology of ancient Greece and Rome. On this course, we cover a fascinating range of sources from the great epics of Virgil and Homer to the charting of the decline of the Roman Republic told through the writing of great thinkers and doers such as Cicero and Caesar and learn about the fabulous mythological stories through the original art of the ancient Greeks. You will be encouraged to think about and discuss how the ideas and actions of the ancient world still resonate today and will learn how much of our history (good and bad) has been coloured by the Classical World. What could be more exciting than reading the best stories and the cleverest speeches in the world?

So you love great stories; enjoy challenging but stimulating discussion; enjoy discovering new worlds of ideas through the words and creations of real people; enjoy reading and writing about great literature, then this is the ideal subject for you.

About the Course:

There are three components for this course:

1. The World of the Hero - We study Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*

This is a literature paper and both texts are studied in translation. You will develop a sophisticated knowledge and understanding of these two epics, including the way in which they were composed and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of their societies.

The Greeks considered the poems of Homer as the foundation of Greek culture and they stand at the very beginning of the Western literary canon.

Virgil's *Aeneid* is considered one of the greatest poems ever written and combines poetic beauty with contemporary politics in a revolutionary way.

2. Culture and the Arts - We study Greek Art

The 6th- 4th centuries BCE was a period of great change in the Greek world, which is reflected in the art which was produced. As well as a thorough knowledge of the selected aspects of Greek art, you will gain an insight into and understanding of the context in which it

was created, particularly in terms of religion, society, values and history/politics. We look at free-standing sculpture, architectural sculpture and vase-painting. We look at mythology and the reflection of everyday life in mythological scenes.

3. Beliefs and Ideas - We study Politics of the Late Republic

The Roman Late Republic was a period of great political upheaval and conflicting views on how the State should function. These conflicts led to the downfall of the Republic and the rise of the Roman Emperors. You will learn about political thought from the period of Sulla's retirement in 79 BCE to the death of Cicero in 43 BCE, by studying the writings of Cato the Younger, Julius Caesar and Cicero. Much of this turmoil can be related to modern day current affairs.

Assessment

Component One: Written exam: 2hrs 20 minutes: 40% of the A Level

Component Two: Written exam: 1hr 45 minutes: 30% of the A Level

Component Three: Written exam: 1hr 45 minutes: 30% of the A Level

Careers and Further Study

Classical Civilisation is respected as an academic subject and many universities have excellent Classics courses on offer. Good Classics graduates end up working in almost anything (apart from science based jobs): accountancy, finance, marketing, teaching, banking, politics, advertising are just a few of the possibilities.

This is because classicists bring the following transferable skills to their chosen career:

- The art of persuasion - how to win friends and influence them.
- Insight into people - how to recognise what makes people tick
- Clear logical thinking - how to analyse and solve problems
- Clear communication - the rhetoric of the ancient world teaches how to construct and deliver speeches or written arguments that convince others
- Love of the subject - how Classics is the foundation of so much in the modern Western world

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam Board: OCR

Qualification: A-level H446

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade 5 and above. Computer Science GCSE Science GCSE should be at least a grade 6

About the Course

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

- An understanding 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
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Mathematical skills

The key features of this specification encourage an emphasis on :

- problem solving using computers
- computer programming and algorithms
- the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes, e.g. Boolean algebra/logic and comparison of the complexity of algorithms

Learners have the opportunity to:

- produce a slimmed down programming project which is more refined and more focused on coding
- choose the project title and problem to be solved
- choose any suitable programming language

How you will be assessed

This qualification consists of two exams, each worth 40% of the total marks - Paper 1 about Computer systems, and Paper 2 about Algorithms and Programming. You will also do an internally assessed project weighted at 20%. This will be a report that will contain the solution to a problem, selected by the learner or centre, written in a suitable programming language.

Careers and Further Study

A-level Computer Science is naturally a strong subject to take if you wish to go on to do Computer Science at degree level. Equally, there are a number of software engineering courses which have computer science as a prerequisite. There are also other degree courses such as information technology and information systems, which will be served well by a Computer Science A-level. However, the subject is much more than this, and it is a way of logical thinking which is beneficial in many walks of life.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 4 GCSEs at grade 5 and above; grade 6 or above in Design Technology or Maths would also be an advantage.

About the Course

The AS and A-level design technology courses are two separate courses.

Both enable pupils to learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes as well as establish practices. Students use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. They are rewarded for risks taking designs, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering their role as responsible designers and citizens.

Subject Content Areas

Students will develop knowledge and experience of real-world contexts for design and technological activity and develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use.

Assessment

- Paper 1 – Technical principles – 30%
- Paper 2 - Designing and making principles – 20%
- Non exam assessment (NEA) - Single substantial design/development task – 50%

Careers and Further Study

Over 60% of all new jobs created are to be found in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Studying STEM subjects leads directly to a huge variety of exciting and rewarding career opportunities. With STEM skills, you can make a big contribution to many of the big challenges facing society today. From designing visual effects for a new film, to inventing a new hi-tech health scanner, to manufacturing a racing car or putting new satellites into space, there are thousands of exciting and well-paid opportunities.

Many of the jobs of the future will involve technology as the way that people work will continue to change. As the population grows, more homes will need to be built and the infrastructure in towns and cities will rely on skilled engineers.

Design skills and the ability to visualise new ideas can also be useful in many job families such as marketing, sales and advertising, arts, crafts and design, broadcast media and performing arts, journalism, publishing and construction.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in Drama GCSE (if studied) and in English (Language or Literature). If GCSE Drama has not been studied, a keen interest and extensive background/experience in theatre and performance should be demonstrated. A good understanding of English Literature is essential.

About the Course:

The course is divided into 3 broad areas:

Drama and Theatre – Includes the study of TWO set plays, the knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre and the analysis of Live Theatre makers. Students will study the plays from acting, directing and design perspectives.

Assessment: 3 hour exam paper at the end of the course 40% (Open Book)

Creating Original Drama – Devising Drama based on the work and methodologies of a prescribed Practitioner.

Assessment: Devised performance and working notebook 30%

Making Theatre – A practical exploration and interpretation of extracts taken from different plays, one of which must use the methodology of a prescribed Practitioner.

The work will include study of texts, practical performance, devising and working from scripts. Students will write about plays they have seen and read and learn about the theory of practitioners, playwrights and directors.

Assessment: Scripted extract performance and reflective report 30%

Careers and Further Study

An A-level in Drama & Theatre can lead to further study of the subject at university or as a pathway in to Drama School. Although some students choose the course because they are considering a career in the profession, most choose it because they recognise the importance of developing their transferable skills. Studying Drama is useful for anyone considering a career which involves presenting or pitching ideas, as well as having to communicate accurately and fluently with others.

Popular career choices for students who have studied Drama are: The Arts & Creative Industries, Advertising & Marketing, Education, Journalism, Politics and Law. Having a Drama A-level will show that you are creative, work well with others, can analyse / interpret texts, write essays and confidently perform in front of an audience.

"We studied different practitioners from the late 19th/early 20th century such as Brecht and Stanislavski to contemporary practitioners such as Frantic Assembly and John Godber, who is also a local actor/playwright. We got to explore several different characters within a play which helped immensely with our understanding of characterisation and plot, this also helped us hone our vocal techniques and mannerisms in order to portray different ages, genders, and periods from history." Francesca Turton

ECONOMICS

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS or A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above including Maths and English.

About the Course:

The specification is split into two main sections, the first section introduces students to microeconomic issues (e.g., the actions of individuals and firms) and the second section covers mainly macroeconomic issues (relating to the economy as a whole). Students will acquire competence in quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content and gain familiarity with the various types of statistical and other data which are commonly used by economists. They will be provided with the opportunity to explore the disagreements that exist between economists and current economic controversies.

Students will be encouraged to develop a critical approach to economic models and methods of enquiry. They will be encouraged to appreciate that value judgements play an important role in economic decision making. They will acquire an understanding of the methodology of economics and the role of evidence whilst recognising that economics is a social science and that people's behaviour is not necessarily rational or predictable. Students will acquire a good knowledge of trends and developments in the economy which have taken place over the past fifteen years and also have an awareness of earlier events where this helps to give recent developments a longer-term perspective.

Subject Content Areas

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Individual economic decision making
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national and international economy

- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works : the circular flow of income, AD/AS and analysis, related concepts
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
- The international economy

Assessment

Assessment consists of three exam papers which are taken at the end of year 2, each paper is 2 hours long, each worth 33.3%

Careers and Further Study

Studying Economics allows for a wide range of options at university, specifically, economics itself, finance and accounting. Economics is a highly regarded subject and open doors to a range of careers in finance, business management and academia.

“The economics course confronts real-world issues and explains how economics plays a crucial role in either causing or solving them. The teacher for this course has managed to explain the course while bringing in a deeper understanding about the subject which strengthens my passion for economics while also making my essays have more depth to them.” - current student

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above including at least a grade 6 in English Language or English Literature

About the Course:

Paper 1 (Literary Genres) – Aspects of Tragedy *or* Aspects of Comedy. Three texts are studied: a Shakespeare play; a further play; one further text (poetry or prose), one of which must have been written before 1900. In recent years, texts studied have included *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Richard II*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Great Gatsby* and the poetry of Keats.

Paper 2 (Texts and Genres) – Elements of Crime Writing *or* Elements of Social and Political Protest Writing. Three texts are studied: a prose text written after the year 2000; one poetry text; one further text, one of which must be pre-1900. The exam will also include an unseen passage for comment and analysis. In recent years, crime texts studied have been *Atonement*, *When Will There Be Good News?* and the poetry of Crabbe, Browning and Wilde.

Other texts on the specification include *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* and *Hamlet*. Examples of Protest Writing texts are *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Harvest*, *The Kite Runner*, *Henry IV, Part 1*, *A Doll's House* and the poetry of William Blake.

Non examination assessment (NEA: two essays, each 1,250 – 1,500 words long, which examine different texts in relation to the approaches set out in the AQA Critical Anthology. These critical ideas include Marxist criticism, Ecocriticism and Feminist criticism.

Assessment

- Tragedy – one closed-book exam, lasting 2.5 hours (40%)
- Crime / Protest Writing – one open-book exam, lasting 3 hours (40%)
- Non examination assessment (20%)

Careers and Further Study

English is a skills-based subject rather than being the application of topic-based knowledge. This means that its uses permeate the job market at every level. The obvious career opportunities include: Journalism, Law, Media, Teaching, Politics, Marketing and Sales - in essence, anywhere where advanced communication skills are required.

This is a facilitating subject.

‘I think that studying A-level English Literature has been challenging yet thought-provoking. This subject teaches you how to study independently as a large portion of the work is reading books in your own time. In the lessons themselves you will study an array of books based around the topics you are studying. Personally, I am studying social and political protest writing, tragedy texts and it is finished off with course work, where you write about 2 texts of your choice one of which being a collection of poems. My favourite book that we have studied in class had been ‘A Handmaid’s Tale’, I find the dystopian world and extreme patriarchal society very intriguing and I enjoyed studying the text from a feminist perspective’ – Mia Brunton, Year 13

FOOD: LEITHS CTH LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL COOKERY

Exam Board: Written by Leiths and accredited by the Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality (CTH).

Qualification: Leiths CTH Level 3 Extended Certificate in Professional Cookery
The final grade can be a Pass (55-69%), Merit (70 – 84%) or Distinction (85%)

Length of Course: Five-term course.

- 1 x lesson theory lesson
- 1 x lesson demonstration lesson
- 1 x double practical lesson

Entry Requirements:

All Level 3 applicants must be at least 17 years old and have already completed a recognised Level 2 culinary qualification such as GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition at level 5+

About the Course:

Over the course of five terms, you will learn essential culinary techniques and the associated theory behind them as you make a variety of recipes. You will gain expertise in time management, menu planning, food safety and hygiene, food presentation, and healthy eating, laying a solid foundation for success in this expanding industry.

Sample dishes include: roasted squash and fennel risotto paired with an endive, pear, and pecan salad; tandoori prawns with flatbreads and coriander chutney; gourmet venison burgers served on brioche with pickled cucumber; and vanilla panna cotta accompanied by roasted rhubarb and a shortbread crumble.

While most of your Total Qualification Time (TQT) will be spent in the kitchen, the course also includes demonstrations, formal lessons, independent study, group activities, revision, and assessments.

Assessment

The final grade of Pass (55-69%), Merit (70 – 84%) or Distinction (85%) is awarded at the end of the course after two 3-hour practical cooking assessments, an online food hygiene and allergen exam and a menu planning coursework task. Students also enjoy working together to plan and host a community cooking event.

Careers

This qualification enhances a personal statement and UCAS application and can play a pivotal role in opening the door to careers in food and drink including becoming a chef, food photography and product development as well as marketing and advertising in food. Successful completion of these courses puts you in a good position for catering positions that require individual responsibility and some supervisory experience.

Further Study

The course offers a clear onward learning pathway to our Level 4 Diploma at Leiths School of Food and Wine in London. Graduates of this Level 3 extended certificate in professional cookery can contact Leiths employment agency, Leiths List, who will help secure opportunities for short or longer-term employment.

Higher education, specialised apprenticeship, or university. Foundation degrees, degrees and masters in hotel management, event management and culinary arts.

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements:

It is recommended that students need at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5, including a grade 6 in Geography or related subject.

About the Course:

The Advanced Level examination comprises 3 different units

Unit 1

Section A: Water and carbon cycles
Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes
Section C: Hazards

Unit 2

Section A: Global systems and global governance
Section B: Changing places
Section C: Population and the environment

Unit 3

Individual investigation (3000 - 4000 words) which must include data collected in the field and is based on a question relating to any part of the specification content.

Assessment

There are two exams based upon the physical and human papers (40% each)
The unit 3 is a coursework which will be internally assessed and then moderated (20%)

Careers and Further Study

Geography is a very popular university subject, either as a single subject, or as a combined subject. Career prospects are good for geography graduates in such vocational areas as mapping, environmental studies, town planning and other related job areas. Graduates are welcomed in commerce and industry largely because of their background training which encourages the analysis of problems from varying viewpoints.

Geography is a facilitating A level, which is very versatile and favoured as a traditional subject, which enables students the ability to prove their aptitude of the sciences or humanities alike.

‘Geography A-level is an interesting subject due to the multiple different human and physical topics that you are able to study, which overlap with other different subjects such as Biology and Business Studies, meaning you are able to incorporate multiple aspects of different subjects into just one. You also learn to advance essay writing skills, while including case studies, which is very important to do in order to illustrate a wide understanding of how topics relate into the outside world and current events happening, meaning it’s useful to be watching the news to know what is happening which will help for studying Geography. Personally, my favourite topic is ‘coasts’ as it has allowed me to build on previous knowledge gained at GCSE and I have chosen it to base my coursework on as a result, which has allowed me to research into the topic further and dedicate more of my time to this particular section which has been very enjoyable’ – Zoe Bellamy (Head Girl 2019-2020)

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Exam Board: Pearsons

Qualification: BTEC (may be studied at Levels 1-3)

Length of Course: 2 Years

Entry Requirements:

It is recommended that students need at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5, including Maths and English

About the Course

This course is equivalent in size to three A-levels and is an introduction to the health and social care sector through applied learning.

Over the two year course you will study a diverse range of topics including: human development, care and support, public health, psychology, sociology, research techniques and analysis, anatomy, physiology and biological disorders.

You will also undertake work experience, planning and logging your own progress in this area.

Assessment

13 units are studied of which 8 are mandatory coursework units and 5 are externally examined. Mandatory content (72%). External assessment (42%).

Health and social care is a suitable course for any future career with vulnerable people, whatever their age, ability or condition. It is valuable for those wishing to go to university, into apprenticeships, or employment. Students have entered nursing, teaching, medical support roles, community and youth work, social work and all types of care from gaining this qualification.

Careers and Further Study

BTEC Level 3 Certificate/ Subsidiary Diploma / 90 Credit Diploma / Diploma / Extended Diploma

Whether you are looking to progress into employment or onto a university course, the broad nature of BTEC Health and Social Care at advanced level will not lock you into any particular direction and will give you the background knowledge to pursue a variety of career pathways. There are many opportunities for suitably qualified students to train to become Nurses, Midwives, Social Workers or progress to a degree in Psychology, Bio-Medical Science or similar.

HISTORY

Exam Board: OCR

Qualification: A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at grade 5 and above and preferably grade 6 in GCSE History

About the Course:

Pupils will examine three components and complete one non-examined assessment.

Component One: Period Study: England 1445-1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII.

Component Two: Non- British period study: The French Revolution and the Rule of Napoleon.

Component Three: The Changing Nature of Warfare.

Component Four: Topic based essay

How will you be assessed?

Component One: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes: 25% of the A-level

Component Two: Written Exam: 1 hour: 15% of the A-level

Component Three: Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes: 40% of the A-level

Component Four: NEA: 20% of the A level

Careers and Further Study

History is considered a facilitating subject as the skills required to complete A level history naturally lend itself to other careers like journalism, law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, economics, academia, teaching and archaeology.

You won't need it for other specific courses but the Russell Group recommends history as an excellent subject for keeping your options open when choosing a degree. It can be especially useful for courses that include elements of history and essay writing such as:

Archaeology

Economics

Classical studies

Modern languages

English

History of Art

Law

Politics

Teaching

Religious studies

To study History is to attain empathy and cultural awareness on a more profound level, as the subject offers exploration into past human experiences. I found this concept paramount throughout my A-Level when investigating the dynastic struggle of The Wars of the Roses, a development in ideology through The French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars, and domestic factors - such as conscription - in The Changing Nature of Warfare. The inherent debate and subjective nature of the discipline has challenged my critical thinking, especially dealing with historical interpretation when researching the cause of the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses in the non-exam assessment (NEA) module. I've found History to be a tool to hone my essay writing skills, in preparation for further academic pursuits - at university, where I will study the history of art, and beyond. - Zak Dewhirst (Year 13)

MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

Most pupils who go on to study maths in the Sixth Form will have at least a grade 6 from the Higher paper at GCSE, but most students will find that having a grade 7 or higher is more advantageous.

About the Course:

Pure maths accounts for two thirds of the final mark and covers the following topics Algebra, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors, Proof, Numerical Methods. The other third of the marks covers Statistics topics – Sampling, Data Presentation and Interpretation, Probability, Statistical Distributions, Statistical Hypothesis Testing **and** Mechanics topics – Quantities and Units, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws and Moments.

Assessment

The final examination taken at the end of the two year course consists of three papers:

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

Careers and Further Study

Mathematics is a universal language and as such it is one of the most fundamental subjects you can study. Although it may sometimes be difficult to see immediately the relevance of maths to a future career, and perhaps to subjects you intend to study later, maths in fact gives you an excellent grounding for any subject and is itself a prerequisite for many.

For a degree in maths, statistics, physics, engineering or actuarial science, for example, you will almost certainly need A-level maths. There are, however, many degrees which do not specify any particular subjects they wish you to have taken, and for many of these, maths will be an excellent choice. This is true for courses in economics, business studies, medicine, social sciences such as psychology and archaeology, and use of statistics in geography.

There is always a demand for employees who can think logically and process information accurately – skills that an A-level in maths will teach you.

This is a facilitating subject.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A-level (though A/S is possible for those not continuing to A level)

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

This is an extension of A level Maths both in content and difficulty. Therefore, a grade 8 or 9 at GCSE is ideal with the potential for grade A at A level maths.

About the Course There are four units to the course, each with its own text book. Two units are compulsory (Core Pure Maths 1 and 2) and two units are chosen options covering Further Pure Maths, Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Theory.

Assessment

As with the A Level Mathematics, A level Further Mathematics is now a linear qualification with examination at the end of the two year course through four examinations;

- Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1
- Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2
- Papers 3 and 4 provide options chosen from Further Pure maths, Statistics, Mechanics or Decision Theory

‘I not only chose Maths as it would benefit my Physics but also it is a really intricate and fascinating subject and provides you with that feeling of accomplishment. Further Maths improves my A-level Maths as it provides additional practice and consolidation of techniques. It undoubtedly has improved my logical thinking and data analysis skills. Although you learn a wide range of new topics in further maths, unknown to A-level maths such as complex numbers, matrices and vectors it provides you with a bit more of a stretch and challenge which is an important skill to have across all subjects. Maths as a whole provides me with the tools and a strong support for my physics in particular where there’s a lot of overlap in the mechanics topic’. Lauren Shields (Year 12)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: French – Spanish - German

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

Most students who go on to study a modern foreign language in the Sixth Form will have at least a grade 6 from the Higher Examination at GCSE, but most students will find that having a grade 7 or above is more advantageous.

About the course:

The new A-level exams build on the new GCSE MFL exams, extending many familiar topics. They also add the study of a film, a novel and a personal research project for the oral examination. Some students choose to study an AS qualification over one or two years.

Assessment:

The final examination consists of three papers

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing
- Paper 2: Writing
- Paper 3: Speaking

Careers and Further Study

In an increasing global job market, competence in at least one foreign language is essential. Studying a language is a multi-disciplinary pursuit which will enable our students to develop many skills and become highly desirable to employers. Students opting to study A-level French, Spanish or German should be open-minded and keen to discover an array of information about society, politics, history and the arts.

Many universities seek students who hold a language qualification. University courses with a language provide an exciting opportunity for students to spend a year in another country, thereby gaining a working fluency in the language and a valuable means of widening one's personal and professional horizons. Modern foreign languages are considered a facilitating subject.

During the French A-level course we are able to further develop our language skills whilst also getting a better understanding for France's culture and history. We will also study a French book and film which allows us to further immerse ourselves in the country's culture. By taking French at A-level I've been giving many chances to improve my speaking and fluency for example, the Paris trip in October 2019 helped me to become more confident in my language skills. In March I will be going on the French Exchange and this will also give me the chance to meet new people and experience France in a non-touristic way. – Isla McLellan

MUSIC

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: A-level

Length of course: 2 years

Entry Requirements

Most pupils who go on to study music in the Sixth Form will have at least a level 6 at GCSE

About the Course

A level Music is a linear qualification in three components:

- Component 1 is Appraising Music (involving an externally assessed examination)
- Component 2 is Performance (consisting of an NEA portfolio)
- Component 3 is Composition (consisting of an NEA portfolio).

A-level

- Component 1: There are 3 Sections: Section A (Listening), B (Analysis), C (Contextual Understanding). Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.
- Component 2: Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist or singer lasting at least 10 minutes.
- Component 3: Composition 1: composing to a brief and Composition 2: free composition, with a combined minimum time of 4 and a half minutes.

Assessment:

A-level

Component 1: 120 marks in total (40% of the A level)

Section A – 56 marks

Section B – 34 marks

Section C – 30 marks

Component 2: 50 marks in total (35% of A level)

Component 3: 50 marks in total (25% of A level)

Careers and Further Study

Music A-level is a highly regarded subject. It can be used to study Music at degree level, or as an A-level to access other employment opportunities. Careers with Music A-level might include: musician, composer, music therapist, private music teacher, secondary school teacher, law, sound technician, arts administrator, broadcast engineer, community arts worker, event manager, radio broadcast assistant, radio producer, theatre stage manager.

Music A-level shows employers that you have a variety of skills – including creativity, confidence, problem solving, perseverance, focus, non-verbal communication, collaboration, accountability and dedication.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education. If Physical Education hasn't been taken at GCSE level then grade 6 in Science as the course content links closely to science especially Biology and Physics. A strong performance in a single sport is essential; ideally, this sport should be played to a high level outside of school.

About the Course:

Course content

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society
- Exercise Physiology
- Biomechanical Movement
- Sports Psychology
- Role or Technology in Physical Activity and Sport
- Practical Performance as a Performer or Coach in a single team or individual sport.

Assessment:

Written exam: 2 x 2 hour papers = 70% Overall grade

Practical assessment: practical performance evidenced live or via DVD evidence and a written analysis and evaluation = 30% Overall grade

Physical Education can be viewed as a good A-level subject complementing many subject combinations, it has relevance and curriculum cross-over with Biology and Psychology. It is suitable as a subject leading into degree level study for one of the many sports related courses but particularly the following subjects; physiotherapy, sports injury rehabilitation, sport and exercise science, sports coaching and PE teaching.

BTEC SPORT

Exam Board: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC Nationals Level 3 Sport

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

BTEC Qualifications can be configured to different levels. Studying at level 3 the Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A-level, the Diploma to 2 A levels and the Extended Diploma to 3 A-levels. The number of units studied varies from each level. The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport is 60 credits and has 360 guided learning hours (2 years).

Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education. If Physical Education hasn't been taken at GCSE then grade 6 in science as the course content links closely to science, especially biology and physics. A strong interest in performance, umpiring and coaching is essential.

About the Course

The course contains both exams and coursework, involves both theory and practical application, and covers a wide range of sport, health, well-being and fitness topics such as:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- Professional development in the sport industry
- Application of fitness testing
- Research methods in sport
- Skill acquisition in sport

Assessment

Work is assessed using a combination of internal assessments, which are set and marked by teachers, and external assessments which are set and marked by Edexcel. Assessment might take the form of assignments, projects or presentations.

Careers and Further Study

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses. BTEC Sport provides an excellent qualification for entry into the Sports Industry, to university to study the many varied sports related courses and alternatively to study Physical Education to become a Teacher or Sports Coach.

PHYSICS

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry Requirements:

A-level Physics requires 5 GCSE subjects at 4 or above, including English. Maths, Physics (or Combined Science) should be level 5 or above. Interested candidates might also like to consider taking A-level Maths which would offer a significant advantage.

About the Course:

During the first year you will study

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and energy
- Electricity

During the second year you will study

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Electric, gravitational and magnetic fields
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics

Assessment:

Three written papers, each 2 hours comprising short, long and multiple-choice questions:

Paper 1: sections 1 – 5 and 6.1 of the specification.

Paper 2: sections 6.2, 7 and 8 of the specification

Paper 3: space option topic and practical experiments and data analysis.

Practical endorsement

You will be required to carry out 12 practical activities which will be assessed for practical competency. This is only applicable to the full A level and will result in a "PASS" included on your final certificate.

Careers and Further Study

The top seven degree courses taken by students with an A-level in Physics are Mathematics, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Economics, Business.

Possible Career Options include geophysicist / seismologist, healthcare scientist, medical physicist, Radiation protection practitioner, Research scientist, teacher, meteorologist, technical author.

Physics also teaches many transferrable skills applicable to careers and courses not directly linked to physics and is a highly respected qualification to possess.

We find ourselves on this Earth for but a short time, appearing as if from nowhere and then disappearing back into nothingness. It is natural that whilst we are briefly here we might look around and ask questions such as, "What *is* all of this stuff?" If you want to hear the best answers to these questions that we've so far managed to come up with, study A-level Physics.

PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: AS and A-level

Length of Course: 2 years

Entry requirements: 5 GCSEs including at least a grade 6 in either English, Maths, or Science.

About the Course:

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour, so you'll learn to think like a scientist. You'll study explanations for how people think, feel and behave as they do and you'll be asked to evaluate those explanations - is there any evidence for them? How strong is the evidence? You'll even do research of your own! You'll learn how to design experiments, questionnaires and do observations. You'll learn how to collect and analyse data, and how to apply what you have learned to the real world.

Subject content in the first year includes:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

Assessment

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Careers and Further Study

Psychology prepares you for a host of exciting career options, including marketing, business development, accountancy, human resources, forensic psychology, nursing, teaching, clinical psychologist, occupational therapist counselling.

Not a "facilitating" subject, but a challenging one and accepted as a second science by some universities for medicine degrees (please check specific courses).

Second year (A2) content includes options:

Option one

- Relationships
- Gender
- Cognition and development

Option two

- Schizophrenia
- Eating behaviour
- Stress

Option three

- Aggression
- Forensic psychology
- Addiction

'Psychology involves me studying human behaviour and how people are influenced by their environment, and people around them, I believe that it is key for the world of hospitality which is what I will be studying when I am going to University. This subject gives an insight on how the human brain thinks and what motivates people as a crucial people and I have especially enjoyed the behaviourism part of the course which involves as to why people behave in a certain manner. This subject will allow me to understand how people think and that I will be able to have the knowledge to respond to any situation a customer has. There is also a lot of analysis, statistics and research methods which will come in useful for any future employment'. – Sam Bond

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

In Year Six, we continue to build on the essential PSHE learning that students have undertaken previously and prepare them for adult life beyond school. This is a timetabled lesson which all students are expected to take part in and is delivered by Sixth Form staff.

Topic areas include:

Respectful relationships including friendships

Sexual health

Mental wellbeing

Internet safety and harms

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Health and prevention

Managing your salary

Borrowing including mortgages

Politics

Physical health and fitness

Healthy eating

Finances

Media literacy and digital resilience

Travelling Safely

Sustainability

Starting a family

Crime

Learning to drive

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is independently researched, produced and presented by pupils and is highly valued by universities. It is a standalone qualification separately recorded on the UCAS form and it provides students with the opportunity to:

- choose their own topic
- understand and use research skills
- develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students
- extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills

The EPQ can take the format of a 5000-word essay or a practical artefact (e.g. artwork, design, performance or script) plus 1000-word commentary.

Assigned lesson time: Weekly taught sessions (1 period) delivering the skills you will need to complete your project, plus weekly meetings with a supervisor who will support your progress.

Independent Study: You will be expected to spend 2-3 hours per week on independent study (roughly 90 hours over the whole year). The EPQ is highly valued by universities for the independent learning skills and readiness for higher level study that it demonstrates.

Students who undertake the EPQ start this as part of the core Lower Sixth Form curriculum, completing it in the first half of the Upper Sixth.

It is awarded grades from A* to U in the same fashion as A-levels and carries 28 UCAS tariff points for an A*

Recent EPQ topics have been:

- Design and model a sustainable visitor centre for RSPB
- How VAR has helped referees and umpires and how it will continue to impact sport in the future
- To what extent is the success of the K-Pop group, Bangtan Sonyeondan, due to their innovative incorporation of traditional Korean art and culture?

Students can refer to their EPQ in their UCAS personal statements and at interview to demonstrate the subject interest that universities are looking for.

‘I decided to embark on doing an EPQ, as I believe this gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on areas that I am interested in. For my project I had to research and collate sources to create a final essay. I also had to create a presentation that would give an insight into my whole investigation. By doing an EPQ, I’ve been able to learn how to cite my sources and develop my research skills, both of which would be useful in university and the project will let me further display to potential employers my personal interests and long-term commitment. Even though the EPQ is a longer process, it’s fulfilling and rewarding for everyone’. – Lucy Barrick

UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

University Advice is available to you from your Sixth Form Tutors and teachers throughout your time in the Sixth Form and it is never too early to start thinking about this. Many Sixth Formers have no idea of what they would like to do in their career, or what they might study at university. Therefore, investigating possibilities as soon as possible is the best way to ensure the right choice is made. Weekly tutorial sessions help to guide pupils through exploring their own strengths and weaknesses and we host a number of different universities during weekly tutor periods who give talks on their respective offerings.

Visits to open days at local universities are also encouraged, so that pupils quickly get a feel for what kind of university they want to study at, campus or city centre based. These tend to happen during the summer term of the Lower Sixth and the autumn term of the Upper Sixth. It is also a good idea to take a little time to visit likely universities during the Easter holiday in the Lower Sixth.

At Read School we aim to have all UCAS forms completed before the Christmas holidays, long before the January deadline. Many degree subjects do not lead directly into a career and are simply a starting point for careers for 'graduates in any discipline': i.e. non-vocational. Once you have a degree, many more career opportunities are available to you. It is, therefore, important to choose a subject that particularly interests you and that you enjoy.

Applications to Oxford or Cambridge

Several former Read School Sixth Form students have gone on to study at Oxford or Cambridge and we offer a programme of support with prospective applications, including regular talks with university representatives and visits to individual colleges and faculties.

These universities have extremely high admissions requirements and are very selective. To make a competitive application by the 15 October deadline students should:

1. Choose a course and make sure that you have met or are on target to meet the admission requirements
2. Explore the colleges and decide whether to express a college preference or make an open application on your UCAS form
3. Note the admissions timeline and deadlines

Prospective Oxbridge applicants are advised to have a GCSE profile with a considerable number of A*/A grades in it and have the potential to achieve three A grades or better at A Level.

Read School alumni who are Oxbridge university graduates are on hand to offer advice and orientation to Sixth Formers considering an Oxbridge application.

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is defined as a job with training that includes gaining recognised qualifications and essential skills whilst you are working and earning a wage.

Apprenticeships offer significant advantages to both the apprentice, who gains valuable 'on the job' training in the new career and the employer, who has much to gain from the extra pair of hands and the prospect of having a supply of experienced staff for the future.

The number of people starting degree apprenticeships is rapidly increasing, the range of apprenticeships on offer is broadening

Potential benefits for the apprentice include enabling you to work alongside experienced staff, gain job specific skills and a head start in your career, study towards a related qualification and earn a salary.

Degree Level Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships offer an opportunity to be sponsored through your degree. You have a job with a company and your employer pays for your degree. You study for your degree while working. As a Degree Level Apprentice, you will be earning money while you learn rather than accumulating the student debt associated with tuition fees and student loans.

Degree apprenticeships will not be right for everyone, particularly if you aspire to study an academic subject, like History or languages or wish to keep career options open but for some, it could provide a clear pathway to achieving your career ambitions if you have a specific field in mind.

A Proven Read School Pathway to Success

Read School Sixth Form students have gone on to pursue apprenticeships in Law, Finance and Engineering and every effort will be made to provide students who wish to pursue this option with introduction to companies offering relevant apprenticeships.

Opportunities for learning about apprenticeships in the Read Sixth Form include:

- Annual visit to national Apprenticeship Show
- Careers Fair at Read School featuring companies offering apprenticeships
- Networking opportunities with alumni and parents via Read School Business Network, offering links with a multitude of industries and professional experiences
- Personal introductions to companies offering apprenticeships including individual coaching and mentoring opportunities

Progress and Performance

We are proud of the progress our young people make in the Sixth Form. Our curriculum is designed to be personal and tailored to the needs of each individual, giving all the opportunity to thrive. A summary of our university destinations for the past several years is included below and it notable that the vast majority of our students achieve their first choice university places.

Cumulative %	A*	A	B	C	D	E
2024	4.7%	16.3%	44.2%	79.1%	97.7%	100.00%
2023	7.7%	30.8%	50.0%	84.6%	96.15%	100.0%
2022	0.0%	30.0%	63.3%	96.7%	100.00%	100.0%
2021	11.0%	42.0%	75.0%	89.0%	100.0%	100.0%
2020	5.0%	35.0%	65.0%	82.5%	95.0%	100.0%
2019	18.1%	27.2%	54.5%	59.1%	68.2%	100.0%
2018	3.8%	11.5%	34.6%	50.0%	73.1%	84.6%
2017	8.9%	17.8%	51.1%	75.6%	88.9%	95.6%
2016	2.2%	11.1%	24.4%	62.2%	77.8%	82.2%
2015	4.2%	22.9%	52.1%	68.8%	85.4%	97.9%
2014	21.2%	33.3%	57.6%	84.8%	97.0%	100.0%

Sixth Form University Destinations 2014 – 2024	
Destination	Courses Studied
Angela Ruskin	Illustration and Animation
Bath, Spa	Journalism
Bolton	Games Programming
Bradford	Chemistry
Bristol	Medicine
Bristol	Engineering
Brunel	Business & Accounting
Corpus Christi College, Oxford	Physics
De Montford	Pharmacy; Fashion
Durham	Natural Sciences
Edinburgh	History
Exeter	Art History and English
Gloucestershire	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Greenwich	History
Harper Adams	Agriculture
Hull	Robotics and Mechatronics
Hull College of Music	Music Technology
Imperial College, London	Materials Science & Engineering
Keele	Law
Kings College, London	Business Management
Lancaster	Foundation Year
Leeds Beckett	Primary Education; Psychology; Events Management
Leeds College of Art	Creative Advertising
Les Roches, Switzerland	Hospitality & luxury brand marketing

Lincoln	Computer Science; Foundation Year; History, Journalism & Creative Writing; Midwifery
London – University of Arts	Product and Industrial Design
Loughborough	Art; Human Factors Engineering
Manchester	Business & Accounting; Engineering
Middlesbrough	Airport and Airline Management
Newcastle	Business and Management
Northumbria	Criminology; International Business Management; History, Psychology
Nottingham	Accountancy
Nottingham Trent	Physics; Product design
Portsmouth	Civil Engineering
Royal Holloway, London	Biochemistry
Sheffield, Hallam	History; Business & Modern Languages
Sheffield Hallam	Languages with TESOL
SHMS Switzerland	Business & hospitality
Staffordshire	Sports Therapy
Stirling University	Philosophy & Psychology
Teeside University	Chemical Engineering
University College, London	Pharmacy; Engineering
University of Arts, London	Product Design
University of Hull	Politics; Mathematics; Marine Biology; Modern Foreign Languages; English & Drama
University of Kent	Actuarial Science (w/Foundation Year)
University of Liverpool	French & Hispanic Studies
University of Loughborough	Sports Management
University of Manchester	Mechanical Engineering
University of Nottingham	Civil Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Veterinary Science
University of Oxford	Biomedical Science; English Literature; Physics
University of Reading	Architecture; Real Estate
University of Sheffield	Engineering; Philosophy
University of York	Computer Science; Law
Westminster University	Business Management
York University	Physics; Engineering; English
York St. John	Business Management; Business with Spanish, Language & Linguistics
Monash, Australia	Business
University in Vietnam	Art

Duke of Edinburgh Programme

Read School prides itself on offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to all pupils who wish to undertake the challenge and is a licensed D of E centre.

The Gold award is split up into 5 sections which are each equally weighted, these being Volunteering, Skill, Physical Expedition and Residential. The expedition is possibly the most arduous of the sections, with candidates having to plan and undertake a 4 day, 3 night expedition camping at different locations each night and carrying all their kit/food with them.

The residential is a 5 day, four-night event where the young person goes to help in an organisation and these are available on the DofE website. This is organised by the young person themselves.

The other 3 sections are also individual to the young person, the only stipulation being that each activity is for an hour a week.

- **Physical:** often a sport, played in or out of school, this section is a chance for you to focus on your health and fitness and have fun along the way. As long as you pick something that requires a sustained level of energy and physical activity, the possibilities are endless. Improve your football, rock-climbing or dance skills or try a completely new sport or activity. Join a team or do it on your own. You don't have to be super fit or world class, it's about setting your own challenges, giving 100% and being the very best you can be.
- **Skill:** Whether you're passionate about cooking, technology, or developing new life skill such as driving, there's something for everyone.
- **Volunteering:** volunteering is about giving time to do something meaningful, motivated by making a difference rather than making money. Ideas include **helping in a charity shop, food bank or similar**. You can also volunteer for social action causes, campaigns and within their Licensed Organisation (e.g. the school or youth group)

Time Scales (Gold having achieved Silver)

- Volunteering section: 12 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months
- Minimum time 12 months

Direct Gold (no prior Silver attainment)

It is possible to participate in the DofE programme without having completed the bronze or silver awards. If you did not do Silver, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the volunteering or the longer of the physical or skills sections.
Minimum Time 18 months.

Read School Success

Many young people start their Gold Award while at Read and finish it while at University. It has to be finished by the age of 25, so there is no rush. There is a cost to an external provider for the expedition section so the overall cost to take the award is £700



Students who have achieved Gold in recent years at Read:

- Freddie Amy
- Phoebe Lister
- Milly Rothwell-Wood
- Charlotte Fildes
- Lucy Barrick
- Samuel Barrick
- Jessica Young
- Eleanor Smales
- Yves Kombe
- Alice Wood
- Bryony Chapman
- Megan Hughes
- Sam Kavanagh
- Jason Parkash
- Kallum Stewart
- David Oakley
- Jason Parkash
- Emily Walton
- William Wilburn

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Continuing with or joining the Read School CCF within Sixth Form provides the opportunity to develop the student into a well-rounded team member. In addition to the skills for life of leadership, team building and resilience developed whilst in the CCF, it also offers the opportunity to gain the Institute of Leadership & Management **(ILM) Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management**. The qualification is unit based and the content will differ according to the combination of units used by each delivery course.

Learners can expect to study topics such as:

- Solving problems and making decisions
- Giving briefings and making presentations
- Understanding leadership
- Understanding how to establish an effective team
- Leading and motivating a team effectively

The qualification provides recognition of youth group and cadet activities and is a perfect way to help strengthen higher education, apprenticeship or job applications. On a CV it also complements academic and other extra-curricular achievements in school.

Civilian Qualifications

The CCF also offers Sixth Form students the opportunity to gain civilian recognised outdoor qualifications for example, mountain bike leader, ski instructor and other qualifications. These are held throughout the year with our specialist Centre for Cadet Adventurous Training (CCAT).

RAF Section Awards

Cadets in the CCF RAF Section complete courses in a wide range of in-depth Aviation topics through a progressive syllabus, as they move through the different classifications. There are exams at the end of the modules to ensure cadets can move up to the next level. We also offer a level 2 BTEC in Space studies.

These programmes deliver knowledge and transferable skills which can be applied to related industries and careers.

Lord Lieutenant Award

Members of the CCF that pursue these awards plus other training activities and always put the team ahead of their own goals can be nominated for the Lord Lieutenants Cadet. The Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet is seen as the aide and representative of the cadet forces to the British royal family and the Lord-Lieutenant, and is typically chosen from each of the main cadet forces, the Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Sea Cadets (United Kingdom). Occasionally, a cadet is selected from the Combined Cadet Force such as recent Read School Head Boys Harry Woodall in October 2019 and Freddie Thomlinson in 2023. Our current Head Boy Leon Tabiner-Taylor has also been nominated for the Award and will be presented with it in October 2024.

They provide an essential link between the armed forces and the local community, assist with recruiting within the cadet forces and assist the county's Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. The cadet from each arm of the cadet forces is selected and appointed based on their outreach and participation within their squadron, detachment or unit, and is seen as one of the highest achievements in the Cadet Forces.