
Pate's Grammar School

SIXTH FORM 2020



Est. 1574



Subjects offered
at A Level

Art
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Computing
 Drama & Theatre Studies
 Economics
 English Literature
 French
 Geography
 German
 History (Route A – Early Modern)
 History (Route B – Modern)
 Mathematics
 Further Mathematics
 Music
 Physical Education
 Physics
 Philosophy, Theology & Ethics
 Politics
 Psychology
 Spanish

A warm welcome from Pate's Sixth Form



We are delighted that you are considering our Sixth Form at Pate's Grammar School. We would love you to join us and we look forward to the energy and enthusiasm you will add to our already thriving community.

Everyone is new to Year 12. Whether joining the Sixth Form from Pate's or from another school, we offer you a daily invitation to join in, work hard and enjoy a relaxed environment designed for young adults of the 21st century. As a Pate's Sixth Former you will be encouraged to discover new talents and interests, as well as doing the things you already know you love, in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and independence. Whilst working with your friends, you can enjoy lessons specifically designed for students of similar ability and positive attitude to your own, with teachers who will support you to fulfil your academic potential.

Beyond the classroom we hope that you will take on one of the many formal and informal leadership roles on offer, from mentoring to House Official positions, to organising charitable fund-raising events, alongside a wealth of opportunities to participate in music, drama and sport. And when the time comes to look beyond Sixth Form, our highly experienced team is on hand to give advice about every stage of the university application process as well as other career opportunities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'R. Ellicott'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey background.

Mr Russel Ellicott
Head Master



Joining Pate's Sixth Form

We welcome applications from both internal and external students who wish to join Pate's Sixth Form for their post-16 education. The minimum qualifying academic requirements apply equally to internal and external applicants.

Admissions Number

We offer a minimum of 200 places for entry into the Sixth Form each year. In a typical year about 120 internal students will qualify to enter the Sixth Form, leaving a minimum of 80 further places for external students.

The total number of places offered will be determined with reference to efficiency, the school ethos, capacity of core facilities, projected group sizes in teaching groups and the general purposes of the school.

Admissions Criteria

We look at the top eight predicted GCSE grades, using the following points system:

	IGCSEs				GCSEs			
Grade	A*	A	B	C	9	8	7	6
Worth	8.5	7	5.5	4	9	8	7	6

Entry into Year 12 will require a minimum of 57 points from the top eight GCSEs.

- 9-5 passes in both English & Maths;
- The expectation of a minimum GCSE grade 7 (A) in subjects to be studied at A Level, (and see individual subject requirements listed below).

IGCSEs can be graded using either the A-C or the numerical scale.

Oversubscription criteria

In recent years there have been more applications from students at other schools for Sixth Form places than places available. In the event of oversubscription offers will be made on the basis of a combination of these criteria:

- The extent to which predicted grades exceed the minimum expectation (and, where necessary, taking into account an individual student's circumstances, including eligibility for pupil premium).

These criteria will determine those students who would qualify for consideration for a Sixth Form place. These students may be offered a personal discussion with a senior member of staff at Pate's. The discussion will not form part of the admissions process.

In all cases the highest priority will be given to 'looked after children' (children in care) who meet the minimum entry requirements.

Subject Requirements

Students would normally be expected to have secured at least an A or a 7 at GCSE in the subject or a relevant subject to continue to A Level with the following exceptions:

Additional information

Physics / Biology – Whilst we will accept students with a minimum grade 7 in either GCSE Double or individual Science we feel that a grade 8 at GCSE is the best preparation for A Level. In addition, at least a 7 in Chemistry (if applicable) will be required for Biology and at least a 7 in Maths will be required for Physics.

Chemistry – Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE (Chemistry or Double Award) is the ideal preparation for Chemistry A Level, however in a small number of cases it may also be appropriate to access the course with a grade 7, subject to discussion and agreement. We also ask for a minimum of a grade 7 in Maths.

Further Maths – You will need to secure at least an 8 at Maths GCSE and have proven exceptional mathematical ability. This could take the form of a teacher recommendation or be demonstrated by a high grade in Additional Maths.

Music – Pupils must gain a 7 in Music at GCSE in order to proceed with the subject at A Level. Practical ability of grade 6 at the commencement of the course is also necessary, as well as sound notational skills. A thorough, working-knowledge of grade 5 standard theory is also essential.

Physical Education – You should have practical ability and a genuine interest in Sport and Physical Education.

New subjects – Where there isn't a directly relevant GCSE course we require a generally strong set of GCSE grades.

Changes to A Levels

Pate's does not offer AS Levels in reformed subjects as they no longer contribute to A Level results and universities invariably do not use them to discriminate between candidates. Consequently, no students at Pate's will sit AS Levels in 2021. Instead, rigorous internal exams will be sat in all subjects.

Please note that in choosing Pate's you are choosing to subscribe to our policy and study the full suite of subjects for the duration of your first year. Other schools will offer different approaches but we believe that many will be attracted by the breadth and flexibility offered here.

We ask that you opt for at least 4 subjects (5 only if Further Maths is included) because we believe that this offers you the opportunity to work out what you really want to study by the end of Year 12. Surveys have shown that up to 50% of students begin Year 13 with three subjects which are different from the ones they expected to be studying. **Dropping one of the subjects will still be possible at the end of Year 12 and we expect the majority of students to do so.** The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will be available as an optional extra for all students, this being an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the academic attributes required for higher study. **No student will be forced to continue with 4 subjects for two years, though some will be advised to depending on their university course choices.**

We will of course offer advice to students on their choices and any thoughts they may have about further study. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form team.

Admissions Process

Applications for Sixth Form places should be made via the online application form by the published deadline of Wednesday 26 February 2020 for both external and internal applicants and offers of places will be made by the end of April. Late applications will be considered wherever the circumstances allow. There is the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel in the event of you not being offered a place in the Sixth Form – the Admissions Office at the school should be contacted for more information about the procedure.

Timetable for application for 2020

Tuesday 28 January –

- **Sixth Form Open Evening**
- **Internal Applicants** will have the opportunity to tour departments and speak to Sixth Form subject teachers from 5.00pm onwards.
- **External Applicants** will be able to attend one of two presentations at either 5.30pm or 7.00pm. School tours will also take place during each of the presentations.

January / February – Applications via the online application form available at www.patesgs.org/6thformadmissions should be made by the deadline of Wednesday 26 February 2020.

March – Discussion meetings at Pate's.

April – Conditional offers/decisions to applicants.

June – If you have been made a conditional offer, we will send you information about the start of term and holiday work.

Thursday 20 August – Contact us with your GCSE results in order to secure your place.

Subjects on offer

While our policy is to make every effort to accommodate all combinations of A Level subjects, places on a very few specific subject courses may be limited due to staffing constraints. In exceptional cases it may not be possible to run a subject if there are insufficient students applying for it.

In making your choice of the four subjects to study in Year 12, think carefully about these questions and find out as much as you can about the subjects you might want to study:

What are my strengths?

The standards at A Level are a significant jump up from GCSE, and so it is important to identify the subjects you are good at. What are your current strengths? Are you better at more practical subjects, or those that involve more theory? Is coursework one of your strengths? Are you good at subjects that are more essay based? Think about your strengths, and look carefully at the subject details.



Do some subjects mix well?

We allow you a free choice of subjects at the outset, and we try very hard indeed to make sure that as many people as possible can have their first choice combinations – occasionally though we may have to ask you to revise your choice, either because we simply cannot timetable it, or because we feel that it is not a sensible combination. The choice is yours, but there are some subjects which combine well:

- Physics backed up by Maths
- History & English
- History & Politics
- Geography & Biology
- Geography & Economics
- Combining two modern languages
- Maths & Further Maths
- Economics with a language
- Economics and Maths
- PE & Biology
- Music & Maths
- Philosophy, Theology & Ethics & Maths
- Theatre Studies & English
- Biology backed up by Chemistry

What do I enjoy?

If you enjoy a subject now, then that is usually a good guide to whether you will enjoy it at A Level, even though GCSE and A Level may be rather different. You will have to study your subjects for at least one year and in most cases for two years, so it is vital that you choose subjects you will enjoy or can at least live with. A word of warning: ignore the teacher factor – is it the subject you enjoy, or is it just that you get on well with your current teacher?

Do I need particular subjects?

Some students already have clear career goals (although at this age many do not). Many careers and university courses do not need particular subject choices at this stage, but some do – look at the pages entitled "Looking beyond A Levels". If you are in doubt about whether you need to choose a particular subject, do ask for advice.

Subject availability and requirements

The following pages show a list of the subjects which we offer in the Sixth Form, with brief notes about requirements in some of them. If you are in doubt about your chosen subjects you should consult your subject teacher, or the Sixth Form team.

Details of A Level courses

The following notes have been compiled by staff responsible for the A Level courses being offered in our Sixth Form. Very occasionally we cannot run a course if there are not enough students to make it viable.

Art

During Year 12 students are encouraged to work with new and unfamiliar art materials, alongside approaches that are challenging. They will extend the boundaries of their experiences and acquire new skills to introduce a progressive approach for all future studies. Over the course of the year, students will develop a diverse portfolio of work including at least one extended project. This project will be based on an idea, concept, theme or issue which demonstrates the candidate's ability to sustain and realise their ideas.

In Year 13, students will develop their portfolio work further, producing another practical and personal investigation which is supported by a 3,000 word essay to show knowledge and understanding of context, and which complements their practical work. Life drawing classes take place during both years of study. Assessment is based on a selected portfolio of work (coursework) plus an externally set exam project. Students will need to have a genuine interest in art, be resourceful and have a willingness to explore new approaches and challenge their current working practice.

Biology

The aim of our course is for students to build on their interest and enthusiasm for Biology, which can lead to further study at university and a wide range of careers.

Students learn by research, group work and practical activities, alongside traditional classroom methods. Students are encouraged to read widely and to subscribe to the 'Biological Sciences Review' Magazine, written specifically for Sixth Form students. The department offers a number of optional trips throughout the two years.

The OCR specification is a challenging one. It is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts in Biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and assessed within the final exams as well as part of a separate 'practical endorsement'.

The Biology A-Level is split into six modules:

- **Module 1** Development of practical skills
- **Module 2** Foundations in Biology
- **Module 3** Exchange and transport
- **Module 4** Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- **Module 5** Communication, homeostasis and energy
- **Module 6** Genetics, evolution and ecosystems.

Assessment of all modules is by three exams, sat at the end of Year 13.

Whilst we will accept students with a minimum grade 7 in either GCSE Double Science or GCSE Biology, and at least a 7 in GCSE Chemistry, (if applicable) a grade 8 at GCSE is the best preparation for A Level.

Chemistry

Chemistry is a very practical subject and the emphasis on this course is to learn the key concepts of the subject through active experimental work. This also leads to the development of a range of useful laboratory and life skills such as planning, dexterity, observation and powers of analysis and evaluation. The course aims to emphasise the importance of the subject in modern society by highlighting the contribution it makes to social, economic, environmental and technological aspects of life, and to explain the chemical properties of matter by referring to changes at a particle level. Students will experience a wide range of chemical substances and reactions from across both inorganic and organic Chemistry.

Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE (Chemistry or Double Award) is the ideal preparation for Chemistry A Level, however in a small number of cases it may also be appropriate to access the course with a grade 7, subject to discussion and agreement. We also ask for a minimum of grade 7 in Maths.

Computing

A Level Computing covers the theoretical aspects of Computer Science and programming. This course prepares students for a career or further study in Computer Science, but will also be appropriate for students who are aiming to continue developing their skills in this area. The majority of assessment is via written examination covering topics under the general headings of computer systems and algorithms and programming. Additionally, as part of the A Level, there is the opportunity for coursework focused on coding and programming. The skills learnt on the course will be transferable to any high-level computer language.

Drama and Theatre Studies

There is a full Theatre Studies A Level running at Pate's, with classes in both Year 13 and Year 12. Theatre Studies lessons are run as practical, skills-building classes, similar to those delivered at professional performing arts schools. We reinforce earlier studies of theatre practitioners and introduce new ones such as Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht, Frantic Assembly, Kneehigh, Punchdrunk, DV8, Edward Gordon Craig and Jacques LeCoq (the list continues!). We also analyse and appreciate plays from a variety of periods and genres, exploring theatre from the perspective of an actor, a director, a designer and a member of the audience.

Assessment takes the form of practical exams, written/oral coursework and a written exam. Students prepare a text interpretation in the style of a practitioner, a devised piece and a performance of a published play text. Alongside this they prepare a creative log (written or video blog) justifying their choices and evaluating their work. At the end of the course students sit an exam where they are asked to analyse and prepare production concepts for three texts ranging from Hedda Gabler to Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.

We aim to visit professional theatres at least twice a term to see live performances to facilitate the development of the ability to respond knowledgeably and critically to a variety of productions. Students also have the opportunity to experience workshops from renowned theatre companies and practitioners such as Splendid Productions.

Students are welcomed to explore whatever discipline they are passionate about whether that be lighting design, costume design or acting! Ultimately, the A Level course is designed to challenge students to take risks, develop their confidence and to nurture their love of the performing arts.

Economics

Economics is about scarcity and choice, and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help people to make better choices.

Economics is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare
- using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems
- discussing alternative courses of action, for example in the Budget or when setting interest rates
- understanding international trends, such as why poverty is falling so fast around the globe

Most students at A Level haven't studied Economics before. You might have an interest in Economics and want to know more about the impact of government policies on the world around you. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news – Why do some economies grow and others don't? What will trade be like after Brexit? Will there be another global financial crisis? This course will help you to understand all this and more.

Studying Economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation and essay writing. With an Economics A Level and related degree you can work in a variety of different fields from stock broking, finance and banking, public policy, sales and marketing, civil service, journalism, insurance and actuarial work.

Five years after graduation, the income gap between students who studied the subjects that attract the highest and lowest salaries can be considerable. Economics comes second highest after medicine and dentistry, taking home an average of £40,000 five years after graduation, according to the IFS in 2017.

The most important thing is that you enjoy what you study, and do not feel that you need to understand everything the first time that you see it. Economics gets your brain "muscle" working! "It's a great subject for those with questioning minds, curious about what goes on around them. And what's more, it's fun!" Lucy Rock, News Editor, The Observer

English Literature

The English department offers an A Level course that is challenging, enjoyable and responsive to the needs and talents of you, the students. The course is based entirely and unashamedly upon a study of literature and rewards those with a passion for exploring their literary heritage. We look at historical texts across a range of genres, exploring what they may have to say to us in the 21st century and what they say about their own times. Modern texts are studied both as new voices and as part of a tradition. You need a genuinely enthusiastic approach to reading challenging texts in prose, poetry and drama, an open mind and fluency on paper to express your ideas to full advantage. You will be assessed by three terminal exams and a single extended coursework essay.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project is a qualification which, as its name suggests, is designed to offer students the opportunity to engage in learning which goes beyond their curriculum studies. It is an undertaking which requires enthusiasm and independence, and many universities have indicated that they see it as a valuable qualification. A similar message comes from our students once they are at university, where they find that the EPQ has provided a welcome grounding for undergraduate work. The qualification is worth the equivalent of half an A Level for UCAS.

Students are expected to devote around 90 hours of their own time to independent learning towards the project, with guidance from a supervisor; in addition, there will be workshops and sessions promoting skills in areas such as referencing and research methodologies, and students will be expected to enrol with on-line courses to develop these skills. Application for undertaking an EPQ is in December of Y12. Work on the project commences in the Spring term of Year 12, with submission at Christmas of the next academic year. Results come with A Level results in the following August. Students undertaking an EPQ will:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a project title
- Draft aims of the project
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Provide evidence of all stages of project production
- Deliver a presentation to a specified audience.

There will be guidance at all stages from an appointed supervisor and assessment will be overseen by the supervisor and the Centre Co-ordinators.

Pate's Baccalaureate (Pate's Bacc)

This is an optional short course taken over around 30 periods in Year 12 (usually during TPM). It aims to promote academic skills including critical thinking, planning and academic writing, actively promoting debate and discussion around topics such as Global world issues, US politics, Nationalism, Multiculturalism, Art and Film. Completion of the course requires a short essay and presentation, produced in the summer of Year 12. A Pate's Certificate of Achievement is awarded to all who complete the course. We will be recruiting students for the Pate's Bacc in September 2020.

French

Parlez-vous français?

While continuing your study of the French language and developing your language skills on this course, you will gain insight into the history, culture and social issues facing French speaking countries today. The first year of the course concentrates on topics which link to and stretch beyond subjects covered at GCSE, whilst in the second year you will discuss and debate more controversial social and political issues. The exciting, revised specifications provide the super opportunity to enjoy and discover French film and selective, engaging and accessible French texts in both Y12 and Y13.

With a chance to develop not only communication and comprehension skills, but also to hone translation from and into French, this course is designed to nurture multiple language skills. The first year will not be externally assessed, and we thoroughly recommend that students consider a language for breadth and towards career prospects in our global, multilingual society. A Level components are both assessed at the end of the two years and there is a substantial oral component in the exam. You will access regular conversation lessons with our French Foreign Language Assistant to improve your fluency, whilst gaining up-to-date insights into current affairs. Furthermore, we set out to offer the opportunity to take part in Work Experience to improve your French further and immerse yourself in French language and culture during Y12. It can be an invaluable way of increasing language skills as well as building up personal contacts and real experience of French life.

Geography

Geography offers the opportunity to explore a range of geographical environments, political issues, systems and hazards. It combines a good grounding in physical processes with challenging and contemporary themes in human geography, which provide the depth and rigour required for a future university degree course.

As a geographer you will be interested in the world around you, asking questions and discussing issues such as: Why can we not sustainably support a rapidly growing population? Is climate change causing an increase in natural hazards?

This course is designed to challenge students' perspectives and stimulate the analytical and investigative skills needed to answer the many questions that we, as geographers, ask about the world around us.

Throughout the course we develop our geographical understanding by synthesising all aspects studied previously within the context of environmental issues, both human and physical. The syllabus also encourages the acquisition of specific geographical skills and abilities, in particular the skills of independent research, fieldwork, analysis and effective communication.

We encourage independent learning, wider reading and understanding of current issues to support the development of well-informed and independent-minded geographers, who are capable of applying their skills to meet the demands of the world as they will find it. Our studies are supported by a wide variety of fieldtrips, conferences and lectures, including a three day residential trip to Pembroke.

Geography is an interdisciplinary subject, which complements both the arts and sciences. This course proves popular at A Level with many of our students choosing to continue to study Geography (around 40%) at university, including Oxford and Cambridge. Our A Level course equips learners with the skills required to make a success of a wide variety of courses at university, including Architecture, Planning, Engineering, Medicine, Law and Accountancy.

German

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

While continuing your study of the German language and developing your language skills on this course, you will gain insight into the history, culture and social issues facing German speaking countries today. The first year of the course concentrates on topics which link to and stretch beyond subjects covered at GCSE, whilst in the second year you will discuss and debate more controversial social and political issues. The exciting, revised specifications provide the excellent opportunity to enjoy and discover German film and selective, engaging and accessible German texts in both Y12 and Y13.

With a chance to develop not only communication and comprehension skills, but also to hone translation from and into German, this course is designed to nurture multiple language skills. The first year will not be externally assessed, and we thoroughly recommend that students consider a language for breadth and towards career prospects in our global, multilingual society. A Level components are both assessed at the end of the two years and there is a substantial oral component in the exam. You will access regular conversation lessons with our German Foreign Language Assistant to improve your fluency, whilst gaining up-to-date insights into current affairs. Thanks to our 40+year old exchange programme with Bad Kreuznach, students are also able to take part in Work Experience to improve their German further and immerse themselves in German

language and culture during Y12. It can be an invaluable way of increasing language skills as well as building up personal contacts and real experience of modern German life.

Politics

We currently offer a two year course focused on the current developments in the UK system of government and parliament, democracy, political participation, voter behaviour, the role of the media, rights and civil liberties, the core political ideologies, nationalism and comparative global politics and international relations. If you are interested in current events, their causes, management and consequences and are keen to engage in group work, presentations, seminars and discussion you will find this a stimulating subject.

You will need to read widely and with an open mind. The A Level course is assessed by exams at the end of June of Y13. No entry requirements: you should have good communication skills and an interest in current affairs.

History Route A Early Modern History OCR

Year 12

- Y107 England 1547-1603: the Later Tudors (Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547-1558)
- Y213 The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774-1815

Year 13

- Y312 Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th Centuries
- Coursework which is a 4000 word essay of your choice
- Y100 You will be required to undertake considerable amounts of reading and the study of contemporary accounts and documents. You will find that group work and discussion are distinctive features of the course. All three Examined Units will be assessed at the end of Year 13. Please refer to the OCR website for further details of these courses which can be found on the A Level History Specification section.

History Route B Modern History OCR

Year 12

- Y112 Britain 1900-1951 (Enquiry topic: England and a New Century c.1900-1918)
- Y223 The Cold War in Europe 1941-1995.

Year 13

- Y314 The Challenge of German Nationalism 1789-1919
- Coursework which is a 4000 word essay of your choice
- Y100 You will be required to undertake considerable amounts of reading and the study of contemporary accounts and documents. You will find that group work and discussion are distinctive features of the course. All three Examined Units will be assessed at the end of Year 13. Please refer to the OCR website for further details of these courses which can be found on the A Level History Specification section.



Mathematics

We follow the MEI structured course. The A Level has a linear structure so all external assessment will take place at the end of the two-year course.

The course will contain Pure Mathematics as well as Statistics and Mechanics. This broad range of Maths and its applications will complement other A Levels and could be the appropriate Maths course to choose if you were looking to support Physics, Engineering, Economics, Business Studies, Geography, Biology, or Psychology as well as being a fascinating subject in its own right.

Further Maths

We follow the MEI structured course. The linear A Level Further Maths course is offered to those students with a high potential in the subject, who may wish to pursue a Maths-related degree course or who are looking for extra challenge. A Level Mathematics needs to be part of your A Level profile if you are to take this subject. You will meet fascinating new concepts such as imaginary numbers and matrices, and study a wide variety of real-world applications.

Music

Music is a subject that offers a broad academic education at Sixth Form level and a valuable qualification leading to entry to a variety of courses and careers. As well as studying Music, former students of A Level Music have gone on to study Medicine, Languages, Physics, Chemistry, Maths and English, both at Oxbridge and at other prestigious institutions.

You would all follow courses in History of Music, Free Composition, Harmony, Aural, and Performance on your chosen instrument(s).

We expect to find in our students both an inquisitive mind and the ability to pursue individual research. An interest in music of all periods and genres is essential, as is a willingness to examine music in the light of social and other historical developments. Assessment at the end of Year 13 is by one written examination, one recital and a combination of compositions completed in controlled assessment conditions at the end of the course.

Requirements: Students must gain a 7(A) in Music at GCSE in order to proceed with the subject at A Level. Practical ability of grade 6 at the commencement of the course is also necessary, as well as sound notational skills. A thorough, working-knowledge of grade 5 standard theory is also essential.

Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

If you have an enquiring mind and enjoy lively discussion, you will find Philosophy, Theology and Ethics both challenging and interesting, regardless of whether or not you have a religious background.

You will be expected to grapple with difficult philosophical theories and moral dilemmas and understand more recent developments in Christian thought. You will be challenged to revisit your assumptions and beliefs about morality, existence, the possibility of knowledge, life after death, sexual ethics, language, conscience and gender. You will need to engage with a range of texts and be willing to read extensively in your own time. You will be supported and encouraged to develop your essay writing skills and to participate effectively in class discussion and group work. Previous students have told us that their study of ethics has forever changed their awareness and method in moral decision making and that their work in Philosophy has given them radically different ways of looking at the world.

This subject will impact what you study in every other field. Philosophy, Theology and Ethics works well with sciences, both in terms of medical ethics and in terms of questioning the path to truth. It will also be of interest to those interested in Physics and Cosmology. For those going forward to study PPE and various mixed humanities courses, Philosophy, Theology and Ethics will help you hone your critical evaluation skills and your ability to untangle arguments in order to challenge the constituent parts and underlying assumptions. Philosophy, Theology and Ethics also obviously sits well with History, English and Psychology. Sections on Religious Experience will have significant overlap with knowledge drawn from Psychology and sections on Language will relate well to English, as well as the deeper understanding of Christian theology being useful to understanding all kinds of texts studied in English. A sense of the development of philosophical thought will inform your historical studies. We have also had students who have become interested in the Philosophy of Art and in the place of Music in religious experience.

The course will be supplemented by trips and speakers where appropriate.

Requirements: GCSE Grade 7/8 (A/A*) in a humanities subject is preferred but not essential. A willingness to read extensively in your own time.

Physical Education

Have you ever wondered how our brain learns new physical skills, why some of us are very quick or our national sport is football? This A Level is for students who are interested in sport and the various ways in which it affects individuals and society as a whole. This is an academic subject which mixes theory with practice. You will study the anatomical and physiological implications, the psychological demands and the sociological and historical contexts of the subject. You will need to be an able physical performer, as the subject requires a committed study in one sport/activity. The course is 70% theory and 30% practical, of which 10% is a verbal analysis of performance. The course is examined at the end of Year 13. Students have combined PE with other subjects and moved onto University to study all Sports Degrees, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and Finance Degrees.

Physics

This course is for students who are curious about the universe around them and who seek to explain the phenomena we encounter in our daily lives. We explore the physical laws that govern the behaviour of the universe from the very small quantum world to the cosmological scale of stars and galaxies.

Topics covered include:

- Classical Mechanics
- Quantum Physics
- Particle Physics
- Radioactivity
- Waves
- Electricity
- Materials
- Fields

We follow the AQA Physics course and have a strong emphasis on practical skills as well as academic knowledge. Experimental work is an essential part of A Level work and an excellent preparation for university. Lessons are based around exploring the world around us and how Physics seeks to model and explain what we observe.

The assessment for this course is by examination. Whilst we will accept students with a minimum grade 7 in either GCSE Double Science or GCSE Physics, and at least a 7 in GCSE Mathematics, we feel that a grade 8 at GCSE is the best preparation for A Level. There is no requirement to study Mathematics at A Level to study A Level Physics but of course it does help. It is important to consider studying Mathematics A Level if you wish to pursue a scientific based degree in the future as not doing so will exclude you from many degrees. Those aiming to study Physics and Engineering degrees at Russell Group universities should also consider studying Further Maths.

Psychology

The AQA specification is followed here at Pate's and provides students with many varying approaches and viewpoints within the discipline. Psychology is a highly scientific subject incorporating mathematical elements, with the comprehensive study of statistical tests. Psychology also requires strong extended writing skills to meet the high demands of the examination assessment.

Over the course, you will study topics such as social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology and schizophrenia to name but a few. The different approaches used within Psychology (Biological, Cognitive, Behavioural, Humanistic and Psychodynamic) will encompass the topics visited and provide a rounded understanding of the many arguments within the discipline. We also learn about, and can try for yourself, some of the research methods used by psychologists. As well as this, you will take an in-depth look at ways of testing your results for significance.

There is no coursework component. Your grade will be provided through examinations which include a small amount of multiple choice along with short answer questions and varying essay style questions. Teaching involves discussion and practical investigation wherever possible and you will be encouraged to critically evaluate the research you meet, an essential skill for higher education. The subject is popular, both in school and at university, and attracts a wide range of students studying both Arts and Science subjects and can lead on to a variety of careers. Up to 25% of our students continue Psychology at university. Others pursue the full spectrum of careers including Medicine.



Spanish*¿Hablás español?*

While continuing your study of the Spanish language and developing your language skills on this course, you will gain an insight not only into the history and culture of Spanish-speaking countries but also the social issues facing the Spanish speaking world today. The first year of the course concentrates on topics which link to and stretch beyond subjects covered at GCSE, whilst in the second year you will discuss and debate more controversial social and political issues. The exciting revised specifications provide plenty of opportunities to enjoy and discover Hispanic film and some engaging and accessible Hispanic texts in both Y12 and Y13.

With a chance to develop not only communication and comprehension skills, but also hone translation from and into Spanish, this course is designed to nurture all the skills needed to develop into a competent linguist. We thoroughly recommend that students consider a language for breadth and to enhance career prospects in our global, multilingual society. The first year of the course will not be externally examined. A Level components are assessed at the end of the two years and there is a substantial oral component in the exam. To assist students to this end, the Spanish department provides weekly sessions with a Foreign Language Assistant and organises a week's work experience in Spain where students can live with a family and work in an area that interests them. It can be an invaluable way of increasing language skills as well as building up personal contacts and real experience of modern Spanish life.

Looking beyond A Levels

Listed below are some examples of degree courses, although not an exhaustive list, it does show which A Level subjects are commonly required or expected.

It must be emphasised that rarely do all higher education establishments have the same requirements, and very rarely is there no flexibility at all. On the other hand you must recognise that if you apply with an unconventional combination of subjects for a particular course you may put yourself at a disadvantage with respect to other applicants. Some A Level subjects will be listed as 'Required' and are essential and some listed as 'Recommended' and, although are not essential, may be qualifications held by the majority of people applying for that course. The most up to date information is usually on university websites and university Admissions Officers do not mind answering queries if the answer cannot be found on the website.



A further consideration may be your proposed career direction beyond university. Some degree courses may lead to specific occupations while others are less 'vocational'. You should be wary of letting this aspect totally determine your A Level subject choice and remember that the quality of both A Level passes and a degree are widely regarded as a measure of a set of skills which can be applied in any number of occupations. The majority of graduates rarely employ the information gained through their degree but do employ their cumulative skills. In other words, whilst you may want to keep an eye on the future, there is much to be said for choosing subjects in which you are interested and are likely to be successful.

NB. Sustained and relevant work experience may be a requirement for some courses.

Animal Sciences

Biology and Chemistry preferred. Relevant work experience is useful.

Archaeology

History, Geography, English and/or a Science subject may be preferred. Two Sciences required for Archaeological Science courses.

Anthropology

Biology and Geography preferred for some biological anthropological courses (Social Anthropology).

Architecture / Architectural Engineering

Maths and/or Physics required or preferred for some courses. Art is sometimes a requirement and a portfolio of art work often requested.

Art / Design

Art A Level and portfolio of art work required by many courses. You may choose to complete an Art Foundation course prior to university.

Biochemistry / Biomedical Science / Genetics / Physiology

Chemistry required. Biology usually preferred, one or two Maths/Science subjects required.

Business and Management Courses / Accountancy

Maths is often essential or desirable. There is a wide range of courses, some show preference for Economics, Business Studies, Geography, English or a Foreign Language.

Chemistry / Chemical Engineering

Two Science subjects including Chemistry (Chemistry, Physics and Maths is a good combination with Further Maths for some courses).

Computer Science

Maths and Further Maths, with some preference for Physics. STEP used by some universities as part of conditional offer.

Dentistry

Chemistry plus Biology usually required. Another Science subject may be required or preferred. Evidence of manual dexterity must be given (eg. model-making or playing an instrument).

Drama / Theatre Studies

English and Theatre Studies may be required. Extensive record of involvement in theatre productions often required. Not all courses involve acting – you need to check.

Economics

Maths and Economics may be required or preferred. Check university websites carefully for other preferred subjects.

Engineering

Maths and Physics usually required. Further Maths sometimes recommended. Some universities may use STEP as part of conditional offer.

English

English Literature required. Modern Language required for joint courses.

Environmental Science

One or two Science subjects are usually stipulated. Maths may be required.

Geography

Geography with two other subjects. Maths or Science required for BSc.

Geology

Maths / Science subjects usually required. Geography may be accepted as an additional Science. Chemistry, Maths and Physics often preferred.

History

History. A Science subject or Modern Language could be considered for a third A Level.

Law

A very high standard required in 3 subjects. Preference for at least one essay based subject.

Materials Science

Maths, Physics and/or Chemistry.

Mathematics / Statistics

Maths and Further Maths, preference given to Physics. STEP may be used.

Medicine / Dentistry / Veterinary Science

Biology and Chemistry are usually required. Subject requirements vary – check university websites carefully. High grades, relevant work experience essential and an interview will be required. Additional admissions test may also be required (BMAT, UKCAT).

Music

A Level Music plus instrumental grade usually required.

Natural Sciences

High grades in three Sciences (check individual course requirements). Maths useful as a fourth A Level.

Occupational Therapy

A social science or Science subject required for most courses.

Pharmacy

Chemistry and one or two other Sciences usually required.

Philosophy / PPE – Philosophy, Politics and Economics

No specific subjects required. Maths is very useful for logic (and Economics) and an essay-based subject can give evidence of ability to expand on ideas.

Physics

Physics and Maths (and Chemistry sometimes preferred). Further Maths highly desirable for some courses.

Physiotherapy

One or two Science subjects required.

Physical Education

PE, Sports Science required for some courses. Biology can be useful.

Politics

No subjects specified. History or English useful.

Psychology

A Science subject usually required. Look carefully at individual course outlines – some more science based than others. Maths can also be useful.

Sociology

No subjects specified.

Town and Country Planning

Geography may be specified.

Zoology / Animal Science

Biology and Chemistry preferred.

Last year's Year 13s secured places on the following courses:

University Course

Bath Pharmacy
Bath Pharmacy
Bath Mathematics
Bath Civil Engineering
Bath Physics with Astrophysics.
Bath Chemical Engineering (*with placement*)
Bath Management (*with placement*)
Bath Economics
Bath Economics (*with placement*)
Bath MEng (Hons) Robotics Engineering 4FT
Bath Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering (*with placement*)
Birmingham Economics
Birmingham Medicine (5 years)
Birmingham Mathematics
Birmingham Business Management with Marketing and Year in Industry
Birmingham Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership (PwC)
Birmingham Law
Birmingham Chemical Engineering
Birmingham Dentistry (5 years)
Birmingham Medicine (5 years)
Birmingham Music
Birmingham Biological Sciences
Birmingham Hispanic Studies and History (4 years)
Bristol Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
Bristol Economics and Finance
Bristol Physics
Bristol Physics
Bristol History
Bristol Anthropology
Bristol Philosophy and Economics
Bristol Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
Bristol Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
Bristol Engineering Mathematics
Bristol Mathematics and Philosophy
Bristol Physics with Astrophysics
Bristol Music with Innovation
Bristol Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
Bristol Civil Engineering
Bristol Mechanical Engineering
Bristol Biomedical Sciences
Bristol English
Bristol Aerospace Engineering with Study in Continental Europe
University of West England Geology
University of West England Nursing (*Adult*)

Cambridge Human, Social, and Political Sciences
Cambridge Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Cambridge Natural Sciences
Cambridge Natural Sciences
Cambridge Veterinary Medicine
Cambridge Human, Social, and Political Sciences
Cambridge History
Cambridge History and Modern Languages
Cambridge Veterinary Medicine
Cambridge Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Cambridge Medicine
Cambridge Engineering
Cambridge English
Cardiff Medicine
Cardiff Dentistry
Cardiff Psychology with Professional Placement
Cardiff Computer Science
Cardiff Law
Cardiff Medicine
Cardiff Integrated Engineering (*with a year in industry*)
University of Central Lancashire Medical Sciences (*Foundation Entry*)
Durham Business and Management with Study Abroad
Durham English Literature
Durham Philosophy and Theology
Durham Law
Durham Environmental Geoscience
Durham Liberal Arts
Edinburgh Linguistics and English Language
Exeter Physics with Astrophysics
Exeter Mathematics
Exeter Business and Management with International Study
Exeter Economics
Exeter Law
Exeter Management with Marketing with Industrial Experience (4 years)
Exeter Biological Sciences with Study Abroad
Exeter Economics with Industrial Experience
Exeter Medicine
Imperial College Medicine
Imperial College Medicine
Imperial College Mathematics
Imperial College Design Engineering
Imperial College Physics
Kings College London Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Kings College London Business Management
Kings College London English
Keele Chemistry and Forensic Science
Keele Medicine

Lancaster Geography
Lancaster Law
Lancaster Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics (*MORSE*)
Lancaster Biochemistry
Loughborough Geography and Management
Loughborough Civil Engineering
Loughborough Mechanical Engineering
Loughborough Civil Engineering
Loughborough Bioengineering
Leeds Zoology
Leeds Nursing (*Adult*)
Leeds Mathematics
Leeds International Relations
Leeds Philosophy
Leeds Mechanical Engineering
Leicester Medicine
London School of Economics Politics and Economics
London School of Economics Actuarial Science
Liverpool Architecture
Liverpool Politics
Manchester Physics
Manchester Drama and English Literature
Manchester Chemical Engineering with Industrial Experience
Manchester Physics
Manchester Modern Language and Business and Management (*German*) (4 years)
Manchester Biology with Industrial / Professional Experience (4 years)
Manchester Mathematics and Physics
Newcastle Medicine and Surgery
Newcastle Dentistry
Newcastle Medicine and Surgery
Newcastle Medicine and Surgery
Newcastle Combined Honours
Newcastle Medical Science
Nottingham Veterinary Medicine including a Preliminary Year
Nottingham Law
Nottingham Medicine BMBS (*Nottingham/Derby pathway*)
Nottingham Medicine BMBS (*Nottingham/Derby pathway*)
Nottingham Medicine BMBS (*Nottingham/Derby pathway*)
Nottingham Mechanical Engineering
Nottingham Medicine BMBS (*Lincoln pathway*)
Nottingham Sport and Exercise Science
Nottingham Civil Engineering

Nottingham Philosophy
Nottingham Veterinary Medicine
Nottingham Veterinary Medicine
Nottingham Veterinary Medicine
Nottingham Veterinary Medicine
Oxford Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Oxford German and Beginners' Czech (*with Slovak*)
Oxford Engineering
Oxford Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Oxford Law
Oxford English Language and Literature
Oxford Chemistry
Oxford Mathematics
Plymouth Marine Technology
Plymouth Civil Engineering
Queen's University Belfast Architecture
Queen Mary University of London Medicine
Royal Veterinary College Wild Animal Biology
St George's, University of London Paramedic Science
Sheffield Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology
Sheffield Biomedical Science
Sheffield Architectural Engineering
Sheffield Civil and Structural Engineering with a Year in Industry
Southampton Marine Biology with Oceanography
Southampton French and Linguistics (4 years)
Southampton Civil and Environmental Engineering with Industrial Placement Year
Southampton Sociology
Southampton Aeronautics and Astronautics
St Andrews Geography
Sussex Neuroscience
Sussex Anthropology
University College London Chemistry
University College London English
Warwick Mechanical Engineering
Warwick Biochemistry
Warwick English Literature
Warwick Physics
Warwick Psychology with Education Studies
Warwick Mechanical Engineering
York Law
York Chemistry, Biological and Medicinal Chemistry with a year abroad
York Law
York Economics



Est. 1574

Pate's Grammar School was founded by Richard Pate in 1574. It is likely that Richard Pate was educated at the Chantry School in Cheltenham Parish Church. He went on to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and then into Royal service where he served as Commissioner for Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I.

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Our newly opened £3 Million
Sixth Form Centre has a dedicated
senior library, group and private study
space, offices and meeting room

