

Netherhall School

An Ambitious, Caring Community



Ofsted rated as 'GOOD' - February 2018 & March 2023, Alps rated as Outstanding – August 2021

Sixth Form Prospectus 2025

At Netherhall School, we are ambitious for every student. We want all our students to achieve the best possible academic qualifications, to have the best experience of school and to be well prepared for their next steps in employment, education and training.

We are proud of our sixth form. It has a fine track record of academic success and achievement. It is a welcoming, friendly, vibrant and happy place to learn, where staff and students are treated with care and respect. I believe that the values and ethos of Netherhall School Sixth Form are indicative of the Cumbrian spirit and represent the very best of Maryport and West Cumbria. Achievement and success are built on positive relationships. I see this on a daily basis at Netherhall School Sixth Form, through the work of great teachers who have positive, constructive relationships with their students. The result is happy, confident learners who are inspired and surpassing their expectations.

I know you will enjoy and do well throughout your next two years at Netherhall School Sixth Form. My aim is to make school an enjoyable and productive experience for every student, where each young person looks forward to the possibilities of the day with energy and enthusiasm.



*"Students' attitudes to their learning and contributing to the wider school are excellent."
"There is an industrious atmosphere around the sixth form, both generally and within classes"
"Relationships between students and staff are excellent"*

Results

In 2022, students' attainment was the best the school has seen. In A level subjects, 20% of the grades achieved were A or A*, and 41% of grades were B or above. In vocational subjects, around 90% of students achieved the top grades of Distinction and Distinction*.

Attainment has continued to be strong. The average points score per pupil in 2024 was 31.71. The majority of grades achieved by students were A*, A, B and C or equivalent. Netherhall School Sixth Form is a place where students make excellent progress, no matter their background, ability or aspiration.

Aims

The aim of Netherhall School Sixth Form is to support the development of healthy, confident, capable and happy young people, who are supportive and tolerant of each other. A sixth form that builds understanding, recognises individuality and embraces collective responsibility to fellow students, the school and the wider community.

The sixth form's aims are to provide relevant and meaningful experiences which nurture individual aspirations, whether it is an Oxbridge education, public service, artistic endeavour, industrial excellence, cultural or sporting experiences. A sixth form that actively encourages involvement and participation, with the intention of preparing its young people for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Principles

The five principles that guide Netherhall School Sixth Form are:

Students First: every decision is founded on the best interests of the students.

Aspiration: to be fiercely ambitious for all students.

Quality: to provide the highest quality education possible.

Opportunity: to provide enjoyable and relevant opportunities that enable students to fulfil their considerable potential.

Community: to be an active part of the local community.

Destinations

100% of year 13 leavers in 2024 secured places in higher education, training or employment. A selection of destination universities and courses for 2024 leavers is shown below:

- Degree Apprenticeship - Project controls - Sellafield
- Degree Apprenticeship - Project management - BAE Systems
- Degree Apprenticeship - Project Management - Costain
- Degree Apprenticeship - Project Management - Sellafield
- Degree Apprenticeship - Quantity surveying - NG Bailey
- Higher Apprenticeship - NNL Business Support
- Lancaster University - Geography
- Lancaster University - Psychology
- Newcastle University - Law
- Newcastle University - Mathematics
- Northumbria University - Computer and Information Technology
- University of Bristol - Physics and Philosophy
- University of Central Lancashire - Medical Sciences Foundation
- University of Cumbria - Adult Nursing
- University of Cumbria - Animal Conservation Science (with Sandwich Year)
- University of Cumbria – Biomedical Sciences Foundation
- University of Cumbria - Business Management Foundation
- University of Cumbria – Children's Nursing
- University of Cumbria - Games Development
- University of Cumbria - Mental Health Nursing
- University of Cumbria - Primary and Early Years Education with QTS
- University of Cumbria - Wildlife Media
- University of Liverpool - Evolutionary Anthropology
- University of Nottingham - Neuroscience
- University of Salford – Zoology

Curriculum

At Netherhall School Sixth Form we offer a broad and inclusive curriculum which supports the aspirations and achievement of all students. It is a bespoke curriculum offer that enables students to select from a wide choice of academic and vocational subjects.

Academic Subjects

- Art & Photography
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical education
- Physics
- Religious studies

Vocational Subjects

- Applied science
- Health and social care (single and double award)
- Sport and physical activity

Extended Project Qualification

All students in the sixth form at Netherhall have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This qualification allows students to carry out in-depth research in an area of interest to them. By completing the qualification, they develop and demonstrate their project management skills and have opportunities for extended writing. It is highly valued by universities and employers. We have had some wonderful projects in the past, on themes as diverse as electrical engineering, photography, avian influenza, animal testing and e-sports. Students can tailor their project to their individual needs, choices and aspirations. The outcome of the project can be a design, performance, report, dissertation or artefact. Students undertaking the project have the full support of a dedicated and experienced EPQ tutor.

Core Maths

Students have the opportunity to study for a level 3 core maths qualification, which provides essential problem-solving and quantitative skills. Equal in size and UCAS tariff points to an AS Level, the qualification is aimed at students who aren't studying AS or A level maths, but need mathematical skills to support their other level 3 subjects and for future study and employment.

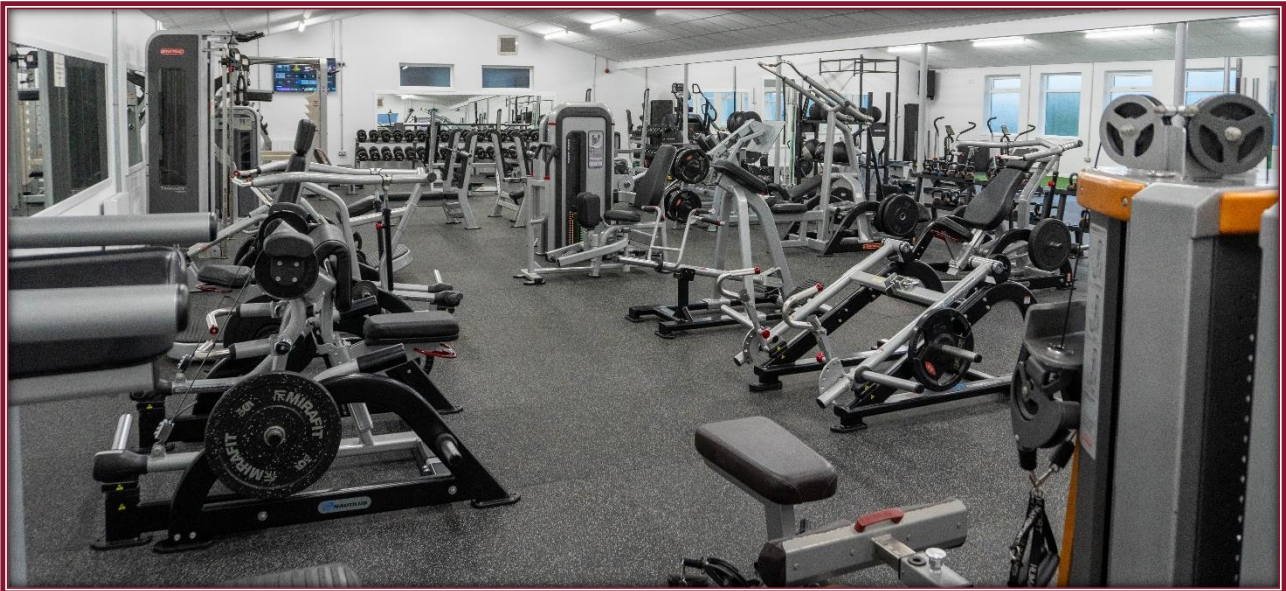
Extracurricular Opportunities and Enrichment

I am confident that whatever you choose to study at Netherhall School Sixth Form you will be expertly taught. In addition to this there is a great range of extracurricular and enrichment activities available. These will provide you with opportunities for leadership and personal development. You will be guided throughout your time in the sixth form by friendly and caring tutors, who take a personal interest in supporting every student towards their end goal of a university education or apprenticeship; they will encourage you to develop your skills by participating in:

- Young Enterprise.
- First aid.
- Sports coaching and sports leadership qualifications.
- School sports teams.
- Social action projects through Cumbria Community Foundation.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award, with direct entry to the Gold Award for sixth form students.
- Work experience placements.
- Primary school placements.
- Literacy and numeracy support for younger students.
- Fundraising and charity work.
- Sixth Form Council leadership opportunities.
- Head Boy and Head Girl positions.
- National Citizenship Service.
- University open days and summer schools.

In the past we have run school trips to:

- **London** – the arts, university and cultural experience.
- **Edinburgh** – the arts.
- **Manchester** – sports.
- **Newcastle** – the arts.
- **Ski trip.**
- **University of Cumbria** – Careers Fair.
- **Queen's College, Oxford** – open day.
- **Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge** – open day.
- **Northumbria University** – open day.



Netherhall Community Sports Centre

Students of Netherhall School Sixth Form benefit from full membership of Netherhall Community Sports Centre free of charge. This membership would normally cost £330 and entitles students to use the facilities during their enrichment time as well as within the centre's after-school and weekend opening hours.

The sports centre is located on the school site and is a state-of-the-art facility which has recently been fully refurbished. Within the centre there are five separate gym areas that offer free weights, spinning, cardio, resistance and plate loaded machines, functional training and much more. Casual gym goers and experienced athletes alike will all be able to develop their health, fitness and wellbeing whilst studying in the sixth form by making use of this excellent facility. Students can also benefit from a broad range of instructor-led exercise classes that are included within their membership.



Entry Requirements

Grade requirements for entry to Netherhall School Sixth Form can be found on the options form. Specific entrance requirements for each course of study vary and have been set to enable the very best outcomes for students in their sixth form studies.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me as you make your choices for post 16 learning. I look forward to welcoming you into the sixth form in September.

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Mr C Pattinson

Head Boy & Head Girl

Mitchell Larg

I joined Netherhall School as a student in 2018 and I am proud of the person that I have become throughout the years. At Netherhall School I have had the opportunity to work closely with my peers and teachers and have definitely gained many life skills and attributes that help me to be successful in my studies and in my wider life. Netherhall School has an amazingly positive working environment where staff and students get on well. This has given me the confidence to try my best. In school, I have made memories that I will cherish for years to come. I love sport, and some of my greatest experiences have come when participating and representing the school in extra-curricular events, football, rugby and tennis, for example. There are loads of opportunities to get involved in so many different activities, which is great for students who have a real passion for sport.



My decision to join the sixth form was made very early on upon completing my GCSEs and leaving year 11, as I knew it would be a place where I would succeed and thrive. Not only this, but I knew that the encouragement from my teachers would benefit me as a person and prepare me for working life. After my first year in the sixth form studying geography, IT and PE. I am confident that I have made the correct decision, and I am committed to strive in my final year to become the best version of myself and achieve the best possible grades I can.

I am also very proud to have been elected Head Boy by my peers. It is a role that I am delighted to take on in year 13. I hope that in the next year I can use this platform to represent the school, and act as a first-class role model for not only other sixth formers, but also younger students in the school.

Macie Crellin



I am extremely grateful to Netherhall School for the array of opportunities I have been provided with and the support I have received along the way. Since year 7, I have developed skills which will prove to be essential in my future career. I have built on this in sixth form, where I have developed my leadership and communication skills by working closely with not only the younger students at Netherhall School, but also the pupils of Ewanrigg Junior School as a part of the school's paired reading scheme. It has been great to get involved in helping the local community, which is something I take great pride in.

I am currently studying English literature, English language and religious education. My passion for writing within these subjects has only been enhanced by the reciprocated passion and support of my teachers. Alongside my studies, I have a great passion for dance, which the school has supported, and I have represented the school in other

sports including rugby and netball. I will always be grateful for the support of the school in my endeavours, both inside and outside of school time.

I am honoured to have been appointed as Head Girl of Netherhall School and am looking forward to representing the school in my final year. This role will allow me to act as a role model for the younger years and support any student where possible. Alongside this in my role as Head Girl, I am able to promote the school's values and reflect not only the work ethic and dedication of the students, but the love they have for their school. Netherhall School has come a long way since I enrolled in 2018 and I am honoured to be part of this process.



A Level – Fine Art / Photography

What is it about?

A level fine art is a broad-based course exploring a range of approaches, supported by contextual understanding. Throughout the course we will study portraiture, landscape and still life; however, students are encouraged to develop their own ideas in an original and exciting manner, providing them with the opportunity to gain new skills and develop existing ones. We strongly encourage students to explore practical, digital and critical work, through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes.



We encourage students to visit galleries locally and in Edinburgh and London. The art, design and technology department organise trips in the autumn term to Edinburgh to visit galleries, and the University of Cumbria to take part in printmaking workshops and life drawing. This enables students to experience a rich variety of historical and contemporary work, which will subsequently inform their own creativity.

Fine art is a wide-ranging course covering printmaking, sculpture, painting, photography, digital editing, mixed media, drawing and art history. Students are encouraged to develop their ideas using a range of experimental techniques and media, extending their creative individuality. The course enables students to develop their skills in decision making, the ability to follow tasks through from conception to completion and to develop their potential when working independently.



What is expected of me during the course?

You should have a good imagination and be able to develop creative ideas. You should be happy to experiment with a range of materials and processes. A grade 5 in GCSE in art is essential. It is important to remember that a lot of work will need to be completed not just in lessons but in your own time too. There are two components to the course, one chosen by the student and one set by AQA.

What can I combine this subject with?

Art combines with any subject but in particular English, history and RE can help to develop the analytical and evaluative skills needed in fine art.

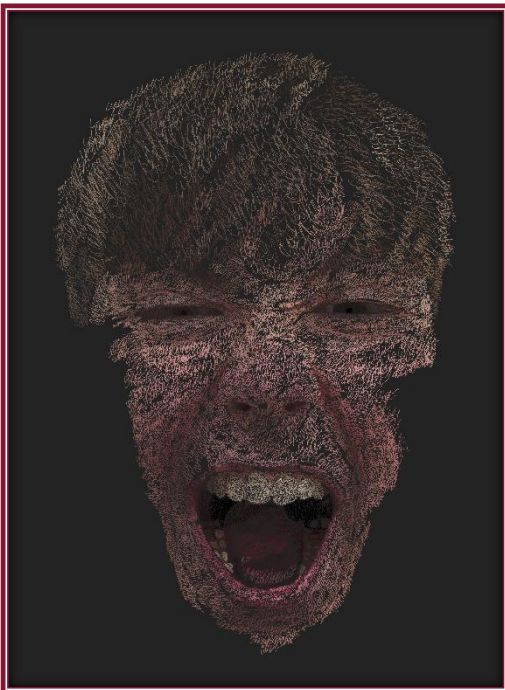
What can I do with this qualification?

Any art based degree or any art based course. This can lead to careers in fine art, illustration, photography, graphics, design or teaching.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Norman

A Level Art – Blake Wassell



I'm Blake, I'm in year 13 and studying A level art, photography as well as geography. I am, and always have been a creatively wired person, I have always enjoyed art and any form of creating. My enjoyment of the subject helped me obtain a grade nine in art at GCSE. I am hoping to achieve two A*s in art and photography and go on to study graphic design at university.

I would highly recommend A level art at Netherhall School Sixth Form as it has allowed me to realise my full potential in my creative skill, not only in the physical side of work but in the written analysis as well. I also really enjoy developing my ideas using different media to create successful pieces of art with personal meanings.

During my time studying art I have learnt how to create outcomes with different media forms such as, pencil, charcoal, chalk and pastilles, oil paints, acrylic paints as well as different digital artwork forms.

Level 3 – Cambridge Advanced National in Applied Science – Extended Certificate

What is it about?

Through a combination of theoretical study and hands on experience, this OCR qualification provides you with an understanding of applied science practical techniques and applications. The qualification will help you develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the sector and that prepare you for progressing to university courses where independent study skills are needed. You will develop transferable skills that can be used in both higher education and other life and work situations such as: communication, research, interpreting findings, presenting evidence, presenting information, time management, problem solving.

The qualification is made up of 40% examined content and 60% non examined assessment content. This approach supports you to develop both theoretical knowledge and understanding and the skills needed to apply it in a range of contexts, helping you to develop a broad and relevant set of skills and experiences. In the examined units, you will study key knowledge and understanding relevant to applied science. In the non examined assessment units, you will demonstrate knowledge and skills you learn by completing applied and practical assignments. More information about the knowledge and skills you will develop is below.



How is it structured?

The course is made up of five mandatory units, plus one optional unit from a choice of three.

Mandatory units

Title	Content	Assessment
Fundamental of science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology (cell structure and microscopy, bioenergetics, structure and function of biological molecules, biodiversity and ecosystems)• Chemistry (Atomic structure and the Periodic Table, quantitative chemistry, structure and bonding, rates of reactions and enthalpy changes)• Physics (electricity, motion, medical physics)	Exam
Science in society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What scientists do• Handling scientific data• Scientific developments• Communicating science	Exam
Investigating Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning a scientific investigation• Performing a scientific investigation• Analysing and communicating results• Evaluating a scientific investigation	Written assignment

Optional units

Two of the following units will also be covered:

- Analytical techniques in chemistry
- Environmental studies
- Forensic biology
- Medical physics

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have a real interest in the topics and be looking towards a career that is based in science, such as nursing, engineering, laboratory work or even the leisure industry. Over the two years you will be expected to take a full and active part in all learning activities, including group projects and independent learning. A commitment to doing your best in and out of class is essential as there is a lot of written coursework to complete during the two years. All deadlines must be met without fail, so personal organisation and good time-management are also vital. You should have achieved grade 4 or above in science at GCSE level.

What can I combine this subject with?

Biology, chemistry, maths, physics, geography and physical education work particularly well, but applied science combines well with any two A level qualifications.

What can I do with this qualification?

Applied science can be studied on its own at university or can lead to degrees in sports science, physiotherapy, biomedical science, allied health and nursing, life sciences or forensic sciences. It is also great preparation for an apprenticeship.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Cooke

Applied Science – Olivia Bigrigg



Hi! My name is Olivia, I am currently in year 13. I am studying applied science, geography and religious studies. I believe this is a great combination of subjects as it expands and develops my skills. By the end of year 13 I am hoping to achieve a Distinction in applied science. I have applied to study animal conservation at university, so my applied science studies are highly relevant to what I'd like to do next.

I chose the applied science course because I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different topics in all three sciences during my GCSE studies and wanted to dig deeper into them all as one A level course, as well as it being a great subject to help me achieve my desired degree.

There is a lot of practical work in each aspect of this course, which I find to be very fun, interesting and varied. This is a great subject to choose if you love the idea of getting to do hands-on coursework that will also add to your final grade. There is a broad range of content in this course, so it is vital that you are well organised when it comes to your revision. On the whole, this course is great for anyone wishing to go into the science or engineering field.

A Level - Biology

What is it about?

This OCR course will be taught through real life biology for the 21st Century. You will learn a wide range of experimental and investigative skills needed by modern biologists, including the ability to make judgements about the quality of evidence both as individuals and in groups. You will participate in practicals, simulations, interactive IT tutorials, online seminars and tests.



How is it structured?

Your A level course is divided in to 6 modules taught over 2 years, this also includes 12 required practicals.

1. Development of practical skills in biology	The practical assessments which are completed as part of this module link directly to the topics which you have learned throughout modules 2-6. You will complete a range of practical assessments including: microscopy, heart dissection, colorimetry and growing microbial samples.
2. Foundations in biology	In this module you will study cell structure, different biological molecules, the base structure of DNA, enzyme structure, how membranes allow substances to move across and cell division.
3. Exchange and transport	In this module you will study how different molecules are transported in plants and animals as well as how the exchange surfaces are adapted for this role.
4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease	In this module you will study communicable diseases, disease prevention, the immune system, biodiversity, classification and evolution.
5. Communication, homeostasis and energy	In this module you will study homeostasis, neuronal and hormonal communication, photosynthesis, respiration and plant and animal responses to change.
6. Genetics, evolution and ecosystems	In this module you will study cellular control, patterns of inheritance, how genomes can be manipulated, ecosystems, cloning, populations and sustainability.

How will I be assessed?

You will have regular opportunities during lesson time to practise past exam questions in order to familiarise yourself with the language used in the examinations. The final examinations will all take

place at the end of year 13. You will have 3 exams in total which will link directly to the units which have been completed throughout your A level biology studies. You will also have full mock examinations throughout year 12 and year 13.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE biology or a grade 7 in the biology component of combined science (trilogy) before considering taking this course. You will need to be organised and committed to working at a fast pace and be willing to complete work and wider reading outside of the classroom.

What can I combine with this subject?

Biology can combine with most other subjects but students particularly benefit from also studying chemistry, maths, physics, geography or health and social care.

What can I do with this qualification?

Biology can be studied on its own at university or as an essential part of degrees in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy, ecology, nursing studies, marine biology or forensic science and criminology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Poddington

A Level Biology – Laila Brown

I'm Laila and I am in year 12. I'm studying biology, chemistry and art and hope to achieve grade A in each. I chose A level biology as I have an interest in the subject and enjoy learning about the different topics on the course.

Biology is a great subject, allowing you to build on your skills from GCSE. As well as adding to your knowledge, you also engage in a range of practical work. This is not only fun and exciting, it is also interesting to see the theories you learn in the classroom put into practice. So far, I have especially enjoyed learning about biological molecules and their uses.

One advantage of the course is the opportunities it gives for future careers. Personally, I hope to go into a job in the medical field. I also find biology extremely helpful in other subjects such as chemistry, as my knowledge of the two sciences overlaps in various topics, allowing me to gain a better understanding.



A Level - Chemistry

What is it about?

This OCR course will be taught through real life chemistry for the 21st Century. You will learn a wide range of analytical and investigative experimental skills needed by modern chemists. You will participate in practicals, simulations, interactive IT tutorials, online seminars and tests.



How is it structured?

Your A level course is divided into six modules taught over two years, this also includes 12 required practicals.

Module	Overview
1. Development of practical skills in chemistry	The practical assessments which are completed as part of this module link directly to the topics which you have learned throughout modules 2-6. You will complete a range of practical assessments including: titration, synthesis of organic chemicals, rates of reaction, identification of unknown compounds and ions and analysis of electrochemical cells.
2. Foundations in chemistry	In this module you will study bonding, intermolecular forces, moles, acids and bases and redox reactions.
3. Periodic Table & Energy	In this module you will build on GCSE chemistry by studying the periodic table and groups 2 and 7, enthalpy changes and reaction rates.
4. Core organic chemistry	In this module you will study hydrocarbons, alcohols, alkenes and methods of organic synthesis.
5. Physical chemistry & transition elements	In this module you will study further reaction rates, pH and buffers, enthalpy, entropy and free energy.

6. Organic chemistry & analysis	In this module you will study a variety of carboxyl and carbonyl compounds, polymers and methods of spectroscopy.
--	---

How will I be assessed?

You will have regular opportunities during lesson time to practise past exam questions in order to familiarise yourself with the language used in the examinations. The final examinations will all take place at the end of year 13. You will have 3 exams in total which will link directly to the units which have been completed throughout your A level chemistry studies. You will also have full mock examinations throughout year 12 and year 13.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE chemistry or a grade 7 in the chemistry component of combined science (trilogy) before considering taking this course. You will need to be organised and committed to working at a fast pace and be willing to complete work and wider reading outside of the classroom.

What can I combine with this subject?

Chemistry can combine with most other subjects but students particularly benefit from also studying biology, maths, physics or geography.

What can I do with this qualification?

Chemistry can be studied on its own at university or as an essential part of degrees in medicine, veterinary science, engineering, dentistry, marine biology or forensic science and criminology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Cooke or Miss Frankland

A Level Chemistry – Cerys Tyson



My name is Cerys, and I am a year 13 at Netherhall Sixth Form studying chemistry, biology and maths. I have applied to study veterinary sciences at university, and I hope to one day work as a vet. I am motivated to work as hard as needed to achieve a grade A in all of my subjects.

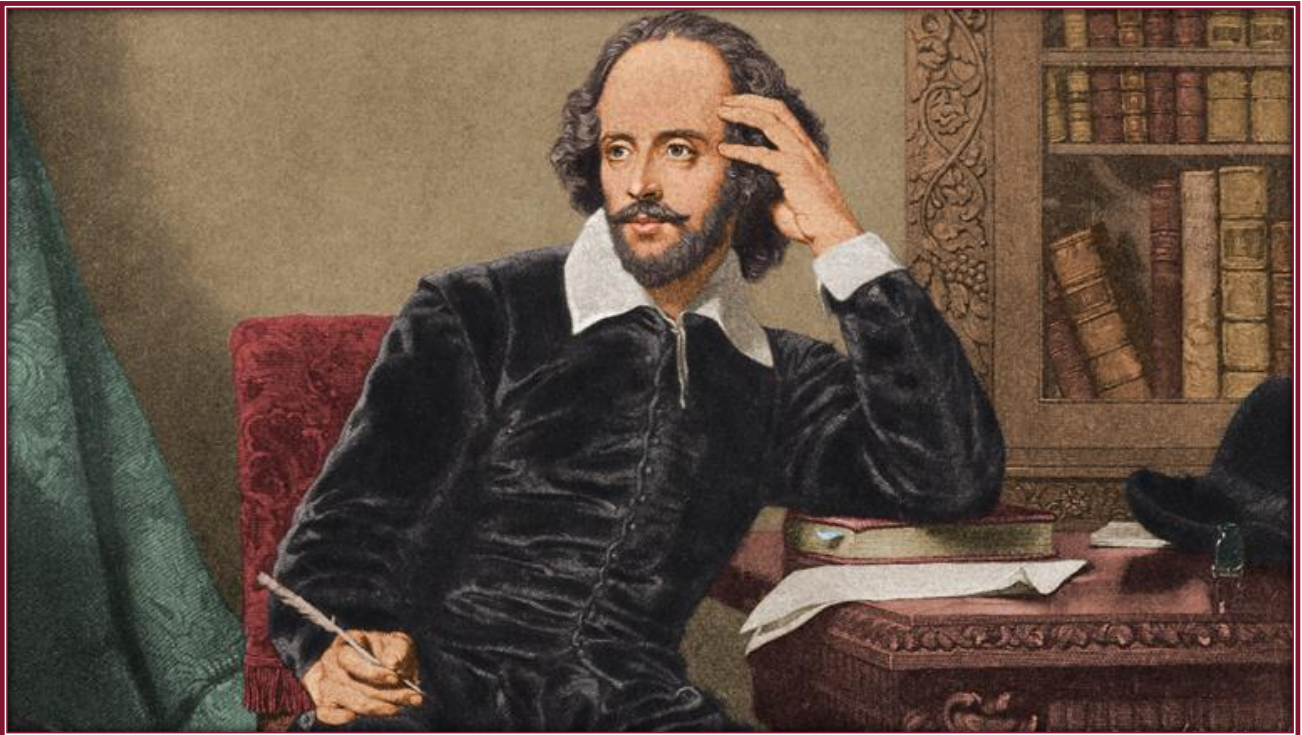
I have always been interested and excelled in the STEM subjects at school, achieving a grade 7 in chemistry at GCSE level. My favourite module in A Level chemistry is definitely the development of practical skills in chemistry. I enjoy doing experiments in the lab as it allows you to put your prior knowledge into use. Despite being a challenging subject, topics are presented in fun and enticing ways, making lessons feel enjoyable. The teachers are also incredibly encouraging and supportive during the more difficult modules.

I really enjoy my chemistry studies and would definitely recommend it to other students. It has opened up many routes for my future and can be applied in many professions.

A Level - English Literature

What is it about?

On this course, students are asked to develop personal responses to a wide range of literary texts, from Shakespeare through to contemporary poetry. The course from Edexcel allows students to develop their expression and communication in response to drama, prose, poetry and critical theory. Reading is also a major part of this course, and students enjoy reading independently, as well as considering the views of others in discussion.



Modules of study include:

- Drama – Tragedy: *Othello* by (including critical theory) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- Prose – Women and Society: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- Poetry: Poems of the Decade and Selected Poems of Christina Rossetti
- A comparison of two texts chosen by the student

What is expected of me during the course?

- You will need to have passed GCSE English Literature at grade 5 or above.
- You will need to be self-motivated, hardworking, an avid reader, and interested in discovering the way that literature reflects us as human beings.
- You will need to be able to think critically and reflectively about your own ideas, and those of others.

How is the course assessed?

- Drama: 2 hours 15 minutes open-book examination, worth 30% of the qualification.
- Prose: 1 hour 15 minutes open-book examination, worth 20% of the qualification.

- Poetry: 2 hours 15 minutes open-book examination, worth 30% of the qualification.
- Non-examination Assessment: Students have a free choice of two texts to study. Worth 20% of the qualification.

What can I combine this subject with?

The skills learned in English literature transfer most easily to analytical subjects such as history, modern languages, religious studies and art.

What can I do with this qualification?

English literature is highly regarded by universities, and develops skills sought after by institutions offering journalism, writing, editing, publication, law, marketing, media, public relations and advertising.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Barlow or Mrs Hayes

A Level English Literature – Macie Crellin



I am Macie and I am currently in year 13 studying English literature, English language and religious studies. I not only achieved my highest grades at GCSE in these three subjects, but they are areas that I find interesting and enjoy studying. I am hoping to achieve As and Bs in my subjects at A level.

Currently in English literature, I am studying Frankenstein by Mary Shelley which I am finding extremely interesting. We recently visited Theatre by the Lake in Keswick in which we attended a live viewing of Frankenstein which not only developed my understanding of the play but sparked a further interest. Alongside this, I am studying modern poetry which allows me to explore the many different aspects of poetry and interpret my own meanings for each. Although this is an area which can often be challenging, as we progress it is

becoming easier to tackle. I am looking forward to the course work aspect of this subject as it allows us creative freedom in our choice of books and topics to research. This excites me as I enjoy creative writing and expressing my own opinions through my writing.

I believe the skills that I will gain in this subject, such as essay writing, will be transferable to future careers I am hoping to pursue, as well as writing my university applications. My ambition is to study professional dance at university which will combine my passion for dance with my love for academic studies.

A Level - French

Who is the course for?

People who are curious, willing to work hard, have imagination and a sense of humour. By the end of the course you should be able to discuss and write in French about any topic from politics to bake-off competitions, fashion to nuclear fusion. You will be introduced to French film, music, theatre, literature and history and have a firm grammatical understanding.

What will you study?

You will study films, music and literary, political or historical texts, carry out your own research into the language and customs of a French speaking country and develop your spoken, written, listening and reading skills to university entrance level.

Unit 1 - Les changements dans la société française.

Unit 2 - La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones.

Unit 3 - L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française.

Unit 4 - L'Occupation et la Résistance en France.

How is the course assessed?

You will learn in a variety of ways, including demonstrations, skills workshops, formal lessons and individual tuition. You will have your own online textbook as well as a paper version in class which will enable you to progress at your own pace. You will be expected to accurately self-assess some work.



There is also a programme of on-going and end of module tests. You will be able to complete and submit these online assessments and tests when you feel confident enough to do so but within the

allocated time period. We organise a week's residential visit which is designed to improve your cultural knowledge as well as prepare you for your speaking exam.

Your final assessment at A level will be with the completion of three exams with Edexcel.

- Paper 1 - Listening, reading and translation.
- Paper 2 - Written responses to works and translation.
- Paper 3 - Speaking.

What is required to join the course?

You will need to have passed GCSE French at grade 6 or above.

What next?

A level French could lead on to a language degree or a degree with a language component, typically a business-related, history or law degree. A language A level is highly regarded by university admissions tutors. Your linguistic skills are also highly prized by businesses in all sectors and are a valuable tool for securing employment. Recent A level French students from Netherhall School have gone on to study languages, law, medicine, maths, business, criminal psychology, the expressive arts, journalism and sport at university.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Monsieur Machard, Madame Fox or Monsieur Pattinson

A Level French – Daniel Woods



Hello, my name is Dan and I study French, physics and maths at A level. I have been at Netherhall School since year 7 and I must say that it has been a great time. In the future I want to do a degree apprenticeship at Sellafield in engineering.

French was an easy choice for me at sixth form because of how much I enjoyed it at GCSE. I developed an interest in the language and the French culture during KS4 and I wanted to further develop my understanding. At A level, you don't just learn a language, but you learn the history, the culture and anything else you choose in the Individual Research Project. This allows you to research a topic of your choice on something in France. You also get to study a film, *La Haine*, and the novel *No et Moi*.

If you make the smart choice of taking French at A level in Netherhall, you will be taught by three amazing teachers: Monsieur Pattinson, Monsieur Machard and Madame Fox. Simply being able to speak a different language is such an advantage, and this opportunity is one that you cannot miss.

A Level - Geography

What is it about?

The AQA Geography course aims to excite your minds, challenge perceptions about the world today and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. It will equip you with the knowledge of the world and skills sought by higher education and employers.



There are three units of study in year 12 and three units in year 13.

Year 12	
Physical Geography	Human Geography
<p>Water and carbon cycles: We will focus on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them.</p>	<p>Changing places: We will focus on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them. We will focus on two contrasting places, Maryport and a suburb of Birmingham.</p>
<p>Coastal systems and landscapes: We will focus on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments.</p>	<p>Global systems and global governance: We will focus on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes which have been a key feature of the global economy and society in recent decades.</p>
Year 13	
<p>Ecosystems under stress: We will focus on the biosphere, in particular the nature and functioning of ecosystems and their relationships to human activities. We will study tropical rainforests, savanna grasslands and coral reefs.</p>	<p>Contemporary urban environments: We will focus on urban growth and change, processes found nearly everywhere, which present significant environmental and social challenges. We will focus on Newcastle, Mexico City and many other locations.</p>
<p>Fieldwork: We will undertake four days of fieldwork, divided between physical and human geography.</p>	<p>Independent Fieldwork Investigation: You will undertake an independent investigation based on a question or issue defined and developed by you.</p>

How will I be assessed?

- **Paper 1:** Physical Geography (2 hours 30 mins), 40% of the A level
- **Paper 2:** Human Geography (2 hours 30 mins), 40% of the A level
- **Independent Fieldwork Investigation** (3,000 – 4,000 words) 20% of the A level

Who can take this subject?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in geography at GCSE and also have a range of good GCSE passes. These would be at least grade 5s, especially in science subjects and English.

What can I combine with this subject?

Geography beautifully compliments most subjects as it sits right in the middle of the arts / humanities and the sciences.

What can I do with this qualification?

Geography has been identified as a 'facilitating subject', these are preferred subjects that the Russell Group of Universities have identified as opening up a wide range of options for university students. This is because geographers are multi-skilled people with a good understanding of the world they work in. Geographers enter a wide variety of professions.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Bradley or Mr Blades

A Level Geography – Alfie Volkaerts

Hi, my name is Alfie, and I am studying A level geography, history, and English literature. I initially joined Netherhall as a year 7 back in 2019 and I am glad to say I have enjoyed every year so far. After school, I aim to go to university to study history in hopes of becoming a teacher. Geography has always been a favourite of mine alongside English and history. It is an interesting subject to study based on the pure variety of topics you can look at and the various locations you get to learn about. I personally am more of a fan of the physical side of geography, the side that encompasses rocks, weather, and rivers.

Geography grants students invaluable lessons and information that is sure to help them in their future lives. The teachers are friendly and passionate about their subject, instilling confidence and enthusiasm in every lesson.

I have benefited greatly from being a geography student using the knowledge I have gained from lessons. It is a wonderful subject that brings unique opportunities, such as the interactive school trips I have had the pleasure of attending. Overall, I would highly recommend geography as a subject to anyone who is considering it, as it is more than worth it.



OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 - Health and Social Care

What is it about?

The health and social care level 3 is offered as a single award qualification, equivalent to one A level.

Please note that due to recent Government changes this qualification may alter slightly. The content and specific topics are expected to remain broadly in line with what we have stated here. However, there may be some slight modifications. As soon as we have received confirmation from the exam board we shall make this information available to students.

Extended certificate (single award / 1 A level) - 360hrs.

This will cover 6 units - Equality & Diversity, Health & Safety, Anatomy & Physiology (all externally examined), Building Positive Relationships (compulsory coursework), plus two other optional coursework units from a choice of 8.



What is expected of me during the course?

Over the two years you will be expected to take a full and active part in all learning activities, including group projects, role plays, practical activities, presentations, independent learning and work experience placements in health and social care settings. All students would benefit from finding a long-term work experience placement (e.g. a morning or afternoon per week for the full year), rather than just the year 12 work experience week alone.

The accumulation of hours that a long-term placement would give will be valuable experience that could be used in UCAS applications, especially for social work, teaching or nursing. Although some time in lessons is given for typing assignments, students will be expected to do independent

research and improvements in their study lessons. A commitment to doing your best in and out of class is essential.

There is a lot of written coursework to complete during the two years. All deadlines must be met, without fail, and students will be given the necessary help to achieve distinction in each coursework unit. Personal organisation and good time management are therefore vital. Grade 4 and above in English and biology will help with the maturity, quality and depth of writing required and the compulsory science content.

What can I do with this qualification?

Level 3 qualifications in health and social care will prepare you for employment in a wide range of caring, medical and public service sectors and in higher education in general; however, the transferable skills learned will be useful in any employment, regardless of the sector.

All degrees at university accept this qualification in conjunction with other A levels or BTECs, and the final P, M, D & D* grades are worth the same number of UCAS points as the academic grades E, C, A & A*.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Fisher

Health and Social Care – Katie Mackay

I joined Netherhall School in 2019 and I am currently studying the single health and social care award with A level religious studies and applied science. Since starting sixth form in 2024, I have developed my knowledge and life skills. I have taken part in paired reading with younger students, the social action project, young enterprise, and I am currently completing the gold Duke of Edinburgh award. There are plenty of opportunities to make a contribution in sixth form!

I was interested in taking health and social care following my GCSEs where I achieved a distinction star. I knew from an early stage that I wanted to choose this as an option. I am enjoying learning about the dementia unit as well as the exam section which includes learning about anatomy. These things have helped me to understand different conditions, symptoms and how to best care for vulnerable people. In the future, I am looking forward to organising an event for elderly people and people with disabilities as I think it will be good to apply the skills I have learnt in the course to real-life scenarios. I hope to be a mental health nurse in the future and feel that this course was the best option to prepare me for the future. I would highly recommend this subject to younger students.



A Level – History



What is it about?

<p>Unit 1 Britain: 1930 - 1997</p>	<p>Part 1: This is a fantastic course that covers British history from 1930 to 1997. The first part of the course looks at Churchill between 1930 and 1951. We consider Churchill's view of events between 1929 and 1934, which help explain why he is such a controversial figure today. We then go on to study Churchill as wartime prime minister, considering whether it really was his "finest hour."</p> <p>Part 2: This part of the course considers Britain between 1951 and 1997. We question why the Conservative Party were able to dominate between 1951 and 1964 and also consider the Labour and Conservative governments between 1964 and 79. We then go on to consider another divisive figure, Margaret Thatcher, and consider the 'end of consensus' from 1979-1997.</p>
<p>Unit 2 Democracy and dictatorships in Germany: 1919 - 1963</p>	<p>We begin with an assessment of the impact of WWI and the Treaty of Versailles. We examine the establishment and struggles of the democratic Weimar Republic. We consider how an extremist such as Hitler was able to become Chancellor in 1933 and eventually dictator of Germany. We assess how much control the Nazis wielded over the German people and the impact that their policies had on people's lives. We study the impact of WWII and the defeat of Germany in 1945. One of the most thought-provoking elements of the course gets us to question how and why the Holocaust was possible and the extent to which the German people supported it. Finally, we examine the divided nature of post-war Germany, between democratic/ capitalist West Germany and Communist East Germany, between 1949 and 1963.</p>
<p>Unit 3 Thematic study and historical interpretations</p>	<p>The Tudor dynasty is one of the most famous royal families and we tend to see them as the strongest English monarchs, but this was not the case at the beginning of their dynasty. Henry VII was a usurper of the English throne, having defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. As the course progresses, we consider the main causes of rebellion and disorder, the frequency and nature of disturbances, the impact of disturbances upon Tudor governments and the maintenance of political stability. We study the rebellions in depth: The Pilgrimage of Grace, the Western Rebellion and Tyrone's Rebellion (in Ireland).</p>

<p>Unit 4</p> <p>Historical Investigation</p>	<p>The final unit of Year 13 history, involves writing a 3,500 word personal enquiry. This is the unit that prepares students well for university. Students are given free choice to write their coursework on a question of their choice. Students complete independent research and write their coursework with guidance from their teacher. This is a real opportunity to produce a piece of academic work to be proud of.</p>
---	---

What is expected of me during this course?

You must have at least a grade 5 in GCSE history to study this OCR A level history course.

What can I combine this subject with?

History combines well with most subjects but is particularly popular with students studying English, geography and RS. History is also useful to those studying maths and sciences as it develops different skills.

What can I do with this qualification?

History develops many skills that are essential for all types of further education, such as essay writing and research skills. At university it can be studied by itself and is particularly useful as part of business and law degrees.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Rainsley or Mr Johnston

A level history – Erin Forsyth

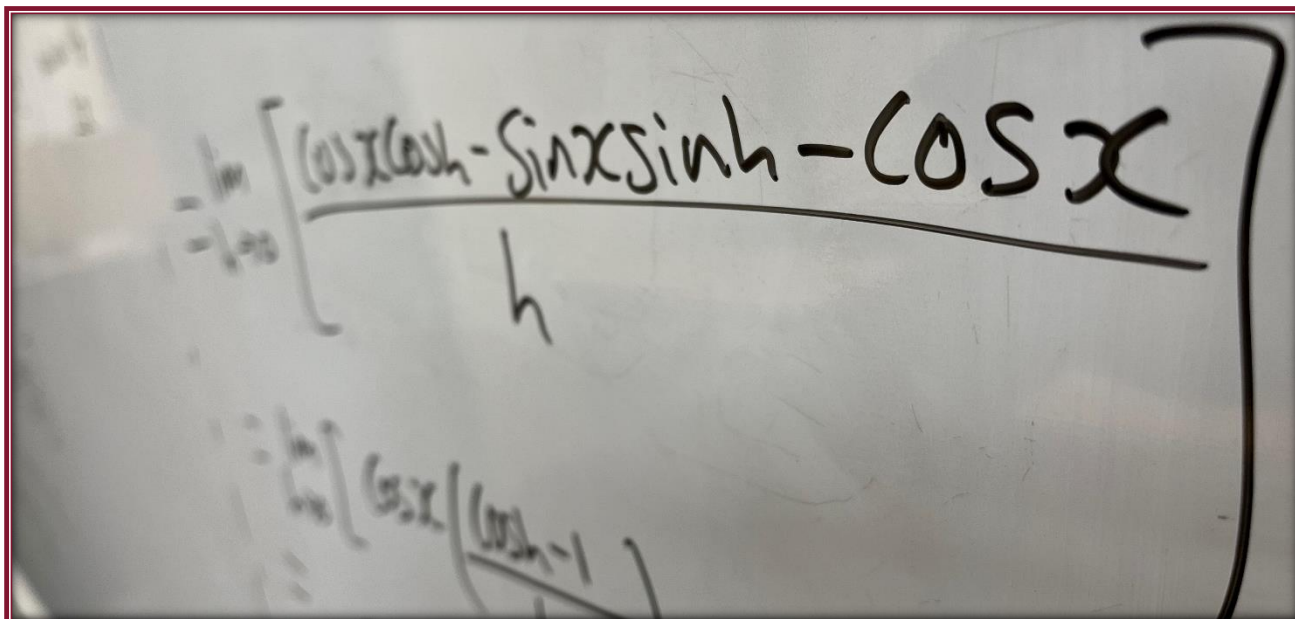
My name is Erin, and I study history, English literature and health and social care. I also participate in the Young Enterprise group and I'm doing my EPQ, which helps with research and writing.

A level history is a great continuation from GCSE, as the course is enjoyable to learn and the teachers are very supportive to the students in helping them to understand the courses. I am wishing to achieve an A by the end of this course which will help me in my future goals when I finish at the sixth form.

The courses includes Britain, which focuses on British politics from 1930-1997. This is extremely interesting to learn about as it helps us understand how certain things such as the NHS were founded and how Britain has changed politically through the decades. The Germany unit is especially fascinating, as it focuses on how Germany was affected by the wars and the politics that happened during that time, and how it became the country it is today. I am looking forward to learning about the Tudors, and doing my own historical investigation next year. I would recommend A level history to anybody who has an interest in history as a subject.



A Level - Mathematics



The image shows a whiteboard with a handwritten mathematical formula. The formula is
$$\frac{\cos x \cosh h - \sin x \sinh h - \cos x}{h}$$
 and is enclosed in a large hand-drawn bracket on the right side. Below this, there is another partially visible formula:
$$\frac{\cos x (\cosh h - 1)}{h}$$

What is it about?

The A level mathematics course will build upon many of the ideas you have been studying at GCSE. You will develop a deeper understanding of topics such as algebra, logarithms, trigonometry, differentiation and sequences and be introduced to new ideas such as integration proof and logs. This Edexcel course also covers content on statistics and mechanics.

What is expected of me during the course?

You will need to have obtained at least grade 7 in mathematics at GCSE. The course is assessed at the end of two years by three externally examined papers, each worth 1/3 of the final marks.

- **Paper 1** - Pure mathematics 1 (2 hours).
- **Paper 2** - Pure mathematics 2 (2 hours).
- **Paper 3** - Statistics and mechanics (2 hours).

You will need a more advanced calculator than the one required for GCSE Maths. As a minimum, the Casio FX-991EX is required, but a graphical calculator is recommended. The casio FX-CG50 is our recommendation and you can purchase these through school at a reduced rate.

What can I combine this subject with?

Maths combines well with all the sciences, geography, arts and languages.

What can I do with this qualification?

University courses concerning or leading to accountancy, actuarial services (statistics/insurance), investment banking, civil service, teaching, diplomatic service, health service, government, public health, management, software design, telecommunications, environmental consultancy, medical research, surveying, engineering, cryptography (code writing/breaking), financial computing, medical statistician, weather forecasting, defence analysis, operational research, business management, mathematical/IT sciences, electronic and electrical engineering, micro-technology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Juhasz or Miss Wright

A level maths – Amber Walker

My name is Amber and currently I am in year 12 studying A level French, maths, and English literature. I aspire to go to university and study maths alongside a foreign language (preferably Mandarin, German or Korean) so that I can move abroad and pursue a career in mathematics. I am aiming to achieve As and A*s in not only these subjects, but also my EPQ.

Despite how hard it can be, maths has always retained my interest due to the complexities that follow, as well as the problem-solving aspect. The challenge of the subject leads to it being one of the most rewarding in the end. As maths often has a concrete answer, it feels gratifying when you're correct, especially when it's on a topic you struggle with.

Maths is a versatile subject and can help in many different professions. It can improve and develop your logical thinking and problem-solving skills, so I highly recommend taking it for A Level if you have the diligence. The teachers are very supportive and always there to help, so never be afraid to ask.



A Level Music

What is it about?

A level music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative education in music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing and appraising. You are encouraged to be creative and to broaden your musical horizons and understanding with areas of study that inspire and challenge.

This course will enable you to explore performance and composition in greater detail and allow you to choose a specialism in performance or composition. Through the various genres, styles and eras, you will explore musical context, musical language and performance and composition skills. Studying an A level in music has options and pathways designed to appeal to, and cater for, a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities and directions. During the course, you will:



- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression
- Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- Develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Reflect critically and make personal judgements on your own and others' music
- Engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development
- Recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising underpinned by attentive listening
- Develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of instruments and styles, and of relevant approaches to both performing and composing
- Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology.

What is expected of me during the course?

You will need to be creative and happy to perform in a public setting, both as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble. You must be able to play an instrument or sing to a good standard, this will require you to commit to regular practice at home.

What can I combine this subject with?

Music combines with any subject, but in particular creative subjects like art, photography and English because it requires a similar creative yet methodical approach. You will develop your ICT skills, as you will be required to work extensively with recording software and hardware.

What can I do with this qualification?

Any music-based degree or music-based course. This can lead to careers in performing, composing, teaching, or music technology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Newton or Mr McCrickerd

A level Music – Kadie Harrison

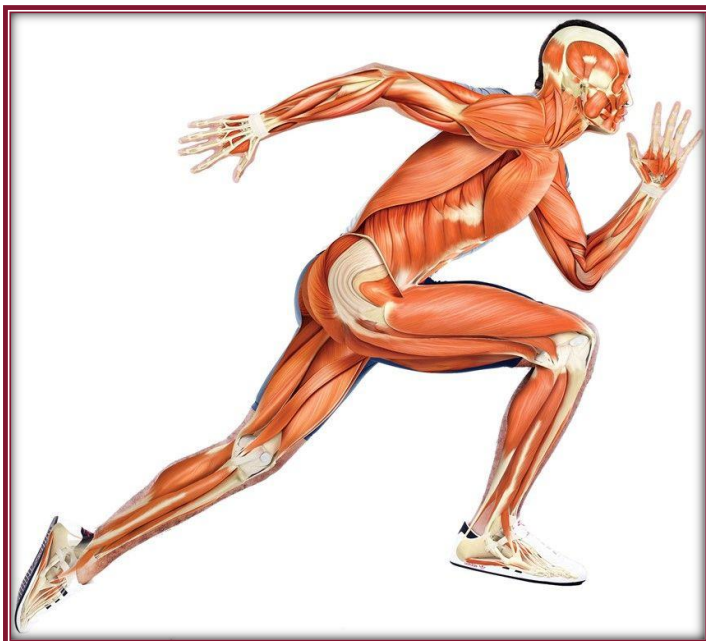
Hello, my name is Kadie. I study A level music alongside chemistry and English literature here at Netherhall School. I had been playing music for several years before I began the A level, however we have been introduced to lots of new ideas and concepts since the start of the course. For example, I have recently learnt how to identify chords and major scale modes in order to perform jazz standards such as *Autumn Leaves*.



In my opinion A level music is an excellent choice for both creative and academic people. We have lots of opportunity to play in performances, and to think about production and score analysis. Music is simultaneously challenging and exciting, encouraging you to learn new skills all the time.

In the future I wish to be either a music teacher or a chemical engineer. Currently I also perform regular gigs at weekends, and I feel that my music studies have given me many amazing opportunities and experiences.

A Level – Physical Education



What is it about?

A Level PE expands on many of the theoretical ideas and concepts already encountered at GCSE. It also provides an enhancement for students who have studied GCSE PE by extending their knowledge of skills, techniques and effective performance. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding within applied anatomy, physiology and biomechanics, taking a greater insight into the workings of the human body. They will also learn about sport psychology and skill acquisition, where students will need to be able to apply these theories of learning and performing to a variety of sporting

situations. Finally, they will look at the historical relevance of sport and the impact it has made on society and exploring the contemporary issues such as technology on sport and the performer.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE PE in order to take this course. It is also advisable for students to have achieved 5 or above in GCSE science (or biology) due to the scientific content you will learn. Due to the practical component of the course, it is also imperative that students play a competitive sport regularly outside of school. This sport must be from the AQA A level PE specification. This includes competing in a competitive context (e.g. matches, races, competitions etc.) regularly as you will be required to film these matches yourselves as part of the practical aspect of the course. The written coursework aspect of the course and the extended long mark questions in the exams will require a confident grasp of literacy.

What can I combine this subject with?

A level PE combines well with subjects with a scientific element such as A level biology, applied sciences and health and social care.

What can I do with this qualification?

An A level in PE will allow a candidate to access university in one of the following areas; sport science, sport psychology, physiotherapy, sports coaching, sports therapy, sports management, teaching, personal training and sports journalism



WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Smith, Miss Lawson or Mr Watt

A level PE – Finlay Routledge

My name is Finlay and I am currently studying PE, ICT and geography in 6th form. I am aiming to follow on from GCSE PE where I achieved grade 7 and achieve at least grade B in my A level, hopefully grade A. in the future I am hoping to go to university and study either sports or business.

I started studying PE at GCSE in year 10. Ever since I started I have learnt lots of key skills in a wide range of sports. The lessons have been extremely enjoyable as we get to see how the human body works and the factors that affect athlete performance. We also have the opportunity to participate in lots of practical lessons improving our sport skills. My chosen sports in GCSE were football, rugby and athletics. These sports have given me the opportunity to travel and compete around the region.

Throughout the course at A level I will need to complete a combination of coursework and exams. I will also need to gather footage from two halves of football games where I have performed well. I will then need to analyse my own performances and consider how they can be improved.

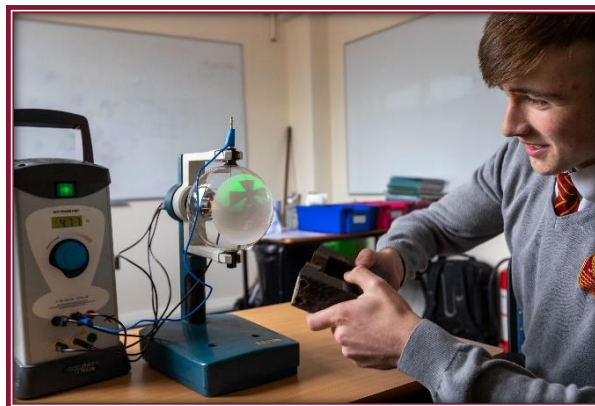
Both in and outside school I have played multiple sports. My main sport has been football. I have represented Netherhall in all age groups, competing in a wide range of competitions, including winning the Allerdale Cup. I am proud to say that I have also captained the side. Alongside this I have played at academy level from U12 to U16, and currently play for Maryport Amateurs U18s. I have also been a regular for the school rugby team. The range of sporting opportunities at Netherhall is fantastic. Having the chance to play so much sport has really supported me to do well in the A level course.



A Level - Physics

What is it about?

Physics has an important role in our consideration of why many of the actions we see on Earth (and beyond) take place. It gives us an understanding of the benefits and risks of many physical processes, including electric and magnetic fields and nuclear radiation. Students will study the course offered by the Edexcel exam board (specification for 2015) in order to develop their mathematical responses whilst considering mechanics, oscillations and particles for example. Practical investigative tasks structure a large part of the curriculum, allowing students to apply their knowledge and understanding to real life situations within the school laboratory.



How is it structured?

Your A level course is divided into 13 topics taught over two years, this also includes 12 required practicals.

1. **Working as a physicist:** In this module you will learn about the theory of measurement. You will learn how to use base and derived quantities and also SI units.
2. **Mechanics:** In this module, you will study statics and kinematics, and apply the equations of uniformly accelerated motion.
3. **Electric circuits:** In this module, you will learn how to derive a number of electrical quantities including charge, potential difference, current and work done.
4. **Materials:** In this module you will learn about density, Archimedes' principle, and Stokes' law of viscous drag. You will investigate Hooke's law and measure the Young modulus of a material.
5. **Waves and the particle nature of light:** In this module, you will investigate the properties of sound and light waves. Your study will begin with the nature of transverse and longitudinal waves, how to measure them, and how to apply these measurements in a practical to determine the speed of sound in air.
6. **Further mechanics:** In this module, you will study momentum changes and how these relate to Newton's second law. You will also consider elastic and inelastic collisions and the energies of non-relativistic particles.
7. **Electric and magnetic fields:** In this module, you will learn about the nature of electric and magnetic fields, how they arise, and their effect on charged particles.
8. **Nuclear and particle physics:** In this module, you will learn about the different particles that make up the Standard Model of particle physics, how these particles interact, and how the conservation laws apply to each interaction.
9. **Thermodynamics:** In this module, you will learn about specific heat capacity, specific latent heat and internal energy.
10. **Space physics:** In this module, you will learn how to determine astronomical distances using trigonometric parallax and standard candles. You will discover how to sketch and interpret Hertzsprung-Russell diagrams and relate these to the life-cycle of a star.
11. **Nuclear radiation:** In this module, you will use Einstein's $E = mc^2$ equation to understand how changes in the nucleus drive the processes of nuclear fusion and fission. You will explore the

properties of alpha, beta and gamma radiation through practical activities using radioactive sources.

12. **Gravitational fields:** In this module, you will learn how to describe the gravitational field of a mass using Newton's law of gravitation, how this relates to the acceleration due to gravity on Earth, and also how to calculate the work done when moving between any two points in space.
13. **Oscillations:** In this module, you will learn the fundamentals of simple harmonic motion. You will formulate equations to describe the motion of oscillating systems and use these to predict how changing different quantities will affect this motion.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE physics or a grade 7 in the physics component of combined science (trilogy) before considering taking this course. To be successful in physics you need to be well organised, complete all tasks set, be prepared to engage in wider reading and have a genuine interest in the subject. You will also find it beneficial to study A level maths alongside physics. Assessment is by way of three exams at the end of the course.

What can I combine this subject with?

Physics combines with a range of other A level subjects, especially maths and chemistry.

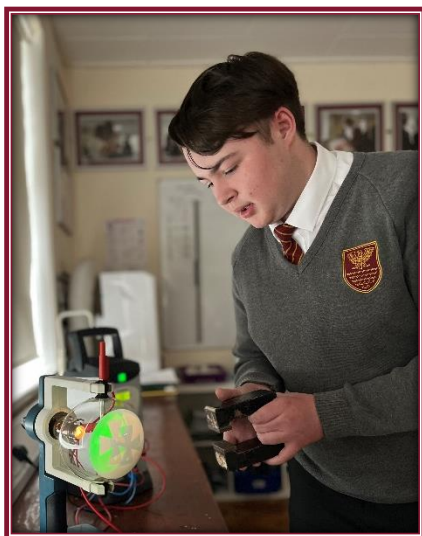
What can I do with this qualification?

A level physics is usually required in order to undertake degree courses in engineering, physics or mathematics and can be an advantage when applying for medicine, veterinary science and sports science. It can also be beneficial when applying for engineering type apprenticeships with local companies.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Richardson or Mrs Shipton

A level physics – Daniel Brown



For my A levels I am studying physics, maths and French. I have always been interested in physics. My interest has only grown since starting the A level. I am hoping to achieve As in all my subjects to give me the best chance in obtaining a degree apprenticeship which is a combination of the subjects I have taken.

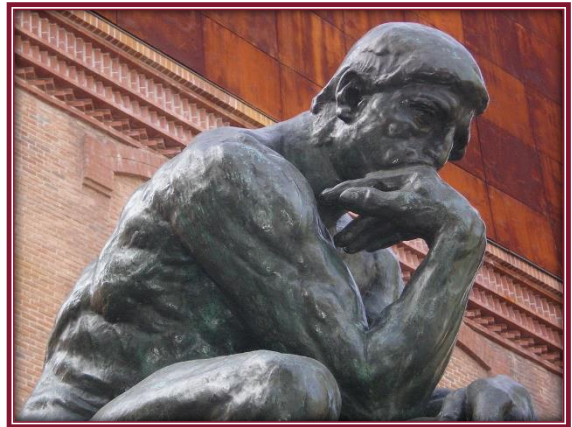
A level physics is a great option for anyone who enjoyed the subject in GCSE as the course grows and builds on what you have learned. From my brief time on the course I am really enjoying covering familiar topics in much more depth and detail, as you gain a really thorough understanding. The topics are also very varied, covering units such as electric circuits, forces and space physics. Having good maths skills is also an essential for the course as there are complex equations you

need to work with. Maths is especially useful for the mechanics topic as there is some quite challenging questions to resolve, but I really enjoy the problem-solving aspect.

A Level - Religious Studies

What is it about?

Have you ever wondered if life may not be entirely as it seems? Or questioned whether a good God can really exist with so much evil in the world? Or thought about whether humans do have such things as souls, free will or a conscience? Or how people come to decide what is right and wrong? And why people disagree so frequently in business, medicine and politics? This course will help you to explore various answers to these questions and to many, many more.



How is it structured?

Your OCR A level in religious studies is divided into three linked sections.

Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences.
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God.
- The nature and impact of religious experience.
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil.
- The nature of the soul, mind and body.
- The possibility of life after death.
- Ideas about the nature of God.
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories.
- Ethical language and thought.
- Debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience and free will.
- The influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion.

Development in Christian Thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority.
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition.
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought.
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved grade 5 in GCSE RS before considering taking this stimulating yet academically demanding course. Over the two years, you will be expected to take a full and active part in all learning activities both in class and in your own free time. A commitment to doing your best in and out of class is essential.

What can I do with this qualification?

A level RS can lead to degrees in philosophy, religion and ethics, sociology or psychology as well as careers in any profession where understanding people's attitudes and behaviour is important e.g. teacher, lawyer, business manager, police etc.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Holliday, Miss Barcock or Mrs Bishop

A level religious studies – Isla Hadden

Hi, my name is Isla. I'm currently in year 12 studying Religious studies, English literature and fine art. I have been interested in RE throughout secondary school, however the A level RE course offers a complex, deep understanding of both religion and philosophy.

I thoroughly enjoy my RE lessons as it is a space to share ideas and engage in healthy debates with classmates; by talking about our own personal perspective, you can often understand alternative interpretations and include these in your own writing. Religious studies as a whole has opened me up to understanding others and their views, instead of judging them against mine. By questioning why things are the way they are within the world, it's given me a broader understanding and interest in life as a whole. Arguably, philosophical questions bring about meanings to our everyday existence, A level RE encourages you to engage with ideas that you might find challenging - resulting in a better understanding of the actions and lives of other people.



Overall, I would recommend religious studies to every student. Even if you aren't interested in religion, it helps you understand and accept the actions of groups of people and develops communication skills by projecting and arguing your own ideas.

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 - Sport and Physical Activity

What is it about?

This qualification is for students who want to study sport, leisure or fitness. The OCR qualification is not just about being able to play sport, it will provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into higher education on a sport-related programme such as sport and physical education, sport science, sport coaching and development, or sport and leisure management.



Your OCR course will be divided into 5 units:

Two units will be exam based and assessed externally, while the other three units will be based around written and practical coursework.

Unit	Units	Assessment Type	Learning Hours
1	Body systems and the effects of physical activity.	External exam.	90
2	Sports coaching and activity leadership.	Internal assessment.	90
3	Sports organisation and development.	External exam.	60
4	Organisation of sports events.	Internal assessment.	60
5	Practical skills in sport and physical activities.	Internal assessment.	60



What is expected of me during the course?

You will need to be able to have a confident grasp of literacy, as much of the internally assessed work will be written coursework. You will need to have experience of various sports and practical activities, as you will need to demonstrate your sporting ability in three areas, including an individual sport, team game and outdoor adventure activity.

What can I do with this qualification?

The OCR level 3 in sport and physical activity will prepare you for employment in various sectors, such as coaching and the leisure industry and will also help you move into higher education.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Smith, Miss Smith or Mrs Holliday

Sport and physical activity – Ava Maxwell

My name is Ava and I am currently studying sport and physical activity, A-Level PE and health and social care in 6th form. I am aiming to follow on from receiving a 7 in GCSE PE, and hopefully receive the equivalent at A-level. After 6th form, I am considering studying sport at university.

I began studying PE at GCSE in year 9. From that point, I have since learnt that in sport there is a wide variety of opportunities and career paths that could help me in the future. The subject has given me lots of new knowledge and skills, including things such as how to plan a sporting event and how the musculoskeletal system works. I will have the opportunity to deliver a sports session to a group of younger students, where I will be able to pass on my knowledge and understanding of the sport, which will then hopefully allow the students to learn new skills. I have also begun to referee games in my chosen sport, which is rugby. This allows me to view the game from a different perspective and to further develop my understanding of the rules. This subject consists of three different sections, coursework, practical, and examination. I enjoy learning the content that will be needed for the final examination, this interests me as it contributes to the development of my future career.

I have played a variety of sports in school, including rugby which I also play outside of school. My favourite sport has always been rugby league. I have captained the school's rugby team, and I represented Maryport's under 16's.



Uniform

Sixth Form Uniform

Uniform for all sixth form students is as follows:

Available from Gift and Stitch Aspatia:

- Grey jumper or cardigan embroidered with the Netherhall School logo.
- Netherhall School tie.
- Optional black blazer with Netherhall badge.
- A school skirt - a black Trutex senior stitch down 20 inches pleated skirt which is available on the school's online shop (please note that no other type of skirt is acceptable)

Available from a shop of your choice

- White shirt.
- Black trousers which must be loose fitting (denim/leggings/combat-type trousers or any other variation are not acceptable).
- Completely black shoes or trainers.

Expectations regarding jewellery and piercings are the same as for the whole school. There are no formal uniform requirements for PE kit in the sixth form.



Useful Information

- Main School Reception - 01900 813434
- Netherhall Community Sports Centre - 01900 813434 - Option 3
- Email: office@netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk
- School Website: www.netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk



"Students have considerable respect for their teachers because they believe their teachers are doing a great job."

Tel: 01900 813434 Ext. 0 (Main Reception)

Email: office@netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr. David Tromans BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH MEd

www.netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk | www.facebook.com/NetherhallSch