



Leeds
Sixth Form
College



Prospectus 2025

A different ✦ type ✦ of sixth form





Open Events

16 October 2024
4.30-7pm

18 January 2025
10am-1pm

13 November 2024
4.30-7pm

18 March 2025
4.30-7pm

12 June 2025
4.30-7pm



scan the QR code



to find out more
about our events!

Contents

Contents

Contents

Contents

Contents

Contents

Contents

Contents

Contents

Open Events	3
Principal's Welcome	6
Mission Statement and Values	10
What our Students Say	12
Getting Here	14
Public Transport	16
Facilities	18
ilearn (Independent Learning)	22
Entry Requirements	24
Hybrid Programmes	26
Step Up to A Level (SUTA)	28
The Application Process	32
Academic and Pastoral Support	34
Financial Support	35
Student Life	37
Information for Parents and Guardians	44
Contact Information	49
Leeds Sports Connect	50
Our Courses	52





Principal's Welcome

Here at Leeds Sixth Form College, we understand that each student is an individual and no two journeys are the same. Rather than focus exclusively on your destination after sixth form, we want to talk about distance travelled - how far you've come, how much further we can move you beyond your expected grades, and how we can help you to travel more confidently on your unique journey.

Here we want to treat you as an adult, to better prepare you for the world after college. You will call teachers by their first names, be encouraged to explore your interests, and be free to express your individuality. You'll do all this with the support of your tutors, who will cultivate your curiosity, help you grow as a person and ensure you're on track to realise your ambitions.

The broad range of courses on offer reflect our values, by making every student feel included no matter their background, grades or aspirations. Our strong links with universities and the local community allow us to support each student to realise their full potential.

Academic excellence is our priority; whether you aspire to university or skilled employment, we will prepare you to meet those challenges with a thorough understanding of your subject. With exceptionally well-qualified teaching staff, many of whom have previously taught at universities, you will learn from experts and be challenged to realise your aspirations.

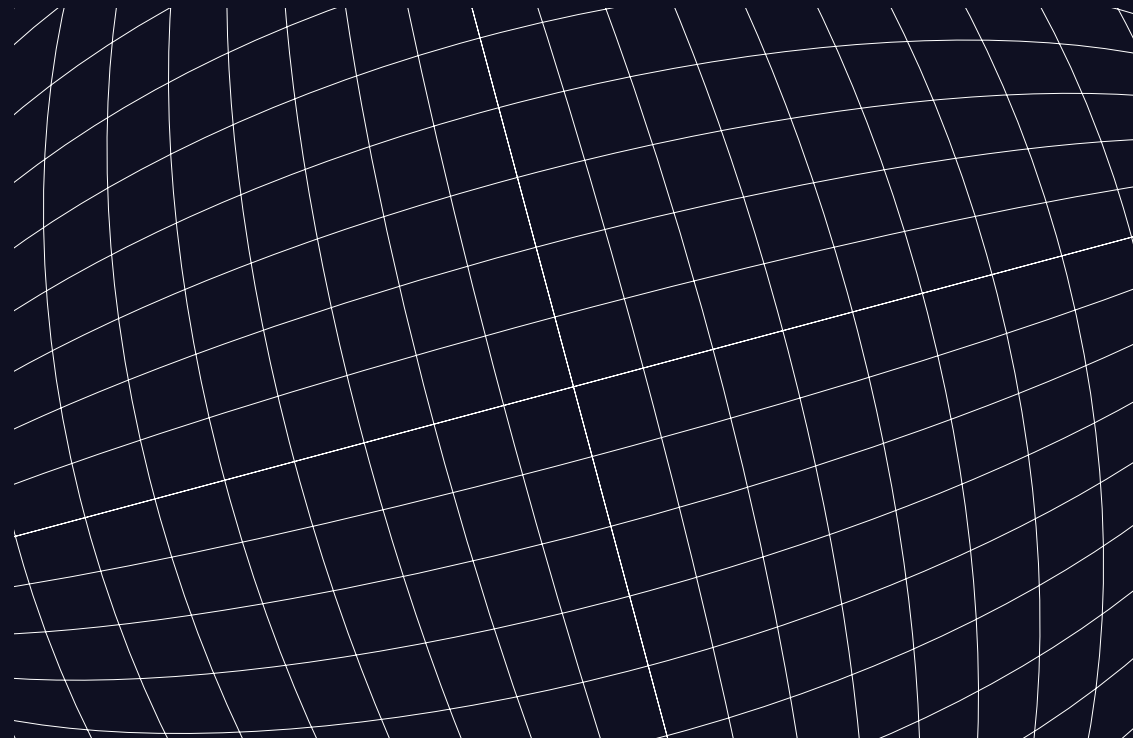
Our college offers you a fresh start, a chance to meet like-minded individuals, engage in superb trips, visits and enrichments, and pursue your passions.

We believe that education has the power to be transformative. Aim high and we will help you get there.

Phil Mark
Principal of Leeds Sixth Form College

something
something
something
something
new.

Try
something
something
something
something



Mission Statement and Values

A vibrant, innovative centre of education in the heart of a buzzing metropolis, Leeds Sixth Form College delivers first-class education that raises aspirations and drives success. We empower you to be your best self. We do this by equipping you with the skills you need to succeed today, tomorrow and beyond. Learn your way with a broad range of qualifications at a sixth form college which keeps you, the individual, at the heart of your learning experience.

We want you to grow in confidence as well as knowledge. That's why when you complete your sixth form studies you will leave with so much more than a collection of certificates. Leeds Sixth Form College's first-rate teaching gives you the knowledge you need to progress in your subject while enrichment activities equip you with invaluable life skills.

If you want fresh, innovative learning in the heart of a vibrant city, look no further than Leeds Sixth Form College. If you're ready to learn more, aim higher and go further, then we're ready to welcome you.

1

We build independence and resilience

2

We set aspirational goals

3

We celebrate individuality

4

We share our passion for learning with the local and global community

5

We are respectful of others, our diverse community and the environment

6

We inspire success in all forms

What Our Students Say

“The teachers here really boost your morale, reassure you, and help you feel at your best.”

“This is an environment where being yourself is encouraged and praised.”

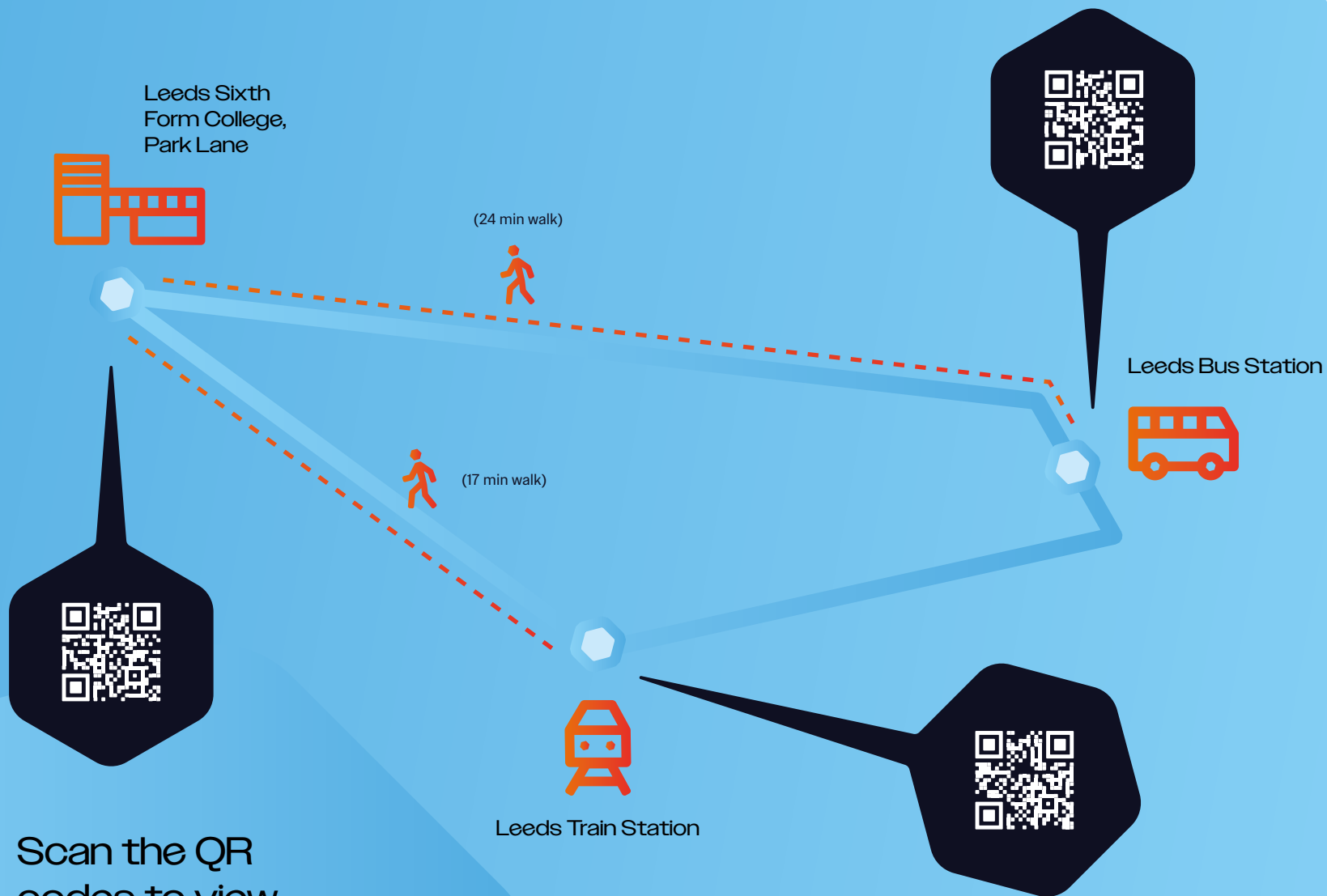
“There’s a great blend of independence and support.”



Getting Here



Public Transport



Scan the QR codes to view transport links

Facilities

Fusing innovation with excellence, these dynamic spaces will allow you to learn in an inspiring and independent way.

Please bear with us while we develop some exciting new facilities. Our new three-storey C Block is due to open in September 2025, and will be home to three science laboratories, a sports science laboratory, a massage suite and classrooms with space for over 200 students. Things may look a little different to what you expect during construction but we will keep disruption to a minimum and we're excited to show you what we have planned!

Independent learning zones (ILZs)

Subject-specific zones situated on multiple floors provide quiet spaces with learning resources appropriate to the subject. Staff are on hand in these spaces to help you with any queries you have.



Photography Studio and Dark Room

From setting the scene with lighting equipment and green screens to editing the photographs, and complemented with a purpose-built darkroom for developing prints, the studio has everything a photography student could need to succeed.



Natural Press Coffee Shop

If you fancy a break from your studies, our coffee shop allows you to relax in a social and eco-conscious environment.



The Discovery Lounge

Explore your academic and extracurricular interests in this comfortable, spacious area.

The Discovery Lounge is an ideal place to conduct group work.



Gym Facilities

Fully air-conditioned with state-of-the-art equipment that creates electricity as you exercise. Burn off some steam with cardiovascular equipment like cycling, rowing and running machines, or tone up with strength and conditioning weights.



Auditorium and Lecture Theatre

Our large, open plan auditorium and lecture theatre has been specially designed for assemblies, exams, external guest speakers, enrichment activities and the campus engagement programme.



Science Laboratories

Our dedicated chemistry, physics, biology and pharmacy labs are designed to help students develop practical work skills. These industry-standard spaces allow course-specific study with access to a range of specialised equipment.





At Leeds Sixth Form College we recognise that education is not just about the subject knowledge you learn. ilearn (independent learning) supports students to develop independent skills and achieve personal goals.

ilearn supports students in five key areas:

Academic skills - all things assignments and writing to get the best grades possible.

Independent skills - tools and skills you need to be autonomous and less reliant on your teachers, keeping you top of the game.

Digital skills - we use Google and lots of apps that help you become digitally savvy.

Future-ready skills - getting you ready for the next step or improving your employability.

Digital sense skills - understanding your digital world, online footprint, cybersafety and more.

Our staff are on hand to deliver full classes or more personal one-to-one sessions with students to support their learning.

Our ilearn team supports our students in four key ways:

ilearn hubs

Our ilearn hubs are the ideal space for independent learning, quiet reading or having a 1:1 with a tutor. With access to over 20,000 ebooks as well as novels, graphic novels and learning resources, the hubs are a perfect place to find inspiration. Staffed by study support officers, there's a friendly face on hand to help with any queries.

Tutor-to-mentor support

Our ilearn team is here to help. The focus is on you as an individual and the support service is bespoke to your needs. Any student can request a private chat with the ilearn team, as can a member of staff who has a concern about an individual. This is your time and you can discuss the area you need help with. Together we will work out the key areas for you to focus on and we are there with guidance, supportive tasks and advice on how you can overcome the particular challenge you are facing.

In-class sessions

Life isn't just about what you learn on your courses, which is why we work closely with teaching staff to deliver lessons that will build your confidence and prepare you for life beyond further education. Using different learning techniques such as games, discussion and activities, topics are presented in a way to help you grow as an independent learner. Sessions are delivered at the request of teaching staff and can be followed up by 1:1 tutorials for any students that might need them.

Competitions and Activities

As well as offering 1:1 support and delivering workshops, we encourage learning by running regular competitions and activities. These competitions are run outside of the curriculum and are open to all. Whether it's a reading challenge, one-line horror story competition or pixel art competition, there's an opportunity for everyone to take part. Along with running competitions, we also feature on the enrichment timetable and deliver study skills sessions, covering important skills from research to referencing.



Entry Requirements

The general entry requirements are five GCSEs graded 9-4, including English and maths. If you have grade 3, or lower, in GCSE English or maths, we can still consider your application, depending on your course choices, however you will be required to study these alongside your chosen programme.

Specific subjects may require grade 5 or above in GCSE English or maths. Please refer to the table below to check the requirements for each subject.

Speak to a member of our course enquiries team:
0113 532 4428 | courses@leedssixthform.ac.uk

A Level Courses	Entry requirements
Art, Craft & Design	9-4 at GCSE in an art-based subject plus portfolio
Biology	9-5 in GCSE Biology or 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science and 9-5 in GCSE Maths
Business	9-5 in GCSE Maths
Chemistry	9-5 in GCSE Chemistry or 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science, and a 9-5 in GCSE Maths
Core Maths	9-4 in GCSE Maths
English Language	General entry requirements
English Literature	9-5 in GCSE English

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	General entry requirements
Film Studies	General entry requirements
Further Mathematics	9-7 in GCSE Maths
Geography	9-5 in GCSE English or GCSE Geography
History	9-5 in GCSE English or GCSE History
Law	9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)
Maths	9-6 in GCSE Maths
Media Studies	General entry requirements
Philosophy	9-5 in GCSE English
Photography	9-4 at GCSE in an art-based subject plus portfolio
Physics	9-6 in GCSE Maths and 9-5 in GCSE Physics or minimum 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science (Students should also study A Level Maths)
Politics	9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)
Psychology	9-5 in GCSE Maths, science (two separate subjects or a minimum of 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science) and an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)
Religious Studies	9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)
Sociology	9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)
Spanish	9-5 in GCSE Spanish

Vocational Courses	Course Specific Entry Requirements
Applied Law	General entry requirements
Applied Psychology	Minimum 4-4 in GCSE Combined Science
Applied Science	9-4 in two separate sciences or minimum 4-4 GCSE in Combined Science and 9-4 in GCSE Maths
Sport Science & Exercise	9-4 in GCSE Maths

Hybrid Programme

The Hybrid Programme is our offer combining two A Levels and one vocational course. These excellent vocational diplomas are designed to dovetail perfectly with A Levels. They are an ideal springboard to high quality Higher Education courses, providing specialist content and supporting progression on to further study.

If you are interested in the Hybrid Programme, you will need to choose a vocational course from one of the following schools:

- Applied Law
- Applied Science
- Applied Psychology
- Sport Science & Exercise

see our
vocational courses
on pg. 100

Two A Levels



One Vocational Course



✦ Hybrid ✦ Programme

Step Up to A Level (SUTA)

If you don't meet entry requirements for our A Level provision you can still study with us. Our Step Up to A Level (SUTA) programme includes studying 5 GCSEs over one year enabling you to progress to A Level.

SUTA offers a number of different pathways. All include GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths, and then three other subjects of your choice.

Additional subjects could include:

- Science Synergy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Citizenship
- Geography
- Psychology
- Business Studies



Discover

 your 



potential

The Application Process

1

Visit us (optional)

Our open events are a great opportunity to speak to tutors, see our campus, even experience some A Level lessons and find out if Leeds Sixth Form College is right for you. If you're not sure what courses you want to do, we can help you decide.

2

Apply

Apply by completing our online application via the Leeds Sixth Form College website.

3

Interview

Once your application has been reviewed, you will be invited to an informal interview which will include specialist advice and guidance, ensuring you get the best opportunity to achieve.

4

Offers

Offers are made following an interview and are conditional, based on you achieving the relevant GCSEs, or requirements agreed at interview.

5

Bridging day

You will be invited to a 'bridging day' where you will meet staff, experience some A Level lessons and view our facilities.

6

Enrolment

An invitation to book an enrolment slot will be sent out mid-July, giving you all the information you need to enrol.

Academic and Pastoral Support



At Leeds Sixth Form College, you will be provided with plenty of support to help you maximise your potential. Time is allocated in your timetable for peer study groups or 1:1 coaching sessions with a tutor, where you can share ideas and receive support with your studies.

Student wellbeing

If you are experiencing personal difficulties that may affect your studies, you can access specialised 1:1 support from our dedicated pastoral team.

We provide drop-in help sessions to support with studying, revision and exam preparation - ensuring you are fully equipped to succeed.

You can also engage with an array of enrichment activities to build friendships, pursue your personal interests and contribute to the student body.

Financial Support

We offer a range of support with course-related costs such as:

- free breakfasts
- free lunches
- travel passes
- childcare

Please note funds are limited and allocated on a case-by-case basis. More information, including eligibility criteria, can be found on the financial support page of our website.



Student Life

All our staff are dedicated to ensuring you get the best education and leave with the life skills that will see you reach your goals. To support and encourage you in your development, we have a number of teams in place at college, all looking after your needs.

Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Health and Behaviour, and Care Experience

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is a top priority. All staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection and our dedicated Safeguarding team is on hand for advice and support.

Wellbeing

At Leeds Sixth Form College, supporting wellbeing and promoting good mental health for all our students and staff is paramount. It's always good to talk and we have dedicated mental health trained coaches who can direct you to services that can help. We offer services ranging from sharing mindfulness techniques to short-term counselling.

Health and Behaviour

Here at Leeds Sixth Form College we promote positive relationships and all staff are trained in Restorative Practice. As well as championing positive behaviour, we provide information and support relating to health. From running health campaigns such as Stoptober to awareness campaigns such as World AIDS Day and National Vegetarian Week, we aim to promote healthy lifestyles and relationships.

Our food and catering services produce a wide range of delicious and nutritious food, and we run a number of events throughout the year. Our events give students practical advice as well as the opportunity to sample dishes, learn new recipes and enjoy food from different cultures.

Care Experience

We offer support for all Children Looked After and Care Leavers to ensure a smooth transition to college life. We have a designated staff member in every curriculum department to support care experienced students. Financial support may also be available for eligible students - please visit our website for more details.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

All our staff complete EDI training which helps to foster an inclusive and innovative environment. We also have an EDI team who work across the group to create a culture of mutual respect where everyone feels welcome and valued. Our network of EDI champions represent each department and partake in numerous activities to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.



Engagement



Enrichment

Recognising that there is more to sixth form education than a piece of paper, we run an extensive range of enrichment activities. These activities are a great way to make new friends and have fun. Enrichment will not only help build your confidence and enhance your learning experience, they are also a positive addition to university and job applications.

Student Union and Student Voice

Leeds City College's Students' Union (LCCSU) works in partnership with Leeds Sixth Form College and is an independent organisation that makes your student experience more enjoyable.

From fun events to the promotion of student-led activity, our aim is to ensure you are engaged, represented and supported throughout your time at Leeds Sixth Form College.

Student Voice

It's important for students to have their say and our Students' Union officers act as representatives for different groups. There are opportunities for you to become a student leader, have your say and work with the College to continually develop Leeds Sixth Form College now and for future students.

Tutorial and Personal, Health, Social and Citizenship Education (PHSCE)

Tutorials and PHSCE lessons give you the opportunity to explore and discuss topics beyond your chosen courses. From developing a greater understanding of the world around us and preparing for life in modern Britain to discussing health and wellbeing, equality, diversity and inclusion and citizenship, we explore a wide range of subjects. Focus is also given to your personal development in 1:1 tutorials.



Student Funds and Welfare

The Welfare Team supports students through crises, giving advice on benefit problems, debt, housing and homelessness, loss of work, and not having enough money for food and bills.

We don't want financial concerns to hold students back
- as a college we work hard:

- Supporting students to overcome financial barriers to attending college*
- Providing a range of support including meals, travel passes and help with childcare*

In addition to the above, support may be available for students aged 16-18 who live alone or are in care or are a care leaver.

**Eligibility criteria apply*

- please visit our website for full details



Careers, Work Experience and Progression

Careers Advisors play a key role in helping you think about what you will do once you complete your education with us. Advice covers a range of subjects from jobs and apprenticeships to university.

All students will have the opportunity to attend Higher Education fairs, employer talks and careers fairs held on campus.

Work experience is an important part of your studies and all students will undertake some form of work experience, including placements, employer-led projects, work tasters and social action projects. This practical experience can boost your UCAS application and equip you with the working knowledge necessary for higher education or employment.



“I love my course and all the freedom and challenges it throws my way; I wouldn't change it for the world.”

Information for Parents and Guardians

At Leeds Sixth Form College, we value the relationship we have with parents and guardians. We recognise the part you play in supporting your child during their education and the importance of keeping in touch with you throughout their time with us. We will provide regular updates on your child's academic progress, and you can contact us if you have any queries.



Parents' Welcome Evening

Each student is assigned a coach who will meet them for a weekly tutorial and support them during their time here, monitoring their progress and development. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's coach at our Parents' Welcome Evening in October. You can also contact them at any time throughout the year to arrange a meeting should you have any queries or concerns.



Parents' Evenings

In addition to the welcome evening, we hold parents' evenings at key stages in the academic year for all students. This is where you will be able to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers.

“It’s such a freeing atmosphere with a lot of trust which allows me to feel more confident in myself.”



Parents' Progression Evening

The Parents' Progression Evening is your chance to learn about the opportunities available to your child upon completion of their course. You can speak with experts who can offer advice regarding 'next steps' and discuss how your child can maximise their potential.

Parental Reports and Correspondence

At any time throughout the year, you can access our online portal via our website to find information regarding your child's attendance, progress and assessment grades for each subject.

If your child is below 18 years of age, we will send you a full written report on their progress in each of their subjects. This report will include individualised feedback from each tutor.

You will also receive our termly newsletter brimming with good news stories, upcoming events, opportunities for your child and what's been happening around campus.

We also want to welcome you to share the success of our students at events held throughout the year. The annual Leeds Sixth Form College Awards evening, for example, is an important date in the calendar to which you are warmly invited.





Contact Information

If you're looking for more information, you can visit our website leedssixthform.ac.uk. If you'd rather speak to someone, we have a dedicated team who will be more than happy to answer any questions.


Our contact centre is open:

Monday - Thursday, 8am-5pm


Friday, 8am-4.30pm

Social Media

Stay up-to-date with the latest news from Leeds Sixth Form College by following us on social media.

 /leedssixthform

 @leedssixthform

 Leeds Sixth Form College

just call
0113 532 4428

or email
contact@leedssixthform.ac.uk

Your path to professional sport starts here.

LEEDS SPORTS  **CONNECT**

Leeds Sports Connect brings together academic excellence and sporting prowess to enable you to pursue your passion for sport without compromising on academic choices.



Together with our partners...



...we can kick-start your career in sport.

Working with professional sports clubs, Leeds Sports Connect will help you reach your potential in your chosen field. Specialising in football, rugby, netball, boxing, basketball and golf, you will train with like-minded athletes, learn from those who have coached the best and progress in your sport.

We understand the importance of commitment when it comes to sport and that's why your courses are designed around training schedules and skills that translate to the pitch, court or ring. You will train at professional-level facilities, taught by specialist coaches who will help you develop as an athlete.

Interested in seeing how you can progress in the sport you love whilst studying for the qualifications you want?

Find out more at
leedssportsconnect.co.uk

Courses Courses Courses Courses Courses Courses Courses

A Levels

Art, Craft & Design	54
Biology	56
Business	58
Chemistry	60
Core Maths	62
English Language	64
English Literature	66
EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)	68
Film Studies	70
Further Mathematics	72
Geography	74
History	76
Law	78
Maths	80
Media Studies	82
Philosophy	84
Photography	86
Physics	88
Politics	90
Psychology	92
Religious Studies	94
Sociology	96
Spanish	98

Vocational

Applied Law	102
Applied Psychology	103
Applied Science	104
Sport Science & Exercise	106

We are constantly updating our courses to meet the labour market and industry needs.
Visit our website for the most up-to-date course information.



Art, Craft & Design

Hone your artistic skills with this comprehensive A Level course which will give you grounding in the fundamentals of Art, Craft & Design.

In the first six weeks of this course you will be equipped with the basic foundation skills and knowledge you will need over the next two years, covering topics such as observational drawing and colour theory printmaking.

At the end of first year you will specialise in your chosen field of Fine Art, Textiles or 3D and complete an independent cross disciplinary investigation. The project will see you develop, refine, record and present your ideas, showcasing your skills.

In year two you focus on your chosen specialism and complete two main projects. The first, a personal investigation, gives you the chance to produce a project looking into a topic of your choice within your chosen specialism (60% of your final grade). The second is set by the exam board, AQA, and culminates in a 15 hour practical exam (40% of your final grade).



Entry requirements

Grade 9-4 at GCSE in an art-based subject; a portfolio is also required at interview

Progression routes

This course can lead to a variety of career routes depending on your specialism. Examples include art, graphic design, fashion design, animation, illustration, product design, advertising, architecture and marketing.



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QR code to
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Biology

A Level Biology is designed to develop an understanding of various key biological systems. These systems include the components of cells, the molecules which make up living organisms and the reactions between them. It also compares the systems found in plants and animals which are necessary for life.

In the second year, a more integrated approach to considering biological systems is needed, as we learn about how different parts of the body and various populations interact in the topics of communication and ecology.

Throughout the course, you will develop a variety of investigative practical skills, including the use of scientific equipment, data presentation and analysis and technique evaluation.

The course is assessed by examination at the end of each year. You will also work on an ongoing practical portfolio consisting of required experiments, which will be reported separately in the results.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE Biology or grade 5-5 in GCSE Combined Science, along with grade 9-5 in GCSE Maths

Progression routes

We have excellent progression rates to university with students gaining places on biology, neuroscience, food and nutrition, and medical courses.



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Business

A Level Business Studies is about understanding how businesses start and how they succeed by adapting to an ever-changing world.

You will gain strong business understanding by studying topics including Business Objectives and Strategy, Entrepreneurship, Global Business, Marketing, Finance, Human Resources, and Operations Management. You will also look at how and why a business is set up and how external variables influence success.

You will be introduced to business operations and look in-depth at the various functional areas needed for a business to succeed. Theory will be related to real life and case study scenarios.

This course may involve a mix of assignments and examinations, and there will be an increased push towards exams as the preferred form of assessment. This A Level can lead to multiple management level roles in a variety of contexts.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE Maths

Progression routes

Many students go on to study business-related degrees, such as business management, business and finance, logistics and supply chain management, events, management and enterprise. This course can also provide a useful foundation to pursue entrepreneur-related careers and interests including setting up your own business.



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Chemistry

The study of chemistry is driven by the desire to explain the behaviour of the materials around us. You will study in our specialist laboratories, developing a greater understanding of the general principles of chemistry and of a discipline that remains at the forefront of scientific development.

You will study an array of practical and theoretical modules. These include Development of Practical Skills, Foundations in Chemistry, Period Table and Energy, Core Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry Transition Elements, and Organic Chemistry and Analysis.

You will develop skills in processing data, as well as wider mathematical and numeracy skills. In addition, you will learn how to safely handle hazardous materials and scientific equipment. The course is assessed by examination at the end of each year. You will also work on an ongoing practical portfolio consisting of required experiments, which will be reported separately in the results.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE Chemistry or grade 9-5 in GCSE Combined Science, along with grade 9-5 in GCSE Maths

Progression routes

Chemistry is an essential requirement for progression on to many science-based degree courses, including veterinary science, medicine, pharmacy, forensics and chemical engineering. A Level Chemistry is also a desirable qualification for employers, particularly in science and technology sectors.



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Core Maths

Core Maths is a one year course that allows you to retain, expand and develop your knowledge and skills from GCSE, as well as giving you the opportunity to study and apply new Level 3 material.

Core Maths is made up of the following key skill areas: Linear Programming, Statistics, and Probability. These key skills are applied in contexts that include scenarios encompassing a wide variety of careers.

Core Maths will also enable you to develop the mathematical, quantitative and statistical skills to be better prepared for work, life and further study. Studying this qualification develops logical and reasoning skills that are widely respected.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-4 in GCSE Maths

Progression routes

Core Maths is a subject that is useful to support a degree that requires proficiency with mathematical methods. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying Core Maths are transferable to many other areas.



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English Language

You will study a range of language topics and learn how to analyse different texts, including conversations generated by modern technology. The course covers thought-provoking topics such as gender, accent and dialect, and occupational English.

In the second year, the core topics are Language Change and Language Acquisition. Language Change includes the history of English from its beginning around 500 A.D., while Language Acquisition details how children learn to speak, read and write. As part of the Language Acquisition modules, you will look at work from linguists such as Noam Chomsky and B.F. Skinner.

You will also adapt your writing skills to suit various formats, such as articles, essays and analyses. Analytical skills are essential to further study in all subjects and you will develop these by critically comparing texts.



Entry requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 9-4, including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

Progression routes

Students with an A Level in English Language study a wide range of subjects at university, as the skills developed are transferable. You could go on to study humanities, social science, English, journalism or creative writing.



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English Literature

A Level English Literature will teach you how to analyse complex literary issues with the help of important critical ideas and theories.

You will read, reflect and evaluate, then express your conclusions in an eloquent and precise way. These skills are very important in a wide range of jobs, forming the core of further literary study at university.

A Level English Literature seeks to offer a wide range of engaging texts, from Shakespeare to 20th and 21st century novels. You will read and study these texts through the lens of genre (such as tragedy, social analysis, crime fiction) and critical theory (Marxism and feminism), experiencing both the teacher-led and independent study of literature in its historical and cultural context.

This approach also includes a range of wider reading, thereby extending your experience and appreciation of literature.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE English

Progression routes

A Level English Literature offers superb preparation for university courses in English (it is highly regarded by higher education institutions including Oxford and Cambridge). It provides a degree of analytical rigour and cultural knowledge, appropriate for a wide range of careers.



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EPQ

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

An EPQ is an independent research project which involves writing an essay of 5000 words, or creating a product - which might be anything from an art object to an iPhone app. Throughout the project, you complete a production log to record specific stages, which contributes to your project result. The third component is an oral presentation.

This extended project will challenge you to think and work in a way beyond your classroom studies. Developing planning, organisational and time-management skills, you will take ownership of the project from conception to completion. You choose your topic of research and will receive teaching and guidance with planning, researching and presentation skills. Over a 20-week period you will develop your research skills, creating and completing your production log and working toward your final presentation.



Entry requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 9-4, including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

Progression routes

Completing an EPQ could give your UCAS application an edge against those with similar predicted grades - it provides clear evidence that you have interests and abilities which go beyond the A Level curriculum. It demonstrates clearly that you are capable of undertaking the kind of independent reading, research, and essay writing that is the mainstay of most undergraduate degrees.



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Film Studies

Film Studies is a lot more than 'just watching films'. It involves adopting a critical perspective that allows you to view a variety of other genres through a fresh pair of eyes.

Analyse key scenes and sequences to uncover embedded ideologies and understand how diverse contexts shape film production and interpretation. Films are deliberately crafted to evoke specific responses, spanning genres like Old Hollywood, European Cinema, and Experimental Film.

Delve into film aesthetics and emotional manipulation, employing theoretical and critical methods to decode underlying messages. Learn how to question directors' intentions while considering contextual influences, honing communication, debate, and essay writing skills.

Film Studies has a 30% production element where you will put into practice all you have learnt to create your own short film. Evidence your creativity, demonstrating your understanding of the technical features of filmmaking and of the all-important relationship between the film and the audience.



Entry requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 9-4, including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

Progression routes

This course allows many students to study Film at university level. It also equips students with transferable skills such as critical thinking and sophistication of thought - making it helpful for a wide range of creative and academic courses including journalism, history, English literature, American studies, and PR and marketing.



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Further Mathematics

The skills gained from studying a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) subject at A Level (or degree level) are in demand by employers. Graduates from STEM subjects earn on average 5% to 10% more than those who studied other courses.

A Level Further Mathematics introduces you to new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Further Mathematics is a challenging and rewarding subject, which deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard Mathematics A Level.

As well as learning new areas of mathematics, you will study the applications of it in Pure Mathematics and Mechanics.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-7 in GCSE Maths

Progression routes

A Level Further Mathematics is highly regarded by universities. If you're planning a degree in areas such as engineering, science, computing, finance, economics or mathematics, you will benefit enormously. Many university engineering and mathematics courses list A Level Further Mathematics as 'essential' or 'desirable'.



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Geography

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, people, and environments, blending social and natural sciences. A Level Geography delves into physical and human geographical issues like globalisation, inequality, and climate change.

Field trips align with course modules such as Coasts, Hazards, Changing Places, and Contemporary Urban Environments. Use fieldwork to investigate sociological and economic influences on places and environments, visiting places in and outside of Leeds to enhance research skills - forming the foundation of your coursework. Day trips occur yearly, with a residential field course in the second year (last held in the Lake District).

You'll develop skills including understanding and interpreting statistics, research methods and cartography (the study of land), and engage in discussions on contemporary issues. The course is assessed through exams (80% of your final grade) in the second year and a fieldwork project (20%). Project topics vary widely, from the 'Geography of Happiness' to urban heat island studies.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE English or GCSE Geography

Progression routes

There are many job opportunities for students as employers welcome the skills achieved in this A Level. Geography has a good reputation with universities and combines well with science and humanities degrees. A Level Geography can lead to further study of subjects such as environmental science.



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History

This course introduces you to some of the most important subjects and problems in British and European economic, political and social history over the last 200 years. It's a great way to understand how the world we live in has evolved and provides fantastic opportunities for you to build your own arguments around the interpretations of our past.

A Level History is made up of three components: the first is a breadth study, looking at the Tudors and the changes that took place over that period. Component two involves an in-depth study of post-1945 America, whilst the final component is a coursework module, where students will study Russia between 1855 and 1964.

You will develop your ability to analyse sources, develop arguments, research and construct essays, problem-solve and think critically.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE English or GCSE History

Progression routes

The critical analysis skills that you will develop enable progression on to careers such as law, journalism, marketing and business, management and teaching. Alternatively, you could pursue specialist occupations such as archaeology, historical research and museum curation.



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Law

Studying A Level Law provides you with the opportunity to gain a real insight into our legal system - the framework that underpins our society - and how this affects ordinary citizens. You will gain an understanding of where our laws come from and how multiple legal cases reach a verdict.

In the first year of study, you will be given an introduction to criminal law and tort law. You will also study negligence and occupiers' liability. In the second year, you will deepen your understanding of tort law by looking at vicarious liability and defences.

In addition to this, you will study either human rights or look in-depth at the nature of law in a wider context. This will develop your understanding of how the law interacts with morality, justice, society and technology.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)

Progression routes

Many students study law at university and access careers in the legal system, as well as education and police sectors. Law also develops critical thinking skills relevant to further study and employment. We have previously had students go on to study degrees at the University of Law.



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Maths

A Level Maths provides you with a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques that are applicable to multiple maths-focused roles in the workplace. The modern world needs employees with an advanced level of mathematics skills, and maths is essential to the continued development of our increasingly technological lives.

The UK's knowledge economy (an economical system driven by ideas, intellectual capital and technology) needs more mathematical skills for the financial, communication, engineering and transportation sectors, as well as highly specialised scientific areas, such as genome modelling.

A Level Maths is made up of three units. There are two core units which make up two-thirds of the qualification and provide you with techniques in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus - forming the fundamental building blocks of the subject. Mathematical applications in statistics and mechanics make up the remaining third of the qualification.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-6 in GCSE Maths

Progression routes

Maths can lead to various subjects at university including science and engineering, as well as careers in data analysis and digital marketing. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying A Level Maths ensure the qualification is widely respected.



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Media Studies

In our media-saturated world, every moment is influenced or documented by TV and popular social networks. A Level Media Studies fosters a critical understanding of how the media not only acts as a form of entertainment, but also as a means of worldwide communication and representation.

You will analyse a wide range of texts including TV, radio, online platforms, newspapers, and video games within theoretical frameworks, to understand how they are constructed to appeal and convey particular meanings. Explore how cultural, technological, and institutional contexts shape media and impact audiences.

The course includes a 30% practical production unit, creating cross-media products like music videos or promotional materials to a set brief. This allows you to showcase your creative ability and media understanding, and demonstrate your ability to establish a relationship between your audience and chosen media form. In previous years, briefs have included music videos, promotional material and opening sequences to popular teenage dramas.



Entry requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 9-4 including English

Progression routes

Studying media enables progression on to general and specialised media courses, along with other creative courses such as film, marketing and PR. The transferable skills gained are also helpful for other academic courses such as journalism, English language or literature, business and communication studies.



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Philosophy

The word 'philosophy' means 'love of wisdom', which is exactly what this course will give you. Explore four major areas of philosophical thought, including epistemology (theory of knowledge) and moral philosophy, which considers the ethical theories coined by major philosophical thinkers and applies them to real-life scenarios.

The third area you will explore is the Metaphysics of God. Consider whether the concept of God is coherent, whether the given attributes of God are compatible with evil, and whether the arguments for the existence of God are convincing.

In the fourth unit, the Metaphysics of Mind, consider what the mind is and where it might be located. Explore the hypothesis that the mind is a separate substance from the body, along with other issues and alternative explanations relating to this school of thought.

A Level Philosophy develops your evaluation, analytical and problem-solving skills, whilst strengthening your ability to research, write and debate to present complex ideas clearly and concisely.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE English

Progression routes

Philosophy is highly regarded by universities as it requires excellent analytical skills and comprehension of complex ideas. It combines well with theology, natural sciences, history, sociology and law. It can also lead to careers in the civil service, journalism, social work, teaching and charity work.



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Photography

Photography is a medium that has witnessed vast growth as a means of communication and expression.

A Level Photography is an opportunity to explore the practice, theory and art of this discipline, and will introduce you to a wide range of photographic influences, approaches and technologies. You will cover both digital and analogue methods to develop and master your own creative and technical skills.

The course has an emphasis on creative work, which you will use to illustrate an understanding of photographic techniques whilst referencing the work of industry practitioners and icons. You will also gain a practical and theoretical understanding of the medium and its creative processes. As a result, you will become familiar with various styles and techniques - from basic equipment you can make at home to the latest digital technology.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-4 at GCSE in a creative subject (GCSE Art or GCSE Photography) plus portfolio

Progression routes

A Level Photography offers a path toward careers or further study in photography, creative arts, media, fashion, journalism and many more. It provides transferable skills for any subject or career path requiring innovation and the ability to problem solve.



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Physics

Physics is an exciting subject which aims to explain how things work, from the smallest of particles to the vastness of galaxies and the universe. With this A Level you will develop skills in physics, maths, technical writing, observation, measuring instruments, research and independent work.

Physics has become increasingly important in the world of work, changing our leisure time and the influence of technology. It solves problems, helps diagnose medical conditions, creates new materials, suggests possible solutions to the energy crisis and is the science behind the internet.

Topics covered at A Level include the fundamental theories in physics. You will also gain insight into a range of subject matters, including atomic structure, astrophysics, radioactivity, particle interactions at the quark level, quantum physics, vectors, forces, linear motion and momentum, and material and thermal physics.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-6 in GCSE Maths and grade 9-5 in GCSE Physics or grade 9-5 in GCSE Combined Science. Students should also study A Level Maths

Progression routes

As a discipline, physics is used in many areas of industry including engineering, health and biomedicine, public services, utilities, environmental monitoring, scientific research, astrophysics, education and computing to mention but a few. Physics will develop your problem-solving, research and analytical skills.



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Politics

Politics explores debates on political and social issues, current affairs and how decisions affecting society are made. Gain an understanding of how democracy works in the UK and how it could be improved. You will also analyse the views of different political parties, individuals and groups.

The first year focuses on British politics, switching to US politics in your second year. This will help you make more sense of UK and international developments, whilst stimulating you to think critically and consider different points of view.

You will also study different political ideologies, such as socialism, liberalism, conservatism and feminism, and the way they aim to organise society. Develop your analytical and debating skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the way laws are made.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)

Progression routes

A Level Politics is particularly recommended for students interested in studying law at university. Politics also combines well with subjects such as history, sociology and religious studies, and prepares for careers in legal professions, journalism, politics and management. Past students have progressed to higher education institutions including Cardiff University, a member of the Russell Group.



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Psychology

Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. It explores key societal questions, such as why we conform to rules or obey authority figures. A Level Psychology develops your knowledge of psychological approaches, theories, concepts and methods, along with how the science of psychology works.

In year one, you will study the major approaches to psychology, including exploring key items of research, investigating studies related to that topic and uncovering how research is conducted in that area of psychology. You will use statistical tests to help interpret data collected in class exercises.

Year two gives you an opportunity to study some uses of psychology in the real world. You will discover how the approaches you have studied come together to explain human behaviour.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE Maths, grade 9-5 in science (two separate subjects or a minimum of grade 9-5 in GCSE Combined Science) and grade 9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)

Progression routes

A Level Psychology can lead to degree courses including psychology, pharmacy, nursing, social work, counselling, business, personnel and teaching. Possible career routes include specialist areas of psychology, such as clinical, forensic, occupational and health. Students have previously studied psychology at a wide range of universities including King's College London.



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Religious Studies

A Level Religious Studies allows you to explore and debate a wide range of key topics, including the nature of God/gods, life after death, challenges posed by science, and the nature and role of religion. You will also delve into vital philosophical issues such as arguments for the existence of God, the nature of evil and suffering, religious experience and language, miracles and the nature of the self.

In addition, you will cover various aspects of morality and ethics, including religion and sexual identity, ethical theories, issues of human life and death, as well as animal life and death. Studying religious studies will help you develop clear ways of thinking, evaluation, problem solving and research skills, and will strengthen your writing skills to present complex ideas in a clear, precise, well-structured manner.

Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)

Progression routes

A Level Religious Studies is a popular A Level and is well regarded by prestigious universities. It can lead to further study in fields such as philosophy and combines well with subjects including history and sociology. It can lead to careers in teaching, the civil service, charity work, counselling, journalism, social work and many others.



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Sociology

Have you ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? Or how influential the media is on our life choices? Maybe you've asked yourself why men are statistically more likely to commit a crime? Or whether educational failure and success is a result of intelligence, or something more?

A Level Sociology will address these questions through the examination of cultural relationships, social interactions and research. Sociology is the study of individual and institutional relationships within society. In order to try and understand society, thinkers employ scientific research to support their arguments.

You will learn various skills, including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to apply evidence to support arguments, how to conduct research investigations, and develop critical thinking skills. Develop a strong knowledge of society, alongside the ability to critically evaluate and analyse information. The relevance of sociology to everyone means your learning will be relevant to everyday life.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in an essay subject (GCSE English, GCSE History or GCSE RS)

Progression routes

A Level Sociology can lead to degree courses such as social science and humanities. The study of sociology could lead to careers in public relations, teaching, civil service, management and business, journalism, social work, probation service, youth and community work or nursing.



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Spanish

A Level Spanish will teach you how to analyse complex literary issues with the help of important critical ideas and theories.

Studying a language at A Level is more than just improving your holiday conversation skills. It is beneficial for improving job prospects in a global market and can open up opportunities across the world. Studying Spanish offers a valuable asset for political careers, journalism, foreign affairs, and travel across the Americas and the Caribbean, and for exploring the many facets of Spanish-speaking nations like Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, and Europe.

You will discover a variety of artistic cultures from the varying Spanish-speaking countries, looking into music, film and literature, which will be included in an individual research project building on one of the themes studied throughout the course.

Build your written, reading, speaking and listening skills through contemporary topics of social and cultural trends and issues; read, reflect and evaluate, and express your conclusions in an eloquent and precise way. This enables you to converse about complex family lives and political issues, including diverse societies, criminals and law.



Entry requirements

Grade 9-5 in GCSE Spanish

Progression routes

Studying Spanish at A Level equips you with the language skills to support further study at university. Language skills are highly valued in industry, especially in the existing global market.



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Vocational Courses

The Hybrid Programme is our offer combining two A Levels and one vocational course. These excellent vocational diplomas are designed to dovetail perfectly with A Levels. They are an ideal springboard to high quality Higher Education courses, providing specialist content and supporting progression on to further study.

If you are interested in the Hybrid Programme, you will need to choose a vocational course from one of the following schools:

- Applied Law
- Applied Psychology
- Applied Science
- Sport Science & Exercise



Applied Law



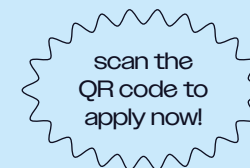
Course	Level	Study length
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Law	3	Two years
<p>If you have an interest in law, our court system or want to work within the legal sector, this enjoyable but challenging course is for you. Learn how the English legal system works, how laws are made and explore the structure of the court system. Topics covered include criminal liability and the tort of negligence, and you will learn how to apply this knowledge to different scenarios.</p> <p>Studying this course equips students with many transferable skills, such as problem solving, critical analysis and negotiation skills, that will enable you to progress to university, apprenticeships and the world of work.</p> <p>Students could continue studying law or a related course at university such as criminology, international relations, public services, management and business.</p>		



Applied Psychology



Course	Level	Study length
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Psychology	3	Two years
<p>Psychology is a fascinating subject exploring the study of the human mind and behaviour. This enjoyable course is the equivalent to one A Level and provides a broad basis of study in the applied psychology sector such as health psychology and clinical psychology. The course will develop your skills, improve your knowledge and prepare you to study the subject at a higher level.</p> <p>Applied psychology can lead to many different potential career paths including therapy, counselling, scientific research, advertising, health and social care.</p>		





Applied Science

Science is a fascinating and vitally important field of study. In a constantly evolving world, scientific exploration, discovery and creation are key to ensuring humans evolve to meet new challenges and battle existing difficulties.

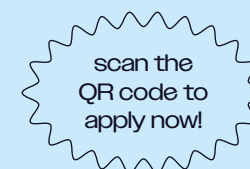
Core scientific subjects of biology, physics and chemistry offer a base of knowledge with which students can specialise after A Level. Careers in science are plentiful and wide-ranging - from medicine to mechanics, farming to fitness, a course in science could lead anywhere in the world (or beyond!).

Applied science encourages exploration and investigation, preparing the scientists of tomorrow for work in a number of fields. With an emphasis on practical work, students get to test the theories they have learnt in state-of-the-art facilities. With dry and wet laboratories and cutting-edge scientific equipment, students gain relevant experience of working within a scientific environment.

Courses prepare students for careers as varied as nursing and chemical engineering, laboratory technicians and aeronautics. With the wealth of opportunities science unlocks, an applied science course really could take you anywhere.

Course	Level	Study length
BTEC National Certificate in Applied Science	3	This is the first year of a two year course. You will study the extended certificate in your second year.
Get ready to put scientific theories into practice as you study biology, chemistry and physics in our practical state-of-the-art laboratories. You'll explore specific areas of science such as diseases, physiology, genetics, astronomy, and more. You'll also strengthen your application of organic and inorganic chemistry, develop practical and experimental techniques, and build up your analytical and research abilities. At the end of this course, you'll walk away with a national certificate that's equivalent to half an A Level.		

Course	Level	Study length
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Science	3	This is the second year of a two year course.
Work towards a career in chemistry with this exciting applied science course that upgrades your national certificate to an extended certificate, giving you a full diploma. You will expand your scientific knowledge in biology, chemistry, physics, diseases and infections. You'll explore key and interesting topics such as biological molecules and metabolic pathways, as well as studying and discussing contemporary issues in today's science world. You'll also learn about experimental design and statistical analysis, and will walk away with a full diploma that's equivalent to one A Level.		



For more details regarding these courses please visit
leedsixtform.ac.uk/schools/school-of-applied-science



Sport Science & Exercise

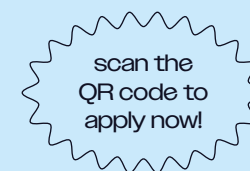
If sport is more than a game to you, consider studying a sports-related course and see how your favourite sport could become your career. Studying a course in sport not only equips students with practical and theoretical sports knowledge, it also covers important topics such as physical fitness, exercise and competitive performance. A course in a sports-related subject can lead to a multitude of varied careers, ranging from fitness training to leisure centre management, teaching to sports massage therapist.

Sport plays an important part of a healthy lifestyle. With exercise known to have positive benefits on wellbeing, this is an exciting and relevant subject area in which to study. With jobs in the industry on the increase, sport really can set you up for life.

If you are interested in pursuing a career as a professional athlete, check out Leeds Sports Connect - where training for those serious about a career in sport is partnered with academic learning.

Course	Level	Study length
BTEC National Certificate in Sport and Fitness	3	This is the first year of a two year course. You will study the Extended Certificate in your second year.
Designed as a one year, full-time course of study initially, with the option to continue studying for a second year in order to complete the full Sport, Fitness and Personal Training National Diploma. This course is equivalent in size to one A Level with the added bonus of achieving an industry-recognised REPs Gym Instructing qualification at the same time. The course also requires 30 hours of work placement which will be completed either in a one week block or over the course of the academic year. You will be assisted with finding a placement but we recommend you have an input into finding a work placement which is linked to your future employment.		

Course	Level	Study length
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport and Fitness	3	This is the second year of a two year course.



For those interested in pursuing the Hybrid Programme, please visit leedscitycollege.ac.uk/schools/school-of-sport-science-exercise to find out more about the courses you will study alongside your A Level choices.

Additional Notes





Disclaimer: The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing, but some changes may take place. Some variation may occur as a result of circumstances beyond our control. Please see our website leedssixthform.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information regarding our courses and support for students.

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2024

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Open Events

16 October 2024

4.30-7pm

18 January 2025

10am-1pm

13 November 2024

4.30-7pm

18 March 2025

4.30-7pm

12 June 2025

4.30-7pm

scan the QR code



to find out more
about our events!

