



**LeicesterHigh**  
SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS



Sixth Form A Level Options

# Future Pathways

Explore the recommended pathways for university programmes. Courses marked with an asterisk (\*) are essential prerequisites for university level studies.



## Medicine and Dentistry

● Chemistry\* ● Biology\* ● +1

## Architecture

● Physics\* ● Art\* ● +1

## Engineering

● Maths\* ● Physics\* ● +1

## Performing Arts

● Drama/Music (any) ● +2

## Creative Arts

● Art/Photography/Music (any) ● +2

## Law and Business

● Business Studies/Philosophy/Sociology  
● English ● History (any of the above)

## Humanities

● Geography ● History ● Sociology/  
Philosophy (any of the above)

## Languages

● French ● Spanish  
(any of the above)

## Social Sciences

● Psychology ● Sociology ● +1  
(any of the above)



## Art, Craft and Design

● **Entry requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above PLUS: Grade 7 or above in GCSE Art

● **Course Overview:** This is a broad-based course exploring practical, critical and contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media. Art, craft and design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities.

The study of Art is enjoyable and rewarding and encourages skills including creativity, imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking and analysis. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, this is the A level for you.

We provide a well-equipped, modern art studio with up-to-date equipment and resources.

[Links to Creative Arts Pathway](#)

## Business Studies

● **Entry Requirement:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above

● **Course overview:** Business Studies A-level is a broad subject, which makes it a great choice for anyone interested in the world of commerce and entrepreneurship. It is a fantastic way to prepare for university courses in the fields of business and management and to equip yourself with the know-how to start up your own business. Business Studies A Level also prepares you to follow a career in finance, accounting, marketing or management,





alongside a wide range of other careers, not so closely linked with the subject.

Studying Business also provides opportunities to develop transferable skills, including decision making, analysis and evaluation.

[Links to Law and Business Pathway](#)

## Biology

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths **AND EITHER:** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Double Science **OR** 7 or above in GCSE Biology

● **Course Overview:** Biology A Level provides a comprehensive understanding of biology and how it impacts the world around us. Each topic begins with an overview, which puts the topic into a broader biological context and encourages understanding of the role of each topic in developing your wider understanding of Biology.

The detail of each topic is then covered, providing an in-depth understanding.

Our science subjects are taught in our purpose-built science labs, which provide the latest equipment and facilities for the study of science.

[Links to Medicine and Dentistry Pathway](#)

## Chemistry

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths **AND EITHER:** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Double Science **OR** 7 or above in GCSE Chemistry

● **Course Overview:** Chemistry occupies a key position in science and is a cornerstone of the environment we live in. Through the study of elements and compounds and how they change during reactions with each other, you will develop a clear understanding of the role of chemistry in industry and society.

Our science subjects are taught in our purpose-built science labs, which provide the latest equipment and facilities for the study of science.

[Links to Medicine and Dentistry Pathway](#)

## Drama and Theatre Studies

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE Drama at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** The A Level in Drama and Theatre is an inspiring course which provides you with the opportunity to work as either a performer and/or designer on three different performances. You will develop the skills required to make, perform, interpret and understand drama and theatre and well as an understanding and appreciation of how the social, cultural and historical contexts of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre.

Drama and Theatre are taught in our dedicated drama studio which provides up-to-date facilities for study and performance.

[Links to Creative Arts Pathway](#)



## English Literature

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE English Literature at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** English Literature is an enjoyable course that provides an opportunity to explore the richness and variety of our great literary heritage in all its forms: novels, poetry and plays, from Chaucer's writing in the medieval period to literature published after 2000. An enthusiasm for literature is required, together with a willingness to read widely around the set texts to place them in their cultural and historical contexts and to develop a critical understanding of the ways in which literary texts are interpreted.

A great deal of independent study is necessary to support the detailed work undertaken in lessons and the course is time-consuming, though very rewarding.

[Links to Law and Business Pathway](#)

## French

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE French at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** You will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at IGCSE level, in order to understand and respond critically in writing in French to the work you have studied (such as the structure of the plot, characterisation, and the use of imaginary or other features as appropriate to the work studied).

A Level French will help you to develop a lasting appreciation of language and learning through the study of the language, culture, traditions and politics of France.

[Links to the Languages Pathway](#)

## Further Mathematics

● **To be studied alongside A Level Mathematics**

● **Course overview:** The further mathematics course provides you with a broad mathematical base, enabling you to extend your mathematical skills to additional areas of mathematics not covered by A2 Mathematics. Enjoyment of



mathematics is a crucial factor in the decision to choose this subject.

[Links to the Architecture Pathway](#)

[Links to the Engineering Pathway](#)

## Geography

● **Entry Requirement:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE Geography at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** The study of geography encourages the development of spatial awareness and a sense of place. The topics studied have relevance to the modern world and maintain a balance between physical and human geography.

Geography develops your ability to express ideas and arguments clearly and logically in written and oral work. There is a strong emphasis on you undertaking your own research. This encourages individual interests to be explored, as well as developing independent research skills. Local fieldwork is undertaken, as well as a short residential course during the spring term of Year 12. The fieldwork directly supports the course and focuses on coastal processes and urban land use.

[Links to Humanities Pathway](#)

## History

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE History at Grade 7 or above **OR** GCSE English at Grade 7 or above

● **Course Overview:** You will study two periods of history simultaneously and will learn to immerse yourself in these two very different periods of history. In addition to broadening their knowledge, students will work to develop their skills of analysis, essay writing and independence of thought.

You will study the consolidation of the Tudor dynasty and how Henry VII's own personality and leadership forged and destroyed relationships with other European powers. You will also investigate the reasons for, and the extent of change in Russia from the revolution in 1917 to the death of Stalin. Towards the end of the course, you will investigate a historical issue or event of your choosing.

[Links to Law and Business Pathway](#)

[Links to History Pathway](#)

## Mathematics

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE Mathematics at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** The A Level Mathematics course enables you to build on algebraic skills developed during GCSE and also to study many new areas of mathematics. Enjoyment of mathematics is obviously also an important factor in the decision to choose this subject.

Mathematics links well with a number of other subjects, the more obvious ones being physics,

chemistry, biology and economics.

Students considering studying mathematics, physics or engineering at university would be advised to consider A Level Further Mathematics in addition to mathematics.

[Links to Engineering Pathway](#)

## Music

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE Music at Grade 7 or above

● **Course Overview:** A-Level Music offers students the opportunity to develop as a performer and composer with 60% of the course made up of practical assessments. These can be weighted to enhance a student's individual strengths with a choice of 25% or 35% weighting for either composition or performance. The minimum level of difficulty for performance is around a Grade 6 equivalent.

[Links to Performing Arts Pathway](#)

## Photography

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** GCSE Art at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** Photography is defined here as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. During the course you will gain the confidence and skills to explore a diverse range of themes, and to develop a questioning and analytical attitude.

There is a strong emphasis on the teaching of a range of technical skills as well as developing your own practice. You are encouraged to explore and experiment through a range of traditional and new photographic media (film based and digital applications). The Digital course is based around a digital SLR camera and Adobe Photoshop.

We provide a well-equipped and modern studio and small darkroom enabling you to enjoy an exciting and supportive atmosphere that values hard work and creativity.

[Links to Creative Arts Pathway](#)



## Physics

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● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **PLUS:** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths **AND EITHER:** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Double Science **OR** 7 or above in GCSE Physics

● **Course Overview:** The study of physics is concerned with what the universe is made of, and how these things move and interact with each other. Physicists are constantly striving to find the most fundamental ideas that can be used to describe the most complex of phenomena.

Developing a physics theory in the first place is just as much a creative process as composing music. Experimental physicists have to be enormously creative in coming up with methods of testing theories and measuring things in the world around them.

You will gain a new appreciation of the world around you. You can look at a rainbow and say “Wow, pretty colours!”, or you can marvel at the amazing interactions between photons and electrons that come together in that particular way when light from the sun strikes spherical water droplets in the sky, which you perceive as a multi-coloured arc suspended in the air.

[Links to Engineering Pathway](#)

## Psychology

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● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **INCLUDING:** GCSE Mathematics at Grade 6 or above **AND** GCSE English Language at Grade 6 or above



● **Course overview:** Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion. It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today.

You will study memory, abnormal behaviour, social influence, forensic psychology and the formation of relationships. This A Level can be combined with a range of arts and science subjects and students selecting this course should have gained at least Grade 6 in GCSE mathematics, as you will be expected to conduct statistical tests on data gathered in order to learn the conventions of reporting psychological investigations.

A qualification in psychology can lead to a diverse range of careers in both the public and private sectors, such as medicine, educational and clinical psychology, teaching, management, advertising, market research, public relations, and occupational health.

[Links to Social Sciences Pathway](#)

## Philosophy

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● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **INCLUDING:** Grade 6 or above for English Language **OR** Grade 6 or above for Religious Studies.

● **Course Overview:** The A Level Philosophy qualification is designed to give students a thorough grounding in the key concepts and methods of philosophy. You will have the opportunity to engage with big questions in a purely secular context and will develop important skills that you need for progression to higher education.

You will engage with complex texts, analysing and evaluating the arguments of others and constructing and defending your own arguments. Philosophy is a good combination with many Humanities subjects but also successfully combines with Biology and Physics, Mathematics and Psychology.

[Links to Law and Business Pathway](#)

## Sociology

● **Entry requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **INCLUDING** Grade 6 in English Language/ Literature or History

● **Course overview:** Sociology is concerned with the study of contemporary society, as well as with more personal and localised issues, such as the place of the family in society and the role of religion.

The course is concerned with the reasons for conflict and stability and is dedicated to getting answers which lie deeper than simple common sense. Sociology develops critical and analytical skills and is an excellent preparation for a wide range of careers. It is a dynamic subject and it is essential that students keep abreast of current affairs. This includes regular reading of quality newspapers and watching news and relevant current affairs programmes on television.

[Links to Social Sciences Pathway](#)

## Spanish

● **Entry Requirements:** Six GCSEs at Grade 6 or above **INCLUDING:** GCSE Spanish at Grade 7 or above

● **Course overview:** You will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at IGCSE level, in order to understand and respond critically in writing in Spanish to the work you have studied (such as the structure of the plot, characterisation, and the use of imaginary or other features as appropriate to the work studied).

A Level Spanish will help you to develop a lasting appreciation of language and learning through the study of the language, culture, traditions and politics of Spain.

[Links to Languages Pathway](#)





## Contact us

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