



Sixth Form Prospectus



2024 Admission



DESBOROUGH
COLLEGE



Welcome to Desborough College Sixth Form

We believe that every single student is capable of achieving and exceeding their potential. We know that this will be achieved through an ambitious curriculum which is implemented through high-quality teaching and support. We will ensure that all students are prepared for the next stage of their education or employment, providing an education that enables all students to acquire a broad range of knowledge and skills as well as develop the personal attributes that will enable them to thrive in the future.

Desborough is an inclusive community where all students, staff and parents are valued. We believe that in forming positive relationships, based on our values of kindness and respect, we will create a climate for learning where students will excel.

Mr Andy Murdoch

Principal



At Desborough College we encourage our students to be ambitious for their futures and unrelenting in pursuit of their goals; that is why we place a strong emphasis on careers, enrichment, employability and personal development. We recognise that strong academic outcomes are central to success, but that lasting success will come from developing our students' character and aspiration. We have created a positive culture and environment in the sixth form study centre that enables the sixth formers to have all the tools they need to be successful.

Mr Will Furmage

Head of Sixth Form



Student Leadership

When I started Desborough sixth form in Year 12, I had no idea how I was going to uphold the Desborough values I had been shown since Year 7 and emulate those values towards the whole school. However, the genius behind Desborough is its ability to prepare and develop you for the modern world you will need to take charge of when you leave here in Year 13. Being able to take advantage of the facilities that are offered here is pivotal for your nurture and transition into higher education. The high standards and the values the student body have, are passed down every year ready for the next set of future leaders. Students here are given the freedom to start and run their own extracurricular activities, which helps prepare sixth formers for the responsibility they will face outside of school. It also builds our character so that we feel at the end of Year 13 we have added to and upheld the legacy of Desborough sixth form.

Kaid Henry - Head Boy

When looking for a change in path after year 11, Desborough most appealed to me with its vast range of extracurricular subjects. Upon joining, I felt nothing but community and support from all the students and teachers. All the staff here want you to achieve, and go above and beyond to help you with all aspects of school, from homework to test feedback. Furthermore, I feel that the sixth form block itself is a testament to the schools learning environment, with designated study areas from complete silence to group study and even chill out rooms. I've felt this arrangement has not only helped me academically but also mentally to unwind and recharge with the natural stresses faced at this point in my school career.

Morgan Marr-Ward – Deputy Head Boy

When considering what to do after GCSEs, my thoughts immediately turned to Desborough sixth form. Having joined the school in 2017, I had a lot of time to get used to the school. I really liked the familiarity of the school site and my teachers. The responsibility expected of a sixth former here is a massive step up, you and you only are responsible for what you do in your free periods. Having such freedom really forces you to manage your time wisely. I've taken many of the opportunities offered to me at Desborough such as the EPQ and student leadership, and can confidently say both have developed me as a student but also as a person. I believe the teachers at Desborough are second to none. Having some of my current A level teachers since GCSE, I always feel comfortable to ask questions and admit if I'm struggling. I feel confident that no matter where I go, I am sufficiently prepared for the next stage of my life thanks to Desborough.

Lewis Cooper - House Captain - Phoenix

For the past seven years that I've been in Desborough, the one thing that has always stayed consistent is the determination and support of teachers and students to help you achieve your best version of yourself, whether in lessons or extracurricular activities. In Sixth Form, this augments to a new level, with a perfect balance between school life and post-eighteen style of work. Desborough sixth form gives you an opportunity to truly shine and start to build yourself into your future career by helping you refine and practice your skills through a vast range of leadership activities, most of which I was lucky to be part of, allowing me to work with staff and students.

Sergei Arkhipov - House Captain - Lion

Having been at Desborough since 2017 it was guaranteed to be my first choice for Sixth Form. The premium quality of teaching and support from passionate teachers which I received during my GCSEs was a major attraction for me to study my A levels here. The relationship between staff and students is brilliant, doing all they can to help overcome challenges and make successful achievable.

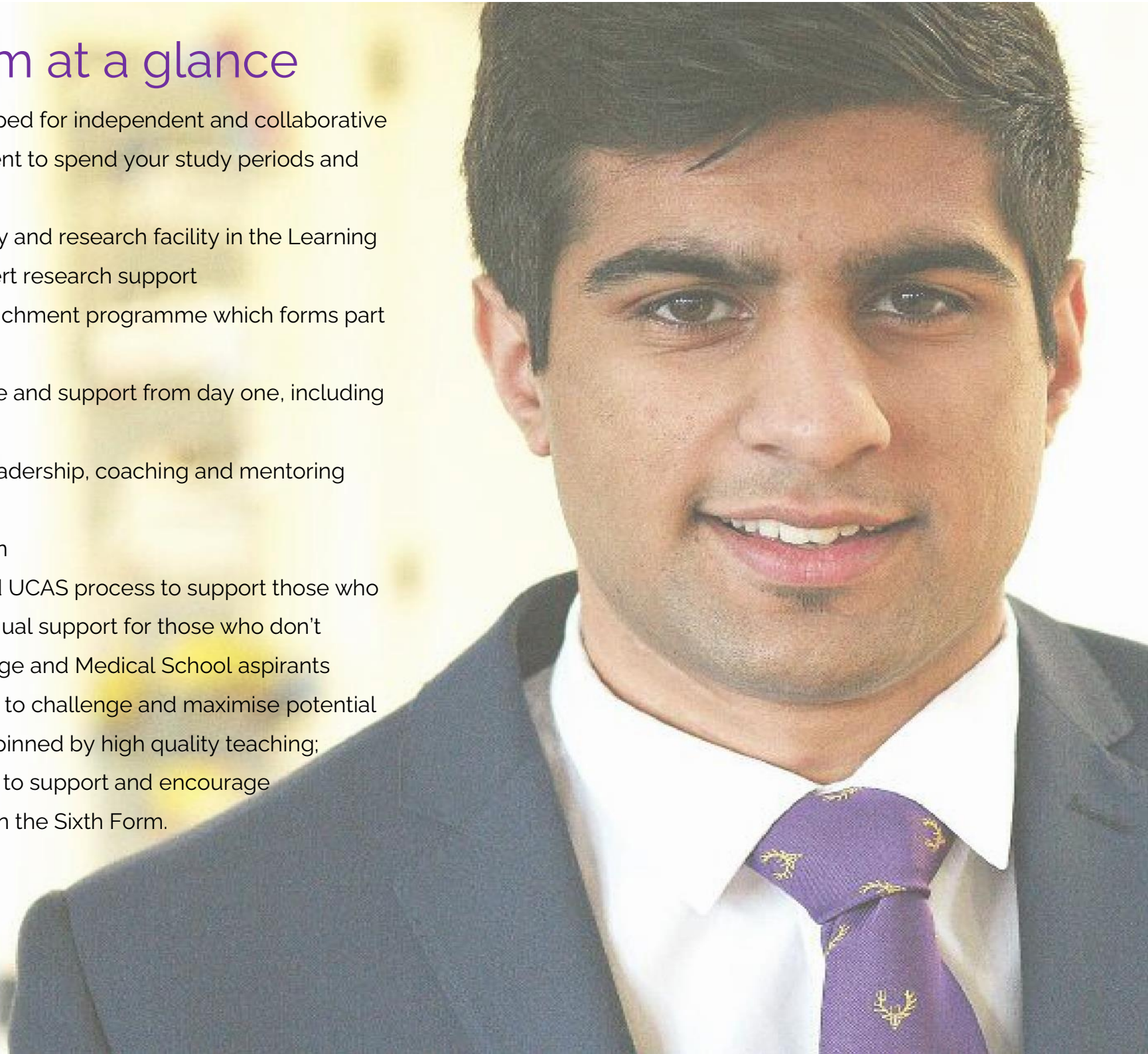
Curtis Omare - House Captain - Hart

Attending Desborough College is not only an enriching experience but is also a great opportunity to grow. The college fosters a dynamic learning environment that encourages team development, critical thinking, and personal growth. Desborough College also emphasizes the development of well-rounded individuals by offering a diverse range of extracurricular activities, from sports to arts and drama. The sense of community at Desborough is unparalleled with students forming lasting friendships and collaborating on various projects. The college's commitment to nurturing independent thinkers and responsible people is evident in its emphasis on education and leadership opportunities. As a sixth former at Desborough College, there are not only academic knowledge gains but also an acquisition of valuable life skills, preparing for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in university or the workplace.

Rowan Leather - House Captain - Eagle

Our Sixth Form at a glance

- ❖ A Sixth Form Centre equipped for independent and collaborative study. A perfect environment to spend your study periods and enjoy your breaks
- ❖ Dedicated Sixth Form study and research facility in the Learning Resource Centre with expert research support
- ❖ A diverse and evolving enrichment programme which forms part of your timetable
- ❖ Access to careers guidance and support from day one, including work experience
- ❖ Opportunities to take on leadership, coaching and mentoring roles across our school
- ❖ Sports teams to compete in
- ❖ A well mapped and guided UCAS process to support those who apply for university, and equal support for those who don't
- ❖ Expert coaching for Oxbridge and Medical School aspirants
- ❖ Aspirational targets grades to challenge and maximise potential
- ❖ A broad curriculum, underpinned by high quality teaching;
- ❖ A strong pastoral structure to support and encourage you throughout your time in the Sixth Form.



Better Never Stops



Enrichment



Your time in the Sixth Form is precious, and so it's vital that you make the most of every opportunity made available. However, we know that some students require a gentle push in the right direction, and so each week our students have a timetabled period to pursue their chosen enrichment activities.

These are chosen at the beginning of the academic year, with some leading to a recognised qualification.

Our programme constantly evolves to match the aspirations of our Sixth Form, but a selection of activities which have been available, include:

- ❖ Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- ❖ Young Enterprise Company Programme
- ❖ Rugby, Football, Cricket teams
- ❖ Recreational games
- ❖ Classroom work experience
- ❖ Mentoring
- ❖ Volunteering in the community
- ❖ LAMDA Public Speaking Award



Teamwork | Courage

Application process

For both internal and external applicants.

Complete the appropriate online **application form**, which can be found on our website. You are strongly encouraged to complete this once you have reviewed our entry requirements carefully. You will need to select 3 subjects you would like to study in the sixth form. Completed applications should be received by **Friday 26th January 2024**. Advice and guidance interviews for each student will follow.

Successful applicants* will receive a **conditional offer via the online portal** (normally before the Easter holidays) confirming the requirements you need to meet, and the process for enrolment.

Once you have received your **GCSE results**, your place will be confirmed by the online portal and you will also need to enrol in person. For those students who do not meet the requirements of their offer, or need to adjust an offer, staff will be on hand in person on GCSE results day to offer any advice or support you may need.



If you have any questions about our application and enrolment process, please get in touch at: williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Positivity | Pride



Entry requirements

The minimum grades required for the sixth form is a 4 in Maths and a 4 in English Language.

You will find specific requirements for each subject in the subject breakdown

Some subjects will be delivered as part of our consortium offer, so may be taught at Newlands, Altwood, Cox Green or Furze Platt.

A-Level & BTEC courses

Computer Science

Curriculum Leader: Consortium

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE Computer Science or Level 2 Merit in IT or 5 in GCSE Maths

Course Information

This course entails the functionality and theoretical comprehension of a Computer system and the Algorithmic process when designing solutions. As a cohort, we will delve into the process of deconstruction of a problem and the analysis skills required to solve complex algorithmic equations. A Level Computer Science lends elements from Higher Mathematics when working with Vector Diagrams & the Theories of Computation, whilst comprehending how data is exchanged and used within a system via Computer Architecture & Networking.

Computer Programming will be conducted in both Python programming, as well as portions of HTML & SQL when constructing a Virtual Private Network.

The assessment of the course is divided into 3 sections which are assessed in the final year of the A Level course:

Year 12

1. Fundamentals of Programming
2. Fundamentals of Data Structures
3. Systematic Approach to Problem Solving
4. Theory of Computation
5. Fundamentals of Data representation
6. Fundamentals of Computer Systems
7. Fundamentals of Computer Organisation & Architecture
8. Consequences of uses of Computing
9. Fundamentals of Communication & Networking

Year 13

1. Fundamentals of databases
2. Big Data
3. Fundamentals of functional programming
4. Systematic approach to problem solving
5. Project Development (NEA)

Practical Endorsement (NEA)

An individual practical project demonstrating the ability to construct a program or research project of their own accord. This can be based on any computational topic via a digital artefact and a submission will be made as a constructed & well written report.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Computational Thinking & Problem Solving (Using a Pre-release Skeleton code given in Year 13) online assessment equating to 40% of the course which is covered by Units: 1-4 & 13.

Paper 2 – Written assessment from topics 4-12 which consists of 40% of the grade.

NEA – Project Assessment equating to 20% of the overall grade.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Art & Design

Curriculum Leader: Ms M Mitchell-Bennett

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE Art

Course Information

Art is a form of communication and a vehicle for self-expression to explore ideas and emotions. Studying Art and Design A-Level encourages you to draw upon your imagination, whilst developing observational, analytical, and practical skills. Extra-curricular study includes visits to galleries, museums and entries to national competitions and exhibitions. There are regular opportunities to develop your skills and understanding of the subject and broaden your skills ready for entry into a competitive job market.

A Level Art is now assessed after two full years of study – there is no AS qualification at the end of Year 12. This means that students can develop skills and techniques in their portfolio throughout the 1st year of study, ready for examination in Year 13. The Year 12 programme develops two components of work which integrate practical, critical and theoretical studies, using a variety of media and processes. The Year 13 A-Level programme further extends practical work and your skill in independent study, working from given themes and starting points. Components of work address the four assessment objectives and will include the following: painting, sculpture, drawing and recording using a variety of media, printmaking, and ceramics.

Assessment

Component 1 is a personal investigation; this will include a written element of between 1000- 3000 words which has a separate mark scheme. Coursework represents 60% of the final grade.

Component 2 is an externally set assignment given by the examination board. Examination is completed after an 8-week preparation period and a 15-hour sustained exam.



Biology

Curriculum Leader: Mr E Brockett

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE Biology or 6-6 in Science Double Award, and a 5 in GCSE Maths

Course Information

We follow the EDUQAS specification which is a 2-year linear course.

Year 12

In the first unit, you will study cell structure, as revealed by the electron microscope, and the way in which molecules interact with cell membranes. You will experiment with the main molecules of life and the action of enzymes. The second unit of the course contains an overview of classification. Biodiversity is studied in the context of evolution. Human body systems are explored, with circulation, gas exchange and digestion being studied and compared to the systems occurring in other organisms. Towards the end of the year, ecological fieldwork is introduced by a day visit to Studland in Dorset to investigate Sand Dune succession.

Year 13

The first unit of the course includes the biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis, microbiology, ecology, and global population issues/food provision. Further ecological fieldwork is carried out, along with a look at the appropriate statistical methods and it is expected we will continue our annual residential field trip to Nettlecombe Court, Somerset, to accommodate this. The second unit covers human and plant reproduction, genetics. Students will consider a variety of applications of biotechnology such as penicillin production and DNA fingerprinting. In the third unit you will study the nervous system, human health and disease, hormones, and the homeostatic role of the kidney.

Practical Endorsement

The course has a significant practical aspect and the course aims to develop practical skills which are monitored at regular intervals according to a standard 'Common Practical Assessment Criteria' (CPAC). Completed practical work will be collected in a portfolio of evidence and a practical lab folder will be supplied for this purpose. Students will receive a Pass or Fail endorsement, although this will not contribute towards the A level final grade.

A-level assessment

The A level course is assessed externally in June of the second year via three 2 hour exams. These papers are a mixture of short and longer answer questions which have an emphasis on the application of knowledge. Practical skills and maths will also be assessed and each paper concludes with an essay question.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Business

Curriculum Leader: Mrs A McNally

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE Business or 5 in Maths

Course Information

This A-level Business course introduces you to all you need to know about working in business, providing a solid foundation for further study. With a focus on helping you to become a good decision maker, you'll learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers.

Year 12

An introduction to key business areas: marketing, operations, finance and human resource management. This includes a special focus on decision making – particularly how decisions made in one area can affect the rest of the business.

Content

Topic 1 – What is business?

Topic 2 – Managers, leadership and decision making

Topic 3 – Decision making to improve marketing performance

Topic 4 – Decision making to improve operational performance

Topic 5 – Decision making to improve financial performance

Topic 6 – Decision making to improve human resource performance

Year 13

An investigation of the strategic decisions that all businesses have to make.

Content

Topic 7 – Analysing the strategic position of a business

Topic 8 – Choosing the strategic direction

Topic 9 – Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies

Topic 10 – Managing strategic change

A-level assessment

A-level assessment consists of three x 2 hour written exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Each exam will be worth a third of the A-level. All three papers will draw on material from the whole course, and will feature a range of question styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, data response questions and case studies.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Chemistry

Curriculum Leader: Mrs R Ellis

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE Chemistry or 6-6 in Science Double Award, and a 5 in GCSE Maths

Course Information

We follow the OCR Chemistry A (H432) specification, one of the most popular courses in the country. The course runs over 2 years, with 3 exams sat in June of Year 2.

Course Content

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment

The course will be examined in June of your second year of study. First year exams will not be sat. The written assessment will be as follows:

- Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry - 100 marks - 2 hours 15 minutes
- Synthesis and analytical techniques - 100 marks - 2 hours 15 minutes
- Unified chemistry - 70 marks - 1 hour 30 minutes

Practical Endorsement

In addition to their A level grade, students will work towards their 'Practical Endorsement' in chemistry. 12 core practicals will be completed throughout the course that test competence in practical skills. The Practical Endorsement is a Pass/Fail addition to the A level grade, and will be reported separately from the examination grade.

Future Opportunities

Although not always an absolute requirement, Chemistry A level gives you an excellent basis from which to embark on a wide variety of potential degree subjects. Employers also value the sorts of analytical and problem-solving skills gained from a science A level. We have had students going to study or work in a number of industries: Medicine, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, and Chemical Engineering, Physics, Economics and Entrepreneurism to name but a few!

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Economics

Curriculum Leader: Mrs A McNally

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE Maths and 5 in GCSE English Literature

Course Information

It is often said that we live in a global village. The world's resources are finite; there are only limited amounts of land, water, oil, food and other resources on this planet. Economists therefore say that resources are scarce but wants are infinite. It is this which gives rise to the basic economic problem and which forces economic agents including consumers, businesses, governments, banks and so on, to make choices. Economics is the study of such choices and how efficiently they can be made.

What will I learn on this course?

A-Level Economics allows you to acquire knowledge and understanding of both Microeconomic (individual markets and market failure) and Macroeconomic (the whole economy in international context) models, and apply these to current problems and issues. You will learn about the performance of the UK Economy over recent years and also understand the influence of European Union membership and the international economy. You will develop your understanding of different markets and market failure. You should expect a challenging yet stimulating course of study in which you will be encouraged to develop a critical approach to diverse economic models, issues and methods of enquiry.

How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will sit three A-Level examinations each contributing one third of the A-Level. Two of these exams will be similarly structured data response and essay tests (one based on Micro, the other on Macro), whilst a third examination uses multiple choice and case study to explore economic principles and issues.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



English Literature

Curriculum Leaders: Consortium

Entry Requirements: Grade 7 in GCSE English Literature

Course Information

AQA English Literature B specification entails the study of a broad range of texts, from various different forms, eras, and genres and in a number of different ways:

- the study of texts within specific genres
- the study of texts through engagement with a range of theoretical ideas
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.

Genre study is at the heart of English Literature B and the four broad genres available for study are:

- tragedy
- comedy
- crime writing
- political and social protest writing

The 'Theory and Independence' coursework module is designed to allow students to read widely, to choose their own texts and to understand that contemporary study of literature needs to be informed by the fact that different theoretical and critical methods can be applied to the subject. This area of the course provides a challenging and wide-ranging opportunity for an introduction to different ways of reading texts and for independent study. The title 'Theory and independence' highlights the important idea that, within a literature course, students should have the opportunity to work as independently as possible – a fantastic skill to perfect before entering higher education or the workplace.

This process is supported by the AQA Critical anthology, which has accessible extracts on the following critical methods and ideas:

- narrative theory
- feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- eco-critical theory
- post-colonial theory
- literary value and the canon.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



French

Curriculum Leader: Consortium

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE French

Course Information

Course Description

An A-Level in a Modern Foreign Language is an asset, as language graduates are highly employable and versatile. They can pursue a diverse range of careers including Business, Law, Education and the Media. Language A-Levels also remain highly valued by universities for their academic rigour.

Course Content

At AS level you will explore and discuss the topics of Social issues and trends and Artistic culture. At A-Level you will learn to express and defend your views on the Social issues and trends and Political and artistic culture. Grammar will also be taught intensively both at AS and A-Level.

Assessment

You will sit a Reading, Listening and Writing exam and a speaking exam at the end of both years of the course. There will also be a separate Writing ex-am at the end of each year to assess the study of a literary text or a film at AS and a novel and a film at A-Level. The AS and A-Level are separate qualifications



Further Mathematics

Curriculum Leader: Consortium

Entry Requirements: Grade 8 in GCSE Maths – must also be studying A-Level Maths

Course Information

Students who choose to study Further Mathematics are eager mathematicians, interested in gaining more depth and breadth in their study. The course will give them an opportunity to investigate more advanced areas of the subject, but also discover aspects of its application to other fields (for example, decision mathematics, advanced mechanics or statistics). The depth of this course generally helps students strengthen their standards in A-Level Mathematics which is studied in parallel. It provides a smooth transition between secondary and higher education: degrees which are rich in mathematical content are a natural progression of this course.

Finally, for students who enjoy mathematics, this course is fun! It is demanding, but the rigour required to succeed makes it a highly regarded A-Level when applying to university or for employment.

Course Description

The A2 Mathematics course is a linear course taught over two years.

The Further Mathematics course builds on the A2 Mathematics A-level, with 50% of the course content being common across all boards and includes: proof, complex numbers and matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations – all fundamental to any STEM degrees. The remaining content will be an extension of Mechanics, Statistics, Pure and/or Decision Mathematics

Assessment

In Year 12 you will complete regular internal examinations as well as an end of year mock exam. In Year 13 you will sit six hours of exams which will make up your final grade.

Higher Education and Possible Careers

Further Mathematics is a highly regarded A-Level as it is perceived as an indicator of students who are very committed to their studies, are highly interested in mathematics as a discipline, and demonstrate outstanding analytical skills.

Careers may include Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, and mathematics, as well as Economics and Finance.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Geography

Curriculum Leader: Miss E Miles

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE Geography and 5 in GCSE Maths, and a 5 in either GCSE English Literature or English Language

Course Information

Geography A-level encourages students to gain enjoyment, satisfaction and a sense of achievement as they develop their knowledge and understanding of the subject. The A Level course enables students to be inspired by their geographical understanding, to engage critically with real world issues and places, and to apply their geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them.

The Edexcel specification pushes forward the frontiers of A level geography. It is a refreshing progression from GCSE that aims to challenge and inspire you by teaching global issues which are relevant to you as students of today.

Course content

Paper 1: Dynamic Landscapes – 2Hr 15 Min - 105 Mark Exam (30%)

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change - Coastal Landscapes
- The Water Cycle and Water Security
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2: Dynamic Places - 2Hr 15 Min - 105 Mark Exam (30%)

- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places
- Superpowers
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Paper 3 – Synoptic Paper - 2Hr 15 Min - 70 Mark Exam (20%)

- No new teaching – bringing together of a range of course content
- Resources book provided

Independent Investigation (20%)

- 4,000 word independent investigation
- Non-examined
- 4 Day fieldtrip to Nettlecombe Court (please note there will be an associated cost)

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



German

Curriculum Leader: Consortium

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE German

Course Information

Course Description

An A-Level in a Modern Foreign Language is an asset, as language graduates are highly employable and versatile. They can pursue a diverse range of careers including Business, Law, Education and the Media. Language A-Levels also remain highly valued by universities for their academic rigour.

Course Content

At AS level you will explore and discuss the topics of Social issues and trends and Artistic culture. At A-Level you will learn to express and defend your views on the Social issues and trends and Political and artistic culture. Grammar will also be taught intensively both at AS and A-Level.

Assessment

You will sit a Reading, Listening and Writing exam and a speaking exam at the end of both years of the course. There will also be a separate Writing ex-am at the end of each year to assess the study of a literary text or a film at AS and a novel and a film at A-Level. The AS and A-Level are separate qualifications



History

Curriculum Leader: Mr A Collins

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE History and 5 in GCSE English Literature or English Language

Course Information

History at Desborough is an increasingly popular subject. The course has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The A Level will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. Further opportunities to take part in a trip to the USA and meet former members of US Congress are also available.

Course content:

Paper 1: The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975 (40% of A Level)

From Civil War to World War, 1865–1920

- The Era of Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865–1890
- Populism, Progressivism and Imperialism, 1890–1920

Crises and the Rise to World Power, 1920–1975

- Crisis of identity, 1920–1945
- The Superpower, 1945–1975

A Level Component 2: The English Revolution, 1625–1660 (40% of A Level)

The Origins of the English Civil War, 1625–1642

- The emergence of conflict and the end of consensus, 1625–1629
- An experiment in Absolutism, 1629–1640
- The crisis of Parliament and the outbreak of the First Civil War, 1640–1642

Radicalism, Republic and Restoration, 1642–1660

- War and radicalism, 1642–1646
- The disintegration of the Political Nation, 1646–1649
- Experiments in Government and Society, 1648–1660

A Level Component 3: Coursework. (20% of A Level)

A piece of coursework on a subject of the student's choice.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Mathematics

Curriculum Leader: Dr J Juden and Mrs J Nikoloska

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE Maths

Course Information

The A2 Mathematics course is a linear course taught over two years.

Course Content

The A-Level consists of three parts:

- Pure Mathematics - proof, algebra, graphs, sequences, trigonometry, logarithms, calculus, vectors, functions, numerical methods and differential equations.
- Statistics - working with data from a sample to make inferences about a population, probability calculations, using a binomial distribution as a model, statistical hypothesis testing and the Normal distribution.
- Mechanics - kinematics, working with forces, Newton's laws, motion under gravity, friction and simple moments.

Assessment

In Year 12 you will complete regular internal examinations as well as an end of year mock exam. In Year 13 you will sit three exams which will make up your final grade. All exams are two hours in length; calculators can be used in all papers.

Higher Education and Possible Careers

Careers may include Sciences, Economics, Computer Science, and Engineering. It is also highly regarded by many other courses, such as medicine, because of the analytical and logical reasoning skills learned in A level Mathematics.

A-Level in Mathematics also is referred to as one of the lead "facilitating subjects" – a subject that keep the widest range of degree courses open.

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



PE

Curriculum Leader: Mr T Hamilton

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE PE or by audition

Course Information

OCR's A-Level in PE will equip learners with both a depth and breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific, socio-cultural and practical aspects of physical education. In the practical component of the course students will refine their ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. Students will also develop their ability to analyse and evaluate their own/others performance.

The theoretical aspect of the course develops pupil's knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport. Students will examine how physiological and psychological states affect performance and understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

Course Content

Component 01 – Physiological factors affecting performance. This includes:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics

Component 02 – Psychological factors affecting performance. This includes:

- Skill acquisition
- Sport psychology

Component 03 – Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport. This includes:

- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport

Component 04 – Performance in physical education. This includes:

- Performance or coaching (one sport only)

Evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement (speaking exam)

For more information contact:
williamfurmage@desborough-college.net



Psychology

Curriculum Leader: Mrs H Gerber

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE Maths and 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

Course Information

In studying Psychology, you will develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. We will teach you to deal with conflicting theories, consider evidence and draw conclusions. You will strengthen your communication skills, both written and oral and learn how to form a structured and considered argument. You will learn about people, what they do and why they do it, this will be useful in any life situation that involves dealing with other people.

Course Content

At AS level you will study Psychology by investigating the different approaches that Psychologists use to explain human behaviour. You will look at Psychodynamic, Behavioural, Cognitive, Biological and Positive Psychology. In each approach you will learn about a classic study, then each approach will be applied to investigating human relationships. In addition you will study the Research Methods that are used in psychological investigations.

For A-Level you will learn all the AS material, in addition you will be expected to apply your understanding of Approaches and Research Methods to the following: Forensic Psychology, Schizophrenia and Relationships. There is also a component dealing with controversies in Psychology such as sexism, cultural bias, the use of non-human animals in research, and the ethical costs of research.

Assessment

At AS Level you will sit two exams and have mini tests in lessons.

At A-Level you will sit 3 exams in the summer of Year 2 and write regular timed essays.



Politics

Curriculum Leader: Mr A Collins

Entry Requirements: 5 in GCSE History or GCSE Geography and 5 in English Literature or English Language

Course Information

Politics A level continues to be a popular subject. Students will be introduced to the government and politics of the UK and the USA, including Parliament, Congress and the legislative process in both countries. In addition the specification now includes the opportunity to study the development of political ideas from John Stuart Mill and Mary Wollstonecraft to Marx and Crosland. You will develop the skills of research, problem solving, analysis, evaluation and strengthen your ICT, communication and team-working skills. Opportunities to visit parliament and meet MPs and prospective candidates bring the process to life and enhance understanding of core concepts.

Course Content

Paper 1: The Government & Politics of the United Kingdom: the system of ruling the United Kingdom, the role of politicians, pressure groups and the party system and how these groups affect the outcome of elections. The influence of the EU.

Paper 2: Government & Politics of the USA and comparative politics: a study of politics in the USA, the Federal Government system, and how the role of the individual states affects the national government. The Presidential Election, This section includes a section on comparing the systems of the UK and the USA

Paper 3: Political Ideas: Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism and Feminism.

For more information contact:
williamfurnage@desborough-college.net



Physics

Curriculum Leader: Mrs R Ellis

Entry Requirements: 6 in GCSE Physics or 6-6 in Science Double Award, and a 6 in GCSE Maths

Course Information

AS only:

Mechanics
Electrical circuits
Materials
Waves and Particle Nature of Light

AS and A2:

Further Mechanics
Electric and Magnetic Fields
Nuclear and Particle Physics
Thermodynamics
Space
Nuclear Radiation
Gravitation
Oscillations

Physics is probably the most versatile, useful A level there is. It will be accepted for virtually any degree, is required for many, and a good physics grade is a badge of academic excellence that any University will take notice of.

For any course at University with a slightly scientific focus, physics will either be essential or very highly desirable. As well as the obvious route of physics and all the aspects from quantum physics to cosmology that physics covers, it is a must for courses in engineering and very strongly recommended for courses such as medicine.

A physics degree is a ticket into a huge range of careers. As well as academic careers, physicists are in demand pretty much everywhere. A physics graduate has been taught how to think – how to model and understand complicated systems and processes, how to deal with and interpret data and, in general, how to understand how things work.

There is a huge demand for physicists in the City and the financial sector as a whole, and physicists are instrumental in several aspects of healthcare, but any organisation that has anything complicated going on would love to have a physicist to work things out for them! People with a physics degree work on modelling fires inside nuclear submarines, designing new inhalers for medical treatments, modelling weather and heat flows inside a house (in order to maximise energy efficiency), be in charge of sorting out a company's database for dealing with customer complaints, as well as working as professional researchers in Universities. Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, is a Physics graduate. Physics really does lead to just about anything

For more information contact:
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Introducing BTECs

BTECs are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work. For BTEC students, it's all about learning by doing and putting what they learn into practice straight away. With their focus on skills-based learning, BTEC courses are designed around themed units. Rather than testing everything together at the end, BTECs are assessed throughout the course using assignments set in real-life scenarios, where students develop and apply the practical knowledge and skills employers and higher education are looking for.

And that means there are plenty of chances to learn, improve and succeed. A BTEC is so much more than just a certificate – BTEC-qualified students will keep applying what they learn on their BTEC course to go on to further study, progress to a job – and throughout their career.

BTEC Level 3 Nationals qualify for UCAS points towards your university application in the same way as A-Levels and AS levels.

In fact:

- 74% of employers say they want people with a mix of academic and vocational qualifications*
- 90% of BTEC students are employed full-time after graduating**
- Over 1 million learners every year take BTEC qualifications and BTEC continues to be the nation's fastest growing route into university, with almost one in four students who started university last year having taken the qualification***

A word to learners

Today's BTEC Nationals are demanding, as you would expect of the most respected applied learning qualification in the UK. You will have to choose and complete a range of units, be organised, and take some assessments that we will set and marked externally and keep a portfolio of your assignments. But you can feel proud to achieve a BTEC because, whatever your plans in life – whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an apprenticeship, or set up your own business – your BTEC National will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life.

All BTECs offered at Desborough College contain a combination of internal and external assessment, with most being studied as an **'Extended Certificate'**, equivalent to one A-Level.

Full details of the BTEC courses we intend to run in 2021/22 can be found on the following pages.

*Source: Inspiring Growth Survey, 2015 ** Source: London Economics Report, 2013 *** Source: UCAS and HESA data on entry to HE, 2018

For more information contact:
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BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED SCIENCES

Curriculum Leader: Mr T Crosse

Entry Requirements: Average point score of a grade 4 (Best 8 subjects that include English Language and Maths)

Course information

This qualification is equivalent to one A-Level and is suitable for students who are interested in taking a Science subject alongside other fields of study. It is an appropriate choice for progress to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in Science. It may be studied alongside other BTEC qualifications or with A-Levels. Four units will be completed over two years.

Course content

Unit 1 - Principles and Application of Science: students will study some basic concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, including atomic structure, animal and plant cells, and waves. This unit is externally assessed.

Unit 2 – Practical Scientific Procedures: Activities are focussed on the development of laboratory skills and includes titrations, colorimetric and chromatography. This unit will be assessed internally.

Unit 3 – Science Investigative Skills: students will learn how to plan a scientific investigation, collect and collate data, and reach valid conclusions. They will apply these skills to experiments involving enzymes and diffusion of molecules. This unit is externally assessed.

Unit 15 - Electrical Circuits and their uses. Learners will gain an understanding of the principles of electricity, including measurements of electrical values, health and safety, the construction of circuits and their use in society today. This unit is internally assessed.

Assessment

Coursework

External assessment – examinations

For more information contact:
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BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN IT

Curriculum Leader: M G Kaur

Entry Requirements: Average point score of a grade 4 (Best 8 subjects that include English Language and Maths)

Course Information

This vocational qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT. Learners study the relationship between hardware and software, managing and communicating information and data, and the principles of designing and developing digital technologies and processes to support organisations. The additional mandatory units that this qualification includes are Unit 9: IT Project Management and Unit 11: IT Cyber Security and Incident Management (synoptic). This qualification also includes a choice of optional units, covering areas such as data modelling and analytics, mobile internet technologies, creative technologies and enterprise for IT. This will allow progression to a variety of degrees when combined with other suitable Level 3 qualifications.

In addition to the IT sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification enable learners to develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. For example, the study of IT particularly encourages development of research and analysis skills, project management and prioritising, effective communications, the synthesis skills of adapting and integrating, and the evaluation skills of assessing, interpreting and validating

Mandatory units

There are three mandatory units, one internal and two external. Learners must complete and achieve at Near Pass grade or above in all mandatory external units and achieve a Pass or above in all mandatory internal units.

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (External)
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (External)
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business (Internal)

Optional units

Learners must complete at least one optional unit

- Unit 6: Website Development (Internal)

For more information contact:
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BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

Curriculum Leader: Mr T Hamilton

Entry Requirements: Average point score of a grade 4 (Best 8 subjects that include English Language and Maths)

Course Information

The mandatory content allows students to concentrate on the development of their practical skills and the broad knowledge required for entrance into higher education programmes in sport.

Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Learners must also complete one optional unit:

- Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

In addition to the sport sector specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean that learners develop the transferable and higher order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers. Study of sport particularly encourages the development of skills and behaviours such as teamwork, leadership, performance analysis, resilience, evaluation, analysis and synthesising concepts. These skills are developed through the variety of approaches to teaching and learning enabled by the specification.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting, or contributing to, admission requirements for many relevant courses. Learners can progress to higher education on full degree single or combined courses, for example:

- BA (Hons) in Sports Development and Management
- BSc (Hons) in Sports Management
- BSc (Hons) Sports Business Management
- BSc (Hons) Sport and Leisure Management
- BSc (Hons) Sports Science (Outdoor Activities)
- BSc (Hons) in Exercise, Health and Fitness
- BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Psychology.

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Ask yourself:

How interesting and enjoyable have I found this subject at GCSE?

Your motivation and drive for success at A-Level will be significantly improved if you are interested in and enjoy what you are studying

What would I like to do after Sixth Form?

Consider your next steps when selecting your A-Levels. Do they fit with your possible university, apprenticeship or employment aspirations?

What do current students think about this course?

Ask current sixth form students about your choices; what have they enjoyed and what have they found most challenging?

Is this a new subject for me?

If so, do everything you can to 'get a feel' for the subject. Why not ask to visit an A-Level lesson?

How do your current GCSE predictions look?

The entry requirements are there for an important reason and are based on years of teaching experience. You need to be realistic about your next steps, and not pin all your hopes on one option.

Do I know what units I will study, and how I will be assessed?

This will give you a good idea about whether a course really appeals to you or not, and what your two years studying it might be like. If you don't yet have all the details you need, please get in touch!





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Be part of our

OUTSTANDING

future

