Ark John Keats Academy

Sixth Form

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Art and Design

What is Art and Design?

Art and Design A level provides opportunities every day for you to develop ideas imaginatively, and to apply your creativity. You will need to be industrious, and responsive to suggestions and feedback for improvement.

Why study this course?

You will develop your creative skills across a range of styles and forms, and also strengthen your skills of analysis and critical evaluation, both of your own and others' work. You will also be offered the opportunity to learn about and visit diverse world-class art venues across London. The end of course exhibition will give you the chance to showcase your talent and hard work.

How is the course assessed?

Combination of coursework and controlled assessments.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are creative and imaginative, enjoy developing ideas in a practical way and experimenting with a variety of materials and techniques.

Progression options

Art and Design A level and further related study can lead to careers in the creative industries in the fields of fashion, gallery/ museum management, architecture, interior design, graphic design, film and TV design, jewellery design, theatre and set design.

Biology

What is Biology?

Biology is the study of living organisms. Biologists study every aspect of life, from the intricate workings of individual cells to the effects of humans and other organisms on the Earth's atmosphere.

Why study this course?

Biology is a subject where you will constantly learn interesting things about the workings of the human body and about the wider world around you. As well as being a fascinating subject, Biology is brilliant if you want to develop your skills and make yourself an attractive candidate for universities and employers. Studying Biology will develop your mathematical, problem-solving and literacy skills, with a significant element of laboratory and practical work throughout the two-year course.

How is the course assessed?

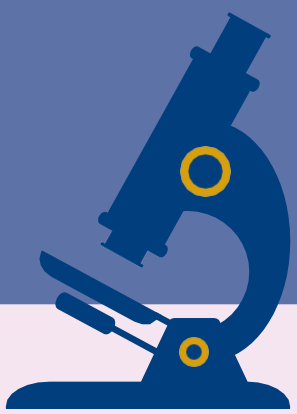
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have curious minds, a genuine interest in studying living things and who want to get a hands-on experience of science.

Progression options

A level Biology students are in a position to progress to science-related degrees, including competitive fields such as Medicine, Bio-medical Science or Dentistry. The analytical skills that are required for Biology (and any science A level) are highly valued by most employers and universities, and can lead to a wide range of study and career options.



Chemistry

What is Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, and how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances. It also involves the study of how these substances interact with energy.

Why study this course?

A level Chemistry is challenging but hugely rewarding, requiring you to extend and deepen the knowledge and understanding you gained at GCSE. You will develop your skills in problem-solving, analysis and data-handling, while having the opportunity to develop your practical skills through regular laboratory work. These transferable skills make science graduates highly employable in a range of professions.

How is the course assessed?

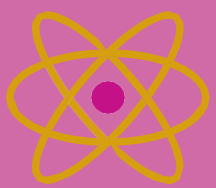
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with strong numeracy skills, a real interest in science and who desire to develop greater understanding of how physical sciences shape the world around us.

Progression options

Chemistry is either required or strongly recommended for many related degree courses such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Biomedical Science and Veterinary Medicine. In more general terms, Chemistry is a widely respected subject that will support progression to most professional careers.



Computer Science

What is Computer Science?

Computer Science is an exciting subject for technically-minded students that provides the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of how computer systems and software are developed. You will have opportunities to analyse real world problems and devise logical technological solutions to them.

Why study this course?

A level Computer Science allows you to develop an in-depth understanding of computer science theory, and build your practical skills in the use of both software and programming languages. The course will help prepare you for related university study in the fields of Computing, ICT or Business Management/Information Systems. Graduates in these fields are highly sought after by employers in all sectors due to their transferable technical skills.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who enjoy problem-solving and using coding to complete complex challenges — anyone who is considering becoming a programmer or a software developer as a career.

Progression options

This course can lead to a wide range of course options in Higher Education. Good universities typically have several courses within Computing/ICT/Information Systems including more specific courses such as Artificial Intelligence, Web Design, Software Development and Networking. All of these courses are excellent preparation for graduate employment or further academic research.

Drama and Theatre Studies

What is Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre Studies involves a significant element of practical performance work based on your imagination, creativity and team work. To support that, you will also explore social, historical and cultural influences on drama and performance. There is a strong focus on developing your own skills of acting, directing, character development (voice and movement) and working with scripts.

Why study this course?

As well as being an exciting and fulfilling subject to study, Drama and Theatre Studies will allow you to develop excellent core communication skills, both spoken and written. You will have the opportunity to experience regular live theatre to enrich your learning, and be supported to apply your knowledge to your own and others' performances.

How is the course assessed?

Ongoing assessment of performances and coursework, and an examination at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are committed performers with a love of theatre. The course is excellent preparation for those wishing to pursue Drama or a related field in Higher Education, or as an additional subject for students keen to focus on developing strong communication and team-working skills.

Progression options

Drama and Theatre Studies is excellent preparation for a number of degree courses including Acting, Directing, Drama and Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Technical Theatre. As a creative and academic subject it can also support applications to a range of Arts, Humanities and Social Science degrees. Communication and team-working are skills that are valued highly by all employers.

Economics

What is Economics?

Economics is the study of human choices and how society uses its resources. In a world where there is scarcity of land, labour, raw materials, capital and enterprise, Economics helps people make the right choices by showing them the most efficient way to use these scarce resources in achieving their goals.

Why study this course?

Economics is highly respected by universities and provides you with knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a variety of professional careers. These include quantitative and qualitative data analysis, formal written communication and understanding of a wide range of real world issues affecting society, government and business.

How is the course assessed?

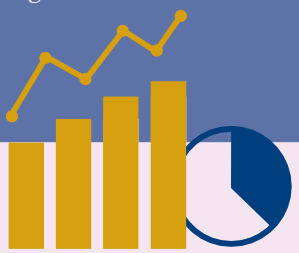
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with a strong interest in current affairs (especially politics, government and business) and who enjoy applying their knowledge and understanding to real world scenarios.

Progression options

A level Economics can lead to a variety of degree courses at university, typically in fields such as Business/Management/Accountancy/Finance and Social Sciences. Economics is often paired with another related subject such as Politics or Management to make up a university degree. Some Economics degrees also require Maths A level. It is widely respected by universities and employers, and can lead to careers in banking and finance, business consulting, accountancy, law, journalism, civil service, business and management, or education. Economics graduates are highly sought after in the labour market.



English Literature

What is English Literature?

English Literature is the study of the work of a variety of great writers. The study of literature should bring you both knowledge and pleasure: you will study a wide range of novels, plays, poems and other literary forms in order to explore the concerns of the people who wrote them, the methods that they use to shape the responses of their readers and the conclusions that we can draw from our reading of them.

Why study this course?

Studying a range of literature will broaden your ideas, develop the skills involved in debate and discussion, and encourage the discipline of detailed textual analysis. It is a highly regarded, useful foundation for a range of university subjects.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the subject suitable for?

Students who love to read and to talk about books and are willing to offer their opinions in lessons and to engage with those of others. In addition, students who are able to write clearly using appropriate literary terms, arguing fluently and analysing cogently.

Progression options

English Literature is highly regarded by both universities and employers and will support your progression to a range of courses and careers. The skills of textual analysis and written communication are vital in most professional careers, and highly relevant in law, journalism, public relations and marketing.

Geography

What is Geography?

A level Geography involves the study of topical and important aspects of human society and our physical environment. You will develop an in-depth understanding of human topics like globalisation, migration and regeneration of urban areas, while physical topics include coasts, glaciation and tectonics. You will also have the opportunity to conduct independent research and data collection on a topic of your choice through the coursework element of the qualification.

Why study this course?

Geography is an incredibly diverse and interesting subject that complements a range of different A levels, including History, Economics, Sociology and Science subjects. You will develop an excellent range of transferable skills, and be well prepared for Higher Education and career pathways, supported by your strong understanding of the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with a strong interest in world events and current affairs (particularly related to human and physical geography) and who enjoy discussion, reading, research and essay writing.

Progression options

Specific careers related to Geography include environmental management and consultancy, town planning, chartered surveying and project management. Geography graduates have an above average employment success rate due to the range of skills they develop including oral communication, delivering presentations, report writing, problem-solving, analysis, data interpretation and critical thinking.

Politics

What is Politics?

The Politics course requires students to explore numerous aspects of UK and global politics. Students will debate ideologues, systems of government and the political history of both the UK and the international order. Students will be required to grasp complex political ideas and will start to embrace and understand their own political viewpoints. Students will also develop critical thinking skills and cultivate their ability to write effectively.

Why study this course?

We are currently experiencing the most tumultuous political climate that we have faced in decades. There are huge challenges being faced in countries around the globe that will take years to resolve. Having an understanding of politics is becoming necessary in order to make sense of the world.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of a two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

A level Politics is a good choice for students considering a career in related professions, or those who simply want to understand how the world works. Politics goes well with Economics, History, Sociology and English. Politics does not just appeal to Social Science students; increasingly Art and Drama students have enrolled to study Politics, giving them a broader perspective on the world.

Progression options

Students who study Politics A level find that it acts as an excellent accompanying subject to a variety of degree courses and can lead to a wide range of possible career paths. Students can expect to gain many transferable skills, which will help them to access a wide range of different university courses. Many students can carry on their studies in complementary subjects such as International Relations, Law, History, Journalism and Politics at degree level. This course opens up many career opportunities in a wide range of disciplines.

History

What is History?

A level History is the study of a range of periods of British and International History. Debate and discussion of historical issues are central to the study of this course — you will have the chance to apply your knowledge and understanding by arguing the causes, consequences and significance of the key events studied.

Why study this course?

History is a traditional academic subject that is highly regarded by top universities, both as a means to access a wide variety of more specialist courses and also as a subject in its own right. Studying History at A level will give you a broad understanding of current world affairs, while also helping you build key skills such as literacy, communication, analysis and critical thinking.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are interested in analysing the causes and impact of historical events, and who are open-minded to help them understand alternative viewpoints and the cultural norms that governed the thinking of people in the past.

Progression options

History is a subject that provides excellent preparation for Higher Education, and also complements any other essay subject at A level. As a traditional academic subject, History is well regarded by universities and supports an application for many subjects, notably English, History, Law, Modern Languages and Politics.

Mathematics

What is Mathematics?

Mathematics A level builds on the topics studied on the Higher Specification GCSE course. Within Pure Mathematics you will be introduced to calculus techniques as well as extending your algebra skills. You will also study a variety of topics within Statistics, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics.

Why study this course?

An A level in Mathematics shows logic, reasoning and a high level of numeracy, and serves to support many other A level courses. Furthermore, employers in all sectors highly value a candidate who can offer mathematical ability — research has shown those with a Mathematics A level earn more, on average, than those without. Studying A level Mathematics therefore offers you the opportunity to develop your knowledge, skills and employability.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have loved studying Mathematics during primary and secondary school, enjoy working hard and are motivated by the challenge of solving complex problems using exact methods.

Progression options

Mathematics A level supports applications for most degree courses and almost all career pathways — from Medicine to Engineering, and Computer Programming to Finance and Accounting. It is well regarded by universities, and can therefore support most subject combinations at A level.

Further Mathematics

What is Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics extends the areas of Pure Mathematics, Decision Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics taught in the A level Mathematics course. Further Mathematics will challenge you beyond your A level Mathematics course, while further developing your mathematical knowledge, understanding and problem-solving skills. Students with a very strong interest in Mathematics, and high GCSE grades (8–9 at GCSE) may opt to take Further Mathematics as an additional A level.

Why study this course?

Further Mathematics will give you an excellent starting point for further study in fields such as Mathematics, Engineering and Physics at university.

How is the course assessed?

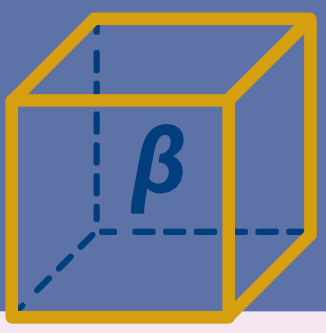
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a strong desire to extend their mathematical expertise, and are aiming to study Mathematics, Engineering or Physics at good universities.

Progression options

Like Mathematics A level, Further Mathematics supports many career pathways — particularly those that require high levels of mathematical skill such as engineering, computer programming and actuarial science. It is highly regarded by employers and universities, as it shows a very high level of mathematical ability.



Modern Foreign Languages

What are Modern Foreign Languages?

We are offering French at A level. For the language you select, you will study the grammatical systems, communication, culture and politics of countries that speak this language. Moving on from GCSE, you will learn how to confidently communicate in written and spoken form with a high level of grammatical accuracy.

Why study this course?

An A level in French will give you a huge advantage in the globalised job market, allowing you to compete for roles with an even wider range of employers. You will develop the linguistic skills that you acquired at GCSE to allow you to manipulate the language more effectively and move towards fluency. You will also study the use of language in political and social contexts, using news reports and articles to acquire vocabulary and grammatical knowledge.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations (written and speaking) at the end of the two-year course.

Who are these courses suitable for?

Students who are keen to develop fluency of a modern foreign language, and would like to learn more about foreign culture, politics and society.

Progression options

Vital for students who want to go on to study languages or linguistics at university, an A level in French will also give any CV a huge boost when applying for jobs in literally any sector with large, international employers. French is also well regarded as complementary subjects for any combination, whether Science, Arts or Humanities.

Music

What is Music?

Studying Music helps you to extend your knowledge and understanding of a variety of musical styles, genres and forms, whilst also giving you the opportunity to create and develop your own musical ideas and demonstrating and developing your pre-existing skills in performance, interpretation and communication.

Why study this course?

Music is a rewarding subject that allows you to further develop and showcase your creative talents. A level Music is ideal preparation for study at music college or an academic music degree. During the course you will build on your skills in musical performance and composition, working with a range of pieces from different styles and eras. You will acquire a wide range of skills, improving your confidence through performance, working on theoretical skills through musical analysis and expressing your own creativity and musical ideas through composition.

How is the course assessed?

Practical assessment and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a passion either for performance, for writing music or for analysing pieces or songs. A significant proportion of students choose Music as something they enjoy, furthering both their hobby and academic study in lesson time.

Progression options

Music is highly regarded by many universities. It is especially useful for students considering a career or undergraduate studies in Performing Arts, Composition, Performance, Musical analysis or Music Education.

Physical Education

What is PE?

A level Physical Education builds on students' experience from Key Stage 4 and GCSE to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in Physical Education. The qualification aims to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work.

Why study this course?

Studying PE will develop your understanding of the scientific component of physical education. It will develop your independent thinking, team working skills and problem solving. You will also have the opportunity to lead and present in both theory and practical.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of a 2 year course (70%), practical performance (20%) and coursework (10%).

Who is the course suitable for?

This course will be of interest to students who have a keen interest in the theoretical aspects of PE and in particular enjoy biology and psychology. The course is designed for individuals who are participating in one sport outside school to minimum of club level.

Progression options

This could lead to various further study options, such as BA Hons in Physical Education, Sports Coaching, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, BSc Hons Strength and Conditioning Science, Sports Medicine or Sports Studies.

Physics

What is Physics?

Physics is defined as the study of matter, energy and the interaction between them. It is the science of how things move and why things behave in certain ways, and provides a fascinating insight into why our world is what it is. Physics is highly mathematical and uses formulae and logic to solve everyday problems, and also predict future events. Furthermore, it holds the answers to some fundamental questions about the history of the Earth, our solar system and the universe. Physics at A level involves practical work as well as plenty of theory — you will discover many new terms, formulae and mathematical methods to help you answer questions.

Why study this course?

Are you curious about the mysterious sub-atomic particles that are the fundamental building blocks of life as we know it? Would you like to understand the work engineers do to create the biggest man-made structures? Are you motivated by the idea of applying your Mathematics skills to real world contexts? If so, Physics could be an excellent choice of subject for you at A level.

How is the course assessed?

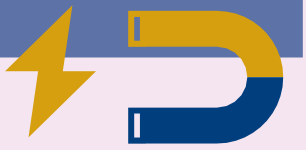
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who enjoy Mathematics and Physics at GCSE, enjoy seeing a real-world application of Mathematics, and who are motivated to study hard to come to grips with lots of new terminology and formulae.

Progression options

A level Physics can lead to university degrees in Physics, Mathematics, Engineering and Medical Science, depending on the other subjects you have chosen. It shows a high level of numeracy, logic and reasoning skills, and a Physics-related degree can lead to many excellent career options in fields such as engineering, technology, manufacturing and financial markets.



Psychology

What is Psychology?

Fundamentally, Psychology is the study of human behaviour. By studying Psychology you will gain a fascinating scientific insight into how the human mind works to affect how we behave, and you will grapple with great questions about the interpretation of dreams, the use of offender profiling in criminal investigation and the causes of mental illnesses. You will develop understanding of classic psychological theories by applying them to real life contexts, as well as carrying out psychological investigations and writing reports based upon your findings. Lessons are designed to be engaging and interactive, with frequent opportunities for debate.

Why study this course?

Psychology is a fascinating subject to study if you are interested in the world around you and want to find out more about the behaviour and decisions of individuals and groups. You will also develop a host of transferable life skills and a high level of self-awareness. As a result of the understanding you will develop of how people think, feel and behave, you will find that Psychology A level will help you progress in many professional careers.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to find out about the human mind and understand how it governs human behaviour. It is also important to have an interest in society and social issues, and a motivation to read widely to broaden your knowledge and understanding.

Progression options

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. If you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A level is of direct value. Psychology graduates can also build careers in related sectors such as education, the police and social work, or in a range of commercial contexts. Psychology provides you with life skills that are transferable to any career.

Religious Studies

What is Religious Studies?

Religious Studies A level allows you to explore classical arguments for and against theism, atheism and agnosticism. It comprises abstract thinking as well as logical arguments for and against the existence of God. You will also explore religious and secular arguments about morality, all of which are applied to medical ethics.

Why study this course?

Religious Studies A level is a traditional subject that is highly regarded by universities. More fundamentally, it will give you a chance to debate controversial and topical issues like medical ethics and the environment. You will develop a deeper understanding of good ethical practices, social and cultural diversity and the role of religion in promoting, and challenging, social cohesion.

How is the course assessed?

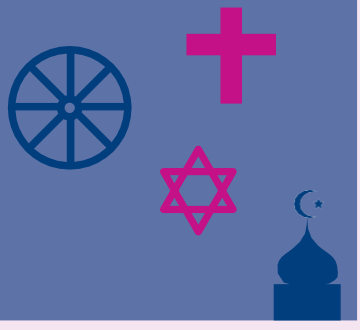
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with an interest in religion, philosophy, ethics and social history, and who have an open mind ready to explore topics and concepts that may conflict with, and contradict, their own beliefs.

Progression options

The course is highly regarded by both universities and employers and will therefore support your progression to a variety of professional careers in virtually any sector. You will develop a wide range of transferable skills, including written and oral communication, textual analysis and critical thinking.



Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of human society — how society has developed, how it is structured and how it works. You will look at culture and identity, social problems such as crime and poverty and the opportunities and challenges presented by globalisation. You can expect Sociology to shock and surprise you, as you begin to see the world around you in a new way, and to challenge many of your own assumptions and beliefs.

Why study this course?

Sociology allows you to gain an understanding of the way society works, and therefore to gain a different and much fuller perspective on the world around you. For example, you will have the opportunity to tackle contentious debates like why the prison population contains more people from ethnic minority backgrounds, why some sections of society have become obsessed with celebrity, the social and economic reasons behind health inequality by region and social class in the UK, and the impact of new media on global popular culture.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a strong interest in current affairs and the world around them, who enjoy asking and debating big questions about society, and who are ready to challenge their own thinking.

Progression options

Many students go on to study related Social Science courses at university, and a background in Sociology is helpful in careers such as law, civil service, education, criminal justice system and social work. You will

develop a strong skillset including written and oral communication, and the ability to analyse and evaluate data from a range of sources — useful in a wide range of professional contexts.

Meet other ambitious students

Massive range of enrichment opportunities

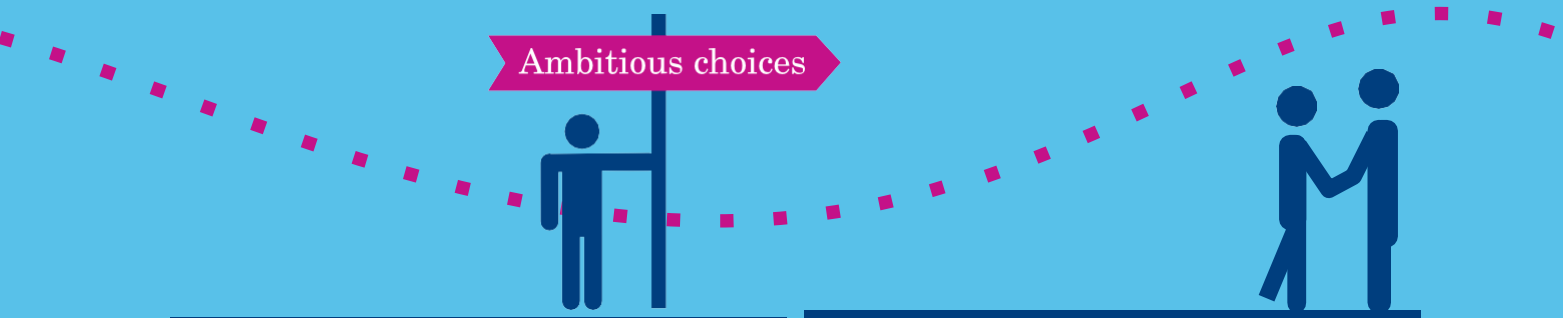
Support your progression and your future

Professional Pathways

What is Professional Pathways?

For students who wish to access higher level study or employment through a route other than A level, Professional Pathways could be the route for you.

Professional Pathways is an innovative programme of study offered at sixth forms across the Ark network. It has been designed in close collaboration with partners from the commercial and public sector. Those on this pathway will study towards the BTEC Extended Diploma, worth three A levels, in a programme that integrates academic study with extensive work experience opportunities, work readiness and career mentoring programmes.



Why study this programme?

- You will study a Level 3 qualification in Business that is equivalent to three A Levels, and holds the same number of UCAS points.
- You will work with employers to develop key skills: visiting their offices, meeting their employees, and accessing work experience opportunities.
- You will receive career mentoring to help you make a real and informed choice about what to do when you leave school. Your qualification will allow you to apply to top universities, competitive school leaver programmes, and apprenticeships with respected companies.
- You will attend termly conferences with students from across Ark, providing opportunities to build new networks with both peers and employers.

How is the course assessed?

The majority of the course is assessed through coursework assessments that are completed throughout the course. In addition, you will complete one controlled assessment and one exam at the end of each year. These will make up approximately 20% of your final grade.

Who is this programme suitable for?

Students who prefer practical learning and coursework over theoretical content and exams, as well as those who are keen to develop their employability skills and employer networks.

Business

What will I study?

You will develop practical skills and a theoretical understanding of the world of business. You will look in depth at finance, marketing, human resource management and e-business and will have opportunities to devise your own business plans and run your own business activities and events.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Business, Accounting and Finance, Business Management or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in Business or Finance.

Applied Science

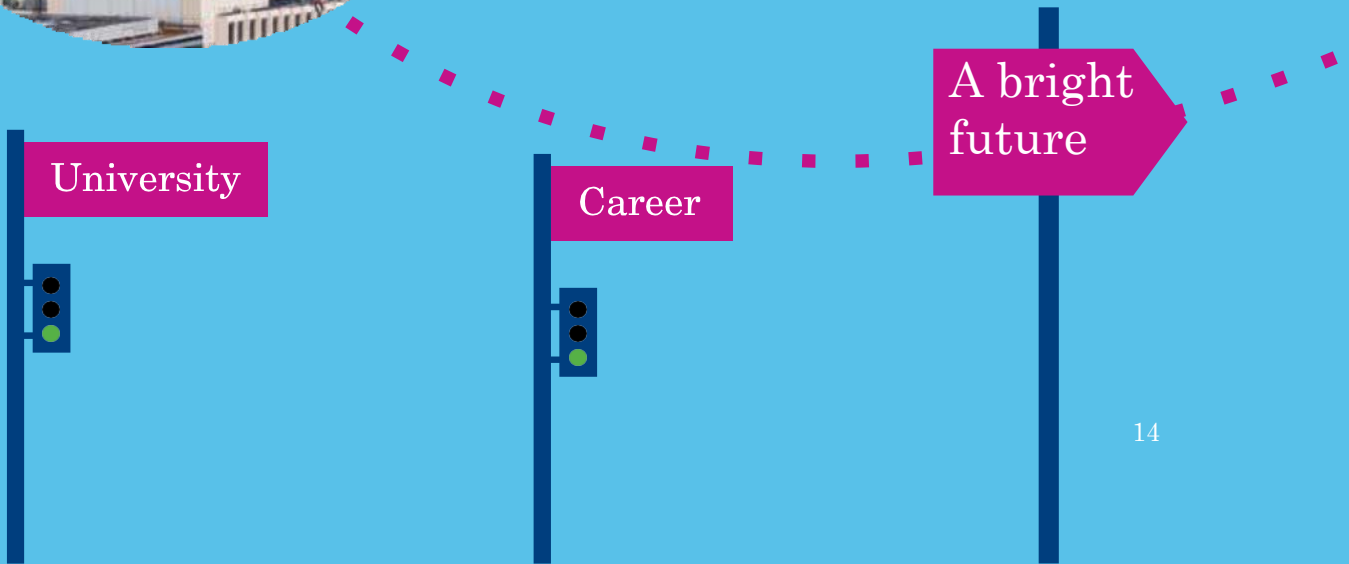
What will I study?

The topics explored on the Applied Science course include expanding your work in biology, chemistry and physics as well as exploring science investigative skills, laboratory techniques and contemporary issues in science including science ethics and reporting. Additional units in biology, chemistry and physics provide an opportunity for students to see how science is used on a practical level. Students will also have the opportunity to pursue their own scientific interests through an investigative project.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Science, Healthcare, Engineering or Applied Science, or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in Science or Technology. Students who choose not to continue on a Science pathway can also access university and apprenticeships in Business, Finance and other areas.

> “My teachers have set the bar higher and put their faith in me. *Their influence has changed my life.*”
>
> *Ester, Ark Globe Academy, 2017 Leaver*



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What is the EPQ?

As an additional option at many Ark sixth forms, you have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is a qualification that is worth half the points value of an A level. It involves planning, managing and researching a project of your choice, normally on a subject related to your KS5 courses. Students who take the EPQ either submit a written report on a title of their own choice or create a practical project; this could be artwork, film, a website or physical artefacts.

Develop yourself as an independent learner

Why study this programme?

It is an opportunity to deepen your knowledge about a subject area that you are passionate about and is an excellent process to develop you as an independent learner. The EPQ can form part of your university offer and will give you the chance to develop your skills around planning, organisation, research and absorption.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (100%).

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students with high levels of personal motivation as the process involves only minimal input from a supervisor.

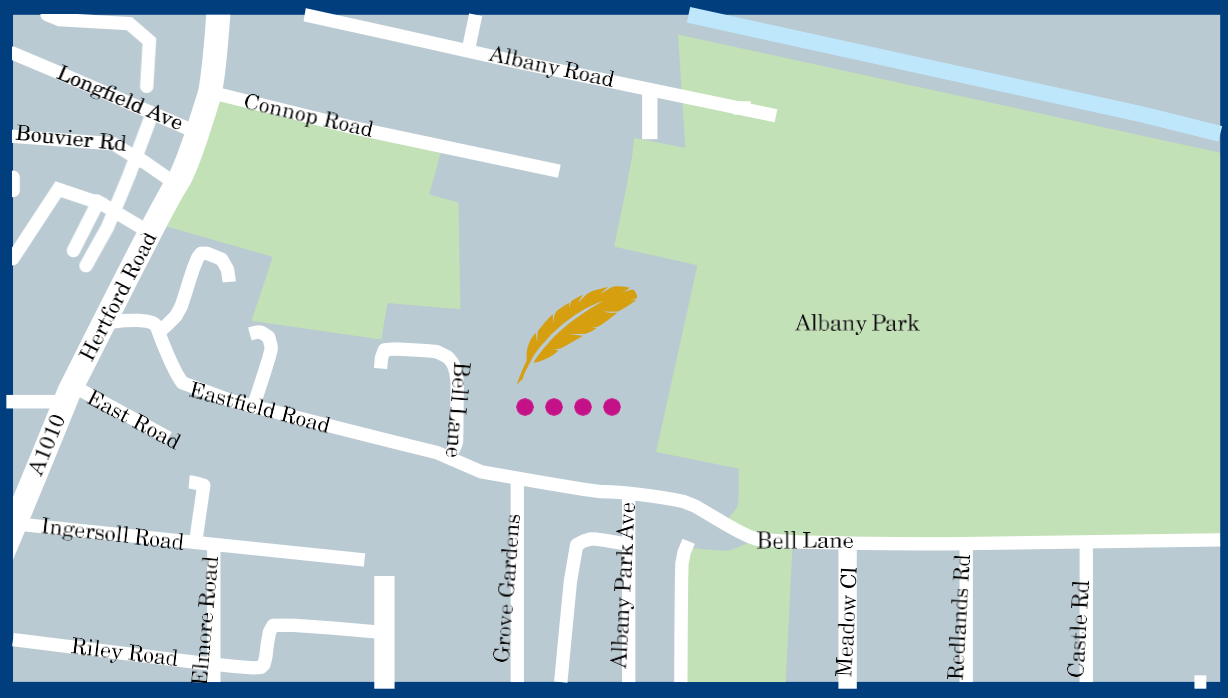
Progression options

The EPQ is a highly versatile qualification that allows you to explore a subject that you are interested in to a greater depth. It is an excellent opportunity to experience university-style study and gives you the chance to significantly develop your independent research skills.

How to apply

To apply for a place at AJK Sixth Form simply visit our school website and complete an online application form: https://arkjohnkeats.applicaa.com/year12

The courses we run are subject to interest and may vary. Please see our website for more details.



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