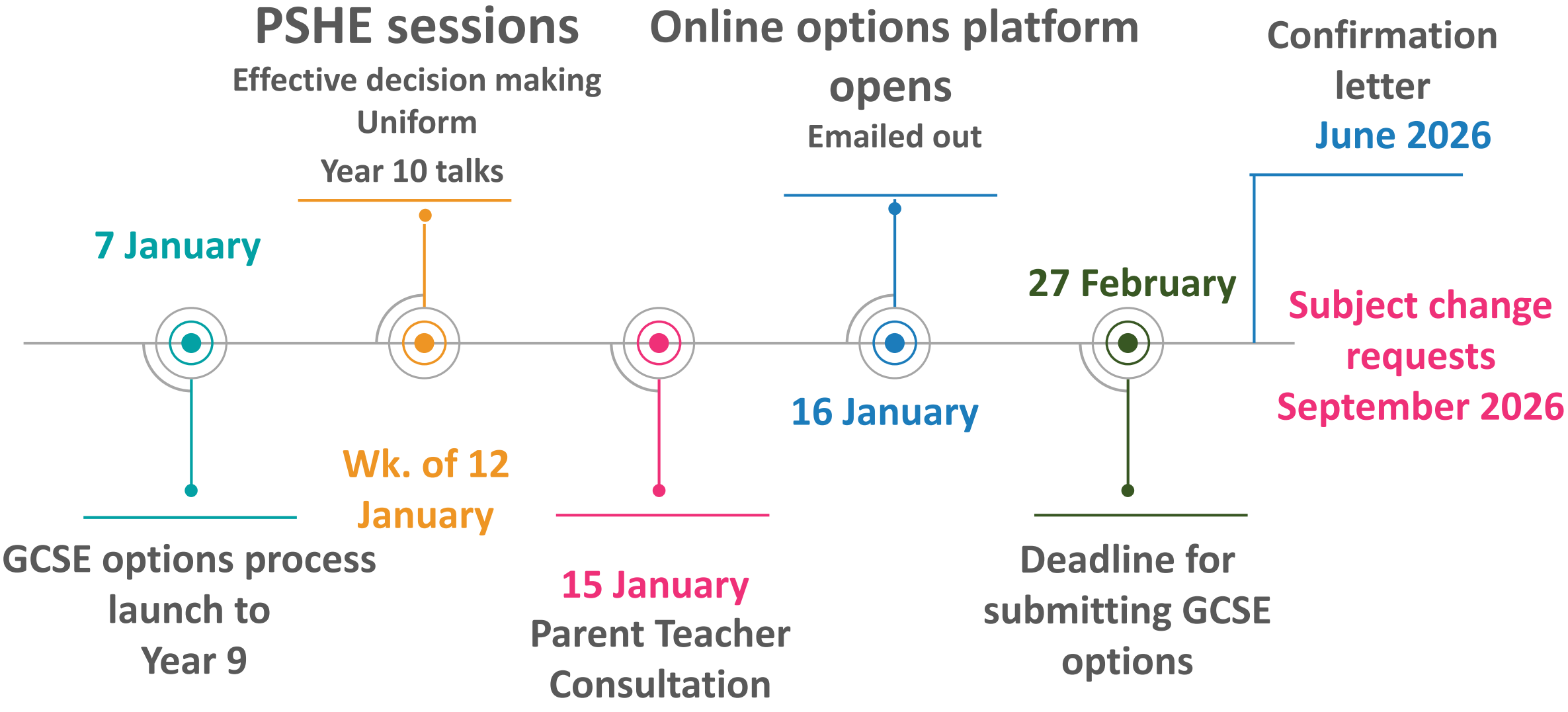
# GCSE Curriculum PIE

NONSUCH

HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

*FORGING OUR PATHS; BUILDING THE FUTURE*

# JANUARY 2026 - JUNE 2026
# GCSE OPTIONS key milestones



# What subjects do students study in KS4?

NONSUCH

HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

*FORGING OUR PATHS; BUILDING THE FUTURE*

# An outstanding curriculum for all

## Broad and balanced offer

- Something for everyone
- Specialization choices
- Challenging and engaging
- Building on prior knowledge
- Skills for life
- Encouraging diversity
- Building character and confidence
- Building global awareness

# An outstanding curriculum for all

## Our core curriculum

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Triple science
- Modern Foreign Language
- New September 2026: Higher Qualification Project
- PSHE
- New September 2026: RS will be taught through educational talks, PSHE and assemblies
- Physical Education
- Wider Reading Programme

# Core offer: Science, Maths & English

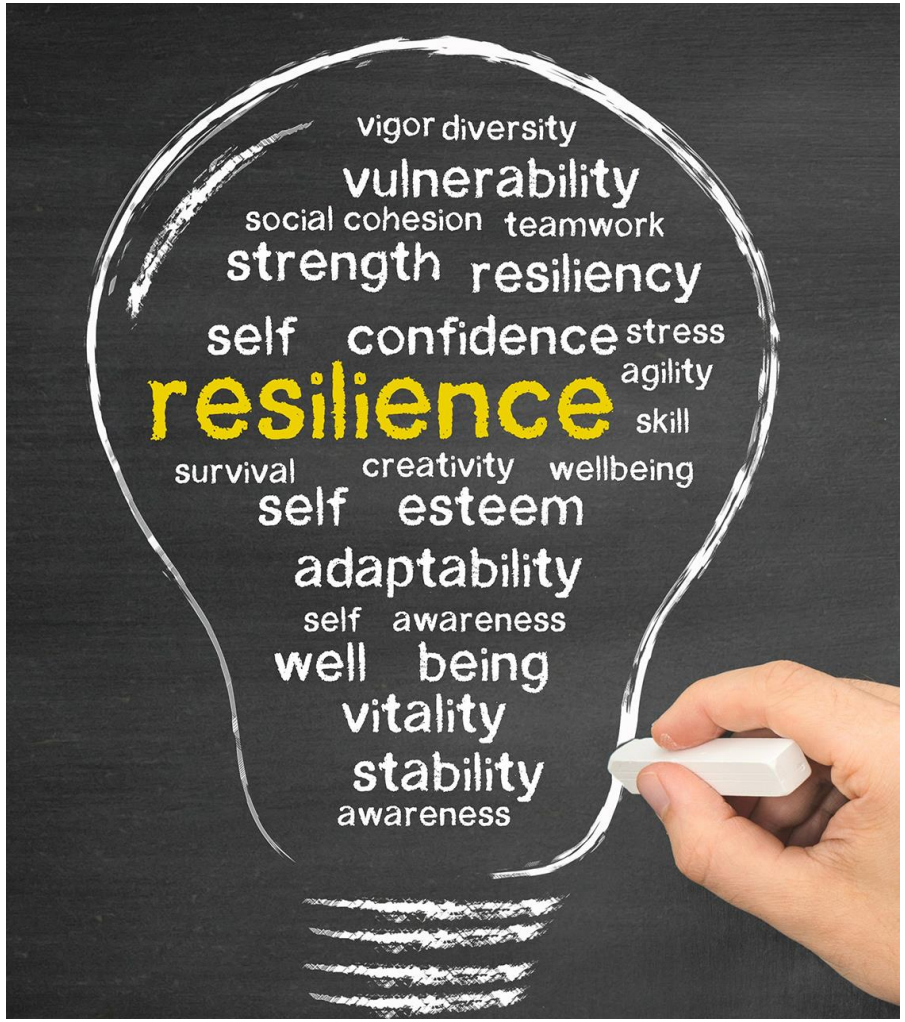
No setting

- Students across all classes will study exactly the same GCSE content
- Tier 1 in Maths (GCSE and enrichment course) and Tier 2 (GCSE Maths only)
- English: All the same texts
- All of our students will be entered for the higher tier examinations
- Triple science not combined science

# Higher Project Qualification

## Core offer

- Promotes scholastic enquiry
- Critical research, analysis and project management skills
- Independent thinking
- Problem solving
- Presentation skills
- Prepares students for post 16 study
- Confidence
- Resilience
- Study skills and core computing skills



# GCSE OPTION SUBJECT CHOICES

- History
- Geography
- French
- Latin
- German
- Spanish
- Astronomy (taster session)
- Computing
- Photography NEA (taster session)
- Physical Education (NEA)
- Food Nutrition (NEA)
- DT Textiles* (NEA)
- Product Design* (NEA)
- Fine Art (NEA)
- Music (NEA)
- Drama (NEA, devising and performing)

* students cannot study both GCSE Product Design and DT Textiles

# NEA subjects Non Examined Assessment

- Develops practical and applied skills
- Builds independence, organisation, and time-management
- Encourages creativity, problem-solving, and real-world application of knowledge.
- Reduces pressure on final exams
- Requires sustained commitment
- Can increase workload during busy periods of the year.
- Deadlines are fixed and must be met, leaving less flexibility than exam-based subjects.
- Teacher guidance is limited due to strict rules, so students must work independently.

- **Students should carefully consider whether they are able to cope with the demands of studying more than one subject that includes a Non-Exam Assessment (NEA).**

- **We kindly ask for your support in encouraging your child to stay organised, meet deadlines, and develop the resilience needed to manage these important responsibilities**

# LIMITED SPACES

GCSE DT TEXTILES
Limited to 20 spaces

GCSE Food Preparation
20 spaces

# GCSE PE Guidance

Commitment to improved practical performance

Participation in extra curricular clubs in and out of school

Assessed in 3 sports, one of which must be regularly attended outside of school
Video evidence
NEA
Written analysis

# GCSE RS Guidance

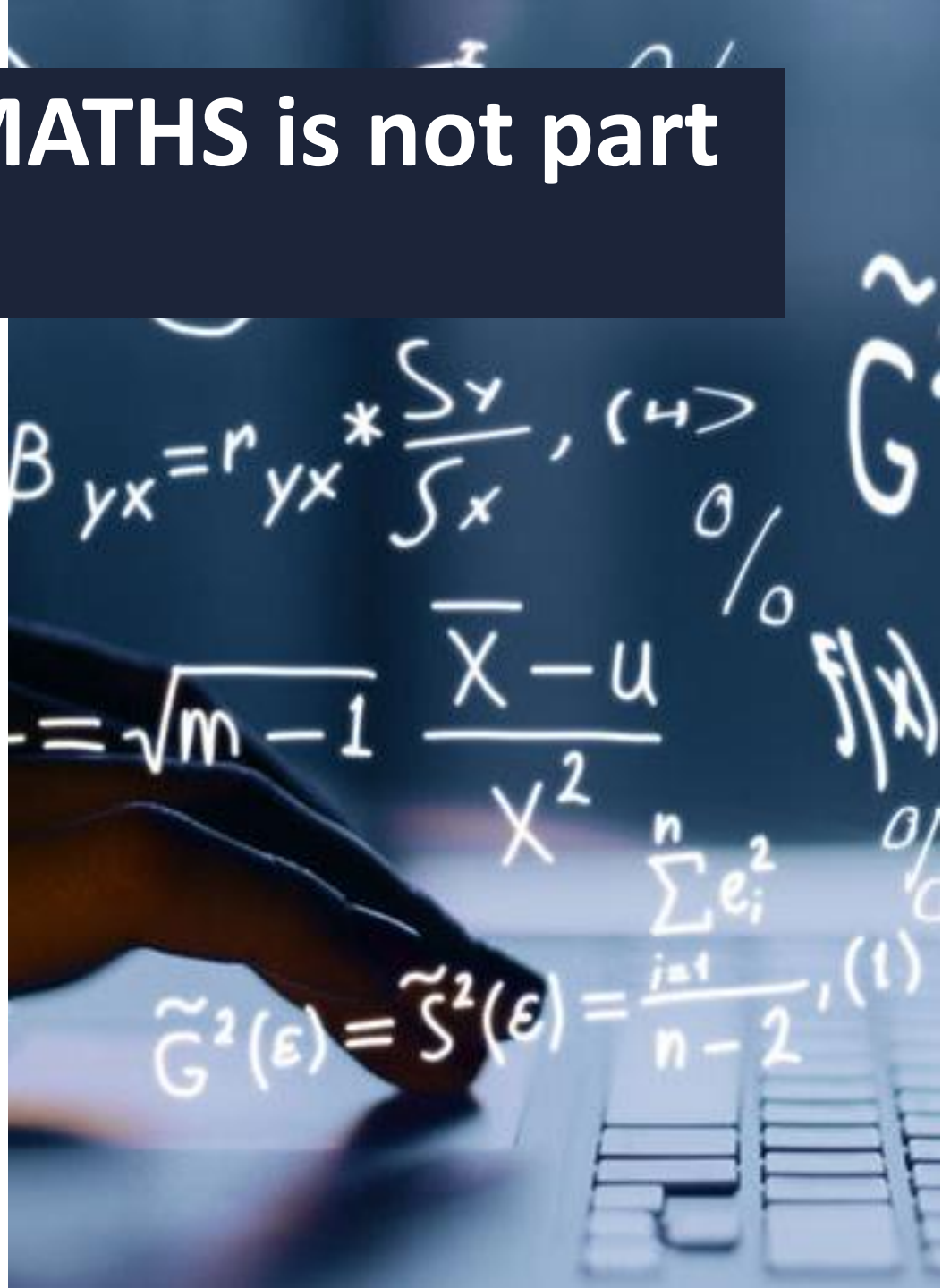
To develop a deeper understanding of different religions and ethical perspectives

Course is not intended as a platform to explore or promote personal faith.

Focus is on academic study, respectful understanding and balanced evaluation of religious and philosophical ideas.

# CERTIFICATE IN FURTHER MATHS is not part of our core offer

1. What is the Certificate of Further Maths?
2. Why is it studied?
3. Who studies it?
4. If my child does not study it, does that mean she cannot go on to study A Level Maths and A Level Further Maths?

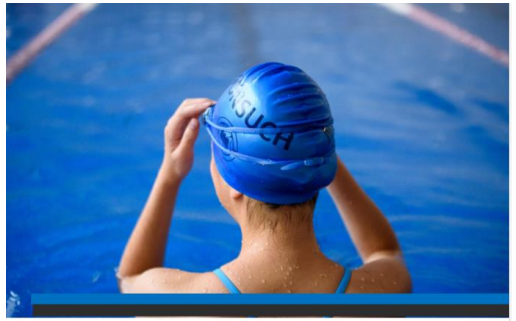


# Typical reasons given for wanting to request a change

- I didn’t realise the course would focus on ….
- There’s too much content!
- My parents thought I should study this subject
- I enjoy the subject but I didn’t do so well in my end of year exam
- I didn’t realise how much work this practical subject would be
- I had decided that I wanted to study two NEA subjects but now I am finding the workload too much

# Next steps

- Read through the GCSE options course guidance booklet with your daughter
- Discuss future aspirations with your daughter's teachers
- Explore what they enjoy doing
- Work backwards- career, degree, A-Levels, T Levels/BTECS
- Sixth form prospectus- review A-Level entry requirements
- Career Advisor
- Unifrog- online platform



*2025-2027*

# GCSE Options Course Guidance



## *GCSE Computer Science*

***Examination Board: AQA***
***Examination: 100%***

### Why study GCSE Computer Science?

If you found yourself with more questions than we covered in KS3, or love that feeling of success when a program finally works, then Computer Science is for you.

Studying Computer Science gives you a deeper understanding of topics you have met already as well as a few new ones. Key computing concepts and the fundamentals of computer programming are recovered and extended through Visual Basic.Net which also helps you make the step towards industry-standard programming languages.

### What are the benefits of GCSE Computer Science?

AQA have designed this specification to address industry concerns about "a lack of skills" in the Computer Science field and to provide an academically rigorous, valuable qualification. Nearly every employment sector will have some element of Computer Science involved and if you understand enough to be able to explain it to others, then you will find many companies that will want you to be able to translate between the technical teams and the delivery teams.

Perhaps you are more technically minded, in which case this course gives you the grounding you need to develop your skills in whichever programming language you end up using.

The classes are designed to help develop your knowledge and logical thinking, while encouraging you to explore your inquisitive nature to develop independent learning and problem-solving skills. The programming tasks introduce you again to a set of basic concepts and translates them from KS3 programming languages into Visual Basic.Net before applying them to a programmable solution as a team or individually. It lays the groundwork for learning, working and living in an increasingly digital world but does **not** aim to teach you how to use computers or software as this would fall into the IT specification.

Being digitally literate is important for the future, but being able to create the systems that will improve our existence requires Computer Science. If you love programming, and you are interested in what is going on inside a computer, or how data moves seemingly effortlessly across the world, Computer Science is for you.

### Theory Topics:

As well as learning practical skills, you will study how and why computers work which then affects how we write the programs that interact with them. With some overlap from Physics, you will discover the micro world of how images appear on our screens, why telephone waiting line music always cuts out, what is inside the black box of a computer and why are Gaming computers so expensive? What is the internet? When we save to "the cloud" where does it really go? Is my digital data truly safe anywhere and what can I do to reduce my risk of cyber-attack? How do we get computers and printers to talk to each other? What impact are we having on our fragile planet through our use of Computer Science? What is the impact on humanity and is it heading in the right direction?

### Support for Learning:

You will be issued with a textbook specifically written for the AQA GCSE qualification. Lesson content and additional learning materials are provided via



SharePoint and Teams, so that you can access, revisit or review content whenever you wish. Most homework will also be set, submitted, marked and returned using Teams or in your exercise book. At the end of each unit, we would offer short-term peer mentoring if you struggled with the content. You will be asked to sit a second test at the end of this to measure improvement or identify further need for support.

We recommend having access to a Windows-based computer for the course so that there are no compatibility issues with the software we use. Whilst we try to keep to online software, we may have to use programming software which requires loading onto a computer. As such, it is assumed that you will have primary or equally shared access to a computer at home that can have software installed or will work during Twilight sessions.

### Theory Assessment (100% of the GCSE assessment)

At the end of Year 11 you will sit two written examinations. The papers consist of a mix of multiple choice, short-answer, longer-answer and extended response questions. The first paper assesses programming (with hand-written questions set in Visual Basic), practical problem solving and computational thinking skills and the second assesses your theoretical knowledge.

### Practical Assessment

Throughout the course, you will rediscover the programming concepts covered at KS3 and look at more data structures. These skills will be assessed as we go along, building up in complexity. Paper 1 assesses your programming logic and understanding of structures, using a combination of pseudocode, flowcharts and Visual Basic. This is a handwritten assessment, and students need to be prepared to put in the practice outside of lessons both in computer-based and hand-written coding. There is no NEA assessment in this course.

### Other opportunities

There are always plenty of clubs to be led by students and the Computer Science Department is always open to ideas if there is an area you feel particularly passionate about. We usually have year 10s running our Cyber Club for KS3, and we also open applications for CS mentors around the Autum half term.



# Sixth Form Curriculum Offer

We offer a wide choice of A Levels and strongly encourage students to take a breadth of subjects. In the table below, are the A level subjects currently being studied by our students.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Art | French | Music |
| Biology | Geography | Physical Education |
| Chemistry | German | Physics |
| Computer Science | Government & Politics | Product Design |
| Drama | History | Psychology |

WELCOME
SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS
SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM OFFER
STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM
SIXTH FORM LEAVE OF ABSENCE
SIXTH FORM BURSARY
ELECTIVE PROGRAMME AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

# APPENDIX B: SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO A LEVEL COURSES

The **minimum** requirement for entry to the Sixth Form at Nonsuch High School for Girls is an average point score of 6 over their best eight GCSE subjects and a grade 6 in English (either Lang or Lit) and Mathematics.

| Subject | Exam Board | Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Art & Design: Fine Art | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Art or portfolio seen (if Art GCSE not taken) |
| Biology | OCR | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Biology |
| Chemistry | OCR | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry |
| Classical Civilisation | OCR | No additional requirements |
| Computer Science | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Computer Science or a grade 7 in Mathematics if Computer Science GCSE not taken |
| DT: Product Design | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Product Design or portfolio seen (if Product Design GCSE not taken) |
| Drama | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Drama or by audition (if Drama GCSE not taken) |
| Economics | Pearson | Minimum of a grade 7 in English Literature or English Language |
| English Literature | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE English Language or Literature |
| French | Pearson | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE French |
| Geography | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Geography |
| German | Pearson | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE German |
| History | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE History |

| Subject | Exam Board | Criteria |
|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | Pearson | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics |
| Mathematics (Further) | Pearson | A grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics and must be taken alongside Mathematics and with 4 A Levels |
| Music | Pearson | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Music or a Grade 5 or above in Music Theory and a Grade 6 or above in an instrument is required (If Music GCSE not taken) |
| Physical Education | AQA | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE PE or evidence of sporting, dance or coaching competence (If PE GCSE not taken) |
| Physics | OCR | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Physics |
| Politics | Pearson | No additional requirements |
| Psychology | AQA | No additional requirements |
| Philosophy & Ethics (RS) | OCR | No additional requirements |
| Spanish | Pearson | Minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Spanish |

*Students who have studied combined science and wish to study either Biology, Chemistry or Physics need a minimum of one grade 7 and one grade 8 and are advised to study one science only.