COURSE GUIDE 2027

6th FORM

MDCCCCXIII

AD METAM CONTENDO

West Kirby
Grammar School

HOW TO APPLY

APPLY NOW

Applications to WKGS 6th Form are made through Applicaa, an online application platform.

Current WKGS students

Information, Advice & Guidance meetings will be held with a member of SLT in November and January. You will be able to ask any questions that you have about your application and we can discuss subject choices.

External students

Once you apply, you will be invited to an application meeting with one of the Sixth Form Team. We will discuss your application and find out more about you. Later in the academic year we will have opportunities for you to come into school and meet other external applicants and get to know us a bit better before you start in September.

SCAN HERE

or visit
wkgs.applicaa.com

CONTENTS

FINE ART	02
ART GRAPHICS	03
ART TEXTILE DESIGN	04
BIOLOGY	05
BUSINESS	06
CHEMISTRY	07
COMPUTER SCIENCE	08
ECONOMICS	09
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	10
ENGLISH LITERATURE	11
EXTENDED PROJECT	12
FASHION & TEXTILES	13
FILM STUDIES	14
FRENCH	15
FURTHER MATHS	16
GEOGRAPHY	17
GERMAN	18
HISTORY	19
MATHS	20
MUSIC	21
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	22
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	23
PHYSICS	24
POLITICS	25
PRODUCT DESIGN	26
PSYCHOLOGY	27
SPANISH	28
THEATRE STUDIES	29

choose
fine art

This is a highly creative and exciting course through which you will develop a portfolio of work to support a degree or career in architecture, fine art or any other design-related discipline. Students engage in a wide range of artistic tasks across drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, installation, photography and printmaking.

You will be encouraged to broaden your artistic skills through a series of workshops which will help you to work independently, developing your own ideas whilst investigating a wide range of traditional and contemporary artists. There will be opportunities to visit art galleries and exhibitions throughout the course.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs E Portbury
eportbury@wkgs.net

EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in Art-related GCSE course

choose

art graphics

The graphics industry offers many exciting careers and this course will give you in-depth exposure to the different aspects of graphic communication. You will develop skills and understanding across a variety of visual disciplines, studying the work of contemporary artists and designers.

Your ideas and designs will be produced using both traditional and new technologies. If you enjoy being creative and developing your own design work, this course will enable you to produce a unique portfolio of highly-original final pieces.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs E Portbury
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in Art-related GCSE course

choose

art textile design

This is a dynamic course through which you will develop a creative portfolio of work to support a degree or career in textile design, fashion design or any other design-related discipline. The syllabus is fashion-based in Year 12, making this an ideal qualification if you have an interest in fashion and textile design.

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences as you explore a range of textile and fashion techniques. If you enjoy being creative and developing your own design work, this course enables you to produce highly original final pieces and gain a deeper understanding of contemporary artists and designers.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs E Portbury
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in Art-related GCSE course or an equivalent Art-based GCSE qualification.

choose
biology

Biology is the study of living things, reflecting the complexity of life from the atoms and molecules of biochemistry to the interactions of millions of organisms in ecology. If you have a genuine interest and enthusiasm for the world around you, biology could be the course for you.

You will gain a firm scientific foundation, developing practical, analytical and problem-solving skills through regular practical work. These skills are invaluable throughout life and highly sought-after by universities and employers alike.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Mr N Armstrong
narmstrong@wkgs.net

EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or in Combined Science, and Maths.
AS offered.

choose
business

Students taking this course should have a deep interest in the world of business and the events which shape it, from consumer trends to government intervention. A natural curiosity and desire to learn about the mechanics of business is essential.

Topics we will study include ethical business choices, problem-solving through critical analysis and understanding how entrepreneurial approaches can help to solve the needs and wants of modern society. We will be investigating the global strategies of multinational corporations and the importance of careful financial management.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mr E McWilliams
emcwilliams@wkgs.net

EXAM BOARD
Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

choose
chemistry

Chemistry shapes our world. Medicines, materials that allow us to communicate electronically and the clothes we wear, all demonstrate chemistry's power to improve our lives. It helps us to develop solutions for the big challenges we face – for example, chemists identified the role of greenhouse gases in climate change, and developed drugs for previously untreatable diseases.

If you have a genuine interest and enthusiasm for the world around you, chemistry could be the course for you. You will gain a firm scientific foundation, developing practical, analytical and problem-solving skills through regular practical work. These skills are invaluable throughout life and highly sought-after by universities and employers.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs J Bentley
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or in Combined Science, and Maths.
AS offered.

choose

computer science

Computer science is a modern, exciting subject which encourages students to think creatively, logically and critically whilst developing advanced problem-solving skills. This is the course for you if you are passionate about computers and want to learn about programming, computer architecture, networks and many other areas.

You will develop a working knowledge of the technologies and principles behind modern computer systems, developing transferrable skills such as analysis, critical thinking and problem-solving. You will learn to code in industry standard languages such as Python, PHP, SQL and JavaScript.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mr A Fitzgerald
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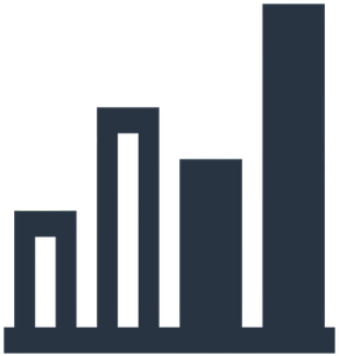
EXAM BOARD
OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in Computing GCSE or Grade 6 in Maths and keen interest in programming and computing technologies.

choose

economics



Economics is the study of how societies, governments, businesses, households and individuals make choices and allocate their scarce resources. Many of the world's most significant social problems have an economic dimension. Students taking this course should have an investigative and enquiring mind.

We will debate global issues, explore and present alternative courses of action, keep up to date with economic trends, and research local, national and international economic and business environments. The study of economics is an excellent way to acquire problem-solving skills and develop a logical, ordered way of looking at issues.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mr E McWilliams
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EXAM BOARD
Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths

choose

english language

Language is woven into every aspect of our lives. It connects us all and helps to define our identity and relationships with others. Language has a fascinating and colourful history and its uses (and abuses) can create fierce, passionate debate.

Many of us never stop and take notice of language, so we are not always aware of its importance: the words and grammar we use have a direct influence on our thoughts and actions, and even on what we believe is real.

By studying English Language in depth, you will develop critical awareness and gain invaluable communication and analytical skills for your future working life.

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TEACHING CONTACT
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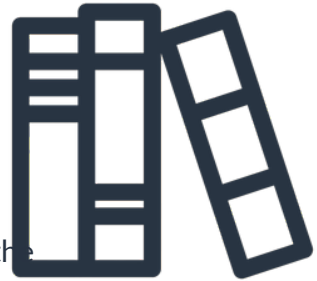
EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language

choose

english literature



If you enjoy reading across a wide range of literature, then this could be the course for you. Studying novels, plays and poetry feeds the imagination, helping you to formulate new perspectives and ideas whilst challenging your beliefs and values.

You will be encouraged to fully engage with texts and think critically and analytically about what you are reading. You will learn how to formulate your own opinions and interpretations, and how to communicate these ideas effectively, not just in essays and exams, but during class discussions which make up a large part of the course.

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Studying English Literature develops your written and verbal communication skills, your ability to use words to your advantage and to think and respond analytically. Students might go on to university to study a range of related subjects such as history, sociology, psychology, drama, theatre studies or law.

TEACHING CONTACT
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EXAM BOARD
Eduqas

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

choose

extended project

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) An EPQ is an opportunity to extend your abilities beyond your chosen A-level subjects by embarking on a largely self-directed project.

You will choose a topic which interests you, plan, research and develop your idea and decide on your finished product (which is usually a 5,000-word essay). The EPQ will help you to develop research and presentation skills which will prove invaluable at university and beyond.

TEACHING CONTACT
Mr M Howell
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 5 in GCSE English & Maths

choose

fashion & textiles

This course provides a greater emphasis on all aspects of fashion and is relevant to internationally recognised design courses at universities and careers in the fashion and textile industries. A 50% academic element covers materials and industrial applications, preparing you for further study or apprenticeships in areas such as marketing, product development and textiles engineering.

AQA Fashion and Textiles is a creative and thought-provoking qualification which will equip you with both design and manufacturing skills alongside theoretical knowledge, whilst increasing confidence in your abilities. A GCSE in Design Technology is the best foundation for A-level study (along with a genuine interest, creative ability and good manufacturing skills), however we will also consider applications from interested students who have not specialised in textiles.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs J Plowman
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Textiles and /or keen interest in Textiles and strong manufacturing skills.

choose

film studies

Film plays an important role in society. Over the decades it has grown as a powerful vehicle for culture, education, leisure and propaganda. Film Studies deals with various theoretical, historical, and critical approaches to films.

This course is ideal for students who want to explore how and why films are made. Through exposure to a wide range of film-making processes and techniques, you will develop technical and creative skills that will help you to construct and deconstruct films. Coursework allows you to experiment with a variety of film-making technology and editing software.

You will be expected to think independently and expand your knowledge outside of the classroom by reading about and watching films. This course will help you to develop a wide range of transferable skills including visual and verbal communication, analysis and problem solving. Students can go on to study film, TV or media at university, leading to a range of careers in the media and creative industries.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs L Pinnington
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EXAM BOARD
Eduqas

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature or Language

choose
french

The ability to speak a second language is a huge advantage in the world of work. Careers in business, politics, education, travel, fashion and media all benefit from the knowledge of another language. In addition, science, technology and medical courses recognise and value the diversity of skills and aptitude for learning demonstrated by A-level linguists. Not only is a language great for career choices, but French and francophone culture is at the heart of art, music, theatre, fashion, cuisine and sport. Studying French will open doorways to countries and cultures around the world.

A-level French allows students to build on their GCSE language, developing their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary while gaining a greater insight into the Francophone world. The AQA course explores topics including family, technology, diversity, marginalisation, music, cinema, politics, immigration and social change, complementing a wide range of other A-level subjects. Students also study French-language film and literature and develop independent research skills through their Individual Research Project

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs D Wiseman
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE French

choose

further mathematics

This course will help you to develop a thorough understanding of further maths and the ability to use it in a variety of contexts. You will be taught to use appropriate technology to deepen mathematical understanding and extend the range of problems you can solve.

The first two papers will examine challenging calculus methods, differential equations, coordinate systems, numerical methods and vectors. The second two papers will provide the opportunity to attempt questions using a variety of techniques taught on topics such as Poisson distribution, hypothesis testing, chi squared tests, algorithms and graph theory, linear programming and critical path analysis.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs E Haddley
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EXAM BOARD
Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 8 in GCSE Maths
Students will take the AS exam at the end of Y12

choose

geography

Geography is an academically rigorous and fascinating subject which spans the physical and social sciences, whilst promoting a lifelong interest in how our world works.

At WKGS we have an excellent tradition of developing students who go on to use Geography in a wide range of future pathways. A-level Geography offers a fascinating journey from the physical forces that shape our planet to the human processes that influence our communities, economies and increasingly interconnected world.

Geography is a highly respected subject that provides a strong foundation for university study and future careers. Recognised by Russell Group universities as a facilitating subject, it develops the analytical skills, critical thinking and breadth of knowledge valued across both the sciences and humanities.
The course also develops practical skills in analysing data, evaluating evidence and interpreting maps. Fieldwork brings geographical ideas to life, providing memorable opportunities to investigate real places and real questions. Whether you are fascinated by the planet, interested in global issues, or curious about how our world works, A-level Geography offers an exciting opportunity to explore and understand the world around you.

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TEACHING CONTACT
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EXAM BOARD
Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

choose
german

Our A-level course provides you with an exciting opportunity to build on your previous study of German – a fascinating subject that can lead to a wide range of degree and career possibilities.

Through the study of social, political and cultural themes, you will develop your linguistic knowledge and understanding of German-speaking countries and communities. The AQA course explores topics including family, the digital world, youth culture, festivals and traditions, art and architecture, cultural life, immigration, integration and politics. Studying German-language literature and film will develop your analytical skills and deepen your cultural understanding.

A strong focus is placed on building confidence and fluency in spoken German through relevant and topical issues. You will also complete an Individual Research Project on an aspect of a German-speaking country or community that interests you, developing valuable independent research, analytical and presentation skills.

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TEACHING CONTACT
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE German

choose
history

Understanding past events and people and their significance gives us a better insight into the world around us today. Whilst studying history allows us to learn from the past, it is also an investment in your future, encouraging independence and equipping you with transferable skills. These include being able to communicate complex ideas, the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information, and the capacity to make substantiated judgements. The course focuses on the study of USA history from 1865 to 1975, and British history from 1951 to 2007. It also includes enrichment history opportunities such as a trip to London as well as close links to the University of Liverpool.

History is regarded as a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group universities, which means that it can lead to a wide range of options for degree study. As a highly flexible qualification, A-level history is an excellent pathway to degrees such as history, law, English and philosophy, and to a range of interesting careers.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Miss V Gaskin
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE History

choose
mathematics

Maths provides you with transferable skills that are extremely useful in any career. These include analytical thinking, problem solving, investigating problems and presenting solutions logically, handling and interpreting data and forming and communicating ideas.

Maths is a highly-credible qualification, however the choice of this subject for A-level should also be because you like maths and enjoy the challenge of solving number and logic puzzles. There is a great deal of emphasis on problem-solving, reasoning and modelling.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs E Haddley
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EXAM BOARD
Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 7 in GCSE Maths

choose
music

A Level Music stands out as a rigorous academic subject that also nurtures creativity, individuality and personal expression. It develops an impressive range of skills, including critical thinking, musical analysis, essay writing and independent study, alongside high-level practical skills in performance and composition. This unique balance makes Music both intellectually challenging and creatively fulfilling.

WKGS has been awarded Specialist Music Status, creating an exciting new opportunity for talented young musicians. A Level Music will run alongside the Wirral Specialist Music Course, which is delivered in partnership with the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and Love Music Trust (LMT). Students wishing to join the Specialist Music Course must apply and successfully complete an audition and interview. Those accepted will follow A Level Music while also benefiting from an enhanced programme of specialist tuition, chamber music, masterclasses, performance opportunities and access to professional musicians. The course provides exceptional preparation for students considering progression to university, conservatoire or a career in music.

Music is highly regarded by universities and employers for its academic depth and the transferable skills it develops, including discipline, teamwork, communication, creativity and independence. It complements a wide range of subjects, from Maths and Sciences to English, History and Languages, and can open pathways into an exceptionally broad range of university courses and future careers.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs C Gilbert
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Music or a minimum of Grade 5 instrumental/vocal exam plus Grade 5 theory.

choose

religious studies

A-Level Religious Studies is divided into three areas of study: philosophy; religion & ethics, and religious thought.

What is the meaning and purpose of life? How do different religions, cultures and philosophies understand the human predicament? If you enjoy discussion and would like to explore some of the key philosophical, religious and ethical issues of human existence, then this is the subject for you.

You should be interested in the world around you and be able to make links with what you are studying and how it has an impact in the 'real world'. Classes involve plenty of discussion and debate and you will be encouraged to share your own ideas whilst listening to and respecting the views of others. You will develop critical evaluation and analysis skills which you will put into practice during discussions and in essay-writing.

This course will provide you with excellent transferable skills, including essay writing, debating and the ability to appreciate other viewpoints. Such skills are really useful in a range of university degrees involving critical thinking and discussion e.g. humanities, English and psychology.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs L Wakefield
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EXAM BOARD
OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE RS (if taken) or another Humanities subject

choose

physical education

This course will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. You will have the chance to perform or coach as you develop a wide-ranging knowledge of the how and why of physical activity and professional sport.

The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides you with an exciting learning opportunity. Physical education is studied through a range of contexts - you will learn the reasons why we do things, and why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will delve into the ethical use of performance enhancing drugs and the influence of modern technology in sport.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs A Goodall
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EXAM BOARD
OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education

choose
physics

This course will suit any student who wishes to develop their interest and enthusiasm in the physics of all that is around them. It will provide a firm scientific foundation for those wanting to make their mark in the world of science and technology in the future. Studying A-level physics does not restrict your options - it expands them.

A-level physics is a mixture of conceptual thinking and very practical applications. You need to be able to think about abstract ideas such as fields, but be able to apply those ideas to how, for instance, electric motors work. You will learn about everything from kinematics to relativity, and recent developments in fascinating areas such as particle physics. Getting accurate results from experiments requires practice and competence in the use of lab equipment. Calculations are an important part of A-level physics so you will need to be comfortable with algebra. At the same time, descriptive work requires you to communicate clearly.

If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between, this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries!

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs A Hood
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EXAM BOARD
OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or in Combined Science, and grade 6 in Maths GCSE.

choose
politics

Ernest Benn described politics as "the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies."

In a rapidly changing and increasingly unpredictable world, studying politics has never been more relevant or interesting. This is a great course if you have an enquiring mind and a desire to find out what is going on in the world today and why. The curriculum covers a broad spectrum of political themes, including UK politics and UK Government, political ideas that have shaped our world, and US politics.

The course involves a lot of discussion and debate, so is ideal for those who enjoy exploring current affairs. You will be expected to stay abreast of the political landscape via the internet, newspapers and TV programmes, and you will need to engage in independent learning to increase your knowledge of politics past and present.

Politics will provide you with many of the skills required for university study. Some politics students go on to work in the political sphere, while other popular career options include law and journalism.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs V Gaskin
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in any Humanities GCSE

choose

product design

If you have an interest in design and manufacturing, enjoy designing and making products and like learning about new and emerging technologies, then this is the course for you. You should enjoy working independently or as part of a team to develop design ideas, and have an enquiring mind to help you experiment and manipulate materials in the workshop or CAD CAM suite. This course includes external visits to local manufacturing businesses, university enrichment opportunities and a design tour.

Product design helps students take a broad view of design and technology, develop their capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. This creative and thought-provoking qualification will equip you with the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative and STEM industries. You will gain a real insight into what it means to be a designer, together with knowledge and skills sought by universities and employers.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mr J Ford
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology is desirable, however it is not essential that you have studied Technology at GCSE level. Alternatively, you should have studied subjects such as physics, chemistry, art and maths and must have a real desire and enthusiasm to study the subject.

choose

psychology

You are human and yet, chances are, you have learnt very little about the workings of the human mind, the organ that governs your every perception and sensation. Psychology focuses on the science of the mind, behaviour and experience. It looks at how individuals think, how they behave and how they are affected by their biological make-up and wider social groups.

This scientific subject builds on skills developed in traditional sciences and humanities and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects. Besides learning the fundamentals of psychology, you will develop skills valued by universities and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

The course covers a number of core approaches to psychology which underpin knowledge, understanding and application of the subject. You will study issues and debates in the scientific study of contemporary psychology, and master the ethical, practical and mathematical skills required to carry out research activities.

SCAN HERE

TEACHING CONTACT
Miss S Cliffe
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 5 in GCSE Sciences, Maths & English

choose
spanish

This course allows you to build on the grammatical and linguistic knowledge gained at GCSE, developing your understanding of the diverse culture and language of the Spanish-speaking world.

Choosing A-level Spanish is a smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers a range of career possibilities and a lot of fun along the way. It is now possible to do almost any degree with a language combination, and Spanish is a 'facilitating' subject which keeps your future options wide open.

Studying Spanish at West Kirby Grammar School offers you a flexible timetable and smaller classes which means that all teaching is tailored to meet your needs. Our highly-experienced, specialist teachers work in partnership with you, supporting your learning every step of the way.

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs D Wiseman
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Grade 6 in GCSE in Spanish

choose

theatre studies

Theatre studies is an exciting, varied and challenging course. The skills that you will develop will be with you for life – whatever area you choose to pursue. You will explore ideas on performance, design, history, literature, politics and art, and consider how theatre can be used in society to challenge our ideas.

If you enjoy performing or designing – then this is the course for you. If you like thinking for yourself, taking risks and experimenting – then this is the course for you. You will have opportunities to see live theatre, take part in residential visits, participate in workshops with professionals from theatre, and work with staff who are passionate and knowledgeable about their subject.

You should choose theatre studies if you have an interest in theatre, performance, literature, creative thinking, human behaviour – LIFE!

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TEACHING CONTACT
Mrs J Richards
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EXAM BOARD
AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE Drama Level 5 is preferred, however a genuine interest in theatre is more important than your experience

6th

WKGS