



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith

**Sixth Form Guide
2022-2024**

**Sixth Form admissions timetable**

1 February 2022	Sixth Form 2022 Website Launch
22 February 2022	Sixth Form Open Evening from 5.00pm to 7.30pm. Places do not need to be booked.
18 March 2022	Sixth Form applications to be submitted to the school by this date. Year 11 students and those transferring from other schools should indicate their final A-Level choices on the application form. We cannot guarantee to meet all the requirements of every student but will design a curriculum which addresses the needs of the largest number of students possible. The curriculum plan will be based on information provided by students about their subject choices. We appreciate that students may change their minds after receiving GCSE results and will do our best to support reasonable changes but cannot guarantee flexibility once courses have been set up and teachers appointed. External students who decide to seek admission to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form after GCSE results should contact the school for advice.
April – May 2022	Informal interviews will be arranged for external students applying to join Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form.
April - May 2022	Sixth Form offers Letters will be issued to those who have successfully gained a conditional offer of a place at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form. Students will also be invited to attend the Sixth Form Induction.
4 – 5 July 2022	Sixth Form Induction A chance for prospective students to spend 2 days experiencing life at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form. Invites will be issued to those who receive conditional offers in May.
25 August 2022	GCSE results day Members of senior staff will be present to answer questions and give advice. On this date candidates hoping to transfer from other schools should notify the school of their GCSE results. Final A-Level subject choices must be submitted to the school. Any student who wishes to change their A-Level subject choices after receiving GCSE results should also speak to the school, who will confirm within two working days whether candidates have been successful in their application for places. External students who have performed better in their GCSE examinations are welcome to contact the school at this point for advice on Sixth Form admissions.

If after receiving GCSE results, existing Year 11 students prefer to continue at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School instead of transferring elsewhere, then they must, as soon as possible, contact the school on GCSE results day. After this day, surplus places will be reallocated to students waiting for admission and there will no longer be a guaranteed place for leavers who change their minds.



Welcome

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Penrith will help you secure the next steps towards your future. If you are considering joining us in September, you will be joining a school with a strong reputation for academic success as well as extensive enrichment and extra-curricular programmes to provide opportunities for personal growth.

Why choose us?

Academic success:

- In 2021 our overall pass rate at A-Level was 100%
- 93% of all grades were A* - C



Choice and Expertise:

- As a specialist academic A-Level only provider, we offer around 25 courses every year at full A-Level.
- Staff are specialists in their subjects. They are also experienced at teaching the transition from GCSE to A-Level and may know you well already.

Pastoral Support and Opportunities

- The Sixth Form pastoral team offers outstanding support and guidance. Regular monitoring ensures that students perform to their full potential.
- There is a strong focus on personal development and challenge.
- Enrichment activities encourage students to become confident, independent learners, well prepared for the next stage of their lives.
- Our students have access to the best universities and courses. In 2021 over 75% of the students who progressed to university attended Russell Group and top ranked institutions. Of the 10 students who applied for Oxbridge, 8 were invited to interview and 6 offered a place.

We believe that Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form offers you the opportunities to make the most of your potential. If you decide that we are right and that this is the place for you, we would be delighted to welcome you in September.

Mr P Buckland
Headteacher



Joining us

We welcome students from a wide range of schools across Cumbria to join our year 11 students, most of whom stay on at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.

The entry requirements for each subject are detailed on the subject pages and you will need to meet them as well as achieving an overall profile of at least 5 GCSEs, grade 9 – 5. This must include grade 5 or above in both maths and an English qualification.

Our Sixth Form is a popular choice for post-16 study so we would encourage you to apply as soon as possible following the information evening. We guarantee a place to all Year 11 students at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School who meet the entry requirements.

Please read the information provided in the prospectus for each subject where we hope to give you an insight into the courses we offer and the prerequisites for success. Please use the contact details for each subject if you have further questions about the subject.

For general enquiries about curriculum choice or support in the Sixth Form, please contact Miss Smith (Head of Sixth Form)

Sixth Form Leadership



Miss Smith is Head of Sixth Form

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School offers a comprehensive programme of academic and pastoral support. This encourages students to realise their full potential as individuals within an academic, caring environment. Our goal is to produce well-rounded people who have the capacity to succeed in the modern world whatever path they choose.

We shall be holding a Sixth Form Induction Course from 4th - 5th July 2022, that will give you a chance to find out more about us; we look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, if you have any questions, just ask!

Contact VSmith@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

Mrs Chatterton is our Support and Guidance Officer for Sixth Form

We hope after reading this guide you will seriously consider Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Sixth Form as your next step. We have a large and thriving Sixth Form with an excellent record of academic success as well as outstanding achievements in sports, the arts and enterprise.

The Sixth Form provides not just a wide range of academic courses but many social, cultural and sporting activities. My role is to support you through each stage of your Sixth Form career and also your general wellbeing. My door is always open!

Contact gchatterton@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Sixth Form Leadership

James Lennon is our elected Head Student.

A Levels: Politics, History Modern, Geography

My seven years here at QEGS have been nothing but thoroughly enjoyable, with the most agreeable of them being within the Sixth Form. The community here at QEGS, which I have grown up in, has allowed me to develop into a highly motivated and independent individual by constantly being challenged to achieve my full potential. A Levels are demanding; there is a step up to Sixth Form which at first can seem a daunting prospect but without being pushed out of my comfort zone, I would never have grown into the robust individual I am today. The comprehensive support system has helped me stay resilient and made me feel prepared for life outside of Sixth Form at university as a young adult. This has come from the perfect balance of independence and tailored support that is unique to QEGS Sixth Form. The range of subjects offered and the ability to partake in extra-curricular activities, such as the Debating, Law, and Eco-Action Societies, all of which I chair, is why studying at QEGS Sixth Form was an inevitability for me. QEGS is more than just a Sixth Form, it is a community, a community which I could not recommend enough



Student Leadership Team 2021-22





Making choices

When making the choices for your A-Level subjects it is important to consider what your future goals and ambitions are. Always check what the requirements are for particular careers or university courses.

We recommend that the majority of students begin their studies on three A-Levels. All courses last for two years.

Some students may take four A-Levels if the majority of their grades at GCSE are at Grade 8/9. Those doing further mathematics would be advised to do four A-Levels.

Nearly all students who are taking three A-Levels will take an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is an opportunity to develop independent study skills whilst investigating an area of your choice. This is excellent preparation for university study.

Extra-curricular opportunities

It is difficult to sum up all the exciting opportunities available at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School to enrich your time with us. We are very proud of the range of activities that take place, and we are always open to new ideas. If the club or activity you are interested in does not yet exist, then there are leadership opportunities for you to set it up, with the support of our staff.

We encourage all our Sixth Form students to take part in some extra-curricular activities during their time in school to allow them to relax, be challenged and to flourish in alternative environments to the classroom. The skills you gain from these activities are essential for your all-round development and future applications to university or employment.



Children in Need – staff vs student dodgeball match



Judging the German baking competition



Foodbank donation



Christmas toy appeal

Sports

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School has a tradition of offering a huge range of sports. In the Sixth Form, you will have a games session one afternoon per week, where you have the chance to opt into a range of different sports both on site and at external venues, from rugby, tennis, climbing and swimming to yoga and mindfulness.

There are many teams that run if you would like to play competitively, and many social sporting activities to take part in just for fun. There are opportunities for sports leadership through house and form competitions.



Arts and entertainment

Art, drama and music are strengths of the school. There are numerous opportunities to participate, perform and appreciate the arts at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. There are trips and visits to the theatre, museums, art galleries and other cultural opportunities. We host an annual dance evening, school show and a variety of productions throughout the year.

Whether you are an experienced performer or new to taking part there are opportunities for you, as well as the roles backstage for school productions and shows.





STEM and The Arkwright Scholarship

We offer a wide range of STEM/science, technology, engineering and maths opportunities beyond the curriculum. We have been successful in the Team Maths Challenge in recent years and work closely with the Further Maths Network.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School is an Arkwright affiliated school, so if you have applied for, or obtained, an Arkwright scholarship we are well placed to support you through the process and have significant experience of the programme.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



We have many students who take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at all levels. Queen Elizabeth Grammar School provides the opportunity for students to enter directly onto the Gold award having not done the Bronze or Silver previously.

We offer a range of activities and opportunities to support students to achieve the recognition of this award, including expeditions, volunteering opportunities and skill development.

Leadership and learning

There is a wide range of opportunities to develop your leadership skills during your time in the Sixth Form.

Representing others: You can be on the school council or on the student leadership team, to represent your tutor group and to make an impact on the future of the school.

Volunteering: Taking part in one of the volunteering activities available can be a good way to give back to those less fortunate than yourself whilst learning vital life skills. Sixth Form service periods offer the chance to work with younger students, volunteer at local care homes or raise money for charity.

Sixth Form Buddies: Acting as a Sixth Form buddy gives you the chance to support younger students and build essential skills in communication, empathy and organisation.



Trips and events

A flavour of the extensive trips and events that take place for Sixth Formers at Queen Elizabeth Grammar



Mock General Election



Sixth Form leaver's day



Science trip to Boston



Geology trip to Tenerife



Expedition trips: Swaziland and Nepal



Music trip to Paris



Trips and events



Football tour to Holland



Sixth Form Prom



Philosophy & Art trip to Rome



Sports tour



UKMT senior maths challenge



Sixth Form visit to Oxford University



Support and facilities

Tutor Groups

All students are placed into a tutor group during their time in the Sixth Form. Your tutor will be your first point of contact for support to help and guide you. The tutorial programme will support you to make sure that you are making appropriate progress and to make the decisions for the next steps in your learning, education and future. Tutor groups will be made of a mix of students who have been at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School since Year 7 as well as those who join us for Sixth Form to ensure a smooth transition for all.

Common Room

Year 12 and 13 students have exclusive access to a common room in our Sixth Form block. It is a place to socialise, relax and study and has been renovated to include a new kitchen area, a large study room and a games room.



Study areas

There is a wide range of places for students to study during the time when they do not have formal lessons. We have a well-stocked library that is staffed with experienced staff to help you with your research and study, a supervised quiet study area and computer rooms.





Sixth Form code of conduct

At Queen Elizabeth Grammar School we have high expectations of all our students in how they conduct themselves both in and out of school. At the beginning of Year 12, we ask all students to sign a contract setting out our expectations to enable them to achieve their potential in Sixth Form. At the heart of success in the Sixth Form is the relationship between staff and students, which must be based on courtesy, trust, reliability and openness. Staff at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School will help, advise and provide students with high quality teaching in return for their co-operation and adherence to the expectations set out below.

1. Attendance in the Sixth Form is **full-time**. If a student is ill, a parent or guardian should inform school before 9am. Students are responsible for informing subject staff if they know in advance that they will be absent. If you feel unwell during the school day you should report to reception who will contact home. You must not go home ill without following this process.
2. Holidays should not be arranged during term time. Dental/Doctors' appointments and driving lessons should be arranged outside of school hours.
3. All Sixth Form students must be in school by **08:50**. Students should arrive on time for all lessons. Attendance at Games and the Sixth Form Lecture is compulsory, as is completion of an EPQ if a student is studying three A-Levels.
4. All Sixth Form students must attend registration. Students who are repeatedly late will be put in detention. If it persists home will be contacted and your place may be in jeopardy.
5. Your time in the Sixth Form is valuable; therefore you must attend your **supervised study** periods, bringing with you work to complete. These periods also provide a vital opportunity for teachers to find you with regards to EPQs, UCAS and other applications.
6. You must meet deadlines for assignments and do further reading and revision.
7. Students must abide by the **Sixth Form Dress Code** and ensure that their clothing is appropriate. If it is not, a student may be asked to return home to change.
8. Sixth Form students are expected to set a good example to the rest of the school. Smoking is not allowed in or near the school. There is a **zero tolerance** policy on drugs and alcohol. Any student deemed 'unfit' for school will be sent home.
9. Students have the use of the Sixth Form Centre as a privilege. It should be kept clean and tidy and you should behave appropriately within it.
10. Sixth Form students may use their own vehicle to attend school, but this is reliant on them driving safely on site.
11. Sixth Form students are permitted to leave the school site during free periods however, you must ensure that you sign out and back in when you return.
12. If a student's work falls below standard they will be placed on subject report. Failure to complete these satisfactorily would jeopardise a student's place in Sixth Form.
13. A student's place in the Sixth Form is subject to compliance with the Sixth Form Contract and co-operation with staff and fellow students. This contract runs in conjunction with our whole school policies on such things as bullying and attendance, which can be found on our website.



Sixth Form dress code

In Sixth Form we want students to be able to express their individuality and to dress in a way that gives the students choice. As such, we do not believe that students should be made to wear school uniform. However, we feel that they should dress in an appropriate way for being in a place of study and work.

If students are unsure about whether an item of clothing is appropriate, they should check with the Heads of Sixth Form before wearing that item. Students should expect to be sent home to change their clothes if the Heads of Sixth Form decide that clothing item(s) are unsuitable for school.

Any extreme hair styles, body piercing, make-up or tattoos which the heads of Sixth Form identify as being inappropriate for a school environment will need to be addressed.

Appropriate for school	Not appropriate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smart trousers or skirt/dress of modest length (in the opinion of Heads of Sixth Form)• Chinos and cords• Pristine jet black jeans without faults or patterns• Shirt, blouse or smart top• Polo shirts• Shoes, of any type/colour. Heels should be of a suitable height as to be comfortable• Jumpers or cardigans• Formal Jackets• Plain single colour T shirts without any logos may be worn underneath tops, jackets and jumpers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Denim clothing of any colour (apart from jet black jeans)• Clothing that features slogans or large logos.• Hoodies or sweatshirts• Shorts• Sportswear, apart from for PE, including fashion leggings or tracksuit trousers or cargo style trousers• Trainers, sports shoes, flip flops or similar shoes• Tops that expose the abdomen or shoulders such as crop tops, cold shoulder tops etc. are unacceptable• No strapless, backless tops and/or dresses with spaghetti straps• No ripped clothing

**What do our students think?****Finlay Ilett, Year 12****A Levels: Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths**

Joining the Sixth Form has been a great experience for me - the environment is very different from studying at GCSE level. I have found that I can be more independent, and given that I have chosen my subjects, this means I can focus on things that interest me more, especially in the context of wider reading. The Sixth Form is a wonderful asset of the school. There are dedicated study spaces if you've got work to do, but if you feel like relaxing in a free period then the common room is an excellent place to socialise or play table tennis or chess, if you'd rather! There is always someone there, and this also makes it easier to settle in and make new friends.

Katie Thompson, Year 12**A Levels: French, German, History: International Relations**

I have attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar School since Year 7 and have really enjoyed the smooth transfer into the Sixth Form. I find it is the perfect balance of work and free time despite the step up in difficulty of the work at A-Level. I have enjoyed having more independence and being taught how to manage my free time. If I need to study there are quiet places provided such as the library, or the designated supervised study area which is an ideal environment with no distractions or if I want to socialise with my friends, there is the Sixth Form common room kitted out to suit all my needs. Just like in any other year, the staff are really friendly and supportive and constantly encourage me to do my best. QEGS Sixth Form is preparing me for real life by giving me just enough freedom, but the strong sense of community is still there.

**Morgana Walker, Year 13****A Levels: Politics, Modern History, Philosophy**

During my time at QEGS sixth form I have experienced a variety of opportunities - this includes experiences during lockdown and out of lockdown, and seeing how school has catered to these different times. I've found that sixth form is very different to the lower school, the classes are smaller because there is a larger variety in the subjects we can take - for example two of my subjects are philosophy and politics, which are subjects that are not offered in lower school. This means that it is a lot easier to get help when it is needed in a class. This is something that I've found very helpful especially as a year 13 student.



What do our students think?

Danny McAlea, Year 13,

A-levels: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, French

The thing I most appreciate about QEGS Sixth Form is the environment that we get to learn in. In Years 12 and 13 you become more responsible for managing how you want to work, but you never feel as though there isn't support available if you need it. The people who work at QEGS Sixth Form are enough of a reason to join. I've recently been made an offer to read medicine at Oxford next year and I've always been encouraged to follow my interests at QEGS, establishing and running the school's Biomedical Society with a friend. QEGS has given me every opportunity to succeed and I'd strongly recommend coming here for Sixth Form.



Luke Mason, Year 13

A Levels: Politics, History: International Relations, Biology

I joined QEGS at the start of Year 12. Coming from a much larger school to QEGS was always going to be different, yet within weeks I genuinely felt like I'd always been here - I'm very thankful to everyone for how they welcomed me. As a result of this welcome, within my first year I was comfortable enough to run for Assistant Head Student, a role I am proud to be honoured with. At QEGS I feel as if I have a much more personal relationship with the teaching staff than I ever did previously and this has been so valuable in the stressful time that is Year 13. Once the year is over, I hope to go onto university to study Law and Politics. The skills I have picked up in Debating society, Law society and as Assistant Head Student will definitely help me succeed at this.





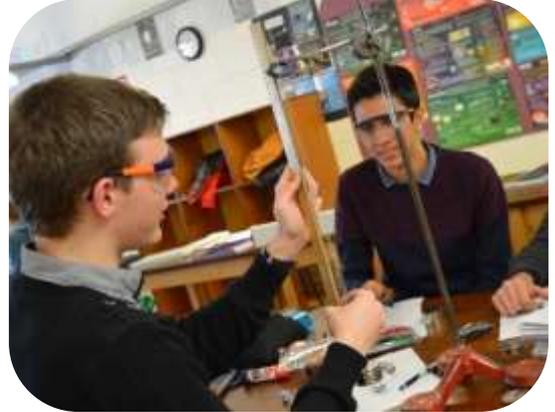
Progression

Further Study

Most of our students choose to continue their studies at a higher level. The majority gain entry to their first-choice university course and of them 75% choose top universities.

Throughout Years 12 and 13, we provide a range of services and information to inform their choice. These vary from formal lecture sessions about essential topics such as student finance, to university open day visits. Information about higher education institutions is also available on the notice boards, in the prospectus library and on-line.

Support is also available for those students who choose to take a gap year or go into employment following their time in the Sixth Form.



Oxbridge and competitive university application support

On average, around 10% of our cohort apply for a place at Oxford or Cambridge, with most gaining an interview for a place. We offer a wide range of specialist support for these students, along with those who are applying for competitive programmes such as medicine, dental and veterinary science.

Additional reading and work is provided by departments to support students' wider understanding of their subject of interest. Fortnightly discussion groups cover general knowledge, current affairs and interesting issues.

In Year 13, applicants attend several workshops on interview preparation and technique. All students are given at least one mock interview with subject specific staff or outside experts at our interview evening. We support students with the admissions tests through specific and specialist classes. Any student who will require an interview for their future course or career will be given tailored support to prepare through mock interviews.

For 2022 entry, three students have been offered places at Oxford or Cambridge to study Medicine, Law and Maths.

Timetable Structure

The structure of your timetable will change in Sixth Form. You will have a variation of subject lessons, supervised study and free periods, as well as timetabled games and EPQ study periods.

Students studying 3 A Levels will have two periods of supervised study and four free periods each week. In addition to this they will have one period of games and EPQ study each week.

Students taking 4 A Levels will have a minimum of two free periods a week as there is no expectation that they complete an EPQ. Students will still have one period of games each week.

**Courses for 2022****Arts**

Fine Art
Graphic Art
Drama and Theatre
English Language
English Literature
Music

Humanities

History: Modern
History: International Relations
Geography
Politics
Environmental Science
Geology

Technology

Design Technology: Product Design

Sciences

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Physical Education

Languages

French
German

Social Sciences

Economics
Philosophy of Religion
Psychology

Enrichment

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Voluntary work
Sport
Arts and entertainment
Student leadership
First Aid
Study Skills



Fine Art, Graphic Art or Art, Craft and Design

Why study Fine Art, Graphic Art or Art, Craft and Design?

Art and design allows development of creativity and artistic expression, and is one of the only subjects to be almost entirely practical. Art and design is vital in today's ever-changing world, where aesthetics are equally as important as function. Indeed, art surrounds us in our everyday living environment; from the buildings we live in, mobile phones, and the clothes on the high street.

Students studying art will explore and develop their artistic skills in a variety of disciplines. Learners will also develop their ability to analyse artwork and think critically about the creative world and apply that knowledge to their projects. The course is designed with further education in mind, so that students who wish to pursue a career in art and design have the skills and knowledge required; many students do continue into highly successful careers in the widely increasing creative industries.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You need to have gained a grade 7 or above in GCSE Art. You will be required to explore drawing using a variety of methods and media on a range of scales. Students will use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work. This course requires a significant amount of independent study.

Features of the course:

Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, installation, printmaking, film, animation, video, photography, lens-based and/or light-based media. Graphic art students will follow the same course but will produce their development and final pieces using the computer program Photoshop. Their outcomes will be of a graphic nature such as stamp presentation packs, posters or calendars. Art, craft and design students will follow the same course but will produce their development and final pieces using their chosen specialism in either fine art, graphic communication, textile design, three-dimensional design or photography.

Key information:

Topics for study: <i>Only one topic can be chosen</i>	Fine Art: Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking, film, animation, television, video and photography: lens-based and/or light-based media. Graphic Art Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including illustration, advertising, packaging design, design for print, communication graphics, computer graphics, multimedia, animation, web design, film, television and/or video. Art, Craft and Design Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work in two or more areas including Fine art, Graphic communication, Textile design, Three-dimensional design and photography.
Assessment summary	Unit 1 - Portfolio Unit 2 - Personal Study Project 1000-3000 words Unit 3 - Externally set assignment including a 15 hour examination
Entry requirements	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Art
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Sadowski, Head of Art; hsadowski@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Drama and Theatre?

Students of AQA theatre studies develop skills that are applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This specification refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking, their approach to research and ability to solve problems, meet deadlines and work independently. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision-making. Whatever the future holds, students of A-Level drama and theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps in life.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Students need to demonstrate that they have an interest in drama and the theatre and have creative ideas in either design or technical or performance. You need to be able to read widely and be able to reflect on the impact of theatre in different contexts. There will be opportunities for theatre visits, workshops and possible residential trips, for which there would be additional costs.

Features of the course:

This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically and devise and work on performances. They explore two set texts, practically and theoretically, both of which are examined in the written paper. Students work as a group, to produce performances and can choose to develop as a performer, designer (lighting, sound, set, costume) or a combination of these.

Whichever option they choose, students will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.

Key information:

Topics for study:	Three components: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drama and theatre- Creating original drama- Making theatre In the practical components, students may specialise in performing, lighting, sound, set, costume, or directing.
Assessment summary	1 x 3 hour written examination (40%) 1 x Creating original drama practical, group assessment including working notebook (30%) 1 x Making theatre practical, individual or group assessment and reflective report (30%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama plus an audition/interview. If GCSE Drama has not been studied Grade 6 in any GCSE English plus an audition/interview
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Miss Coates, Head of Drama; DCoates@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study English Language?**

Have a look at the questions below. If you answer 'yes' to all or most, then this is the subject for you:

- Are you interested in how language is never the same, but always changing?
- Are you curious about how language links to gender, technology and power?
- Are you keen to discover how children learn language so quickly?
- Do you ever wonder why – or if – accent and dialect matter?

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

This subject is a world away from GCSE English Language! However, students need to have a good understanding of the work covered at GCSE. They should have an interest in how language is constructed and a desire to learn more. As the subject is very current, an interest in how language operates in the world is essential and students who supplement their studies with wider reading are at a strong advantage.

Features of the course:

Expect your linguistic journey to be both varied and challenging. The course explores the English language from all angles, from delving inside the grammar to see how it works, to ranging through the modern, technical, and historical, traditional world to explore its multiple influences. Along the way you will learn about areas such as:

- The impact of technology on language (text speak, anyone? Or what about why our spelling system looks the way it does?)
- The way accent and dialect are used and perceived ('gan yam, anyone?')
- How different genders use language, and how those in power use it to control
- About issues which are current both in the popular press and linguistic forums (did you know that teenagers write school essays in 'text speak'? No, neither did we, but the press does!)

Finally, you will complete an independent study (coursework), investigating an area of language study that interests you. This can be anything you have touched on through the course.

Key information:

Topics for study:	Language Under the Microscope Topical language Issues Spoken Language Child's Language Acquisition The Language of power, gender and technology Language Change Independent Study and academic poster
Assessment summary	Paper 1 – Exploring Language - 2 hours 30 minutes – 40% Paper 2 – Dimensions of Linguistic Variations - 2 hours 30 minutes – 40% Independent Language Research – 20%
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
Exam Board	OCR
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Cooke, Head of English; SCooke@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study English Literature?**

Because all human experience is here! Studying English Literature pushes you to ask the big questions about the world and challenges you to think for yourself. It is an enjoyable and thought-provoking subject for students who enjoy reading, talking, and writing about a variety of texts, ranging from some of the earliest writers in the English canon, to contemporary texts written in the last few years. Teachers choose to teach poems, plays and novels that they are passionate about and there is also the opportunity for students to choose their own texts for independent study. The course will appeal to those who enjoy expressing their own opinions and developing independent ideas.

As well as for students who are already committed to the study of English at university, it is also an ideal choice for pupils who want to keep their options open for further study, being widely recognised as an academic and highly respected subject. Our A Level English Literature students in the last few years have gone on to further study in: English Literature, Law, History, Music, Medicine, Animation, Agricultural Studies, Art, Linguistics, Philosophy, French and more besides. We have a very successful Oxbridge programme, with successful applications in all of the last 6 years.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Students need to have a good understanding of the work covered at GCSE level in English literature. They should have an interest in analysing literature from a range of genres. Wider reading is essential for success on this course.

Features of the course:

Lessons tend to be largely discussion based, as this is a subject that thrives on lively debate and a willingness to defend and challenge ideas. Outside of lessons, work tends to focus on independent reading and essay writing. The English department organises frequent theatre trips to complement the works being studied.

The ability to read critically and discerningly, to produce accurate, persuasive writing and to have confidence in one's own judgements are clearly invaluable skills.

Text choices change depending on the make-up of the classes, the combined interests of the two teachers delivering the course and what we can see on stage can often determine our drama choice. Our current Year 12 are studying: *Waiting for Godot* and *King Lear*; *Dracula* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; twenty-first century poetry and Phillip Larkin and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Jane Eyre*.

Key information:

Topics for study:	Component 1: Drama (30%) Component 2: Prose (20%) Component 3: Poetry (30%) Component 4: Coursework (20%)
Assessment summary	1 x 2 hour 15 minutes open book examination (30%) 1 x 1 hour 15 minutes open book examination (20%) 1 x 2 hour 15 minutes open book examination (30%) 1 x 2500 - 3500 words coursework (20%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature
Exam Board	Edexcel
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Cooke, Head of English scooke@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Music?

The course is excellent preparation for higher education courses in music, but is equally valuable for non-specialists as a second or third area of study. The A-Level qualification can lead to a wide range of careers in performance, composition, primary and secondary teaching, music therapy, publishing, promotion and marketing, journalism and many other areas.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You must have a good understanding of the content of the GCSE music course and demonstrate a practical ability in a musical instrument or voice at Grade 6. You must be able to read music and have an interest in a wide range of music.

Features of the course:

Edexcel music is a stimulating and enriching course. As with GCSE, students will experience the three key areas of performance, composition and appraisal. 60% of the course is based on practical controlled assessment; the remaining 40% is based on a written examination at the end of the course that focuses on a series of set works from a variety of musical styles, genres and cultures.

Throughout the course you will develop skills as a performer (leading to a recital) and composer (composing to a brief and technical studies). Listening skills are focused on through the study of familiar and unfamiliar music, and understanding how it works.

Key information:

Topics for study:	Performing (30%) Composing (30%) Appraising (40%)
Assessment summary	A recital performance of one or more pieces to be recorded in school and externally marked. Can be a solo or ensemble performance or improvisation lasting a minimum of 8 minutes at Grade 6+ standard. One composition of at least 4 minutes either free or following a brief. One composition exploring compositional techniques and at least one-minute long. 1 x 2 hour written examination based on set works.
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Music or proof of practical expertise. Must be able to read music and perform to Grade 6 ABRSM or equivalent.
Exam Board	Edexcel
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Roberts, Head of Music; DRoberts@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study Modern History?**

History can help you learn how to think and process information and understand the origins of modern political and social problems.

Historians have always made a virtue of the importance of making objective judgements based upon wide reading and an understanding of multiplicity of conflicting sources. We value the ability to write clear, literate, synoptic, analytical prose that represents a balanced assessment of the evidence but which is not frightened of drawing bold conclusions. A history training therefore imparts vital transferable skills that are extremely useful in many jobs.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You must have an interest in your this period of history and be interested in studying it in more detail. You should be prepared to read more widely around the subjects being discussed and present written work that is beginning to show an ability to justify and explain your thinking.

Features of the course:

Modern History: Tsarist and Communist Russia, and Modern Britain

The breadth study focuses on Russia, a country that experienced wars, revolution and some of the most interesting and controversial individuals in the whole of history. The course examines the causes, extent and impact of political, economic, social and cultural change across this transformative period. It begins by investigating attempts to preserve the Tsarist autocracy of the late nineteenth century. It goes on to examine the political developments of 1917 before investigating the Bolshevik takeover and establishment of a communist dictatorship under Lenin and later Stalin. Finally, the course considers Khrushchev and the significance of his attempts to reform communism.

The depth study on the making of modern Britain will allow students to study the key social, economic, political and international changes that have helped to create the Britain we live in today. It explores concepts such as class, social division, cultural change and effective government, and challenges students to reflect on Britain's changing place in an increasingly inter-connected world. Students will be encouraged to assess historical questions such as how far the British lived in an affluent society in the 1950s, to what extent did the sixties swing, were the unions to blame for the political crises in the 1970s, did Mrs Thatcher really 'change everything' in Britain as she declared and had Britain become 'cool Britannia' and a multi-cultural society by 2007?

Key information:

Topics for study:	A breadth study - Tsarist and Communist Russia 1855 - 1964 A depth study - The Making of Modern Britain 1951 - 2007 A historical investigation
Assessment summary	2 x 2 hour 30 minutes examinations (40% each) 1 x historical investigation of up to 4,500 words (20%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Baines, Head of History; pbaines@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study International Relations History?**

History can help you learn how to think and process information and understand the origins of modern political and social problems.

Historians have always made a virtue of the importance of making objective judgements based upon wide reading and an understanding of multiplicity of conflicting sources. We value the ability to write clear, literate, synoptic, analytical prose that represents a balanced assessment of the evidence but which is not frightened of drawing bold conclusions. A history training therefore imparts vital transferable skills that are extremely useful in many jobs.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You must have an interest in this period of history and be interested in studying it in more detail. You should be prepared to read more widely around the subjects being discussed and present written work that is beginning to show an ability to justify and explain your thinking.

Features of the course:*International Relations History: British Empire and the Cold War*

The breadth study begins with the British Empire's growth through Africa and India. At its peak, the British ruled over 400 million people, and you will consider how so small a nation came to rule over so much territory, and the nature of that rule. To that end, you will study Britain's treatment of indigenous peoples and the role of explorers such as Cecil Rhodes, once celebrated for the founding of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) yet now derided by many as a racist, and the subject of campaigns to have his statues taken down. Later in the course, you will study the decline of empire and how Britain had to adapt to life as a second-rate power.

The Cold War depth study studies how the relationship between the USA and Soviet Union deteriorated to the extent that global nuclear war loomed large over the second half of the Twentieth Century. The course takes in the role of key personalities from Khrushchev and Kennedy to Stalin, Churchill and Chairman Mao, and covers key flash points such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Berlin Crisis and wars in Korea and Vietnam. The course ends with the resumption of hostilities in the early 1980s, fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the USSR in 1991.

Key information:

Topics for study:	A breadth study - The British Empire, 1857-1967 A depth study – The Cold War, 1945-1991 A Historical Investigation
Assessment summary	2 x 2 hour 30 minutes examinations (40% each) 1 x historical investigation of 4,500 words (20%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Baines, Head of History; pbaines@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Geography?

An A-Level in geography encourages learners to apply geographical knowledge, theory and skills to the world around them. In turn, this will enable learners to develop a critical understanding of the world's people, places and environments in the twenty-first century. Learners will develop both knowledge and understanding of contemporary geographical concepts, together with transferable skills that will enable them to progress to higher education and a range of employment opportunities.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

This qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE and particularly aims to develop a deeper understanding of, and ability to apply, the concepts of place, space, scale and environment.

Features of the course:

The human element of the course comprises of changing places and global governance. Changing places investigates how and different places change over time and the impacts this can have, global governance looks at how the impact and management global issues like migration.

The physical side includes changing landscapes where we study glaciation and how different glacial environments have shaped certain parts of the world and how this has affected humans and also how humans are affecting it. Global systems investigates key physical cycles such the water cycle. As well as this, we study plate tectonics and the associated hazards.

There are 4 compulsory day of fieldwork in which we do a range of human and physical data collection to prepare students for their coursework and consolidate work done in lessons.

Key information:

Topics for study:	Unit 1: Changing landscapes Unit 2: Changing places Unit 3: Global systems and global governance Unit 4: Contemporary themes in geography Unit 5: Independent investigation
Assessment summary	3 x 2-hour examination (24% each) 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes examination (16%) 1 x independent investigation of 3000-4000 words (20%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
Exam Board	WJEC
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Douglas, Head of Earth Sciences; JDouglas@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Politics?

It is important that you understand how the country you live in operates. Studying this course will help you make sense of current affairs and produce academic and analytical essays.

Politics is particularly useful if you are considering employment in law, journalism or the civil service. The awareness and the skills that you develop through a study of politics, however, are relevant to almost every aspect of life.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Politics is an intellectually challenging and rewarding subject. There are significant elements of written work involved in the course. The ability to articulate views and ideas in both a verbal and written context is essential. You must have an interest in politics in both the UK and USA and be prepared to read widely around the subject.

Features of the course:

This course combines three of the most popular units currently offered by exam boards. It combines practical elements' such as how government works in the UK and USA, with more theoretical aspects including the study of major political ideologies like conservatism, socialism, liberalism, feminism, nationalism and anarchism.

The course aims to widen students' understanding of the key issues in modern society. It investigates where power now lies, how people are represented and the opportunities for change. This includes for example, debates over whether we should go to war, civil liberties, the influence of Europe, the obstacles facing minorities plus the role of political parties.

There are numerous extra-curricular activities to support your study of politics such as a joint history and politics trip to London, debating society, Sixth Form discussion group and events like the school mock election.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Unit 1: Governments and politics of the UK Unit 2: Government and politics of the USA Unit 3: Political ideas
Assessment summary	3 x 2-hour examinations containing a mix of medium length 'explain' questions and essay style questions
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Judge, Head of Human Science; kjjudge@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Environmental Science?

Environmental science courses are increasingly popular at universities and new legislation means that industry and the public sector are urgently seeking well-qualified graduates with a background in the subject.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The course focuses on the science of the environment. It is not a pure science, although some universities do accept it as such. The underlying principles are rooted in scientific theory so a sound grasp of GCSE level science is essential.

Students must also be prepared to undertake additional reading. A reading list is available on the student shared area of the school intranet site. Some reading material is supplied in Year 12, but a more independent approach is needed in Year 13 to ensure that students can reach the top grades.

Features of the course:

This course examines how human activity affects the environment. How can these impacts be managed to limit the damage caused and to secure healthy surroundings for us and for future generations? These are increasingly urgent issues, relevant across a range of curriculum and policy areas.

Environmental science is a holistic subject with many interconnected systems and processes. A change to one process can affect many other processes over different spatial and temporal scales. Consideration of environmental issues and the conclusions reached are based on reliable evidence-based information and quantitative data. Students will develop an understanding of how human society relies upon natural systems for resources and life support systems. An understanding of these systems will be used to propose changes in society that would produce sustainable lifestyles.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	The living environment The physical environment Energy resources Pollution Biological resources Sustainability Research methods
Assessment summary	2 x 3 hour written papers
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Douglas, Head of Earth Sciences; JDouglas@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study Geology?**

Geology can be considered as a leisure interest subject. It helps us to appreciate and understand our natural environment, both locally and further afield. Cumbria is a particularly good place in which to study geology with its varied landscape, a wide range of formations and its long history of mining. Many students develop a keen interest in collecting minerals and fossils, which they continue after leaving school. Career opportunities are also extremely wide ranging.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

There is no charge for the local fieldwork that is a compulsory part of the course, other than basic travel costs. Any equipment needed is supplied by the department but students may wish to buy their own hand lenses and field note-books. There may be opportunities for optional visits that are further afield for which there would be additional costs.

Features of the course:

Geology involves the scientific study of the earth. We examine in detail the materials that occur at the surface, the minerals and the various types of rocks and deposits. We look at how these materials are produced, changed and recycled, and how the processes involved change the landscape. There are in-depth studies of “big” topics - earthquakes, mountain-building, volcanic activity, ocean and continent formation - and we learn how these are related to huge changes in the earth’s interior.

Emphasis is placed on applied geology. All nations depend upon a supply of essential resources: energy resources like coal, oil and gas; metals such as iron, copper, lead and zinc; construction materials such as limestone, sand and gravel, clay and roadstones; and an adequate supply of fresh water. Geologists are involved in finding and developing these vital materials. A consequence of human consumption of raw material is inevitably waste disposal - again needing geological expertise.

Fieldwork is an essential part of the course and in the summer/autumn terms, four days of local field trips (Lake District, Eden Valley and Pennines) are arranged. In addition, there are afternoon excursions, which can be used to complete coursework requirements and occasional visits to local extractive industries such as the mine at British Gypsum.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Component 1: Geological investigations (35%) Component 2: Geological principles and processes (30%) Component 3: Geological applications (35%) Practical Endorsement: Assessment of practical competencies reported separately
Assessment summary	Component 1: 2 hour 15 minutes examination Component 2: 1 hour 45 minutes examination Component 3: 2 hour examination Practical Endorsement: Non-examined assessment
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths or Grade 6 in GCSE Science
Exam Board	WJEC
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Douglas, Head of Earth Sciences; JDouglas@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Design Technology: Product Design****Why study Product Design?**

Virtually everything you buy is designed or engineered. This course could be the pathway to many exciting and rewarding career paths in a rapidly changing technological society. From engineers to technicians, to designers, high-level manufacturing in the UK needs a creative, forward thinking, skilled and highly trained workforce that you could be part of. As well as developing knowledge and skills in technology based topics, this subject is one which naturally develops transferable skills such as team work, problem solving and communication skills - all of which are vital in the world of work.

Product design is about making things that people want, that work well. Creating these products is hugely exciting and it is an inventive, fun activity. This course can be used as a complementary subject to mathematics, science and art, or to provide a contrast to humanities subjects. This is a valuable course for anyone seeking a creative, technical or design-based career.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Maths skills are fundamental to design and technology. These will be embedded within the examination for this qualification. Students must have a sound working knowledge of the use of ICT. An interest in designers from the past and present and an enthusiasm for sketching, modelling and making is key in getting the most out of the course.

Features of the course:

You will learn through practical work and theory lessons and have the opportunity to work independently and as a member of a group. Year 12 comprises a mix of theory lessons important in developing exam practice and a number of skills projects before embarking on a major project which is submitted in Year 13. Students will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials; including modern and smart materials, and processes used in product design and manufacture. They will be required to develop an understanding of contemporary industrial and commercial practices applied to designing and manufacturing products, and to appreciate the risks involved. Students should have a good working knowledge of health and safety procedures and relevant legislation.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Performance characteristics of materials; processes and techniques; digital technologies; factors influencing the development of products; effects of technological developments; potential hazards and risk assessment; features of manufacturing industries and designing for maintenance. Presentation skills portfolio, design and make skills project, laminating skills project, 3D cad skills development unit, welding and metal work.
Assessment summary	Component 1 - Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes, 120 marks - 30% Component 2 - Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks - 20% Component 3 - Substantial design and make project, 100 marks - 50%
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology <i>In exceptional circumstances students who have not met the minimum grade requirements will be considered if they can demonstrate the following: a portfolio showing technical work, a product made by the student that shows technique and understanding of various methods of making, an understanding of both 2D and 3D CAD, an interest in design or a hobby in a design technology based activity.</i>
Exam Board	AQA - 7552
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Wilson, Head of Design Technology; FWilson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Biology?

Biology is the window onto the fascinating world of micro-organisms, plants, ecosystems, humans and other animals. Biologists try to understand some of the fundamental aspects of life itself.

Biology is a very rewarding subject that can lead to the study of biology in its own right as well as many associated subjects at a higher level. There are those subjects that are very obviously connected with biology such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. There are, however, many other courses and careers where having an A-Level in biology would be useful with the fastest growing areas being those of genetics, biotechnology and sports science.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

If you are thinking of studying biology beyond A-Level, make sure you get good advice before making your final A-Level subject choice. Some careers or university courses related to biology will require you to have achieved a full A-Level in a second science subject, most often, but not necessarily, chemistry. Some students have little intention of pursuing biology beyond A-Level and simply wish to take it because it is a subject in which they are interested and one they know they will enjoy. Many students have demonstrated that it is a science that may be studied very successfully alongside art subjects.

Features of the course:

In Year 12 students will build on their knowledge of many of the themes covered at GCSE. Key topics include cell structure, variation, basic biochemistry and exchange and transport.

In Year 13 students will develop their biological skills further as they study energy transfers, responses to changes in their internal and external environments and genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Biological molecules; cells; organisms exchange substances with their environment; genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms; energy transfers in and between organisms; organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; and the control of gene expression.
Assessment summary	Paper 1: 2 hour examination (35%) Paper 2: 2 hour examination (35%) Paper 3: 2 hour examination (30%) Practical Endorsement: Assessment of practical competencies reported separately
Entry requirements	Grade 7 in GCSE Biology and a 6 in GCSE Chemistry
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Finlinson, Head of Biology; KFinlinson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of the structures and properties of materials, and of the reactions in which one substance is transformed into another. It seeks to explain all this in terms of the behaviour of the atoms and molecules from which all matter is constructed.

The questions asked, and answered, by chemists are not confined to the immediate practical applications of their work. The origin of life on earth, the chemical basis of genetics, the nature of the planets and distant stars, the chemical composition of the centre of the earth's core, life support systems for astronauts and projected planetary colonies are just some of the exciting projects on which chemists throughout the world are working.

Chemistry underpins much of modern life and the high standard of living which most of us enjoy. The increased industrialisation of society has drawbacks, of course - the rapid use of finite natural resources, for example, and increasing pollution. If these problems are to be solved, it will be by the application of scientific knowledge and understanding. Chemistry and chemists will play a central role by developing ways of using our resources more efficiently and, by so increasing our understanding of the chemistry of the atmosphere, oceans and soils, that we may, in future, grow the food we need without the use of large quantities of pesticides and fertilisers.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Chemistry provides a stimulating and rewarding study in its own right. A background in the subject is invaluable to those who are planning careers in engineering, materials science or metallurgy, geology, mining or the biological sciences. A knowledge of chemistry is essential for the successful study of medicine or veterinary science. The course has some mathematical content and you should be comfortable with handling chemical calculations involving moles and general rearrangement of formula.

Features of the course:

Roughly equal time is devoted to each of the three main branches of the subject: physical chemistry - the study of the underlying atomic and molecular principles; organic chemistry - which deals with the behaviour of substances based on carbon (thus with all substances of biological importance) and inorganic chemistry - which covers all the remaining elements, with an emphasis on the properties of the metals.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Physical chemistry; Inorganic chemistry; Organic chemistry
Assessment summary	Paper 1: 2 hour examination (35%) Paper 2: 2 hour examination (35%) Paper 3: 2 hour examination (30%) Practical Endorsement: Assessment of practical competencies reported separately
Entry requirements	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Dr Ireland, Head of Chemistry; SIreland@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Physics?

Physics is the most fundamental of all the sciences and is essentially, “the science of matter and energy and the interactions between the two”. Many physicists today are interested in either the science of the very small, such as investigating theories of fundamental particles called quarks and how matter is built from them, or the very large, developing theories on the formation and expansion of the universe.

The subject underpins all types of engineering and provides an excellent background for scientific careers at all levels. The employment prospects for those with qualifications in physics are generally good. Physics provides a route into many careers, and opportunities exist throughout the world. These prospects are not confined to research - they extend into a wide range of industries, into food, medicine, finance, marketing, business and management. The general skills of analysis and problem-solving that physicists develop are highly valued in many different fields of employment.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The mathematical content is modest in the first year of the course but becomes much more substantial in the second year.

Features of the course:

Each of the two years consists of four theory units, but practical work is woven into the course. During the two years, there are a dozen compulsory practical activities that may be assessed in the written examinations. In addition to this, there is an entirely separate practical endorsement, based on demonstration of core practical competencies.

Throughout the two-year course, there is a healthy emphasis on practical work. Students are taught how to make measurements of a range of quantities including length, current, potential difference and temperature. They will develop an awareness of the nature of measurement errors and of their numerical treatment.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Core content: Measurements and their errors; particles and radiation; waves; mechanics and materials; electricity; further mechanics and thermal physics; fields and their consequences and nuclear physics. Option taken at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School: Medical physics
Assessment summary	Paper 1: 2 hour examination (34%) Paper 2: 2 hour examination (34%) Paper 3: 2 hour examination (32%) Practical Endorsement: Assessment of practical competencies reported separately
Entry requirements	Grade 7 in GCSE Physics and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr St John, Head of Physics; SStJohn@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is one of the most useful and versatile subjects you can study in the Sixth Form.

If you enjoy the intellectual challenge that mathematics offers and the great satisfaction that is gained from working through difficult mathematical problems, then you have chosen the right subject.

There are very few career routes that do not value A-Level mathematics and many that demand A-Level mathematics.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

A sound mathematical basis is crucial to be able to follow the course. Therefore, a grade 7 in GCSE mathematics is essential.

Features of the course:

Over the two years, you study a combination of algebraic techniques in order to solve co-ordinate geometry, trigonometry and sequences problems amongst others. In addition, you will study mechanics and statistics.

Pure mathematics includes proof; algebra and functions; coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane; sequences and series; trigonometry; exponentials and logarithms; differentiation; integration; numerical methods and vectors.

Mechanics studies things that move and what causes them to move, and things that do not move and the forces within them. The topics include: quantities and units in mechanics; kinematics; forces and Newton's laws and moments.

Statistics allow you to analyse data using increasingly sophisticated techniques. The topics include: statistical sampling; data presentation and interpretation; probability; statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Mechanics
Assessment summary	Paper 1: Pure Mathematics, 2 hour examination (33.33%) Paper 2: Pure Mathematics, 2 hour examination (33.33%) Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics, 2 hour examination (33.33%)
Entry requirements	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Exam Board	Edexcel
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Ramsdale, Head of Mathematics; NRamsdale@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Further Mathematics?

Further mathematics is an extension of the A-Level mathematics course and you must take A-Level mathematics to be able complete further mathematics.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

A sound mathematical basis is crucial to be able to follow the course. Therefore, a grade 7 in GCSE mathematics is essential and a grade 8 is desirable.

Features of the course:

Students will extend their algebra techniques by looking into topics such as complex numbers, matrices and alternative co-ordinate systems. In addition, students can study further mechanics or try out a very different type of mathematics called decision. Decision mathematics studies a range of algorithms, for example understanding how a satellite navigation system calculates a route using an algorithm.

Further Pure Mathematics: Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors; polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations, coordinate systems, further numerical methods, inequalities, groups, further calculus, further matrix algebra, further complex numbers, number theory, further sequences and series.

Further Mechanics: Momentum and impulse, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs, further kinematics, further dynamics, motion in a circle, statics of rigid bodies, elastic collisions in two dimensions.

Decision Mathematics: Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, algorithms on graphs II, critical path analysis, linear programming, transportation problems, allocation (assignment) problems, flows in networks, dynamic programming, game theory, recurrence relations, decision analysis.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Further Pure Mathematics, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics, Decision Mathematics
Assessment summary	Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%) Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%) Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%) Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2, 1 hour 30 minutes (25%)
Entry requirements	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Exam Board	Edexcel
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Ramsdale, Head of Mathematics; NRamsdale@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Physical Education?

Physical education encourages students to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform or coach a sport (through the non-exam assessment component), and delve into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

Students receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a fantastic base from which to build when you move on to higher education, employment or further training.

Students can develop a range of practical skills, including communication using appropriate language, dealing with pressure, split second decision-making, analysing and evaluating performance, and more.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You need to do at least one sport which is assessed on the syllabus. The sports you can do are too numerous to list here, please ask a member of PE staff. You do not have to have studied GCSE PE but you need to show a very positive attitude towards sport. It is preferred that you have some evidence of grade 6 in a number of GCSEs - not necessarily in PE.

Features of the course:

You will study:

Physiological factors affecting performance: applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition and sports psychology.

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport: sport and society and contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

Performance in physical education: performance or coaching and evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Physiological factors affecting performance, socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport, performance in physical education
Assessment summary	Paper 1: 2 hour examination (30%) Paper 2: 1 hour examination (20%) Paper 3: 1 hour examination (20%) Non-exam assessment (30%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE PE if taken; demonstrate a positive attitude towards sport. Must be competent in at least one sport assessed on the syllabus.
Exam Board	OCR
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Worth, Head of Physical Education; aworth@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study French?**

Universities are keen to offer places to applicants with a language at A-Level as it demonstrates that you possess skills and attributes such as problem-solving, adaptability, a global mind-set, communicating with different audiences and developing an analytical mind. Graduates with language skills are definitely more employable and earn an average of 8% - 20% more.

You can enhance your career prospects in many fields by having a language capability alongside other specialist subjects. As a tool for communication, a language at A-Level complements a wide range of sciences and humanities.

An A-Level in French will enable you to apply for any ab initio language course at university. It could be your door to Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic or many other exciting or unusual languages.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will study grammar in more depth at A-Level and learn how to express yourself much more fluently with a high level of complexity and accuracy.

Some of the topics at A-Level are an extension to those studied at GCSE. However, whereas GCSE focuses on your personal experiences, the A-Level course encourages the study of topics in the wider context of French society. For example, when at GCSE you might be asked "How do you get on with your siblings?" at A-Level you might discuss "Is there such a thing as a typical French 'family'?"

Features of the course:

We will study technological and social change, and look at diversity and multiculturalism and the benefits and issues they bring. You will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including art, music, architecture and cinema. You will learn about political engagement, how the political landscapes of France were formed and who wields political power in the French-speaking world.

You will explore the influence of the past on present-day French-speaking communities. Throughout your studies, you will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them.

You will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, grammar, works: literary texts and films.
Assessment summary	Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing, written examination 2 hours 30 minutes (50%) Paper 2: Writing, written examination 2 hours (20%) Paper 3: Speaking, oral exam 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time (30%))
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE French
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Wilson, Head of Modern Languages; JWilson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study German?**

Universities are keen to offer places to applicants with a language at A-Level as it demonstrates that you possess skills and attributes such as problem-solving, adaptability, a global mind-set, communicating with different audiences and developing an analytical mind. Graduates with language skills are definitely more employable and earn an average of 8% - 20% more.

You can enhance your career prospects in many fields by having a language capability alongside other specialist subjects. As a tool for communication, a language at A-Level complements a wide range of sciences and humanities.

An A-Level in German will enable you to apply for any ab initio language course at university. It could be your door to Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic or many other exciting or unusual languages.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will study grammar in more depth at A-Level and learn how to express yourself much more fluently with a high level of complexity and accuracy.

Some of the topics at A-Level are an extension to those studied at GCSE. However whereas GCSE focuses on your personal experiences, the A-Level course encourages the study of topics in the wider context of German-speaking society. For example, when at GCSE you might be asked, "What did you do last Christmas?" at A-Level you might discuss, "Why are festivals like Christmas important in Germany?"

Features of the course:

We will study social change, diversity, multiculturalism and the benefits and issues they bring. You will study highlights of German-speaking artistic culture, including art, music, architecture and cinema. You will learn about political engagement, how the political landscapes of German were formed by events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the role of the EU from the perspective of German speakers.

You will explore the influence of the past on present-day German-speaking communities. Throughout your studies, you will learn the language in the context of German-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them.

You will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, grammar, works: literary texts and films.
Assessment summary	Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing, written examination 2 hours 30 minutes (50%) Paper 2: Writing, written examination 2 hours (20%) Paper 3: Speaking, oral exam 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time (30%))
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE German
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Wilson, Head of Modern Languages; JWilson@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study Economics?

Studying economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation and essay writing. You will also develop commercial awareness.

Suitable higher education courses include economics degrees or degrees in applied economics such as environmental economics, labour economics, public sector economics or monetary economics. You might choose to study business economics, international business or a business and management degree.

Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service. You might choose a career in banking, sales, product management or general management.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

It does not matter if you have not studied economics before. You might have an interest in economics and business. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news - Why do some economies grow and others do not? Why did economists not predict the global financial crisis? What impact does the economy have on the business world? What is globalisation? This course will help you to understand all this and more.

Features of the course:

Markets, consumers and firms - In this theme, students explore the way in which consumers make choices and entrepreneurs create desirable products.

The wider economic environment - This theme explores how businesses can become more competitive. It introduces students to the wider international and economic environment in which businesses operate.

The global economy - This theme builds on the content of theme 2 and continues its focus on the international economic and business environment. Issues such as globalisation and the impact of emerging economies are studied.

Making markets work - This theme considers degrees of competition within markets and then encourages students to apply their understanding to how governments may improve the functioning of markets and the economy.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Markets; consumers and firms; the wider economic environment; the global economy; making markets work.
Assessment summary	Paper 1: 2 hour examination (35%) Paper 2: 2 hour examination (35%) Paper 3: 2 hour examination (30%)
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Exam Board	Edexcel
Subject lead contact details:	Mrs Judge, Head of Human Sciences; KJudge@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk

**Why study Philosophy**

In this subject we look at the deep, fundamental questions in life: Is there God? Do we have free will? Is there life after death? To help us find answers to these questions we consider what great philosophers of the past have said, examining their arguments and discussing their different views. We learn how to think clearly and argue logically. In the second year, the course broadens to look at the development of oriental thought, specifically within the Buddhist tradition. This offers a fresh perspective on the issues we considered in year 12. By the end of year 13, each student should have developed skills of critical analysis, learned how to structure essays persuasively and coherently and will have an informed view on a variety of philosophical topics.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Any student considering this course should have an inquiring mind, should want to learn how to reason in a disciplined fashion and should want to discuss their views with others in class.

Features of the course:

Philosophy of religion - In this unit we examine the philosophical issues relating to Metaphysics, the study of the nature of reality. Topics include: issues surrounding God's existence, the nature and origin of evil, whether or not our perception gives us an accurate account of how the world really is. We study the thought of great philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant and Hume. Finally, we consider the relationship between the mind and body. Do we have a non-physical soul or are we simply very complicated robots that can be explained by physical causes alone?

Ethics – In this unit we examine the difference between right and wrong. We think that it is wrong to kill but *how* do we know that? We might think that sometimes it is right to lie but what principle can we hold that tell us when we should do so? Is morality something that humans have invented or is it objectively true in the same way that science might be thought to be? As part of this unit we study ethical theories that try to provide objective reasons for acting morally.

The development of oriental philosophical thought – In the third section of the course we examine the development of philosophical thinking in the eastern, Buddhist tradition. Topics include Nagarjuna's teaching on Emptiness, an in-depth study of the Lakshanas or marks of existence, theories of rebirth, the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and the Japanese Zen tradition.

Conclusion – philosophy is a subject of great value. It teaches students to think clearly and rationally. On completing the course each student should have a better idea of what we know to be true. Philosophy is helpful in life and has many applications. There are ethical issues underlying everything from genetics to justice. Each person has a philosophy of life, whether they like it or not. In this subject you get a chance to explore what yours might be.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Philosophy, Ethics and Eastern Philosophy
Assessment summary	Paper 1: 2 hour examination Paper 2: 2 hour examination Paper 3: 2 hour examination
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE RE
Exam Board	OCR
Subject lead contact details:	Mr Proctor, Head of Religious Studies; DProctor@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Why study 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.

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.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You need to have a real interest in human behaviour and the mind. You need to be interested in researching and debating psychological topics and confident to interpret data. The exam is a mix of multiple choice, short and long, essay style questions, so you need to enjoy essay writing!

Features of the course:

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Infant attachment
- Psychopathology (including disorders such as OCD, phobias and depression)
- Biopsychology (including the nervous system and functioning within the brain)
- Research Methods
- Cognition and development
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

Key information:

Topics for Study:	Topics in Psychology, Psychology in Context, Issues and Options in Psychology
Assessment summary	3x 2 hour papers Paper 1: Topics in Psychology Paper 2: Psychology in Context Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
Entry requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE English and Maths
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Ms S Nohavicka and Mr D Proctor snohavicka@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Extended Project Qualification

Why study the Extended Project?

All students who are studying three A-Levels will take the Extended Project Qualification. Those who are studying four A-Levels will have the opportunity to choose the extended project. The Extended Project develops a range of core skills that will be essential for preparation for future study and many careers.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The EPQ aims to develop many of the skills required by students at university. One of the most appealing aspects about doing an EPQ is that you can choose a topic or issue that really interests you. In order to complete a successful EPQ, you will need to be both self-motivated and organised. You will need to be able to undertake independent research with minimal teacher input. You also need to keep clear detailed notes and accessible records of how your project develops. Much of the EPQ mark scheme is not concerned with your final product, but instead, how developing core skills, doing your research and good planning got you there. As such, students wanting to take an EPQ need to consider where their academic interests lie, what topic might they like to explore further and how they intend to organise their time to do the work required.

Features of the course:

Students will begin by completing an online course that will develop some of the practical research and planning skills that an EPQ requires. Students will be paired with teacher mentors (supervisors) who are there to teach key skills and support students. Students will then begin researching their topic and will generate a working title that the school EPQ co-ordinator will need to approve. After that, the student, under their teacher mentor's supervision will develop and complete their project culminating in a product (either a 5000 word investigation or an artefact with a minimum 1000 word report) and a public presentation to an audience.

Key information:

Topics for Study:	The topic is chosen by the student in conjunction with their supervisor.
Assessment summary	5000 word investigation or an artefact with a 1000 word written report. Both types of EPQ also require a public presentation to an audience.
Entry requirements	All students on a three A-Level programme will study the EPQ. It is optional for those students on four A-Levels.
Exam Board	AQA
Subject lead contact details:	Ms S Nohavicka, EPQ Coordinator snohavicka@qegs.cumbria.sch.uk



Financial support

Queen Elizabeth Grammar school will provide access to bursaries for students who meet the following criteria.

A: Vulnerable Groups

Students who are:

- in care,
 - care leavers,
 - receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner,
 - receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right,
- are entitled to a full bursary of £1200.

B: Students eligible for Free School Meals

Students who are in receipt of Free School Meals.

C: Students for whom there are other significant financial barriers to learning

Students who are carers will be considered for a bursary award. Applications for bursary awards can also be made where the school has evidence that family income and/or exceptional costs related to accessing the Sixth Form act as a significant barrier to continued learning. The amount awarded will be determined based on individual circumstances. Suitable evidence of family income includes proof of entitlement to Child or Working Tax Credits.

Transport Bursary

Students whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to apply for free discretionary transport through Cumbria County Council's Student Support Fund. To qualify for Post-16 transport on low income grounds, parents/carers must provide evidence (dated within 3 months of the commencement of their course) that they are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support.
- Income based jobseekers allowance.
- An income related employment and support allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Universal Credit.

Please contact the school transport team at Cumbria County Council if you think you may be eligible; www.cumbria.gov.uk/schooltransport or school.transport@cumbria.gov.uk

Care to Learn

There is help for those who are the main carer for their child and have to bear the cost of childcare through the Government's Care to Learn scheme.

How do I apply?

The school will automatically allocate bursaries to students in categories A and B before determining bursaries for those in category C. Students in category A and B will receive more information via the Sixth Form pastoral team.

Students who have not received this information and think that they are eligible for support or any student wishing to make an application under category C, should make an appointment with Mr Martin.

**Summary of entry requirements**

Arts	
Fine Art and Graphic Art	Grade 7 in GCSE Art
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama plus an audition/interview or a Grade 6 in GCSE English plus an audition/interview
English Language	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music or proof of practical expertise. Must be able to read music and perform to Grade 6 ABRSM or equivalent.
Humanities	
Medieval History	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Modern History	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
Politics	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Environmental Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology
Geology	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 6 in GCSE Science
Technology	
Design Technology: Product Design	Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology or Engineering <i>In exceptional circumstances students who have not met the minimum grade requirements will be considered. Please see subject information for guidance.</i>
Sciences	
Biology	Grade 7 in GCSE Biology and Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry
Chemistry	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Physics	Grade 7 in GCSE Physics and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Physical Education	Grade 6 in GCSE PE if taken and demonstrate a positive attitude towards sport. Must be competent in at least one sport assessed on the syllabus.
Languages	
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French
German	Grade 6 in GCSE German
Social Sciences	
Economics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Philosophy of Religion	Grade 6 in GCSE RE
Psychology	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature