

# The Sixth Form

Sir Harry  
Smith  
Community  
College

2026  
Entry



## **Sir Harry Smith Community College**

### **Sixth Form Prospectus 2026/2027**

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## **Welcome to Sir Harry Smith Community College Sixth Form**

We are delighted that you are considering joining the sixth form at Sir Harry Smith Community College.

We appreciate that you are currently studying hard for your GCSE examinations, but it is important that you take the time to select suitable Post 16 courses. This prospectus will provide you with the appropriate information to begin planning for study in Key Stage 5 with some essential information about the sixth form at Sir Harry Smith Community College with an insight into our aims and values.



What is distinctive about our ethos at Sir Harry Smith Community College? Student achievement and student well-being are at the heart of everything we do. Sir Harry Smith Community College is an inclusive community college where all young people can make outstanding progress. We are focused, determined and positive in pursuing this vision.

We enjoy modern facilities which provide an appropriate learning environment for students to reach their full potential. Our innovative approach to curriculum design and professional working enables us to offer diverse and tailored learning for all students.

Above all, we want students to embrace the opportunities available at Sir Harry Smith Community College. We want them to enjoy the challenge of learning and to be excited by the choices that educational achievement can bring.

The experiences we provide at Sir Harry Smith Community College prepare all students for highly successful and fulfilling lives in an increasingly complex world. I thoroughly enjoy leading the College and hope that you will share my enthusiasm for our work and will want to be part of it.

Sixth form students at Sir Harry Smith Community College enrich the work of the College and are highly valued members of our learning community.

I look forward to welcoming you to Sir Harry Smith Community College Sixth Form.

**Dawn White**

***Principal***

***Sir Harry Smith Community College***

## Why study at Sir Harry Smith Community College?

### Introduction

*"The provision for students in the sixth form is strong. Teachers' expert subject knowledge and delivery ensures students learn well. Students develop deep understanding of complex and abstract concepts. Students confidently apply these to different situations, effectively drawing together what they know."*

**Ofsted February 2024**



**Sir Harry Smith Sixth Form** aims to provide every individual student with an excellent Sixth Form experience while fully supporting them to achieve their full potential. We focus on each student's future aspirations and ensure they leave the sixth form with the skills, experience and qualifications required for success.

**Academically**, we provide traditional A Level courses and a vocational course for Sport, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure that the courses meet our student's needs. Teaching and learning are our utmost priority, and we are constantly evaluating and developing our practice in the classroom. We keep up to date with advances in education and share good practice across the College. This ensures we achieve consistently high standards in all curriculum areas.

Our student's opinions are important to us, and we use student feedback to introduce **positive** changes, ensuring students are fully supported in their learning journey.

**A strong partnership** between teachers, students, governors and parents exist to ensure that students achieve the best possible outcomes. Students and parents are fully informed about academic progress and students will be given academic targets that are challenging yet realistic and achievable through focussed learning and hard work.

**We have excellent facilities**, including a dedicated Sixth Form centre that provides the students with extensive ICT provision and a very positive learning environment in which to use their study time productively.

**We have high expectations** of all those involved in the Sixth Form at Sir Harry Smith Community College, including our Sixth Form Team, Sixth Form teachers and of course our students. These high expectations ensure a focussed learning environment that enables all our students to achieve their full potential.

## **Enrichment**

Enrichment enables students to develop their knowledge and skills in preparation for life after the Sixth Form.

We offer many opportunities for enrichment including

- External speakers
- Visits and trips that match students' future career aspirations
- Volunteering opportunities
- Opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities within college.

Each student will be expected to choose at least one volunteer enrichment activity within the College environment. There are a huge variety of volunteering enrichment opportunities in college to choose from including acting as a subject ambassador, working with younger students to support them in a variety of lessons and extra-curricular activities.



## **Transition work**

Once students have finalised their subject choices and finished their Year 11 exams, they will be given transition work to complete for each of their chosen subjects over the summer holidays. The transition work should take between five and ten hours to complete for each subject. Transition work is important because it gives students a realistic idea of what it is like to study a chosen subject in the Sixth Form. It also gives all our students a head start in their sixth form studies.

## Meet the Team



Mr Tim Smith

Head of Sixth Form

Teacher of Physical  
Education



Dr Lucie Swannell

Sixth Form Tutor

Teacher of English



Mr Darryl Tomlin

Sixth Form Tutor

Teacher of History



Mrs Claire Cutler

Sixth Form Tutor

Teacher of Sociology



Mr Rizwan Hemraj

Sixth Form Tutor

Teacher of Business



Mr Luke Nichols

Sixth Form Tutor

Teacher of Psychology



Clare Restaino

Post-16 Academic  
Support Tutor



Claire Hopwood

Sixth Form and  
CEIAG  
Administrator

*All members of the Sixth Form team have been trained to ensure that they offer the best possible information, advice and guidance to our students.*

## **Academic Mentoring**

**To support our students individually during their time in Sixth Form we use a system of academic mentoring** similar to that seen at many of our best universities. Each student is paired with a sixth form tutor who is, where possible, a specialist in a relevant subject area. Sixth Form Tutors meet with each individual student regularly on a one-to-one basis. Sixth Form Tutors track each student's academic progress carefully and discuss this with students in detail, offering support and advice. They also regularly discuss students' future aspirations with them and offering guidance on opportunities available within and outside College that will support students to achieve their goals. Sixth Form Tutors will write highly personalised and meaningful references to support future applications for all the students with whom they work.

## **Further Support and Guidance**

**Alongside academic mentoring each student in Year 12 also takes part in skills for life lessons once a fortnight.** These lessons are specifically designed to support our students during their time in the Sixth Form and to prepare them for life choices, higher education and the world of work. The skills for life programme focuses on; study skills and transition into the Sixth Form, keeping safe, personal skills, skills for higher education and employment, money and finance and the UCAS application process.

**Our careers advice in the sixth form** ensures that all students are provided with individual help, advice and guidance with applications for university, further education, apprenticeships and employment. Particular focus is on higher education opportunities. The College has formed **strong links with the University of Cambridge, University of East Anglia, Northampton University, University of Lincoln, University Centre Peterborough and Anglia Ruskin University.** We regularly take part in workshops and activity days at these institutions.

**Representatives from higher education institutions,** apprenticeship organisations, alumni and local employers regularly come to talk to students and parents about post-18 opportunities.

Year 13 students prepare for and attend a rigorous mock interview with local employers in the Autumn term. This gives them first-hand experience of the interview process in preparation for future interviews.

## **Choosing your Courses**

**Choosing your subjects can be a daunting prospect.** We suggest that you consider the following:

- Subjects you enjoy
- Subjects you are good at
- Career aspirations
- Predicted grades

**Research your options:** talk to your subject teachers, students that have taken the course, your tutor, parents and friends. You should also check that your choices make 'sense' that is, do they make a good combination that leads to your desired career choice or university course. You will then be given the opportunity to discuss this in greater detail during our open evening, subject specific assemblies and guidance meetings.

All the courses offered are Level 3 courses. This is an advanced level and the next step from GCSE. There are two different qualifications we offer at this level. They are:

- GCE A Level
- BTEC Extended Diploma- equivalent to 3 A Levels

Each course takes two years to complete. We no longer advise students to study AS Levels due to the recent A Level changes and for this reason the majority of students will chose to study 3 A Levels or an equivalent number in BTEC Sport. However, our commitment to each student means that we meet with each student individually to discuss their aspirations and possible options before they make their final choices.

*Please check your chosen subjects to ensure you meet any further specific course requirements. However, where necessary, we will consider students based on their individual circumstances.*

### ***Please note***

***Courses in this prospectus will run subject to student numbers. Please check with the College for the latest course details. At the time of going to print, specifications for some subjects have yet to be confirmed.***

## **How to apply**

**Students who would like to apply need to complete a Sixth Form application form.**

All students applying are then asked to attend a guidance meeting to discuss their application and ask any questions they may have. Application forms are available on our website and from Mrs Restaino in the Sixth Form Centre. If you would like to speak to us about applying for a Sixth Form place, please contact:

**Clare Restaino- Post 16 Support**

**Email: [CRestaino@sirharrismith.com](mailto:CRestaino@sirharrismith.com)**

**Telephone: 01733 703991 ext. 235**

## **Application Timeline**

14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	- Sixth Form Open Evening
December 2025 & January 2026	- Subject Information Meetings
December 2025 & January 2026	-Sixth Form Guidance Meetings
December 2025	-Year 11 Parents' Meeting
16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	-Sixth Form Application Deadline
February 2026	-Sixth Form Offer Letters Received
Spring Term 2026	-Further Guidance Meetings by Request
Summer Term 2026	-Sixth Form Induction Days
August 2026	-GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment
September 2026	-Commence Sixth Form

## **2025 Results and Destinations of our Students**

<b>2025 Headline Data</b>	
<b>A*-A</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>A*-C</b>	<b>61.3%</b>
<b>A*-E</b>	<b>92.3%</b>

Cohort of 56 students

1 student has gone to the University of St Andrews to study medicine

1 student has gone to the University of Oxford to study German and Linguistics

1 student has gone to the University of Nottingham to study Chemical Engineering

1 student has gone to the University of Birmingham to study Sociology and Criminology

1 student has gone to the University of York to study Law

- 38 students placed at university. 31 first place offers (67% of the cohort have gone to university)
- 18% Russell group universities
- 7% Degree Apprenticeships
- 10% Further Education
- 16% Employment

## The courses we offer

### GCE A Level ART

#### Course overview

**The Art and Design course offers** you the chance to develop skills in drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, art history, contemporary art analysis and presentation. You will also research contemporary and past artists based on starting points involving political, personal and cultural questions. Trips may be arranged each year to enrich all units. The Art and Design course is challenging and demanding and uses a wide range of skills such as research, investigation and critical analysis. After the initial skills lessons content will be tailored to the sustained investigation chosen by each student.

#### Assessment

Assessment at A Level will be a combination of **coursework and externally set assignment**. The coursework and externally set assignment involves both practical and written work. Students undertaking the A Level course will take two components. **Component 1** will constitute **60%** of the final grade. **Component 2** is the externally set assignment which constitutes **40%** of the final grade. The final exam time is **15 hours**.

All units are assessed and graded by your teachers, your work is then looked at by a visiting examiner who will verify the marks and an overall grade for the qualification is then awarded.

#### Where can it lead?

**Successful completion of this course enables you to progress to higher qualification**, such as degree courses, further study and employment in fields as varied as Fine Art, Graphics, Fashion, Textile Design, Animation, Illustration, Product Design, Interior Design, Art Therapy, Physiotherapy, Social Care, Youth Work, Computer Game Design, Automotive Design, 3D Design, Advertising, Theatrical Design, Costume and Design, Journalism and Teaching, Architecture, Gaming Design.



## GCE A Level Biology

### Course Overview

**Biology is the study of life from molecular level**, through cells, tissues and organisms to populations and ecosystems. A successful Biologist will be interested in developing their knowledge and understanding of how living organisms function, survive, adapt and interact.

Through the A Level Biology course, you will begin to appreciate the amazing variety, delicacy and complexity of life on Earth. Additionally, you will develop skills which are applicable in future courses or careers, such as time management, research, analytical and critical thinking and statistical analysis. Your existing skill set should include organisational skills coupled with a high degree of commitment.

### Assessment

The A Level Biology course will be assessed through **three terminal exams** at the end of Year 13:

#### **Paper 1 – Biological Processes**

Written Exam (2 hrs 15 mins)

A combination of multiple choice/short and long answer questions

#### **Paper 2 – Biological Diversity**

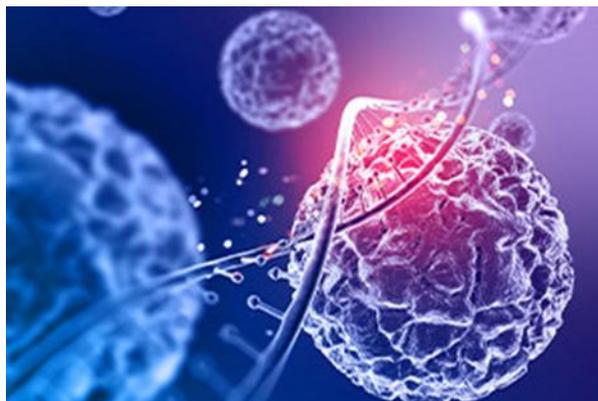
Written Exam (2hrs 15 mins)

A combination of multiple choice/ short and long answer questions

#### **Paper 3 – Unified Biology**

Written Exam (1 hr 30 mins)

Short and Long answer questions including focus on practical skills.



### Where can it lead?

**Studying Biology at A Level will prepare you for a huge range of careers and further education options, including** Conservation, Environmental Science, Forensics, Genetics, Laboratory Research, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Occupational Health, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Sports Science, and Veterinary Science.

## GCE A Level Business Studies

### Course Overview

**The Business Studies course enables you to learn the practical application of business concepts** and reinforce your understanding of theories and concepts. You will learn about entrepreneurship, customer service, emerging markets, globalisation and migration.

You will acquire a range of important and transferable skills such as: data analysis, presenting arguments, recognising the nature of problems, time management, conducting research, analytical and critical thinking, communication and technology.



### Assessment

Assessment will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in financing and managing a business, strategies for a successful business, the business environment and managing change within a business.

**Units are assessed via a mixture of case studies, presentations, data response, multiple choice and extended responses.**

### Where can it lead?

The Business Studies course can lead to a future in business either at university or in employment. **There is a vast array of careers in business**, including: Human Resources, Operation Management, Accountancy, Marketing and Sales.

## GCE A Level Chemistry

### Course Overview

**A Level Chemistry goes into much more detail than GCSE.** It attempts to answer the question “What is the world made of?” And it’s the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that Chemistry provides are endless.

The Chemistry A Level course is **split into 3 distinct areas** of Chemistry: **Physical, Organic** and **Inorganic**. Students will learn about the main concepts, ideas and applications in each of these areas, they will also carry out practical investigations for each area. These investigations include:

- Measuring energy changes in chemical reactions
- Tests for identifying different types of compounds
- Different methods for measuring rates of reaction
- Studying electrochemical cells
- Preparation of organic solids and liquids
- Analytical techniques



### Assessment

The A Level Chemistry course will be assessed through **three terminal exams** (at the end of Year 13):

#### **Paper 1- Physical Chemistry/Inorganic Chemistry**

Written Exam (2 hours)

Short and long answer questions

#### **Paper 2- Physical Chemistry/Organic Chemistry**

Written Exam (2hours)

Short and long answer questions

#### **Paper 3- Any content / Any Practical Skills**

A mixture of questions on practical techniques, data analysis and synoptic multiple choice and long answer questions.

### Where can it lead?

**A level Chemistry can lead** to degrees and careers in dentistry, veterinary, medicine and pharmacy as well as environmental sciences.

## GCE A Level English Literature

### Course Overview

**This AQA course enables you to study English Literature with a historicist approach** which means that you study texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood.

This course will allow you to engage with a wide variety of Literature from different eras and countries. It will provide you with the opportunity to develop reading habits and build upon the reading, writing and speaking and listening skills you acquired at GCSE.

Anyone with a passion for Literature, and a love of History, would be ideally suited to this course. You will be offered a range of experiences- the study of a variety of set texts, including some independently chosen texts, as well as producing a range of written responses.



### Assessment

The course is assessed by **1 three-hour examination, 1 two-and-a-half-hour examination** as well as a **non-exam assessed unit**.

### Where can it lead?

Higher education, e.g. BA English Literature and other degree or vocational courses.

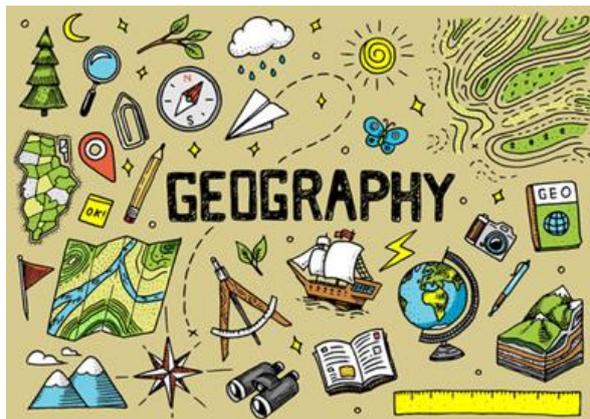
Apart from the specialist types of employment that require skills of analysis and creative mind, English Literature A Level is widely regarded by employers as a **highly desirable qualification**.

### Course overview

**The world around us is changing.** This Geography course is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. If you are keen to explore the physical properties of the earth's surface and the human societies spread across it, this course is for you.

#### Our key questions for this course are:

- What are the issues affecting people and where they live?
- How do people impact the environment?
- What decisions are being made about the use and management of resources?



#### You will also develop skills which are transferable across subjects, including:

- How to plan and carry out a successful fieldwork investigation
- Using Geographical Information Systems effectively
- Applying statistical analysis
- Becoming both an independent learner and someone that can work well in a team

It is important that you should have a lively and enquiring mind, including an interest in the environment and current affairs. You will show a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

### Assessment

**Paper 1 Physical Geography: Tectonic Hazards and Processes, Coastal Landscapes, Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, and Carbon Cycle and Energy Security.** Exam 2 hours 15 minutes, 105 marks (30% of the qualification)

**Paper 2 Human Geography: Globalisation, Regenerating Places, Superpowers, and Health, Human Rights and Intervention.** Exam 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of the qualification)

**Paper 3 Synoptic Assessment: Players, Attitudes and Actions, Futures and Uncertainties.** 2 hours 15 minutes, 70 marks (20% of the qualification)

**Coursework Independent Investigation** Non-examined assessment (20% of the qualification)

## Where can it lead?

**An A Level in Geography is well respected by employers** or Higher Education providers because of the **transferrable skills** you learn and demonstrate on the course. There is a wealth of jobs that geographers can do spanning almost every sector. Whether you decide on employment, an apprenticeship or university, Geography will provide the practical skills required to be successful.

*The Guardian: "Geography: it's the must-have A-level"*

We hope to see you soon in the Geography Department.

**Studying History at this level is a challenge, but a rewarding one.** You will have to put considerably more effort into the subject than at GCSE, but if you work hard, you may be able to achieve a strong A-level that is universally respected by employers and universities alike. History also helps to compliment other disciplines, and perhaps most importantly, helps to give you an understanding of past societies and the world that we live in today.

In return, you can expect to be taught by subject specialists who are passionate and knowledgeable about the topics we teach. We also have a great track record of results, as shown below.

- We have been one of the most **successful** in the school at **sending students to Oxford and Cambridge** –three ex-students recently completed History related courses at **Oxbridge**.

Therefore, if you are prepared to put the time and effort into what is required to succeed, the History department will be able to help you to achieve the success that you deserve.

### What topics will you learn about?

*Please note – we changed spec from Edexcel to OCR in 2022.*

Our new topics are as follows:

#### Unit 1 - The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603–1660

- In this unit, you will learn about one of the biggest and most devastating upheavals in British History – the Civil War, in which the British Isles were torn apart as families fought each other, the king was eventually beheaded, and England became a military dictatorship. It is a fascinating topic with lots of contemporary relevance. Also, as Oliver Cromwell was a local figure, and important battles were fought locally, we will be hoping to take you out on several field trips.



#### Unit 2 - Y219 Russia 1894–1941

- This is a new unit for this school, but Russia is one of the most popular History units at GCSE and A-level across the country. It's understandable why – the story



of how and why the Russian revolution happened, the Tsar and his family were overthrown and murdered, and how the world's first experiment in Communism ended up with the deaths of millions under Stalin, is one of History's most fascinating and tragic topics.

### Unit 3 - Popular Culture and the Witch craze of the 16th and 17th Centuries

- Again, a new unit for this school, although a very popular one across the country. In this unit, you will learn about the reasons for the so-called 'witchcraze' in Early Modern Europe in which hundreds of innocent people were condemned to horrible deaths. This is a fascinating and dark subject which I am sure many of you will enjoy.



**Unit 4 Coursework** – students will be offered a free choice of topic for their coursework (within reason, and subject to teacher approval!). This means if there is a particular topic you are passionate about, you could pursue it for your coursework. Some possible examples are below:

- Causes of the First World War
- World War 2 – many possible aspects, e.g. a focus on battles/fighting, or on social aspects such as the role of women, evacuation etc
- An aspect of Medicine – The Black Death, Great Plague, 19<sup>th</sup> century surgery, or perhaps the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic
- The Suffragette movement
- The Tudors -the Reformation, various aspects of the different Tudor monarchs etc.
- The Norman Conquest
- US History – the Civil War, American Revolution, Civil Rights movement, Vietnam etc

### Assessment

Unlike GCSE History, there are no short answers. The course is entirely assessed through standard essays, 'short' essays, source essays, and interpretation essays. Your final grade will consist of the three exams related to the three units above (which you will sit at the end of Year 13), and the mark for your 4,000-word piece of coursework.

## Where can it lead?

**Studying History A Level provides the opportunity to specialise further in the subject at university.** However, History is widely respected by employers and universities alike, and links well into other disciplines such as Law, Finance, Journalism, Politics and Teaching.



## GCE A Level Media Studies

### Course Overview

**A Level Media Studies is designed to enhance your enjoyment,** understanding and appreciation of the media and its role in your daily life. The course introduces you both to media ideas and the practice of production, which gives you the chance to develop a real understanding of media platforms, the contemporary media landscape and the influential role of the media in today's society.

**In the first year you will study the four key aspects of the media:** media language, representation, media industries and media audiences. You will learn the fundamentals of media forms and platforms and the concepts which lie beneath the surface, as well as the role of marketing and promotion of these products. To further develop your understanding of the media you will also study the production process, from researching the codes and conventions of professional media products to creating products of your own.

**In the second year you will look at different ways of explaining and understanding** the media and how issues are represented by the media as well as the impact of new media. Finally, you will also undertake a cross-media production that requires you to apply your knowledge and understanding synoptically to research and produce a practical production.

### Assessment

Media Studies will be assessed via a **combination of internal and external examination.**

### Where can it lead?

**Media Studies naturally leads to careers in Journalism,** Marketing, Advertising or Public Relations. But an awareness of how the world of media works can also support other careers in fields such as Social Work, Law and Education. By knowing how the media operates you will be able to decode messages more skilfully and engage with topics that interest you.



## GCE A Level Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

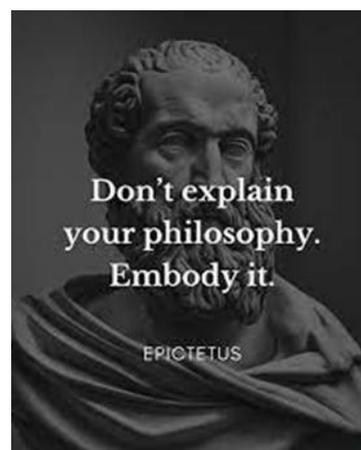
### Course Overview

**Students studying A Level Philosophy, Theology and Ethics have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of world religions.** In addition, they will have the chance to explore the philosophy of religion and consider the ethical decisions which people make in their everyday lives. The course looks at relevant topical issues and enables students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the major issues that are relevant to learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Philosophy, Theology and Ethics A Level is **split into three distinct areas:** Philosophy of religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in religious thought. Topics covered include:

- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- Conscience and free will
- Ethical theories

Students will also study the **history, identity, beliefs and values** of one religion in detail.



### Assessment

The A Level Philosophy, Theology and Ethics course will be assessed through **three terminal exams** (at the end of Year 13). **Each paper consists of three essays:**

- Philosophy of Religion – 2 hour written exam
- Religion and Ethics – 2 hour written exam
- Developments in Christian theology – 2 hour written exam

### Where can it lead?

**Philosophy is highly regarded by universities and is accepted for entry onto degree courses in Philosophy and many other subjects.** Universities and employers alike value analytical skills developed through studying the discipline.

Careers it might lead to include **Public sector, Health and Social Care, Teaching and Education, Retail, Public Relations, Law, Marketing and Journalism.**

## **GCE A Level Physics**

### **Course Overview**

**A Level Physics goes into much more depth and breadth than GCSE.** It covers from quantum physics and the tiny world of quarks up to the incredibly massive Universe itself. Motion forces, energy, matter and materials are all studied and their application to many different areas are explored.

The Physics A Level course is **split into six modules**. Modules 1 and 2 are the basic skills that are required and are transferrable across the entire curriculum:

- (1) Development of Practical Skills in Physics and,**
- (2) Foundations of Physics**

Modules 3-6 focus on the subject in specific detail:

- (3) Forces and Motion**
- (4) Electrons, Waves and Photons**
- (5) Newtonian World and Astrophysics**
- (6) Particles and Medical Physics**

### **Assessment**

The A Level Physics course will be assessed via **three exams at the end of Year 13:**

#### **Paper 1 – Modelling Physics (Modules 1,2,3,5)**

Written Exam (2 hours 15 minutes) consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions

#### **Paper 2 – Exploring Physics (Modules 1,2,4,6)**

Written Exam (2 hours and 15 minutes) consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions

#### **Paper 3 – Unified Physics (Modules 1,2,3,4,5,6)**

Written Exam (1 hour 30 minutes) consisting of short and long answer questions

### **Where can it lead?**

**Studying Physics at A Level and beyond leads to many different exciting career options,** which directly include (alphabetically): Armed forces and defence solutions, Astronomy, Education, Engineering (aerospace, automotive, chemical civil, mechanical, mining, structural), Medicine, Meteorology and climate change, Nanotechnology, Oil and gas, Renewable energy, Scientific research, Space exploration industries and Telecommunications). Follow the link to the careers section on the Institute of Physics website for further details – <http://www.iop.org/careers/index.html>

## GCE A Level Product Design

### Course Overview

**This creative and thought-provoking qualification** gives you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning in to practice by producing prototypes of your choice.

This course will develop your ability to design and make consumer products using a wide range of appropriate materials, develop your designs using a variety of CAD packages and build on practical skills that reflect industrial practice.

### Assessment

**A Level Design and Technology:** Product Design requires you to engage in **both practical and theoretical study**. This specification requires you to cover design and technology skills and knowledge as set out below. These have been separated into:

- **Technical principles**
- **Designing and Making Principles**

These are evidenced and marked against **four Assessment Objectives (AO's)**

- **AO1: Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address needs and wants**
- **AO2: Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose**
- **AO3: Analyse and Evaluate:**
  - **Design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others**
  - **Wider issues in design and technology**
- **AO4: Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of:**
  - **Technical principles**
  - **Designing and making principles**

### Where can it lead?

**You will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer**, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. This qualification would open pathways to Engineering/Manufacturing, Product Design, Interior Design, Industrial Design and Graphic Design amongst others.

## GCE A Level Psychology

### Course Overview

**Psychology is the study of human behaviour and experience.** This course will introduce you to the theories, methods and key research in psychology when attempting to understand human interactions around the world.

**Following the AQA specification you will study:**

- **Social Influence**
- **Memory**
- **Attachment**
- **Psychopathology**
- **Approaches**
- **Biological**
- **Research Methods**
- **Issues and Debates**
- **Gender**
- **Schizophrenia**
- **Aggression**

### Assessment

The course is assessed by **three exams** which are all **two hours long and worth 33.33% each of the final grade.** A minimum of **10%** of each exam requires maths skills at a **minimum standard of higher tier GCSE maths.**

### Where can it lead?

**Studying Psychology helps students to develop an array of skills which are transferrable to several professions,** including Law, Social Work, Education, Marketing, Management and many more. Students who complete the A-Level course often continue to study Psychology or related subjects in higher education, such as university or apprenticeships.



## GCE A Level Sociology

### Course Overview

**This course studies and explores the contemporary social world.** It looks at a range of studies and theories which seek to explain social processes and social changes. The course will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking, provide an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues and emphasise different interpretations of social experiences:

- Study the formation of culture, the process of socialisation and its role in forming identity
- Explore the influence of class, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, the mass media and education on the attitudes, values and social experiences of both individuals and society
- Consider how the family is the main transmitter of culture in contemporary society
- Understand the influence of Globalisation and the digital social world
- Explore the patterns and trends relating to crime and deviance, as well as explanations for crime
- Consider the research process in context, exploring methods of data collection, analysis of data and research concepts
- Develop the skills of application, analysis, interpretation and evaluation
- Develop the ability to critically analyse explanations and features of the contemporary social world

### Assessment

Assessment will be by **three module exams** ranging from **1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours 15 minutes**. The assessment is linear and therefore **all 3 papers are completed at the end of year 13**.

### Where can it lead?

**Higher education courses and many careers** are available after completing this course, including:

**The Police Force and Social Services.** The course provides an appropriate foundation for further study of Sociology and other fields in Social Services and related subjects in higher education as well as a worthwhile basis for a variety of careers and for lifelong learning.

## Sport BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma

### Course Overview

**Students who choose this qualification must also choose the BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport.** The information below summarises the extra course content that will be covered to convert the level 3 Extended Diploma into 3 A Levels. **The Extended Diploma Course contains 10 mandatory units:**

- Unit 1- Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2- Fitness training
- Unit 3- Professional development in the sports industry
- Unit 4- Sports leadership
- Unit 7- Practical Sports Performance
- Unit 8- Coaching for Performance
- Unit 9- Research methods in Sport
- Unit 19- Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity
- Unit 22- Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry
- Unit 23- Skill Acquisition in Sport
- And 4 Optional units



### Assessment

The three main forms of assessment for this qualification are **external, internal and synoptic.**

### Where can it lead?

**This qualification is aimed at learners looking to progress to employment in Sports Performance and/or Coaching** and whose aspirations would also be supported by taking complementary qualifications alongside. It is also suitable for those wishing to complete a range of degrees including Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Education, Sport Psychology or Sport and Business.



## Academic Entry Requirements for POST 16 Courses

### MINIMUM GCSE REQUIREMENT

The entry requirements for students taking three or four A Levels are **seven GCSEs at grade 5-9, or equivalent, including English and Maths.**

For students taking a **combination of A Level and BTEC qualifications, or a pure BTEC route**, we require **five GCSEs graded 5-9, or equivalent, including English and Maths.**

**While a Grade 6 at GCSE is preferable** for studying a subject at A Level, we will consider students who achieve a Grade 5 in the subject, depending on circumstances.

**M = Mathematics E = English**

Course	E	M	Other
Art & Design	5	5	Grade 5 in GCSE Art will be considered, a Grade 6 is advantageous.
Biology	5	6	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, 2 Grade 6's in GCSE will also be considered. Grade 7 in any GCSE Science is advantageous.
Business Studies	5	5	Grade 5 in GCSE Business Studies will be considered, a Grade 6 is advantageous.
Chemistry	5	6	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry, 2 Grade 6's in GCSE Science will also be considered. Grade 7 in any GCSE Science is advantageous.
English Literature	6	5	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature is advisable.
Geography	5	5	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography.
History	5	5	Grade 6 in GCSE History.
Mathematics	5	6	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is advantageous.
Media Studies	5	5	
Physics	5	6	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics, 2 Grade 6's in GCSE Science will also be considered. Grade 7 in any GCSE Science is advantageous.
Product Design	5	5	Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design Technology or a similar subject. Grade 6 is advantageous.
Psychology	6	6	Grade 6 in GCSE Science.
Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethic	5	5	Grade 5 in GCSE Humanities.
Sociology	5	5	Grade 5 in GCSE Humanities will be considered. Grade 6 is advantageous.
Sport	5	5	Pass at Level 2 Sport is an advantage, those who haven't studied Level 2 Sport will be considered.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why should I choose Sir Harry Smith for Sixth Form?**

We are a small Sixth Form, and this allows us to genuinely **focus on every individual student**. We have very experienced staff and high-quality teaching and learning as well as a **highly effective** support system. All the above leads to **excellent outcomes** for all our students in terms of both results and destinations.

#### **What do the current Sixth Form students think?**

Over 90% of Sixth Form students agree or strongly agree with each of the following statements.

*'I enjoy being a student in the Sixth Form of this school'*

*'My choice of courses suits my abilities and career plans'*

*'I would recommend the Sixth Form to younger students'*

*'My teachers are accessible and helpful if I have difficulties with my work'*

*'The Sixth Form is well run'*

### **How many lessons do I have for each subject?**

Each A Level or BTEC qualification has **ten 1-hour lessons per fortnight**. You will also have a Skills for Life lesson once a fortnight and there are many opportunities to get involved in enrichment in your study periods.

### **How many subjects should I choose?**

Most people choose **three subjects**. Some students that are **predicted very high GCSE marks** may decide to choose **four subjects**. If you are finding it difficult to choose only three subjects, you can choose four and decide which three to continue with early in September.

### **Will I have to do a lot of work outside of lessons?**

**There is a big jump from Year 11 to the Sixth Form** and it is important to work hard outside lessons from day 1 to keep up. **Students are advised to spend approximately five hours a week outside lessons studying for each of their subjects.**

### **Will I find Sixth Form too hard?**

**The Sixth Form isn't too hard for anybody who meets the entry requirements.** However, everybody must work hard to be successful. We also offer lots of support for all our students to help make the transition to the Sixth Form.

### **Do I have to be at school when I don't have lessons?**

**In Year 12 all students need to be at school all day every day**, this is so we can support you to develop good habits with your independent study. In Year 13, once students have completed their future applications, they can apply for study leave. If approved they can choose to work from home or school during their study periods.

### **What the students say**

#### **CK**

***I really enjoy studying at Sir Harry Smith Sixth Form, because of the supportive community atmosphere. It truly is a family which aims to accommodate, welcome and encourage all its students. My tutor and teachers were very supportive during the transition from KS4 to KS5, which helped me to settle in. Mr Smith and Mrs Restaino are always pleased to assist and advise students, and to provide opportunities and trips.***

*The teaching is high quality, engaging and diverse. There is a helpful balance between taught lessons and study periods, which allows for personal study. However, teachers are always willing to provide additional support outside of lesson time.*

*Unlike many other sixth form colleges, SHSCC boasts a separate Sixth Form block, including a kitchen (coffee and tea provided!!). In addition, our new state of the art silent study room utilises recent psychological research to provide the optimal space for focussed study.*

*I am confident that my decision to study here was a good one, and I would recommend the sixth form to anyone considering their future options.*

## **GR**

***Sir Harry Smith is a friendly and caring community, all the teachers go above and beyond to ensure we get the best out of our education alongside helping us in our future plans. As Sixth Form students the staff treat you like adults and give you a chance to make more of your own decisions, but they are always there to support and guide you throughout your time here.***

*There is a wide range of subjects to choose from at Sir Harry Smith with experts in all subjects, this has been greatly beneficial to my education as it builds confidence and gives you reassurance that you will succeed in your academic goals.*

*Throughout my time in Year 12 I have been taught to be independent but never be afraid to ask for help. Your teachers will always help you and especially your personal form tutor is always there to give you advice and help to plan your next steps whether this is to continue in education through university or if you desire to go directly into work.*

*From my own personal experience in choosing to do a degree apprenticeship every member of staff in the sixth form team have been extremely supportive and have given me the tools I need to succeed in the world of work. Additionally, my form tutor has been brilliant in helping me to find the best ways of dealing with exam stress and revising in ways specific to myself.*

## **TS**

***Sir Harry Smith Sixth Form is a very good place to learn.*** *In my experience, I have found everyone, both students and teachers, to be helpful, supportive and focussed on getting us through sixth form to each of our post-18 pathways, whether it be apprenticeships, universities or straight into a job. The Sixth Form staff give advice and guidance on the best way to approach our future. Sixth Form at Sir Harrys offers many facilities, the spacious centre for both work and socialising are the perfect all-round space for any 16-18-year-old. By contrast, the new silent study room is primarily used for study for all students to focus on work and achieve their desired grades. I cannot speak for all subjects, but for the three subjects I do, I can fairly say that the teaching is very good quality. Though the content you learn is a big step up from GCSE, the teacher's guide you through the course with skill and precision, making even the most complicated theorems in Maths relatively easy to understand.*

*Another positive I have found at Sixth Form is the independence we have; this makes each of us take more responsibility and leads us well into the fully independent lifestyle many of us will have at university and I highly recommend it.*

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**Information is correct at the time of going to print (errors and omissions excepted)**