



St Andrew The Apostle  
**SIXTH FORM**



RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST

## Why choose our Sixth Form?

- high achieving and aspirational
- proven track record
- small, supportive community
- all students known and cared for
- our Christian faith ethos

## Ofsted 2018:

- Students are making strong progress in a range of subjects.
- They value the leadership opportunities open to them.
- Students also appreciate the support and care they receive.

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**This course guide demonstrates our wide curriculum offer, the specifics of what you will learn and the entry requirements for each course.**

**Our students benefit from small class sizes; however, courses will only run subject to demand and availability.**

**See below for more sources of information.**

**Visit:**  
**[www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/6thform](http://www.standrewtheapostle.org.uk/6thform)**  
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**020 3195 5444**

## A Level Courses

- **Biology**
- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Classical Civilisation**
- **Computer Science**
- **Economics**
- **English Literature**
- **Further Maths**
- **History**
- **Maths**
- **Media Studies**
- **Physics**
- **Politics**
- **Psychology**
- **Religious Studies**

## Additional Course

- **EPQ**

# Biology

## Why choose this course?

Biology A Level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you.

Possible degree options: According to [bestcourse4me.com](http://bestcourse4me.com), the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Biology are:

- Biology • Psychology • Sport and exercise science • Medicine • Anatomy
- Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology • Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry.

Possible career options: Studying A Level Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor • Clinical molecular geneticist • Nature conservation officer • Pharmacologist
- Research scientist • Vet • Secondary school teacher • Marine biologist • Dentist.

## Course Fundamentals

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology.

Module 2: Cells, chemicals for life, transport and gas exchange. Module 3: Cell division, development and disease control.

Module 4: Energy, reproduction and populations. Module 5: Genetics, control and homeostasis.

## Examination/Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hour 15 minutes written exam.

Paper 2: 2 hour 15 minutes written exam.

Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes written exam.

## Entry Requirements

GCSE Grade 5 in double science and English language

# Business Studies

## Why choose this course?

Business is a subject that is relevant to all of us as we spend much of our lives dealing with businesses, either as employees or potential customers. Gaining an understanding of how businesses operate will also help equip you for a wide range of careers and for some, will develop your ability to run your own business. Learning about the environment in which businesses operate helps all of us understand and deal with the social, legal, economic, political and technological factors that affect our lives.

## Course Fundamentals

You will study four themes and will sit three exams at the end of your course:

- Paper 1 is focused on marketing and people (Theme 1) and global business (Theme 4)
- Paper 2 is focused on managing business activities (Theme 2) and business decisions and strategy (Theme 3)
- Paper 3 is a synoptic paper where students will be expected to make connections across all four themes, as well as study a pre-released text.

Students will be taught through a range of techniques from flipped-learning and case studies to group work, and presentations. You will be encouraged to keep up to date with current business headlines as it will help you to put your learning in context. What kind of things might it lead to? Career Paths: • Finance and accounts • Marketing • Retail management • Human resource management • Financial services such as banking and insurance • Event management • Business consultancy.

## Examination/Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hour written exam.

Paper 2: 2 hour written exam.

Paper 3: 2 hour written exam.

## Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in mathematics and Grade 5 in English language.

# Chemistry

## Why choose this course?

A Level Chemistry attempts to answer the big 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. Possible degree options: According to [bestcourse4me.com](http://bestcourse4me.com), the top five degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in Chemistry are:

- Chemistry • Biology • Pre-clinical medicine • Mathematics • Pharmacology. Possible career options: Studying an A Level Chemistry related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:
- Analytical chemist • Chemical engineer • Clinical biochemist • Pharmacologist • Doctor • Research scientist (physical sciences) • Toxicologist • Chartered certified accountant • Environmental consultant • Higher education lecturer • Patent attorney
- Science writer • Secondary school.

## Course Fundamentals

Module 1: Development of practical skills in chemistry. Module

2: Foundations in chemistry.

Module 3: Periodic table and energy. Module

4: Core organic chemistry.

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements. Module

6: Organic chemistry and analysis.

## Examination/Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hour 15 minutes written exam.

Paper 2: 2 hour 15 minutes written exam.

Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes written exam.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 5 in double science and English language

# Classical Civilisation

## Why choose this course?

Classical Civilisation A Level students will be given the opportunity to explore the ancient world through the study of diverse material, which will allow them to experience of literature, mythology, history, drama and art. Development of critical thinking and analytical skills are two of the key objectives of this course. Classical Civilisation A Level is often taken with modern or ancient languages as well as History, Geography, Religious Studies and Art.

## Course Fundamentals

Anyone who is interested in the Ancient World and enjoys History, Politics or literature should consider studying this course. It is open to any students no matter what their GCSE subjects. All texts are studied in translation so no other language besides English is required.

In Year 12, students will study two components. In Component 1, they will study Homer's *Odyssey*. They will examine the way the epic was composed and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of its society.

Component 2 is about Greek theatre. They look at the nature of drama and the social, political and religious themes of comedy and tragedy.

In Year 13, students study two more topics. They study a second text in Component 1; Virgil's *Aeneid*. Similar to the *Odyssey*, they examine the literary techniques, political background and its social, cultural and religious context. In component 3, they study the concept of democracy; what this meant to the Athenians and its positive and negative aspects.

## Examination/Assessment

Component 1: The World of a Hero 2 hour 20 minutes Written Paper Component 2: Culture and the Arts 1 hour 45 minutes Written Paper Component

3: Beliefs and Ideas 1 hour 45 minutes Written Paper.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in English language.

# Computer Science

## Why choose this course?

"What a computer is to me is the most remarkable tool that we have ever come up with. It's the equivalent of a bicycle for our minds." Steve Jobs According to MIT, 'we are heading towards a period of exponential change and unprecedented technological development'. Oxford University research suggests that high-earning jobs in the white-collar sector are five times more likely to be automated in the next twenty years. Indeed, it is estimated that two thirds of the current generation of students will be employed in careers that do not exist yet. A high-quality computer science education equips students to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computational thinking is the essential skill for solving problems, designing systems and learning about human behaviour in the modern world. Computer science will appeal to students who already spend hours of time on coding and/or who have undertaken a great deal of independent study to develop their programming skills. It is also highly desirable for anyone aiming towards further studies or careers in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), artificial intelligence, cyber-security and networking.

## Course Fundamentals

The course features a wide range of teaching and learning approaches, including interactive classroom study, individual tutorials and group tasks. There will be a focus on programming, which emphasises the importance of computational thinking as a discipline that will require significant independent and/or private study and research. By putting computational thinking at the core of your study, you will develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence. There will be exciting opportunities to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems with a variety of programming challenges.

What kind of things might it lead to? Computer science is a core subject, welcomed by universities and employers. Whether you choose computer science, engineering or a traditional science, you will find that computational thinking is a vital skill. It shows that you are capable of intense analytical thought that allows you to deconstruct problems before writing algorithmic solutions and finally evaluating your solution. It provides access to a wide and disparate range of degree courses.

## Examination/Assessment

80% examination: • Computer Systems: characteristics of contemporary systems architecture; software and software development; exchanging data; data types, representation and structures; legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues. • Algorithms & Problem Solving: elements of computational thinking; problem solving and programming; algorithms.

20% non-examined assessment: • Programming Project: set your own brief; analysis of the problem; design of the solution; implementation of the solution; evaluation.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in computer science and a Grade 6 in mathematics. Students who have not taken GCSE computer science must pass our aptitude test instead; this will take place during the Sixth Form Bridging Event in June (details communicated nearer the time).

# Economics

## Why choose this course?

This course will introduce you into the world of Economics building knowledge of core micro and macro economics linked to real life businesses and the environment in which they operate.

In order to be successful in this course it is essential that you have a real interest in the economy and how this affects, local, national and international events.

An A Level in Economics and lead you to numerous careers and undergraduate degrees including but not limited to:

- Economics • Management • Law • Social sciences.

## Course Fundamentals

- Market, consumers and firms
- The wider economic environment
- The global economy
- Making markets work.

## Examination/Assessment

Paper 1: Markets, consumers and firms 2 hour exam. Paper 2: Competing in the global economy 2 hour paper.

Paper 3: The economic environment and business 2 hour paper.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 5 in maths.

GCSE Grade 5 in English.

# English Literature

## Why choose this course?

English literature is without doubt the premier written A Level subject and sits alongside further mathematics in terms of its credibility. Studying literature is perfect for anyone with a passion for reading literary texts from any era or movement. It allows you to develop your understanding of the intricacies of language and identify waves of meaning, both above and below the surface. You will develop a wider appreciation of the importance of context, exploring the factors that shape a text, whether that is when it was written or why, or how different eras have interpreted the same text differently. You will be able to engage in dynamic class discussions, learning to explore through debate and critical questioning.

As one of the big traditional subjects, English literature is welcomed by universities and employers. It shows that you are reflective, thoughtful and capable of intense analytical thought. It provides access to a wide and disparate range of degree courses. It is also useful in applying to enter the world of media and journalism, or other interpretative or creative fields.

## Course Fundamentals

The qualification requires students to study eight literary texts. Three of these have to be pre-1900 texts (including one Shakespeare play), plus one text first published or performed post-2000.

## Examination/Assessment

Component 1: Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. Component

2: Written examination, lasting 1 hour.

Component 3: Written examination, lasting 2 hours and 15 minutes. Component

4: Non-examination assessment.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in English language GCSE Grade  
6 in English literature

# Further Maths

## Why choose this course?

Further mathematics is taken in addition to A Level mathematics and together they provide the prestigious combination that the best universities will be looking for. This really is the gold plated course for ambitious and talented mathematicians on which to thrive. It enables enthusiastic mathematicians to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge through studying additional, more challenging topics in pure mathematics as well as a wider range of topics in applied mathematics. Further mathematics is suitable for students who are thinking of studying for a mathematics, engineering, physics or similar degree. It is also for those students who love mathematics and want to devote more time to the studying wider aspects of the subject.

You will develop your understanding through a range of methods, including modelling, application, discussion and presentation. Independent study is a vital part of this development where you apply new techniques and ensure a deep understanding. A number of web-based platforms will be available to support your mathematical development. What kind of things might it lead to? Mathematics underpins most of science, technology and engineering and is also important in areas as diverse as business, law, nutrition, sports science and psychology. There are many opportunities to use mathematics to make a difference in society, for example through the analysis involved in medical research, developing new technology, modelling epidemics or in the study of patterns of criminal activity to identify trends. Examples include finance and banking, operational research, computer game design, engineering, health, education, teaching, accounting, aerospace and defence, environmental industry, pharmaceutical industry, healthcare, food and drink industry, bio science and medicine.

## Course Fundamentals

Year 12: Decision mathematics and further pure mathematics 1. Year 13: Further pure mathematics 2 • Further mechanics.

## Examination/Assessment

Assessment is entirely through terminal examinations, with four 1½ hour exams at the end of Year 13. NB. Students will require specific graphic calculators which cost around £100 each.

## Entry requirements

Grade 7 in mathematics. You must be taking A Level mathematics.



# History

## Why choose this course?

History helps you develop critical thinking and understanding, making sense of the modern world and challenging 'fake news', whilst deepening your appreciation of the human story. History is also a highly respected A Level, listed as a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group. This means it is more frequently required for entry to degree courses than some other subjects. It is academically rigorous and shows a deep commitment to real study. It is useful for a career in the Law, Media, PR / Advertising, Civil Service and many other areas. It is also fascinating and will be taught by outstanding teachers, using exceptional resources and deep subject knowledge.

The purposes of this qualification are to:

- Define and assess achievement of the knowledge, skills and understanding that will be needed by students planning to progress to undergraduate study at a UK higher education establishment, particularly (although not only) in the same subject area
- Set out a robust and internationally comparable post-16 academic course of study to develop that knowledge, skills and understanding
- Enable UK universities to accurately identify the level of attainment of students
- Provide a basis for school and college accountability measures at age 18
- Provide a benchmark of academic ability for employers.

## Course Fundamentals

Students are taken through familiar and new elements of History in our A Level course. Martin Luther King, John F Kennedy, The Vietnam War, Bloody Mary, Henry VIII, the Civil Right Movement. Students will develop key reading and essay-writing skills, alongside engaging in a high level of debate and argument. In short, if you liked GCSE History, you will love A Level.

## Examination/Assessment

Two exams and one coursework piece.

Paper 1: Tudor England, 1485–1603.

Paper 2: Paper 2: Birth of the USA, 1760-1801.

Coursework: 3000-3500 essay on a topic chosen by you and guided by teachers.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in history

GCSE Grade 5 in English

# Mathematics

## Why choose this course?

Mathematics at A Level builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves many new ideas. If you enjoy maths, have a strong work ethic and relish the challenge of problem solving then this is the course for you. The skills developed through the study of mathematics are in high demand from employers. In addition to developing the ability to solve problems and think logically, the study of mathematics provides opportunities to develop team-working skills, resilience, effective communication of complex ideas and the ability to use your own initiative. The vast range of degree courses and careers that require solid mathematical skills ensures that taking mathematics to AS level or beyond will open doors to a world of opportunities!

## Course Fundamentals

Pure maths: • Algebra and functions • Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane  
sequences and series • Trigonometry • Exponentials and logarithms • Differentiation •  
Integration • Numerical methods • Vectors  
Statistics: Statistical sampling: • Data presentation and interpretation  
Probability • Statistical distributions • Statistical hypothesis testing  
Mechanics: Quantities and units in mechanics: • Kinematics  
Forces and Newton's laws • Moments.

## Examination/Assessment

Paper 1: Pure mathematics 1

Paper 2: Pure mathematics 2

Each paper is a 2 hour written examination

Paper 3: Contains questions on topics from the Statistics and Mechanics content.

## Entry requirements

Grade 6 GCSE in Mathematics

# Media Studies

## Why choose this course?

*"The media has the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses."* Malcolm X

Why should I study Media? Are you creative? Do you have a passion for all forms of media? Are you interested in creating and editing your own material? An interest in film, television, magazines and advertising and marketing is advisable, and a good grade in English and English literature GCSE is essential.

A Level media studies will help you if you would like to further your education by studying different forms of media at university – whether it be undertaking a practical production course or pursuing a journalistic route. It will benefit you when applying for apprenticeships in the media, giving you invaluable experience of researching, planning and producing your own media products. The media play a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and generate significant global profit. The globalised nature of the contemporary media, ongoing technological developments and more opportunities to interact with the media suggest their centrality in contemporary life can only increase.

## Course Fundamentals

Component 1: Meanings and Representations in the Media Written examination: 2 hours 30% of qualification

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth Written examination: 3 hours 40% of qualification

Component 3: Cross-Media Production Non exam assessment 30% of qualification

### How will I learn?

Students of Media Studies will:

- demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis
- demonstrate a critical approach to media issues
- demonstrate appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy
- develop an understanding of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, industries and audiences
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the global nature of the media
- apply theoretical knowledge and specialist subject specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed
- make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues
- engage in critical debate about academic theories used in Media studies
- appreciate how theoretical understanding supports practice and practice supports theoretical understanding
- demonstrate sophisticated practical skills by providing opportunities for creative media production.

## Examination/Assessment

Grade 5 in both English language and English literature.

# Physics

## Why choose this course?

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

Possible degree options:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Civil Engineering
- Economics
- Business.

Possible career options:

- Healthcare scientist/medical physics
- Higher education lecturer
- Radiation protection practitioner
- Scientific laboratory technician
- Secondary school teacher
- Meteorologist
- Engineering

## Course Fundamentals

Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics. Module 2: Foundations of physics.

Module 3: Forces and motion.

Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons. Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics.

Module 6: Particles and medical physics.

## Examination/Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hour 15 minutes written exam.

Paper 2: 2 hour 15 minutes written exam.

Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes written exam.

## Entry requirements

Grade 5 GCSE in science Grade 6 GCSE in mathematics

# Politics

## Why choose this course?

This course is designed for those that have an interest in both UK and US politics. The course is very modern and up-to-date which means that anything that has been happening in the lead up to the exam could be a topic within it. As it is based in current affairs, you would be expected to have an interest and knowledge of the world around you.

The politics course can lead to a wide range of degrees ranging from Politics and Economics to History and beyond.

Career paths can lead to:

- Local/National Government
- Business / Consultancy Law
- Humanities Based Careers.

## Course Fundamentals

- Democracy and participation
- Political parties
- Electoral systems
- Voting behaviour and the media
- Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism
- Constitution
- Parliament, Prime Minister and Executive
- Relationship between branches
- The US Constitution and Federalism
- US Congress and US presidency
- US Supreme Court and US civil rights
- US Democracy and participation
- Comparative theories.

## Examination/Assessment

3 x 2 hour exams UK Politics paper

UK Government paper Comparative Politics USA paper.

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 6 in English Literature or

GCSE Grade 6 in History if previously studied

# Psychology

## Why choose this course?

Psychology is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace. Studying psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Marketing
- Business development
- Human resources
- Forensic psychology
- Occupational therapy
- Clinical psychology
- Nursing
- Teaching

## Course Fundamentals

Social influence:

- Memory • Attachment • Approaches in psychology • Biopsychology
- Psychopathology • Research methods

Compulsory content: • Issues and debates in psychology

Optional content:

Option one: • Relationships • Gender • Cognition and development

Option two: • Schizophrenia • Eating behaviour • Stress

Option three: • Aggression • Forensic psychology • Addiction

## Examination/Assessment

At A Level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A Level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 5-5 in Combined

Science

GCSE Grade 5 in English

# Religious Studies

## Why choose this course?

Religious Studies A Level allows you to examine the most important questions about life and evaluate the possible answers. If you like questioning why things are the way they are, this is the subject for you! It is valued by universities as a course that demands knowledge, understanding and analysis of complex themes. It is suitable for a range of pathways, with Law and Medicine being two differing but popular post A Level university courses.

## Course Fundamentals

There are three sections to the course:

- Philosophy of Religion, including: arguments for God's existence, the problem of evil, the existence of the soul, and the validity of Religious Experience.
- Ethics and Religion, including: embryo research, capital punishment, assisted suicide, animal rights, cloning, free will, and conscience.
- Study of Religion (Christianity) and Dialogues, including: the afterlife, moral principles, the role of the Church, gender and sexuality, and secularism..

## Examination/Assessment

At A Level, there are two exams at the end of the second year:

- Philosophy of Religion and Ethics: 3 hours,
- Study of Religion and Dialogues: 3 hours,

## Entry requirements

GCSE Grade 5 in religious studies.

GCSE Grade 5 English.

# Additional Course - EPQ

## Why should I do the EPQ?

The EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. It is an opportunity to look deeply at a topic you are passionate about and explore it fully in a range of different ways. Students must choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea and decide on their finished product. The course encourages creativity and curiosity. A project topic may be directly related to a student's main study programme but should look beyond the specification. A finished product may take the form of a:

- research based written report
- production (charity event, fashion show or sports event, for example)
- an artefact (piece of art, a computer game or realised design).

A written report must accompany these options. Previous student projects have included:

- Will antibiotics become useless?
- The history of drumming in rock music
- The impact of the portrayal of women in the media
- Drugs and the Tour de France.

Students must also record their project process in their Production Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product. Both the Production Log and Product will be assessed.

## Course Fundamentals

It's divided into a neat process and structure, allowing you the best opportunity to develop your project.

- Choose an area of interest and draft their project title and aims
- Plan, research and carry out their project
- Keep a production log of all stages of the project production, reviewing and evaluating their progress
- Complete the project product
- Prepare and deliver a presentation
- Review the outcome of their project and presentation.

The EPQ can be the deciding factor for top universities who have lots of students applying with the top grades. Extended projects can help students to develop and demonstrate a range of valuable skills through pursuing their interests and investigating topics in more depth. It has also been praised by universities for guiding students into higher education and is an excellent component of any outstanding UCAS application..

## Entry requirements

4 GCSEs in Grade 5 including English and maths.



# St Andrew The Apostle **SIXTH FORM**

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