



# DISS SIXTH FORM



COURSES  
from 2021

# WELCOME

This booklet gives details of all the Level Three courses which are being offered at Diss Sixth Form in September 2021.

The following pages will help you to make your choice of subjects. Each course has been summarised and you will find details of entry requirements, assessment patterns and an outline of the specification. Further information can be obtained from the individual subject leaflets which are published in time for our Open Evening in October 2020.

On our application form, you will notice that there are no restrictive option blocks for our subjects. Therefore, you have a free choice and all you have to do is pick the courses you would like to study; we will do our best to construct the timetable around your choices!

In addition to the qualifications which you are now choosing, don't forget that you will also be able to participate in a range of enrichment activities, the completion of which will be very



helpful in enhancing a CV and preparing a strong Higher Education application.

In particular, our Extended Project and Higher Sports Leader qualifications attract UCAS points and have certainly helped previous Sixth Formers to gain entry to prestigious universities.

We hope that many of you will be excited by the prospect of studying at one of Norfolk's

top Sixth Forms and we look forward to meeting you during the coming months.

## *James Hurley & Mick Ollerton*

Directors of Sixth Form  
Diss High School - September 2020



## CHALLENGE

Diss Sixth Form will offer the challenge of:

- a suitably rigorous academic programme tailored to your individual strengths and interests
- ambitious targets and regular monitoring of progress
- becoming a successful independent learner
- different and exciting learning opportunities such as the Extended Project Qualification
- taking a leadership role on the Student Committee

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# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to all of our Level 3 courses requires a minimum of five grade 4 GCSE passes; these must include at least grade 4 in Maths and English Language.\* Additionally, many subjects have their own individual requirements (see below).

The majority of our students will choose to study three A Level courses or a combination of A Levels and BTECs.

Some students may wish to take four A Levels; others can choose to take a one year course, alongside their three other 'two year' subjects. Entry requirements for individual subjects are as follows:

A Level Subjects (Two year courses)	Additional GCSE Requirements
Art	Grade 5 in Art
Biology	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Biology
Chemistry	Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Chemistry
Classical Civilisation	Grade 5 in either English Language or History
Computer Science	Grade 6 or above in either Maths or Computer Science
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 5 in English Language
English Language and Literature	Grade 6 in English Language
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Language
Film Studies	Grade 5 in English Language
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in Mathematics
Geography	Grade 5 in English and in Geography (if taken at GCSE)
History	Grade 5 in either English Language or History
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Maths
Media Studies	Grade 5 in either English Language or Media Studies
Modern Languages (French or Spanish)	Grade 6 in the appropriate language
Music	Grade 5 in Music
Physical Education	Grade 4 in Science would be beneficial
Physics	Grade 6 in Maths and 6-6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Physics
Politics	Grade 5 in either English Language or History
Psychology	Grade 5 in English Language
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language
Vocational Subjects (One/two year courses)	
Business (BTEC Single, Double or Triple Award)	All vocational subjects require a minimum of five grade 4 GCSE passes which must include at least grade 4 in Maths and English Language. Health and Social Care and Medical Science require at least grade 4 in a GCSE Science course.
Health & Social Care (BTEC Double Award)	
Travel & Tourism (BTEC)	
Medical Science (Level 3 Diploma)	
One Year Course	
Financial Studies (IFS Certificate)	Five grade 4 GCSE passes which must include at least grade 4 in Maths and English Language.

\*Where a student achieves a 3 in Mathematics but a 5 or better in English, it may be possible to negotiate a programme of study which is solely based on the particular strengths of that student. In this case, the student would also need to enrol on an accredited one year course to improve their Level 2 numeracy alongside their Level 3 choices.



# ART

The Art A Level course gives students the opportunity to develop personal strengths, as well as to learn new techniques. The central core of the work involves drawing and painting in a variety of media, as well as providing the possibility of working in sculpture, printmaking, graphics or photography.

Examination candidates are assessed in a final practical exam at the end of the two year course. The first year of the course is designed to encourage investigation and experimentation with a wide range of materials and techniques. In their second year, students complete a personal study and a final exam. A personal/contextual study is an important element of the second year; past students have produced exciting work on a wide range of themes.

Students who choose to study Art will have a passion for the subject and be prepared to dedicate a lot of time out of classes to work on their practical assignments. They may also be considering studying the subject at a higher level. The ability to record information through drawing is an essential requirement.

Studying Art helps students to develop not only their creative skills but also their critical thinking skills which are valuable in the workplace and can be applied to other GCE subjects. There are many careers open to people with qualifications in Art and Design, including: graphic artist; architect; product designer; set designer; photographer; illustrator; and teacher, to name a few. The internet has created an explosion of opportunities for digital designers and multimedia artists.

Good subjects to consider taking with Art are Drama, Media or Film Studies, English Literature or any of the Humanities subject. However, creative students from other disciplines will find the subject equally useful and enjoyable.





# OPPORTUNITY

Diss Sixth Form will create opportunities for you to:

- enjoy learning in a purposeful community where you can study effectively and reach your potential
- work in a supportive environment where students are valued as individuals
- undertake valuable work experience
- work with younger students
- make new friends

# BIOLOGY

Biology is an exciting, challenging subject and is a Science A Level which gives a foundation for understanding many of the most important scientific developments of the recent past. It also provides an insight into scientific research in progress today. Biotechnology is now an important established industry offering opportunities for graduate employment; Molecular Biology, Genetics and Stem Cell Biology are growth areas in research. A Level Biology provides Science training and helps students to understand issues in today's world which are important for the future of the technical and ethical development of society.

This A Level combines well with Chemistry, Maths, Physics and Information Technology; it can be taken with other subjects like Modern Languages, Psychology, PE or Geography, if a broad-based A Level range is required.

The specification being followed is OCR Biology A (H020, H420). The A Level course includes a wide range of practical activities over the two years. This will allow students to achieve the practical endorsement.

Students are encouraged to attend external lectures, visit industrial and research laboratories, arrange work experience, visit museums and exhibitions and listen to guest speakers in school.

Career opportunities following from this A Level include biological sciences, veterinary science, medicine, nursing, caring professions such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, paramedical areas, laboratory and hospital work, environmental and ecological sciences, sports science and leisure industries, teaching and laboratory work or technical services. It also provides an excellent foundation for a very wide range of higher education courses.

Students will require grade 6 - 6 in Combined Science or grade 6 in Biology, as well as good grades in English and Maths. If you choose Biology, you will be expected to work hard and participate in all activities; likewise you can expect to receive help, support and encouragement to achieve your full potential.

# CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure and properties of materials and of the interactions between them and with energy. It is divided into inorganic, organic and physical Chemistry and will include applications in the environment.

Successful students of Chemistry will have at least GCSE grade 6 – 6 in Combined Science or grade 6 in Chemistry, will be able and willing to work hard throughout the course and will have an aptitude and interest in the subject. A good grade in Mathematics is also an advantage. They will probably study other Sciences, and/or Mathematics, but Chemistry is an excellent addition to any A Level package.

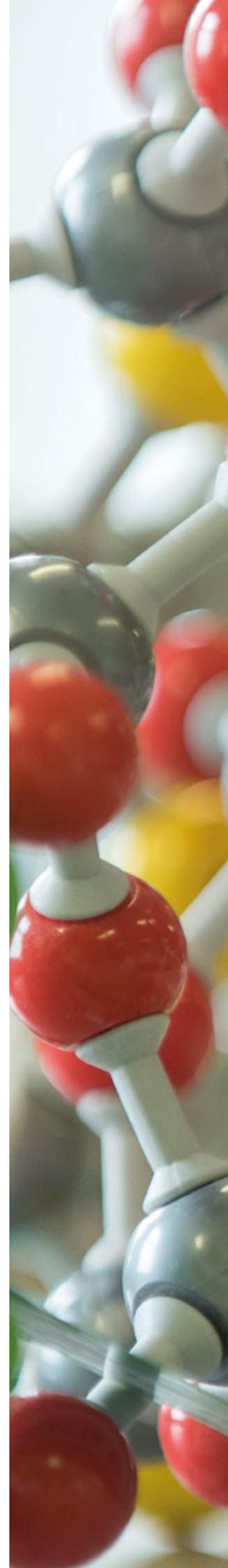
Students are taught in well-equipped laboratories. Lessons cover new topics and revision, backed up with regular practical work. There will be outside visits to support the work undertaken in the laboratory. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their progress which is measured by regular testing.

The study of Chemistry is the ideal method for improving thinking skills. The abstract nature of the concepts requires systematic and analytical thought. An ability to organise ideas logically, make connections between diverse areas of knowledge and extrapolate from known information, to show how it may apply to novel situations, is something chemists and chemistry students are required to do daily.

Problem solving is also a part of the course and pupils who respond well to the techniques taught in this subject will be able to apply these newly honed skills effectively to all of their academic subjects, as well as in the wider world. It is for this reason that Chemistry is the preferred A Level for the following University courses: Chemical Sciences; Agriculture; Food Science; Medicine; Dentistry; Veterinary Sciences; Medical Sciences; Anatomy; Physiology. It is also the reason why the study of Chemistry is considered an advantage in supporting non-scientific courses (e.g. Law, Accountancy, Archaeology, Geography and Economics, among others).

For those interested in a career in a scientific field, even a basic understanding of Chemistry will prove useful. There are few areas of modern science which do not have some connection with Chemistry.

Chemists are instrumental in a number of the areas of advancement which are presently stimulating the public imagination, including nanotechnology, biochemistry and genetics. Even for those not intending to study further, a background in Chemistry provides a valuable basis for understanding modern scientific endeavours and their possible effects on our future.





## EXCELLENCE

Diss Sixth Form will provide:

- highly qualified specialist teaching
- effective care, guidance and support through daily meetings with a form tutor
- expert advice on Higher Education, employment and training opportunities
- residential trips and visits which give students a real insight into aspects of their courses or possible careers
- a programme of visiting speakers, mastery of study skills, knowledge of world development issues and a better understanding of what contributes to a healthy lifestyle

# CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

A Level Classical Civilisation gives you the opportunity to examine the Greek and Roman worlds in depth. The course combines elements of Drama, Literature and History and attempts to understand the roots of Western civilization while at the same time approaching these cultures and societies on their own terms.

There is a clear focus on developing the skills of:

- Investigation and analysis of Greek and Roman Civilisation through the study of their literature in translation and the physical evidence
- Developing an awareness of how similar and also how alien these classical civilisations are from the present
- Evaluating different kinds of evidence including the classical texts themselves and appreciating them in their own contexts

## **Type and Nature of the Work Involved:**

The emphasis is on providing you with activities and experiences so you can process and make sense of the research you have done and the classical texts you are studying.

The knowledge and understanding required for the exam will take the form of notes, independent reading, essays and a Classics trip to Athens to see many of the places important to the course.

To start this course, you will need five grade 4 GCSE passes, including at least a grade 5 in English Language or History. No previous knowledge of the subject is required.

## **Method of Assessment:**

**The World of the Hero:** Homer's *Odyssey* & Virgil's *Aeneid* – exam (2 hours 20 minutes) 40%

**Culture and the Arts:** Greek Theatre – exam (1 hour 45 minutes) 30%

**Beliefs and Ideas:** Politics of the late republic – exam (1 hour 45 minutes) 30%



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

A Level Computer Science splits learning into three sections: Computer Fundamentals, Programming Techniques and Logical Methods, and a Programming Project. It is a natural progression from GCSE Computer Science, providing the perfect springboard for students looking at specialising in a computing-based career. Within the course, students study a range of theory topics, which include the principles and understanding linked to programming, topics such as hardware and software, networks, systems development life cycles and implications of computer use.

An A Level in Computer Science will develop your ability to:

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Apply skills in and an understanding of computing (including programming) in a range of contexts to solve problems
- Delve into producing graphical user interfaces and object-orientated programming solutions

Through the creation of a programming project, you will have the opportunity to create a substantial piece of software using modern design methods and in the programming language of your choice.

## Assessment:

*Component 01: Computer systems (written examination worth 40%)*

You are introduced to the internal workings of the CPU, data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. The resulting knowledge and understanding will underpin your work in component 03. It covers:

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Types of software and the different methodologies used to develop software
- Data exchange between different systems
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

*Component 02: Algorithms and programming (written examination worth 40%)*

It covers:

- What is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc.)
- Problem solving and programming – how computers and programs can be used to solve problems
- Algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems

*Component 03: Programming project (coursework worth 20%)*

You are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. You will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen by you and provides you with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science.

## Ideal for students who:

- Are looking to develop an advanced understanding of computer science
- Want to apply their coding ability to solve real-world problems
- Are looking at a computing orientated degree
- Are aiming to work in the computing industry

# DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Are you interested in performing and the theatre?

Do you like working with others and exploring new ideas?

Are you interested in learning the techniques employed by influential theatre companies and practitioners?

If the answer is YES to any of the above, then the Drama and Theatre Studies course is the course for you!

## A Level – Course Content

- Devising from a text: An exploration into the key themes and issues in a set text, using them to create an original piece of theatre
- Dramatic theory: An introduction to significant theatrical movements
- Feminist writing: Textual study of 'Machinal' by Sophie Treadwell
- Theatre Texts in Practice: Performing, designing and directing key German and American Expressionist works
- Live Theatre Review: Analysing and evaluating as an audience member.

Our ethos is to work alongside young people to study and create innovative and exciting pieces of contemporary theatre. Teaching methods employed include practical exploration, formal teaching of theory, individual student research and discussion. The department invites theatre companies and professionals to run workshops at the school, to enrich your studies, as well as offering ample opportunities to see inspirational pieces of live theatre.

**Facilities:** All sessions are taught in our purpose-built drama studios which are equipped with lighting and sound technology as well as state of the art Harlequin Activity Sprung flooring systems, suitable for physical theatre/movement based workshops.

**Progression:** Our students have gone on to study Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts courses in Higher Education at degree or HND level. Careers relating to theatre include lighting, stage management and performing. An advanced level qualification can also lead to Performing Arts teaching or primary school teaching. This course complements a range of Humanities and Arts subjects and is useful in building confidence and improving presentational skills in a range of careers.





# ENGLISH

The English Department offers A Levels in English Language and Literature (combined) and English Literature.

An A Level in English opens doors everywhere. Students who can think deeply, analyse ideas, see both sides of an argument, express themselves cogently and persuasively, as well as having a world picture that only comes from reading widely, are welcome in any profession.

We want to help you to develop your skills and be challenged by your studies. We also understand that your results are very important; this is what enables you to move on to the next step of your education. The figures speak for themselves: at A Level there has been a 100% pass rate for many years.

## English Language and Literature:

Our Language and Literature course is a popular A Level choice at Diss High School.

Throughout the course, students will combine their skills of literary and linguistic analysis to explore the ways in which language is used to create representations – how words create worlds- both in literary and non-literary texts.

This is not a creative writing course, although there are opportunities to undertake textual recasting and re-creative tasks, alongside close analysis of both literary and non-literary texts.

Our Examining Board for English Language and Literature is AQA.

Their website offers more information: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## English Literature:

Our Literature course is an excellent choice for those students who read widely and want to further develop their passion for the subject.

The A Level explores the representation of love through the ages in poetry, prose and drama texts, as well as looking closely at how contextual influences impact upon a writer's choices. The course is intellectually challenging yet highly engaging and accessible.

Our chosen texts allow us to analyse the creative force of fiction across time and through a range of genres.

Our examining board for English Literature is AQA, specification A.

Their website offers more information: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk).

**Both courses are demanding in terms of time and intellect. Any student wishing to study an English course must be willing to read texts independently and be prepared to participate in discussion. The ability to write accurately and analytically is essential.**

Over the years, English courses have been chosen by students who have combined their studies with A Levels in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. In recent years, our students have planned careers in journalism, law, the media and teaching.

# FILM STUDIES

Film Studies is an exciting, creative A Level. Those who choose to study film characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium. We follow the WJEC Eduqas specification, which is designed to introduce you to a wide variety of films in order to broaden your knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate.

During the course, you will study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range of film represented in those films is extended by the study of silent film and significant film movements. As a film student, you will gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future. Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience.

The NEA is worth 30% of the A Level. This builds on the knowledge and understanding of filmmaking developed during our study of the diverse range of films. The NEA offers the opportunity for genuine creativity through practical filmmaking and screenwriting. You will be encouraged to experience the process of filmmaking and supported in your development as a filmmaker.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level.

WJEC Eduqas' website offers more detailed information:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/sxdcwvck/eduqas-a-level-film-studies-spec-from-2017-e-24-01-2020.pdf>



# GEOGRAPHY

Edexcel A Level Geography challenges students to engage with the physical and human world in new ways. Students are encouraged to look at issues from a wide range of perspectives and to appreciate that no one vision of the world is correct. This is a multi-disciplinary course that involves everything from essay writing to statistical analysis as well as critical decision making. The geography department organises a number of fieldtrips as well as a visit to Sorrento, Italy.

The A Level is split into 4 distinct sections that cover a wide variety of interlocking issues.

## **Dynamic Physical Processes (30%)**

Topics in this section include Coastal Processes and Change, Geophysical Hazards, Earth's Cycle (carbon and hydrological cycle), Energy and Water Security. These units take an in-depth look at the environmental science of a physical world and the challenges they face. It also addresses the geopolitical issues associated with resource management, widely believed to be the greatest challenges we will face in our future.

## **Dynamic Places (30%)**

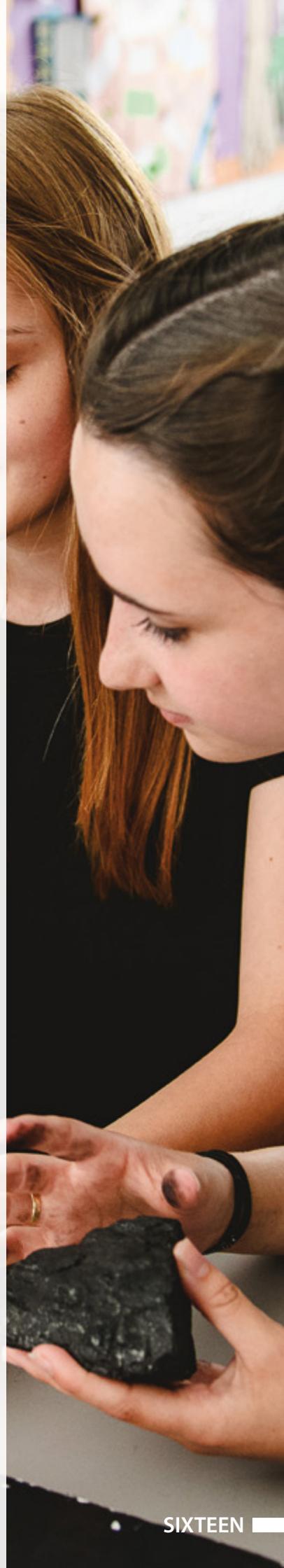
Topics in this section include Globalisation, Diverse Places, Superpowers and Health, Human Rights and Interventions. This area of study focuses on changes to the human world and how areas are connected or disconnected. It examines how our understanding of places are made and redefined by different groups of people according to their power and influence.

## **Synoptic Links (20%)**

Throughout the course there are 3 recurring themes (key player, attitudes and actions, futures and uncertainties). Students will apply their knowledge from across the course to a place-based geographical issue, critically examining the issue to provide an evaluation of the sustainability of the issue given.

## **Independent Investigation (20%)**

Students are required to conduct 4 days independent fieldwork during the course. The first 2 days help them build an understanding of a wide range of fieldwork techniques and the fieldwork write up process in preparation for their Independent Investigation. Students will undertake a further two days in which they collect the data they require for their own investigation that accounts for 20% of their final grade. To help students complete this fieldwork, the department organise fieldtrips to Dunwich, London Olympic Park and Dorset.



# HISTORY

The AQA History A Level course considers important events that shaped England and the wider world. Students study the establishment and rule of the Tudors from 1485 – 1603, investigating why Henry Tudor, a Welshman, who was raised in Brittany was able to invade England and usurp power. What was different about his rule? What opposition did he face? How was he able to pass his crown to his son, Henry VIII, without resistance? At the heart of this is a study into the impact on different groups within society – politically, economically, socially and religiously.

Additionally, the unit on International Relations (1890 – 1941) will look at modern history, acquiring an understanding as to why something as catastrophic as the First World War occurred, and why the peacemakers of 1919 were unable to prevent a second world war, one that was to prove far more devastating than the last. In Year 13, there will be an opportunity to formulate a personal study whereby a question is devised and research is carried out in order to answer it – students will very much do the job of the historian in finding, analysing and evaluating evidence in order to reach a justified conclusion.

History students will benefit from a variety of proven, effective teaching methods during their course. However, students will also work independently – reading around the subject and taking an interest in current affairs to improve their skills at second order concepts such as change and continuity, cause and consequence, interpretation and significance. There will be many opportunities to take part in group discussions, give presentations as well as develop skills at written communication. There is a requirement to be organised and motivated!

Because History encourages analytical skills, logical thought and clear expression, it complements most other subjects, and prepares students for work and study beyond their school experience. Many students go on to study History or History-related courses at university (including Oxbridge) and this can lead to a wide variety of careers that might not be immediately obvious, such as law, media, financial services, journalism, politics, design or teaching – all of these sectors of employment, and more, look favourably on students who possess an A Level in History.



# MATHEMATICS

To study A Level Mathematics, students should have achieved at least a Grade 7 at GCSE. During the course you will study Pure Mathematics which contributes two thirds of the final qualification, along with Mechanics and Statistics. Pure Mathematics extends many GCSE topics such as algebra, trigonometry, vectors and functions while introducing new approaches, especially calculus.

'Mechanics' deals with the mathematical modelling of the movement of a particle.

'Statistics' models common situations using 'probability distributions' and extends GCSE data analysis techniques.

Pure Mathematics supports all A Level subjects which require mathematical approaches: 'Mechanics' is of particular benefit to Physics and Chemistry; 'Statistics' is an essential component of many areas of study in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Biology.

There is also the option for students who have displayed an exceptional aptitude for Maths to study for an A Level in Further Mathematics. This comprises an additional six modules. While certain modules are compulsory there is a lot more scope for flexibility to suit individual needs in terms of university courses.

Mathematics is a demanding and rigorous subject where accuracy, attention to detail and clear, logical thought are essential. This is reflected in the expectations of students following the course, with a particular emphasis placed on good study habits as well as the ability to meet deadlines and keep up with the large workload.

A Level Mathematics can lead to a degree in Mathematics and is also a desirable, in some cases essential, requirement for many others such as medicine, accountancy, engineering, actuarial courses, sciences and social sciences. Even without higher education, A Level Mathematics is considered by most employers to be indicative of a high level of ability, determination and organisation.



## ACHIEVEMENT

Diss Sixth Form will encourage you to:

- achieve your full academic potential, develop your own identity and prepare you for life beyond school
- play an active part in charity activities and undertake a programme of community service
- participate in music, drama and sports events

# MEDIA STUDIES

The Eduqas A Level Media course focuses on the ways in which audio-visual, print and online texts communicate with their audiences. These texts include television, advertising, social media, websites, magazines, games and film. Students will study the key concepts in the media including representations, audiences, genres, narratives and ideologies. Students will study a wide variety of contemporary texts and will have the opportunity to create their own media texts.

**Component 1** introduces the knowledge, understanding and skills required to analyse media products through the key concepts of media language and representations. Social, cultural, industrial and theoretical perspectives are considered in depth. A range of texts is studied, from advertising, film marketing, music video and video games. The component also includes a contextual study of media representations. This component is assessed through a 135 minute exam.

**Component 2** develops the application of media language through an exploration of media industries, audiences and representations. Topics include 'Television in the Global Age', 'Media and the Online Age' and 'Mainstream and Alternative Medias'. Eduqas set various online, print and AV texts for holistic study. This component is assessed through a 150 minute exam.

**Component 3** gives students the opportunity to create their own media production in two different media forms. There is a choice of briefs set by the exam board which apply a theoretical framework and digital convergence. Students will be able to create work in the following media: film marketing, television, music marketing or magazines. This component, worth 30% of the A Level, is assessed through coursework.

You do not have to have previously studied the subject to take this A Level.

Our examining board for Media Studies is Eduqas. Their website offers more information:

[https://www.eduqas.co.uk/ed/qualifications/media-studies-as-a-level/#tab\\_overview](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/ed/qualifications/media-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview)



# MODERN LANGUAGES

French and Spanish are offered as A Level MFL courses. Studying a Modern Language at A Level will help to develop the language skills you have already achieved. It is unique in its combined study of language, sociology, history, culture, literature and film. Therefore, you will also possess an interest in the world in which we live and will want to have a deeper understanding of, and a greater appreciation for, the cultural aspects of the countries where these languages are spoken. You will further develop this through the exciting opportunity to undertake your own personal study of a topic of interest for an Independent Research Project, which you will discuss in your final speaking exam. Lessons will involve the study of authentic spoken and written sources from various countries of the French and Spanish speaking world. There will also be opportunities to participate in trips to the theatre and possibly carry out work experience or attend language courses in France and Spain.

## FRENCH – (Edexcel)

The qualification is made up of three components:

**Paper 1** (40%) Listening, Reading and Translation (French to English)

**Paper 2** (30%) Written responses to the study of a literary text and a film plus translation (English to French)

**Paper 3** (30%) Speaking (including a discussion of the student's IRP)

Papers 1 and 3 will draw on material which covers four themes: Changes in French society; Political and Artistic Culture in French Speaking Countries; Immigration and Multicultural French Society; Occupation and Resistance in WW2.

The film studied is "Entre les Murs" ("The Class") and the literary text studied is "No et Moi" by Delphine de Vigan.

Please visit [www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com) for further information on the course.

## SPANISH – (EDUQAS)

**Paper 1** (30%) Speaking (including a discussion of the student's IRP)

**Paper 2** (50%) Listening, Reading and Translation (Spanish to English and English to Spanish)

**Paper 3** (20%) Critical and analytical responses to a literary text and a film

Papers 1 and 2 will draw on material which covers four themes: Being a Young Person in Spanish-Speaking society; Understanding the Spanish Speaking World; Diversity and Difference; The Two Spains - 1936 onwards.

The film studied is "El Laberinto del Fauno" ("Pan's Labyrinth") and the literary text studied is "La Casa de Bernarda Alba" by Federico García Lorca.

Please visit [www.eduqas.co.uk](http://www.eduqas.co.uk) for further information on the course.



# MUSIC

The AQA Music A Level course gives students the opportunity to develop their own musical interests and strengths alongside rigorous study of interpretative, historical and analytical aspects of musical genres from the Baroque period to the present day. To enter the course, it is essential that students can demonstrate previous experience as a performer, composer and as an attentive listener. Grade 5 for GCSE Music is required, however in exceptional cases, students with excellent results in Associated Board grade exams may be considered.

The course is taught with an emphasis on practical music making and students will be encouraged to take an active role in the busy musical life of the School. The qualification is divided into Performing, Composing and Appraising, with the coursework accounting for 60% of the marks, with the appraising exam the remaining 40%.

The course will appeal to anyone wishing to pursue musical studies at a music conservatoire or university, gain access to a range of music related employment or simply extend their musical understanding and experience of music for its intrinsic value and interest.

Music A Level complements either Arts or Science subjects; for instance, Music, Maths and Physics or Music, Theatre Studies and English make excellent combinations. Whatever your aspirations for university, Music is a highly respected A Level qualification.





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

An advanced level qualification in this subject is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study of Physical Education and Sports Studies in higher education and it is also a suitable qualification for other academic and vocational areas.

The course will appeal to hardworking students who have a strong interest in sport, but it is not necessary to have done GCSE Physical Education. However, at least a grade 4 in Science would be beneficial and the ability to express yourself well is also important.

The course is divided into four units:

1. **Physiological factors affecting performance**
2. **Psychological factors affecting performance**
3. **Sociocultural factors affecting performance**
4. **Performance in Physical Education – Students' practical performance will be assessed in ONE sport.**

Lessons will be a combination of lectures, discussions, experiments and practical work.

To be successful in this course, students are expected to do at least three hours of homework a week plus extra reading.

Other A Levels that appear to be popular choices when grouped with P.E. are Biology, Psychology, Geography and Business Studies.

The course provides an excellent foundation for students intending to pursue careers in teaching and coaching, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport.



# PHYSICS

Physics - and the world around us - is changing so fast that no one can tell what aspects of the subject will be most important in, say, ten years' time. There are, however, some basic ideas that are essential to our understanding of the world, and indeed the universe, around us and these are included in the core A Level Physics course. Physics provides a means of fulfilling the human desire to find out how things work; a research base for Science and Technology which is second to none and a basis for much modern technology and engineering.

Through its application in Science Technology, Physics has had an enormous social and economic impact on the way in which we live. This in itself is a powerful reason for studying Physics. We hope that it will lead to a greater appreciation and understanding of the world, both today and tomorrow.

Due to its universality, Physics combines well with almost any other subject. Chemistry and Mathematics are obviously related but Physics has had an impact on everything. In terms of careers, the choice is wide. The practical skills make it a must for any form of engineering. The analytical skills involved provide excellent preparation for careers in IT, Communications Technology, Medicine, Law or Finance.

Currently, each Physics A Level group is taught by two teachers.

Practical work is an important part of studying A Level Physics and this reflects the 'hands on' approach taken in the teaching of the subject.



# POLITICS

**Politics is happening right now. Don't miss it!**

We live in a modern world of many new and exciting concepts plus established ideas of conservatism and liberalism. Globalisation, Brexit, the leadership of the Labour Party under Corbyn, the rise of international terror, the leadership of the Conservative Party, impact of the Brexit Party and much more will all be addressed in this exciting course which gives students a clear understanding of the world in which they live.

**In Year 12 students will study:**

- **democracy:** can Britain call itself a democracy?
- **political parties:** what makes a political party and can The Brexit Party call itself one?
- **electoral systems:** does everyone's vote count?
- **voting behaviour and the media:** can Twitter and Facebook alter elections?
- **the constitution:** how is the country run?
- **Parliament:** where does power lie between the Commons and Lords?
- **Prime Minister and executive:** what makes a powerful Prime Minister?
- **relationships between the branches:** how do the PM, Cabinet, Commons, Lords, EU and Supreme Court work together?
- **political ideologies:** what are the core ideas of liberalism, conservatism, socialism and feminism?

**In Year 13 students will study global politics which includes:**

- **sovereignty and globalisation:** the role of individual nations in an increasingly interconnected world
- **global governance** and its relation to political, economic, human rights and environmental areas. This includes a study of global institutions such as The United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organisation, G7 and G20 as well as the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court, European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **power and developments** including the rise of China and the position of America in the world
- **regionalism and the EU:** other regional organisations are also looked at such as the African Union and Arab League. Reasons why nations link together are studied
- **comparative theories:** ideological views of internationalism

The global politics topics have exciting crossovers with the Geography A Level offered at Diss High School.

An A Level in Politics is well regarded by universities and employers due to the analytical and discursive nature of the course. Studying Politics is an excellent foundation for students who intend to study Politics, Law, History or Economics at University. It provides an excellent academic foundation for those intending to go into the Legal, Journalistic, Business or Political sector.

We are delighted that we have had several students continue their studies of Politics at University.



# PSYCHOLOGY

## What is Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of our thinking, feeling and behaviour. It is an academic discipline which seeks to explain why we think, feel and behave the way we do.

Research is used to try and answer these questions and that research needs evaluating to assess its credibility.

It is said that "Psychology is....describing things which everyone knows in language which no one understands" (Raymond Cattell). So be prepared to learn a lot of new vocabulary!

## Course details

We follow the AQA A Level specification.

Unit 1 covers Social influence, Memory, attachment and Psychopathology (the study of mental illness).

Unit 2 covers Biopsychology and research methods.

Unit 3 covers Gender issues, Schizophrenia and Addiction.

## Examinations

There is no coursework. Assessment is via three two hour examinations at the end of year 13.

## Entry requirements

Obviously an interest in people, and why they do the things they do, is essential for this subject. As assessment is by written examination a good level of English language is important, 10% of the assessment is of arithmetic and so a sound ability in Maths will be helpful.

## Psychology and other subjects

Psychology students tend to come from a wide range of academic interests and it crosses the boundary between the Arts and the Sciences. It links well with any other subject offered at Diss Sixth Form.

## The Future

Psychology is a fully recognised subject for university entrance in any subject. It offers a wide range of skills useful in a vast array of careers and will aid your ability to interact with others throughout your life.



# SOCIOLOGY

## What is Sociology?

**Sociology is a wide ranging study of the dynamics of our society. It focuses on what culture means, our norms and values and where they come from, the influence of the media, on how society works and the causes and consequences of inequality in society.**

## Course details

We follow the AQA A Level specification.

**The first part** of the course deals with Education and Sociological Research Methods, and Families and Households.

**The second part** of the course covers the Media.

**In the third part** of the course we look at Crime and Deviance.

## Examination

There is no coursework. At A Level, each part of the course is examined in one 2 hour paper, making three papers in all. The examinations will take place in June 2021.

## Teaching and learning

Obviously an interest in understanding society is very important for this course. You will benefit from reading and/or watching the news on a daily basis. There is a lot of room for discussion and practical learning, but there is also a necessity to read textbooks in order to acquire an understanding of the different theories studied as well.

## Sociology and other subjects

Sociology has been combined successfully with the full range of other subjects offered by Diss Sixth Form, including the sciences, other social sciences such as psychology, and arts-based subjects.

## The Future

Sociology is a fully recognised subject in terms of university entrance. An A Level in sociology stands anyone in good stead who is going to choose a subject in higher education which is based on an understanding of people. The skills developed in sociology such as the ability to think independently about complex issues and express yourself clearly, together with the ability to problem solve as an individual and as part of a group, will be useful in any course or career with A Level entry requirements.



# LEVEL 3 BTEC NATIONAL IN BUSINESS

## (SINGLE OR DOUBLE BUSINESS COURSES)

The Level 3 BTEC National in Business is an A Level standard qualification for students wishing to specialise in the world of business. You are assessed mainly through challenging, exciting coursework projects and some external assessments too.

This exciting qualification provides real choice, as you can select Business as either a Single or Double option. The Extended Certificate is the equivalent of one A Level. The Diploma is the equivalent of two A Levels.

The courses are ideal for students considering:

- A Degree in Business/Economics/Finance
- Other Degrees (e.g. Law)
- A career in accountancy or commerce
- Higher apprenticeships when aged 18
- A management role in business
- Running your own business

Our students are regularly involved in contacting local businesses, using market research, e-mailing companies via the Internet etc. Amongst many other things, you will be taught how to organise a

business, promote products and services, hire and fire staff and control business finance. In addition, you will spend a lot of time developing excellent communication and computer skills.

A variety of teaching and learning styles are used, including business visits, group work, personal investigation and practical work. You will develop word-processing, database and spreadsheet skills, and learn how to interview employees and deliver presentations.

Typical lessons include:

- Learning about new business theories
- Researching project work on the internet
- Visits to/by local businesses
- Designing new promotional material
- Independent work—practical NOT textbook tasks

This exciting two-year course will appeal to students who prefer to work steadily throughout the year and be assessed continuously. The continuous assessment consists of coursework units and external assessments. So, if you perform well at coursework and are interested in a career in business, this may be the subject for you.



# CERTIFICATE IN FINANCIAL STUDIES

## What will I learn?

The one year Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) has been designed to encourage individuals to be inspired to meet their lifestyle aspirations in the context of an evolving financial services marketplace. The course will help students to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life.

You will learn about managing your money, how it will impact on your life and the choices that you will have to make. Financial services products (such as credit cards, loans and mortgages) will be explained to you, along with how they can help you meet your individual lifestyle needs.

## What can I do next?

This qualification will clearly give you a head start to a career in the financial services industry. However, rather than focusing on any particular career, this qualification is intended to teach you what you need to know about managing your money. If you are worried about becoming financially independent at university, or when you start fulltime work, this could be the course for you.

## Summary

- **Level:** IFS Level 3 Certificate (AS Level equivalent)
- **Duration:** 1 year
- **Qualification:** CeFS - IFS Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies
- **Entry Requirements:** Five grade 4 passes including a 4 in Mathematics and either a 4 in English Language or Literature

## Further course content

The Certificate in Financial Studies is graded A\*-E and carries a UCAS tariff of up to 28 points which contribute towards university entry.

### Unit 1 - Financial Capability for the Immediate and Short Term.

A two paper examination: Part A includes 35 multiple choice questions [45 mins] and Part B consists of questions based on a pre-release case study requiring essay responses to 5 questions [1 hr 45 mins].

### Unit 2 - Financial Capability for the Medium and Long Term.

A two-paper examination: Part A includes 35 multiple choice questions [45 mins] and Part B consists of questions based on a pre-release case study requiring essay responses to 5 questions [1 hr 45 mins].

## Grading

The overall qualification will be graded A\*- E. To achieve a pass, students must achieve a pass of 40% in all four units. Units will be graded with pass / fail only.



# LEVEL 3 BTEC NATIONAL IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

## What is a BTEC National Diploma?

The BTEC National Diploma is a well-respected vocational qualification. It is worth the equivalent of TWO A Level grades. It is commonly accepted as a progression route onto degree courses and for higher level jobs. The BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care is assessed mainly by coursework, but with some externally assessed units.

In the past, students have used their qualification in Health and Social Care to support an application for a degree in nursing, midwifery, teacher training or social work.

Some students choose to go straight into employment with further training in areas such as Social Work, Caring and Education.

## What will I learn?

- You will gain an understanding of health, social care and early years working environments
- You will develop key skills in health, social care and early years

- You will have the opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way including work placement and visits to local health, social and early years organisations
- You will follow a course that enables progression to both higher education and employment in relevant sectors
- You will develop skills that are highly valued by employers and universities and gain confidence by developing independent learning skills

## How will I be assessed?

This well-respected qualification will appeal to students who prefer to work steadily throughout the year and be assessed continuously. The continuous assessment consists of five coursework units and three external assessments. So, if you perform well at coursework and are interested in a career in health and social care, this may be the subject for you.





# LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health, as well as the treatment and prevention of diseases. This course will be suited to students who are looking to pursue a career in health care or medical research. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are vital in the diagnosis of disease, determining the effectiveness of treatments and searching for new cures.

The main purpose of this qualification is to provide learners with scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as practical skills that would support progression to a range of jobs within healthcare. We will cover the main areas of health, physiology and disease, as well as providing opportunities to study pharmacology, physiological testing, clinical testing and medical research.

The course will be delivered through 10 hours of contact time, over a 2 week cycle, with two teachers teaching concurrently. This course would be ideally studied alongside A Levels in subjects such as Psychology, Physical Education, Maths, Chemistry or Health and Social Care.

**The course consists of 6 units:**

- Human Health and Disease
- Physiological measurement techniques
- Medical Science research methods
- Medicines and treatment of disease
- Clinical Laboratory techniques
- Medical case studies

**Assessment**

There is a mixture of internal and external assessment used in this qualification and the marks are split evenly between them. The external assessment comprises two written examination papers and a task based on the clinical laboratory techniques unit which is set and marked by the Exam Board. 'In school' assessments are produced for the physiological measurement techniques unit and the medical science research methods unit.



# LEVEL 3 BTEC NATIONAL IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The travel and tourism industry is dynamic, wide-ranging and fast-growing and it offers a huge variety of employment opportunities for young people. This BTEC qualification is suitable for those who may go on to work in the travel and tourism sector or those who want to pursue Higher Education.

The specification is designed to provide an all-round introduction to the travel and tourism sector. Everyone taking this qualification will study four mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- the world of travel and tourism
- global destinations
- managing the customer experience
- travel and tourism enterprises

You will also select two optional units covering content areas such as:

- sustainable tourism
- events, conferences and exhibitions
- visitor attractions

Assessment will take place throughout the course as internal coursework assignments, as well as some external exams.

Outside of the classroom, students will have the opportunity to experience the travel industry first-hand through local excursions and employer involvement. This will give students the chance to experience how different tourist centres work and gain an insight into this exciting industry.

Students can expect to be well supported by their teachers and will need to demonstrate an interest in the Travel and Tourism industry, good time management skills and commitment to the course.





# JOIN US!

Since its beginning in the local Grammar School, Diss Sixth Form has been educating students to the highest standards. Always the natural choice for Diss pupils, the school has also become a magnet for young people all over the region.

We pride ourselves on repeatedly high rankings in the league tables but we are equally proud of our genuine care for individuals and the warm, friendly atmosphere of the Sixth Form Centre, based in Uplands House. This unique facility is exclusively for the Sixth Form and includes classrooms, study rooms, common rooms and our Sixth Form Bistro.

**If you like the idea of a Sixth Form that will bring out the best in you, come and join us!**

[www.disshigh.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.disshigh.norfolk.sch.uk)



**Complete an application form, available from the school website.**

**Alternatively, contact Mr J Hurley or Mr M Ollerton at  
[directorofsixth@disshigh.co.uk](mailto:directorofsixth@disshigh.co.uk)**