



Ark 6th Form East Sussex



Prospectus

How to apply

You can apply for Ark 6th Form East Sussex
through our dedicated sixth form website:

www.ark6thformeastsussex.org



*Your future
starts here*

Welcome from the Principals

Thank you for considering Ark 6th Form East Sussex for your next step towards university or your career of choice.

By joining Ark 6th Form you will become part of a small and friendly school-based learning community, where students receive individual support and guidance in order to make excellent academic progress and apply successfully for university, apprenticeships or directly to the best school leaver employment opportunities.

You will see from this prospectus that we offer a wide range of A level subjects, including all those that are most valued by leading universities, and also Professional Pathways in subjects such as Business and IT. All courses are delivered by passionate subject specialists who are highly committed and eager to see you succeed.

We are extremely proud of the achievements of our students, with a growing number each year moving on to top universities, higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships.

The hard work of teachers and students alike ensures that students make strong academic progress and are encouraged to target aspirational yet realistic destinations. Our progression rate to Russell Group universities is well above the national average for all

schools (including private schools), and double the average for all schools and colleges in East Sussex.

Our ethos is different to other local providers — this is a school sixth form not a college, with additional structure and high expectations that will help you make a steady and successful transition from GCSE study through to your next steps. We expect our students to act as excellent role models, and we will offer you a range of opportunities for leadership, responsibility and personal development both in and out of the classroom.

This prospectus will give you a clear idea of what life will be like at Ark 6th Form East Sussex. You can be certain that our ambition for you is huge — we very much want to see you succeed, and will support you at every turn as you seek to be the best that you can be.

Ms T Dohel
Principal
Ark William Parker Academy

Ms S Newman
Principal
Ark Helenswood Academy



Welcome

At Ark 6th Form East Sussex we are committed to providing an outstanding post-16 education for all of our students.

We are focused on developing our students into well-rounded individuals with the qualifications, skills and mindset that will allow them to succeed at university and in professional life.

Our students' core study programmes consist of either A level pathways or Professional Pathways in specialist subjects — both options will enable you to progress either to Higher Education or directly into an aspirational school leaver programme or higher apprenticeship.

Ark 6th Form East Sussex has earned a reputation for delivering excellent outcomes. We are extremely proud of the achievements of our students that have allowed them to progress to top tier destinations such as

Oxford, Cambridge and many other Russell Group universities — you can find out more about our success stories in the case studies in this prospectus.

This is an important point in your educational journey, and the information in this prospectus will help you choose the options which best match your needs and ambitions for the future.

We very much look forward to working with you over the next two years, supporting your academic progress and helping you to move on to university and the professional career of your choice.

James Hamilton
Head of Ark 6th Form East Sussex



*In 2016, **20%** of Ark Year 13 leavers progressed to a Russell Group university. This is almost twice the national average for all schools and colleges (including independent schools) and **four times the national average** for schools in similar contexts to ours.*

The right choice for sixth form

Ark's Hastings schools are working in partnership to deliver outstanding opportunities for sixth form students. You will be based in one school (either Ark Helenswood Academy or Ark William Parker Academy), and be able to take advantage of the wider choice of A level courses and Professional Pathways offered across the two schools. You will also have access to a wider range of enrichment opportunities, and be able to connect with a greater number of universities and employers through shared events.

Our partnership is based on shared values and a shared ethos. We aim to make sure that all our sixth form students are able to progress to university or directly into a career of their choice. This means you can expect to receive excellent, dedicated support for your academic progress, alongside advice and guidance about your next steps, tailored to your individual needs. We work hard with universities, employers and the Ark network to ensure your sixth form experience will prepare you for success in your future study and employment.



“ Sixth form helped develop my academic profile and my character.

I had loads of support and input including mentoring opportunities, work experience and even being taught how to network. I learned how to study effectively, the importance of being organised and how to balance my studies and hobbies, which has been very helpful for university. The personalised support from staff was incredible and made me feel very confident that I knew my strengths and weaknesses and how to address them. I had an amazing time!”

Ark 2016 Leaver, now studying at a Russell Group university

Key benefits to students

- 1 Wider range of A level courses and Professional Pathways**, including all Russell Group facilitating subjects.
- 2 Experienced and well-qualified** A level teachers from across two schools.
- 3 Wider range of enrichment opportunities** offered across all sites to support your progression to university or directly into a career.



**Ark University
Bursary Programme
Awards from
£3,000 over
one year to £30,000
over three years**



Your route to university and career success

A level pathway

We focus on offering the core academic subjects at A level that we know are most valued by good universities, and that allow you to keep your progression options as open as possible. If you have met the entry criteria below at GCSE, you can choose from over 20 A level courses offered across the partnership (see Course Guide pp. 16–24). You will receive guidance at interview and during enrolment about the best subject combinations for different degree courses and careers. Most students will study three linear A levels; some will take a fourth subject or the Extended Project Qualification, depending on GCSE results.

Entry criteria

You will need to achieve an average point score at GCSE of at least 5.5, including at least 5 in English and Mathematics, and also meet the individual entry criteria for specific subjects.

Professional Pathways

In addition to A level courses, we offer a range of Professional Pathways across the partnership (see Course Guide pp. 26–27). These programmes are also aimed at preparing students to apply for selective universities, or for progression directly into employment through school leaver programmes or degree apprenticeships. We receive support from the Ark network for Professional Pathways, including visits to businesses, access to work experience opportunities, a bespoke work-readiness curriculum, and career mentoring from both teachers and employers. You will work with corporate partners such as Grant Thornton, Lloyds Banking Group and Bloomberg, and university partners including King's College London and Imperial.

Entry criteria

You will need to achieve an average point score at GCSE of at least 4, including at least 4 in English and Mathematics.

For more information on individual A level courses and Professional Pathways, see the **Course Guide** section of this prospectus.



Our commitment to you



We are committed to providing you with the highest quality sixth form experience. In order to do this we will:

- ...ensure you feel cared for, included and valued as an individual.
- ...do all that we can to help you reach a good university or enter a professional career of your choice.
- ...treat you with honesty, fairness and respect — as a young adult in a professional workplace.



Teaching and learning is at the heart of what we do, and we will:

- ...provide a consistently high quality learning experience, with lessons that engage and challenge.
- ...provide personalised support through teachers and your tutor to support your progress.
- ...help you to organise your work effectively so that you meet our expected standards.



Keeping track of your progress is fundamental — so you will:

- ...meet regularly with your teachers and tutor throughout the year to monitor your progress.
- ...receive progress reports each term comparing your performance against your target grades.
- ...attend parents' evenings with your parent/ carer to review your progress.



Our partnership is made up of two like-minded school sixth forms. They are:

- ...committed to a culture of equality, respect and celebrating the diversity of our communities.
- ...actively seeking out the views of students to help us improve what we do.
- ...providing a safe and secure environment for learning.



*Your personal tutor will play a crucial part in **guiding and supporting you** during your time in sixth form. They are responsible for monitoring your academic progress, and working with the sixth form team and your teachers to help you address any issues. Tutors are also responsible for **ensuring you progress to an excellent destination at the end of sixth form** — whether a good university or directly into the career of your choice.*

Your commitment to us



Professional conduct

Our expectations of our students are extremely high. We aim to help you maximise your academic achievement and to be prepared for a professional career, either as a university graduate or direct from sixth form. We therefore expect all students to conduct themselves accordingly — as young adults in a professional workplace. This is crucial to maintaining good working relationships with staff and other students, and to ensuring that we can all be held accountable for behaving with honesty, fairness and respect towards one another.



Professional work ethic

We encourage our students to adopt a professional attitude to managing their time and workload in sixth form. You will have several lessons a week that are designated study periods, when you are expected to be on site and studying in one of the sixth form spaces available to you. We will make sure that you receive enough work and support from your teachers to make good use of your time, and you will also have a planner to help you organise your work. The most important thing is your personal commitment to making the most of this time outside of lessons. This is vital in ensuring you make the strong progress required to achieve well at the end of sixth form.



*A shared
commitment
to success*

Dedicated learning facilities

There are dedicated sixth form facilities on both school sites including study spaces, sixth form only catering and communal areas for break and lunchtime. Study spaces are supervised by the sixth form team or teaching staff whenever possible. This ensures you have access to support when you need it and also helps you to make good use of your study periods, staying on top of your academic workload while also focusing on personal organisation, time management and research skills.

Some students move between sites to attend lessons in some subjects and to make the most of opportunities for volunteering and enrichment. Where this is necessary, you will be transported free of charge in order to minimise the impact on your learning time. We provide a secure and convenient minibus service to any students who travel as part of their sixth form programme: buses run between the Lower School turning circle at Ark William Parker Academy and the Lower School car park at Ark Helenswood Academy.



We provide a secure and convenient minibus service to any students who travel as part of their sixth form programme. You will be transported free of charge in order to minimise the impact on your learning time.





*Network with
experienced
business
people*

*Expand your
knowledge by
visiting top
universities*





Enrichment — super-curricular and extra-curricular

There is a fantastic range of activities, events and programmes to enrich your sixth form experience across our partnership. Our aim is to provide you with outstanding opportunities beyond your core programme of study which will allow you to grow and develop as a person. At the same time, we will support you to achieve success in your next steps towards a good university or the career of your choice.

The opportunities we offer fall into three main categories:

Academic enrichment

Super-curricular activities designed to broaden and deepen your understanding of the subjects you study, while also giving you the opportunity to engage with subjects outside of your own programme of study. All teaching departments organise at least one academic visit each year, and at least one speaker per term. There are also monthly masterclasses on a range of academic topics relevant to your sixth form studies, and you will have access to a range of electronic and printed resources to support wider reading and research.

Habits, skills and mindset

We are committed to helping you develop the habits, skills and mindset that will help you succeed in Higher Education and your career of choice. You will do this through tutorials, workshops and visits specifically aimed at preparing you for university and the world of work. Examples include study skills workshops, supported study periods in Year 12 and targeted academic mentoring by the sixth form team.

Access and opportunities

Additional visits, speakers and activities organised by the sixth form teams are designed to stimulate your intellectual curiosity and promote learning outside of the formal curriculum. This allows you to develop further your understanding and appreciation of culture, politics and society, while also expanding your knowledge of university and professional careers. Examples include networking events with corporate partners like Bloomberg, visits to top universities and regular external speakers.



*Experience
outstanding
opportunities*





Up to **£10,000**
per year to
reduce the cost
of university

Destinations: pathways and guidance

Our aim is to help all our students progress to a good university or directly into their career of choice. In addition to supporting you to make strong academic progress, and providing wider opportunities for your academic and personal development, we ensure you receive all the advice and guidance you need about your next step. Your choice of destination is obviously crucial, and it is our responsibility to make sure you are as well-informed as possible. If you plan to continue to Higher Education, the choice of university and course is rarely straightforward but absolutely vital — you need to find the right fit in terms of your career ambitions, your qualifications and your personal/family circumstances.

You may decide you want to start work straight away after school — there are many excellent options with large employers to do this, and through our Professional Pathways programme we have built up strong relationships to support student applications with firms such as Lloyds Banking Group, the Civil Service and CapGemini. We would usually support students to apply to either degree apprenticeships or higher apprenticeships (Level 4).



*Skills
workshops*

*Work
experience*

*Financial
support*

“I am extremely thankful for the bursary I have received and the continued support from the Ark network. From speaking to other students from around the country, *I have not met anyone more supported by their college, sixth form or secondary school than we are by Ark.*”

Charlie, Ark 2016 Leaver, now studying at the University of Birmingham

Ark University Bursary Programme

Students progressing to university who have demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning in sixth form are eligible to apply for Ark university bursaries. These range from £3,000 for the first year only to £30,000 over a three-year degree programme — in all cases,

bursaries help reduce the cost of university for successful applicants. We continue to support our students during university by providing bursaries, work experience, skills workshops and other unique opportunities as part of the Ark alumni network.



“I chose Ark because it’s a small school sixth form, and it was really clear that the teachers know all of the students individually. If I’d gone to a larger sixth form or college, I might not have had that individual attention.”

*My
sixth form
journey*

My experience

Former Ark 6th Form East Sussex student Lara McNeill’s passion for science and helping others led to her securing a place to study Medicine at King’s College London — one of the country’s top medical schools.

“I’ve always been interested in science” she says, “but I wanted to do something practical, where I could see first-hand the effect my work had on people. That isn’t something you get in scientific research, for example, where you don’t get to interact with the public as much.

“I really want to go into paediatric medicine, because I know what a huge effect that area of medicine can have on people. I was an IVF baby and that’s given me an appreciation of how paediatrics can help people fulfil their dreams of becoming a parent.”

To support her application Lara did work experience at Conquest Hospital, volunteered at the local St Michael’s Hospice in St Leonard’s and worked with the Nuffield Trust, a healthcare policy think-tank.

Lara came to Ark 6th Form East Sussex after taking her GCSEs at Claverham College. “I chose Ark because it’s a small school sixth form,

and it was really clear that the teachers know all of the students individually. If I’d gone to a larger sixth form or college, I might not have had that individual attention.”

Lara chose King’s College London because of its outstanding reputation for medical research: “King’s has a large hospital attached to it, where a lot of the teaching takes place, but it’s also where a lot of the best research is coming from. I want to be somewhere where the future of medicine is taking shape.”

Lara was also awarded an Ark University Bursary, which is helping with the cost of studying away from home and has also helped her connect with dozens of other Ark students from around the UK, who are now studying at good universities. “The bursary has lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. It means that I don’t have to worry about money as much and I can get on with studying and doing the best I can at university.”

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Dance



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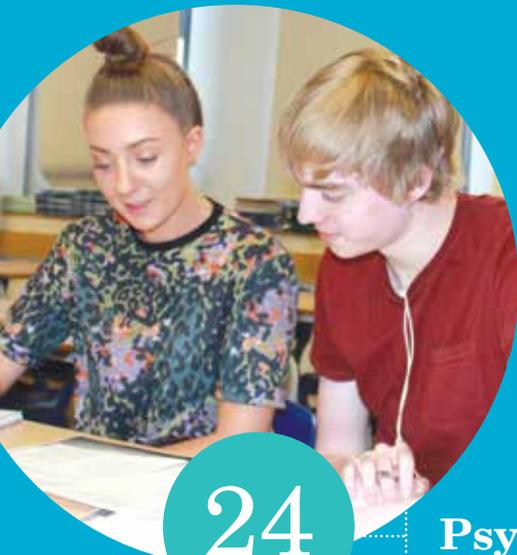
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Art and Design



What is Art and Design?

Art and Design A level provides opportunities every day for you to develop ideas imaginatively, and to apply your creativity. You will need to be industrious, and responsive to suggestions and feedback for improvement.

Why study this course?

You will develop your creative skills across a range of styles and forms, and also strengthen your skills of analysis and critical evaluation, both of your own and others' work. You will also be offered the opportunity to learn about and visit diverse world-class art venues across London. The end of course exhibition will give you the chance to showcase your talent and hard work.

How is the course assessed?

Combination of coursework and controlled assessments.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are creative and imaginative, enjoy developing ideas in a practical way and experimenting with a variety of materials and techniques.

Progression options

Art and Design A level and further related study can lead to careers in the creative industries in the fields of fashion, gallery/ museum management, architecture, interior design, graphic design, film and TV design, jewellery design, theatre and set design.



Biology



What is Biology?

Biology is the study of living organisms. Biologists study every aspect of life, from the intricate workings of individual cells to the effects of humans and other organisms on the Earth's atmosphere.

Why study this course?

Biology is a subject where you will constantly learn interesting things about the workings of the human body and about the wider world around you. As well as being a fascinating subject, Biology is brilliant if you want to develop your skills and make yourself an attractive candidate for universities and employers. Studying Biology will develop your mathematical, problem-solving and literacy skills, with a significant element of laboratory and practical work throughout the two-year course.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have curious minds, a genuine interest in studying living things and who want to get a hands-on experience of science.

Progression options

A level Biology students are in a position to progress to science-related degrees, including competitive fields such as Medicine, Bio-medical Science or Dentistry. The analytical skills that are required for Biology (and any science A level) are highly valued by most employers and universities, and can lead to a wide range of study and career options.



Chemistry



What is Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, and how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances. It also involves the study of how these substances interact with energy.

Why study this course?

A level Chemistry is challenging but hugely rewarding, requiring you to extend and deepen the knowledge and understanding you gained at GCSE. You will develop your skills in problem-solving, analysis and data-handling, while having the opportunity to develop your practical skills through regular laboratory work. These transferable skills make science graduates highly employable in a range of professions.

How is the course assessed?

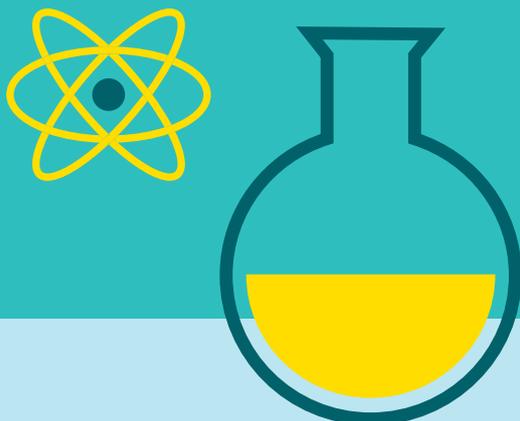
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with strong numeracy skills, a real interest in science and who desire to develop greater understanding of how physical sciences shape the world around us.

Progression options

Chemistry is either required or strongly recommended for many related degree courses such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Biomedical Science and Veterinary Medicine. In more general terms, Chemistry is a widely respected subject that will support progression to most professional careers.



Dance



What is Dance?

Dance is a unique language which focuses on developing practical choreographic skills, enhanced by analytical studies and dance technique. A Level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by Higher Education organisations and employers and will help you stand out in the workplace whatever your choice of career.

Why study this course?

A Level Dance is an exciting and diverse subject. The course reflects both historical and current dance, inspiring a passion and appreciation for the subject.

How is the course assessed?

Ongoing assessment of performances and coursework. External practical moderation and theory exam at the end of Year 13.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are committed performers and choreographers with a passion for dance. Ideally with a high level at GCSE or extensive dance skills from studio schools.

Progression options

A Level Dance can lead to degrees in Dance and Performing Arts and careers in teaching, education in arts companies, entertainment, arts journalism and the performing arts and leisure industries.



Drama and Theatre Studies



What is Drama and Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre Studies involves a significant element of practical performance work based on your imagination, creativity and team work. To support that, you will also explore social, historical and cultural influences on drama and performance. There is a strong focus on developing your own skills of acting, directing, character development (voice and movement) and working with scripts.

Why study this course?

As well as being an exciting and fulfilling subject to study, Drama and Theatre Studies will allow you to develop excellent core communication skills, both spoken and written. You will have the opportunity to experience regular live theatre to enrich your learning, and be supported to apply your knowledge to your own and others' performances.

How is the course assessed?

Ongoing assessment of performances and coursework, and an examination at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are committed performers with a love of theatre. The course is excellent preparation for those wishing to pursue Drama or a related field in Higher Education, or as an additional subject for students keen to focus on developing strong communication and team-working skills.

Progression options

Drama and Theatre Studies is excellent preparation for a number of degree courses including Acting, Directing, Drama and Theatre Studies, Performing Arts and Technical Theatre. As a creative and academic subject it can also support applications to a range of Arts, Humanities and Social Science degrees. Communication and team-working are skills that are valued highly by all employers.



Economics



What is Economics?

Economics is the study of human choices and how society uses its resources. In a world where there is scarcity of land, labour, raw materials, capital and enterprise, Economics helps people make the right choices by showing them the most efficient way to use these scarce resources in achieving their goals.

Why study this course?

Economics is highly respected by universities and provides you with knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a variety of professional careers. These include quantitative and qualitative data analysis, formal written communication and understanding of a wide range of real world issues affecting society, government and business.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with a strong interest in current affairs (especially politics, government and business) and who enjoy applying their knowledge and understanding to real world scenarios.

Progression options

A level Economics can lead to a variety of degree courses at university, typically in fields such as Business/Management/Accountancy/ Finance and Social Sciences. Economics is often paired with another related subject such as Politics or Management to make up a university degree. Some Economics degrees also require Maths A level. It is widely respected by universities and employers, and can lead to careers in banking and finance, business consulting, accountancy, law, journalism, civil service, business and management, or education. Economics graduates are highly sought after in the labour market.



English Literature



What is English Literature?

English Literature is the study of the work of a variety of great writers. The study of literature should bring you both knowledge and pleasure: you will study a wide range of novels, plays, poems and other literary forms in order to explore the concerns of the people who wrote them, the methods that they use to shape the responses of their readers and the conclusions that we can draw from our reading of them.

Why study this course?

Studying a range of literature will broaden your ideas, develop the skills involved in debate and discussion, and encourage the discipline of detailed textual analysis. It is a highly regarded, useful foundation for a range of university subjects.

How is the course assessed?

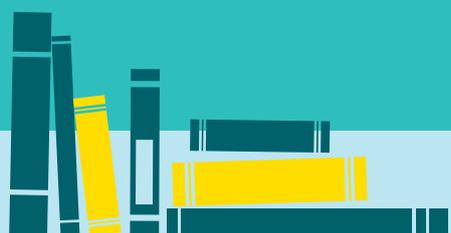
Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the subject suitable for?

Students who love to read and to talk about books, and are willing to offer their opinions in lessons and to engage with those of others. In addition, students who are able to write clearly using appropriate literary terms, arguing fluently and analysing cogently.

Progression options

English Literature is highly regarded by both universities and employers and will support your progression to a range of courses and careers. The skills of textual analysis and written communication are vital in most professional careers, and highly relevant in law, journalism, public relations and marketing.



Mathematics



What is Mathematics?

Mathematics A level builds on the topics studied on the Higher Specification GCSE course. Within Pure Mathematics you will be introduced to calculus techniques as well as extending your algebra skills. You will also study a variety of topics within Statistics, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics.

Why study this course?

An A level in Mathematics shows logic, reasoning and a high level of numeracy, and serves to support many other A level courses. Furthermore, employers in all sectors highly value a candidate who can offer mathematical ability — research has shown those with a Mathematics A level earn more, on average, than those without. Studying A level Mathematics therefore offers you the opportunity to develop your knowledge, skills and employability.

How is the course assessed?

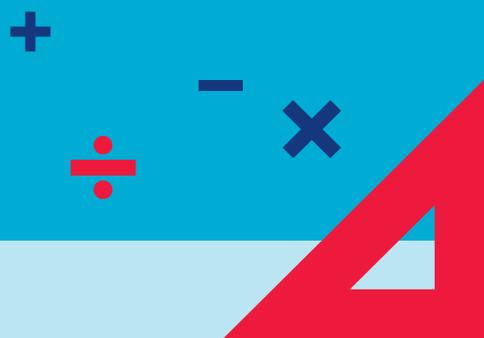
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have loved studying Mathematics during primary and secondary school, enjoy working hard and are motivated by the challenge of solving complex problems using exact methods.

Progression options

Mathematics A level supports applications for most degree courses and almost all career pathways — from Medicine to Engineering, and Computer Programming to Finance and Accounting. It is well regarded by universities, and can therefore support most subject combinations at A level.



Further Mathematics



What is Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics extends the areas of Pure Mathematics, Decision Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics taught in the A level Mathematics course. Further Mathematics will challenge you beyond your A level Mathematics course, while further developing your mathematical knowledge, understanding and problem-solving skills. Students with a very strong interest in Mathematics, and high GCSE grades (8–9 at GCSE) may opt to take Further Mathematics as an additional A level.

Why study this course?

Further Mathematics will give you an excellent starting point for further study in fields such as Mathematics, Engineering and Physics at university.

How is the course assessed?

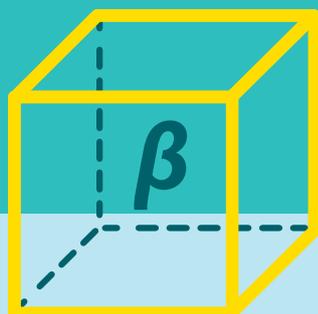
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a strong desire to extend their mathematical expertise, and are aiming to study Mathematics, Engineering or Physics at good universities.

Progression options

Like Mathematics A level, Further Mathematics supports many career pathways — particularly those that require high levels of mathematical skill such as engineering, computer programming and actuarial science. It is highly regarded by employers and universities, as it shows a very high level of mathematical ability.



Geography



What is Geography?

A level Geography involves the study of topical and important aspects of human society and our physical environment. You will develop an in-depth understanding of human topics like globalisation, migration and regeneration of urban areas, while physical topics include coasts, glaciation and tectonics. You will also have the opportunity to conduct independent research and data collection on a topic of your choice through the coursework element of the qualification.

Why study this course?

Geography is an incredibly diverse and interesting subject that complements a range of different A levels, including History, Economics, Sociology and Science subjects. You will develop an excellent range of transferable skills, and be well prepared for Higher Education and career pathways, supported by your strong understanding of the world around us.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with a strong interest in world events and current affairs (particularly related to human and physical geography) and who enjoy discussion, reading, research and essay writing.

Progression options

Specific careers related to Geography include environmental management and consultancy, town planning, chartered surveying and project management. Geography graduates have an above average employment success rate due to the range of skills they develop including oral communication, delivering presentations, report writing, problem-solving, analysis, data interpretation and critical thinking.



Government and Politics



What is Government and Politics?

A Level Government and Politics allows students to study new concepts and issues that will affect their lives as they move into adulthood. Politics is a live subject in which current events and issues will be studied to gain understanding of the impact on our political system. For example, how the ongoing Brexit saga will affect everyday lives.

Why study this course?

In Politics, textbooks go out of date the day they are published. The political landscape changes every day, with new examples appearing constantly in the media. Picking which examples to use in your answers to essay questions is really exciting as something that has happened on the day you are taking your A Level exams can appear in your response.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who choose Government and Politics should have an interest in the subject and some skills in written analysis and evaluation.

Progression options

A Level Government and Politics prepares students for many forms of employment as well as further study. You will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication and IT, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market. Government and Politics at A level is also long established as a respected social science and prepares students for a range of different degree courses.



History



What is History?

A level History is the study of a range of periods of British and International History. Debate and discussion of historical issues are central to the study of this course — you will have the chance to apply your knowledge and understanding by arguing the causes, consequences and significance of the key events studied.

Why study this course?

History is a traditional academic subject that is highly regarded by top universities, both as a means to access a wide variety of more specialist courses and also as a subject in its own right. Studying History at A level will give you a broad understanding of current world affairs, while also helping you build key skills such as literacy, communication, analysis and critical thinking.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework (20%) and examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who are interested in analysing the causes and impact of historical events, and who are open-minded to help them understand alternative viewpoints and the cultural norms that governed the thinking of people in the past.

Progression options

History is a subject that provides excellent preparation for Higher Education, and also complements any other essay subject at A level. As a traditional academic subject, History is well regarded by universities and supports an application for many subjects, notably English, History, Law, Modern Languages and Politics.



Modern Foreign Languages: French and Spanish



What are Modern Foreign Languages?

We are offering French and Spanish as Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) at A level. You will study the language, grammatical systems, communication, culture and politics of French/Spanish speaking countries. Moving on from GCSE, you will learn how to confidently communicate in written and spoken French/Spanish with a high level of grammatical accuracy.

Why study these courses?

An A level in either French or Spanish will give you a huge advantage in the globalised job market, allowing you to compete for roles with an even wider range of employers. You will develop the linguistic skills that you acquired at GCSE to allow you to manipulate either language more effectively and move towards fluency. You will also study the use of language in political and social contexts, using news reports and articles to acquire vocabulary and grammatical knowledge.

How are these courses assessed?

Examinations (written and speaking) at the end of the two-year course.

Who are these courses suitable for?

Students who are keen to develop fluency of a modern foreign language, and would like to learn more about foreign culture, politics and society.

Progression options

Vital for students who want to go on to study languages or linguistics at university, an A level in MFL will also give any CV a huge boost when applying for jobs in literally any sector with large, international employers. MFL are also well regarded as complementary subjects for any combination, whether Science, Arts or Humanities.

“”

Religious Studies



What is Religious Studies?

Religious Studies A level allows you to explore classical arguments for and against theism, atheism and agnosticism. It comprises abstract thinking as well as logical arguments for and against the existence of God. You will also explore religious and secular arguments about morality, all of which are applied to medical ethics and war and peace.

Why study this course?

Religious Studies A level is a traditional subject that is highly regarded by universities. More fundamentally, it will give you a chance to debate controversial and topical issues like medical ethics and the environment. You will develop a deeper understanding of good ethical practices, social and cultural diversity and the role of religion in promoting, and challenging, social cohesion.

How is the course assessed?

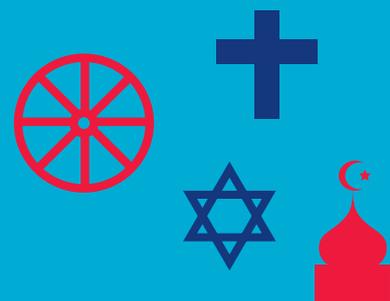
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students with an interest in religion, philosophy, ethics and social history, and who have an open mind ready to explore topics and concepts that may conflict with, and contradict, their own beliefs.

Progression options

The course is highly regarded by both universities and employers and will therefore support your progression to a variety of professional careers in virtually any sector. You will develop a wide range of transferable skills, including written and oral communication, textual analysis and critical thinking.



Physical Education



What is Physical Education?

Studying A Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. You will have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component and will also develop a wide-ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport. Students gain an understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity, and demonstrate their ability as either performer or coach. You can perform, and then through the academic study, learn how to improve your performance or coaching through application of the theory.

Why study this course?

The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. Our sixth form enjoys an excellent reputation for Physical Education and sport and includes a number of internationals amongst past students. The facilities at Ark William Parker are outstanding and there are strong links both locally and nationally within sport and Physical Education.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations and Non-Exam Assessment.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who would like to develop their skills in decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking and acting under pressure.

Progression options

A Level Physical Education can lead to university degrees in Sports Science, Sports Management, Healthcare, or Exercise and Health. Physical Education can also complement further study in Biology, Human Biology, Physics, Psychology, Nutrition, Sociology and many more. It can lead to careers in sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, personal training or becoming one of the next generation of Physical Education teachers.



Physics



What is Physics?

Physics is defined as the study of matter, energy and the interaction between them. It is the science of how things move and why things behave in certain ways, and provides a fascinating insight into why our world is what it is. Physics is highly mathematical and uses formulae and logic to solve everyday problems, and also predict future events. Furthermore, it holds the answers to some fundamental questions about the history of the Earth, our solar system and the universe. Physics at A level involves practical work as well as plenty of theory — you will discover many new terms, formulae and mathematical methods to help you answer questions.

Why study this course?

Are you curious about the mysterious sub-atomic particles that are the fundamental building blocks of life as we know it? Would you like to understand the work engineers do to create the biggest man-made structures? Are you motivated by the idea of applying your Mathematics skills to real world contexts? If so, Physics could be an excellent choice of subject for you at A level.

How is the course assessed?

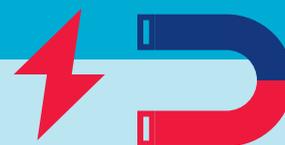
Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who enjoy Mathematics and Physics at GCSE, enjoy seeing a real-world application of Mathematics, and who are motivated to study hard to come to grips with lots of new terminology and formulae.

Progression options

A level Physics can lead to university degrees in Physics, Mathematics, Engineering and Medical Science, depending on the other subjects you have chosen. It shows a high level of numeracy, logic and reasoning skills, and a Physics-related degree can lead to many excellent career options in fields such as engineering, technology, manufacturing and financial markets.



Psychology



What is Psychology?

Fundamentally, Psychology is the study of human behaviour. By studying Psychology you will gain a fascinating scientific insight into how the human mind works to affect how we behave, and you will grapple with great questions about the interpretation of dreams, the use of offender profiling in criminal investigation and the causes of mental illnesses. You will develop understanding of classic psychological theories by applying them to real life contexts, as well as carrying out psychological investigations and writing reports based upon your findings. Lessons are designed to be engaging and interactive, with frequent opportunities for debate.

Why study this course?

Psychology is a fascinating subject to study if you are interested in the world around you and want to find out more about the behaviour and decisions of individuals and groups. You will also develop a host of transferable life skills and a high level of self-awareness. As a result of the understanding you will develop of how people think, feel and behave, you will find that Psychology A level will help you progress in many professional careers.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to find out about the human mind and understand how it governs human behaviour. It is also important to have an interest in society and social issues, and a motivation to read widely to broaden your knowledge and understanding.

Progression options

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. If you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A level is of direct value. Psychology graduates can also build careers in related sectors such as education, the police and social work, or in a range of commercial contexts. Psychology provides you with life skills that are transferable to any career.



Sociology



What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of human society — how society has developed, how it is structured and how it works. You will look at culture and identity, social problems such as crime and poverty and the opportunities and challenges presented by globalisation. You can expect Sociology to shock and surprise you, as you begin to see the world around you in a new way, and to challenge many of your own assumptions and beliefs.

Why study this course?

Sociology allows you to gain an understanding of the way society works, and therefore to gain a different and much fuller perspective on the world around you. For example, you will have the opportunity to tackle contentious debates like why the prison population contains more people from ethnic minority backgrounds, why some sections of society have become obsessed with celebrity, the social and economic reasons behind health inequality by region and social class in the UK, and the impact of new media on global popular culture.

How is the course assessed?

Examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a strong interest in current affairs and the world around them, who enjoy asking and debating big questions about society, and who are ready to challenge their own thinking.

Progression options

Many students go on to study related Social Science courses at university, and a background in Sociology is helpful in careers such as law, civil service, education, criminal justice system and social work. You will develop a strong skillset including written and oral communication, and the ability to analyse and evaluate data from a range of sources — useful in a wide range of professional contexts.





*Meet other
ambitious
students*

*Massive
range of
enrichment
opportunities*

“I’ve really enjoyed my time at Ark William Parker and Ark 6th Form, especially the quality of the teaching; I had teachers who really believed in me, which motivated me to work hard and prove them right.”

*Alfie,
Studying History at Cambridge University*

*Support your
progression
and your
future*

Professional Pathways

What is Professional Pathways?

For students who wish to access higher level study or employment through a route other than A level, Professional Pathways could be the route for you.

Professional Pathways is an innovative programme of study offered at sixth forms across the Ark network. It has been designed in close collaboration with partners from the commercial and public sector. Those on this pathway will study towards the BTEC Extended Diploma, worth three A levels, in a programme that integrates academic study with extensive work experience opportunities, work readiness and career mentoring programmes.



Ambitious choices



Why study this programme?

- You will study a Level 3 qualification in Business that is equivalent to three A Levels, and holds the same number of UCAS points.
- You will work with employers to develop key skills: visiting their offices, meeting their employees, and accessing work experience opportunities.
- You will receive career mentoring to help you make a real and informed choice about what to do when you leave school. Your qualification will allow you to apply to top universities, competitive school leaver programmes, and apprenticeships with respected companies.
- You will attend termly conferences with students from across Ark, providing opportunities to build new networks with both peers and employers.

How is the course assessed?

The majority of the course is assessed through coursework assessments that are completed throughout the course. In addition, you will complete one controlled assessment and one exam at the end of each year. These will make up approximately 20% of your final grade.

Who is this programme suitable for?

Students who prefer practical learning and coursework over theoretical content and exams, as well as those who are keen to develop their employability skills and employer networks.

Work experience



Business

What will I study?

You will develop practical skills and a theoretical understanding of the world of business. You will look in depth at finance, marketing, human resource management and e-business and will have opportunities to devise your own business plans and run your own business activities and events.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Business, Accounting and Finance, Business Management or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in Business or Finance.

IT

What will I study?

The course covers a wide range of topics for those who have a specific career pathway in IT already mapped out as well as those who are not sure which specialism to follow. The main elements of the course cover hardware, networking, programming, graphics and web development.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study IT, Business, or Media, or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in IT or Project Management.

Applied Science

What will I study?

The topics explored on the Applied Science course include biology, microbiology, disease, and human physiology. Units based around infection, biomedical science and forensic analysis are just a few examples of how this course allows pupils to see how science is used on a practical level. Students will also have the opportunity to pursue their own scientific interests through an investigative project.

Progression options

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Science, Healthcare, or Applied Science, or to combine work and study through a higher/degree apprenticeship in Science or Technology. Students who choose not to continue on a Science pathway can also access university and apprenticeships in Business, Finance and other areas.

Sport

What will I study?

The course includes core sciences, anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, sports psychology and sports nutrition. You may complete options in coaching, fitness appraisal, biomechanics, practical team sports, sports massage and current issues in sport.

Progression options

This course can help you to progress to a range of degree courses in Sports Science and related subjects. It can also open doors to careers in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, sports nutrition and sports coaching.

University

Career

A bright future





“ My teacher really pushed us to make sure that we all got the best grade we could. In my class and across the year group we all did really well.”

*My
sixth form
journey*

My experience

Christopher Booth is looking forward to studying Business, Economics and Finance at Loughborough University. Having studied a combination of A level and BTEC courses, Christopher has developed a range of skills during his time at Ark 6th Form East Sussex and feels well prepared for his next steps.

Reflecting on his time at Ark 6th Form East Sussex, Christopher praised his teachers for getting him through his studies and helping him to achieve a Distinction (equivalent to an A at A level) in his Business course.

“I think that was mainly down to the teacher. He really pushed us to make sure that we all got the best grade we could. In my class and across the year group we all did really well. He’s pushing you to get the best out of yourself without you even realising it.”

Christopher has a strong interest in how businesses operate at ground level, and juggled a job in retail with his sixth form studies. Looking ahead, he has ambitions to work at a more strategic level after university, possibly in the investment banking sector.

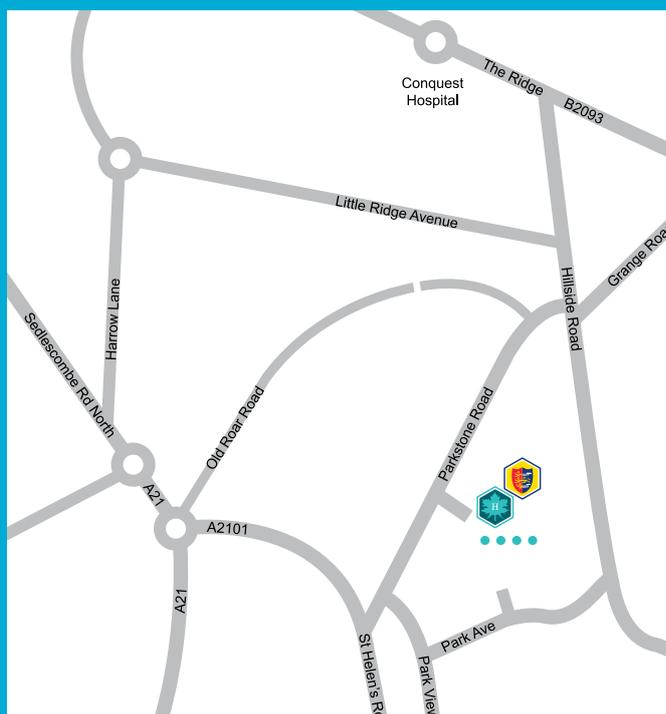
Christopher enjoyed his time at Ark 6th Form East Sussex and was grateful for the support he received from his teachers who he felt he could go to at any time. “If you want that individual support, or just want security in knowing that if you have a problem you can go to your teacher and you can talk to them... if I had a question I could ask it whenever.”

Christopher is one of a growing number of Ark 6th Form students to receive an Ark University Bursary to help with cost of Higher Education. “The bursary from Ark will help massively. £3,000 a year is a huge amount of money. It offers me extra financial security and I know I can get all the stuff I know I need for university and have the money to live comfortably.”

How to apply

You can apply for Ark 6th Form East Sussex through our dedicated sixth form website:

www.ark6thformeastsussex.org



Ark 6th Form
East Sussex

Ark 6th Form East Sussex
Parkstone Road
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 2NT

☎ 01424 448 225

🌐 www.ark6thformeastsussex.org

Please note: All courses will run subject to the level of interest at interview. We reserve the right to withdraw courses should there be insufficient demand. Every effort has been made to ensure the information provided in this prospectus is correct at the time of printing; however, Ark 6th Form East Sussex reserves the right to make any amendments as necessary.