



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2027







WELCOME

Dear Prospective Sixth Former,

Here at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy we are proud of our Sixth Form - it is a stimulating place to study, to make friends, to thrive and to grow in character. You are important to us, and we believe we can offer you the best sixth form experience. We guarantee to help you find the right courses, support and challenge you in your studies, offer you a wealth of additional opportunities, and give you regular feedback to enhance the progress that you are making. I look forward to welcoming you to your sixth form!



Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

At Lord Lawson Sixth Form, we pride ourselves on fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and ambitious learning environment, where you are empowered to reach your full potential. Our dedicated staff provide expert guidance and personalised support, helping every individual to thrive academically and personally. With a broad curriculum and excellent facilities, our strong focus is on preparing you for university, apprenticeships, and employment. Our Sixth Form is a place where your aspirations are nurtured, and you shape your future. We have a strong track record of developing confident, independent learners who are ready to make a positive impact in the world. We look forward to you joining us in September.



Mrs Jane Laidlaw
Assistant Principal, Head of Sixth Form

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Contact Us

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www.lordlawson.academy

lordlawson2024 llobsixthform

Birtley Lane, Birtley, County Durham, DH3 2LP

TOGETHER

AT LORD LAWSON SIXTH FORM

WE GROW

We know you. You are not just a name, or even a number, you are a unique individual. You benefit from unrivalled personalised academic and pastoral support, both in and out of lessons.

WE SUCCEED

We support you. We will inspire and support you to achieve your aspirations. Structured independent study lessons help you to develop your understanding and resilience. It's not going to be easy but hard work pays off - you will succeed here.

WE LEARN

We are experts. You have teachers who are invested in getting the absolute best from you. You will have small class sizes which allow you to accelerate your learning.

We listen to you. Our sixth form student leadership team works with us to improve the sixth form experience for you.

WE DO IT TOGETHER

We are a team. You get personalised support. You get expert teachers and leaders. You get the best learning experience. You get a voice. You get inspired and supported to achieve your very best. We get the thrill of you succeeding.

WE GROW













PERSONALISED EXPERIENCE

WE LEARN

What can you study?

You can choose to study a range of interesting and diverse subjects.

You learn from our expert specialists.

You can choose to study A-Level or vocational subjects or a mixture of both.

The subjects that we offer are in the table below. You need to choose subjects from different blocks. The blocks have been designed to give you choice and variety and to help you choose subjects that will support you to your future destination.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
3D Art & Design	Applied Psychology	Further Mathematics	Applied Science
Biology	Chemistry	Geography	Mathematics
Business	Computer Science	Graphics	Politics
English Literature	Psychology	History	English Language
Fine Art	Religious Studies	Photography	Theatre Studies & Drama
Health & Social Care		Sociology	
Physics		Sports Science	

Apply online here:

WE SUCCEED



"I got As in French, German and Politics and a B in History. I'm studying Modern Languages and Cultures with a year abroad at Durham (my languages are advanced French and German and beginner's Italian)."



"Sixth Form helped me develop the mental capacity and the habit of hard work necessary to learn a new language. It also helped me develop my interpersonal skills, which has become necessary as I spend my time talking to lots of people from varying backgrounds and circumstances."



"I studied A Level Dance, Drama and English Literature and went on to train at Laine Theatre Arts London, after being offered a fully funded place to study a Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre and Dance. The skills I gained through my varied experiences in sixth form supported me in becoming the professional dancer I am today. I have most recently performed in the musical Berlin, Berlin in Germany, and with an upcoming role in Aladdin at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle and having been invited to audition at the Moulin Rouge, Paris the future is very exciting. I would encourage all passionate performers to study Performing Arts at Lord Lawson sixth form. I loved my time on the Lord Lawson stage and greatly appreciate the continuous support I have received since from the Performing Arts department."

WE SUPPORT YOU

Specialist Teams

We have a specialist team that can help you achieve your potential and enjoy your sixth form journey. The team can help you with:

- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and EHCP support
- physical and sensory disabilities
- specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or neurodiversity
- social and emotional health and wellbeing
- career advice
- exam arrangements
- finance (see below).

Up to £1,200 bursary

We support you financially. Lord Lawson sixth form bursary (up to £1,200) is available for eligible students to cover the cost of:

- travel
- stationery and equipment
- clothing for sixth form purposes
- other circumstances that support learning and progression.

WE SUPPORT YOU

Free Benefits

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Eligible students are also given free lunches.

OTHER FREE BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE:

- access to gym facilities
- free IT facilities
- free parking
- school counsellor
- visits to some local universities, apprenticeship providers and employers.

"HAVING A **DEDICATED** SIXTH FORM **COSTA COFFEE** SHOP AND **FREE GYM** ACCESS IS **AMAZING.**"



SUBJECTS WE OFFER

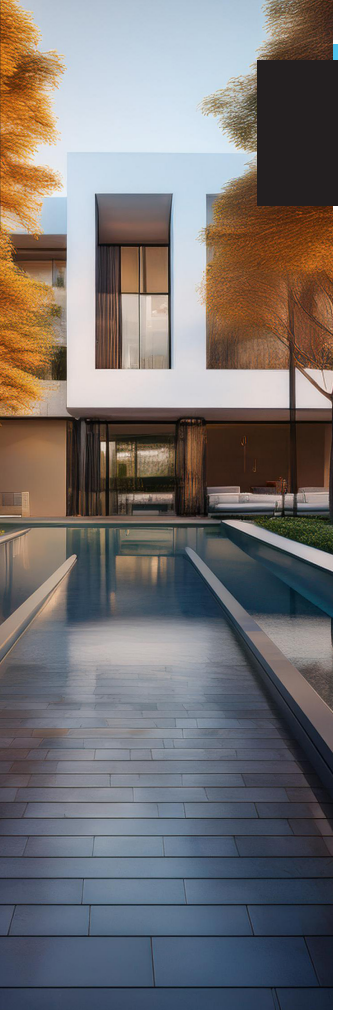
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3D Design

Choose 3D Design if you are interested in...

- creating 3D objects and products that shape the world we live in
- exploring a context, personal and relevant to you
- investigating contemporary artists, designers and architects
- experimenting with a wide range of materials and surface finishes
- converting 2D design sketches into computer aided design files
- hands-on practice, utilising hand tools, machines and computer aided manufacturing processes
- turning ideas into fully resolved 3D objects, products and artefacts.

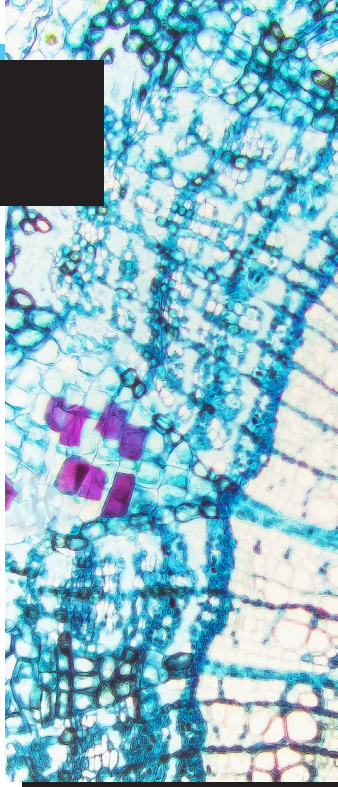
Where will it take you?

- industrial design
- product design
- interior architect
- architecture
- exhibition design
- stage set design
- prop maker.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in a GCSE art-based subject. Students who have not studied an art-based subject will be considered on an individual basis and will need to produce a portfolio of work.

Biology



Choose Biology if you are interested in...

- how the human body works
- how we inherit our characteristics
- the molecules that make up our body
- how ecosystems interact.

Where will it take you?

- medical careers (nursing/doctor/dentist)
- forensic biologist
- pharmacology
- ecologist
- marine biologist
- biochemical engineer.

Entry requirements:

Grade **6 - 6** in Combined Science.





Business

Choose Business if you...

- are interested in different business environments
- want to understand how a business creates a strategic plan
- are interested in how a diverse range of cultures impact businesses
- want to know how to ensure a business has a healthy financial state.

Where will it take you?

- any role in the business world (e.g., business management, business administrator)
- finance/accountancy
- marketing
- social media manager.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in GCSE Business or a **Merit** or above in BTEC Business. Students who have not studied Business previously require a grade **5** in English, Mathematics or Science.

Chemistry

Choose Chemistry if you are interested in...

- how drugs work
- the future of energy production
- designing new materials
- discovering new medicines
- using chemical reactions to solve future problems.

Where will it take you?

- pharmacy
- medicine or dentistry
- engineering
- scientific research
- material design.

Entry requirements:

Grade **6 - 6** in Combined Science.





Drama and Theatre

Choose Drama and Theatre if you are interested in...

- performance
- directing
- study of a variety of styles of acting
- scripted performance
- devising performance
- sound design
- lighting design
- costume design
- live theatre analysis and evaluation.

Where will it take you?

- professional actor/performer
- directing
- playwriting
- technical designer
- secondary teacher of drama/performing arts
- further education at top institutes
- drama therapist
- owner of performing arts school.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in GCSE Drama or **Merit** in BTEC Performing Arts. Students will be considered on an individual basis if they have not studied Drama previously.

English Language

Choose English Language if you are interested in...

- how children acquire spoken and written language as well as learning to read
- the power of both the spoken and written word within society
- how language has changed over time to the language we know today
- how language is used differently by men and women
- the influence that modern technology has had, and continues to have, on language
- how we can use language differently in different scenarios.

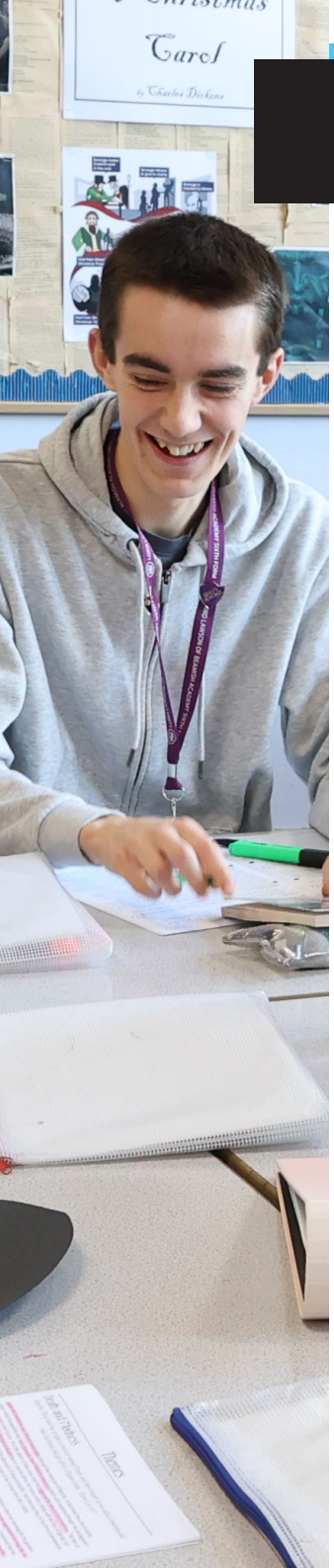
Where will it take you?

- journalism
- law
- public relations
- education
- business.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature.





English Literature

Choose English Literature if you are interested in...

- exploring big questions about the human experience
- reading a wide variety of texts across a range of eras and genres
- reading critically and applying various literary theories
- investigating the relationship between texts and their social, historical, and literary contexts
- developing your own critical voice and analytical, academic writing style.

Where will it take you?

Any career requiring creative, analytical thinkers with excellent communication skills. For example:

- law
- journalism
- education
- creative writing
- publishing and public relations
- theatre and performance.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Fine Art

Choose Fine Art if you are interested in...

- exploring a range of art and design processes and techniques
- exploring a context personal and relevant to you
- drawing and painting using a range of media
- exploring mixed media including collage, assemblage and textiles
- installation
- ceramics
- printmaking.

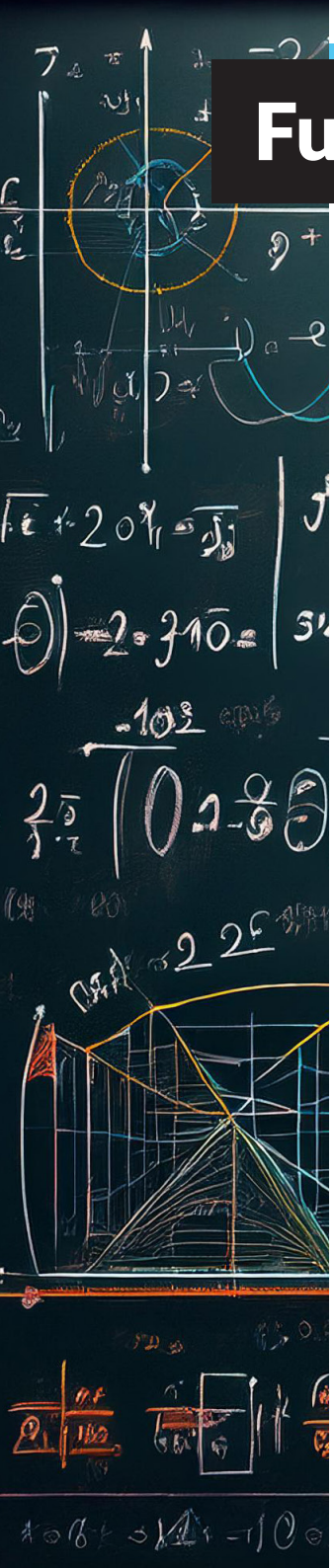
Where will it take you?

- art education
- art therapist
- printmaker
- gallery curator
- tattoo artist
- ceramicist
- textile artist or designer
- fashion designer.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in a GCSE art-based subject. Students who have not studied an art-based subject will be considered on an individual basis and will need to produce a portfolio of work.





Further Mathematics

Choose Further Mathematics if you are interested in...

- algorithm design and optimisation
- discovering imaginary numbers
- stability of structures
- graphing complex functions such as spirals
- three-dimensional geometry.

Many Russell Group universities require Further Mathematics A level to study for a mathematics degree.

Where will it take you?

- mathematician
- education
- engineering
- computer programming
- medicine and dentistry
- data analysis (e.g., in sports or actuarial careers)
- law, business, and finance.

Entry requirements:

Grade **7** or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Geography

Choose Geography if you are interested in...

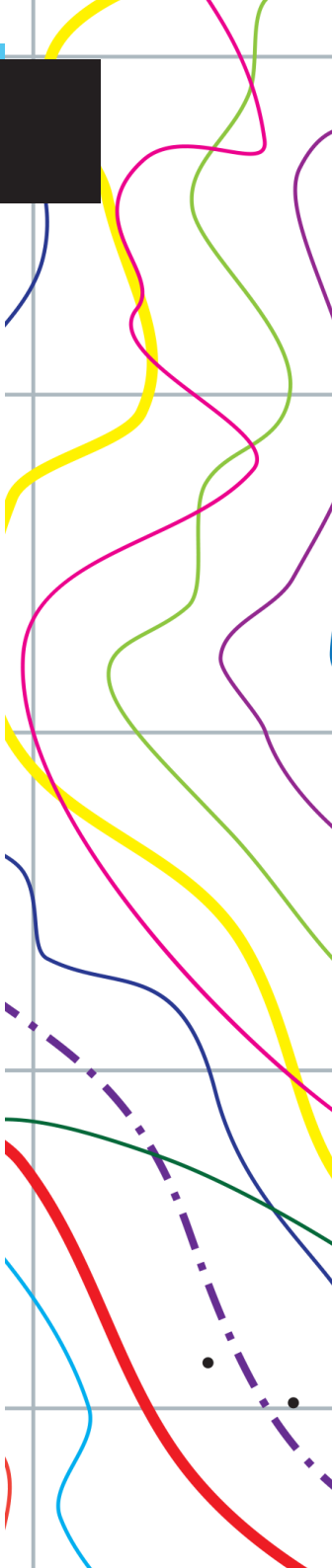
- finding out about the many geographical issues facing us today and the impact that the decisions we make as a society have on the environment
- learning about different cultures and the various environments they live in
- how coastal landscapes are created and shaped
- the scientific processes that shape our world
- people and their societies, economies, cultures, and environments
- completing your own fieldwork and research study.

Where will it take you?

- local government
- travel and tourism
- journalism
- overseas development.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in GCSE Geography.



Graphics



Choose Graphics if you are interested in...

- exploring visual communication
- infographics
- investigating contemporary graphic designers
- branding and product development
- developing design for print and packaging
- digital design using creative software
- image manipulation
- advertising
- multimedia
- interactive design
- illustration
- working towards a brief or specific target market.

Where will it take you?

- graphic designer
- web design
- advertising
- games designer
- product designer
- packaging designer
- app/website developer
- brand and logo design
- visual marketing and merchandising.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in a GCSE art-based subject. Students who have not studied an art-based subject will be considered on an individual basis and will need to produce a portfolio of work.

History

Choose History if you...

- are interested in understanding the events of the past and how they have been interpreted to shape and challenge your understanding of the modern world
- want to learn about English, European, and world history, specifically the Tudors and Weimar and Nazi Germany
- are interested in conducting your own research about the African American civil rights movement.

Where will it take you?

- law
- politics
- civil service
- psychology
- journalism
- historian
- marketing
- TV, radio, research
- teaching.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in History or a GCSE essay-based subject (English Language, English Literature, Religious Studies or Philosophy and Ethics).



Mathematics

Choose Mathematics if you are interested in...

- analysing information and making predictions
- working with data and spotting trends
- forces and motion of objects
- problem solving
- maths concepts underpinning science and many other areas.

Where will it take you?

- mathematician
- education
- engineering
- computer programming
- medicine and dentistry
- data analysis (e.g., in sports or actuarial careers)
- law, business, and finance.

Entry requirements:

Grade **7** or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Photography

Choose Photography if you are interested in...

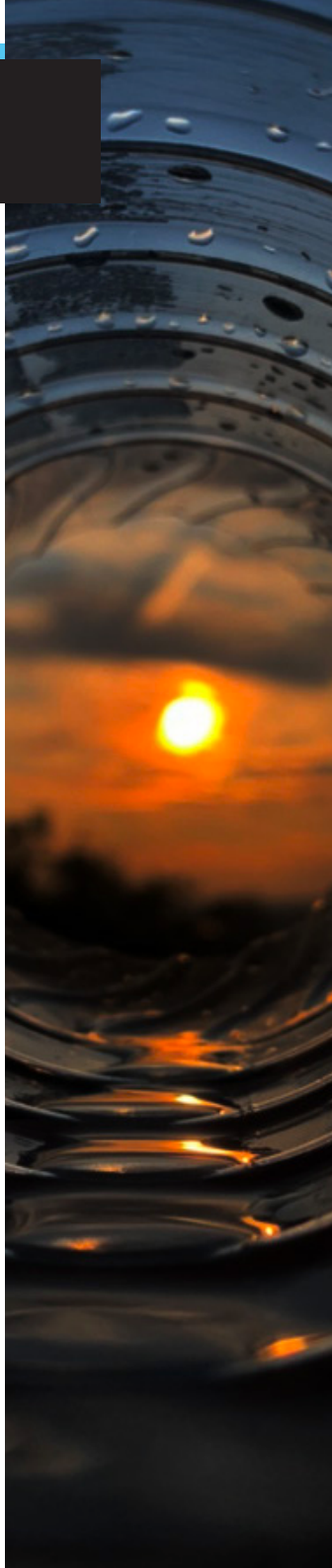
- creating photographic images using a variety of digital techniques and processes
- experimental imagery
- multimedia
- responding to an issue, concept, or theme through the photographic image
- exploring a context personal and relevant to you
- documentary photography
- still life or landscape photography
- product photography
- fashion and portrait photography.

Where will it take you?

- commercial photographer
- photojournalist
- photo editor
- events photographer
- wedding photographer
- fashion photographer
- advertising photographer.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in a GCSE art-based subject. Students who have not studied an art-based subject will be considered on an individual basis and will need to produce a portfolio of work.





Physics

Choose Physics if you are interested in...

- what makes up the entire universe
- how maths can be applied to the world around us
- what would happen if you met your antimatter twin
- whether a source of electricity ever runs out of electrons.

Where will it take you?

- engineering
- medical physics
- patent attorney
- finance and accounting
- climate science and meteorology
- astronomy
- lasers and photonics
- robotics and AI.

Entry requirements:

Grade **6 - 6** in Combined Science.

Politics

Choose Politics if you...

- are interested in how government decisions impacted our past and how they impact our present and future
- want to know about how governments work both at a local and a national level
- are interested in exploring where power lies in society and how this power is created
- want to explore who gets what in society and why.

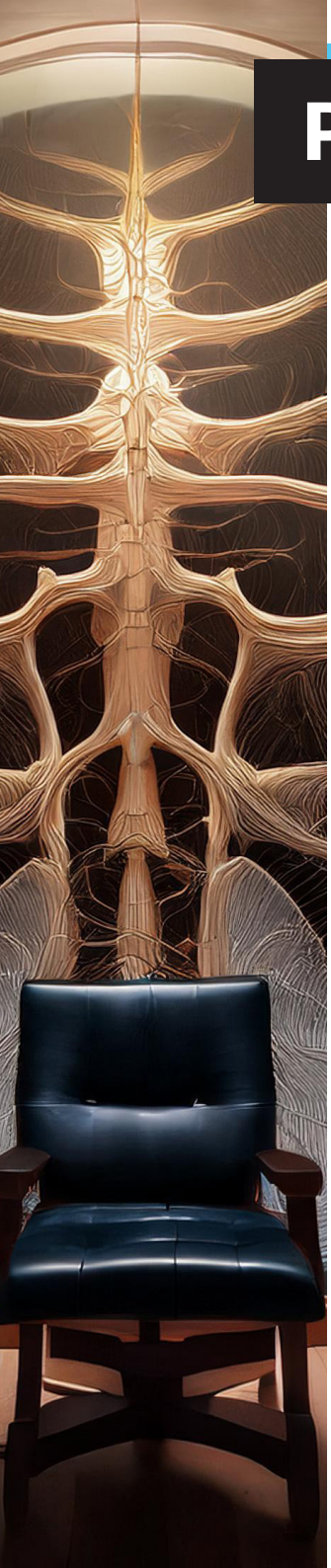
Where will it take you?

- law
- modern foreign languages
- journalism
- local and national government.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in a GCSE essay-based subject (English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies, or Philosophy and Ethics).





Psychology

Choose Psychology if you...

- want to understand why humans act in certain ways
- want to draw insights into what influences behaviour
- are interested in the impact that everyday interactions have on human behaviour
- want to understand the science behind why people react in certain ways.

Where will it take you?

- counselling
- mental health work
- forensic psychology
- educational psychology
- nursing.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science.

Religious Studies

Choose Religious Studies: Buddhism, Philosophy and Ethics if you are interested in...

- who or what is God?
- why is there evil in the world?
- what is the right way to live?
- how far does Buddhism align with feminism in the modern world?
- what impact does religious experience have on how people live their lives?

Where will it take you?

- journalism
- law
- politics
- education
- consulting
- medicine.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in a GCSE essay-based subject (English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies, or Philosophy and Ethics).



Sociology



Choose Sociology if you...

- want to learn how society works
- are interested in what influences society and how it has changed
- enjoy thinking critically about issues and the different experiences that people have within society.

Where will it take you?

- criminology
- advertising and marketing
- civil service
- teaching
- local and national government.



Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in a GCSE essay-based subject (English Language, English Literature, History, Religious Studies, or Philosophy and Ethics).

Applied Psychology

Choose Applied Psychology if you...

- want to understand why humans act in certain ways
- want to draw insights into what influences behaviour
- are interested in the impact that everyday interactions have on human behaviour
- want to understand the science behind why people react in certain ways.

Where will it take you?

- counselling
- mental health work
- forensic psychology
- educational psychology
- nursing.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science.





Applied Science

Choose Applied Science if you are interested in...

- learning real-life applications of biology, chemistry, and physics
- developing technical skills to carry out practical investigations
- learning how science supports society.

Where will it take you?

- criminology
- nursing
- sports science
- physiotherapy.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in GCSE Science.

Computing

Choose BTEC Computing if you are interested in...

- how software can be developed
- the development of games from the design, development, testing, and distribution
- how we can help protect data from being intercepted by hackers and cyber attacks
- how data is transmitted to different devices and across the internet
- how each component within a computer functions.

Where will it take you?

- computer engineering
- software development specialist
- games design, production, and development
- network engineer
- artificial intelligence development.

Entry requirements:

Grade **5** or above in Computer Science or a **Merit** in BTEC ICT.





Health and Social Care

Choose Health and Social Care if you...

- want to learn how to build positive relationships in health and social care settings
- are interested in learning about equality, diversity, and rights in health and social care
- want to know about the anatomy and physiology of health and social care.

Where will it take you?

- early childhood studies
- nursing
- social work
- health care.

Entry requirements:

Merit in Child Development or Health and Social Care, or 5 GCSEs at grade **4** or above.

Sports Science

Choose Sports Science if you...

- want to learn how the body responds to physical activity
- are interested in sports coaching and organisation
- are interested in rehabilitation of injuries and sport psychology.

Where will it take you?

- physiotherapy
- sports coaching
- event management
- health and fitness.

Entry requirements:

Grade **4** or above in GCSE PE or **Merit** in Sports Science, or 5 GCSEs at grade **4** or above.



Your Future: Sixth Form Pathways

Where could your subjects take you? Explore these suggested combinations to help you start planning your next steps.

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Suggested combination:

Biology + Chemistry + Mathematics

Explore routes into medicine, biomedical sciences and related scientific study.

Engineering & Computing

Suggested combination:

Physics + Computer Science + Mathematics

Further Mathematics can provide an additional option for a four-subject programme.

Business & Finance

Suggested combinations:

Business + Psychology + Mathematics

Business + Computer Science + Further Mathematics + Mathematics

Choose Your Path: Plan Your Next Step

Your interests and ambitions can help shape your choices. Talk to our sixth form team about the combination that suits you.

Law & Humanities

Suggested combination:

English Literature + Religious Studies + History

Develop research, analytical thinking and communication skills.

Teaching & Social Work

Suggested combinations:

Primary Education: English Literature + Geography + Mathematics

Social Work: Health and Social Care + Psychology + Sociology

Creative Industries

Suggested combination:

3D Design + Photography + Drama and Theatre

Explore creative approaches through design, image-making and performance.

Health, Psychology & Sport

Explore subject combinations that could help you pursue a career in healthcare, psychology or sport.

Nursing & Health

Suggested combination:

Health and Social Care + Psychology + Applied Science

Explore how science, behaviour and care come together in health and social care settings.

Psychology

Suggested combination:

Biology + Psychology + Sociology

Explore how biology and social influences shape behaviour, and develop the skills to evaluate research.

Sport & Exercise

Suggested combination:

Biology + Psychology + Sports Science

Explore how the body responds to exercise and how psychology influences motivation and performance.

Choosing your subjects

These combinations are suggestions. Entry requirements vary between universities, apprenticeships and other providers. Check the requirements for any courses you are considering and discuss your choices with our sixth form team.

Enrichment



Enrichment opportunities...

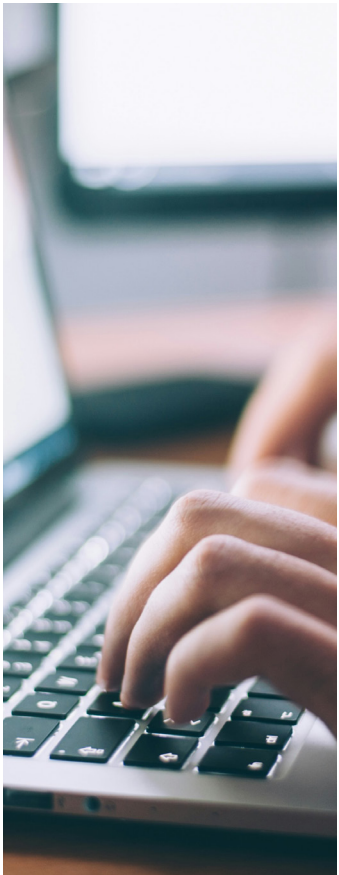
Within the sixth form all students have the opportunity to experience a wide range of enrichment opportunities that build on curriculum knowledge beyond the classroom, including visiting speakers and practical fieldwork. In addition, the sixth form provides the opportunity to develop life skills. All students participate in St John Ambulance first aid, sign language and a range of optional activities such as VEX, Sports Leadership and EPQ qualifications.

Lord Lawson Sixth Form aims to build a community, inviting parents and carers to careers and UCAS events to support our students.



WHAT NEXT?

Apply online here:



We'll be in touch to arrange an opportunity to discuss your application.

We'll send you an offer for a place at sixth form.

We'll invite you to a taster event.

We'll see you on Thursday 19 August 2027 to enrol.

AT LORD LAWSON SIXTH FORM

WE GROW WE LEARN WE SUCCEED

TOGETHER.

Lord Lawson
SIXTH FORM

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Ofsted
Good
Provider