



Kendal College
SIXTH

**A-Level
Guide**

2024-25



**CHOOSE FROM 20
A-LEVEL SUBJECTS**

**GO YOUR OWN WAY WITH
FLEXIBLE SUBJECT CHOICES**

**5 PATHWAYS TO GUIDE YOU
TO YOUR DESIRED FUTURE**

**ACADEMIC MENTORING
THROUGHOUT YOUR STUDY**

**CHOOSE TO ADD A FOURTH A-LEVEL
AND EXTENDED PROJECT OR CORE
MATHS TO MAKE YOUR CV STAND OUT**



Welcome

At KC Sixth, we have a culture of high academic standards and performance, promoting commitment, independence and personal growth.

We strive to inspire and enable all A-Level learners to achieve their full potential.

A-Levels open doors to higher education, apprenticeships and employment. Our academic mentoring programme will support your progress and achievement throughout your time at college to maintain a focus on your long-term goal.

"College is a relaxed, adult environment. Independence is the word that comes to mind. You have the independence to have breaks, study in your own time, ask questions and be curious about a subject, rather than simply absorbing it passively."

Sasha Terry, A-Level Student



A-Level study in a college environment

KC Sixth offers a wide range of subjects and specific pathways to university.

Our highly qualified and experienced teachers will guide you through your academic programme, offering three sessions per subject per week. They provide interactive and inspiring lessons, as well as 'curiosity activities,' and regular assessment and feedback to enable you to achieve.

As part of being a KC Sixth A-Level learner, you will have regular contact time with our Academic Mentor and KC Sixth Curriculum Lead to support your progress and achievement; the aim of this is to help you succeed to the very best of your ability.

Our department also works closely with the Learning Services and Wellbeing Team.

Subject options

- **Art & Design**
- **Biology**
- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Computer Science**
- **Economics**
- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Further Maths**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Law**
- **Mathematics**
- **Music**
- **Philosophy**
- **Physics**
- **Politics**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**

A-Level students typically choose three subjects and those with very high entry qualifications may apply to study four.

An Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and/or Core Maths may be undertaken as part of your A-Level studies to help showcase your academic skills for university applications.

An A-Level can also be combined with some Professional & Technical courses (equivalent to four A-Levels). Please apply for the course and enquire about the additional A-Level at interview.



"Instead of picking the subjects you did well in at GCSE, pick ones you enjoy, those that interest you, or those that will help you get to a goal in the future. You will find you will enjoy learning about them more and will be more engaged in the subject."

Sasha Terry, A-Level Student

Our pathways

For those that want to specialise.

STEM

Science, technology, engineering and maths are the tools that drive innovation and help improve the prospects of people and the planet. These are the skills employers require.



Subjects

Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Further Maths, Environmental Science, Geography.

People and Society

Our pathway that promotes your understanding of how people think, interact and work together, enabling you to improve the lives of others.



Subjects

Sociology, Psychology, Economics, English Language, Geography, Politics.

Humanities

Search for a deeper understanding of what it is to be human. Develop an analytical and critical understanding which can be applied to life or study.



Subjects

History, English Literature, Philosophy, English Language.



Business and Law

Look at the world as it is and then make a difference. Learn how the right mix of people and technology can get things done. Prepare yourself for the world to come.



Subjects

Law,
Business,
Economics,
Psychology,
Politics.

Creative

Unleash your creativity by understanding and critiquing the work of others to create something unique.



Subjects

Art & Design,
Music,
Philosophy,
English Literature.

Go your own way


Choose a blend of subjects that suits your interests and future plans.

Why choose A-Levels?

A-Levels are a proven and widely accepted route to higher-level study.

They can lead to university study or higher apprenticeships.

A-Levels are examined courses and the final exams lead directly to the grade you are given (A*-E).



“I am in my final year at Lancaster University studying Biochemistry. College enabled me to develop confidence in my academic ability, to manage my time and practical skills.”

Joseph Campbell, Alumni



Entry criteria

Our entry criteria is a grade 6 or above in the subject most relevant to that being applied for (except for Maths and Further Maths where the minimum GCSE grade required is 7).

You will also need at least 4 other subjects at grade 5 or above, including English and Maths. Please see our website for full details. Applicants with non-standard educational history should contact us for further details and advice.

“I studied 3 A-Levels - English Language, History and Sociology. Now I am in my second year of Journalism Studies at Sheffield Hallam University. I've most enjoyed doing the Multimedia Journalism module and I like the chance to interview bands and get involved in TED Talks. I would like to get an apprenticeship either at the BBC or ITV.”

Gabe Burt, Alumni

**“There is a strong sense of community,
and the teachers are welcoming and
friendly. You have the freedom to
pursue the pathways to the education
you want.”**

Jack Hill, A-Level Alumni



“As A-Level students, we were encouraged to take the initiative over our learning. A-Levels are difficult, but with the support and guidance from tutors and additional support staff, you can achieve and succeed on your own terms.”

Betsy George, A-Level Alumni



KC Sixth timetable

	09:00-10:45	11:00-12:30	13:15-14:45	15:00-16:30
Monday	Light Blue	Green	Dark Green	Blue
Tuesday	Light Green	Light Blue	Green	Dark Green
Wednesday	Red	Light Green	Light Blue	Green
Thursday	Blue	Red	Light Green	Light Blue
Friday	Green	Blue	Red	Light Green

All subjects are delivered in three 1.5 hour lessons per week, allowing in-depth study of each topic. These are indicated by each coloured block on the illustration above. In addition, students are allocated tutorials, academic progress reviews, extra curricular opportunities and three 1.5 hour study slots in our Learning Centre.



A-Level courses

Art & Design

Future careers: Artist, Product Designer, Graphic Designer, Visual FX.

Express yourself and communicate to others via visual media. Every image you see on a wall, logo, sign or product, was created by someone with a visually creative background.

Biology

Future careers: Nursing, Conservation, Physiotherapy, Vet, Environmental Scientist.

The science of life. Learn how organisms survive and replicate including how cells communicate, and how genes influence the next generation.

Business

Future careers: Marketing, Entrepreneur, Leadership, Project Management.

Learn what makes business successful, from leadership and strategy to marketing and change management. Develop an understanding of how to get things done.

Chemistry

Future careers: Environmental Monitoring, Engineering, Conservation, Vet, Medicine.

Delve deeper into the nature of materials and understand the relationships between them. Further study in this subject opens up a fascinating and useful appreciation of the natural world.

Computer Science

Future careers: Software Design & Development, Data Analyst, Network Manager, Cyber Security.

Modern life is controlled and shaped by computer systems and the people that design them. From gaming to manufacturing, artificial intelligence to cryptocurrencies, understanding them starts here.

Economics

Future careers: Management, Marketing, Non-Government Organisations.

How and why do people make decisions and what affect does this have? From a global scale to an individual choice. Explore what shapes these choices and the impact that they have.

English Language

Future careers: Journalism, Communications, Copy Writing, Teaching.

English Language investigates how language changes according to situation, user and purpose, and how attitudes to such variation lie behind the power structures in our society.

English Literature

Future careers: Author, Journalism, Teaching.

Explore what it is to be human through the eyes of authors and characters in some of the English language's finest texts.

Environmental Science

Future careers: Environmental Scientist, Technologist, Carbon Advisor.

Climate change, deforestation, flooding, pollution, soil erosion and increasing populations. Understand these more to answer the question "how can we develop sustainable solutions to these problems?"

Further Maths

Future careers: Engineer, Software, Data Analysis, Scientist.

Deepen and broaden your understanding of maths. Specific study of argument and proof, modelling and problem solving takes you well beyond the A-Level specification. This subject can only be taken alongside Mathematics.

Geography

Future careers: Planning, Environmentalist, Flood & Resource Management.

Places, processes and people: cities, glaciers volcanoes, immigration – Geography covers it all. Studying the unprecedented changes the planet and it's population are undergoing make the subject hugely relevant.

History

Future careers: Law, Business Research, Management.

Learn from the past; look to the future. Learn to analyse the events that shaped our world and what lessons can be learnt from them.

Law

Future careers: Solicitor, Barrister, Policing, Business.

Laws develop and change in line with society and in many ways define it. Learn how Law is developed and how to interpret and apply it in a fascinating range of cases.

Mathematics

Future careers: Engineer, Software, Accounts, Data Analysis, Scientist.

Maths is the 'language of nature'; explore its beauty, power and usefulness. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying Maths mean that the qualification is widely respected.

Music

Future careers: Musician, Producer, Sound Technician, Sound Engineer.

Explore how music has evolved across time and space, understand the influences and techniques behind musical genres and develop your own talents as a musician and composer.





Philosophy

Future careers: Leadership, Business, Medical Ethics, Law.

The study of thought itself. Gain a thorough grounding in the fundamental concepts of philosophy. Morals, minds and metaphysics mixed up to let you win any debate and express ideas clearly.

Physics

Future careers: Engineering, Manufacturing, Design, Research & Development.

The world in its purest form from the weird and wonderful world of Quantum physics to galactic superclusters. The technology of tomorrow starts with an understanding of how things work.

Politics

Future careers: Business, Politician, Civil Service, Social Work.

Lively, relevant and controversial. Informed by an understanding of political ideas, procedure and comparison with other countries. Learn to critically analyse others and express your own view.

Psychology

Future careers: Counselling, Education, Marketing, Social Work.

How the mind works and how it affects human behaviour. Why do people think, act and feel the way they do? Social influence, neurology, attachments to others and many more all start to form an answer.

Sociology

Future careers: Politician, Business, Education, Social Work.

How does society work and what influences us within it? Power, culture, identity and what is 'normal' are all explored and applied to topics like education, families and the media.

It's your future, your college, and we look forward to working with you to create it.

- ✓ A personal academic mentor
- ✓ A timetable designed for A-Level study
- ✓ UCAS application support
- ✓ Support in finding an apprenticeship or job
- ✓ Online resources for all subjects and Clickview subscription
- ✓ A café open all the time you are here
- ✓ Bring your device to college
- ✓ Office 365 account
- ✓ Wifi access
- ✓ No uniform
- ✓ Study space

Life at KC Sixth

A typical day

At college your timetable is designed specifically for A-Level study. You will have 3 lessons per A-Level per week, typically for 1 ½ hours, enabling you to explore topics in-depth and make the step up from GCSE confidently. Depending on the subjects, you may have time between lessons, giving you the opportunity to keep up-to-date with out of class study.

Academic mentoring and progress reviews

Your academic mentor will work with you regularly to support your study. They are your guide through successful A-Level study. You will also meet the college's KC Sixth Curriculum Lead to have an honest appraisal of your progress which will help you improve and reach your goals.



Pastoral support

There may be things that affect your ability to study whilst you are at college. Your academic mentor will be the first person you can talk to, but from there we can direct you to more specialist services as required. We will offer to support you so that you can stay focused on your study.

Student support

There are opportunities for study support during the timetabled sessions.

Target grades

All A-Level students will be set target grades that are based on their GCSE results. These target grades will be reviewed as part of the academic review process, and subject advice and guidance will be provided to support your progress and achievement.

Assessment

We believe students need to know exactly where they stand regarding their academic progress. We have assessment points throughout the year that will give you and the team around you a clear picture, and allow you and them to plan the next steps.

Our culture

No bells, first name terms with all staff, independent study, shared public areas with staff and other students, and zero tolerance of bullying and other behaviour that interrupts study.

Frequently asked questions

How is college different from school?

Our students tell us the biggest difference is the atmosphere. College is an adult environment, so students say it feels more relaxed. You will mix with people with all sorts of interests and goals, from a wide range of places.

Can I study four A-Levels?

Yes. If you have high entry grades, you aspire to a top university place and enjoy studying.

Will I get support with UCAS and job applications?

Yes. Your teachers, Academic Mentor and Student Services Team will help you with this. As we deliver both degrees and apprenticeships we are well placed to help you find a degree-level apprenticeship.



How do I know I will settle in at college?

Nearly all our students who start in September are new to the college and are keen to meet new people. Your teachers will ensure that you get to know each other during your first days at college.

Are A-Levels my only option if I might want to go to university?

No. A-Levels are a good route to university, but they aren't the only option. Most other level 3 programmes at the college have the same UCAS points as 3 A-Levels.

Should I add an EPQ and or Core Maths to my A-Levels?

It's up to you. EPQ shows a university or employer that you have good independent study skills and continuing maths is well advised if you want to do a subject at university that requires maths skills, it's also a useful life skill.

Should I stick with subjects I've studied at school?

Statistics say there is no advantage in only choosing A-Level subjects that you've studied at school, so choose what interests you most and fits with your future plans.

What combinations of subjects should I choose?

It's important that you choose 3 subjects that you will enjoy studying. Our pathways give you some suggestions to help guide you, if you are ready to specialise.

Can you support my Oxbridge application?

Yes. We have successful experience in supporting students with applications to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

kendal.ac.uk/a-levels
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