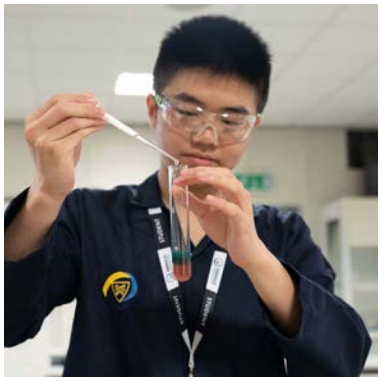
HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS



Hagley Catholic High School

Sixth Form Prospectus

2027 - 2028

PROUD TO BE PART OF

EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC
Our journey with Christ

St Nicholas Owen, make this school a safe refuge.

Inspire in us a love of God and a love of our neighbour.

Guide us in our work and play, that we may always be faithful to Christ Our Lord.

Amen

Contents

Hagley 'The complete Sixth Form'

1. High academic standards and support provided by subject teachers to help you achieve your potential.
2. A positive and caring environment with excellent pastoral support.
3. A strong catholic identity with opportunities for prayer, masses, retreats and pilgrimages, as well as continued education in faith.
4. Social stability, fun and friendship in a sixth form with a full programme of social events, which is well known for its strong community ethos.
5. A wide range of high-quality enrichment activities which will enhance your student experience and personal development.

Working in partnership

We are very proud to work in partnership with Haybridge and King Charles I Sixth Forms, which enable us to offer a wider range of subject choices to our students.

Subjects labelled with * are delivered at our partner schools.

Please note that we reserve the right to withdraw any course.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

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HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Welcome to **Hagley Catholic High School Sixth Form**

The highest performing Sixth Form for progress in the local area.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to join our vibrant and successful Sixth Form. Students at Hagley Sixth Form make outstanding progress, and this is evident in our results.

We are proud to celebrate our outstanding results achieved this summer. With an impressive 28% of our students achieving A*- A, nearly 52% achieving A*- B, it is no surprise that over a third of the cohort have gone on to study at the prestigious Russell Group universities.

Studying with us allows you to access 24 A-Level subjects and teaching of the highest standard. In addition, we offer Level 3 Applied General Qualifications in Criminology, Health & Social Care, Sport and Computing which are proving to be highly successful.

These qualifications carry the same number of UCAS points as traditional A-Levels but contain a smaller element of examinations. We advise our students to select a package of three A level choices and enrichment.

Our exacting standards will ensure that you encounter exciting and stimulating learning experiences whatever subject pathway you follow.

Our Sixth Form is known throughout the area for the consistently high quality of its examination results.

If you are aiming for some of the most prestigious institutions in the country, or some of the most competitive courses, such as Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, then you can have confidence in our specialised programme.

Our apprenticeships support and guidance is equally impressive, with students consistently securing the most competitive Degree Apprenticeships after completing their A-Levels at Hagley Sixth Form. At the same time, we are a welcoming, inclusive community where every student is encouraged and challenged to achieve their full academic potential, regardless of their starting point.

Alongside securing academic success we ensure that opportunities are provided to nurture every student's needs and wants. For example, students have been supported to undertake a gap year teaching young children in deprived areas of Africa or Thailand.

Our examination results speak for themselves. However, what is harder for us to communicate is the ethos of our Sixth Form. This can be summed up in the phrase 'family atmosphere'.

Every student is known and supported as an individual member of our community. We want every student to enjoy and achieve, to be healthy and safe, to lay the foundations of their future economic well-being and to make a positive contribution to society.

At Hagley Sixth Form, we understand the value of supporting our students' personal development.

We have a highly successful super curricular programme, with students engaging in a wide range of activities to show a deeper academic interest and capability in a subject beyond the Sixth Form curriculum.

Our Catholic Faith which inspires us to love God and to love our neighbour, which creates the sense of being a family and sharing a common purpose. Consequently, the Sixth Form is a totally inclusive community that allows all students to be enriched academically, spiritually and morally.

In essence, it is an exciting and happy environment to study where every student is supported to give of their very best.

Mrs Emily Morgan
Head of Sixth Form

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

A message from the **Sixth Form Committee**

The Sixth Form at Hagley provides a warm and nurturing Post 16 experience.

Students massively benefit from the dedicated and talented staff who work to ensure growth and progress throughout the two years of Sixth Form. Whilst study is a huge part of the experience, we offer a range of extracurricular activities. This includes enrichment and social events that help alleviate the weight put on students by A-Levels.

A strong support system is what makes Hagley unique and has been put in place to ensure that from day one you are cared for and guided to success. Form Tutors provide assistance for students to aid their personal development, whilst teachers help us thrive in the academic side of the Sixth Form.

Our bespoke and varied enrichment activities offer students a broad range of opportunities, to which they are able to enhance their skills. Regardless of your interests or ability, there is something for everyone to enjoy their Sixth Form experience. It will also enable you to widen your social circle.

Our inclusive environment, based on our strong Catholic ethos, creates a welcoming atmosphere to all and incorporates and encourages worship in your journey to success.

Our main goal at Hagley is not only to provide you with an enjoyable two years but to prepare you for life after Sixth Form. Regardless of your future pathway, Hagley Sixth Form will strive to help you reach your full potential and become a well-rounded adept individual.

We, as your student representatives, will work our hardest to create a comfortable and friendly feel within our Sixth Form. We will do this by organising social events throughout the year, including the Fresher's event, Year 12 Garden Party and Year 13 Ball.

We welcome and encourage you to approach us for any student support, in order to help with important decisions, enrolment opportunities and general student life here at Hagley.

The Sixth Form Committee

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Hagley Catholic High School

Support & Facilities

As a Sixth Former you will find that apart from the classroom or laboratory, there are two places which become very important: The Sixth Form Study Centre and the Common Room.

THE SIXTH FORM STUDY CENTRE

Sixth Formers do not just need 'teaching time'. They also need 'learning time'. You will not be taught all the time in the Sixth Form. You will have some time, about four hours per week, set aside for you to carry out the research you require for your Sixth Form studies.

For the first time in your life, you will have to structure periods of time for yourself and plan out your scheme of work. If you can cope with this, you will make a great success of your Sixth Form career. We try to make conditions as ideal as possible for you by providing teacher supervision during private study time. We believe that one of the reasons our Sixth Formers do so well when they go to university is that they have learned how to manage their own time during private study at school.

THE COMMON ROOM

As a Sixth Former you will have a 'home', the Sixth Form Common Room. This facility is exclusive to Sixth Form and is somewhere you can recharge your batteries (as well as your phone!) and catch up with other members of the sixth form community.

You will find that socialising, talking and getting to know new friends in the years above and below you are an essential part of Sixth Form life.

THE SIXTH FORM CAFÉ

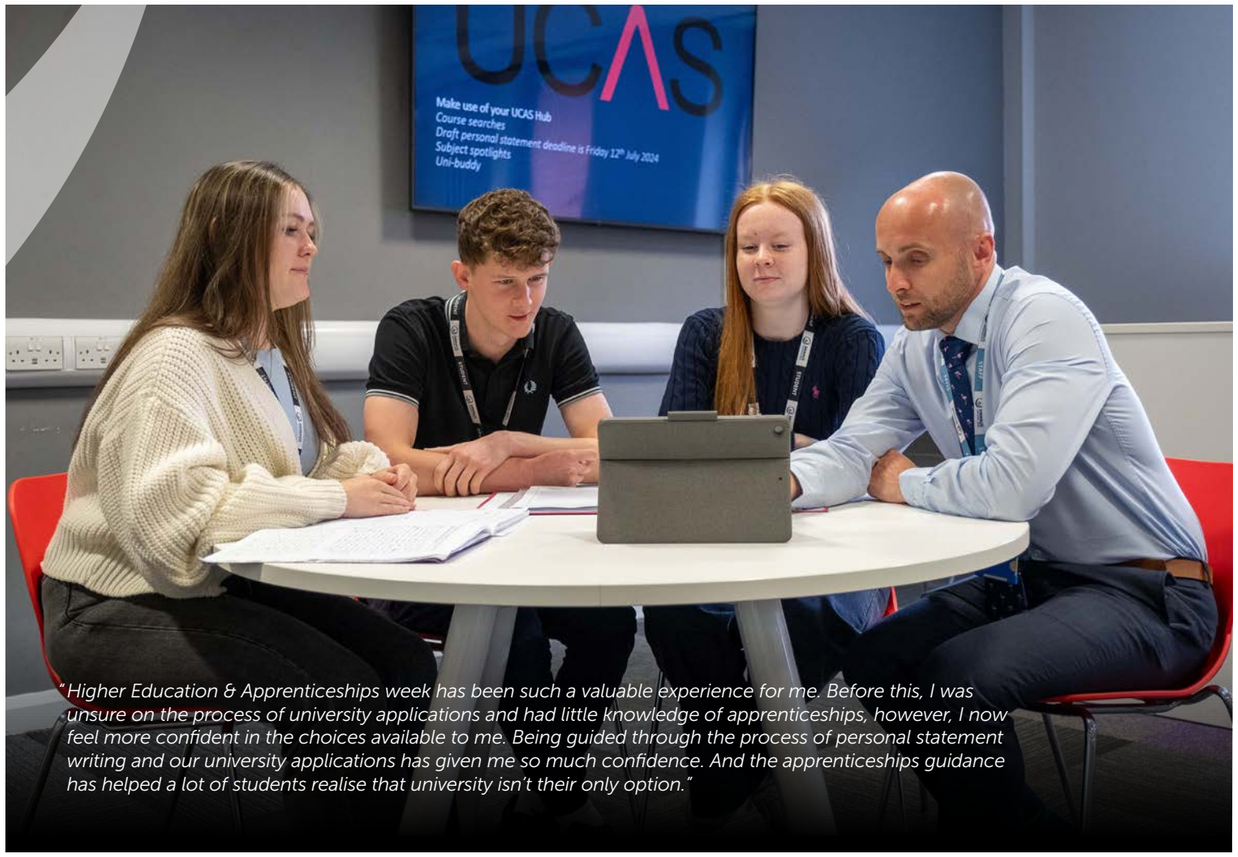
Our Sixth Form Café serves hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, paninis, and light lunches for students to enjoy without having to leave the common room. Other snacks and drinks are available to buy from the vending machines.

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

During the course of Year 12 and 13, the Sixth Form tutor team ensure that all students gain an understanding of the options available to them after Sixth Form. To help them to prepare for the system of application and selection, whether it be higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. There is also an opportunity to undertake a work experience placement at the end of Year 12.

To help students increase their awareness of Post 18 options, we deliver a comprehensive Higher Education and Apprenticeships Programme in the Summer Term of Year 12. We invite a host of visiting speakers to deliver workshops and seminars on university and apprenticeship opportunities. In addition, the whole year group takes part in the UCAS Discovery Event at the NEC, and we attend the University of Birmingham Open Day.

We also attend Oxbridge conferences and outreach trips each year. A large amount of extra, personalised help is available to those who are interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge, as well as competitive courses like Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science. Our higher education mentoring scheme connects current Sixth Form students with former Hagley students, who have gone onto study these courses at the most prestigious universities in the UK and abroad.



"Higher Education & Apprenticeships week has been such a valuable experience for me. Before this, I was unsure on the process of university applications and had little knowledge of apprenticeships, however, I now feel more confident in the choices available to me. Being guided through the process of personal statement writing and our university applications has given me so much confidence. And the apprenticeships guidance has helped a lot of students realise that university isn't their only option."

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Hagley Catholic High School

Enrichment

We are proud of our commitment to the personal development of all our Sixth Formers. Over the last few years, we have worked hard to build up superb enrichment opportunities which provide a balance to the constant academic pressure of modern Sixth Form life.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

A wide range of sport and physical activity is offered by the PE department for students to enjoy on a Wednesday afternoon.

For those wishing to play competitive sport, there are football matches in the West Midlands County Cup and friendly fixtures against other local Sixth Form colleges. 'Old Boys' games and the occasional Year 12 vs Year 13 matches also take place, helping to decide who has the bragging rights in the Common Room! Basketball and netball fixtures are organised if demand is high enough from players.

If that is not for you, we have a wide range of recreational sports for those who wish to get active in a less competitive setting. These include badminton, basketball, table tennis, tennis, softball, volleyball, dodgeball, indoor football, ultimate frisbee, indoor hockey and bench ball.

If you're more interested in keep fit or just getting some exercise, students can enjoy a range of online dance and aerobic activities, such as step aerobics, boxercise and just dance. Groups have also taken the opportunity to go powerwalking offsite in the beautiful surrounding countryside, which Hagley is lucky enough to have on its doorstep.

Students have the opportunity to gain experience of coaching, organising and officiating sports through the Level 2 Sports Leaders UK Award. This is always a popular option with students as it helps to support UCAS applications, gains a coaching qualification and develops a whole range of transferable life skills.

B-ATTITUDES

The B-Attitudes is a youth branch of the SVP charity, which promotes social justice by helping the poor, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger and caring for others. The B-Attitudes meet fortnightly as part of the enrichment programme to co-ordinate a range of different projects. Over the past few years, students have been involved in homeless outreach work, participating in an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, supporting refugees and working with our feeder primary schools.

Being part of the B-Attitudes allows students to act on their concerns, serve the vulnerable and marginalised of society and develop important life-skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication, and organisation.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

A life-changing experience. An opportunity to have fun with friends. A chance to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers. The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate life. A world class youth award scheme, famous for its expedition as well as for its volunteering. At Hagley, we currently offer bronze, silver and gold programmes in the Sixth Form.

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ PROJECT

Each year, Sixth Form students from Hagley take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's groundbreaking *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project Based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing', this four-part course explores the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. The LFA Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable. The visits to the former Nazi concentration and death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau are preceded and followed by half-day seminars in order to ensure an exceptional educational experience.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The debating club provides a fantastic opportunity to develop your debating, public speaking and analytical skills. Great for those interested in competitive courses at university.

BLOOM HEALTH & WELLBEING

Welcome to our mindfulness and wellbeing group. Bloom is the largest UK-wide programme which focuses on supporting young people's mental health resilience. The sessions help equip our students with the tools and knowledge to maintain their mental health through life's transitions, both now and in the future.

SIXTH FORM SKI TRIP

Each year, Sixth Form students are invited to join our ski trip to the Austrian Alps. Whether it is learning to ski for the first time, improving your technique or exploring the mountain, our ski trip is a fantastic way to make new friends and embrace all that the alpine environment has to offer.

NEW YORK NEW YORK

Every other year, we run a 5-day trip to New York, with visits to key sites such as Times Square, Central Park and Grand Central Station. The trip includes a visit to the United Nations headquarters, to learn about its global operations, a cruise to the Statue of Liberty, a visit to the Ground Zero memorial, an evening at the Empire State Building, providing views of the city lights from its observation deck, and of course, time for shopping in the city.

CHALLENGE ACADEMY

To help build a sense of community and togetherness at the start of Year 12, we run a trip to the challenge academy at Baggeridge Adventure.

From high ropes to team building, this trip provides a chance for students and the Sixth Form tutors to push themselves outside of their comfort zones in a fun and safe environment.

HAGLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY

This offers an exciting opportunity for sixth form students to develop leadership skills through various roles within the medical society.

Members will engage in super-curricular activities, including dissections and practical work, which provide hands-on experience beyond the classroom.

The society also hosts expert-led talks on diverse medical topics, enriching students' knowledge and understanding of the field.

Additionally, specialised support is available to guide and prepare students for the medical school application process, making it an invaluable resource for aspiring medical professionals.

OTHER CLUBS

The Sixth Form enrichment programme at Hagley is truly bespoke. Students have the opportunity to help guide the activities on offer. Peer mentoring, Virtual Work experience and the Sixth Form Projects Group to name but a few.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Hagley Catholic High School

Responsibility & Development

Here at Hagley, we place great emphasis upon nurturing the whole person and offering you many opportunities to develop into a responsible adult.

MENTORING & CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE

Over the last few years, an excellent system has been devised whereby Sixth Form students provide assistance to members of staff, helping pupils lower down the school.

Often the Sixth Formers concerned intend to go on to Teacher Training, but this is by no means always the case.

Our Paired Reading Scheme involves Sixth Formers working with lower school pupils; to listen to them read and guide discussion to develop comprehension and confidence with language skills.

Classroom assistance can be very useful, for example in PE and Science, where an extra person to help with group work and practical situations is very much appreciated.

Doing so assists the younger students but also develops you as a Sixth Former, increasing your interaction skills and confidence.

THE SIXTH FORM COMMITTEE

The Head Boy and Head Girl at Hagley have for many years been elected by the democratic vote of the Sixth Form students themselves.

We hope that you will look forward to using your vote when your turn comes; we also hope that you may consider standing for election yourself. We elect not just the Head Boy and Head Girl, but a complete Sixth Form Committee of representatives.

The Committee meets with the Head of Sixth Form at least once a fortnight and is responsible for organising many events, some for the Sixth Formers themselves and some for younger pupils. Serving on the Sixth Form Committee is an excellent opportunity to take a leading role in the life of the Sixth Form.

Every summer the Sixth Form Committee organises the major social event of the Sixth Form year which is the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball.

WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME

We want everybody to enjoy a non-academic recreational activity on a Wednesday afternoon. For some students however, it is appropriate that they use this time in order to pursue Work Experience.

For example, many students interested in teaching have gone into our feeder schools to help the primary school teachers, gaining valuable work experience which they are able to talk about when they go for interview at university.

Other examples are students volunteering in nursing homes, whilst others have arranged work experience in an area of interest to them.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Hagley Catholic High School

How do I qualify?

All students must meet our general entry requirements stated on page 58 Students will be guided by a member of staff to make suitable choices which may include a mixture of Applied General Qualifications and A-Levels.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS DO I STUDY?

At Hagley, we run two-year A-Level courses. It is advised that you choose three subjects to study at A-Level and undertake enrichment.

See page 16 for full details of how to apply.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Our timetable includes an optional tutor support session from 8.50-9.05am. Lessons start at 9.05 and we have four 75-minute lessons per day. Sixth Form students finish at 3.15pm to enable them to leave the school site before the other students.

In the Sixth Form these arrangements mean that A-Level courses are taught in half day blocks, with students studying the same A-Level subject all morning and all afternoon.

Hagley Catholic High School

What we expect

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2027

Both internal and external students wishing to enter the sixth form will be expected to have met the same minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form. These are five Grade 9-4 GCSEs including two Grade 6's and English Language and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above. Students who have not achieved a GCSE Grade 4 in English Language or Mathematics will be expected to achieve this during the first year of study.

In addition to the sixth form's minimum academic entry requirements pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the opportunity of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published on the subject pages of this prospectus.

When Year 12 is undersubscribed, all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted or permitted to progress.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements priority will be given in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out below.

Where there is space in Year 13, i.e. where there are fewer than 100 pupils in the year group, the school will admit additional pupils up to this number using the oversubscription criteria set out below.

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority. If there is oversubscription within a category, the Local Governing Body will give priority firstly to children who will have a brother or sister attending Hagley Catholic High School at the time of admission and then secondly to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. For further clarification on our admissions arrangements for the academic year 2027/8 please refer to the school website.

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

An Education, Health and Care Plan is a plan made by the local authority under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014, specifying the special educational provision required for a child.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

1 Students who are looked after or previously looked after and who achieve the entry requirement.

2 Other students who wish to be considered for a place at Hagley Catholic High School.

3 Students either from Hagley Catholic High School or any other school who do not achieve the entry requirement but request admittance on the grounds of special consideration.

DRESS CODE

At Hagley Sixth Form we do not insist on formal uniforms but do believe that our dress code should be smart casual and appropriate for the workplace.

The recommended dress code includes shirts, polo shirts, smart T-shirts, trousers, skirts and dresses of appropriate workplace length and not overly revealing at the neckline. Jumpers, cardigans, and sweatshirts are all acceptable if they do not include large logos or slogans. Hoodies can be worn too, but hoods should never be up around school site or in lessons.

Jeans can also be worn, including blue denim, but these must not be ripped or cut off for shorts.

In warmer months and terms, shorts can be worn at the Head of Sixth Forms discretion, but again these should be appropriate in the workplace and certainly should not be skintight, lycra-based ones that are only suitable for the gym. However, tailored or cargo shorts just above the knee are acceptable.

The following items should never be worn:

- Any items of ripped clothing, this includes cutoff jeans/shorts.
- Gym wear such as cropped tight fitting shorts, cycling shorts, training vests.
- Tracksuit bottoms and joggers
- Military fatigues or camouflage trousers.
- T-shirts and sweatshirts with large slogans
- Crop tops, football shirts or rock band T-shirts.
- Extreme hair styles.
- Hats, caps or headgear (unless religious or cultural).
- Lip, nose, eyebrow piercings are permitted but must be a stud or small ring only.

Students must not have tattoos until such a time as they are 18 as is the law. In the event of having a tattoo at 18 these must be discreet and if visible must not cause offence to anyone.

Sixth Formers must always wear their lanyard this is important for safeguarding and ensuring you can enter and leave the site and register during the day.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

General RE forms part of our curriculum offer. Students explore religious, philosophical, ethical, and sociological issues, develop their personal codes of belief, and enhance their spiritual, moral, and cultural development.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Hagley Catholic High School

How to apply

THE 7 STAGES OF APPLICATION

The process of applying to the Sixth Form is straightforward.

Here we outline the different stages and key dates for you to plan for.

During the Autumn Term you will receive an invitation to the Hagley Sixth Form Open Evening for you and your parents to come along.

If you are interested in staying on at Hagley, then you must complete an application form. Applications can be made online via the Sixth Form section of the school website.

By the Spring half term all applications will have been processed, places offered.

After your GCSEs are over, you will be invited to return to school on Induction Day when you can find more about your A Level subject choices and confirm or change your options if necessary.

When the GCSE results come out in August, Mrs Morgan will examine the GCSE results of all Sixth Form applicants and compare them with Sixth Form course choices. Every Sixth Form applicant will then receive a personal letter, either confirming their original choice of courses, or recommending a changed course on the basis of performance at GCSE.

All new Sixth Formers are then invited to enrol in school as soon as they receive their GCSE results.

HAGLEY STUDENTS

1 OCTOBER

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 21st October 2026. An opportunity to find out as much as possible about Sixth Form provision.

2 DECEMBER

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM

Applications must be made by **Friday 18th December 2026**.

3 JANUARY

OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE

Offer of place to Hagley Sixth Form will be emailed to all applicants.

4 FEBRUARY

INTERVIEW WITH SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

An opportunity to talk through your prospects and plans.

5 JUNE

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAY

The first opportunity for the new Sixth Form to get together, receive information about the Sixth Form as well as experiencing what being in the Sixth Form will entail

6 AUGUST

GCSE RESULTS DAY

A personal letter of advice will be issued to every applicant. Year 12 students enrol into the Sixth Form at school.

7 SEPTEMBER

BEGIN SIXTH FORM

NEW TO HAGLEY

Hagley Catholic Sixth Form welcomes applications from students of other schools and from all denominations and faiths.

If you would like to be part of our Sixth Form Community, the process of applying is as follows:

ATTEND THE INFORMATION EVENING on **Wednesday 21st October 2026.**

COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FORM External Applications can be made online via the Sixth Form section of the school website.

Application Forms should be submitted no later than **Friday 29th January 2027**.

ATTEND A MEETING with Mrs Emily Morgan to discuss your choice of subjects, life in the Sixth Form and enrichment opportunities.

OFFER of place at Hagley Sixth Form will be emailed to successful applicants.

ATTEND INDUCTION DAY This is to confirm your acceptance of a place at Hagley Sixth Form. You are encouraged to attend this enjoyable and informative day, which will help support your transition from your former school.

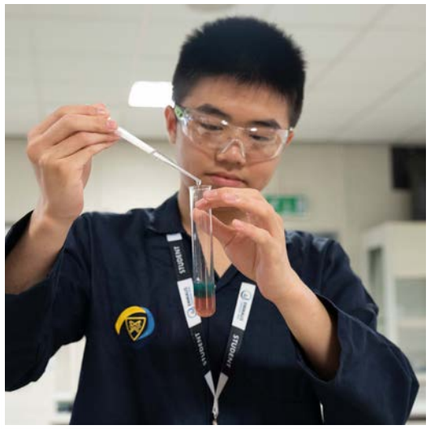
ON GCSE RESULTS DAY You will bring your results so that we can confirm whether or not you fulfil the entrance criteria and discuss your option choices.

SEPTEMBER

BEGIN SIXTH FORM

Hagley Catholic High School

Our Courses



Art, Craft and Design

Taught by staff with a range of art specialisms.

HOW YOU STUDY

Students will learn techniques and develop existing skills both with the support of their teachers and independently.

It will be important for students to use the Art facilities outside of timetabled lessons to develop work and ideas further.

Throughout the A-Level course, students will need to visit exhibitions and galleries to extend their knowledge of the work of others and develop ideas and inspiration.

Teachers will support students' development of their work through group discussions and individual tutorials.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

Students will have the opportunity to be taught by Art and Design staff with a range of different Art specialisms.

Art staff are available to assist students with their work both during and outside of lessons.

Students are encouraged to use the art facilities during lunchtime and after school sessions and during their free time.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

A degree in any area of Art and Design is often preceded by a one-year Art and Design Foundation Course, where students have the opportunity to discover which area of Art and Design they would like to continue with.

There are many different degree courses to choose from including: Fine Art, Multimedia, Fashion and Textiles, Theatre Set Design, Interior Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Architecture, Animation, Jewellery, Photography, Film and many more.

OTHER RELATED DEGREE COURSES

Multimedia, Fashion and Textiles, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Architecture, Animation, Jewellery, Photography, Film, Illustration, Theatre Design, Media, Product Design and many more.

OUR SUCCESSES

- 100% pass rate at A-Level.
- Previous students have continued their studies in Art and Design in a wide variety of areas such as:
  - Fashion Management at Nottingham Trent University
  - Art Foundation at Stourbridge College
  - Industrial Design at Loughborough
  - Decorative Arts at Nottingham Trent
  - Hair, Make Up and Prosthetics for Performance at UAL

COMBINES WELL WITH

- Any other subject will combine well, as it either complements or gives diversity.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 4 in any area of Art and Design.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Biology

A versatile A-Level which develops skills useful for a wide range of candidates.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Over the two years, you will cover all areas of Biology. In Year 12, you will examine a variety of topics, including cell biology, biological molecules, biodiversity and how organisms exchange substances with their environment. The Year 13 course then builds on the principles gained in Year 12 and deals with concepts such as photosynthesis, respiration, homeostasis, ecosystems and the control of gene expression.

Throughout the A-Level, there will be a large emphasis on gaining practical skills, to link theory with practice and to deepen students' knowledge and understanding. Over the two years, you will have to complete a minimum of 12 required practicals in order to pass the course. These practical skills will also be assessed in the written papers.

The A-Level is assessed through three exam papers which will include short and long answer questions, comprehension questions, critical analysis and an essay. Overall, at least 10% of the marks in assessments for biology will require the use of mathematical skills. These skills will be applied in the context of Biology and will be at least the standard of higher tier GCSE mathematics.

HOW YOU STUDY

Lessons are delivered using a variety of teaching strategies which will include individual and group work, class discussion, problem solving, note taking, practical investigations, data analysis and research tasks.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

We are a committed and supportive team of specialist teachers who are enthusiastic about our subject and treat motivating our students as a priority. We use a wide range of specialist sixth form equipment and resources in a secure, challenging and practical learning environment. We always prepare students thoroughly for examinations and employ an excellent revision programme. We aim to treat students as individuals and tailor their learning programme to suit their particular needs.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

An A-Level in Biology opens up a diverse range of degrees at university and offers students the opportunity to specialise in a particular area. There are too many degrees to list here but examples include: Microbiology, Anatomical Science, Zoology, Molecular Biology, Plant Science, Cell Biology, Pharmacology, Physiology, Neuroscience, Genetics, Medicine and Veterinary Science.

OUR RECENT SUCCESSES

Students achieved a 95% pass rate with 74% of students achieving an A* to C. Students were successful in gaining university places in a wide range of associated degrees including Medicine, Biomedical Science and Midwifery.

COMBINES WELL WITH

- Chemistry, Maths and PE.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To study Biology A-Level, students will require at least a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language. Furthermore, the Department will give priority to students who have secured at least a grade 6 in either GCSE Biology or Combined Science and a grade 6 in Mathematics.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Business Studies

Taught by staff who specialise in business and economics.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Amongst other things we will study:

- How to research and segment markets in order to identify possible target customers.
- We will investigate how to market products profitably, how to control quality and stock.
- How to exploit technology not least social media in order to support targeting but also other types of technology in order to efficiently organise and produce.
- We will learn the sovereignty of cash and its control along with the meaning and purposes of income statements and balance sheets.
- We will also address the efficient management and leadership of productive employees. There is a lot to learn but the content is extremely varied and enjoyable.

We then go on to study (in components two and three) the increasing dominance of global giants and how they develop the strategies which have propelled them to prominence and then, in a rapidly changing and highly competitive world, how they maintain their position.

HOW YOU STUDY

You will be expected to engage comprehensively in lessons. You will use skills that you have developed at Key Stage 4 in a range of subjects and apply those skills to a business context. You will ask questions, research, structure arguments and reach judgements about real life businesses. You will experience a wealth of information in a variety of formats. You will work and learn both individually and in groups.

HOW DOES THE STUDY OF BUSINESS FIT WITH OTHER A LEVEL COURSES OF STUDY?

Our subject acts as a perfect complement to other literate, humanities courses like History and Geography, dipping into many of the same skill pools. It also complements other Social Sciences like Psychology and Sociology. Interestingly though it provides the perfect contrast to other study areas like Science and Maths, varying the experience of the study day for the student.

HOW WILL STUDYING ADVANCED BUSINESS HELP ME IN MY NEXT STEPS AT 18?

A Level Business Studies is a well-recognised and established qualification that is respected by employees, apprenticeship providers and universities. The vast majority of universities that offer business related degrees so there are clear opportunities for continued study post A Level. In addition, the wide range of transferable skills that are developed in the subject such as analysis, sustaining judgements, calculation and evaluation mean that an A Level in the subject can be beneficial in whatever subject or career path you choose to follow at 18.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

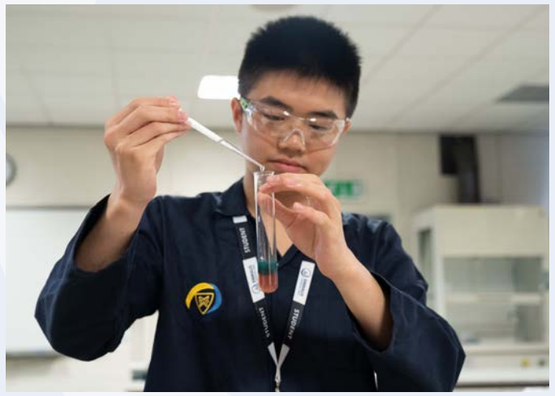
There are a wide range of resources that are available to help you throughout the course including knowledge organisers, exam walk throughs, checklists and revision guides

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A-Level Business Studies is largely a subject that students have not studied at GCSE. As long as the entry requirements for the Sixth Form are met and the student has enthusiasm, focus and a willingness to learn they will succeed in the subject.

Chemistry

Study the most central science with a team of dedicated specialists.



HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY

The A Level Chemistry course takes familiar concepts introduced at GCSE such as: Atomic Structure; the Periodic Table; Bonding and Structures; Alkanes; Rates of Reaction; and the Mole and delves into them in much greater detail. Greater emphasis is placed upon understanding the fundamental principles of Chemistry as we encourage students to explore how and why Chemistry happens. The course is divided into three main strands: Inorganic, Organic and Physical Chemistry, which are subdivided into smaller topics. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and assessed throughout the course. In the second year, the course builds upon Year 12 knowledge and extends key concepts and skills further.

HOW YOU STUDY

A variety of engaging teaching methods are used to inspire students and nurture their passion for Chemistry; this includes problem solving activities, research tasks and significant practical work. The course has a strong focus on the application of mathematics to chemical problems and also an in-depth practical element. Students are given many opportunities to develop a wide range of practical skills and use theoretical knowledge to analyse and interpret practical data and results. Students need to be diligent, dedicated and driven to succeed in this challenging course. Skills in mathematics and practical science are essential.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

We are a committed team of specialist Chemistry teachers who are passionate about our subject and have the experience to ensure you succeed in reaching your full potential. We utilise a range of specialist equipment and resources to help students to excel in their learning. We proactively work with our students to foster a love of Chemistry, whilst embedding key concepts and skills effectively.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Chemistry A Level is essential for anyone considering a university course in Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Chemistry or Chemical Engineering. It is also a preferred subject for other courses such as Physiotherapy and Nursing.

Chemistry is listed as an enabling subject by Russell Group Universities, which means that it is one of a number of subjects that keep open access to a wide variety of university courses. The focus on skills such as logic, problem solving, applied mathematics and practical work means that it develops transferable skills that are seen as highly desirable in both academia and the world of work.

OUR SUCCESSES

Recent students have successfully gained university places to study Chemistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science.

Combines well with Biology, Mathematics and Physics.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Combined Science is highly desirable. Students also need a good mathematical ability to cope with the demands of this course; at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths is essential.

Computing

APPLIED GENERAL QUALIFICATION

Practical yet versatile for the emerging world ahead.

We offer two very different approaches to computer related studies here at Hagley.

This course has a lower examination element than A-Level Computer Science and is more focussed on the hands-on side of IT, such as computer/technology theory, legislation, multimedia design, games design and creative IT.

For the more scientific and academic approach with a greater programming content with regards to computer related studies, please see the A-Level Computer Science qualification.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY

We study the Application Development Pathway and so the main thrust of the course is to plan, design and develop your very own software systems one being a Video Game, using a games engine of your choice. You will begin by studying some core IT theory needed for the course, which will cover a basic, but wide range of technical topics. You will sit two examinations covering the Fundamentals of application development and Developing application software, which encompasses legal, moral/ethical and cyber security sides of IT. You will be required to complete three NEA projects. On the practical side, you go into an in-depth look at how professional and modern software applications are made, to which you then go on to produce a video game of your own for a specific client. This is the 'vocational' approach to the study of computing it is very different to 'Computer Science', but it does require an understanding of programming. Be sure to select the right course for you!

HOW YOU STUDY

You should be interested in how businesses use IT and information systems as well as how multimedia and games development work in the modern work environment. Access to a computer outside of school will be essential to succeed in completing the portfolio work; the department offers facilities for use outside of lesson time. The course is a mixture of practical and theoretical work, with a higher emphasis on the practical side of IT.

You must be very dedicated to your work as there is a higher element of coursework (40%) compared to the Computer Science course (20%). This therefore means there is a considerable amount of portfolio work to produce for the course. This qualification has three mandatory units and two optional units.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

The IT Department has committed staff with valuable academic and industrial experience. Industry-standard software is used in the game making and programming aspects of the course. The facilities are of high quality and are backed up by excellent technical support.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

There are opportunities at the majority of universities to study IT or Business, based on the outcomes and content in this course. It is also a potential lead in for other IT/Computing based courses such as games design, networking courses, web development and programming.

OUR SUCCESSES

For many years now, through dedicated work from both students and staff, we have secured a high pass rate. The teaching staff for the course have a combined total of over 25 years teaching experience in delivering Computer Science and IT. We have seen students go on to get higher-level degree apprenticeships with government organisations such as GCHQ and companies such as Google, Microsoft, Vodafone & PWC along with many Computer Science & IT Graduates.

COMBINES WELL WITH

IT combines especially well with Computer Science, Business Studies, Media Development, Music Technology, and similar, practical based courses as well as traditional A-Levels.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students must have GCSE English at Grade 5 or higher to undertake this due to the quantity of writing required. Previous study of ICT is not essential but preferred. Students should also have access to their own personal computer to use at home due to the nature of the course.

Computer Science

Computing is the fourth science for those with a love of technology.

Learn your place in the modern world as computing continues its advance to be essential to all careers and countless aspects of your everyday life.

We offer two very different approaches to computer related studies here at Hagley.

This course has a higher examination element than the Applied IT qualification and is more focussed on the theoretical and programming sides of computing.

For a more coursework-based approach to computer related studies, please see the A-Level Applied IT qualification.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY

You will analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems, including writing programs to do so. You will investigate mathematical concepts of computing as well as looking into the theory behind hardware/software development and architecture. This is the 'technical and scientific' approach to the study of computers and programming, it is very different to 'IT'. Be sure to select the right course for you!

HOW YOU STUDY

An aptitude for problem solving and an interest in learning a programming language is very important. Lessons cover both theoretical knowledge and practical skill. Access to a computer outside of school will be essential to succeed in continuing to learn a programming language. The course requires both a logical and mathematical mind. You will learn up to four programming languages when developing your coursework project, which is worth 20% of the qualification.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

The IT Department has experienced and committed staff with valuable academic and industrial experience. Industry-standard software is used in the programming aspects of the course. The facilities are of high quality and are backed up by excellent technical support.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

The skills developed, such as project management and problem solving; make this a valuable course for all students. There are opportunities at the majority of universities to study Computer Science and Software Engineering; however, this is not the only option. It is also a potential lead in for other Computing based courses such as games design, web development and programming among other disciplines. It is also a very useful addition to anyone going on to study degree level Mathematics or Sciences.

OUR SUCCESSES

For many years now, through dedicated work from both students and staff, we have secured a high pass rate at A-Level. The teaching staff for the course have a combined total of over 25 years teaching experience in delivering Computer Science and IT. We have seen students go on to get higher-level degree apprenticeships with government organisations such as GCHQ and companies such as Google, Microsoft, Vodafone, PWC and KPMG along with many Computer Science Graduates. We support students as they progress with their applications, giving interview practise and personal statement advice.

COMBINES WELL WITH

Computing combines especially well with IT, Mathematics, the Sciences, Engineering, Humanities and Electronics based courses.

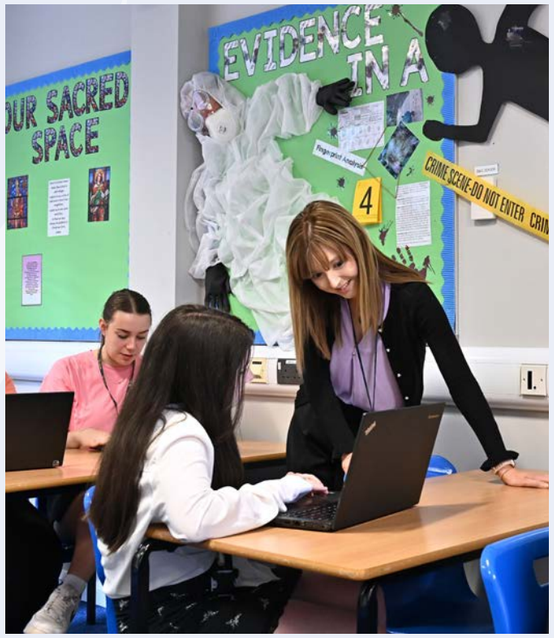
GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students must have GCSE Maths at Grade 6 or higher to undertake this course. GCSE Computer Science is also preferred at GCSE Grade 5, as well as a background in programming, but we will accept students with strong ICT grades from certain, specific courses instead.

You will need to do some preparatory work in advance of the course if you have not studied GCSE Computer Science. Students must also have access to their own personal computer to use at home due to the nature of the course.

Criminology

An exciting and diverse Applied General Qualification.



WHAT YOU STUDY

Not all types of crime are alike. What types of crimes take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? Why do people commit crimes? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people?

All these questions will be explored in this exciting course by understanding the reasons why people commit crimes and what happens within the legal system to control and reduce criminal behaviour.

Level 3 Diploma in Criminology is an applied qualification with elements of Psychology, Law and Sociology that complements studies in humanities.

This course is equivalent to one A-Level and carries the same number of UCAS points.

You will study a number of exciting topics, including:

- The different types of crimes that are committed in society and the reasons and influences as to why such crimes are committed
- Understanding why crimes can often go unreported, and the impact this has on the individual and society
- Explore a variety of investigation techniques and assess their usefulness in prosecuting offenders
- The legal system and how crimes are prosecuted, how individuals are sentenced and rehabilitated.
- Understanding the public perceptions of crime and campaigns for change
- Understand how laws are made and the influences on policy making

HOW YOU STUDY

The teachers will devise a range of activities to facilitate learning and this is based on students working independently inside and outside of the classroom.

Visits will take place to a variety of organisations that are relevant to this course, as the opportunities arises. This may include the Magistrates and Crown Courts and the Houses of Parliament. We also hope to receive guest speakers within lessons, to include the Police, Probation Service and a variety of Legal Personnel.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

The Level 3 Diploma in Criminology can be used to access higher education degree courses, such as BA/BSc Criminology, as well as many other degree courses.

Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification, but we recommend that students who wish to study this course have at least a Grade 5 in English; students will be required to work independently and produce a considerable amount of coursework so a good understanding of English is essential.

Economics

AT HAYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

A well-respected A-Level, which uses a theoretical grounding to help explain the basic problems faced by individuals and society.

Economics is a social science that analyses the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

A well-respected A -Level, Economics uses a theoretical grounding to help explain the basic problems faced by individuals and society.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY

Economics has two main focuses:

- Microeconomics looks at the basic economic problem of scarcity, choice and unlimited wants. It involves the study of markets and their outcomes to analyse the impact they have on our lives. You will also study why markets fail to work and what the government can do about it. Key questions include: Why do we make the choices we do? What can be done about pollution? Why do people smoke, even though they know it is bad for them? Should the NHS be privatised? Should the government try to stop binge drinking?
- Macroeconomics looks at the UK and global economy as a whole. This includes the basics you see on the news; inflation, unemployment, government borrowing and economic growth, the exchange rate and interest rates. You will study what these mean and how they are measured, as well as why they matter. You will also look at the role governments have in controlling the economy. Key questions include: is the government spending too much? What could be done about the recent recession? Can the UK compete with China? Does the value of the pound matter?

HOW YOU STUDY

Study will be mainly classroom based, via taught lessons, computer-based research, self-study tasks as well as discussions and debates.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

Dedicated specialist teacher with previous experience of teaching at one of the top schools in the UK for Economic results. Well-equipped teaching room and a designated Sixth Form computer room.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Students typically go on to study Economics, Management, Law, Accountancy or other Economics related courses. Economics also lends itself well to being studied as part of a joint honours course and many students choose to study PPE for example.

Economics will teach problem solving, investigation, world awareness, planning and communication of ideas. All were identified in the top ten qualities employers look for in research from the University of Kent.

OUR SUCCESSES

Over half of students continue to study Economics at university and most continue with straight Economics or Business Economics. We expect all students studying Economics at A-Level to achieve C or above, with over two thirds getting A*-B.

COMBINES WELL WITH

Economics is a logic-based subject so combines well with other logic-based disciplines, such as Mathematics or the Sciences. Equally, as it is a social science and has a considerable written element, students often choose other society-related subjects such as Law, Sociology, Psychology and History.

GCSE ENTRANCE RQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths and English Language.

English Language

Training students to think and analyse, to question and interrogate, to research and investigate, and to be reflective and critical.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Paper 1: Language the Individual and Society 2hrs 30 minutes

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change 2hrs 30 minutes

Non-Exam Assessment (language investigation and original writing)

HOW YOU STUDY

If you are interested in language and want to develop your knowledge about its structure and functions, the ways it has changed over time and theoretical views on how it varies then this is a course suited to you.

English Language will enable you to:

- experience and respond to a range of texts through discussion, analysis and creative writing
- explore how purpose, audience and context impact upon language
- use linguistic methods to investigate a variety of texts and apply these within your own work.

You will study English La nguage through class teaching. There will also be individual investigation of texts with teacher support and guidance.

There is plenty of opportunity to discuss issues and ideas and you will be expected to connect this with your experience of language and research by linguists. You will be expected to carry out wider reading and to complete tasks independently.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

English Language can lead to a wide range of options when you progress to university including English degrees, Teaching and Journalism.

Effective communication and articulation of ideas are both essential work skills and highly valued by employers.

OTHER RELATED DEGREE COURSES

This course particularly complements Media Studies, Classics, Sociology, Psychology, History and other courses including arts and humanities.

OUR SUCCESSES

Recent students have gone on to study English, including a student at Oxford, Creative Writing, and others are studying English with PE and Primary Teaching.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

English Language Grade 5.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

English Literature

This is taught by committed, experienced and qualified staff with a record of accomplishment and success.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Students will approach the study of literature through the lens of historicism, encouraging the independent study of a range of texts within a shared context, giving logic and meaning to the way that texts are grouped for study.

One unit will cover 'Love Through the Ages', where students will study texts such as William Shakespeare's *Othello* or *Measure for Measure* and F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, whilst the second unit 'Modern Times: Literature from 1945 to the Present Day' looks at 20th and 21st Century writing such as Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*.

HOW YOU STUDY

The teachers will devise a range of activities to facilitate learning and this is based on students working independently inside and outside of the classroom. The critical reading of English Literature texts, beyond the set examination texts, will enhance the opportunity for students to develop their understanding of writers' methods, the basis for success in English Literature.

Visits to the theatre for the study of the interpretation of texts are organised although students should, where possible, visit the theatre, art galleries, and cinema and participate in other cultural opportunities as they arise.

The English department provides challenge and aims to develop confident, independent and reflective readers of a range of texts. The ability to self-reflect and approach texts with an open mind will challenge student preconceptions and the ways in which texts can be read.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Success in studying English at university can lead to a variety of careers, not least in Law, Finance, Teaching and Media. Students trained to work independently, to think carefully, and to argue points of view succinctly and with precision are always in demand.

OTHER RELATED DEGREE COURSES

Students who have studied English Literature A-Level have gone on to successfully study Medicine, Pharmacy, Foreign Languages and Law.

OUR SUCCESSES

The department has achieved significant success at A grade and at pass grade for many years.

In 2023, 33% of the students achieved an A* or A grade; 66% of the students achieved an A* to B and 100% of the students achieved an A*-C.

COMBINES WELL WITH:

The development of independent learning and thinking skills are central to the study of this A-Level and, thus, it possesses a significant value with regard to the student's wider study skills.

Further, the development of skills relating to thinking clearly, logically and rationally, arguing a case by the marshalling of relevant evidence, make English Literature a suitable complement for a variety of A-Level subjects.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Given the very demanding works of literature that must be studied independently, a Grade 6 in English Literature and English Language will provide the basis for success.

Film Studies

WHAT YOU STUDY

Component 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking – exam – 35%

Component 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives – exam -35%

Component 3: Production – non-examined assessment – 30%

Film Studies aims to introduce students to a wide variety of films to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. Students will study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. Students will also study silent and documentary films to explore a range of film movements throughout time.

Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to students' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting.

HOW YOU STUDY

The teachers will devise a range of activities to facilitate learning, and this is based on students working independently inside and outside the classroom. Wider reading of film theory, and exploring films beyond those set in the specification, will give students the opportunity to develop their analytical skills and explore how filmmakers' employ a range of methods to generate responses.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

With a Film Studies A Level, you can progress to university degrees in Film, Media, Journalism, or other creative fields, leading to careers in film and TV production, broadcasting, advertising, journalism, and cultural management. You can also go directly into entry-level jobs like a runner or production assistant within the media industry. The A Level develops transferable skills such as analysis, critical thinking, visual communication, and organization, making you a strong candidate for a wide range of roles.

COMBINES WELL WITH

As the course facilitates critical thinking, independent learning and analytical responses, it will complement a variety of A-Level subjects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 in English Language and Literature will provide the basis for success.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

French

AT HAYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
& KING CHARLES I

A-Level modern languages are highly valued qualifications in today's world.

The A level course in French gives you the opportunity to study French society and culture at first hand, including working with native French speakers.

We also look at life and traditions in other French speaking countries around the world.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY

Theme 1: Aspects of French-speaking countries: current trends, changes in families, cyber society and the role of volunteering work

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, French heritage and culture, Francophone music, and Cinematographic culture

Theme 3: Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues: Positive aspects of a multicultural society, social issues and discrimination and crime and punishments

Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: Young people and their political involvement, protests and strikes and politics and immigration.

Literature and Film:

– Film: *La Haine* (Mathieu Kassovitz)

– Literature: *No et Moi* (Delphine de Vigan)

There is also a research project on a topic of students' choice which forms part of the final speaking assessment.

HOW YOU STUDY

Study will be mainly classroom based, via taught lessons and self-study. Study also involves independent research for the research project of your choice.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

In line with all other new A-Level specifications, the French A-Level is linear, with all exams taken at the end of the course.

The final examinations are as follows:

Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 30 50%

You get to control the listening exercises and can pause and repeat as many times as you want!

Paper 2 Writing (essays on prescribed works) 2 hours 20%

Paper 3 Speaking 21-23 minutes 30%

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Grade 6 or above in GCSE French on the higher paper, and anyone with a love for languages! If you want to develop your language skills beyond just 'phrase book' French, as well as your knowledge of France and French culture, then this is the course for you. You will be encouraged to pursue topics of personal interest and to use French independently to express your own ideas and opinions. The focus is always on communicating and developing your cultural knowledge. An interest in current affairs would also be beneficial.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Increasingly, more and more students go on to use languages in their career – you do not just have to become a language teacher or a translator! Universities offer a great variety of courses, and languages are often combined with other subjects such as law or business studies. In addition, having a language at A Level will make your university application more attractive in today's highly competitive market, even if you choose not to continue with languages at degree level.

GOES WELL WITH:

Many of our students are also interested in Politics, Sociology, Media, IT, History, and Geography.

Throughout the A-Level French course, all these subjects are also explored to some depth.

Further Mathematics

AT HAYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

This challenging course is highly valued by the most prestigious universities.

It is excellent preparation for a degree in mathematics or engineering.

WHAT YOU STUDY

As the name suggests this is the study of mathematics taken further than in A Level Mathematics. It will mainly involve further pure mathematics in more detail than the ordinary A Level with the emphasis on algebraic methods in addition to studying an applied subject. Students will also have the opportunity to cover other aspects of mathematics in more detail such as statistics and decision maths.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

After two years of studying mathematics, students will be tested over four papers. Two of the papers will cover further pure mathematics, the third paper will cover statistics and the fourth decision maths. There is currently no coursework on the syllabus.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

We are fortunate to have experts in all areas of Further Maths. You will benefit from: experienced, specialist teachers of all modules, textbooks, notes and online resources, a dedicated Mathematics rooms, with interactive whiteboards, and a departmental computer suite with a sixth form study area.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Further Mathematics must be studied alongside standard A-Level Mathematics and provides students with an introduction to different areas of mathematics they would not otherwise meet. We also required a Grade 7 in GCSE mathematics.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY AND WORK

The qualification is recognised by employers and in higher education as an indication of high ability in mathematics. Further Maths is highly desirable, if not required, by many top universities for Mathematics, Science and Engineering courses, as well as Computing and Economics. It is also particularly popular with students going on to study Medicine.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS COMBINES WELL WITH

Physics, Computing, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology and Economics.

Geography

Geography is the study of the world, its processes, people and places.

A-Level Geography progresses on from GCSE Level with more depth of focus on key topics, graphical and numerical skills, as well as independent research.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY AND HOW IT IS ASSESSED

We study the OCR A Level course. It is split into four key areas based on how it is assessed and makes up the final grade:

- Physical Systems Topics covered are Landscape Systems (focusing on Coasts) and Life Support Systems (focusing on the water and carbon cycles). It is assessed in a 1 hour 30-minute examination, worth 22% of the course.
- Human Interactions Topics covered include Changing Spaces, Making Places and Global Connections (focusing on Migration and Human Rights). It is assessed in a 1 hour 30-minute examination, worth 22% of the course.
- Geographical Debates Topics covered include Climate Change and Hazardous Earth (Tectonics). It is assessed in a 2-hour 30 minutes examination, worth 36% of the course.
- Investigative Geography This is a non-examined element of the course where students will need to conduct independent research, collect data, present and analyse information in a 3000–4000-word project. It is worth 20% of the course.

Key skills are an important aspect of all the exams alongside knowledge. Skills are therefore built into topics and lessons, developing on the depth of map, graph and data analysis techniques gained at GCSE, whilst introducing statistical data manipulation too.

GEOGRAPHICAL FIELDWORK

As part of the A Level course students need to complete at least four days of fieldwork. We therefore run trips to investigate human and physical geography within the region. For human geography this includes a local comparison of place in Stourbridge and Hagley, then a deeper analysis of redevelopment in Birmingham. For physical geography it includes an investigation of landscapes and systems in the countryside surrounding the school, then a more specific investigation at the Lickey Hills. Students can also conduct their own fieldwork outside of lesson time as part of the Investigative Geography project.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

The department is run by Mr Williams who has taught A Level geography for 12 years and is a senior A Level examiner. Mr Bayliffe has been teaching A Level Geography for 8 years and has also worked with the exam board. Both teachers have experience of international work and trips and use a range of resources situated within specific geography rooms. ICT rooms are accessed at times to help enhance learning or support with the Investigative Geography element. Microsoft Teams is also used a lot within the department as a resource platform.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

A-Level Geography is a highly skilled subject, linking elements of Science, Maths and English. It therefore links well with most other subjects and helps to progress onto a range of university courses, especially Geography which can be studied as a BSc or BA and due to the range of the skills involved is a highly employable degree. Other commonly linked degree courses that specifically use Geography include Geology, Environmental Sciences, Politics and Biology. Geographers tend to progress onto jobs in town planning, infrastructure development, energy and utilities, teaching, tourism and accountancy amongst other roles that utilise geographical skills.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY SUBJECT AND GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Geography at GCSE is the most useful requirement for A Level Geography. A grade of at least a 5 is desirable, alongside an enthusiasm for Geography as a subject. This is in addition to good grades in English and Maths that are needed for the literacy in project and essay writing, as well as numerical skills analysis that is required as part of the course.

Government & Politics

AT KING CHARLES I

A study of the systems, institutions and ideas that underpin our political system.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Government and Politics at A Level is a study of the systems, institutions and ideas that underpin our political system in the UK which offers a comparative study with the US.

- Learning about systems The way in which democracy operates, how political parties operate and are funded, electoral systems, what drives voters and the effect of the media
- Learning about institutions The (unwritten) constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister and cabinet
- Learning about ideas What is Socialism? Liberalism? Conservatism? How has the evolving nature of feminism shaped our world? Ideas are central to understanding the political world around us and we focus on these big ideas
- Comparisons with the USA Congress, the President, the separation of powers amongst the three parts of government, civil rights and ultimately a comparison with the UK system

WHO IS IT FOR?

Government and Politics is for anyone with an interest in how the world around them is run. From understanding what went on with the prorogation of Parliament, to why lying to the Queen is significant or what the Prime Minister even is, Government and Politics will help students to understand the world, what is going on and what might happen next. It also for those students who finds how ideas have evolved and how they interact with the world around us interesting.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Grade 5 or above in GCSE History and English Language. Students should also have an interest in how politics operates and an ability to name an MP other than Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn are a useful start!

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through three two-hour exams, each worth 33% and assessing different elements of the course. Paper 1 focuses on UK politics and the ideas that underpin the major political ideologies, Paper 2 on UK government and feminism, and Paper 3 on US politics.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Government and Politics is an exceptionally broad-based subject which opens up many pathways into fields such as the civil and public service, journalism, broadcasting and a wealth of other areas.

Health & Social Care

APPLIED GENERAL QUALIFICATION

Health and Social Care is not just about caring for babies or the elderly and the ill; it will provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education.

Level 3 AAQ Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care provides students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of health and social care, equipping them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the health and social care sector.

Health and Social Care is not just about caring for babies or the elderly and the ill; it will provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education.

WHY STUDY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

If you are interested in studying for a career in primary school teaching, nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, radiography, physiotherapy, social work, nursery nursing, health education/ promotion, psychology or caring for the elderly or disabled, or any other roles in health, social care or education, then this is the course for you.

This course is equivalent to an A-Level and is worth the same number of UCAS points.

HOW YOU STUDY

You will take six units made up of mandatory and optional units. Assessment in this course is through a combination of coursework and external examination.

Everybody will study the following mandatory units:

- Principles of health and social care
- Person-centred approach to care
- Supporting people with mental health conditions
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care

Two optional units will be chosen from the following units:

- Supporting people with long term physiological conditions
- Investigating public health
- Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy, and postnatal health
- Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles

These units will give you an understanding of health and social care in the wider contexts of different environments and settings where care takes place, the importance of effective communication in health and social care, the importance of legislation in health and social care and how to deliver a person-centred approach in the care given. You will also develop transferable skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

- You will be taught by the same teacher for the two years, allowing for continuity.
- Well-stocked resource library.
- Access to ICT for portfolio production and research.
- A variety of teaching and learning styles.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

The main purpose of the Level 3 in Health and Social Care is mainly to use the qualification to support access to higher education degree courses, related to: Nursing, Health Studies, Midwifery, Sociology, Psychology, Primary School Teaching, Social Work, Occupational Therapy

This subject combines well with Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Physical Education.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification, but we recommend that students who wish to study this course have at least a Grade 5 in English Language; students will be required to work independently and produce a considerable amount of coursework, so a good understanding of English is essential.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

History

Study key events in British and European History that have influenced the society that we have today and gain an A Level that both universities and employers highly value.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

History pupils will be following an exciting curriculum which will present the opportunity to study a wide range of significant topics.

You will explore modules in Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035-1107, Russia 1894 - 1941 and Popular culture and the Witchcraze of the 17th and 18th centuries.

You will also complete an independent piece of research into an historical issue of your choice, which can be on any time period or topic that you wish to examine.

The feedback we have received from pupils who have studied History since the curriculum changes in September 2015 has been overwhelmingly positive.

HOW YOU STUDY

You will make or be provided with detailed notes that cover all aspects of the course. Teachers also make use of films, role play and a variety of other activities that will engage you throughout the course.

The department visited the Normandy battlefields in April 2014 and are also planning an excursion to the D-Day landing beaches and The Somme battlefields in the future.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

You will be taught by very experienced teachers who have a long record of bringing out the best in their students. They all have specialisms and have built up a considerable body of knowledge and expertise in these areas.

We have an extensive department library which sixth formers are welcome to use and developing Teams channels containing useful links, resources and forums.

The subject is regularly one of the most popular subjects at A Level due to the high quality of the teaching and the wide range of support given.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Over the years many Hagley students have gone on to read for a degree in this subject. You will get good advice on which courses will suit you as your teachers have first-hand knowledge of universities that they will readily pass on to you.

OUR SUCCESSES

Every year History is an extremely popular degree course choice for many students.

There are at this moment former Hagley sixth formers reading for degrees in this subject at universities such as Durham, York, Birmingham and Cambridge.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Ideally you will have studied the subject at GCSE; but this is negotiable with Mr Lavender.

You will write essays and coursework assignments and therefore should feel confident about your writing skills, having achieved at least a Grade 5 in English Language.

OTHER SUBJECTS HISTORY COMBINES WELL WITH

Many Hagley sixth formers complement their study of History with English Literature and Geography, however it does combine well with a wide range of subjects including Criminology and Psychology.

We have also taught students with a diverse range of combinations, including Mathematics and Physics.

Mathematics

An incredibly useful and versatile A-Level that will make you think.

WHAT YOU STUDY

The beauty of A-Level Mathematics is that it allows you to study three very different areas of Mathematics.

The largest of these is Pure Mathematics which is the basic toolkit to interpret and solve mathematical problems. It combines the algebra and trigonometry previously studied and develops the topics far beyond GCSE.

In addition, you will discover new topics such as Calculus, developed to find rates of change and gradients of curved lines. The second area of study is Statistics; here you will analyse and interpret information and data.

The final area is Mechanics. This is where you will use mathematics to model the motion of a particle as it moves through a gravitational field.

Throughout the course you will be taught by teachers who will cover different sections of the syllabus. The pace will be fast; therefore you will be expected to manage your time to accomplish all the tasks set using the departmental support available.

To study Mathematics at A-Level you must have a love of the subject and enjoy doing the practice required to progress.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

Every member of the department is very supportive of the A-Level and will always help and advise you.

In addition to your lessons, we run a voluntary lunchtime workshop each week where homework can be done, and help sought.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Maths is a highly marketable subject. It relates to the Sciences, Social Sciences, Economics, Engineering and Computer studies. It is also a common A Level for students wishing to pursue a career in Medicine or Veterinary Science.

MATHEMATICS COMBINES WELL WITH

Physics, Computing, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology and Economics.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Ideally students should have achieved a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths, however in some circumstances the Head of Maths will consider applications from students who achieve a lower grade.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Media Studies

AT HAYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Combines written work with practical work and the opportunity to make a short film.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Media studies is a subject that investigates all forms of communication other than traditional literature, including radio, television, film, newspapers, magazines and the internet.

However, there is a link with traditional literature, because all these products are treated as texts, which can be analysed as though they were, say, novels or biographies.

So there is an element of deconstruction, but there is also an emphasis on audiences – who they are, how they change, and how they are manipulated, but also how they can actually influence media production.

WHAT DO YOU STUDY?

In Year 12 you will study Media Language and Media Representations. Looking at:

- Advertising and marketing
- Music video

In Year 13 you will study Media Industries and Media Audiences with a focus on:

- Radio
- Newspapers
- Film

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Taking A-Level Media Studies does not guarantee a career in the media, but it does provide an insight into both production and content.

This will give students some ideas about possible career paths in this field. By the end of the course they will at least know whether they want to continue with this kind of work.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in English Language.

A good grasp of ICT is also advisable.

SUBJECTS MEDIA STUDIES COMBINES WELL WITH

English, Sociology, Psychology, Art and Design, Theatre Studies.

Music

AT HAYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Fantastic music suite and a strong tradition of performing.

WHAT YOU STUDY

You will continue to study performing, composing and listening. During the course, there will be lots of performing opportunities and you will give performances during the course and assessed on performance at the end of the course.

You will study many different styles of music and use this to compose your own music, answer listening questions and respond to structured questions.

HOW TO STUDY

Music is a practical subject, and all areas of the course will be approached through the practical activities of listening, performing and composing.

You need discipline for rehearsing performances, research skills for analysis but, above all, musicality, and a love of music of all kinds.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

The Music Suite is a fantastic resource for the study of A-Level Music. It has a suite of practice rooms, an acoustically flattering performance area and a recording studio.

The Music Department has cutting edge technology to help realise your compositions and to help with arrangement tasks.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Music courses at degree level are very diverse, offering students the chance to specialise in a chosen career path.

Degrees may include courses on popular and traditional music, technology, music therapy, arts administration, performance and the study of more traditional musical skills.

OTHER RELATED DEGREE COURSES

Music Technology Degrees Performance Degrees/Diplomas Combined Arts Degrees.

OUR SUCCESSES

Many of our music students have gone on to read music at degree level.

Students have gone on to pursue careers related to music such as teaching at primary level with specialism in music, secondary school music teaching and working in recording studios.

COMBINES WELL WITH

Mathematics, English Literature, Modern Foreign Languages, other arts subjects such as Drama and Art.

Music provides a balance to any combination of A-Levels.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 or above in Music or equivalent musical study.

You should also be able to sing or play to at least Grade 4 level by the end of Year 11.

Grade 3-5 Music Theory is desirable.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Music Technology

This course is suitable for all good musicians, from rock to classical with an interest in recording and manipulating sound.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

WHAT YOU STUDY

This is mainly a practical subject. Students will study sequencing and recording techniques. Each student creates a portfolio of work to be sent to the Board.

The course is suitable for all good musicians with an interest in recording and manipulating sound using various types of musical technology. It provides the opportunity to build on your composing, arranging and listening skills.

The main entrance requirement is that students should have an interest in and experience of using recording technology (computer or studio based) to capture and edit sound. Students should be able to show evidence of their skills in this area. Students should have good aural skills and the ability to read and use conventional notation. In addition, they should have an interest in a variety of different popular musical styles, good ICT skills and a hard-working attitude. Although they will not be assessed on their instrumental skills, some practical performance expertise would be useful.

HOW YOU STUDY

This course is based largely around practical activity, supported by guided listening and music technology theory. Around 75% of your time will be spent arranging and recording music. Teaching is in small groups and students need to be able to work independently and collaboratively. It must be pointed out that there will be very regular deadlines and most of the work can only be done in the Music Technology rooms. This will impact upon your private study time.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

The course is very popular, with results and coursework being of a very high standard. We work closely with engineers in the industry and our students have opportunities to visit and attend workshops to enhance their learning.

This course will be taught at Hagley, using state of the art equipment, including a suite of Apple Mac computers running Logic software and a recording studio with a "live" booth and a wide range of microphones.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

A number of students continue their study into Music Technology at university. This year over 80% of the students who took the course are planning to study Music Technology / Music at degree level. This year destinations include Leeds and Brighton.

RELATED DEGREE COURSES

Advanced Level Music is the stepping stone for further study of Music Technology or Performing Arts at higher national or degree level. It can also help in a career in the music industry or in a technology/computer orientated career.

SUCCESSES

In 2022 every student met or improved upon their target grade, with 85% of the cohort achieving A and B grades.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

There are no Level 2 subject specific entrance requirements but a Grade 5 or above in GCSE music would prove useful. If students have studied the V-Cert Level 2 in Music Technology, then this is a perfect pathway to follow as the A Level course will build on previous skills and knowledge.

Physical Education

This is an excellent opportunity to acquire and develop theoretical knowledge relating to all aspects of Sport Science and Physical Education.

The course also requires a high standard of analytical and practical skills in relation to sports performance.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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THEORETICAL COURSE – MODULES & CONTENT

Applied Anatomy and Physiology – musculo-skeletal system, cardio-respiratory system, neuromuscular system, energy systems.

Exercise Physiology Diet and nutrition and their effect on physical activity and performance, preparation and training methods in relation to maintaining and improving physical activity and performance, injury prevention and the rehabilitation of injury.

Biomechanical Movement Biomechanical principles (newton's laws, force, centre of mass), levers, analysis of movement, types of motion, fluid mechanics.

Skill Acquisition Skill continuums and transfer of skills, principle and theories of learning and performance, how skill classification impacts practice and learning, use of guidance and feedback, memory and information processing.

Sport Psychology Individual aspects of performance (personality, attitudes, anxiety, aggression), team/group dynamics, goal setting, attribution theory, self-efficacy, leadership, confidence, stress management.

Sport and Society Factors leading to the emergence of modern sport through the globalisation of sport in the 21st Century, the impact of sport on society and society on sport, sporting ethics and deviance, talent identification and elite performance, the impact of commercialisation on physical activity and sport, sport and media.

The role of technology in physical activity and sport – The use of technology to analyse physical activity and sport, the development of equipment and facilities in physical activity and sport, the role of technology in sport for performers and the audience.

These modules account for 70% of the A-Level courses and are assessed via three written examinations in the Summer Term of Year 13.

EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE (EAPI)

You will be assessed in your ability to observe, analyse and evaluate a sport performance. Based upon this evaluation, you will be required to explain how you would design and implement a viable training/skills program to improve the observed performance. This is worth 15% of A-Level course.

PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE

Your sporting ability will be assessed as a player/performer or coach in one sport. There is a specific list of sports available for assessment. Check GCE Physical Education activity list on the OCR website for more details. This is worth 15% of the A-Level course.

PROGRESSIONS BEYOND A-LEVEL

Further Study – Sport and Exercise Science Undergraduate Degree/Masters' Degree/PhD/Post Graduate Certificate in Education (Sport Science/Physical Education) or the subject can be used to accrue UCAS points equivalent to all other A-Level subjects to support applications to university.

Career Options – Sport and Exercise Science Support and Research, Teacher of Physical Education, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, Sports Coaching, Sport and Leisure Industry, Medical Research, Sport Development Officer, Fitness Instructor, Health Professional, Diet and Nutrition Specialist.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

The H555 A-Level PE course combines well with Biology, Physics and Psychology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 in GCSE PE is preferred but not essential. National / regional / county / district representation in a sport(s) preferred. School level sports representation essential. Regular participation in sport and exercise essential.

"A-Level PE is a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding subject. Both the academic and practical aspects of the course have been excellently delivered across the two years and have allowed a great relationship to be developed with the members of PE staff. Studying PE has enabled me to explore a variety of sport-based careers beyond Sixth Form."

Former A-Level PE student who scored 60/60 in practical assessment and evaluation of performance task

Physics

Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Do you find yourself asking "What if?" or "Why?" or "What happens when?" Do you want to investigate the biggest of the big (is there an edge to the Universe?), the smallest of the small (what is inside a proton?), and everything in between?

If you ask these sorts of questions, then A-Level Physics might be the answer.

There are several fundamental principles to explore - a strong understanding of mechanics, electricity, and waves will open many doors for future careers. A thorough understanding of how to apply simple mathematics to explain complex systems such as the Earth's climate, weather and biological systems ensures that we can bring order and predictability to seemingly chaotic or random events. Through practical work, you will develop your analytical and investigative skills so that your abilities to predict, analyse and explain - 3 universally important skills - are first class. But also, there is the weird and bamboozling world of life on a sub atomic level- quantum mechanics to study, or the beauty and majestic intrigue of the nature of stars and beyond.

All A-Level Physics courses now have a very large (40%) mathematical element in the questions, so it is beneficial if you are good at Mathematics. AQA offers an optional module in Year 13 where the group will focus on 'Turning Points in Physics'. In completing this topic students will learn to appreciate, from historical and conceptual viewpoints, some of the most significant developments in Physics. Many present-day technological industries are the consequence of these key developments and the topics in the option illustrate how unforeseen technologies can develop from new discoveries.

HOW YOU STUDY

Discussion, problem solving, investigation, mathematical modelling, and individual and collaborative practical work.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

Qualifications, enthusiasm, expertise in ICT, industrial experience, equipment for modern practical investigative science, all the support students could ask for and online resources via Teams.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Physics develops analytical, independent and innovative thought. This is why all universities are impressed with students who achieve good grades at A-Level Physics.

OTHER RELATED DEGREE COURSES

Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, all Physical Sciences as well as numerate courses.

OUR SUCCESSES

Recent students have gone on to study Physics, Mechanical, Nuclear and Aerospace Engineering as well as many different numerate degrees. The course is challenging but if you are prepared to work hard then you will be rewarded with a very good grade. In 2019 onwards the students achieved a 100% pass rate.

COMBINES WELL WITH

Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering and Technology.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Combined Science/Physics at a Grade 6 is highly recommended.

Maths at least at Grade 6 is highly recommended, due to the large amount of mathematical content in the course.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Product Design

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
AT HAYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Develop your design and thinking skills to open up a world of possibility, providing the tools to create the future.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Have you ever wondered what designers actually do? Have you ever wondered how things move or work? Have you ever wondered how you can design products to be good for the environment? Have you ever wondered how a product continues to stay popular in the marketplace? Have you ever wondered how products are designed with the user in mind?

The content of this title is focused towards engineered and electronic products and systems; the analysis of these in respect of function, operation, components and materials, in order to understand their application and uses in engineered products/systems that have commercial viability.

During the two year course you will study a range of materials, you will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and affect of design on users and the world we live in.

You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.

You will develop a critical mind through enquiry and problem solving, exploration, creation and evaluation of iterative designs. We encourage freedom in your approach towards designing and making so as not to limit the possibilities of project work or the materials and processes being used.

The course requires you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. This content reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is a two-year course, with three units:

- Unit 1 Principles of: 1.5 hour exam paper which examines the core technical principles of design, manufacturing and systems. Worth 25% of the marks for the course.
- Unit 2 Unseen Challenge: 2.5 hour exam paper which requires you to design a product to solve a real world problem and then evaluate its effectiveness. Worth 25% of the marks for the course.
- Unit 3 Iterative Design Project: A single coursework project which requires students to explore a real problem, design and create a solution and then evaluate its effectiveness. Worth 50% of the marks for the course.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

You will gain skills that are useful in a wide range of jobs, in further study of design or engineering, and in your personal life in helping you develop decision making abilities such as planning and organisation of time and resources when managing a project.

You will build and develop on your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also focusing in more depth on the areas of design and technology that interest you most. This allows access to a range of future careers in the design and engineering industries, such as product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Entry criteria should be a GCSE pass at Grade 4 or above in a workshop-based Design and Technology subject.

Psychology

Psychology is an academic A-Level, you will study theories and research into human behaviour.

Psychology is really interesting but be aware you need a scientific way of thinking and excellent essay writing skills to be successful.

You will be writing and testing hypotheses, evaluating theories and research on topics as varied as; the reliability of eyewitness testimony, the causes of schizophrenia and cognitive explanations of addiction.

There is lots of content to learn, lots of thinking to be done and some statistics to get your head around. Many of our students enjoy Psychology so much they choose it at degree level.

- Component 1 Psychology past and present. You will study 5 psychological approaches that aim to explain human behaviour: The Biological, Psychodynamic, Behaviourist, Cognitive and Positive.
- Component 3 Psychology: Implications in the real world. You will study 3 topics: Schizophrenia, Criminal Psychology and Addiction, as well as controversies in Psychology including ethical issues, the scientific status of and sexism.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

You will be taught by specialist teachers who will make the subject relatable and provide a high level of stretch and challenge for those aiming to achieve the highest grades. We really value curiosity in our students, we want students who are keen to think and question the material we present. Students are provided with book lists, podcasts and materials that will develop a wider knowledge. Psychology offers some great EPQ topics.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY & THE WORLD OF WORK:

Psychology courses at university are very diverse. There are more specialisms in Psychology than you would believe, but you do not have to want to be a psychologist to choose this subject. A-Level Psychology is helpful in many other professions such as human resources, business, management and advertising.

OUR SUCCESSES

Each year, many of our students go on to study Psychology related degrees at university. Last year, some of our students went on to study Criminology at the University of Manchester; Marketing and Psychology at Keele University; Psychology at Aberystwyth University; Criminology and Psychology at Sheffield Hallam University; Psychology at the University of Worcester; Psychiatric Nursing at Birmingham City University; Psychology at the University of Birmingham and Sports Science at the University of Bath.

COMBINES WELL WITH:

Psychology has relevance in all walks of life, including retail management, the police, social work, nursing, and even being a parent! It also has connections with quite a number of other disciplines, so you can study it alongside a wide range of subjects including, for example, Sociology, Biology, English, criminology & geography.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

You are expected to achieve a Grade 5 or above in: English Language, Maths and Science. Enthusiasm and hard work are also important. You must be a competent essay writer and whilst you do not need to be particularly mathematically orientated, you must be prepared to analyse and interpret sets of statistics and calculate basic equations.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Religious Studies

Challenge yourself to think beyond the obvious and gain insight into some of the most fascinating questions ever asked!

WHAT YOU STUDY

Religious Studies, at A-Level, is all about exploring scholarly and philosophical debates surrounding the Philosophy of Religion, developments in Christian thought and Ethical theories.

In Philosophy of Religion, students study the attempts that have been made to prove the existence of God and to reconcile His existence with the existence of evil and suffering.

An in-depth study of Christianity including the development of Christian thinking and the role of Christianity in modern society.

An investigation into various ethical theories and principles is undertaken on topics such as: medicine, life issues and personal conduct.

HOW YOU STUDY

The course is made up of three units which are undertaken in each year; Philosophy, Developments in Christian thought and Ethics.

The course is 100% exam based, and these 3 exams are taken at the end of Year 13.

Religious Studies demands hard work and is regarded as an academic discipline.

An active and enquiring mind is important as well as the willingness to debate and discuss controversial issues that arise. Essays will be set on a regular basis.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES

Excellent pass rate at A-Level. The RE department has a highly qualified team of specialists with a proven track record of preparing students for public examination.

PROGRESSION TO UNIVERSITY

Theology is highly regarded by universities as an academic subject, encompassing many fields, including Philosophy, Ethics, Old Testament/New Testament Studies, World Religions, Church History and Liberation Theology.

The critical thinking skills acquired during A-Level Religious Studies provide an excellent foundation for entry into professions such as social work, journalism and business/managerial positions.

OUR SUCCESSES

Theology and/or Philosophy have been the chosen degree subject(s) of several students in recent years, at the following universities: Cardiff, Leeds Trinity, Bishop Grosseteste, York, St John's and Newman.

In recent years, a number of our past students have become youth leaders in Catholic Youth Renewal Centres.

COMBINES WELL WITH

History, English, Theatre Studies and Psychology.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies is essential.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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Sociology

Sociology is the study of human social relationships, institutions, development and organisation.

WHAT YOU STUDY

Sociology's subject matter is diverse, ranging from the family and education to crime and religion, from the divisions of race and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture, and from social stability to radical change in whole societies.

Social researchers draw upon a variety of qualitative and quantitative techniques to gather sociological evidence.

This will focus on analysing interviews and statistics.

HOW YOU STUDY

We use a variety of teaching methods which include the use of ICT, research tasks, problem solving, theoretical questions, debate and discussions.

You will be expected to work independently but also have opportunities to complete group work, research tasks and enhance communications skills with presentations.

Progression to university with this qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to Sociology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by higher education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Sociology encompasses elements of scientific enquiry as well as more humanities-based approaches.

As a result, Sociology students are expected to develop a broad range of transferable skills, including research, essay writing and statistical analysis.

OTHER RELATED DEGREE COURSES

Sociology is part of a Social Science group of subjects and intersects with other Social Sciences, such as Politics, Economics, Law, Psychology and Statistics.

If you are interested in human social behaviour, it can provide the backbone to many degrees such as Anthropology, English, and Criminology.

Other career links include youth work, community welfare, social work and teaching.

OUR SUCCESSES

We are a highly successful department that offers high quality teaching and learning environments.

We have excellent examination results with our A-Level achieving a 100% pass rate at A*- E.

COMBINES WELL WITH

Sociology combines well with Criminology, Psychology, Religious Studies, History and Geography.

GCSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in English Language is essential.

Grade 4 or above in History or Geography is also desirable.

Sport

Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

WHAT YOU STUDY

The Pearson Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is a qualification designed for students who have a keen interest in pursuing a career or further education in the sports industry. It is particularly suitable for those who want to develop their understanding of sports science, sports coaching, and the broader aspects of sport and physical activity. There is an emphasis on scientific knowledge such as understanding of human anatomy, physiology, and the impact of exercise. In addition to developing analytical skills, enabling students to assess fitness levels, evaluate performance, and apply training principles.

HOW YOU STUDY

The Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A-level and typically comprises four units of study. The qualification is structured to provide both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience.

CORE UNITS:

- Unit 1 (Anatomy & Physiology – 1hr 30 Exam): Learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.
- Unit 2 (Fitness, Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing – 2hr 30 Controlled Assessment): Learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being
- Unit 3 (Professional Development in the Sports Industry - Coursework): Learners explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.
- Unit 7 (Practical Sports Performance - Coursework): Learners study the skills, techniques, tactics and rules of selected sports through active participation in individual/team sports.
- Assessment: The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is assessed through a combination of coursework, practical assignments and some units that include external assessments, which involve an exam and a controlled assessment, while others are internally assessed through projects, presentations, and practical demonstrations.

CAREER AND PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Completing the Extended Certificate can lead to various career pathways in the sports industry, such as sports coaching, fitness training, and sports management. Additionally, it provides a solid foundation for further education, including higher education courses in sports science, sports management, physical education, or related fields.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 in GCSE Physical Education (if studied) and a keen interest in physical education and school level sport.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Quick Guide

SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2027/28

Please see the individual subject entries for more specific details on entry requirements.

In some cases, we will consider students for a place on the courses below if they just miss the grade required.

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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ART AND DESIGN
Grade 4 in any area of GCSE Art and Design.

BIOLOGY
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language. Priority is given to any students with a Grade 6 in either GCSE Biology or Combined Science and a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

BUSINESS STUDIES
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics.

CHEMISTRY
Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Combined Science and a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

COMPUTING
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. GCSE Computer Science is also preferred at GCSE Grade 5.

CRIMINOLOGY
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

ECONOMICS
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Maths.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

ENGLISH LITERATURE
Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language.

FILM STUDIES
Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language.

FRENCH
Grade 6 in GCSE French.

FURTHER MATHS
Grade 7 in GCSE Maths.

GEOGRAPHY
Grade 5 in GCSE Geography.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and History.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL
Grade 5 in GCSE English.

HISTORY
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language, GCSE History is desirable.

IT (APPLIED)
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

MEDIA STUDIES
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

MATHS
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

MUSIC
Grade 5 in GCSE Music or equivalent musical studies.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
Grade 5 in GCSE Music would prove useful.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Grade 5 in GCSE PE. School level sports representation and regular participation in sport and exercise is essential. National, Regional, County or District representation in a sport(s) is preferred.

PHYSICS
Grade 6 in GCSE Science/Physics and Maths.

PRODUCT DESIGN
Grade 4 in GCSE Design Technology.

PSYCHOLOGY
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language, Maths and Science.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies.

SOCIOLOGY
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language. Grade 4 or above in GCSE History or Geography is desirable.

SPORT
Grade 5 in GCSE PE

A-Level Results 2026

WHAT HAGLEY STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED

A LEVEL (GCE)

SUBJECT	TOTAL	A* %	A %	B %	C %	AV GRADE
Art	3	0	0	3	0	B=
Biology	13	0	4	5	4	B-
Business Studies	11	0	1	3	7	C-
Chemistry	6	0	3	1	2	C+
Computing	4	0	1	1	2	C=
Economics	4	0	2	2	0	A-
English Language	10	0	2	6	2	B=
English Literature	10	2	2	2	4	B=
Further Maths Hay	1	1	0	0	0	A*=
Geography	14	0	3	4	7	B-
History	11	0	2	4	5	C+
Maths	14	2	5	4	3	B-
Media Studies	1	0	0	0	1	C=
Music Technology	1	1	0	0	0	A*=
PE	14	1	6	4	3	B-
Physics	6	0	3	1	2	C=
Psychology	14	1	2	4	7	C=
RE	9	1	1	3	4	B-
Sociology	2	0	0	1	1	C-
Summary	148	9	37	48	54	

APPLIED GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

SUBJECT	TOTAL	A* %	A %	B %	C %	AV GRADE
Criminology	24	0	4	10	10	B+

SUBJECT	TOTAL	D*	D	M	P
Health and Social	5	0	3	2	0

Where are they now?

WHERE OUR STUDENTS HAVE MOVED ON TO THIS YEAR

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Aberystwyth University	Marine biology with a foundation year
Aberystwyth University	Sociology
Aston University	International Business Management
Arts University Bournemouth	Illustration
University of Birmingham	Law
University of Birmingham	Aerospace Engineering
University of Birmingham	Psychology
University of Birmingham	Economics
Birmingham City University	Interior design
Birmingham City University	Psychology and Counselling
University College Birmingham	Sports Therapy (Physio)
University of Bristol	Maths
Cardiff University	Sport and Exercise Science
Cardiff University	Mechanical Engineering
Cardiff University	Supply Chain Logistics Management
Durham University	Psychology
Edinburgh University	Philosophy and Ethics
University of Exeter	Global Sustainability
University of Gloucester	Law
Keele University	Law with Politics
Lancaster University	Business Studies
University of Leicester	Psychology
Liverpool John Moores University	Business Sport
Liverpool John Moores University	Business and Marketing
University College London	Urban Planning and Real Estate
University College London	Urban Planning Design and Management
University of Manchester	Philosophy, Politics, Ethics
Manchester Metropolitan University	Geography
Manchester Metropolitan University	Business and Marketing
Manchester Metropolitan University	Nursing

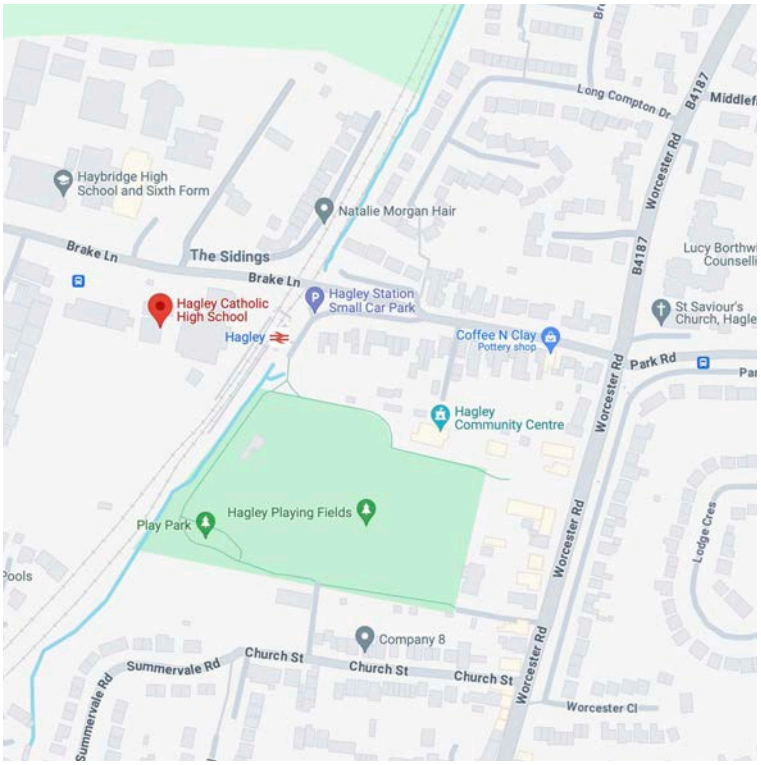
HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

UNIVERSITY	COURSE
Newman University	Physiotherapy
Newman University	Philosophy, Politics, Ethics
Northumbria University	Sports Science
University of Nottingham	Chemical Engineering
University of Nottingham	Psychology
University of Nottingham	History
Nottingham Trent University	Psychology
Portsmouth University	Paleontology
Queens University Belfast	Chemistry
Royal Holloway London	Computer Science
Swansea University	Biology
University of Worcester	Forensic Investigation
University of Worcester	Environmental Management and Sustainability
University of Worcester	Criminology
University of Worcester	Forensic Science
University of Worcester	Psychology
University of Worcester	Sports Science
University of York	Law

OTHER DESTINATIONS	
Apprenticeship	Business and Project Management
Apprenticeship	Kings Norton Accountancy
Apprenticeship	Staffordshire Fire Service
Apprenticeship	JBA Consulting
Apprenticeship	Langham Lyford Level 7 (B'ham)
Armed Forces	Army
RAF Cosford	Pilot
Birmingham Conservatoire	Music

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SEMPER FIDELIS



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