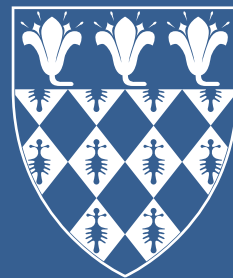


MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL BRACKLEY



SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS
2025

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE SELF





WELCOME

Making decisions about where to continue your education after GCSE is another pressure during Year 11. We're delighted to share the incredible provision at Magdalen with you.

Our Sixth Form provides a strong blend of inspiring new learning where you will be able to dive more deeply into a smaller number of subjects, with first-class pastoral support and opportunities to explore your future. Whether you see yourself starting your own business; leading an inspirational charity or social enterprise; securing an apprenticeship; or heading to university for further study, Magdalen is the ideal place for your next two years.

We hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of life in the Magdalen Sixth Form. We'd love to welcome you to visit us and see this special place for yourself.



THE MAGDALEN SIXTHFORM

Our job in the Magdalen Sixth Form is to support every student in learning more in their academic studies; developing their self-management and awareness of key issues through the personal development curriculum, and exploring a wide range of opportunities through volunteering and enrichment.

Academic learning will focus on Level 3 courses, the vast majority of which are traditional A Levels. Study post GCSE allows you to increasingly specialise and learn more about subjects that interest you. These may well be subjects that stay with you for the rest of your life and career.

The more you learn, the more opportunities can open up for you in the Sixth Form and beyond.





PASTORAL CARE & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Alongside your Academic learning, the Magdalen Sixth Form provides high levels of support to you as you work out 'the person you're going to be in the world'.

You will be part of a tutor group who meet at the start of every day. Your tutor will get to know you as a learner and a person. They'll be your cheerleader, your advocate and your guide. As well as time with your whole tutor group you'll have a series of one-to-one meetings to help you become the best possible version of yourself.

All our Sixth Formers have regular PCSHE lessons delivered by specialist teachers. These lessons explore a range of issues that you will encounter in your life either now or in the future.

SIXTH FORM LIFE





Your school experience looks and feels different in the Sixth Form. Alongside timetabled lessons for your chosen subjects, all Sixth Formers have study periods in the 'TGC'. Here you'll find 'Godwin's' coffee shop giving you all-day access to food and drinks, in addition to advice and guidance from the Sixth Form team.

Studying post-16 makes extra demands on your organisation and self-management. We are keen for all our students to use technology to support these important areas. To help with that we offer a zero-interest package to purchase a suitable device to support your studies.

Your Sixth Form years will be busy with other activities too: volunteering in the school and beyond; taking part in enrichment activities across the school; stepping up to be one of our Senior Student Leadership Team, and enjoying the social events on offer.

EPQ & WAYNFLETE SCHOLARSHIP

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is part of the curriculum entitlement for all Sixth Form students on an A Level pathway. The 'Project' is supported through regular lessons and mentoring sessions in Year 12.

You will be helped to identify an area of interest to explore; taught how to investigate your area drawing on existing writing and research, and then produce your own outcome - an essay, a presentation, an artefact etc.

The Project gives you more than a qualification - it also gives you an 'expert subject' or a 'passion' to talk about in applications and interviews.

In every year group we have 10 to 12 places for our highest-achieving students at GCSE to work on their project through the 'Waynflete Scholarship' in partnership with MCS Oxford. This group of students travel to Oxford to work alongside peers from Oxford and engage with teaching staff from Oxford University. No other state school Sixth Form can offer this opportunity.



FOOTBALL EDUCATION PROGRAMME



From 2025 we are excited to be working in partnership with Brackley Town Football Club to deliver our Football and Education Programme. This exciting pathway gives young people the chance to combine studying with developing their skills and understanding of football, coaching and fitness.

The core Football pathway offers a Level 3 NCFE Extended Diploma (Sport and Exercise Science), with the chance to complete GCSEs in English and Maths if needed; or to pick up an additional A Level and/or Extended Project Qualification.


The football development element of the programme is hosted at Brackley Town under the direction of Head of Coaching Andy Thompson. Every student has a personalised football development programme and expert input.

Our Football and Education Programme is unique - offering high quality football coaching; opportunities to fulfil fixtures for Brackley Under 18s; excellent teaching from Magdalen staff, and all the personal development, tutoring support and wider opportunities of life in the Sixth Form.





GO BEYOND



Our Sixth Form students don't just spend their time in lessons and studying. The Magdalen Sixth Form also provides and supports a range of opportunities to challenge yourself.



The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is available to all students. The four sections of Expedition, Physical, Volunteering and Skills will be familiar to students who have completed Bronze or Silver previously. The Gold Award adds a Residential requirement. Support is provided in school and expeditions are organised through our external partner.

In the summer of 2025 a group of our students are heading to Borneo for a fortnight with World Challenge. Students will experience life in a different hemisphere and challenge themselves with a trek through the jungle.

The Sixth Form has a partnership with the Nasio Trust charity - an organisation that supports children and communities in Kenya. Our link has been established through a former student. An expedition to work with the charity in Kenya is planned for the summer of 2026. We also enjoy a long-standing relationship with the Holocaust Educational Trust and each year students have the chance to visit Poland.

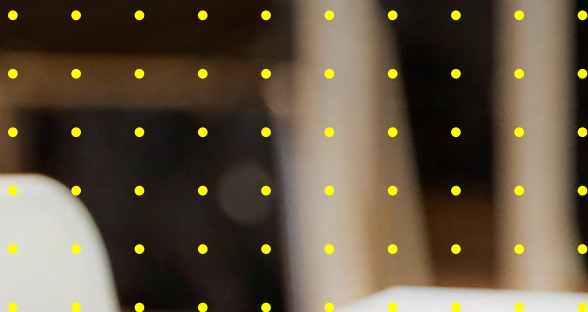
THE CURRICULUM



All students in the Sixth Form are entitled to our Tutor Programme, PCSHE including Careers, and volunteering opportunities. Students on either Football pathway are engaged in training and fixtures with Brackley Town FC.

There are three academic curriculum pathways in our Sixth Form:

- Core Academic: 3 (or 4) A Level subjects; EPQ, *option for one re-sit in English or Maths, and option for football training and fixtures with BTFC*
- Football Plus: NCFE Level 3, EPQ and one GCSE re-sit, *option for one additional A Level course*
- Core Football: NCFE Level 3, re-sit GCSE or completed Functional Skills in English and / or Maths



ENGLISH

The English Department offer two different A Levels, building on what students have learnt at GCSE and both develop skills that are valued by universities and can be applied across a wide range of careers.


A Level Literature allows students to explore and analyse a wide range of texts in different forms and we aim to arrange theatre visits for any texts that are currently being performed so that students can see different interpretations of plays. Context is an important factor in our understanding of texts and the course engages students with exploring texts through different analytical perspectives and viewing the world through the eyes of others. Students are able to study: poetry, plays, Shakespeare and complete an independent novel study that allows them to focus their coursework on an area of their own interest, but also develop their critical thinking skills and long term planning of their own extended piece.

A Level Language and Literature is equally valuable and has some crossover with the same form of texts with Literature, but students are able to look at a wider range of non fiction texts such as speeches, diaries and television transcripts and analyse how the English language is used and adapted in context. Alongside looking at a novel, poetry, plays and essay based coursework, students are also examined on their creative writing skills giving the Language a Literature course a creative twist.

Both courses are taught by passionate, experienced and dedicated staff who deliver lessons that support students in becoming more independent, sharing opinions respectfully in both discussion and academic writing and learning more about the cultural capital our rich history of literature and non fiction examples have to offer.



MATHS & COMPUTING



The benefits of studying A Level Maths extend far beyond the obvious career paths that relate to numbers. KS5 Maths students at MCS gain invaluable skills that can be applied in a wide range of jobs. By studying Maths here you will become a better problem-solver, capable of thinking logically and analytically. You will learn to reason formally, a valuable skill for communication in any environment. A Level Maths can make a significant difference to your future by opening-up numerous academic and professional opportunities. People with A Level Maths earn 10% more in the same job than those without it.

Over two years you will study three branches of mathematics – mechanics, the study of forces and motion; statistics, the study of data and probability; and pure maths, building on what you already know and learning about entirely new areas of Maths.

A Level Further Maths students will also study a fourth branch, discrete maths, learning, amongst other things, about the Maths that drives computer algorithms. You will become capable of solving complex problems – no matter where they arise – and be equipped to take a pragmatic approach to life's biggest challenges. Lastly, you will make yourself desirable in a data-driven and technological world where jobs in STEM are increasingly prevalent.



For A Level Computer Science, the course is split equally into theory and practical lessons. We encourage questioning and problem solving throughout the course. We teach several computer programming languages and the language students choose for their coursework is tailored to individual needs. Students can directly enter A Level Computer Science without having studied the subject at GCSE. If students are choosing a device on the BYOD scheme, please be aware Chromebooks are unsuitable for the study of Computer Science as there are software packages that need to be downloaded. There is a significant mathematical component to the course in Y13, so I would recommend students either combine Computer Science with Maths A Level or are prepared to spend some time in their study periods upskilling their mathematical understanding from KS4.

SCIENCES





Studying Science at A Level here at Magdalen is challenging, rewarding and inspiring in equal measure. We welcome those students who have studied either GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Triple Science.

The topics studied at A Level Biology range from cell biology and gene technology to bioenergetics and physiology. Each year we take our Year 13 students to the Museum of Natural History in Oxford. Here our students look at their own DNA and work out why it is some people can taste certain flavours.

A Level Chemistry ranges from sub-atomic structure to giant macro molecules and from molecular synthesis to environmental analysis. We enter students into the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad Analytical Competition and the Cambridge University Lower Sixth Challenge.

Studying A Level Physics means learning about the smallest fundamental particles to the largest of galaxies and how the world works in between. Every two years we take both Year 12 and Year 13 students on a day trip to CERN. This gives students a fantastic opportunity to see an example of where cutting edge scientific research is happening.



LANGUAGES

We offer A Levels in French and German at Magdalen. Alongside developing their linguistic skills, students learn and apply important transferable skills in critical thinking and analysis.

The themes that are studied at the start of Year 12 build upon familiar and popular topics from the GCSE course, enabling students to make a smooth transition to the next level of study. New topics studied later in the course, link to the most interesting aspects of the culture and history of the target language country. Students will additionally study a work of literature and a popular film from the target language country.

To further develop their spoken language, A Level linguists have one-to-one / small group lessons with our language assistants. They are also able to develop their leadership skills by helping to co-ordinate activities for the KS3 and KS4 language clubs.

Every year Year 12 and 13 students are given the opportunity to attend a KS5 language study day at the British Film Institute in London. This inspiring day, conducted entirely in the target language, aims to help students to develop their film analysis skills and build a deeper understanding of the key set texts.



HUMANITIES

Humanities subjects at Magdalen investigate interactions between people and their connection to the planet, past, present and future. We work hard to make our learning relevant to life in the 21st century, using the amazing opportunities our disciplines provide to give context, shape opinion and prepare for life in an ever globalised world.

Geography at A level investigates the dynamic nature of Earth's systems and people, is flexible in responding to emerging global events and uses cutting-edge research to enhance every day learning. An integral component of Geography is fieldwork, the locations for which change annually but most recently have taken us to Oxford, Surrey and the UK coast.

A level History centres around three areas key periods of the world's development, covering Elizabethan England, the Crusades, a thematic study on witch-craze, and an independent study into a chosen historical issue. We are also fortunate to be able to take a group of Sixth Form students to Auschwitz-Birkenau each September, as part of our ongoing work with the Holocaust Education Trust.

Religious Studies comprises two separate components: philosophy and ethics, and the study of Christianity across the A Level. Considering how we know what is true, how we prove what is true, and what 'truth' even means, whilst learning in depth about Christian beliefs and its place in modern society, is a fascinating exploration of the values and attitudes that shape our lives.



ART & TECH



Art offers two A Level courses: Fine Art and Creative Textiles. In both options you will explore a range of traditional and new media, processes and techniques. Students explore the work of artists, craftspeople and designers - taking inspiration and shaping your own approaches in explorations in your sketchbook and beyond.

In both specifications students explore critical and contextual understanding - linking issues, interests and life experiences with the art they make. Art students develop a wide range of human qualities - creativity, empathy, critical thinking, research, analysis and communication as they learn to give voice to their imagination and vision of the world.




In Technology there are two options for Post-16 study - Product Design, and Food Science & Nutrition.

Product Design challenges students to develop their own project concept through iterative design. Students develop hands-on practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge that is brought together to creatively solve problems. Working as designers in the 21st century students will consider the social, moral and ethical elements to their products, including the environmental impact.

Food Science & Nutrition explores the relationship between the human body and food; analysing and investigating the sensory and scientific properties of food, and considering how aspects of food relate to social, environmental, cultural and ethical contexts. Students develop their knowledge of food safety, nutritional needs, and food production alongside their practical skills where they develop experimental work in creating exciting new products.



A photograph of three students, two men and one woman, smiling and looking towards the right. The woman in the center has blonde hair and is wearing a grey sweater. The man on the left is partially obscured by a blue vertical bar and diagonal lines. The man on the right is wearing a black and blue jacket. The background is blurred.

In PE we develop students' understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical sport whilst also engaging them with key issues and themes relating to contemporary global influences on physical education. Students have the opportunity to put this into action when attending trips like going to Northampton University to undertake a fitness testing programme and also a local football business to gain practical experience of the range of topics we study.

A Level Drama and Theatre offers a practical learning experience seeing theatre and making theatre of their own. Students will make connections between theory and practice through the study of influential theatre practitioners exploring a range of theatrical styles and contexts. Students explore plays practically, devise, and deepen their understanding of the contribution of performers, designers, and directors to communicate meaning to an audience.

Creativity is one of the most important and in-demand skills at work, this means that the study of creative subjects, like music, is even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions.

A Level Music is a course suited for those with a passion for music. It looks at the three main elements of musical learning; performing, composing and listening, and the way in which these can be brought together.





SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Psychology A Level is ideal for students with a love of science as it delves deep into the workings of the human brain and body across a broad range of topics which enables students to prepare for further study in a wide variety of areas such as criminology and forensics.

A Level Sociology expands on the topics taught at GCSE but in greater depth, allowing students to apply their knowledge in relation to Sociology of the Family, Crime, Education and Beliefs and as such lends itself to a wide range of career opportunities.

Our Health and Social Care course is ideal for students who want to develop applied knowledge and skills in health, social or childcare settings such as those wishing to be teachers, nurses or social workers. This course is assessed via examined units as well as coursework elements and is a Level 3 AAQ Cambridge Advance National.



Edexcel's A Level in Business allows students to study various aspects of Business including sales, marketing, finance, operations management and global business. The course provides a solid foundation for students looking to move onto careers ranging from private sector businesses to public sector organisations and working as a self-employed business entrepreneur.

Edexcel's A Level in Economics allows students to study various aspects of Economics including microeconomics and macroeconomics. The course provides a solid foundation for students looking to move onto careers in banking, finance, financial services, insurance and other areas of private business and public sector provision.

APPLICATIONS, ADMISSIONS, & INDUCTION

Applications to the Magdalen Sixth Form can be made using the online form on the school website. We encourage applications before the end of January each year to support planning, but can often accommodate later requests.

If you're looking at joining us from another school our team will make contact and invite you to come and visit us in person.

Detailed entry requirements are on the school website. For our A Level Pathway we require an average grade of 4 or higher across all GCSEs taken, with at least a 4 in either English or Maths; for the Football and Education Programme we recommend an average grade of at least a 2 or higher across all GCSEs.

All applicants will be included in our Induction Programme during the summer term of Year 11. This happens over two days and includes introductions to subjects and Sixth Form life.





MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL BRACKLEY



Magdalen College School
Waynflete Avenue
Brackley
Northants
NN13 6FB

01280 846300

info@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

www.magdalen.northants.sch.uk

  MCSixth

