



Cockermouth School Sixth Form

Subject Information: 2019/2020



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1 | Applied Science

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This Level 3 course covers aspects of biology, chemistry and physics, set within contexts of industry.</p> <p>Learners will cover topics and scientific principles associated with the application of biology, chemistry and physics. The course concentrates on experimental and practical techniques associated with applied science. Also covered are the roles and skills of scientists, and the public and media perception of science.</p>	<p>AQA Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website : AQA Applied Science Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Unit titles include:</p> <p>Y12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Concepts in Science (written exam) • Applied Experimental Techniques (portfolio) • Science in the Modern World (written exam with pre-release sources) <p>Y13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Body (written exam) • Investigating Science (portfolio) • Microbiology, Medical Physics or Organic Chemistry (portfolio) 	<p>Grade 5,5 at GCSE in two or more sciences and Grade 5 in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>You will learn to take responsibility for your own learning and develop interpersonal and practical thinking skills. You will be required to manage your time efficiently and to work to a brief with set deadlines.</p>	
Progression	
<p>This qualification is accepted by a range of universities, and taken alongside other qualifications, it can fulfil the entry requirements for a number of science-related higher education courses, including biomedical, forensic and sports science, as well as nursing. The qualification attracts UCAS points equivalent to A Levels.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Miss K Hardy: hardyk@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

2 | Art, Craft and Design

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This diverse course offers a wide range of techniques spanning both traditional and contemporary practice. Students will have opportunities to explore and then specialise in a variety and combination of methods used across all of the Visual Arts subjects. All projects are personalised and we strongly encourage individuals to further explore and develop their own ideas. Students choose to work in their specialist area focusing on combinations from graphics, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, fashion, photography and print.</p>	<p>AQA A Level Art, Craft and Design</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website: Art, Craft and Design Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>There are three components to the A Level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio of Artwork • Personal Investigation (written extended essay and artwork) • Externally set assignment (Exam set by AQA) 	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE Art & Design (including specialism e.g Graphic Communication) or Level 2 equivalent, Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent working practice • Research and selection process • Time management • Decision making • Working to specific tasks and meeting deadlines • Oral, visual and written presentation skills 	
Progression	
<p>Many students use the course as a natural progression into the study of art, fashion, interiors, photography and architecture at degree level. Others find it is a perfect foundation for primary teaching, psychology and other child centered courses. The natural link between media based careers in theatre, television, journalism and advertising is often helpful for students who want to pursue careers in these areas. This course is well suited to those who need to have some creative element in their studies for specific careers e.g. Architecture.</p> <p>Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses: Textile Design at MMU, Graphics and Illustration at Dundee University, Art and Design Foundation studies at Leeds College of Art.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs S Tinkler: tinklers@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

3 | Biology

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>Biology involves the study of living organisms: the way they work, their interactions with each other and the environment. The diversity of life and its study extends from the simplest bacteria to complex multicellular organisms like mammals.</p> <p>The course builds on material covered at GCSE including cell biology, enzymes, genetic variation, inheritance and ecology while also introducing new concepts such as the physiology of organ systems, biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis, molecular biology and the control of gene expression.</p> <p>Theory is closely linked to practical application and this is reflected in the course delivery. Students will be required to apply their practical knowledge to analyse critically and interpret experimental data and design. To facilitate this there will be fieldwork opportunities.</p>	<p>AQA A Level Biology</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:</p> <p>AQA Biology Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>3 x 2 hour written papers. All papers assess practical skills.</p> <p>Paper 1 (35%) Topics 1 – 4, a mixture of short, long and extended response questions.</p> <p>Paper 2 (35%) Topics 5 – 8, a mixture of short, long and comprehension questions.</p> <p>Paper 3 (30%) Topics 1 – 8, structured questions, critical analysis of experimental data and a 25 mark essay question.</p>	<p>Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or at least Grade 6,6 in GCSE Combined Science with a Grade 6 in both Biology papers; Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics; and Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>The ability to communicate scientific understanding succinctly and effectively both orally and written. The use of higher-level problem solving skills, data handling and interpretation. Analytical, practical and observational skills as well as independent learning and research.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Degrees in Biological Sciences, Biomedical Science, Physiology, Natural Science, Biochemistry, Zoology, Neurosciences and Genetics and many other biological degree courses offer a natural progression for any student studying Biology. Many students go on to a biologically-related degree course such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing or Forensic Science. Biology graduates are employed by a variety of growing industries ranging from research, laboratory work, field work, epidemiology to climate change and environmental management.</p> <p>Others choose careers as diverse as Law, Computing, Languages, Accounting or Teaching.</p> <p>Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses: Natural Sciences, Evolutionary Biology, Medicine, Bio-medical sciences, Neuroscience, Genetics, Zoology and Environmental Science at a range of universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Newcastle, Sheffield, Glasgow, Loughborough and Exeter.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Dr S Murray: murrays@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

4 | Business

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>Many students will, at some time, work in a business or an organisation with business principles. Learning about businesses and their activities is a core life skill.</p> <p>This Business course is a real-world focused one that is rooted in the study of relevant and up-to-date case studies, backed up by a full understanding of core theory that explains the rationale and principles behind actions.</p> <p>The course is delivered through a mixture of taught elements, class activities and self-directed work. In addition, students are provided with textbooks, websites, magazines, newsletters and Firefly to assist their learning. We also make use of guest speakers.</p> <p>In Year 12 two modules are studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1) Exploring Business • 3) Personal and Business Finance <p>In Year 13, a further two will be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2) Developing a Marketing Campaign • 22) Market Research. 	<p>Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Business</p> <p>This BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to one full A Level.</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the Pearson Edexcel website :</p> <p>Business BTEC Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Each unit is assessed separately upon completion; half the assessment is therefore accredited at the end of Year 12, and the remainder at the end of Year 13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units 1 and 22 are assessed through the completion of an internally set and marked project based around the research of a local business/situation • Unit 2 is assessed through a time-limited controlled assessment set and assessed by Edexcel • Unit 3 is assessed by a traditional written exam that is set and marked by Edexcel 	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE Business, if studied, and Grade 5 in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>This course will develop a variety of skills, including research and project writing, calculation, data analysis and interpretation. Students will also develop their presentation skills and take part in a variety of group work tasks. The core skill of evaluation will be enhanced through discussion and consideration of viewpoints.</p>	
Progression	
<p>The BTEC Level 3 will equally enable students to progress into employment, training or higher level study. The qualification attracts UCAS points equivalent to A Level. Many universities accept BTEC courses.</p> <p>All employers, educators and trainers value the development of transferable skills mentioned above. Many students of Level 3 courses choose to enter employment and continue to study part-time to Level 4 (Undergraduate level) and beyond.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mr S Dawson: dawsons@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

5 | Cambridge Technicals Level 3 IT

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This is a 'hands on' course that gives you the extra edge to understanding why the world has a digital addiction in everything from social media to game design.</p> <p>It's called an 'IT Technical' qualification – 'Techs' are a new wave of courses backed by businesses and universities that keep a strong element of practical work, when so many other qualifications are based purely on exams.</p> <p>'Techs' can also potentially be tailored to meet students' personal interests.</p> <p>In the course, students will study two 'core' units that cover the fundamental principles of IT and the global use of information on the 'Cloud'. Added together, this combination of practical work and theory topics creates a course that is equivalent to A-Levels but very different to anything we have offered before in IT.</p>	<p>Cambridge Technical OCR</p> <p>This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers.</p> <p>This qualification is graded: Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction*.</p> <p>UCAS Points: Distinction* 54, Distinction 48, Merit 32, Pass 16.</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Students will study 5 units over 2 years:</p> <p>Unit 1 Fundamentals of IT - (Exam) Unit 2 Global information - (Exam)</p> <p>Then will study 3 coursework units assessed internally and graded externally.</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and Grade 4 in GCSE English Language / English Literature.</p> <p>Whilst students do not have to take Computer Science or iMedia to take this course, at least a Merit Grade in Creative iMedia or Grade 5 in GCSE IT is required if previously studied, or Grade 5 in both GCSE English and GCSE Maths will be required.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Students will also develop professional, personal and social skills through interaction with peers, stakeholders and clients, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills. These support the transferable skills required by universities and employers such as communication, problem solving, time management, research and analytical skills.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Students could go on to study degrees, take apprenticeships, for example, in ICT, web technologies, animation and social media or employment in the IT sector.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Miss W Bowe: bowew@cockermouthschool.org</p>	



6 | Chemistry

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
The course is wide-ranging and covers the three main disciplines of chemistry: Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.	<p>AQA A Level Chemistry</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:</p> <p>AQA Chemistry Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
3 x 2 hour written exams, of short and long answers including a 2 hour synoptic exam, some multiple choice questions, practical skills and data analysis.	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or at least Grade 6,6 in Combined Science with Grade 6 in both Chemistry papers; Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English.
Transferable skills you will develop	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures. • Application of knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas processes, techniques and procedures in theoretical and practical contexts, handling both qualitative and quantitative data. • Ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including judgements, conclusions, developing and refining practical design and procedures. 	
Progression	
<p>Degree in Chemistry, combined degrees in the Chemistry and Engineering disciplines such as Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering etc. also, Medicine, Pharmacy and Veterinary Studies.</p> <p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including analytical chemist, chemical engineer, healthcare scientist, clinical biochemist, forensic scientist, pharmacologist, research scientist, toxicologist, nuclear industry. Also, chartered certified accountant, environment consultant, higher education lecturer, patent attorney, science writer or secondary school teacher.</p> <p>Recent A Level Chemistry students have progressed to the following degree courses: Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge; Medicine at University of York; Chemistry at the University of Sheffield; Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bath.</p>	
For further details	
Please contact the Head of Department, Mr T Carruthers: carrutherst@cockermouthschool.org	

7 | Computer Science

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>Computer Science is a rich and deep discipline in its own right, like Physics and Mathematics. It explores foundational principles and ideas, rather than training students in skills related to particular software. Computing's aspects of design, theory and experimentation are drawn from Engineering, Mathematics and Science respectively. Computing involves concepts and questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. The A level course is designed to develop students' problem solving skills and lead students on to Computer Science at university level, or to supplement the skill sets of students intending to read Mathematics, Sciences or Engineering at university.</p>	<p>This Specification features significant Mathematics content.</p> <p>AQA A Level Computer Science</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:</p> <p>AQA Computer Science Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Paper 1 is the on-screen programming exam which tests a student's ability to program and develop a provided skeleton code as well as theoretical knowledge (40%)</p> <p>Paper 2 is a theory paper based on subject content (40%)</p> <p>Non- Exam assessment Project work – students select a context to carry out an investigation of a practical problem and produce a solution (20%)</p>	<p>Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science if studied, and Grade 6 in Mathematics if not; and Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics is a minimum requirement and Grade 4 in GCSE English.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Computer Science is not just about learning how computers work and how to program them; it's about learning how to think logically and problem solving, which relate well to Maths and Physics and are skills that many successful professionals possess. All pupils will be able to read and write algorithms and be able to use a computer competently and confidently whether they go into a computing specific career or not. However few modern careers do not involve a degree of IT capability and there is still much scope for those with a higher level of skills to move forward quickly in a wide range of professions.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Many students go on to study subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Computing, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Robotics and Computer Games Programming at university, while others use this course to improve their career opportunities generally.</p> <p>Career links – Computer Science offers great opportunities to progress into many IT fields, including mobile technologies, games, project management, systems analysis and all the technical areas such as networking, databases and computer security. Many electrical engineering departments are now subdivisions of computing departments at universities.</p> <p>Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses: Computer Science at York, Computer Science at Lancaster, Law at Cambridge, Forensics, Physics at Manchester, Maths at Oxford. Electrical Engineering at Leeds, Chemistry at Nottingham.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Miss W Bowe: bowew@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

8 | Design and Technology

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course is wide ranging and the specification is designed to offer learners opportunities to study, propose and realise prototype solutions, closely linked to the real world of product design, in a range of materials. Recognising the routes that are pursued at GCSE, this specification provides candidates with opportunities to continue their studies either exclusively or as a combination of focus material areas, for example in resistant materials, graphics, electronics, or a mixture of these.</p>	<p>OCR A Level</p> <p>Product Design (H406)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the OCR website : OCR Design and Technology Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Component 1 (80 marks) – 26.5% of total A Level 1 Hour 30 minutes Written paper: analysis of written products, applied mathematical skills, demonstration of technical knowledge of materials and demonstration of wider social, moral and environmental issues.</p> <p>Component 2 (70 marks) – 23.5% of total A Level 1 hour 45 minutes written paper Longer written answers that require students to demonstrate problem solving and critical evaluation skills applied to knowledge of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products.</p> <p>Component 3 (100 marks) - 50% of total A Level Approximately 65 hours – non exam assessment Iterative Design Project</p>	<p>At least Grade 5 in GCSE Design Technology, Resistant Materials or Electronic Products if studied, Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics. If not studied, Grade 6 in any other practical, design-related subject is required.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Oral, written and drawing communication skills, problem solving, cultural and social awareness, critical thinking and analytical, evaluative skills, 'e-folio', practical skills, CAD / CAM.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers through the degree or apprenticeship route. These include civil/electrical/mechanical engineering, interior design, graphic design, 3D/product design, architectural technician, architect, design & technology teaching, or as a subject to support points scores to other non-product design related degrees.</p> <p>Recent A Level Product Design students have progressed to the following degree courses: Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Interior Design, Graphic Design, 3D/Product Design, Architecture, Design & Technology Teaching and Automotive Design.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mr D Armstrong: armstrongd@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

9 | Drama and Theatre Studies

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course is designed to provide a balance across a range of practical activities that will inform your academic understanding. It combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements.</p> <p>Students completing the course successfully will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.</p>	<p>Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies (8DR01/9DR01-DR03)</p> <p>Year 12 & Year 13 A Level: two year course</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the Edexcel website : http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/drama</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Year 12 - Component 1: Devising (40%) The creation of an original devised piece of theatre using an existing playtext as a stimulus along with a theatre practitioner. Includes portfolio work as assessment along with performance of devised piece.</p> <p>Year 13 - Component 2: Text in Performance (20%) Group performance of one key extract from a specific play and a monologue/duologue performance to a visiting examiner.</p> <p>Component 3: (40%) 2 ½ hour written exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Theatre Performance Review Section A: own choice • Page to Stage Section B: Realisation of a performance extract. Unseen question based on text they have studied theoretically and practically-Equus by Peter Scahffer • Interpreting a Performance Text Section C: Using chosen text Lysistrata by Aristophanes write about their re-imagined production concept and relate this to a theatre practitioner-Brecht. 	<p>At least Grade 5 in GCSE Performing Arts /Drama; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics. If not studied Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.</p> <p>Bridging Task over the Summer: Please research the play Metamorphosis and create a power-point on the play and the playwright Steven Berkoff including his life and other works along with theatre practitioner style. Due in first session when we return in September.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Communication, presentational, research, time management, management, leadership and team-working skills. Critical, analytical and evaluative writing abilities.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Aside from the obvious courses in the performing arts sector (both performance and production /technical) the academic abilities gained will be advantageous to you on any degree course where critical analysis, evaluation and research are required. Your ability to communicate complex and abstract thoughts, theories and ideas are transferable to many varied areas of study and work.</p> <p>Career links A qualification in Drama and Theatre Studies will allow you to progress not only into the many and varied careers within theatre, film, radio and television but also into other creative industries; PR and marketing, advertising, journalism, teaching or any job role that requires you to communicate.</p> <p>Recent A Level students have progressed to the following degree courses: Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Royal Court Theatre School, Central School of Speech and Drama, Liverpool John Moore's, LIPA and Man. Met. to study acting/theatre as well as a number of students who have gone on to study Musical Theatre, Drama and English and various Dance courses around the country.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Ms J Mossop: mossopj@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

10 | Economics

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>Economics is a real world subject that explains everything we purchase, every job we have and every resource we use. Topics are split into Microeconomics relating to individuals and Macroeconomics relating the whole economy.</p> <p>In Year 12 microeconomic concepts include prices, supply and demand, production, competition and market failure. Macroeconomic concepts include economic performance, government policy and the national economy.</p> <p>In Year 13 further Microeconomics topics include markets, labour market plus income and wealth; Macroeconomics aspects are international trade, financial markets and the European Union.</p> <p>The course is delivered through a mixture of taught materials, class activities and self-directed work. Students are provided with textbooks, websites, magazines and Firefly to assist. We also attend revision workshops and have assistance from guest speakers.</p>	<p>AQA A-Level Economics</p> <p>AQA Economics Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>The course is assessed at the end of the course through three exams covering the topics of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Principles & Issues. The assessments will comprise a mix of essays, data response, multiple choice and short answers.</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE Business if studied; and Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE Mathematics and Grade 5 in the other.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Studying Economics will develop a range of transferable skills including analytical and evaluative techniques. The ability to use, calculate and interpret data will also be a feature of the course. Students who succeed are those with a strong grasp of theory and current affairs backed up by a thirst for knowledge and a willingness to have their viewpoint challenged.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Economics is a classical art with scientific principles and as such enables progression into a wide variety of careers, training and higher study. Many students continue to study Economics, Finance, Politics, Accountancy, Business, Marketing or Management at university. Others use the breadth of key skills as an excellent aid to study in an unrelated field.</p> <p>Within employment and training, employers place a high value on the key skills of analysis and evaluation plus the fact that students have engaged with the real world during their course. In all cases, decision makers have a confidence in the depth, breadth, quality and rigour of the course.</p>	
<p>Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses: International Finance and Economics at Sheffield Hallam</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mr S Dawson: dawsons@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

11 | English Language

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course is wide ranging in content, covering aspects of language study as diverse as language change over time to the acquisition of children's speech. Whilst the majority of the course is exam focused there is also the opportunity for independent, investigative research. The non-exam assessment also includes a creative writing element. The course incorporates a variety of assessment styles, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing. This allows students to develop a wide range of skills which include critical reading, data analysis, evaluation, the ability to develop and sustain arguments and a range of different writing skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.</p>	<p>AQA A Level English Language</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:</p> <p>AQA English Language Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>A level – two written exams (80%) and non-exam assessment (20%).</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language; Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and at least Grade 5 in another extended writing subject.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>The course will equip students with skills that are useful in the workplace, such as data analysis and report writing.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Degrees in English Language, English Literature, Media and Journalism. The skills developed also support a wider range of academic disciplines such as history, geography, sociology and psychology.</p> <p>Career links – supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including teaching, law and journalism.</p> <p>Recent A Level English Language students have progressed to the following degree courses: Law at Leeds University; English Language and Linguistics at York St John; Media, Culture and Communication at Liverpool John Moore; Psychology at Aberdeen; Middle Eastern Studies at Manchester University; Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Manchester University.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department Ms C Quine: quinec@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

12 | English Literature

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This qualification requires the study of eight literary texts plus unseen poetry.</p> <p>The course approaches the study of literature by encouraging you to read widely and independently. You will study set texts from a wide variety of historical periods, as well as exploring your own literary interests by choosing your own texts for your coursework. You will study poetry, prose and drama, learning to engage critically and creatively across a range of genres and periods; develop and apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation; explore the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received; and evaluate the value of different interpretations of texts. Lessons will involve a wide variety of approaches. You will be expected to pre-read texts, contribute ideas in discussions, prepare group and individual presentations and work independently on follow-up work. A love of reading is essential.</p>	<p>Edexcel A Level English Literature (9ETO)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the Edexcel website: Edexcel English Literature Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Assessment is by examination and coursework</p> <p>Exams: Component 1: Drama (2 hours 15 minutes) Component 2: Prose (1 hour) Component 3: Poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)</p> <p>Coursework – internally assessed.</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature; Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and at least Grade 5 in another extended writing subject.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Oral and written communication skills, historical, cultural and social awareness, critical thinking and analytical skills</p>	
Progression	
<p>English Literature or English degrees; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, such as Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics, Drama, Business, and a range of vocational courses such as Nursing, Teaching and Social Care.</p> <p>Career links – supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing and advertising.</p> <p>Recent A Level English students have progressed to the following degree courses: English and Drama at Sheffield University; English at Liverpool University; English Language at Salford University; Teaching at York St John University; Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia; English at Manchester University; French and German at Newcastle University; Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department Ms C Quine: quinec@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

13 | French

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course offers students a varied and comprehensive insight into the social, political, intellectual and artistic culture of the countries/communities where French is spoken. The themes covered are: artistic and political culture in the French Speaking world, and social issues and trends in French Speaking society. Students will also study two works: one literary work and one film.</p>	<p>AQA French A level (7652)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website : AQA French Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Paper 1 : Listening, reading and writing 50% 100 marks 2 hours 30</p> <p>Paper 2: Writing 20% 80 marks 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One text and one film or two texts from the set list. <p>Paper 3: Speaking 30% 60 marks 21 - 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation)</p> <p>Discussion of a sub-theme based on stimulus card 5 - 6 minutes</p> <p>Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project.</p>	<p>Grade 6 in GCSE French; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree.</p>	
Progression	
<p>A Level French supports progression onto language and combined degrees in the language studied and other European and non-European languages; useful if you want to study an unrelated subject with a year abroad; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, for example Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics.</p> <p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing.</p> <p>Recent A Level language students have progressed to the following degree courses: German and Russian at Oxford University; Physics with a year in the USA at the University of Kent; Linguistics with French at Newcastle University; Chinese at the University of Cambridge; Physics with Astrophysics at the University of Glasgow; two students studying Bio-chemistry at Cambridge; French and Spanish at Newcastle University</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs P Campion: campionp@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

14 | Geography

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>Geography A Level is a wide-ranging course about landscape, processes at work in the natural environment, the global economy, nation-states and society. The management of human impact on our planet and equitable social and economic development are key themes.</p> <p>Physical geography topics studied are: cold environments (glacial & periglacial landscapes); earth's life support systems (carbon cycle & water cycle); oceanography; tectonic hazards.</p> <p>Human geography topics studied are: making places (social & economic change); international trade; sovereignty, power and borders; geography of disease.</p> <p>There will be four days of geography fieldwork to develop students' skills and experience. In addition students do a local fieldwork investigation of their choice. Statistical analysis techniques are taught - students apply them to their fieldwork data.</p>	<p>OCR A Level Geography (H481)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website :</p> <p>OCR Geography Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Paper 1 – Physical Geography (25% of total A-Level) Paper 2 – Human Geography (25% of total A-Level) Paper 3 – Geographical Debates (30% of total) Independent Investigation – students carry out fieldwork and write a report of 3000-4000 words (20% of total A-Level)</p>	<p>A high Grade 5 in GCSE Geography if studied; Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics. If Geography hasn't been studied at GCSE Grade 5 in another extended writing subject or science is required.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Writing skills including essays and report-writing; survey methods; a range of statistical analysis techniques; data presentation; use of geographical information systems.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Career links – This A-Level could lead to careers in: water companies, geographical information systems, urban planning, conservation and countryside management, civil engineering, local government, overseas development, travel and tourism, law, business and administration, marketing.</p> <p>Higher Education – recently our A-Level Geography students have gone on to do a range of geography-related degree courses; for example: Geography (Geo-Sciences) at Edinburgh University, Geography and Planning at Sheffield University, Environmental Science at Lancaster University, International Law at Nottingham Trent University, and Countryside Management at Aberystwyth University.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Miss J Lynn: lynnj@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

15 | German

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course offers students a varied and comprehensive insight into the social, political, intellectual and artistic culture of the countries/communities where German is spoken, looking at the multicultural nature of German – speaking society. The themes covered are: aspects of German-speaking society, multiculturalism, artistic culture in the German-speaking world, and aspects of political life. Students will also study two works: either two literary works or one literary work and a film.</p>	<p>AQA German A level (7662)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website : AQA German Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Paper 1 : Listening, reading and writing 50% 100 marks 2 hours 30</p> <p>Paper 2: Writing 20% 80 marks 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One text and one film or two texts from the set list. <p>Paper 3: Speaking 30% 60 marks 21 - 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation)</p> <p>Discussion of a sub-theme based on stimulus card 5 - 6 minutes</p> <p>Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project</p>	<p>At least Grade 6 in GCSE German; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree.</p>	
Progression	
<p>A Level German supports progression onto language and combined degrees in the language studied and other European and non-European languages; useful if you want to study an unrelated subject with a year abroad; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, for example Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics.</p> <p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing.</p> <p>Recent A Level language students have progressed to the following degree courses: German and Russian at Oxford University; Physics with a year in the USA at the University of Kent; Linguistics with French at Newcastle University; Chinese at the University of Cambridge; Physics with Astrophysics at the University of Glasgow.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mr D Elliott: elliottd@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

16 | Health and Social Care

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course is designed to provide a broad understanding of the specialist work-related knowledge required for the health, social or childcare related sectors. It is designed for individuals who want a career supporting and working with others and who want to gain a greater understanding of how to support the most vulnerable in society to improve their health and well-being. The course offers opportunities to investigate a range of issues affecting the health, social care and childcare sectors, such as an ageing population, lifestyle choices and public health campaigns and enables the development of skills that can be applied in a practical manner.</p>	<p>OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Health and Social Care</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website :</p> <p>OCR Health & Social Care Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Learners will take up to 6 units made up of mandatory (M) and optional units (O):</p> <p>Internally assessed units:</p> <p>M – Building positive relationships in health and social care</p> <p>O – Sexual health, reproduction and early development stages</p> <p>O – Promoting health and well-being</p> <p>Exam units</p> <p>M – Equality, diversity and rights in Health and Social Care</p> <p>M – Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care</p> <p>M – Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care</p>	<p>At least a Merit Grade in GCSE Health and Social Care; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p> <p>If not studied, Grade 5 in at least one science.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, teamwork, critical thinking and reflection, independent research and IT skills and creativity. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Career links - progression into a wide range of roles is supported, including, nursing; midwifery; care work; social work; radiography; occupational health; social work; teacher; youth and community work; probation officer; police force.</p> <p>Higher Education – past students have progressed to a wide range of degree courses including Adult Nursing; Social Work; Primary Education and Physiotherapy.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Ms R Hordern: hordernr@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

17 | History

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>Year 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In search of the American Dream: the USA 1917-96. South Africa 1948-94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation.' <p>Year 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c.1780-1939. Coursework unit, a choice of questions will be set. 	<p>Edexcel A Level History route F: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century.</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website : Edexcel History Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Paper 1 (USA) 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of the A Level)</p> <p>Paper 2 (South Africa) 1 hour 30 minutes (20% of the A Level)</p> <p>Paper 3 (Poverty and public health) 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of the A Level).</p> <p>Coursework. A 3000-4000 word essay based on independent enquiry (20% of the A Level).</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE History if studied; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics. If not studied, Grade 5 in another extended writing subject is required.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent and critical thinking Research skills. Evaluative and analytical skills. <p>The ability to take information from several sources and develop an effective and supported argument.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Students who study History go on to a wide range of careers and further education opportunities. History can prepare you for any career which requires you to research, to look at evidence and to collate information and write at length. It is also primarily about people, so the range of jobs it may lead to is a long one! Examples include the law, teaching, media, and journalism, to name but a few.</p> <p>Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses: History at Oxford University, English Literature and History at Lancaster University and Birmingham University. Students who have studied History have also gone on to study a diverse range of subjects such as: Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Fine Art, Business Management and Economics, Biomedical Sciences and Zoology.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mr S Ashworth: ashworths@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

18 | Core Maths (Level 3 Certificate)

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>All the Level 3 qualifications focus on using and applying maths, and include ideas and skills that support the use of maths in other areas, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpreting solutions in the context of the problem • understanding sources of error and bias when problem-solving • working with data • understanding risk and probability • understanding variation in statistics • using exponential functions to model growth and decay 	<p>Level 3 Certificate (equivalent to an AS-level qualification).</p> <p>Exam Board – TBC.</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>This is dependent on the exam board but typically, there will be 2 examinations.</p>	<p>At least Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and Grade 4 in GCSE English Language / English Literature. This subject must be taken alongside three other subjects.</p>
Transferrable skills you will develop	
<p>Studying Core Maths helps students develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. This gives them confidence in understanding the mathematical content in other courses they are taking. It helps them become better-informed citizens, able to make sense of the information they will be presented with in employment, further study or later life.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Core Maths is a relatively new qualification and employers or admissions tutors may not be aware of what it is or how useful it is. It's therefore worth explaining how it has developed your quantitative and problem-solving skills, so that you are better able to make sense of the information you will be presented with in the workplace or on a degree course. This is particularly relevant if you are applying for a role or course that will involve a lot of quantitative data analysis, such as psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Alternatively please contact the Director of Maths, Mr G Moore: mooreg@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

19 | Mathematics

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course will consist of studying pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics. The pure mathematics is largely algebraic in nature. We also study further trigonometry, coordinate geometry, proof, sequences, vectors and calculus. In statistics, we will study probability, statistical distributions, data presentation and interpretation along with hypothesis testing. Mechanics contains work on kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments.</p>	<p>Edexcel A level Mathematics</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the link website: Edexcel Mathematics Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Each paper is 2 hours</p> <p>Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (33.3% of A Level) Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (33.3% of A Level) Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (33.3% of A Level)</p>	<p>A minimum of Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is required and Grade 4 in GCSE English.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Apart from acquiring mathematical knowledge, it is considered that students of this subject develop the ability to improve their problem solving skills and to think logically. There is also recognition that students who study Maths experience challenges, often very difficult ones, and are prepared to work hard to overcome the difficulties.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Studying any of the sciences at a higher level will usually involve an element of mathematical ability. Many of our students go to university and study Mathematics. For those seeking apprenticeships, an A Level in Mathematics is also looked upon very favourably.</p> <p>Career links – The range of potential future careers is very wide, from technical apprenticeships through to professional mathematicians. The range includes engineers, scientists, working in the financial sector, computing and the medical world.</p> <p>Recent A Level Mathematics students have progressed to the following degree courses: Mathematics at a wide range of universities, including Oxbridge. The full range of science degrees at university. An increasing number have been successful in securing apprenticeships. Some students have studied maths and continued in a very different field, for example history, or art.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Key Stage 5 Coordinator, Mrs M Mackenzie: mackenziem@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

20 | Further Mathematics

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This course must be taken alongside the Mathematics A Level. The course will consist of Pure and Further Pure Mathematics along with Applied Mathematics – Mechanics and Statistics. The Pure Mathematics is largely algebraic in nature. We will study a wide variety of topics, which will include trigonometry, sequences, calculus, vectors, complex numbers, proof by induction and differential equations. Statistics will contain work on probability, linear regression, correlation, hypothesis testing and statistical distributions. Mechanics will contain work on kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments, momentum, centres of gravity, statics, collisions and projectiles.</p>	<p>Edexcel A Level Further Mathematics</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the link website:</p> <p>Edexcel Mathematics Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Further Maths: each paper 1.5 hours</p> <p>Paper 1: Further Pure Mathematics 1 (25% of A Level)</p> <p>Paper 2: Further Pure Mathematics 2 (25% of A Level)</p> <p>Paper 3: Decision Mathematics 1 (25% of A Level)</p> <p>Paper 4: Decision Mathematics 2 (25% of A Level)</p>	<p>A minimum of Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics is required, and Grade 4 in GCSE English.</p> <p>Students who take Further Mathematics must also take A Level Mathematics and two other subjects at A Level/Level3.</p>
Transferrable skills you will develop	
<p>Apart from acquiring mathematical knowledge, it is considered that students of this subject develop the ability to improve their problem solving skills and to think logically. There is also recognition that students who study Maths will experience challenges, often very difficult ones, and are prepared to work hard to overcome the difficulties.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Studying any of the sciences at a higher level will usually involve an element of mathematical ability. Many of our students go to university and study Mathematics. Many of the top universities' Engineering or Physics courses are keen that students study as much maths as possible. Some of our double mathematicians have been successful in seeking apprenticeships.</p> <p>Career links – The range of potential future careers is very wide, from technical apprenticeships through to professional mathematicians. The range includes engineers, scientists, working in the financial sector, computing and indeed the medical world.</p> <p>Recent Double Mathematics students have progressed to the following degree courses: Mathematics at a wide range of universities, including Oxbridge. The full range of science degrees at university. We regularly have students going on to study medicine. Some students have studied double maths and continued in a very different field, for example history, or art.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Key Stage 5 Coordinator, Mrs M Mackenzie: mackenziem@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

21 | Music

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This is a practical vocational course equivalent to 1 A Level.</p> <p>You will study two compulsory units (45 credits): Rehearsal skills and live music performance (30 credits) Planning for a career in music (15 credits)</p> <p>Three other units (45 credits, 15 credits each): Practical harmony applications; Auditioning for music; Improve instrumental or vocal performance</p> <p>Additional units may be available: <u>15 Credits each:</u> Composing in musical styles; Orchestration; Dissertation Composing for film & documentary; Practical musicianship <u>10 Credits each:</u> Leading a music-making activity; Listening to Music <u>5 Credits each:</u> Musical influences; Musical styles; Musical contexts</p>	<p>601/7691/X RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners</p> <p>Music Theory Grade 5 or Grade 8</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the RSL Website:</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>33% Externally Assessed (Rehearsal skills and live music performance)</p> <p>67% Internally Assessed, Externally Moderated (All other units)</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE Music Grade 5 in GCSE English Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics Grade 5 expected on instrument or voice Students without GCSE Music may be considered <u>by audition</u> if they have met the other requirements; they will also need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two compositions, 3-5 minutes total length, performed live or recorded. • Score or lead sheet or detailed description of the structure and content of the pieces
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Many careers and professions require you to work independently, create, develop and present ideas, work in a team to solve problems and create a product to a deadline, respond to something you've heard, analyse material and present findings in written form; you will do all of these on this course.</p> <p>You will learn to problem solve, communicate effectively and self-evaluate. Musicians also delight in the progress and success of others as well as themselves. These are all worthwhile skills to bring to any course, career or community.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Degree in Music at a variety of universities, or Music with another subject; Conservatoire courses in composition or performance; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses.</p> <p>Career links: Professional performer, composer or arranger; band member; singer-songwriter; music publishing; sound engineer; arts administration; classroom, instrumental or vocal teacher; music librarian; music therapist; piano tuner; instrument manufacturer or repairer.</p> <p>Recent A Level Music students have progressed to the following courses: Music at Leeds College of Music, Composition at Birmingham and Glasgow Conservatoires, Performance at Birmingham Conservatoire, Music degrees at Glasgow, Huddersfield & Hertfordshire.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mr M Ulyatt: ulyattm@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

22 | Physical Education

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course is wide ranging in content, covering many aspects of sport. The course has been designed to allow students an insight into the science of sport including the role of technology and contribution to health and fitness; psychology of sport and the effects on performance and put sport in a socio-cultural perspective. The non-exam assessment allows the students to perform in ONE sport, providing them with the opportunity to critically analyse and evaluate their performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject. With this said, students should be participating in their chosen sport on a regular basis outside of school as there will be a limited chance to develop skills in their sport over the course. If you want to know which sports are available, visit the OCR website for the specified list.</p>	<p>OCR A level Physical Education (H555)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the OCR website : OCR Physical Education Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Physiological factors affecting performance: 2 hour exam – 30% of the A Level</p> <p>Psychological factors affecting performance: 1 hour exam – 20% of the A Level</p> <p>Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport: 1 hour exam – 20% of the A Level</p> <p>Performance in Physical Education: NEA (non-examined assessment – coursework) – 30% of the A Level</p>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE PE if studied; Grade 5 in two GCSE Sciences; Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Our course will allow for the opportunity to create confident and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or to adapt to work as part of a team/ leadership role. It will provide experience in oral and written communication skills, gain an understanding of sports performance though analysing and interpreting data. Provide them with the skills to evaluate and be critical on their own performance.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Many students do progress into sports related courses at university. Our course allows for a wide variety of study within the world of sport, not only through the theory aspects of the course, but will include the ability to communicate and demonstrate your practical abilities. Taking A level PE is not just a decision to have a career as a sporting performer, but does allow you to be credited for your skill in your sport and can lead into many other opportunities and avenues to continue your learning and love of sport.</p> <p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, tourism, journalism, marketing, coaching, personal trainer, physiotherapy, sports development and many more.</p> <p>Recent A Level PE students have progressed to the following degree courses: Sports Science at a variety of institutions, Sports Coaching degrees, Education/Teaching courses, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Aeronautical Engineering.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department for KS5, Mrs B Smithson: smithsonb@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

23 | Physics

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>This course builds on material covered at GCSE including waves, motion, forces, energy, radiation and electricity. The course also introduces new concepts such as subatomic particle physics, quantum phenomena, force fields, wave-particle duality, circular motion, and some aspects of relativity theory.</p>	<p>AQA A Level Physics</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:</p> <p>AQA – A Level Physics Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Assessment is by three two hour exam papers all taken at the end of the course. These focus on both the theory and experimental aspects of the subject.</p>	<p>Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or at least Grade 6,6 in GCSE Combined Science with a Grade 6 in both Physics papers; Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics; and Grade 4 in GCSE English Language.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Through the application of logical analytical thinking (“why” does something happen), plus some mathematics, you will develop excellent problem solving skills. You will develop an inquiring mind, and be encouraged to plan how to investigate relationships between physical quantities. You will develop precise communication skills, which is a hugely valuable skill-set demanded in many careers.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Degrees in Physics, Natural Sciences and Engineering are all closely supported by following this course, but other less obvious degrees such as Computing, Accountancy and Law also welcome applications from A Level Physics students. A Level Maths is often required in addition to study these degrees.</p> <p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including engineering, science research, medicine and the telecommunications industry. Some students have gone on to careers in journalism, theatre production and accountancy, to name just a few.</p> <p>Recent A Level Physics students have progressed to the following degree courses: Physics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Maths, Accountancy, Veterinary Medicine, Music, Law, Business and Economics. Universities include Cambridge, Birmingham, Oxford, Leeds and Glasgow.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Miss S Carruthers: carrutherss@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

24 | Psychology

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>During the first year, the course covers the main approaches in psychology (learning, cognitive and biological) and explores 'psychology in context', for example, attachment styles, memory and eyewitness testimony, obedience to authority and mental health.</p> <p>The second year of the A Level aims to broaden and deepen knowledge with regard to the approaches, incorporating humanistic and psychodynamic perspectives. You will also study three core topics: schizophrenia, relationships and aggression. Research methods are a significant element to both years of the A Level course.</p>	<p>AQA A Level Psychology (7182)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:</p> <p>AQA Psychology Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Three two hour written exams, each worth a third of the overall A Level grade.</p>	<p>Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Grade 6,5 in two GCSE sciences one of which should be Biology from combined or single science; Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics desirable; students with a strong Grade 4 may be considered.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Skills in the design and implementation of a range of research methods. Written communication skills, analytical and reasoning skills, problem solving. Assessing issues from a broader perspective, for example cross-culturally and historically. Data analysis and interpretation, and mathematical skills.</p>	
Progression	
<p>Psychology A Level could lead on to a psychology degree; and the transferable skills gained would demonstrate general academic ability for a wide range of degree courses.</p> <p>Career links - Psychology can lead on to a career as a qualified psychologist in areas such as clinical, educational, occupational and criminal psychology. It would also be useful in careers such as nursing, teaching, social work and human resources.</p> <p>Recent A Level Psychology students have progressed to the following degree courses: Psychology at Bradford/Aberdeen/Liverpool Universities; Nursing at Aberdeen; Sociology, Media and IT at Liverpool John Moores; English at Newcastle.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Dr K Priest: priestk@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

25 | Religious Studies

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course is in three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Study of Religion • Philosophy of Religion • Religion and Ethics <p>This is an exciting and thought provoking course which not only allows students to explore a world religion at a higher level, but challenges students to question the nature of reality and truth, and to examine the ethics of many relevant and stimulating moral dilemmas. To many of the questions posed there are no certain answers, rather there are many answers that have been given which can be studied, analysed and evaluated. An open and tolerant mind is required.</p>	<p>EDUQAS A Level Religious Studies</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the EDUQAS website :</p> <p>EDUQAS Religious Studies Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Students will take 3 x 2 hour examinations, one for each component.</p> <p>Students will be expected to answer two questions from a choice of four in each option.</p>	<p>At least Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies; Grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p> <p>If not studied, Grade 5 in another extended writing subject is required.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Religious Studies develops a variety of skills, including those of discussion and debate. The valuable skills of logical argument and critical evaluation are also developed and can be transferred to other areas of study.</p>	
Progression	
<p>This course provides a suitable foundation for the further study of Religious Studies, Philosophy or Theology. As with any humanities subject, students acquire a great range of skills, such as analysis, interpretation, critical thinking and the ability to produce extended evaluative pieces of writing. These are skills that will prepare students well for a range of courses in higher education and, beyond that, in employment generally.</p> <p>Career links - In the world of work, employers look for someone with an enquiring mind, an appreciation of different viewpoints, and an ability to make clear, balanced decisions. The skills developed through this course could be particularly useful for careers in teaching, the Civil Service, law, medicine, administration or the media. Any career that involves working with people, dealing with logic and reasoning would follow on from Religious Studies.</p> <p>Recent A Level students have progressed to the following degree courses: Psychology at Aberdeen and Sociology at Liverpool.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department: Miss A Messenger: messenger@cockermouthschool.org</p>	

26 | Spanish

Course Content	Exam Board & Qualification
<p>The course offers students a varied and comprehensive insight into the social, political, intellectual and artistic culture of the countries/communities where Spanish is spoken. The themes covered are: being a young person in Spanish-speaking society, diversity and difference, understanding the Spanish-speaking world, the two Spains, 1936 onwards. Students will also study two works: either two literary works or one literary work and a film.</p>	<p>AQA Spanish A level (7692)</p> <p>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website : AQA Spanish Web Link</p>
Assessment	Entry Criteria
<p>Paper 1 : Listening, reading and writing 50% 100 marks 2 hours 30</p> <p>Paper 2: Writing 20% 80 marks 2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One text and one film or two texts from the set list. <p>Paper 3: Speaking 30% 60 marks 21 - 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation)</p> <p>Discussion of a sub-theme based on stimulus card 5 - 6 minutes Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project</p>	<p>Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish, Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.</p>
Transferable skills you will develop	
<p>Oral and written communication skills, problem solving, cultural and social awareness, critical thinking and analytical skills.</p>	
Progression	
<p>A Level Spanish supports progression onto language and combined degrees in the language studied and other European and non-European languages; useful if you want to study an unrelated subject with a year abroad; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, for example Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics.</p> <p>Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing.</p> <p>Recent A Level language students have progressed to the following degree courses: Media, Culture and Communications at Liverpool John Moores, Medicine at UCL and French with Spanish at Manchester, missionary work in a Peruvian orphanage followed by Medicine at Manchester.</p>	
For further details	
<p>Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs J Pickavance: pickavancej@cockermouthschool.org</p>	