

HARTISMERE SCHOOL



Sixth Form Prospectus

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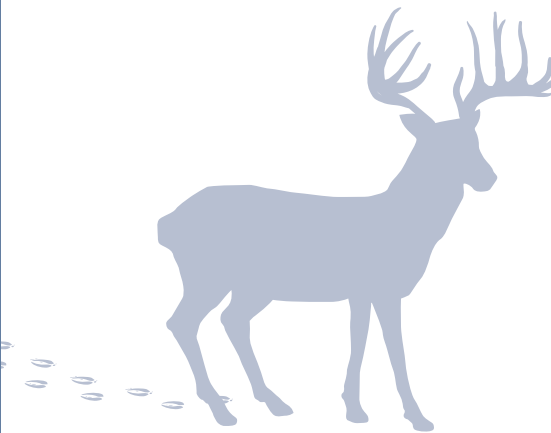
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Welcome to Hartismere

Hartismere Sixth Form College welcomes students from all over Suffolk and Norfolk, as well as our own Hartismere students: all benefit from the same care and support that makes ours an outstanding school and sixth form.

Hartismere has grown enormously in the last few years and it is a pleasure to work in a college which sends happy, well rounded young people to university and into the world of work. Our students achieve excellent academic qualifications and develop a commitment to work and their community that means they have the best possible preparation for life after sixth form. Our university students achieve extraordinary success and enjoy returning to Hartismere to share their experiences and achievements. Indeed, employers actively seek out Hartismere graduates as potential recruits.

Students can choose from a wide range of A level subjects; they can also develop their academic experience through the Extended Project Qualification as well as a varied programme of cultural enrichment. Hartismere offers its students experienced and committed staff and a fantastic environment and resources, including a purpose built sixth form reading room. We expect our students to be hard-working, to want to achieve success and show a commitment to the wider life of the sixth form and school community.

Our open evening gives prospective students and their parents an opportunity to see the sixth form, the school and to meet the staff. Visits at other times can always be accommodated.

Hartismere Sixth Form College is a happy, vibrant place and we look forward to your joining our family.

Sarah Gray
Headteacher

Our Sixth Form

The college has individual and group study areas, a reading room, teaching rooms and offices, all with wifi access. The senior students' common room and kitchen area are solely for sixth form use.

As a Sports College, Hartismere offers its students opportunities to take part in all manner of sporting activities, including rugby, cricket, netball and football. Our 9 hectare site has been developed to accommodate several new pitches and running track, a fitness suite, a dance studio with fully sprung floor, a flood-lit astro pitch and flood-lit netball and tennis courts.

The college has been awarded the Arts Award Mark for excellence in performing arts. Students are able to take the Arts Award and continue it to gold level if they wish. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is also offered at the school.

Academic Challenge and Independence

Most students at Hartismere take four subjects at the start of year 12 and sit exams in those subjects after one year. In year 13, they continue with three subjects to A level. There are several benefits to this: students avoid narrowing their choices too early and they can make more informed choices about their degree subjects and future plans.

Our curriculum is designed to offer choice and breadth of opportunities: as well as traditional subjects, students can choose subjects new to them such as photography, economics and psychology. We also offer the level 3 Certificate in mathematics, GCSE Spanish and the EPQ as additional qualifications.

Students are supported by specialist teachers, personal tutors and through a thorough system of assessment and monitoring so that they achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our reading room, with its wide range of books and literature, is for exclusive use by sixth form students for private study, prep, wider reading and university research.

Cultural Enrichment

Our students take part in a programme of cultural enrichment activities, designed to broaden and deepen their understanding of our society (and their role in it), its culture, politics and diversity. Students attend a programme of lectures which are given by staff and visiting speakers on topics as diverse as film and media censorship, the UK economy and the importance of sleep. It gives students

a taste of university life and university teaching methods as well as an opportunity to consider and engage with challenging ideas and issues. We want to challenge their thinking and to encourage them to ask questions.

The Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project is a level 3 qualification that involves an exploration of an area of personal interest to the student. Students begin their project towards the end of year 12 and complete it in year 13. Candidates:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a project title, aims and objectives
- plan, research and carry out the project
- provide evidence of all stages of project production
- deliver a presentation to a specified audience
- reflect on the process.

The project could either be an extension of a student's academic studies or an exploration of a topic that interests them and which is outside their A level studies. Many students choose to present their research in the form of an extended essay, but other examples of past projects include producing a play, composing and recording music, writing a computer program and designing furnishings.

Students sometimes take an EPQ in a subject which they may not have chosen to continue to A level, but which they enjoy, such as art. The EPQ is excellent evidence to universities and employers of an ability to study independently and of a self-motivated student.



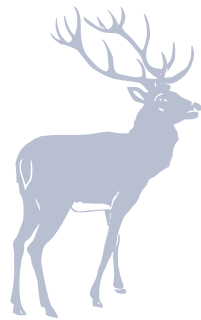
University and Careers

All students, whatever their ambitions, take part in a programme of activities designed to help them plan for their futures.

In year 12, students are introduced to the UCAS process. They research university courses and institutions and learn how to write an effective personal statement.

Students who apply to Oxford or Cambridge, or who apply to do medicine, dentistry or veterinary science receive a range of additional support, including support with BMAT and UCAT, practice interviews and specialist advice.

Students who plan to go into employment, or to undertake an apprenticeship, will explore and research employment and apprenticeship opportunities and learn how to write an effective CV and application letter. We have good links with local employers who often seek out Hartismere graduates.



Getting Involved and Developing New Skills

Sixth form students visit exhibitions, theatres, museums and galleries, sports tournaments, outdoor education weekends, attend conferences and participate in European excursions. History students have visited Berlin; the biology and geography departments have been to Iceland, Pembrokeshire and Arran; the physics department have been to CERN and the art and photography department explored Barcelona. Sixth form students have taken part in big expeditions such as Operation Wallacea to South Africa and Camps International to Kenya, Cambodia and Uganda.

All sixth form students undertake some aspect of volunteer and charity work and fundraising as part of the Hartismere 100. Sixth form committee representatives coordinate

activities and events; elected sports and prom representatives organise and plan other events such as the annual leavers' prom.

Music evenings, recitals, band nights and the school production reinforce the importance of being a rounded individual with skills that go beyond the classroom. Students can also take part in the whole school production where, as well as performing, members of the sixth form lead and support younger students.

Students also complete a programme of skills for life throughout the year in areas such as personal finance, food and menu planning, volunteering and first aid, careers research and planning for their futures.



Applying to Hartismere, Transport and Support

Students apply directly to the college by completing an application form – either online through the school website or by hand. Students from Norfolk can apply through helpyouchoose.org if they wish. Applications should be made as soon as possible.

All applicants meet with sixth form staff to discuss their proposed subject choices and future plans. We review subject choices after GCSE results, as well as at the start of term in year 12. Most A level subjects require students to have obtained at least a grade 6 in that subject (or a similar one) at GCSE. Students who wish to study maths, computing or physics must achieve a grade 7 in maths at GCSE (an 8 if further maths is chosen). Most students will have achieved at least 5 good GCSE passes, as well as meeting the individual academic requirements for each subject area.

Our college open evening is in January and this is an excellent opportunity for students to ask questions about courses and how they are taught and assessed, as well as to see the school environment.

Travel

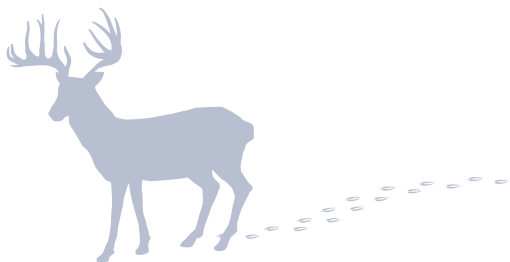
Information about travel to and from the college is available from our office. Students in Suffolk should apply for transport via the County website: www.suffolkonboard.com. Students travelling from Norfolk should contact the Norfolk County Council Transport department. All students, irrespective of where they live, should apply for a pass before the start of term.

Travel is available for students who travel from Metfield, Harleston, Brockdish, Needham, Dickleburgh and surrounding areas. Information about this bus route is available from the sixth form office.

Students may park cars, bikes or mopeds in the College car park.

Discretionary Support Fund

Students can apply for the Discretionary Support Fund if they need financial support. Information about the fund is available from www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund and a booklet and application form are available from the sixth form office.

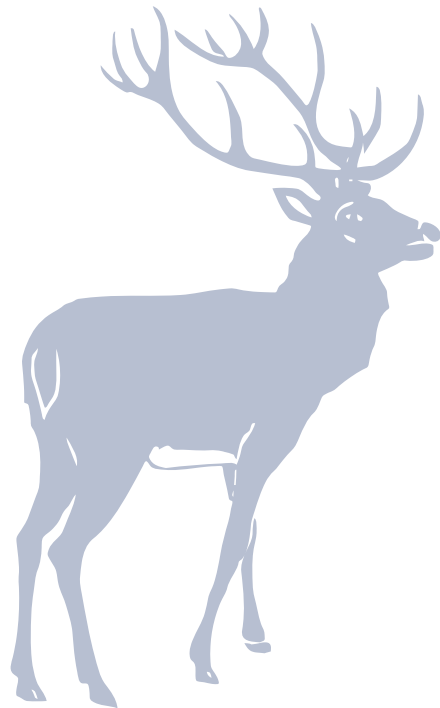




Courses

At Hartismere we offer a wide range of academic A level, Applied General and Cambridge Technical courses, as well as enrichment courses and the highly regarded Extended Project Qualification.

Brief details of the courses we offer are given here. Much more detailed information about subject content, assessment and teaching is given in each department's subject leaflet. You can collect them at our open evening, download them from the sixth form area on our website (course information & introductory videos) or request them from the sixth form office. They will always be the most up-to-date source of information.





Humanities

When you study a subject in the humanities, you are exploring human culture, thought and development. These subjects teach you how to communicate well, to develop an argument and to write essays; you'll become an independent, critical and creative thinker. Professor Katy Shaw describes how these are the subjects where students are “learning from the past, in the present, for the future”[†]

In all subjects, you will give presentations, write essays and contribute to lively classroom discussions and debates, as well as be expected to conduct your own, independent, reading and research. We expect you to develop analytical skills and hone your ability to formulate and develop cogent arguments. Assessment is usually through a mixture of examination and non-examined assessment (NEA), depending on the subject. All humanities provide an excellent foundation for degree level study in a huge range of disciplines.

[†] <https://www.princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk>

English Language and Literature English Literature

A level

The course will develop your interest, knowledge and enjoyment of both language and literature as interconnecting and mutually supportive disciplines. You will develop your skills as an independent, confident and reflective reader and writer while learning how context and society has an impact on our language use.

We expect you to have an interest in reading a wide variety of examples of spoken and written language from past and present. You will be reading and analysing a range of texts and transcripts while expressing and justifying your opinions.

A level

This challenging course will develop your knowledge and understanding of English Literature through the study of poetry, plays and novels from different periods. You'll develop analytical skills and hone your ability to formulate and develop cogent arguments. You will also explore how social and cultural influences affect readers and writers.

Students interested in pursuing law or politics find that an A level in English literature provides them with valuable skills. An A level in literature stands you in good stead for life as a reader, a thinker and a human being!

English Language and English literature can be studied as single subjects in higher education or be combined with a wide variety of other subjects such as history, media studies, philosophy, law, politics or foreign languages.



French

A level

You will learn how to communicate effectively in both written and spoken French whilst enhancing your understanding of topical issues such as society, media and popular culture. You will explore aspects of French culture through the detailed study of an author, a director or a region of France. You will develop your ability to express and justify your own opinions, improve your interpersonal and communication skills; you will develop your self-confidence and broaden your career opportunities.

We expect our students to have a genuine interest in French culture and language, including how sentences are put together. You should enjoy communicating and have the motivation to practise spoken French as often as you can.

Geography

A level

This challenging course covers a range of physical and human topics including the energy issue, managing tourism, coasts and cold environments. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of places and specific examples. You will also refine your skills of analysis and application and develop your ability to write reasoned arguments using a range of geographical evidence. Throughout the course you will develop your decision making skills, for example in planning issues or resources management and through analysis of evidence for bias. Taking part in exciting fieldwork tasks will enable you to develop your data collection, analysis and presentation skills.

We expect you to be aware of topical issues in geography and current affairs and to have an enquiring mind. You should have an interest in global issues and events. We expect our students to be self motivated and able to work on tasks independently.

Geography can be combined with both arts and science subjects and is evidence that students have gained valuable skills of analysis, research and critical reflection. Careers include conservation, social and environmental services, market research, finance and management, surveying, teaching, planning, travel and work in geological and meteorological fields and many more!

History

A level

You will study a variety of complex and often controversial topics from British and German history. In some units you will concentrate on the exploration of interlocking themes spanning a long period of time and in others you will pore over the fine socio-economic and political detail from much shorter periods. You will be consistently challenged to make sense of the past using a variety of sources relating to different periods and to critically evaluate the views of modern historians.

This demanding course will suit students who are prepared to put in maximum effort inside and outside the classroom. You will be well supported by your teachers but you must be prepared to ask for and follow advice. You must be highly motivated, well organised and someone who genuinely enjoys finding answers to tough questions.

The study of history will enable you to develop skills essential in the modern world. History A level complements many other subjects and students find careers in law, personnel management, banking, the civil service and teaching.

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

A level

This challenging course will develop your knowledge and understanding of religion through the study of philosophical arguments for the existence of God, philosophical problems that question the existence of God, ethical theory and applied ethics. You will also independently research an area of medical, environmental or equality ethics. We expect you to be an active and engaged participant. In lessons you will study and learn to analyse and discuss philosophical and ethical theory.

The transferable skills developed on this course will enable you to carry on your study at university with courses such as Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology, or it can be combined with a wide range of other subjects.





Sciences and Mathematics

These subjects are sometimes known as STEM subjects (as they cover disciplines of science, technology, engineering and maths). As well as studying them because they love them, these courses are often essential for particular degrees in those, or related, subjects. Sometimes, universities expect students to have studied a specific subject or combination of subjects, so research is very important. It's also important to understand that universities and employers may prefer students to study a variety of subjects, so it's not essential to just confine yourself to science or maths for example. Employers value the written and spoken communication skills that are developed in humanities and arts subjects too.

In science subjects, you will be encouraged to look far beyond the laboratory via research, presentations and discussion. Students who succeed tend to retain concepts from lesson to lesson, often by a combination of hard work and well-structured revisiting. You will also be able to make reasoned science "suggestions" and demonstrate creativity in problem solving. You will receive regular work to complete outside lessons in order to practise applying concepts to new situations and interpreting information. Assessment is by examination: a practical assessment is reported separately.

Chemistry

A level

Chemistry is a challenging course that gradually develops the skills needed to explain a range of phenomena, some of which are visible to the naked eye and others only on a sub-microscopic level. You will carry out a range of experimental procedures, some complex, while others may have a duration of less than a second. A high premium is placed on the willingness of students to participate fully by suggesting explanations and adapting their own ideas to incorporate new evidence.

Chemistry has a global perspective and has significantly moved away from traditional bulk manufacture towards “fines” such as pharmaceuticals, novel polymers and designer materials (such as graphene).

Physics

A level

The physics course develops your knowledge of theoretical physics; it will challenge your logic and problem solving skills through mathematical applications. Through practical investigation, you will develop scientific skills in data analysis, evaluation and data collection. You will also develop an understanding of the complex ideas related to electrons, waves and photons. We expect you to be an enthusiastic problem solver and to be an active and engaged participant in lessons. You will complete investigative work in pairs or individually as you develop your practical laboratory skills.

A Level physics is commonly studied with other sciences and maths. Physics is often a requirement if you want to study engineering and is also important for computing, accounting, astronomy, architecture, business and geology. Increasingly, physicists are finding employment in areas such as environmental science, law and medical careers.

Biology

A level

This engaging course will continue to fire your passion for biology, as you study new technologies within the subject. It will develop your fundamental knowledge and understanding of the subject, whilst challenging you to apply your knowledge in new and exciting contexts. You will be expected to use existing and new mathematical techniques to develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. You will consider and discuss moral, social and ethical aspects of the use of biology in society and appreciate how society uses science to inform how decisions are made. An effective A level biology student will be someone who looks forward to working independently on laboratory practical tasks but who can also be an effective team member when undertaking ecological investigations.

Biology is often studied with other sciences and students can continue to study and work in agriculture, medicine, biotechnology, dentistry, forensic science, marine biology, pharmacology and veterinary science. It is an excellent preparation for sports sciences and psychology.



Applied Science

Extended Certificate Level 3

This course will develop your knowledge and understanding of all aspects of science through the study of biology, chemistry and physics. You will explore the experimental and practical techniques of applied science and the roles and skills of scientists, as well as the public and media perception of science. You'll explore how the human body works, how science is used in industries throughout the UK and you'll use ICT and complex calculations to prove or disprove experimental data.

You'll carry out many practical experiments, analysing techniques and evaluating what you have discovered and use them to complete a portfolio of work on applied experimental techniques. You will also prepare for two external examinations that contribute up to 67% of your mark. The exams cover key aspects of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as assessing your understanding and knowledge of experimental techniques. In year 13, there is further portfolio work on different aspects of scientific practice and an external examination.

Applied Science combines well with many subjects: particularly Health & Social care, or as a stand-alone science qualification that covers elements of all three sciences studied at GCSE. It is often a requirement if you want to study nursing or childcare and is also very important for many careers in different scientific industries. Increasingly, Applied Science is recognised as a new and exciting way to experience science in action in industry today.

Mathematics

A level

Mathematics is both challenging and rewarding and is ideally suited to students who enjoy grappling with complexity and problem solving. You will have the opportunity to participate in a number of mathematics related challenges, visits and activities. At all times you will be encouraged to read widely around your subject and to consider the historical development of mathematics, its applications and the impact it has on society.

You will initially be introduced to elegant algebraic methods and a deeper appreciation of geometry and trigonometry, along with new areas such as logarithms, exponentials and series. At the heart of the course is calculus and you will be required to perfect your understanding of differentiation and integration and the numerous methods used to solve increasingly demanding problems. Applied mathematics is an important part of your course. All students will be introduced to statistics and mechanics; the techniques you will encounter often complement your studies elsewhere.

In both maths and further maths, we expect you to throw yourself into your lessons with unrestrained enthusiasm. Your teachers will support you throughout the course but you need to remain highly motivated. You will be dealing with complex concepts and the volume of work required to develop your mathematical skills is significant. A high standard of presentation in your work is key to developing good mathematical solutions as is the appropriate use of mathematical language and symbols.

Further Mathematics

A level

Further Mathematics is ideally suited to students who want to enhance their problem solving skills and delve into more advanced fields of study. Your course consists of specialised modules in Further Pure Mathematics, Mechanics, and Decision Mathematics. Further Mathematics is not for the faint hearted and the pace and challenge presented should satisfy students who may be considering pursuing further study in computing, economics, engineering, mathematics or the physical sciences.

Maths and further maths are both highly regarded subjects in many careers and for demanding university courses of all disciplines. Maths A levels provide the foundation for further mathematical studies in accountancy, industry, science, engineering, teaching and many others.

Certificate in Mathematics

Level 3

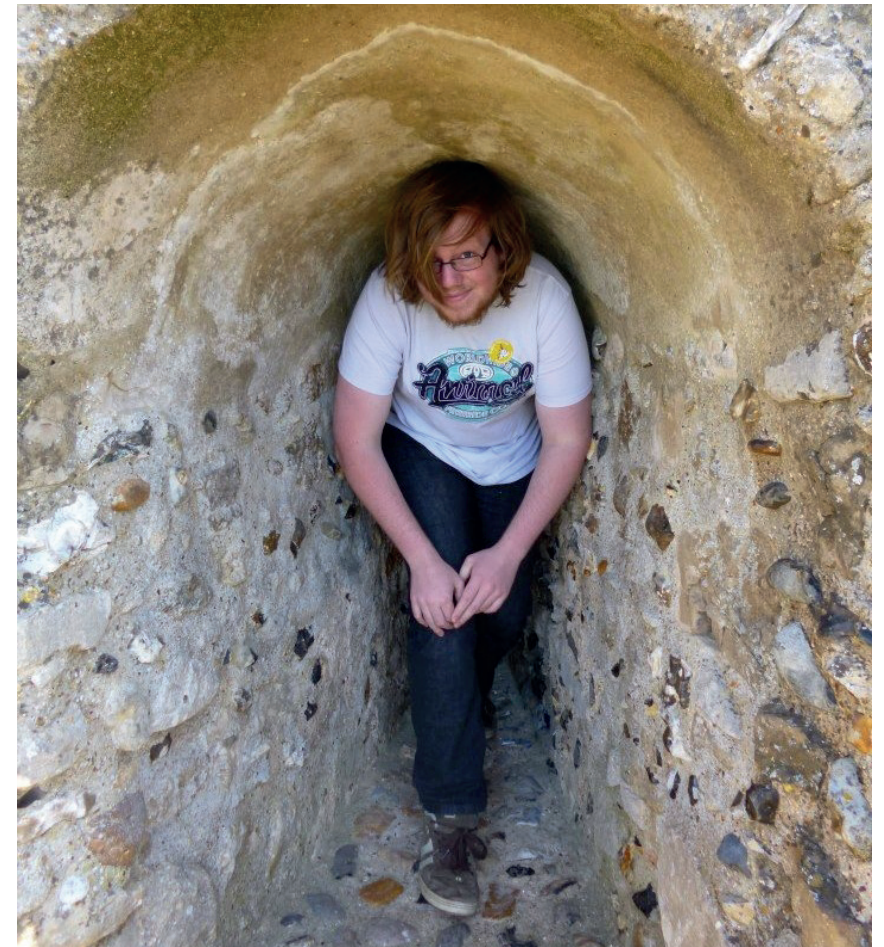
The level 3 Certificate in mathematics is a programme that allows students who do not take maths at A level to improve the mathematical skills they acquired at GCSE. Students refine the maths they will use in subjects such as economics, business, psychology, biology, chemistry, physics, Applied Science, Health & Social Care and others. Any student can take the qualification which runs over two years and leads to an AS level qualification which carries UCAS points and provides powerful evidence of having continued the study of maths beyond GCSE to employers and university admissions tutors.





Social Sciences and Computing

The social sciences are an extremely broad field which includes the study of human society and social relationships. Social science subjects partner with almost any other.



Economics

A level

Students of economics study how the economy works in specific markets, such as why petrol prices are so high, and investigate issues in the UK and world economy, such as the debt problem and how it might be solved. There has never been a more exciting time to study why the world economy faces such problems and what economists can do to solve them. Economics provides a number of theories and frameworks to investigate these problems and there is much debate between different economic schools of thought.

We expect our students to keep up to date with current economic issues both in the UK and internationally. Students take part in vigorous discussions on topical economic issues, for example the effect of the Brexit decision. Students must be prepared to discuss different economic views and be ready to argue opposing points of view, as well as willing to critically comment on the ideas and theories they study.

Students are expected to be comfortable using data when discussing a particular issue or concept and to use diagrams to support written answers and so a good pass in maths at GCSE is extremely helpful. Students should expect to work in groups for investigation work.

Studying economics can lead to careers in management, accountancy, banking and finance, local government and the civil service. Professional economists are also employed by businesses and governments to act as advisors!

Business

Applied General Qualification

Students on this challenging course investigate core business concepts and apply them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. You will learn how to develop a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues through the application of complex business information to a range of different contexts. They explore important aspects of how businesses work through studies of marketing, people management, entrepreneurship and leadership. An understanding of financial planning and management is also developed. Business is a dynamic and exciting course: you must enjoy challenging discussions and using your understanding of current affairs and politics to inform your work. You will need to assess current business practice and make recommendations based on evidence and business principles.

Studying decision-making and competitiveness, as well as how businesses work in global markets provides an excellent grounding in all aspects of business, and preparation for further studies in business, economics, management, marketing, finance and more. Business helps students to understand how all organizations both, private and public, work and therefore the subject also helps prepare you for employment.

Applied General qualifications are level 3 qualifications which are fully endorsed by universities such as Bath and Liverpool for entry into higher education and by employers.

PE

A level

This course is an exploration of the history of sport through to current practice. Students first learn sporting skills and then the mechanisms required to improve them. The musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and respiratory system are studied in detail, as well as the most effective methods of training them. Students will be able to show their skills in a practical sport of their choice. We expect our students to be actively involved in sport outside school hours and ideally already compete at club or county level or above. Students should have an interest in current sporting issues and enjoy reading and discussing these with others. The anatomy and physiology of the human body will be studied in depth and students should enjoy linking theory to their own sporting development.

The course is a great choice for students interested in sports science, physical education teaching or coaching. You may also be interested in elite performance and the resources available to improve performance.



Psychology

A level

This interesting and challenging course gives you a clear and scientific understanding of why humans behave and function in the ways they do. You will explore human behaviours and functions such as memory, stress and sleep from a number of differing psychological and biological perspectives. You will also discover key studies within psychology that support or refute psychological theory. In addition, you will learn how to design, conduct and report scientific research studies and the methodological limitations of such studies. We expect students to be active participants in class discussions regarding different psychological theories and to have an open and enquiring mind. You should be prepared to engage in group work and participate in conducting small-scale research studies. You will also be required to develop your analytical and evaluative skills in order to critically assess studies and theories.

A level Psychology combines well with any other science A level as well as Health & Social Care and Physical Education. Psychology is a useful subject to study for a broad range of career options such as medicine, nursing, social work, law, human resources, police and forensics and teaching. In fact, it would be beneficial to have an understanding of psychology in any career that involves working with people.

Health and Social Care

Cambridge Technical

Health and Social Care gives a broad understanding of health, social care and early years working environments. You will develop the practical communication skills which are so important in all health care careers, as well as gaining a broad academic understanding of the sometimes difficult and controversial issues within health and social care practice.

Some of the topics we cover include:

- building positive relationships in health and social care practice
- equality, diversity and rights in health and social care
- the importance of legislation in health and social care
- health issues in different environments and settings
- safety and security within health and social care practice

We expect you to have a keen interest in all matters of health and well-being. In lessons, there is an emphasis on debate and discussion of health and social care issues. You will need to be self-motivated and able to work independently on your coursework and be able to meet deadlines. Students often undertake work experience in either early years or elderly care.

The Cambridge Technical Certificate is an Applied General qualification and is equivalent to an AS level; the Extended Certificate is equivalent to an A level. The qualifications are designed to be taken alongside A levels or with Applied General qualifications. They are supported by universities and were designed in conjunction with universities and employers. This course makes an excellent partner with Applied Science. Hartismere students often go into nursing, midwifery, social work and early childhood studies.

Sociology

A level

Sociology is the study of contemporary society. Students develop skills of critical and reflective thinking as they explore social structures and action; they have a respect for social diversity. Students explore key sociological debates and changes such as the nature of culture, identity, gender, ethnicity and class, along with close studies of youth cultures, religion, ethics and research. Studies of politics and power help them to navigate their way in the world, as well as developing as informed, respectful and articulate members of society themselves.

Sociology makes a good partner with psychology and other sciences, as well as complementing humanities, RS and the arts. It makes a good 'fourth' subject for those students keen to practise their skills of debate and research.

Computer Science

A level

Computer Science is a rigorous subject where students develop an understanding of the organisation of computer systems. Students explore the hardware, range of software, communication methods and people that combine to make up a computer system. You will gain plenty of experience in programming computer software and develop an awareness of good interface design and methods of data collection. Through understanding the systems development life cycle, you will appreciate the need for communication with the end user and thorough design when developing a new system. We expect you to be interested in programming. You do not have to have experience in coding, but be willing to learn and develop skills both in school and at home. We expect you to be fascinated and intrigued by technology, new and old, and to be keen to learn about what makes them work and how they are used.

An A level in computer science provides an ideal foundation for a wide range of higher education courses and computing occupations. Areas of direct relevance include computer science, information systems, software engineering, computer games design, forensic computing and computer networking.



Creative Arts: Visual and Performing Arts

There are so many reasons to study a creative subject (beyond the fact that you love it of course!). In the UK, creative industries are amongst the fastest growing economic sectors. Employers find those who have studied creative subjects to show high levels of discipline, confidence and the ability to accept criticism. Arts students and graduates often have to make independent decisions all the time, and be self-critical. They also need to be brave in exposing their creations to others' opinions. Working in teams often develops students as excellent communicators.[†] In these subjects, students will experience, explore and analyse some of mankind's greatest creative achievements, developing as informed and critical thinkers, as well as producing their own creative work.

[†] <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/289223-five-reasons-to-study-the-arts-factsheet.pdf>



Music

A level

The course will challenge musicians of all abilities through performance, composition and the study of set works. Students organise performance pieces as well as developing melodic and harmonic ideas through the completion of a composition task. All aspects of music are studied including in depth analysis of music from 1550 to the present day, stylistic writing and aural perception. Assessment is through coursework and examination and covers students' performance and composition as well as musical understanding.

We expect you to be enthusiastic about music either as a performer or composer (or both) and hope that you will be a leading figure at extra-curricular events. You need to be willing to listen to a wide variety of music and learn about the theoretical, social and historical context of pieces. In lessons you will contribute to discussions, be organized and willing to accept advice about how to become a better musician.

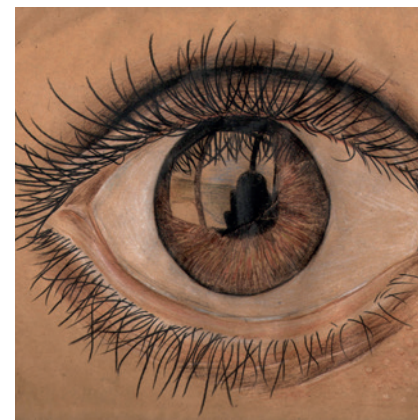
Music A level is essential for further courses and careers in music and can be combined with many other subjects at degree level. Studying music provides an excellent foundation for a diverse range of careers including performing, composing and arranging, education and music therapy, music administration and management, music production and the wider creative industries.

Drama

A level

On this exciting course, students study and perform four plays in the first year. In the second year students devise a play and work as a director on a text chosen by the exam board. Students work intensively together to discuss, produce and analyse drama texts. We expect our students to be motivated and interested in all aspects of the theatre. You should want to see and discuss all manner of theatre, drama and live performance, as well as enjoy refining and exploring your own diverse practical skills. You are expected to be expected to keep notes of class work, annotate scripts in rehearsals and run practical workshops.

An A level in drama is a very useful qualification – students tend to be good communicators and the course prepares students for degrees in drama, English and other humanities. It also adds an interesting dimension to students who study the sciences or business. Drama qualifications are also useful for students considering careers in social work, teaching and all aspects of the media.

**Fine Art**

A level

Photography

A level

These courses will develop and challenge your intellectual, imaginative and creative skills. In lessons you will investigate many creative media to develop your experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills.

In fine art, students produce practical and critical or contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video, film, animation) and photography.

In photography students produce practical and critical or contextual work in one or more areas, for example, portraiture, landscape photography, still-life, documentary, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (video, film, animation).

Students are also able to follow a route through art, craft & design which is a broad based course exploring practical and critical or contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media associated with two or more of fine art, textile design or photography.

You will have the opportunity to work with a broad range of media, including traditional and new technologies. You will visit galleries and artists' studios and we offer a variety of artist led workshops which introduce you to a range of exciting materials and media. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in contemporary and historical societies and cultures. We expect you to have an interest in art, craft, design, animation and photography. You will be hard working, self motivated and able to think independently. You will produce coursework that is continually assessed and you will also complete an externally set assignment producing a final outcome under exam conditions.

Film Studies

A level

This is an exciting course which is designed to deepen students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film. You will study cinema as a medium, as an art form and as a social and economic institution. The course aims to develop students' interest in and appreciation of cinema through the study of the language of film and the process of reading film. We expect our film students to love film! You should enjoy watching and discussing films and be keen to extend your experience of film beyond the mainstream to include cinema which is challenging or controversial. You will become an active reader of film, rather than a passive 'viewer' and you will enjoy reflecting on your own experience of, and reactions to films. In lessons, you will watch a huge range of films and learn how to analyse and discuss them.

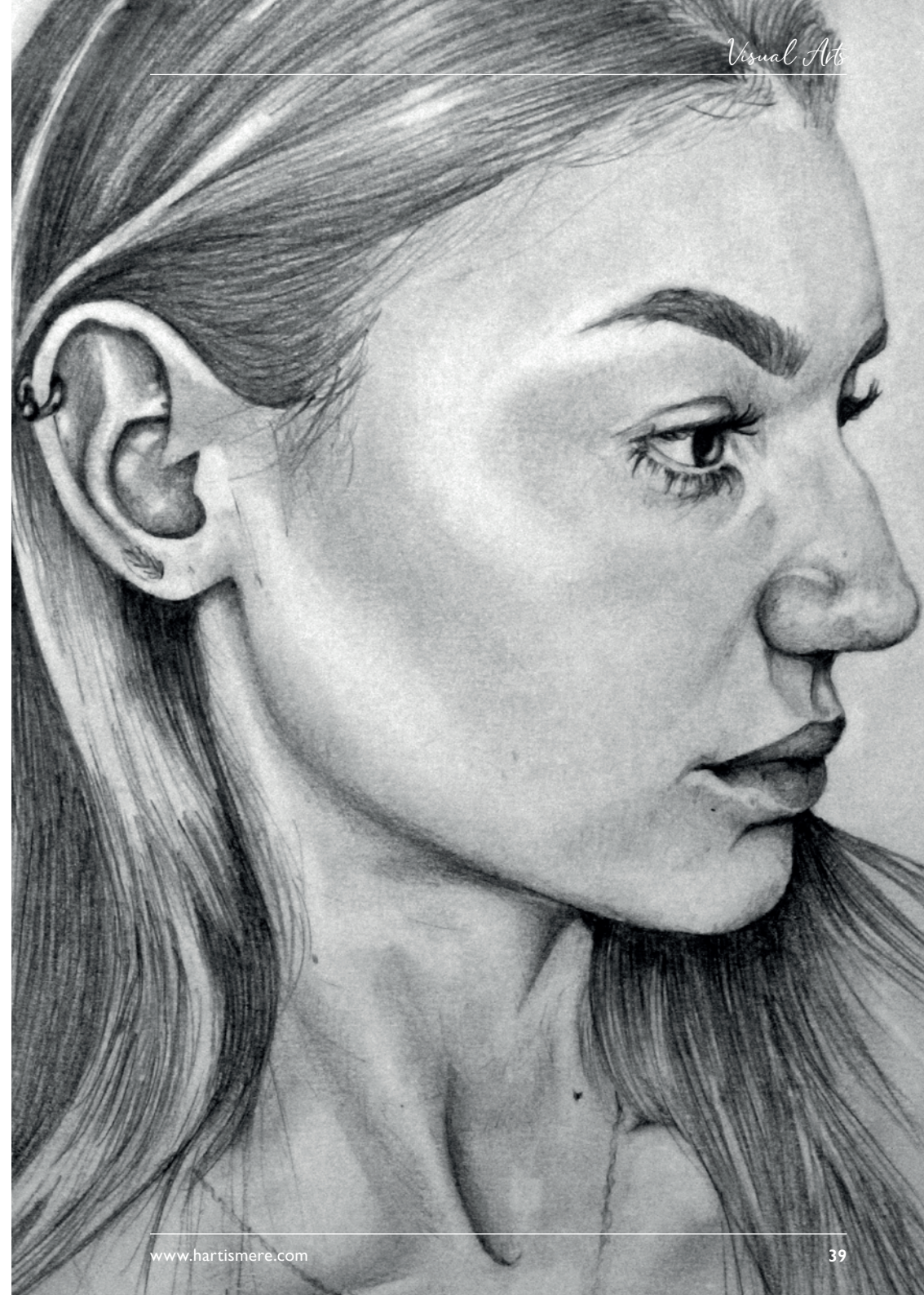
Film Studies provides a sound basis for university study in film, media and many other technical and artistic areas, as well as complementing work in other A levels such as English, drama and history. It is soundly analytical in its approach and develops students' skills of verbal and written analysis, as well as their aesthetic sense.

Product Design

A level

This A level draws on authentic design practice and contemporary technologies but you are free to explore design possibilities that excite and engage you. We expect you to be open to taking design risks, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering your role as responsible designers and citizens. We want you to develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products and systems and to work with others to develop and refine your ideas, responding to feedback from users, peers and expert practitioners. We want you to be able to develop and use key design and technology terminology to communicate effectively in future education and employment.

You'll develop your critical thinking and problem solving skills, develop and make prototypes and products that solve real world problems, considering the needs, wants, aspirations and values of others. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products and initiate and develop design solutions. You'll make and test prototypes and products while learning about how products can be developed through the stages of designing, prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. The course gives a strong foundation for further study and develops thinking and design skills that will support you in any future direction.



Further Information

For detailed subject information on each course, pick up our subject information leaflets at sixth form, via the website or on our open evening where you can also pick up our alternative prospectus.

For information about applying or any other aspect of our sixth form, please get in touch.

Tel: 01379 870315

Email: sixthform@hartismere.com

www.hartismere.com

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Art page 34: Lydia Botley

page 37 (top): Ant Redwood

page 37 (below): Ross Gudde

page 39: Lauren Farrow

All AS or A level Fine Art students

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**Hartismere
Sixth Form College**

Castleton Way
Eye
Suffolk
IP23 7BL

01379 870315
sixthform@hartismere.com

www.hartismere.com