



Northstowe
Sixth Form College



**Meridian
Trust**

Post 16 Information

“Where we
know you and
value you”





Welcome from the Northstowe Learning Community Principal

At Northstowe Sixth Form, we are committed to providing an exceptional post 16 experience that empowers every student to thrive not only academically, but personally and professionally. We offer a supportive and ambitious environment where young people are encouraged to pursue their aspirations with confidence and purpose.

Housed within our dedicated sixth form building, students benefit from outstanding facilities designed to support independent learning, collaboration and personal development. Our new modern learning space provides the ideal environment for students to take the next step in their educational journey while enjoying greater independence and responsibility.

We recognise that every learner is unique. That is why we offer a broad range of academic and vocational pathways, enabling students to choose a programme of study that reflects their strengths, interests and future ambitions. Whether progressing to university, higher apprenticeships or employment, our curriculum provides the knowledge, skills and experiences needed for success.

At the heart of our sixth form is a culture of exceptional pastoral support ensuring every student is known, valued and supported throughout their time with us. Staff develop strong relationships with students, providing personalised guidance, encouragement and challenge to help them realise their potential and navigate the opportunities and challenges of young adulthood.

Learning extends beyond the classroom through an extensive enrichment programme timetabled into the curriculum that offers leadership opportunities, work-related experiences, community engagement, sport, the arts and personal development activities. These experiences help students develop the confidence, character and cultural capital needed to success in an ever-changing world. We invite you to visit us and discover how Northstowe Sixth Form can help you achieve your goals and achieve your next steps



Dr Claire Mills –
Northstowe Learning
Community Principal



Northstowe

Sixth Form College

Northstowe
Sixth Form

Welcome to Northstowe Sixth Form College

I am really pleased that you are considering Northstowe Sixth Form for your next step. Choosing your Post-16 place of study is an important decision, and it is vital that you find a setting where you feel you truly belong.

We are a growing provision, with a specialist Sixth Form Centre designed to accommodate up to 400 students, with 200 in each year group. Since opening in 2024 with our first cohort of Year 12 students, we have continued to develop a Sixth Form that is ambitious, inclusive and outward-looking. Whilst many of our students progress from within our school, we warmly welcome applications from students beyond our immediate catchment area who meet the entry requirements for their chosen courses.

Although Sixth Form at Northstowe is relatively new, our staff bring a wealth of experience. Our team includes a number of Sixth Form specialists and colleagues who have previously held leadership roles in Post-16 education. As part of Meridian Trust, we also benefit from extensive collaboration, training and support, ensuring that our provision remains current, informed and of the highest quality.

At the heart of our Sixth Form is a strong commitment to knowing our students as individuals—where we know and value you. You will be taught by knowledgeable and dedicated subject specialists who are passionate about their subjects, alongside a pastoral team who will support and guide you through both the academic and personal challenges of Sixth Form life. We recognise that this stage of education is both exciting and demanding, and we are here to support you every step of the way, celebrating your successes and helping you to achieve your ambitions.

We are a Sixth Form with high expectations. Our standard entry requirements are a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, including English and Mathematics. Individual subjects may have additional requirements, which are outlined clearly on our website to help you make informed choices and ensure you are well placed to succeed.

While we are part of an all-through campus, the Sixth Form experience is distinct. With purpose-built facilities, dedicated study and social spaces, and the majority of lessons taking place within the Sixth Form centre, you will experience a greater sense of independence and responsibility. At the same time, being part of the wider school community provides valuable opportunities for leadership and personal development, helping you prepare for university, apprenticeships or employment.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of the team, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



My very best wishes,

Brad Robinson –
Assistant Principal &
Head of Sixth Form



The Northstowe Vision

The Northstowe Vision

"Our vision is for every Northstowe Sixth Former to leave us not only successful academically, but also as a well-rounded, highly employable individual, ready to fulfil their aspirations in the real world.

We believe that qualifications are an important foundation for future success, but that they are only one part of the journey. Through our **Northstowe "Diet"** of Appropriate Qualifications, Enrichment and Life Skills, we provide students with the knowledge, experiences, confidence and independence to take their next steps with ambition and purpose.

We want our students to leave Northstowe Sixth Form College equipped to thrive in further education, employment and adult life, making a positive contribution to their communities and the wider world.

The Northstowe "Diet"

The Three Elements that help students become successful, well-rounded and highly employable, ready to fulfil their aspirations in the real world.



Qualifications

Life Skills

Enrichment



The Northstowe "Diet"

At Northstowe Sixth Form College, we believe that a successful future requires more than academic qualifications alone. Our Northstowe "Diet" brings together three essential elements of Sixth Form life: Appropriate Qualifications, Enrichment and Life Skills.



Your Future



Appropriate Qualifications

Appropriate Qualifications provide the foundations for students' future ambitions. We support every student to pursue the courses and qualifications that are right for their interests, abilities and aspirations, preparing them for their next steps in education, employment or training.

Enrichment

Enrichment enables students to explore new interests, develop their talents and experience opportunities beyond the classroom. Through participation, leadership and wider experiences, students develop confidence, broaden their horizons and discover new possibilities.

Life Skills

Life Skills equip students with the independence, responsibility and practical skills needed to thrive beyond Sixth Form. We help students develop their communication, organisation, decision-making and problem-solving skills, preparing them for the opportunities and challenges of adult life.

Together, these three elements create the foundations for a successful future. The Northstowe "Diet" reflects our commitment to developing well-rounded young people who are confident, capable and ready to pursue their ambitions.

Where could Northstowe Sixth Form College take you?



Destinations

Our Year 13 students have progressed to a wide range of exciting destinations:

- 🎓 42% University
- 🔧 14% Apprenticeships and Degree Apprenticeships
- 🎭 12% Specialist Arts, Dance and Conservatoire Training
- 🌍 9% Gap Years and Travelling Opportunities
- 💼 7% Employment
- 👮 7% Military Careers



Future Ready Talks

Our students benefit from a range of talks delivered by external speakers, designed to complement their studies, develop essential life skills, and support their future aspirations. Examples include a Young Driver awareness session, a university finance talk, and presentations from alumni who share their personal experiences and career journeys.



Year 12 Work Experience

Work experience is vital for bridging the gap between the academic world and the world of work. It supports young people to make career decisions, develop employability skills and make a successful transition into FE, HE, apprenticeships and the workplace.



Personal stories demonstrating the power and effectiveness of the Northstowe Vision and "Diet"



Alex – (Alumni)

Developing mathematical and problem-solving skills
Through studying Core Maths alongside his other qualifications, Alex developed his mathematical confidence, problem-solving skills and ability to apply mathematical knowledge to real-world situations. These skills have supported his academic development and strengthened his university application, helping him to progress towards his ambition of studying Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence at Loughborough University.

Daniel – (Alumni)

Developing leadership, independence and practical skills
Through completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Daniel developed resilience, independence and a strong sense of responsibility. He established and independently led a Sixth Form Badminton Club, delivering both coaching and social sessions for fellow students. This experience developed his leadership, communication and organisational skills, while his regular use of the Northstowe Gym and efforts to develop his cooking skills helped him build confidence and independence in preparation for adult life. Daniel has since progressed to a degree-level apprenticeship in engineering. The experiences and life skills gained during his time at Northstowe gave him valuable examples to discuss at interview, helping him demonstrate the leadership, initiative and practical skills he could bring to his apprenticeship.

Sophie – (A current Year 13)

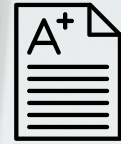
Developing leadership skills through sport
As part of her Enrichment programme, Sophie successfully completed A-level 3 Sports Leadership qualification, developing her confidence, communication, organisation and ability to work collaboratively with others. She applied these skills by delivering PE lessons to students at a local SEND school on the Northstowe Learning Community Campus and supporting the delivery of District Football Cups and District Athletics events. In recognition of her dedication to the qualification and enthusiasm for leading alongside others, Sophie received the Leadership Skills Foundation's Spirit of Leadership Award. These experiences have strengthened her ability to adapt to different needs, take responsibility and communicate effectively, supporting her application to train as a Primary Teacher. Sophie is currently progressing towards her ambition of a career in primary education.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Our standard entry requirements are a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 5 or equivalent

A-Level

Students wishing to study A-levels are expected to achieve grades 6 or 7 (or equivalent) in most of their chosen subjects.*



Vocational

Students looking to study vocational courses (BTECs and V-Levels), students will generally need to have achieved grade 5 (or equivalent) in relevant subjects.*

Create Your Own Pathway

At Northstowe Sixth Form, we believe your study programme should be as individual as you are. That's why we offer the flexibility to create a personalised pathway that reflects your interests, strengths, and future aspirations. Students typically study three qualifications, choosing from a broad range of A-levels and vocational courses. Whether you prefer a traditional academic route, a more career-focused programme, or a combination of both, you can tailor your subjects to suit your ambitions and learning style.

This flexible approach allows you to build a programme that supports your progression to university, apprenticeships, or employment, giving you the skills, knowledge, and confidence to take your next steps successfully.

Course Availability

As a growing sixth form, some courses are subject to minimum enrolment numbers. While every effort will be made to run the courses advertised, we reserve the right to withdraw or amend courses where student numbers are insufficient or where staffing or operational circumstances require. Applicants affected by any changes will be supported in selecting suitable alternative programmes of study.

Course Specific Entry Requirements

Please note that whilst our general entry requirements apply, some courses have additional subject-specific entry criteria.

Applicants should refer to individual course information for full details of any required grades, qualifications, or prior study.

GCSE Resits

We also provide ongoing support to help every student succeed, including GCSE resits in mathematics and English language for those who have not yet achieved at least a grade 4.



*subject enrollment may be influenced by your GCSE results in Mathematics and English.

HOW TO APPLY

Join us at an Open Evening

Explore our campus, discover our facilities, and have any questions answered by our friendly staff.



Complete an Online Application

Submit your Sixth Form application to us via MyChoice16.



Attend a Guidance Meeting

An informal meeting, giving you the opportunity to discuss your subject choices, future plans, and individual goals



Receive your Offer to Study

If you meet the criteria, you will Receive a conditional offer to study with us by email.



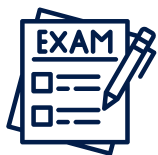
Come along to our Welcome Day.

If you have accepted your offer, you will be invited to our Welcome Day and get a first-hand experience of our Sixth Form.



Collect your Results and Enrol

Collect your GCSE results where we welcome you to enrol in person at our campus



**Join our
Sixth form**

Post-Results Applications

If you don't currently hold an offer and would like to join Northstowe Sixth Form, you can make a post-results application once you have received your GCSE results.



More information on our application process can be found on our website

A-level

ART, CRAFT and DESIGN

Exam Board – EDUQAS



The structure of the A-level course is very similar to that of GCSE Art. Students begin by looking at artists, exploring media and new skills and developing these into a variety of personal responses, which can be hugely varied depending on personal interests and preferences.

Our Art, Craft and Design A-level course provides opportunity to develop your own creative direction through specialist pathways from Ceramics and Sculpture to Fashion, Textiles, Illustration or Architecture; You decide on your own personal interests, and we facilitate and provide the specialist advice.

In addition to this, we offer a range of fun workshops throughout the course for you to develop and experience new skills, opportunities to be involved in art projects within the wider community as well as a range of inspiring visits including Kettles Yard, The Hayward and Tate Galleries. Creative freedom, expert guidance, inspiring experiences.



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:
GCSE in Art and Design or similar subject at Grade 6. If a student did not study Art and Design at GCSE, an interview with a portfolio of work will be required.

A-level

BIOLOGY

Exam Board – AQA

During the course, students will study a range of topics from cell biology, genetics to energy transfer. Students will also develop their practical skills and competency by completing a number of required practicals.

Topics studied include biological molecules, cells, genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms, genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and more.



“ I have found the Biology course extremely interesting and fun to learn about . ”
– George



“The practicals are good for reinforcing learning and support more research into the subject. ”
– Adam

Additional Requirements:

To study A-level Biology, students must take the Higher Tier exams. Those studying Combined Science need at least Grade 7-7, including a 7 in B1 and B2. Students taking Separate Sciences need a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Biology. All students also need at least a grade 5 in GCSE Higher Mathematics.



**Find out
more here**



A-level

BUSINESS

Exam Board – AQA



A-level Business introduces students to the principles of business, providing them with an understanding of how businesses operate in today's global economy. It covers key business concepts, decision-making processes, and strategic planning.

There are three units which are studied and which will link directly to the three exam papers and cover key areas such as business objectives, marketing, finance, and human resources. It explores decision-making tools, operations management, and the impact of external factors such as the economy and competition.

“ We discuss global events and our teacher uses their own experiences as examples. This makes the lessons more interesting and helps me gain a better understanding of business than I would if I were just learning from a textbook. ”
-Mathilda



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study Business, students must achieve five GCSEs at Grade 4, including: Grade 4 in GCSE English Language, Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 4 in GCSE Business, or a Merit in Level 2 Business, if taken.

A-level

CHEMISTRY

Exam Board – AQA

During the course, students will study a range of topics in physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry and organic chemistry. Students will also develop their practical skills and competency by completing a number of required practicals.

Topics studied are physical chemistry including atomic structure, bonding, kinetics, rates and equilibrium; inorganic chemistry, including periodicity, group and period characteristics and reactions of ions; and organic chemistry, including alkanes and alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis, carboxylic acids, amino acids and polymers



“The Chemistry teachers are very understanding and are happy to explain things that are hard to understand. They never make anyone feel silly for not knowing something.”

Ineke

Additional Requirements:

To study A-level Chemistry, students must take Higher Tier GCSEs. Combined Science students need at least a 6–6 overall, including Grade 6 in C1 and C2. Separate Science students need at least a Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. All students must also achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.



**Find out
more here**

A-level

COMPUTER SCIENCE

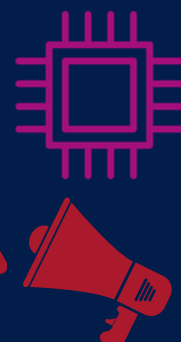
Exam Board – OCR



Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. The course values computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

Topics studied include: Computer Systems, Algorithms and Programming, and a Programming Project

“ Computer Science scared me at first as i hadn’t studied it at GCSE and it seemed very complex. Throughout the year, my confidence grew and I realised how interesting the subject was and how it went hand-in-hand with my other subjects. ”
-Theo



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study Computer Science at A-level, students must achieve five GCSEs at Grade 4 including:
Grade 4 in GCSE English Language, Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science or a related subject.

A-level

DRAMA

Exam Board – AQA

A A-level Drama and Theatre is a practical and academic course that explores how theatre is created, performed, and analysed. You will develop your skills as a performer, director, and designer while studying a range of plays and theatre practitioners.

The course combines practical performance work, creative devising and written analysis of live and scripted theatre.

You will explore how meaning is communicated to an audience and gain a deeper understanding of theatrical style, intention, and impact.



Drama is about stepping into someone else's world and discovering what it means to truly understand a character. Our A-level Drama course challenges students to become confident, imaginative and thoughtful performers, exploring how voice, movement and emotion can bring characters to life. Alongside acting, students develop as directors and theatre-makers, taking creative risks, shaping powerful stories and creating work that is bold, meaningful and uniquely their own.



–Mr Skinner, Drama Teacher

Additional Requirements:

To study A-level Drama and Theatre, students require a GCSE Grade 6 or equivalent in Drama or a similar subject. Students should also show an interest in Drama and Theatre.



**Find out
more here**

A-level

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board – EDEXCEL



A-level English Literature offers students opportunities to continue to engage with literary texts in an analytical and exploratory way. You will read a wide range of texts from different genres and time periods. Over the course, you will study eight texts from: drama, poetry and prose. You will hone your essay writing skills and lessons will be filled with thoughtful discussion and debate.

“This year we have studied *Frankenstein*, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Poems of the Decade*. I have enjoyed our poetry unit and looking at the different meanings the poems can have and how people interpret them.”

–Ruby



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study English Literature at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature. Students with a Grade 5 in English Literature may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A-level

FRENCH

Exam Board – AQA

The qualification is one full A-level, and aims to provide an overview of the language, heritage, film, and commonly-discussed topics in French and French-speaking cultures. Content includes social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, grammar, and literary texts and films.



hola!

bonjour

Our A-level French course covers a wide range of cultural capital and current issues, from politics to food and from film to history. It's not just about learning how to book a hotel room on holiday or conjugate a verb; it's about understanding the world through someone else's eyes. Our identity is rooted in our culture, history, food, jokes, architecture, infrastructure, art, music and film, and all of this is expressed through language. An A-level in a language lets you explore the world, tailor the course to your interests, and find out more about yourself on the journey.

Additional Requirements:

To study French at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.



**Find out
more here**

A-level

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

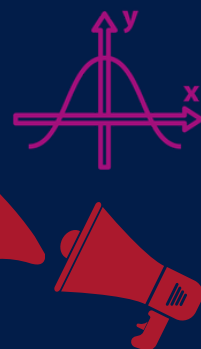
Exam Board – EDEXCEL



Further Mathematics is an A-level qualification which both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A-level Mathematics. As well as learning new areas of Pure Mathematics you will study further applications of mathematics in Mechanics, Statistics and Decision Mathematics. Exam papers may assess content from sections including Proof, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Trigonometry, Hyperbolic Functions and more.

Further Maths has been wonderful as I have learned so many new concepts which I never imagined before. It has been tough learning every concept, but I have enjoyed it throughout the year.

-Zac



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study Further Mathematics at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Students may be required to sit a strict entrance exam to ensure suitability for the course.

A-level

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board – EDEXCEL

This exciting course offers you a balance between Physical and Human Geography. A-level Geography will give you a much more informed view of the world you live in.

Exam papers may assess content from sections of Physical Geography and Human Geography, including tectonic processes, the water cycle, globalisation and landscape systems.



I like how the subject tests my writing ability as well as involving a little bit of maths. The subject is extremely relevant to the modern world.

–Luis

I enjoy Geography because we learn about the world around us, and how it is constantly changing. I have also gained map skills.

–Ben

Additional Requirements:

To study Geography at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography. It is highly preferable to have studied a Geography GCSE course. It is recommended that students also obtain a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics due to the practical mathematics involved in the course and a Grade 5 in English language.



**Find out
more here**

A-level

HISTORY

Exam Board – OCR



We learn about how and why people have been divided into groups based on religion, politics, or national borders, and how those divisions have been healed or deepened.

Topics have also been chosen to complement GCSE topics you may be doing at your school. Studying 'Elizabethan England' sets the stage for the 'Early Stuarts' topic, while either the 'Germany, 1919–39' or 'Cold War' topics give you an overview of the key events of the 'Democracy and Dictatorship' topic.

History is fascinating and I have really enjoyed exploring it from a more academic perspective. I love the broad overarching picture we get of time periods and the exploration of learning skills required by historians.

–Esther



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study A-level History, students must obtain a Grade 5 or above in GCSE History, preferably a Grade 6 or higher. If students did not study GCSE History, a Grade 5 or above must be obtained in GCSE Geography. Students should also have a Grade 6 or higher in English Language

A-level

MATHEMATICS

Exam Board – AQA

A-level Mathematics covers a range of Pure Mathematics topics such as calculus, trigonometry and sequences. It also covers aspects of Statistics and Mechanics.

Exam papers may assess content from sections including Proof, Algebra and Functions, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Vectors, Statistical Hypothesis Testing, Newton's Laws and more!



The teachers are really good at helping you revise and explaining topics when you don't understand them.
-Hank



Mathematics teaches you how to calculate and predict certain aspects in the real world, through learning subjects like probability and proof.
-Dougie

Additional Requirements:

To study Mathematics at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Students with a Grade 6 may be considered on a case-by-case basis. This will include an assessment covering the fundamentals of GCSE Mathematics at the beginning of September.



**Find out
more here**

A-level

MUSIC

Exam Board – AQA



Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. AQA has designed a relevant and contemporary

A-level qualification that offers students the chance to study a wide range of musical genres.

This A-level brings listening, performance and composition to life in new and engaging ways, and links to the world around us like never before.

Students will complete three areas of study:

Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory), Pop Music, and Jazz.

It is really refreshing due to the practical element and I feel that I have really grown in my performing and composing. I also feel that I have uncovered the academic and theory aspect of music which has changed the way I listen to music, I have found it completely fascinating.

Getting involved in the department and extra-curricular activities across the school has been so much fun and I feel I have been able to make a difference and inspire the younger students.

–Esther



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study this course at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music, as well as Grade 5 or above on an instrument or singing from ABRSM/Trinity or a similar exam board. For students without GCSE Music or a Grade 5, an audition and music theory test will be required.

A-level

PHILOSOPHY

Exam Board - AQA

We will study ethical theories, develop an understanding of the concept and nature of God, and look at different theories such as realism and idealism to develop a critical view of perceptions of knowledge and more.

Four topics will be studied: Epistemology, Moral Philosophy, Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of the Mind.



The most satisfying subject as there are no right answers and you are really able to explore your own views on the bigger questions.

-Esther



I enjoy looking at different views on the world, I especially liked the epistemology side of the course, looking at how knowledge is acquired.

-Ruby

Additional Requirements:

To study Philosophy at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English to enable them to access the complex writing style and texts used. Students must also achieve a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Ethics, if studied.



**Find out
more here**

NEW
For 2027

A-level

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board – EDUQAS



Students develop their understanding of photographic processes, techniques and concepts through practical work and critical study. They build a personal portfolio, exploring themes and ideas that reflect their individual interests. Students begin the course by developing core technical skills, including camera operation, composition, lighting and image-editing. There is a strong emphasis on experimentation and exploration of different approaches. Students will study the work of photographers and relevant artists, using this to inform and refine their own work. As the course progresses, students undertake a 'Personal Investigation', exploring more challenging themes and producing increasingly independent outcomes. Work is supported through regular one-to-one tutorials to ensure a sufficient depth and breadth of work.

Photography isn't just about capturing what you see – it's about showing others how you see the world. Our A-level Photography course gives students the skills, confidence and creative freedom to develop their own visual voice, experiment with professional techniques, and create ambitious, personal work that they're truly proud of.

–Mr Williams (Photography Teacher)



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study A-level Photography, students require a GCSE Grade 6 or equivalent in Photography, Art and Design or a related subject. Students who have not studied a Visual Arts GCSE may be required to attend an interview and present a portfolio of work.

A-level

PHYSICS

Exam Board – OCR

During the course, students will study a range of topics, from Particles, Waves, Mechanics to Nuclear Physics. Students will also develop their practical skills and competency by completing a number of required practicals.

Content is split into six teaching modules: development of practical skills in physics, foundations of physics, forces and motion, electrons, waves and photons, Newtonian world and astrophysics, and particles and medical physics.



I have enjoyed learning about how the world works and how objects interact with each other.

–Elliot

The practicals are interesting and challenging. I particularly enjoyed the Forces and Motion topic.

–Dan

Additional Requirements:

To study Physics at A-level, students on either the Combined Science or Separate Science GCSE programmes will be considered, but only if they sit the Higher Tier exams. If students study Combined Science, they must achieve a 7-7 Grade or above, including a Grade 7 in P1 and P2. If students study Separate Sciences, they must achieve a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics. Students must also obtain a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.



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more here**

A-level

PRODUCT DESIGN

Exam Board – AQA



This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers – possibilities are varied leading to opportunities in both creative and technical industries. This single A-level qualification is modern and relevant, so students can learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

I enjoy being able to transfer ideas and developments into physical products.

–Adam

Product Design is my most fun subject. It mixes theory lessons with practical lessons to help demonstrate the concepts that you learn.

–Elliot



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Additional Requirements:

To study Product Design at A-level, students must achieve five GCSEs at Grade 4 including: Grade 4 in GCSE English Language, Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE Design Technology or related subject.

A-level

PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board – AQA

A-level Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways. You will learn a variety of skills, including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem-solving.

Topics studied include social influence, memory, attachment, approaches in psychology, stress, addiction, clinical psychology and mental health, biopsychology and more.



I think many key concepts in psychology help me to understand and interpret better in other humanities subjects. The Attachment topic gave me a deeper understanding of others as well as myself and how childhood and environment can shape a person. Learning about sampling techniques has supported similar content on sampling in my other subjects.

–Mathilda

Additional Requirements:

To study Psychology at A-level, students should obtain at least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 to include Grade 6 in English Language, Grade 6 in Biology and Chemistry (or 6.6 in combined) and Grade 5 in Mathematics.



**Find out
more here**

A-level

SOCIOLOGY

Exam Board – AQA



Studying Sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. Topics studied include Education with Theory and Methods, Families and Households, Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods, and Beliefs in Society.

The Sociology classes make me think and question things that I ordinarily wouldn't have thought about. the teaching style is really good and these have been some of my favourite lessons throughout the year.

–Ethan



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study Sociology at A-level, students should obtain at least 5 GCSE Grades 9–4 to include Grade 6 or above in English language.

A-level

SPANISH

Exam Board – AQA

NEW
For 2027

The qualification is one full A-level, and aims to provide an overview of the language, heritage, film, and commonly-discussed topics in Spanish and Spanish-speaking cultures. Content includes social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, grammar, and literary texts and films.



hola!

bonjour

Our A-level Spanish course covers a wide range of cultural capital and current issues, from politics to food and from film to history. It's not just about learning how to book a hotel room on holiday or conjugate a verb; it's about understanding the world through someone else's eyes. Our identity is rooted in our culture, history, food, jokes, architecture, infrastructure, art, music and film, and all of this is expressed through language. An A-level in a language lets you explore the world, tailor the course to your interests, and find out more about yourself on the journey.

Additional Requirements:

To study Spanish at A-level, students must achieve a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.



Find out
more here

APPLIED SCIENCE

Exam Board – PEARSON



This course develops a sound foundation through the study of fundamental biological, chemical and physical principles whilst exploring applications of medical science. There are four mandatory units, which include the Principles and Application of Biology, Chemistry & Physics and Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques. There are also two optional units in which we have selected Science Investigation Skills.

The teachers are extremely helpful and they give us space to grow by ourselves whilst still supporting us where necessary

–Joy

The Applied Science course has been interesting; the subjects are fun to learn and I especially enjoy the chemistry practicals.

–Ali



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study Applied Science, students on either the Combined Science or Separate Science GCSE programmes will be considered. If students study Combined Science, they must achieve a 5-5 Grade or above. If students study Separate Sciences, they must achieve a Grade 5 or above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students must also obtain a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics and a Grade 5 or above in English Language / Literature.

BTEC

DANCE

Exam Board – PEARSON

The BTEC Dance course, equivalent to a single A-level, is an exciting and practical pathway for students passionate about dance. This course combines practical performance with academic study, offering a comprehensive understanding of the dance world.

Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Jazz Dance, choreography, and theoretical elements to enhance performance.



The Dance course is fun. I have enjoyed improving my dance skills through the classes.

-Gabrielle

Additional Requirements:

To study Level 3 Dance, students require a GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent in English. Dance GCSE or BTEC Level 2 is advantageous but not essential. Students should also show an interest in Dance. Students will also require prior dance training and dance qualifications in any discipline. They will be required to audition, which will consist of a ballet, jazz and contemporary class and an interview with our panel of teachers



**Find out
more here**

DANCE

(EXTENDED DIPLOMA)

BTEC

Exam Board – PEARSON



This is a full-time course equivalent to three A-levels, which allows learners to specialise in Performing Arts with a focus on dance. This course provides each learner with an opportunity to progress onto a higher level of dance education or the professional dance industry.

Subjects include: Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Commercial, Choreography Techniques, Performance Techniques and Healthy Dancers and many more.

I really enjoy the lessons, they not only challenge me physically but the teachers also offer us advice based on their experiences. I chose to study this course to pursue a career in professional dance and musical theatre.

–Naomi



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study Level 3 Dance, students require a GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent in English. Dance GCSE or BTEC Level 2 is advantageous but not essential. Students will require some prior dance training or dance qualifications in any discipline. They will be required to audition, which will consist of a Ballet, Jazz and Contemporary dance class, along with a short interview with our specialist teachers. Students are also expected to show a wider interest in the arts.

NLC 6TH FORM DANCE ACADEMY

High Quality

For students who have a passion for dance, our unique 6th Form Dance Academy offers specialist training, expert teaching and exciting performance opportunities, all whilst obtaining a high-quality 6th form education.



Technique Classes

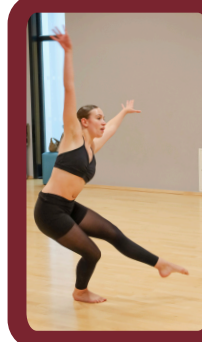
As part of our Dance Academy students can access either the BTEC National Extended Diploma (3 A-level equivalent) or the single BTEC National Extended Certificate (1 A-level equivalent) in Dance. Alongside this, we offer Dance Technique classes in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary and Street Dance.

Workshops and Visits

Dancers get a number of performance opportunities whilst in the Academy, both in school and externally at other Dance venues. We organise for dance artists to visit and deliver workshops and we run trips to watch professional shows.

Expert Teachers

Our Dance faculty consists of 4 specialist teachers who have all trained and performed professionally, with a wealth of teaching experience.



Destinations

Our Dance alumni have gone on to train at Trinity Laban, Creative Academy, MADD College, DanceBox Studios, BASE Performing Arts College & London Studio Centre.

Professional Facilities

All of our classes take place in our state of the art dance studio which is fully equipped with mirrors, barres and a sprung dance floor. We also have a Theatre Space which we routinely use for performances.



Careers Opportunities

We are proud to be supporting students who come to NLC Dance Academy to fulfil their full potential on their journey to becoming Dance Artists.

Performance Opportunities

New for 2027 we will be launching our NLC 6th Form Dance Academy **Company** which will be an enrichment programme open to students from across the Sixth Form to perform and represent the school at regional & local Dance platforms.



SPORT

Exam Board – PEARSON/EDEXCEL



This course will give you an advanced insight into how our body responds to exercise and you will have an opportunity to apply your knowledge to sporting environments and develop your skills as a Sports Leader within the sports industry.

Students will study four units, three of which are mandatory: Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being, Professional Development in the Sports Industry. 1 unit will be studied from the following: Sports Leadership, Application of Fitness Testing, Sports Psychology or Practical Sports Performance.

We learn about multiple areas within the world of sport, including Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness, Careers in Sport and Psychology. I feel able to apply the knowledge gained to my future career as I would like to work in the sports industry. The teachers are great and the lessons are educational and fun.

–Alistair



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

Students should have studied Physical Education and/or Sport Studies at GCSE, achieving at least a Grade 4 (or equivalent). A Grade 4 in Science will be required, due to the Scientific content of the Anatomy and Physiology units. For those who have not studied Physical Education and/or Sports Studies at GCSE, may be considered, provided you have a keen interest in physical activity and a Grade 4 in Science GCSE.

BTEC

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Exam Board - PEARSON

This course presents a broad basis of study for the Health and Social Care sector, building on understanding gained from the Level 2 qualification. Topics studied include Human Lifespan Development, Human Biology and Health, Principles of Health and Social Care Practice, and Promoting Health Education.



I really enjoyed the biology segment of the subject as it was a more in-depth look at how the body works than I have learnt before.

-Ethan

Additional Requirements:

To study Health and Social Care at Level 3, students must obtain A-level 2 Merit or higher at GCSE Level, if taken. If students have not studied Health and Social Care at GCSE, they will instead need a Grade 5 or above in English language and a Grade 5 in Science.



**Find out
more here**

NEW
For 2027

V-level

DIGITAL SYSTEMS and DATA



This course develops a broad understanding of digital technologies, systems design and the processes used to create innovative digital solutions. Students will explore areas such as programming, data management, cybersecurity, user-centred design and digital project development, while applying their knowledge through practical, industry-related tasks that reflect real-world practice.

Throughout the qualification, students will develop valuable technical, analytical and problem-solving skills, preparing them for a range of progression routes. This V-level provides a strong foundation for progression to higher education, apprenticeships and careers within the digital, computing and technology sectors.

Digital technology shapes almost every aspect of modern life, and this course is about learning how to create the solutions that drive our world forward. Our V Level in Digital Systems and Data enables students to develop their skills in programming, problem solving, data and digital systems, while encouraging creativity, innovation and logical thinking.



**Find out
more here**



Additional Requirements:

To study v-level Digital Systems and Data you will require a Grade 4 in English, Mathematics and Science.

V-level

EDUCATION

NEW
For 2027

This course develops a broad understanding of how people learn from birth through to adulthood, combining educational theory with practical, work-related tasks that reflect real world practice. Throughout the qualification, students will develop valuable transferrable skills, preparing them for a range of progression routes. This V Level provides a strong foundation for progression to higher education, apprenticeships and careers within the education sector.



Education is about making a difference in the lives of others and helping young people grow, learn and succeed. Our V Level in Education gives students the opportunity to explore child development, learning and behaviour, while developing the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to support children and young people from ages 0 to 19 and beyond.

Additional Requirements:

To study v-level Digital Systems and Data you will require a Grade 4 in English, Mathematics and Science.



**Find out
more here**



ENRICHMENT

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is a nationally recognised personal development programme that helps students build confidence, resilience and independence through a range of challenging and rewarding experiences. Highly regarded by universities and employers, the Gold Award demonstrates commitment, leadership and the ability to succeed beyond the classroom.

Students complete sections in Volunteering, Physical and Skills activities, alongside a residential experience and a challenging expedition. The programme is tailored to individual interests, encouraging students to develop new skills, contribute to their communities and work effectively as part of a team.

Throughout the award, students develop valuable transferable skills including communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving and perseverance. The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is an excellent addition to a student's profile, helping to strengthen university, apprenticeship and employment applications.



DofE has taught me lots of life skills and improved what I do outside of school.
-Lenna

Sports Leadership

Sports Leadership is A-level 3 qualification that enables students to develop leadership skills through planning and delivering sport and physical activity sessions. Combining practical experience with leadership training, the course helps students build confidence, responsibility and effective communication skills.

Students learn how to lead safe and inclusive activities, work with a range of participants, and evaluate their own performance. Along the way, they develop valuable transferable skills such as teamwork, organisation, problem-solving and leadership.

Worth up to 16 UCAS points, the Sports Leadership qualification is an excellent addition to a student's academic profile and provides valuable experience for those considering careers in sport, coaching, teaching or related professions.



Honestly one of the most amazing and rearding experiences I have ever had
-Daniel



I like how I learn about important topics such as finances that will be useful in life after sixth form.
-Callum

Core Maths

Core Maths is A-level 3 qualification designed for students who have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics and wish to continue developing their mathematical skills alongside their A-levels. The course focuses on applying maths to real-life situations, helping students build confidence in areas such as finance, statistics, data analysis and problem-solving.

Core Maths supports a wide range of subjects, including science, geography, psychology, business and social sciences, and provides valuable preparation for higher education and employment. Students develop the analytical and quantitative skills that universities and employers increasingly value, making it an excellent addition to a post-16 study programme.

COURSES

The EPQ provides the necessary skills required to study at university and write longer essays. It requires analytical skills to be able to interpret research sources and apply them to an essay.

–Alistair



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is A-level 3 qualification that gives students the opportunity to undertake a substantial piece of independent research on a topic of their choice. Completed in Year 12, the EPQ helps to develop valuable skills such as critical thinking, research, and independent learning, making it excellent preparation for university or further study. Students have considerable freedom in selecting their topic, allowing them to explore personal interests, hobbies, or areas linked to future degree courses or career aspirations. The qualification can take a variety of forms, including a 5,000-word dissertation, the creation of an artefact, or a performance supported by a shorter written report of around 1,000 words. Equivalent in value to an AS Level, the EPQ can also contribute to UCAS points, making it a worthwhile addition to a student's academic profile.

Gold Arts Award

Gold Arts Award is A-level 3 qualification that enables students to develop their artistic practice while gaining valuable insight into the professional arts and creative industries. Designed for students aged 16 and above, the qualification encourages independent learning, creativity and leadership, making it excellent preparation for higher education, employment or further training.

Through a portfolio of evidence, students extend their skills in their chosen art form, explore new creative disciplines, research artists and arts careers, and investigate a current issue within the arts sector. They also plan, manage and deliver their own arts project, including a public outcome, developing important transferable skills such as communication, organisation, problem-solving, project management and leadership.

Equivalent to A-level 3 qualification and worth up to 16 UCAS points, Gold Arts Award is a valuable addition to a student's academic profile. It provides the opportunity to build confidence, independence and practical experience while creating a portfolio that showcases both creative achievement and personal development.



I fell in love with the concept that art is a world of endless creations. Art has helped me in many situations. When I am happy I create, when I am angry or blue I create.

Useful Information

Financial Support

We believe that financial circumstances should never be a barrier to education. We are committed to supporting our students and ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Through the Government-funded 16 to 19 Bursary Fund, financial assistance is available to eligible students from lower-income households and those facing particular personal or financial challenges. The bursary can help with education-related costs, making it easier for students to fully participate in Sixth Form life.

There are two types of bursary available:

- Vulnerable Student Bursary – for students who meet specific government-defined criteria.
- Discretionary Bursary – for students who require financial support and meet the college's eligibility requirements.

We encourage all students and families to explore the support available. For full details of eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the Financial Support section of our website or view the Government's 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guidance.

At Northstowe Sixth Form, we are dedicated to helping every student succeed, regardless of their financial situation.



Government's 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guidance



Financial Support Page

On-Campus Gym & Activity Studio

Staying active and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is easy at Sixth Form thanks to the on-campus Gym and Activity Studio, operated by P&E Sports. Open to both students and the wider Northstowe community, the facility provides a welcoming environment for all fitness levels.

Students can take advantage of modern gym equipment and a variety of fitness classes for just £25 per month, making it an affordable way to support both physical wellbeing and academic success. For those who prefer occasional access, a Gym-only day pass is available for £8.

With extensive opening hours, the gym is designed to fit around busy study schedules. The facility is open Monday to Friday, 6:00am to 10:00pm, and at weekends, 8:00am to 8:00pm.

Giving students the flexibility to work out before lessons, after college, or at weekends. Whether you're looking to improve your fitness, support your mental wellbeing, or simply try something new, the P&E Sports Gym and Activity Studio is a fantastic resource right on your doorstep.





Mental Health Support

At Northstowe Sixth Form, we believe that student wellbeing is just as important as academic success. We are committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued, listened to, and able to thrive.

Our dedicated Mental Health First Aider is available to provide initial support to students who may be experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties. Whether students are feeling overwhelmed by their studies, struggling with personal challenges, or simply need someone to talk to, help is always available.

The Mental Health First Aider offers a safe, confidential and non-judgemental point of contact, helping students access the support they need and signposting them to specialist services where appropriate. Working alongside our pastoral team, they play an important role in promoting positive mental health and wellbeing across the Sixth Form.

By ensuring that support is accessible when it is needed most, we help our students build resilience, develop healthy coping strategies, and make the most of their time at Northstowe Sixth Form. Our aim is for every student to feel supported, confident, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Careers Guidance and Support

Preparing students for success beyond Sixth Form is central to our ethos. Through the support of our dedicated Careers Co-ordinator, students receive personalised guidance and access to a wide range of opportunities that help them plan for their future with confidence.

Students have access to impartial careers information and one-to-one guidance, whether they are considering university, apprenticeships, higher technical qualifications, employment, or exploring the many pathways available after Sixth Form. We work closely with local employers, universities, training providers, and industry professionals to provide valuable insight into further study and the world of work.

Through careers events, workshops, work experience opportunities, and individual guidance, students are encouraged to explore their strengths, develop employability skills, and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Our Careers Co-ordinator supports students at every stage of their journey, helping them identify and achieve their aspirations. By the time they leave Northstowe Sixth Form, students are well prepared for their chosen pathway and equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in their future careers.



Mrs Hannah Grainger
Careers Coordinator



Mickey
Canine Therapy



Mrs Julie Bishop
Post 16 Support Officer

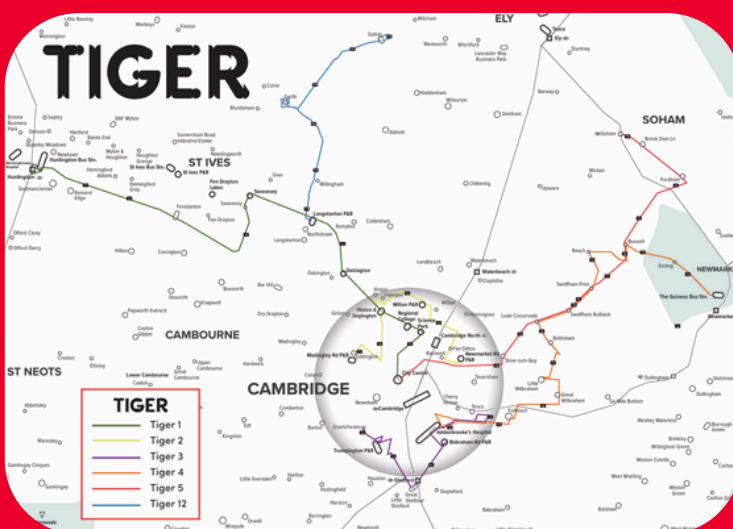
How to Get to Us



Easy and Affordable Travel

One of the many benefits of studying at Northstowe Sixth Form is how easy it is to get here. Located on the guided bus route and connected by new road links to surrounding communities, Northstowe offers a convenient alternative to travelling into Cambridge each day. Students can avoid lengthy commutes and busy queues while still benefiting from excellent transport connections.

Frequent bus services provide easy access from across the region, with routes to Cambridge departing up to every 10 minutes and services to Swavesey, St Ives and Huntingdon running up to every 20 minutes. For those who prefer active travel, dedicated cycle paths and walkways make walking or cycling to campus a safe and practical option. Secure sixth form-only cycle racks are available throughout the day for students who travel by bike.



Getting to and from Northstowe Sixth Form is even more affordable with the Tiger Bus Pass. Available to all students under the age of 25, the pass allows travel on participating bus services across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority region for just £1 per journey. The application process is straightforward, and once issued, the pass provides a flexible and cost-effective way to travel to college, work placements, enrichment opportunities and beyond.





Northstowe
Sixth Form

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