MATT KING 6TH FORM

Matt King Sixth Form

SUBJECTS

2027 - 28

Stratton School

Meridian Trust

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OUR COURSES

We offer a broad range of subjects to suit a variety of interests, strengths and career aspirations. Students can feel confident that, whatever courses they choose, they will be well prepared for their next steps after Sixth Form. Most students study a combination of three courses from the options below.

A Levels

Art & Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design & Technology Product Design
Digital Systems & Data
English Language & Literature
Food & Nutrition
Further Maths
Geography
Government & Politics
Health & Social Care
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Performing Arts
Photography
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Sport & Physical Activity

With our Enrichment Programme you will choose to study one of the following subjects, alongside your A levels.

Optional short courses, enrichment opportunities

Core Maths
Enrichment Sport
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Film AS
French AS
Football Development Programme

The following pages have full details of the individual course content and assessment.

Entry Requirements

To study Level 3 Courses in our Sixth Form, students will need at least five GCSEs at Grades 9-4, including English and Maths. Subject-specific entry requirements also apply. These criteria are designed to ensure students are well prepared for A Level study and future success. We encourage all students to aim for a grade 4 or above in all GCSE subjects.

Subject	Grade Entry
Art & Design Or Photography	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English, grade 5 in Art or similar subject.
Biology	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English, Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and Grade 6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in GCSE Biology.
Business	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English and Maths.
Chemistry	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English, Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and Grade 6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry.
Business	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English and Maths.
Computer Science	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and Science.
Design & Tech	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and Grade 4 in a technology based subject.
Digital Systems & Data	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and English.
English Language & Literature	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and Grade 5 GCSE English.
Food & Nutrition	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths. and Grade 4 in a technology based subject.
Further Maths	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English and Grade 8 in Maths
Geography	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English and Maths and Grade 5 in Geography.
Government & Politics	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and Grade 5 English.

Health & Social Care	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths Grade 5 and Grade 5 English.
History	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and Grade 5 in History and English.
Mathematics	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English, and Grade 7 in Maths
Media Studies	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and Grade 5 English.
Music	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English and Maths. Grade 5 in Music and play an instrument or voice to grade 4.
Performing Arts	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 to including English and Grade 4 in Drama.
Physics	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including English, Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and Grade 6-6 in Combined Science or Grade 6 in GCSE Physics.
Psychology	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths Grade 5 and Grade 5 English.
Sociology	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Grade 5 English.
Sport Studies Extended Certificate	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and English.
Sports Studies Diploma	At least 5 GCSE Grades 9 – 4 including Maths and English.
Level 2 Business or Sport	At least 3 GCSE Grades 3 or above to study one subject.
Enrichment Subjects	***Students studying Psychology are strongly encouraged to select <u>Core Maths.</u>**
Core Maths Enrichment PE Extended Project (EPQ) Film AS French AS Football Development Programme	

Art & Design Fine Art - WJEC/ Eduqas A Level Art and Design
Subject lead: A Jukes

Fine Art course is ideal for creative and independent learners who enjoy exploring ideas, experimenting with materials and developing their own personal style. Students who are motivated, resilient and willing to refine their work will thrive, while also developing valuable skills in creativity, critical thinking and visual communication. It is an excellent choice for those considering further study or careers within the creative industries. Students will develop their practical skills, explore a range of materials and techniques and create personal, imaginative responses to themes and ideas. Through independent projects, they will learn to refine their work, research artists and visual sources as well as communicate ideas creatively and confidently.

A Level Fine Art can lead to university courses, apprenticeships and careers in areas such as Fine Art, Illustration, Graphic Design, Fashion, Architecture and Games Design. It also develops valuable skills in creativity, problem-solving and independent thinking.

During the course, learners will have the opportunity to visit Art and Photography galleries and attend workshops to extend their learning.

Assessment

- Personal Investigation - A portfolio of practical work based on a student-led theme, supported by a written investigation - 60%.
- Externally Set Assignment - Preparatory work followed by a 15-hour supervised exam to produce a final outcome - 40%.

The course is 100% NEA and assessed at the end of Year 13, with no modular exams.

Biology - AQA A Level
Subject lead: C Allen

A Level Biology is ideal for students who are curious about the living world and enjoy understanding how biological systems work, from molecules and cells to whole ecosystems. Successful students are analytical, enjoy practical investigations and are confident applying scientific knowledge to solve problems.
This course is particularly suitable for students considering careers in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, biomedical sciences, environmental science, psychology, sports science, research, or teaching. A strong interest in science and a commitment to developing both mathematical and practical skills will help students succeed.

Students will develop an in-depth understanding of living organisms and the processes that sustain life.

Topics include:

- Biological molecules and cells exchange and transport systems in plants and animals.
- Genetics variation and evolution energy transfers in ecosystems.
- Responses to changes in the environment
- DNA, gene expression and biotechnology homeostasis and control systems.
- Populations, communities and conservation.

Throughout the course, students will develop practical laboratory skills, data analysis techniques, critical thinking, and the ability to evaluate scientific evidence.

Students have the opportunity to enhance their learning through a range of enrichment activities, which may include, laboratory visits, ecology and fieldwork experiences for the required practicals, biology olympiad and other national competitions.

Assessment

Assessment is through three written examinations taken at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1 - Topics from Year 1, 2-hour written examination, 91 marks - 35%
- Paper 2 - Topics mainly from year 2, although questions build upon year 1 topics. 2-hour written examination, 91 marks - 35%
- Paper 3 - Synoptic assessment covering the whole specification (year 1 & 2). Includes practical skills, data analysis and an essay question.
  2-hour written examination, 78 marks -30%

Students also complete a range of required practical activities throughout the course. Practical competency is reported separately to the final grade as a Practical Endorsement, grades are `Pass` or `Not Classified`.

Business Level 3 - BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business
Subject lead: A Fisher

If you plan to work in an organisation, manage within an organisation or even start up your own enterprise, then the knowledge and skills you will develop studying the Level 3 BTEC qualification will be invaluable. The course is delivered in a classroom environment though also through practical experiences. It's also a great qualification for those who are yet to decide on their future career path. It covers a broad range of content which all relates to the real world of work, which makes you extremely employable!

You will gain a wide understanding of the purpose of different businesses, their structure and how they need to innovate to succeed. You will deep dive into the world of Marketing, Finance and Human Resources alongside a more general study of the business environment both nationally and globally.

Should you wish to apply for University or a Degree Apprenticeship, this qualification is the equivalent to 1 A Level, and as such carries the same UCAS points. (For example, a Distinction carries the same UCAS points as an A in a traditional A Level subject). The skills you will develop could also lead you straight into employment above others as it focuses on work-based skills such as communication, strategy and the ability to work to deadlines.

Assessment

- Year 12: 1 external assessment (exam) Personal and Business Finance, 1 internally assessed research project (coursework) ' Exploring Business'
- Year 13: 1 external assessment (exam) Develop a Marketing Campaign, 1 internally assessed practical project (coursework) 'The Recruitment and Selection Process'

Business Level 2 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Certificate in Business and Enterprise

This is a 1-year, vocationally focused qualification designed for post-16 students who want to develop practical entrepreneurial skills.
Developed in partnership with the Peter Jones Foundation, it focuses on real-world business planning, product creation, and the core operational skills required to launch a new venture or progress in a business career. Specifically built for post-16 learners (ages 16–18), it will often fit into a broader study programme alongside GCSE English or Maths retakes if necessary.

Assessment

- Internal Coursework (75%): Units 2, 3, and 4 are assessed through practical college projects, portfolio assignments, and real-world case studies set by your tutors.
- External Exam (25%): Unit 1 (The Business Enterprise Environment) is assessed via an onscreen, externally marked test administered by Pearson

Chemistry - OCR A Level
Subject lead: C Allen

A Level Chemistry is ideal for students who are interested in how the world works at a molecular level and who enjoy solving problems. Successful chemistry students are analytical, resilient and willing to apply their mathematical skills to scientific investigations. You should have a strong interest in science and be keen to develop practical laboratory skills alongside your theoretical understanding.

A Level Chemistry explores the substances that make up our world and the reactions that transform them. Throughout the course, you will develop both your scientific knowledge and practical skills.

Topics include:

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry
- Module 3 – Periodic table and energy
- Module 4 – Core organic chemistry
- Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

Practical work is a key part of the course, allowing you to develop laboratory techniques and investigate chemical phenomena through experiments.

Students will have the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom through enrichment activities such as:

- The Chemistry Olympiad and Cambridge Chemistry Challenge
- STEM enrichment events and lectures
- Guest Speakers from industry and higher education

Assessment

The OCR A Level Chemistry course is assessed through three written examinations at the end of Year 13.

- Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry, 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A Level
- Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques, 2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A Level
- Paper 3: Unified Chemistry, 1 hour 30 minutes, 26% of A Level

Students are also assessed on their practical competencies throughout the course, leading to the award of a Practical Endorsement (Pass/Fail), which is reported alongside the A Level grade.

Computer Science OCR A Level
Subject lead: C Kilby

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement.
The Computer Science qualification values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

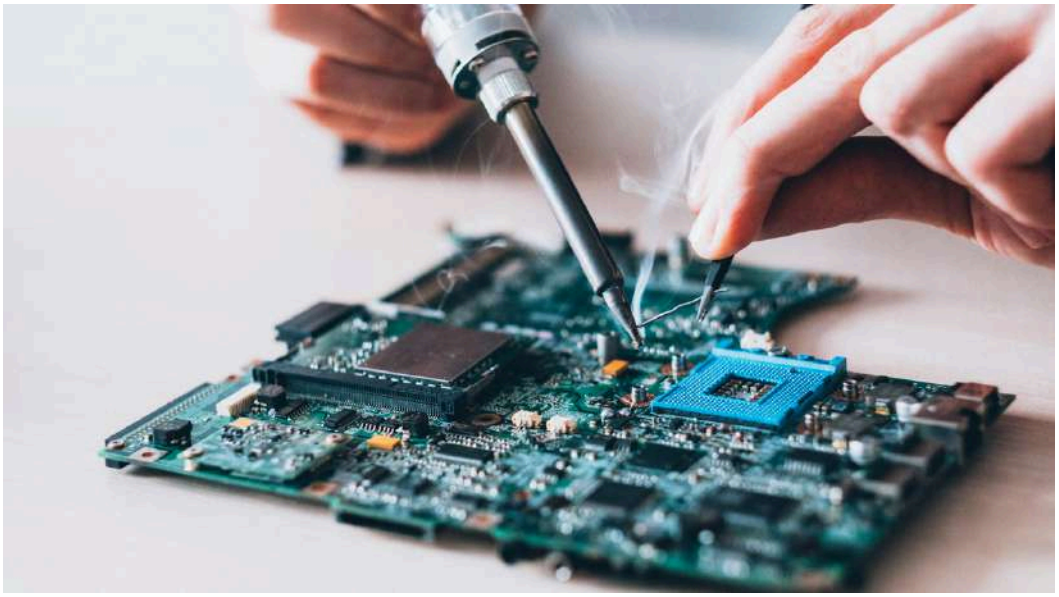
Topics include:

- Component 01: Computer Systems: Processors, Software, Exchanging Data, Data structures, Legal, Moral, Cultural & Ethical.
- Component 02: Algorithms and Programming: Computational thinking, Problem solving & programming, Algorithms.
- Component 03: Programming Project: Analysis of a problem, Design, Development and Evaluation of a solution.

Computer Science provides a foundation for further courses, such as a Computer Science degree or variant degrees e.g. Cyber Security, Data Science, Games Development, Software Engineering, as well as STEM Degrees e.g. Maths, Physics & Engineering.

Assessment

- The A Level consists of three components, two of which will be externally marked question papers making up 80% of the qualification.
- The other 20% will be a focused coursework project, with an emphasis on coding and programming with a simple assessment model and marking criteria.



Design & Technology Product Design - AQA A Level
Subject lead: V Collin

A Level Product Design is ideal for creative, innovative and practical students who enjoy designing, making and solving real-world problems. The course is suited to learners who are curious about how products are developed and who want to combine creativity with technical knowledge. Students who enjoy subjects such as Design and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Art and Design or Science will find this course particularly rewarding. Success in Product Design requires imagination, resilience, good organisational skills and a willingness to work independently on extended projects.

Students will develop a broad range of designing, making and analytical skills, gaining an understanding of both traditional manufacturing techniques and modern technologies. Students will also undertake a substantial design-and-make project, enabling them to apply their knowledge and skills to a problem of their own choosing.

Students have the opportunity to enrich their studies through a variety of activities, which may include:

- Visits to design museums and exhibitions, such as the Design Museum in London.
- Manufacturing and engineering site visits.
- CAD and rapid prototyping workshops.
- Careers events and networking opportunities.

These experiences help students gain a deeper understanding of the design industry, develop their portfolios and prepare for higher education and future careers.

Assessment

The AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design qualification is assessed through two components:

- Written Examinations **-** 50%
- P*aper 1*: Technical Principles 2 hours 30 minutes 30% of A Level. This paper assesses knowledge of materials, performance characteristics, manufacturing processes and technical principles.
- P*aper 2*: Designing and Making Principles 1 hour 30 minutes 20% of A Level. This paper assesses design processes, product analysis, design strategies, innovation and commercial manufacture.
- *Non-Exam Assessment* (NEA) - 50%

Students complete a substantial design-and-make project based on a context released by AQA.
The project includes:

- Research and investigation.
- Design development.
- Modelling and prototyping.
- Testing and refinement.
- Manufacture of a final prototype.
- Evaluation of the finished product

Digital Systems & Data - Level 3
Subject lead: C Kilby

Ideal for students who enjoy technology, problem solving and using digital tools to improve the way people and organisations work.

V Levels are a new flagship vocational qualification for 16 - 18 year olds that sit alongside T Levels and A Levels. Designed for students who want vocational learning, real-world skills, and the flexibility to keep their options open.

A practical and applied digital qualification designed to develop knowledge and skills in data, cyber security, systems and digital solutions. Discover how technology and data are used to solve problems and support organisations.

You will learn how to:

- Analyse and present data to support decision making
- Identify and respond to cyber security threats
- Configure, test and maintain digital systems
- Design digital solutions to meet user needs
- Work responsibly with AI and emerging technologies

Assessment

- Examinations, testing knowledge and understanding - 40% exam.
- Practical/project based assessments, where you apply digital and data skills to real-world scenarios - 60% non-exam assessment.

English Language/Literature - AQA A Level
Subject lead: S Prabhu Naik

Have you ever been won over by somebody and you're not sure how they persuaded you?

This course is for anyone who is curious about how people communicate and achieve (or not, as the case may be!) their intentions. You will get the chance to forensically study how people manipulate words, build story worlds and hone your own writer's craft. Using novels, non-fiction texts, poetry and a play, you will deconstruct texts using stylistics: language levels that move away from 'what's your opinion on this text' to linguistic tools that offer you a key to unlock meaning and understanding.

You will learn how different types of texts tell stories in your first year, in your second year, you will learn how writers present conflict in society and drama and learn how to replicate that in your own creative writing. Across the two years, you will embark on an independent investigation that applies stylistics to two texts of your choice.

On average, you will visit the theatre around three times a year; you may go on educational conferences with other sixth form colleges. However, our best enrichment opportunity is a three-day trip to Paris in the Spring which supports your study in the non-fiction anthology that you will cover in Year 12.

Assessment

Assessment is through both examinations and a non-examined assessment (NEA) unit.
Students will sit two papers which cover a range of different texts such as non-fiction texts, novels, poetry and a play.

- Paper 1: Written exam 3 hours, 40%
- Paper 2: Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes, 40%
- NEA: An investigation of your choice comparing a literary fiction text with a literary non-fiction text, 20%

Food & Nutrition - WJEC Level 3
Subject lead: V Collin

The WJEC Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition course is ideal for students who have a keen interest in food, nutrition, health and the science behind what we eat. It is suitable for learners who enjoy both practical cooking and scientific investigation, and who are interested in understanding how food choices affect health and wellbeing.

Students who are organised, curious and willing to work independently will thrive on this course. It particularly complements studies in Biology, Health and Social Care, Physical Education, Psychology and other science-based subjects.

Throughout the course, students will develop knowledge and practical skills that enable them to understand the relationship between food, nutrition and health. Topics include:Nutritional needs of different groups of people. The functions and sources of nutrients. Diet-related health issues and current dietary recommendations. Food science principles, including the chemical and physical properties of food. Food safety, hygiene and quality assurance. Recipe modification and product development. Food production within the hospitality and catering industries. Consumer trends and factors influencing food choices. Students will undertake practical investigations, prepare and cook a wide variety of dishes, and develop skills in analysing nutritional information and making informed dietary recommendations.

Assessment

Assessment is through a combination of written examinations and non-examination assessments (coursework-style assessments), allowing students to demonstrate both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Unit 1
Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages (Mandatory)
Written Examination
1 hour 30 minutes
25% of the qualification
Study of nutrients, dietary requirements, and how nutritional needs change throughout life.

Unit 2
Developing Practical Food Production Skills (Mandatory)
Non-Examination Assessment
25% of the qualification
Development of advanced food preparation, cooking and presentation skills.
Application of nutritional knowledge to practical food production.

Unit 3
Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety in Food Production (Mandatory)
Written Examination
1 hour 30 minutes
25% of the qualification
Focuses on food safety, food hygiene, quality assurance and industry standards.

Further Maths - Edexcel A Level
Subject lead: M Keating

Further Mathematics is designed for students who really enjoy Mathematics and want to explore mathematical ideas in greater depth. It is particularly suitable for students who are confident with algebra, problem-solving and mathematical reasoning, and who enjoy tackling challenging, unfamiliar problems. Success requires a willingness to practise regularly, work logically and persist when problems are challenging.

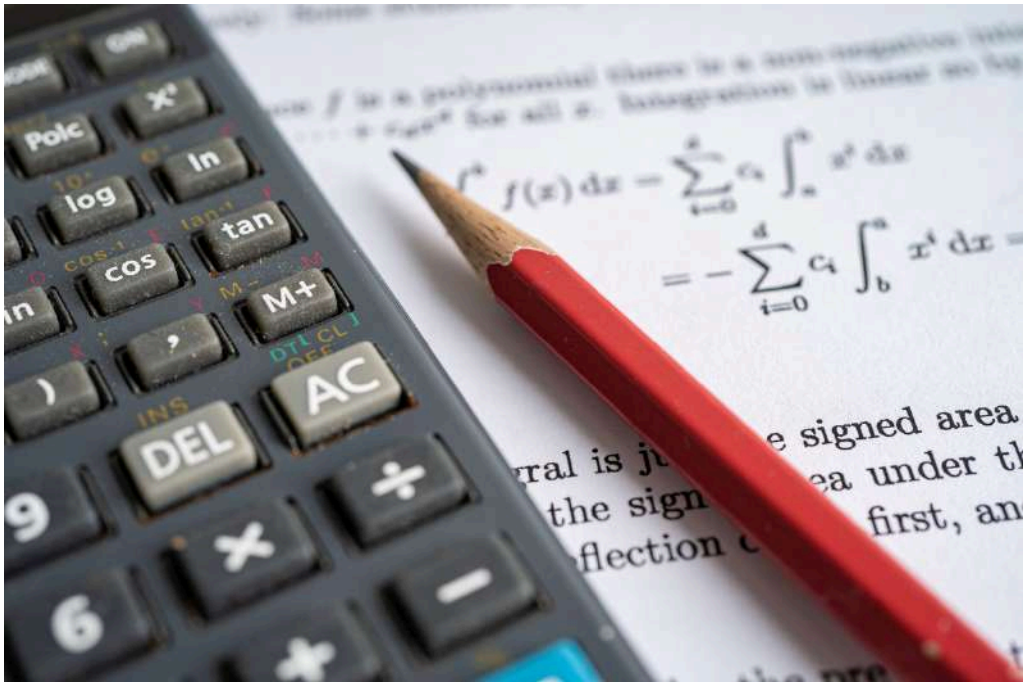
You will study mathematical concepts beyond those covered in A Level Mathematics, developing your ability to reason, prove results and solve complex problems. Depending on the options chosen for the cohort, this may involve Further Pure, Further Mechanics, Further Statistics or Decision modules.

A Level Further Mathematics provides a strong foundation for university courses and careers with high levels of mathematics. It can be particularly valuable preparation for degrees such as Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Economics, Actuarial Science and Data Science. It can also develop highly transferable skills in logical thinking, analysis and problem-solving that are useful across a wide range of careers.

Assessment

The assessment route consists of four written examinations, with each paper lasting 1 hour 30 minutes:

- Paper 1 – Core Pure Mathematics 1 - 75 marks, 25%
- Paper 2 – Core Pure Mathematics 2 - 75 marks, 25%
- Paper 3 – Further Mathematics option 1 - 75 marks, 25%
- Paper 4 – Further Mathematics option 2 - 75 marks, 25%



Geography - AQA A Level
Subject lead: L Smith

A Level Geography is ideal for students who are curious about the world around them and want to understand the challenges shaping our future. You will explore how people, places and the physical environment interact, while developing the knowledge and skills to help make a difference in the world.

You are likely to enjoy and succeed in A Level Geography if you:

- Enjoy physical and human Geography – investigating landscapes, cities, environmental processes and global challenges.
- Want to shape the future – understanding sustainability, environmental change and the decisions that will affect future generations.
- Enjoy asking questions – analysing evidence, interpreting data and developing your own conclusions.
- Like learning beyond the classroom – taking part in fieldwork and investigating real-world geographical issues.

Want to develop valuable skills – strengthening your critical thinking, problem-solving, data analysis and communication. Geography helps you make sense of a changing world and prepares you with the skills and knowledge to play a part in shaping what comes next.

You will explore how people, places and physical environments interact, covering topics such as hazards, coastal systems, globalisation, water and carbon cycles, and global governance. You will develop skills in analysing data, maps and case studies, conducting fieldwork, and evaluating real-world geographical issues.

Assessment

The course is assessed through

- Two written exams at the end of Year 13, worth 80% of the A Level.
- Students also complete an independent 3,000–4,000 word geographical investigation (NEA), worth 20% of the final grade.

Government & Politics - AQA A Level
Subject lead: S Chessum

A Level Politics is ideal for students who enjoy debating current issues, questioning how power is used and exploring different viewpoints. It suits curious learners interested in elections, government, political ideas and world affairs, and those who enjoy developing arguments, analysing evidence and discussing controversial questions. If you enjoyed History, Sociology and English at GCSE this will suit your skills. It is a mixture of essay writing and persuasive argument, but knowledge is very important and a good memory for details of elections, politicians and dates of legislation helps!

A Level Politics can lead to university study in Politics, Law, International Relations, History, Economics, Sociology, Journalism and PPE. It is particularly useful for careers in law, government, the Civil Service, journalism, education, public relations, diplomacy, policy, charities, campaigning and international organisations.

Assessment

- Paper 1: UK politics- section A 2 x9 marks; Section B 1x 25 mark extract question; section C 1x25 mark essay question = 77 marks total, 33.3%
- Paper 2: US politics- section A 2 x9 marks; Section B 1x 25 mark extract question; section C 1x25 mark essay question = 77 marks total, 33.3%
- Paper 3: Political Ideologies - section A 2 x9 marks; Section B 1x 25 mark extract question; section C 1x25 mark essay question = 77 marks total, 33.3%

Health & Social Care - BTEC (AAQ)
Subject lead: K Jones

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) allows students to engage in a broad investigation of various aspects of the health and social care sector.

There are two mandatory examined units and one mandatory internally assessed unit. Students will select a further optional unit from the four available. The internally assessed units give students the opportunity to engage in applied knowledge and understanding tasks to develop their health and social care knowledge.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A Levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A Levels such as Psychology, Biology or English. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

The Extended Certificate is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in health and social care-related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes A Levels.

Assessment

This is a combination of externally assessed examinations (50%) and internally assessed coursework units (50%)

Year 12 - Human lifespan and development - Exam
Principles of Health & Social Care Practice - coursework
Year 13 - Human Biology & Health - Exam.
Promoting Health Education - Coursework

History - Edexcel A Level
Subject lead: I MacWhinnie

The A-Level History would be a perfect fit for students who;

- Enjoy finding out why things happened rather than simply learning what happened.
- Are curious and willing to question different interpretations of the past.
- Can read substantial amounts of challenging material and identify the key information.
- Enjoy discussing, debating and explaining ideas using evidence.
- Can write clearly and analytically, developing an argument rather than simply describing events.
- Are prepared to remember a large amount of detailed knowledge over two years.
- Can work independently, keeping up with regular reading, revision and homework.
- Are interested in politics, society, economics, religion and human behaviour and how these change over time.

Our course is comprised of 4 modules; 'Britain Transformed 1918-1997', 'USA: Boom, Bust & Recovery 1920-1955', The Witch-Craze 1580-1750' and 'Interpretations of the Holocaust' coursework unit.

The History department currently run a day trip to Auschwitz, Poland through the 'Holocaust Education Trust'. We will also be visiting Parliament in Westminster, London as well as the Imperial War Museum, Waterloo.

Assessment

- Britain Transformed - 30%
- The Witch-Craze - 30%
- USA: Boom, Bust & Recovery - 20%
- Interpretations of the Holocaust - (NEA) 20%

Maths - Edexcel A Level
Subject lead: M Keating

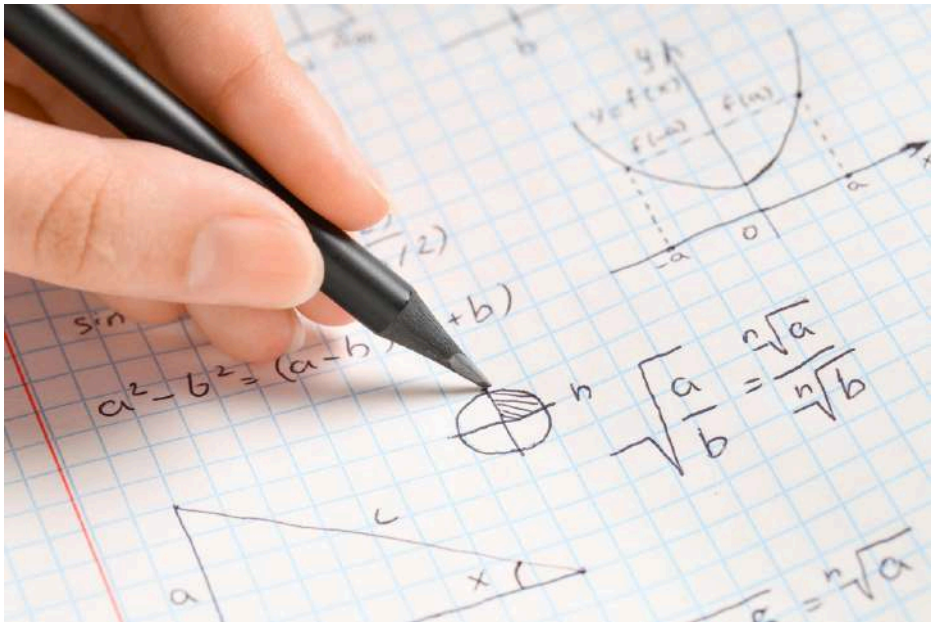
This course is for anyone who enjoys problem solving and logic. If you have enjoyed and been successful at Mathematics, then A-Level Maths is the option for you. This course allows you to build upon these skills and look at Maths at greater depth than you are able to at GCSE. A level Maths is a widely respected course and is in high demand as a Facilitating Subject.

In A-Level Maths for the majority of the course you will look into Pure Mathematical techniques, such as Algebraic Methods, Calculus and it's applications and Trigonometric Modelling. In each year we also look into the Applied Mathematical content of Statistics and Mechanics, looking at topics such as Representing Data, Statistical Distributions and Hypothesis Testing, Application of Forces and Variable Acceleration.

Assessment

All external examinations are sat at the end of year 13. Using Edexcel as our exam board, there are three exams:

- Paper 1 (Pure Mathematics 1) 2 hours - 33.3%
- Paper 2 (Pure Mathematics 2) 2 hours - 33.3%
- Paper 3 (Statistics & Mechanics) 2 hours - 33.3%



Media Studies - WJEC/Eduqas A Level
Subject lead: K Cash

Media Studies is a dynamic and engaging A Level that explores how media shapes the way we see the world. Students will analyse a wide range of media products, including television, film, advertising, social media, newspapers, magazines and online platforms, while developing critical thinking, research and analytical skills. The course also provides opportunities to create original media content, allowing students to gain practical experience in areas such as digital production, journalism and marketing.

This subject is particularly suited to students who are creative, curious about current trends and popular culture, enjoy discussing ideas, and have an interest in how media influences society. It appeals to those who enjoy both analytical and practical work, combining written evaluation with creative production.

Media Studies provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of university courses and careers, including journalism, digital marketing, advertising, public relations, broadcasting, film and television production, social media management, content creation, graphic design and communications. In an increasingly digital world, the skills developed through Media Studies are highly valued by employers across many industries.

Assessment

- Component 1 - Exam: Media Products, Industries and Audiences - 35%
- Component 2 - Exam: Media Forms and Products in Depth - 35%
- Component 3 - Coursework: Cross-Media Production - 30%

Music - AQA A Level
Subject lead: C Lawson

Students who enjoy performing, composing and exploring a wide range of musical styles, and who want to develop their musicianship and creativity. Students must be able to play an instrument (including voice) to Grade 6 equivalent or higher on application.

You will study music from different periods and genres, develop your performance skills, create your own compositions and deepen your understanding of how music is constructed and interpreted. This will be through practical performance, composition workshops, listening activities, musical analysis, independent practice and ensemble work.

The course supports progression to university, conservatoire study and careers in music, education, media and the creative industries, while developing valuable skills in creativity, communication, organisation and teamwork.

Assessment

- Performance - perform on an instrument of your choice for a minimum of 8 minutes - 35%
- Composition - compose 2 original pieces of music one of which is to an exam board set brief and should be a minimum duration of 4 minutes - 25%
- Appraising Music - 2 ½ hour listening exam covering the set works and areas of study - 40%

Performing Arts - Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
Subject lead: C Lawson

This course is ideal for students with a passion for acting who want to develop their practical, creative and analytical skills in the Performing Arts Industry.

Throughout the course, you will develop your understanding of professional performance practice and the skills required to succeed in the performing arts industry. This will also include, theatre visits, workshops with industry professionals, performances and enrichment productions.

Areas of study include:
Learning is highly practical and workshop-based, combining performance, research and creative exploration. You will:

- Take part in practical rehearsals and performances.
- Explore the work of influential practitioners through research and discussion.
- Develop performance techniques through regular skills workshops.
- Build a portfolio of evidence demonstrating your practical and academic achievements.

Assessment

Assessment takes place through a combination of internally assessed coursework and externally assessed units.

- Internal assessment includes practical performances, workshops, presentations, written evaluations and project work.
- External assessment includes Pearson-set tasks that assess your understanding of performing arts practitioners and your ability to analyse and evaluate performance work.

Photography - WJEC/Eduqas A Level
Subject lead: A Jukes

The A Level Photography course is ideal for creative and independent learners who enjoy exploring ideas through photography, image-making and visual storytelling.

Students who are motivated, resilient and willing to experiment, edit and refine their work will thrive, while also developing valuable skills in creativity, critical thinking and visual communication. It is an excellent choice for those considering further study or careers in photography, media, design, the arts and other creative industries.

Students will develop their practical photography skills, exploring a range of photographic techniques, processes and image-making approaches. Through independent projects, they will learn to plan and create personal, imaginative responses, refine and edit their work, research photographers and visual sources, and communicate ideas creatively and confidently through visual imagery.

A Level Photography can lead to university courses, apprenticeships and careers in areas such as Photography, Film and Media, Graphic Design, Digital Content Creation and Advertising. It also develops valuable skills in creativity, visual communication, problem-solving and independent thinking that are highly valued across a wide range of industries.

Assessment

- Personal Investigation (60%): A portfolio of practical work based on a student-led theme, supported by a written investigation.
- Externally Set Assignment (40%): Preparatory work followed by a 15-hour supervised exam to produce a final outcome.

The course is 100% NEA and assessed at the end of Year 13, with no modular exams.

Physics - OCR A Level
Subject lead: C Allen

Physics will appeal to anyone who has asked any of the most important questions; What happened immediately after the Big Bang? How small is the smallest thing possible? Why don't I fall out of my rollercoaster car when it goes upside-down? You'll need a strong mathematical mindset and a love of solving problems.

In the first year, you will be building on GCSE knowledge of motion, energy, waves and electricity to solve complex problems. Later on, you'll explore exciting fields, such as quantum physics, cosmology, nuclear physics and medical physics.

Physics can lead to careers in all engineering disciplines, designing and testing aircraft, electrical devices, bridges and rollercoasters! Research physicists push the boundaries to make touchscreens, space rockets and MRIs. A medical physicist will run the machines which look inside our bodies, and calculate radiological doses.

Topics Include:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics
- Module 2: Foundations in physics
- Module 3: Forces and motion
- Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons
- Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics

Assessment

Assessment is through three written examinations taken at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1 Modelling Physics (35%) - Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. 2-hour, 15 minutes written examination, 100 marks
- Paper 2 Exploring Physics (35%) - Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. 2-hour 15 minutes written examination,100 marks
- Paper 3 Unified Physics (30%) - Synoptic assessment covering the whole specification (year 1& 2). Includes practical skills, data analysis and an essay question. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination, 70 marks

Students also complete a range of required practical activities throughout the course. Practical competency is reported separately to the final grade as a Practical Endorsement, grades are `Pass` or `Not Classified`.

Psychology - AQA A Level
Subject lead: S Chessum

This course is ideal for students who, enjoy scientific inquiry and who like questioning why humans think and act the way they do, using empirical evidence rather than opinions.

Are strong communicators and analytical thinkers, you enjoy writing structured essays that balance theoretical knowledge with critical evaluation.

Are comfortable with data and math: Around 30% of the overall A-Level marks test research methods and mathematical skills (interpreting graphs, calculating averages, and applying statistical tests).

You will thrive in this combination if you, are fascinated by abnormal psychology, the human brain, and criminal behaviour. Enjoy comparing contrasting viewpoints (e.g., whether schizophrenia is driven by genetics or environmental stress). Are organised and disciplined with learning key studies, named researchers, and statistical formulas.

Students studying Psychology are strongly encouraged to take Core Maths as an enrichment subject.

Assessment

100% Exam

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 72 marks in total
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 72 marks in total

Sociology - AQA A Level
Subject lead: S Chessum

Sociology is for students who are curious about the world around them. Sociology gives students the opportunity to examine how society works, how social process and institutions shape our everyday lives and, how a persons class, gender and ethnicity impact their experience of the world. Students will deepen their world view by discussing, analysing and evaluating social issues from a variety of sociological viewpoints.

This is a course for students who have strong essay writing skills. It is ideal for students considering other courses such as Psychology, Politics and History.

Sociology students will develop analytical, research and communication skills which are highly transferable and respected by employers across a range of fields. Many students taking sociology will go on to study a social science or humanities subject at university.

Students taking sociology go on to careers within education, policing and the criminal justice system, social services, human resources, marketing, civil service or research and policy development.

Assessment

Assessed via three external exam papers in year 13. Largely essay based questions.

- Paper 1 - Sociology of Education with Theory and Methods - 33.3%
- Paper 2 - Sociology of Families and Global Development - 33.3%
- Paper 3 - Sociology of Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods - 33.3%

Sport & Physical Activity (Extended Certificate) OCR
Subject lead: K Jones

Are you passionate about sport, fitness and working with others?

The CTEC Sport and Physical Activity Extended Certificate is a great opportunity to turn your interest in sport into valuable knowledge and practical skills. This course carries the equivalent UCAS points of 1 A level.

You'll explore areas such as fitness, sports coaching, nutrition, leadership and the development of sporting performance, while gaining hands-on experience that prepares you for further study, university or a career in the sports and fitness industry.

Whether you're interested in becoming a coach, personal trainer, sports therapist, PE teacher or working in the wider sports sector, this course will help you develop your confidence, teamwork and practical skills while doing something you enjoy. You will learn Coaching skills, anatomy and physiology, body systems, sport psychology and much more.

The course will support career and industry pathways in Education, Teaching & Child Development, Health, Medicine & Social Care, Sport, Fitness & Leisure, Uniformed Services & Emergency Services, Apprenticeships & Technical Training.

Assessment

You will take 5 units across the course

- Unit 1 - Body Systems (Exam)
- Unit 2 - Sports Coaching (Coursework)
- Unit 3 - Sports Organisation & Development (Exam)
- Unit 17 - Sports Injuries (Coursework)
- Unit 19 - Sports Psychology (Coursework)

Sport & Physical Activity (Diploma) OCR

This course is ideal if you have a genuine interest in sport, exercise and fitness, you enjoy working with and supporting other people, and are motivated to develop both practical and academic skills. If you ant to explore a career in the fitness industry and are prepared to work hard, participate and challenge yourself, this course is an outstanding introduction to your journey.

The course follows a 'Personal Trainer' route, preparing learners for steps towards working in the fitness and sport industry, alongside the aspects of Sport Science that could assist learners in accessing further education in sport.

You will learn about the anatomy and physiology skills, planning and delivery skills for creating and implementing fitness and coaching sessions.

Where will this course lead
This course carries the equivalent UCAS points of **2 A levels** and leads to courses at University including:

- Sports Science or Exercise Science
- Sports Coaching and Physical Education (PE)
- Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Sports Management or Sports Business
- Leisure and Tourism Management
- Career Paths & Employment
- Sports Coach / Activity Leader: Working in schools, community clubs, or holiday programmes.
- Personal Trainer / Fitness Instructor: Working in gym chains, leisure centres, or starting a freelance business.
- Outdoor Activity Instructor: Leading groups in land or water based outdoor pursuits.
- Sports Development Officer: Working with local councils or national governing bodies to increase sports participation.

Assessment

You'll take 11 units across the 2 year course, including the following mandatory units:

- Unit 1 - Body Systems (Exam)
- Unit 2 - Sports Coaching (Coursework)
- Unit 3 - Sports Organisation & Development (Exam)
- Unit 17 - Sports Injuries (Coursework)
- Unit 19 - Sports Psychology (Coursework)
- Unit 4 - Working Safely in Sport, Exercise, Health & Leisure (Exam)
- Unit 6 - Group Exercise to Music (Practical + Coursework)
- Unit 7 - Improving Fitness for Sport & Physical Activity (Practical + Coursework)
- Unit 11 - Physical Activity for Specific Groups (Coursework)
- Unit 13 - Health & Fitness Testing for Sport & Exercise (Practical + Coursework)
- Unit 10 - Biomechanics & Movement Analysis (Coursework)

ENRICHMENT

Core Maths - AQA Level 3
Subject lead: M Keating

If you have enjoyed and been successful in Maths during your time at school, but it just doesn't quite fit with your options choices, then Core Maths is the choice for you. The course is a great way to support your Mathematical skills in other subjects. Assessment of mathematical skills is included in a third of all non-maths A-Levels. Core Maths can support with skills required in Psychology, Biology, Business and many other subjects. If you are interested in Maths but just cannot commit to an A-Level in Maths, then Core Maths is a great alternative.

Assessment

There are two exams for this course.

- Paper 1 - Year 1 Content, 60 Marks 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper 2 - Year 2 Content, 60 Marks, 1 hour 30 minutes

Enrichment Sport
Subject lead: K Jones

Enrichment Sport is suitable for any student who enjoys physical activity and wishes to continue participating in sport alongside their academic studies. It is particularly appealing to students who have previously enjoyed PE, represented sports teams, attended fitness sessions, or simply value the social and wellbeing benefits of regular exercise.

Students do not need to be elite athletes to participate. The programme welcomes students of all abilities who are willing to engage positively, work collaboratively with others, and contribute to a supportive and inclusive sporting environment. Those who enjoy staying active, challenging themselves, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle during sixth form are likely to gain the greatest benefit from the programme.

Through participation in Enrichment Sport, students will develop a range of personal, social, and physical skills. They will improve their fitness, teamwork, communication, resilience, leadership, and self-confidence through regular participation in sporting and recreational activities.

Students will have opportunities to experience a variety of sports and physical activities, helping them develop new skills while maintaining existing interests. The programme also promotes an understanding of the importance of physical activity for long-term health, wellbeing, stress management, and work-life balance. Students will learn how positive lifestyle choices can contribute to success both within education and beyond.

Assessment

Not applicable

Extended Project Qualification - AQA
Subject lead: G Buckingham

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 qualification that is equivalent to half an A Level and is graded A* to E. It is widely recognised and valued by universities, employers, and apprenticeship providers because it develops the independent learning, research, and project management skills that students need for success beyond sixth form.

Students complete a substantial independent project on a topic of their choice, allowing them to explore an area of personal interest in far greater depth than would normally be possible within their other qualifications. EPQ is ideal for students who are curious, motivated, and willing to take ownership of their learning. It particularly suits students who enjoy researching topics independently, asking challenging questions, and developing their own ideas.

Students who want to explore an academic subject in greater depth, investigate a career pathway, or pursue a personal interest outside their main programme of study will find the course highly rewarding. Success in EPQ comes from organisation, self-discipline, resilience, and a willingness to reflect and improve. The qualification is suitable for students following both A Level and vocational pathways and can provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate commitment, intellectual curiosity, and independent thinking.

Assessment

The EPQ is assessed entirely through coursework and does not involve formal examinations. Students undertake an independent project over an extended period, documenting their progress through a project log and regular reflections. Assessment considers the planning and management of the project, the quality and extent of the research undertaken, the effectiveness of the final outcome, and the student's ability to evaluate both the project process and final product. Students are also required to deliver a presentation to an audience and respond to questions about their work. This holistic assessment approach values not only the finished project but also the skills, learning journey, and independent decision-making demonstrated throughout the process.

Film AS - WJEC A Level
Subject lead: A Thornton/S Prabhu Naik

This course is aimed at students who love stories in their visual form! Want to know how a director makes us love the unloveable or hate the unhateable? Want to see how subliminal messages are conveyed to us all the time through film? Want to know how societies are reflected in the films we watch? This is the course for you!

Assessment

Students will be assessed by two exams totalling 70% of the final grade and a non-examined assessment (NEA) unit totalling 30% of the final grade.
Component 1: American and Independent Film (1hr30min)
Component 2: European Film (1hr30min)
Component 3: NEA - Students will get the opportunity to write their own scripts and make their own short film for their NEA.

French AS - AQA A Level
Subject lead: G Zarate

AS French is ideal for students who enjoy languages, communication, travel, and learning about different cultures. It is suitable for students who achieved a strong grade at GCSE and are keen to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills to a much higher level.

Students who are curious about current affairs, international issues, literature, film, politics, and cultural topics will find the course particularly engaging.

Success in AS French comes from a willingness to communicate, practise regularly, and embrace the challenge of using the language in increasingly sophisticated and authentic contexts. Students who enjoy discussion, independent study, and developing confidence in expressing complex ideas will thrive on this course.

Assessment

Assessment takes place through a combination of examinations that evaluate students' listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of spoken and written French, respond to and analyse source materials, translate between French and English, and produce extended written responses.

The speaking assessment allows students to discuss themes and issues studied during the course and demonstrate their ability to communicate fluently and accurately in French. The assessment structure ensures that all four key language skills are developed and rewarded, providing a balanced measure of linguistic competence and cultural understanding.

Football Development Programme

The Football Development Programme is designed for students who have a passion for football and wish to continue developing their performance whilst studying in the sixth form. It is suitable for students who are committed, enthusiastic, and willing to work hard both on the pitch and in the classroom. The programme welcomes players with a range of experiences, from those who have represented grassroots clubs and school teams to those competing at a higher level.

Students who enjoy working as part of a team, embracing competition, and striving for continual improvement will flourish within the programme. Success comes from maintaining a positive attitude, demonstrating commitment to training and fixtures, and balancing sporting responsibilities with academic studies.

Students will develop a broad range of football-specific and transferable skills throughout the programme. Technical development focuses on improving individual skills such as passing, receiving, dribbling, finishing, and defending. Tactical understanding is enhanced through match analysis, game management, positional awareness, and decision-making exercises.

Students will also develop physical attributes including fitness, strength, agility, and endurance while gaining a greater understanding of nutrition, injury prevention, recovery, and performance preparation. Alongside football development, students build important life skills including leadership, communication, resilience, teamwork, discipline, and self-management, all of which support future success in education, employment, and sport.

Assessment

The programme provides students with opportunities to continue their footballing development while pursuing their chosen academic qualifications. For some students, this may lead to participation in university football programmes, local clubs, coaching pathways, or further opportunities within the game. The experiences gained can support applications to higher education, apprenticeships, and employment by providing evidence of commitment, teamwork, leadership, resilience, and effective time management. The programme also encourages lifelong participation in sport and promotes the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of remaining active.

Next Steps

1. Visit our website stratton.school Start thinking about your option choices.

2. Attend our options evening. 11th November 2026.

3. Use our Options Guidance Information Booklet to help with your choices.

4. Complete your online application by 28th February 2027. This will form the basis of your guidance meeting.

5. March / April Prepare for your GCSEs and keep up to date with the Stratton Sixth Form via our website.

6. May /June Deadline for replies accepting your place.

7. July 2027 - Attend your Sixth Form induction day. Details of any bridging courses will be confirmed.

8. August 2027 Collect your GCSE results and sixth form letter confirming the courses you have been offered. Complete enrolment.

9. September 2027 Courses start.

Matt King Sixth Form

All offers will be subject to GCSE results and will therefore be confirmed in August following the publication of exam results.

Please note ALL subjects are dependent on student numbers and we reserve the right to withdraw courses as necessary.

Your Notes

We belong at Stratton where every individual is known, valued, and supported.

Be Kind Be Engaged Be Ambitious

Your Choices

Name	
Subject 1	
Subject 2	
Subject 3	
Reserve	
Enrichment	☐ **Core Maths** ☐ **Enrichment PE** ☐ **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** ☐ **Film AS** ☐ **French AS** ☐ **Football Development Programme**

"The sense of community and cohesion within the sixth form is driven to an extent by the activities and events we do together such as dress up days and bake sales. Everyone is friendly and approachable."

Transport

Excellent transport links mean pupils can access Stratton School from a wide catchment area. Direct rail services connect Biggleswade with Sandy, St Neots, Huntingdon, Hitchin and Peterborough, while regular bus services operate from surrounding villages including Potton, Gamlingay, Everton, Sutton and Blunham. Most surrounding communities are within 15-35 minutes of Biggleswade by public transport. Stratton School is approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) from Biggleswade railway station.

Stratton School Location
Stratton School Website https://stratton.school/

Rail Links
National Rail - Biggleswade Station
https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/biggleswade/

Bus Services
Central Bedfordshire Council - Routes 189 & 190
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/bus-timetables/route-189-190-grant-palmer.
Services connecting Biggleswade, Potton, Gamlingay, Everton, Sutton and Blunham

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We belong at Stratton

where every individual is known, valued, and supported.

Be Kind

Be Engaged

Be Ambitious

Matt King

Sixth Form