

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

# CARDINAL POLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



# OUR MISSION

‘Cardinal Pole Catholic School is a community of service guiding young people on a path to opportunity, aspiration, and reward, founded on Catholic values.’

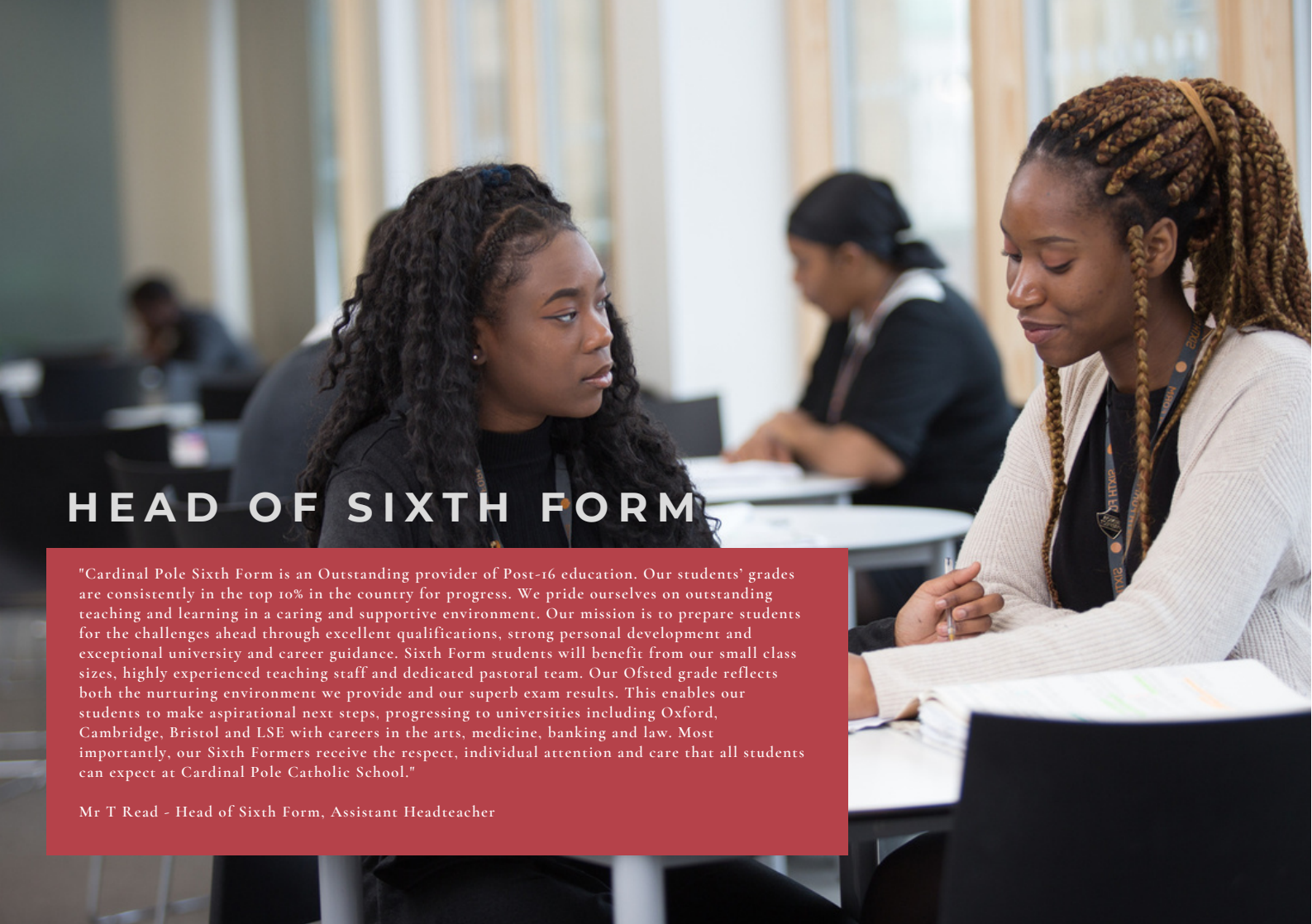




OUR  
VALUES

S O A R

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY ASPIRATION REWARD



# HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

"Cardinal Pole Sixth Form is an Outstanding provider of Post-16 education. Our students' grades are consistently in the top 10% in the country for progress. We pride ourselves on outstanding teaching and learning in a caring and supportive environment. Our mission is to prepare students for the challenges ahead through excellent qualifications, strong personal development and exceptional university and career guidance. Sixth Form students will benefit from our small class sizes, highly experienced teaching staff and dedicated pastoral team. Our Ofsted grade reflects both the nurturing environment we provide and our superb exam results. This enables our students to make aspirational next steps, progressing to universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and LSE with careers in the arts, medicine, banking and law. Most importantly, our Sixth Formers receive the respect, individual attention and care that all students can expect at Cardinal Pole Catholic School."

Mr T Read - Head of Sixth Form, Assistant Headteacher



## STUDENT LEADERS

The performance of the students at Cardinal Pole demonstrate the excellent academic prosperity of our school through how much the staff are invested in us whilst maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Our school offers various insightful opportunities enabling students to fully realise their potential. Our teachers go above and beyond to ensure that students are confident in their studies, showing the strength of the student-teacher bond. As a Catholic school, Cardinal Pole educates pupils about the faith and through our connections to charities and local establishments help us to reflect the Catholic ethos even more. Students who come to Cardinal Pole will not only be successful academically, but also as young people preparing for the future which lies ahead of us.

# 2023 RESULTS

Cardinal Pole has continued to see students excel at its outstanding Sixth Form this year, with 100% of our students passing their post-16 studies. Nearly three-quarters of students achieved grades A\*-C in their final GCE exams this summer, and more than a third of students secured the top grades of A\*-B. There was particular success in Maths, Further Maths and Sociology where our students achieved well above national averages. We saw equally strong results in our L3 qualifications where 100% of students achieved Merits or above in all areas; this was once again well above national averages. As a result, our strong tradition of Cardinal Pole alumni attending some of the best universities in the country and abroad has continued, with students securing places at Cambridge University, UCL and the University of Nottingham.






# CAREERS & DESTINATIONS

At Cardinal Pole Sixth Form, we ensure students have aspirational outcomes for their next steps after leaving sixth form. Students are given guidance by the dedicated careers advisor and an experienced pastoral team to help them shape their futures. We encourage all students to engage with top universities and employers, giving them the best opportunity to prepare for their futures.

Our students secure progression to the most prestigious and competitive universities, such as Oxford, Manchester, Warwick, London and Birmingham, alongside top creative institutions such as Central College St Martins and Glasgow School of Art. Students have also secured highly sought-after school-leaver programme places at esteemed companies such as KPMG and the Bank of England.

Support students can expect to receive and access at Cardinal Pole's Sixth Form includes:

- Regular presentations about key issues such as UCAS, Student Finance, Apprenticeships & School Leaver Programmes.
- Support with admissions examinations such as BMAT, UKCAT and LNAT alongside mock interviews from experienced professionals.
- Software programmes such as Unifrog to support students with their university application.
- The opportunity to work with PhD students through The Brilliant Club Programme.
- Inclusion in the King's College K+, Pathways to Finance & Law and SOAS scholars programmes.
- Support to secure places at top summer school residential such as Sutton Trust US Scheme, Uniq (Oxford University), Exeter University, Imperial College, Newcastle University & UCL.
- Work Experience at top organisations such as Allen & Overy, Arcadia, Bank of England, Barclays, EY, and NHS alongside, engagement with outstanding charities such as Into University and The Brokerage to provide paid internships at the end of Sixth Form.
- Mentoring from industry specialists and university undergraduate students.

A photograph of three young men in school uniforms (dark sweaters over white collared shirts) sitting at a wooden table outdoors. They are all laughing and looking at each other. The man on the left is looking towards the center, the man in the middle is looking down with a wide smile, and the man on the right is looking towards the center. The background shows a building with large windows and a person standing inside.

**"THE SIXTH FORM IS OUTSTANDING.  
HIGH-QUALITY TEACHING AND  
EXCELLENT SUPPORT GIVE  
STUDENTS REAL OPPORTUNITIES  
TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL."**

**OFSTED 2017**



# SUBJECTS WE OFFER

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business A-level
- Business CTEC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Media Studies
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

## A LEVEL ART

Art is an expansive communication tool that when harnessed can be a powerful form of self-expression or can be used to comment on today's global society. As we are increasingly bombarded with imagery, students who are able to interpret it correctly will get ahead in the world of work. Those who produce high quality artwork have at their fingertips the ability to reach and influence any audience. The different approaches through painting, printmaking, illustration, sculpture, photography and digital media means everyone can develop a visual 'voice'.

Studying Art and design opens up a diverse and dynamic world of opportunities. The core skills of research, presentation and developing ideas to make creative outcomes are transferable to all areas of further education. An array of fields of study open to you, and therefore job opportunities within the subject area. From history, sculpture, theatre or product design, photography and architecture to illustration and computer design to name but a few. Flexibility within the job market means there are possibilities to explore different areas within your career.

## A LEVEL BIOLOGY

*How does your body work? Should we use biotechnology and genetic engineering to 'improve' the human genome? Why are plants so important to us? Why should we conserve and preserve ecosystems?*

Biology is a wide-ranging science, from the microscopic examining of cell ultrastructure, understanding the central dogma of DNA > RNA > Proteins, to the macroscopic study of ecosystems and understanding how human activities can, disrupt and preserve the delicate balance that is our Earth. As well as developing your practical and analytical skills, you will consider the ethical, social and economic issues associated with many controversial topics, such as cloning, stem cells, DNA technologies and preserving biodiversity.

On the microscopic scale you will study not just the structure of cells but also the structure, properties and function of a wide range of biological molecules, as well as understanding their roles in the cell cycle and cell division. You will investigate how substances are transported and how this links with important biological processes like nerve impulses, respiration, homeostasis and excretion in humans, as well as, photosynthesis in plants. You will also study the transmission of diseases and how our immune system defends our bodies. And, learn how

DNA 'controls' our development; you will look at how genes are inherited and lead to the development of characteristics, with an in depth review of the 'new' DNA technologies.

Of course we also look at classification, evolution and all the practical techniques used to investigate ecosystems; this includes a field trip to complete practical work related to measuring the distribution and abundance of organisms, and if we receive sufficient funding, a trip to the Millennium Seed Bank in Wakehurst Kew Garden as an example of ex situ conservation!

## A LEVEL & VOCATIONAL BUSINESS

Almost every decision you make is influenced by a business. Perhaps through an expensive marketing campaign or a celebrity endorsing a brand. Maybe the education you receive or the medication you take through the NHS. To make the best decisions, you need the best understanding of the information presented to you. To succeed as an entrepreneur or an employee, you need a strong understanding of your own capabilities and how these can be used to the business' advantage. Through the study of business, you will learn how to match your skills to your ambitions. You will develop an enquiring mind and be able to draw connections between multiple concepts. You will learn how to take a logical approach to problem-solving and become able to think outside the box. You will learn how to shape and evaluate strategies and, through this become, an effective negotiator.

As a business student, you will develop an understanding of how businesses target customers and establish their position within the market. You will learn about entrepreneurs and leaders - and how to manage people and change. You will use accountancy ratios to assess the competitiveness of businesses, and explore the impact of business expansion on developed and emerging global markets. Due to the broad application of this subject, studying business is an excellent pathway to many university courses such as Business, Management, Accountancy, Marketing, PR, Economics, Politics, Law, and Human Resource Management.

## A LEVEL CHEMISTRY

Chemists have wondered for centuries about what matter is made from and how substances react. We now have an excellent understanding of atoms and what governs how they behave. Atoms and the particles they are made from, particularly electrons, dictate everything in the world around us, from how plants grow to how we generate the electricity we use every day. A quick glance around your bathroom will reveal products that owe their existence to the Chemist. Pharmaceuticals, hair products, soap and cosmetics have all been tested in the laboratory by quality control chemists before being put on sale. Wherever you look, you can see the work of the Chemist - pure water for drinking, carbon dioxide for fizzy drinks and the refrigerants to keep food cool. Similarly, our transport system relies on fuel refined by Chemists, who are also responsible for the development of lubricants to ensure the smooth running of the engine and catalytic converters to prevent pollution. The list is endless, and we can expect many more civilisation changing discoveries in this century.

The study of Chemistry, with its uniquely wide span within the scientific spectrum, is an excellent way to develop your intellect. You acquire not only a powerful battery of analytical skills for problem solving, but also the ability to analyse critically and to ask the relevant questions. These skills are transferable to almost any context, and are highly valued in the world of commerce and finance.

You will learn to use sophisticated instrumentation and equipment to investigate the world around you, and become adept in laboratory work and data analysis. Lastly, be able to apply the principles of chemistry to solve qualitative and quantitative problems.

## A LEVEL & VOCATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ever wondered what separates humans from other species?

One key distinction is having minds that are good at coming up with solutions, and this talent has given rise to new advancements like computers. In current society, computers are pervasive and heavily involved in almost all of our daily activities. The goal of this course is to improve your programming skills and computer science knowledge through the completion of practical assignments and activities. This will lead to a project in the second year that involves developing a solution to a real-world problem for a client of your choice. You will develop approaches and methods for solving problems that will lead to advancements in science, engineering, business, entertainment, medicine, and education. This is a direction for the future.

Computer Science students can expect to:

- Learn and comprehend computing terminologies.
- Create a computer application for a real client and gain the knowledge necessary to analyse, design, program, test, and document computer programs using Python.
- Examine the transmission, organisation, and structure of data.
- Study data security, Big Data and how Machine learning techniques are needed to discern patterns in the data and to extract useful information.
- Develop the ability to think critically, logically, analytically, and creatively.

## A LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

*“Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.” – Augusto Boal*

Theatre at its core is an expressive art – performers and technicians have the power to inspire, motivate and stimulate change. With the ability to highlight social issues, voice injustice, encapsulate significant events and shed light on our inner selves, theatre can help shape the opinions, perspectives and attitudes of audiences, resulting in an impact that is beyond the enjoyment of performance but feeds into the world we live and the future it holds.

Drama A-Level at Cardinal Pole Catholic School is a journey of discovery that will challenge and stimulate you. The mix of practical exploration, performance and academic work enhances your ability to create theatre, either in a performing or production role.

The course allows you to devise your own work based on a topic stimulus that you are passionate about, and through extensive research you will develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of issues. You will develop strong powers of analysis and criticism and, you will explore with a range of styles of theatre and hone in on what enthralls you.

# A LEVEL ECONOMICS

*What is economics?* is a question often asked by inquisitive Year 11s. Some students guess that it is a hard science used by bankers to get rich. Some guess that it is about politics and accounting. Our view is that economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices.

Economic thinking allows us to explore a variety of interesting questions: Why are some countries rich and some poor? Why does the price of products and services tend to rise over time? What do school teachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? From the fundamental questions to the frivolous ones, economics provides an approach to analysing problems that can help address challenges big and small.

Careers in economics are as diverse as they come, with job roles covering everything from food and agriculture to business and banking. Economics graduates consistently rank amongst the highest paid of all graduates, 5 years after leaving. So if you want to learn more about a subject that is engaging, challenging and leads to excellent career prospects, then apply to study Economics at A-level.

# A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Literature is where art and intellect intersect. It is news that never gets old. It is the discovery of the extraordinary in ordinary life. It does not only describe reality - it enriches it. Literature means many things to many people and is so much more than the study of poetry, prose and drama. In reading and exploring a range of texts from across different times, forms, genres and cultures, students of A-Level English Literature will discover how writers from the Renaissance to the present day have wrestled with questions about the nature of love and what it means to be human.

Students of A-Level English Literature will explore the broad themes of 'Love through the Ages' and 'Texts in Shared Contexts: Modern Times'. In studying the former, they will encounter the jealousy and murderous rage of Othello and the scheming of the evil Iago; the undying passion of Heathcliff and Cathy, whose love won't yield to marriage or even death; the lyricism of Seamus Heaney, the cynicism of Phillip Larkin and the sometimes shocking confessional poetry of Anne Sexton to name a few. In studying 'Modern Times', students will engage with drama, poetry and prose texts which ask important questions about race, class, gender and identity in the world today.

English Literature remains a hugely desirable A-Level for top universities and can lead to range of degrees and careers. English Literature A-level also offers students the chance to independently produce coursework on two texts of their choice. The freedom offered by this element of the course helps students read widely, engage critically with texts and prepare for the kind of independent work and research they will need for degree level study while finding and refining their own voices as readers, critics and writers.

A LEVEL

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## FRENCH OR SPANISH

*Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in another country? Why laws customs, traditions, culture and identity are so different from one nation to the next? At the heart of the answers to these questions is the study of languages. Languages are the key to understanding how different societies function, and how we can learn from one another to improve our own quality of life.*

An A-Level in languages will enable you to go past the clichés of observing another culture. You will be afforded detailed insight into the societal issues at play in the countries where the language is spoken, and see how this impacts on the cinema, music, literature, fashion, cuisine and lifestyle of that culture. You will simultaneously develop your critical and analytical skills, while also opening yourself up to a range of experiences that will enable you to learn more about yourself. What inspires you, and how your life could be different. Such is the breadth of skills fostered by the study of languages that the future career prospects are truly endless; language graduates continue on to the fields of finance, law, human rights, business, policy, travel and tourism, to name but a few. What's more, in today's post-Brexit climate, where international relations are pivotal, the value of languages is certain to increase.

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart."* – Nelson Mandela

A LEVEL

# GEOGRAPHY

*Why are some countries more developed than others? How will climate change threaten our everyday lives? What are the consequences of migration on societies?*

*Geography plays a crucial role in understanding our world; it contributes to our knowledge of the rapidly changing environmental and social challenges facing us and how we should tackle them. The course will offer you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.*

*Geography students will study a wide range of interesting topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name a few. You will learn through multiple mediums and develop many skills, for example, using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, podcasts, and attending lectures. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher-level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. Fieldwork will be an essential part of your A-level course.*

*Geography is a broad subject which provides lots of opportunities for future progression. For example, Geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply and managing the effects of climate change. An understanding of global economics forms an important part of Geography and is useful for careers in business. If you are considering a career in law or human rights, then Geography allows you to learn about relevant issues.*

# A LEVEL GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Studying A-level Government and Politics will provide insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of our modern world. It also develops analytical and evaluative skills in relation to topics prevalent in the turbulent political climate of today.

Studying this subject will develop your understanding of structures of authority and power, how political systems differ, and enable you to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics and government. You will also develop a range of transferrable analytical, debating and communication skills - all of which are valuable in a wide range of careers.

An A-level in Government and Politics provides an excellent background for careers in law, journalism, teaching, and management and business professions.

# A LEVEL HISTORY

*It is ok for presidents to lie to their own people? How did black Americans and South Africans fight back against racism and oppression? Can violence and terrorist tactics ever be justified?*

These are the sorts of questions you will be debating and answering in History. History is the study of how society came to be as it is today. Through studying past crises, political systems, infamous individuals and the way people have responded to adversity in the past, you will learn ways of dealing with the issues of tomorrow. Knowing and studying History enables you to be a leader of the future.

History students study four major topics: Units one and two focus on the search for freedom and how citizens of America and South Africa have fought against oppression to try and create more equal societies and the extent they have succeeded. Units three and four delve into warfare and how much people's lives have been shaped by the cataclysmic struggles of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century. A-Level History is the perfect subject for anyone interested in Law, Politics, Government, Journalism, or Literature as it develops your ability to read, write and debate critically, concisely and knowledgeably.

# VOCATIONAL HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Midwives, teachers, social workers, nurses, doctors, psychologists, therapists, the list of occupations are endless! These are all professions you could potentially have one day if you obtain a Certificate in Level 3 Health and Social Care.

This course equips students with the fundamental skills needed for a career in health and social care services. One of the ways in which students achieve this is through exciting work placements at several Health and Social Care settings, for example, nurseries, hospitals, hospices, nursing homes and primary schools. Students can arrange their own relevant work experience at some of these settings. Work experience is completed over the two year duration, so students spend some days learning on site and others at placement.

In addition, our dedicated team of teachers have first-hand experience of working within the health and social care field; they provide a broad and in-depth foundation of knowledge that students can use for the workplace, apprenticeships or further studies such as university. Topics covered include Psychology, Sociology, Biology and key aspects of Health legislation and law!

# A LEVEL MATHS

*Just look around.* Some of civilisation's most prized and proud achievements are reliant on mathematics. Planes flying seamlessly through the air, high availability of complex medicines, and even the computer you are using now, all of these increasingly vital commodities rely on the use and study of numbers.

A-level Mathematics is an interesting and challenging course which extends the methods you learned at GCSE and includes applications of mathematics, such as Statistics and Mechanics. In Pure Mathematics you will be introduced to calculus (the mathematical study of continuous change) and areas of Mathematics you are already familiar with, such as Algebra, Trigonometry and Coordinate Geometry. In Statistics, we study probability and risk to make predictions about future events, and in Mechanics, we model and analyse the physical world around us, including the study of forces and motion.

Maths supports the study of subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, IT, Economics, Business and Biology, but studying maths alongside an essay-based subject like English or History can help keep your options open and can be very rewarding.

## A LEVEL FURTHER MATHS

Further Mathematics is worth studying simply for its elegance; it develops analytical skills and the ability to work in a problem-solving environment. While challenging at times, Further Mathematics can bring a tremendous sense of accomplishment. It is an ideal subject for people who enjoy abstract thinking. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking.

At A level, you will be introduced to interesting new areas of pure mathematics, such as complex numbers, Matrices, Proof, Polar Coordinates and Differential Equations and apply mathematics in a range of contexts. In Further Statistics, you will learn about new probability distributions, and the most important theorem in Statistics: the Central Limit theorem. In Decision Mathematics you will learn how to use algorithms and other methods to find efficient solutions to real-life problems, such as finding the shortest route around a network. These techniques are important in Business, Logistics and Computer Science. Further Mathematics has become an increasingly popular subject for keen and gifted Mathematicians. Students wishing to apply for the very best universities, especially for courses in Mathematics and Engineering, will have a greater chance of receiving a good offer if they have studied Further Mathematics. Once at university, students also find that they cope much better with these courses, having had some prior experience of the extension topics.

## A LEVEL MEDIA STUDIES

The media have an ever-increasing impact on our culture, society and politics. Many of our perceptions of the world are shaped by the media and how they represent people, ideas and places. How much of what we think of as our own personal viewpoint has been influenced by something we have seen or heard online, on television, in a newspaper?

A-Level Media Studies allows learners to question the validity of the information they receive on a daily basis and develop an understanding of key issues surrounding the power of the media and how and why it impacts us. Students will analyse media products from varying forms (newspapers, advertisements, TV, radio, online media, and music promotion), using a theoretical framework and applying a variety of advanced theoretical approaches. This will develop skills of critical thinking, analysis and debate. As well as contemporary, familiar products, learners will study more established forms and explore how they relate to historical contexts and less familiar (non-mainstream, non-English language) texts to look at the effect of national context and the global reach of media industries.

As well as the theoretical content (assessed over two written papers), Media Studies offers students the opportunity to develop media production skills, applying knowledge of the theoretical framework to create their own products for the non-exam assessment element of the course. A level Media Studies students can go onto study Media, TV or Film at University as a practical degree, a theoretical degree or a combination of the two. This can lead to a range of professions in media, film, journalism and PR. It can also develop a wide range of transferable skills like analysis, visual communication, problem solving, communication, presentation and organisational skills.

# A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY

*Everyone has heard of great thinkers like Plato, Aristotle and St Thomas Aquinas, but what did they actually do?*

Philosophy translates to “Lover of Wisdom.” It is the study of fundamental questions of existence, purpose, language and ethics. Philosophy is the basis from which all forms of science spring, questioning not just the things in the world but their purpose and meaning also. It is a blend of logic, science and religion to come to an overall answer. Ethics also springs from this field, studying the meaning and basis of our ideas of right and wrong, working out whether we can ever make meaningful statements about the way in which we act.

Students studying Philosophy & Ethics will engage in the questions of the existence of God, Morality, the Afterlife and breaking down the positions people take on these. They will gain insights into the structure of rational arguments and differing views on issues of morality and the world, developing their understanding of these arguments and their own worldview. The Study of Philosophy is a great path into many career paths, as it demonstrates an understanding of the broader world and the ability to develop clear and evidenced arguments on complex issues.

# A LEVEL PHYSICS

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science.

Physics challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and it leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives, from healing joints to curing cancer and developing sustainable energy solutions.

Physics is the study of matter, energy, and the interaction between them. Physics is about asking fundamental questions and trying to answer them by observing and experimenting. Physics encompasses the study of the universe, from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles.

Studying physics will help you develop a range of skills that can be applied in many areas, both scientific and non-technical. These skills include problem solving with a pragmatic and analytical approach, constructing logical arguments, analytical skills and grasping complex problems.

Physics is also central to everyday life. It helps improve the quality of our lives through the use of high-tech equipment, such as particle accelerators, which have application in healthcare, playing such a key role in improving the diagnosis and treatment of diseases like cancer. Physics generates fundamental knowledge needed for the future technological advances that will continue to drive the economic engines of the world.

A LEVEL

# PSYCHOLOGY

*Why do we fall in love? What brings some people to commit murder? Are apes intelligent? How do computer games influence our minds?*

Psychology is the scientific study of human thought and behaviour—how we think, feel, act and interact individually and in groups. Psychologists are interested in what makes people tick and how this understanding can help solve major problems in society. Throughout the course students will learn about how the mind works, how we interact with the environment and others, and how psychologists have used scientific techniques to try and answer the above questions and many more.

Psychology students will study a range of topics, including aggression, social influence, memory, mental disorders and relationships. They will gain fascinating insights into themselves and others. Psychology A-level is an excellent pathway to a variety of degrees and careers, including psychotherapy, education, human resource management, sports psychology, marketing, neuroscience and law.

A LEVEL

# SOCIOLOGY

*Why does the UK have the most inequality in Western Europe? Why do the working class commit more crime? Why do girls outperform boys in school? Can poorer countries ever become more developed?*

Sociology is the study of society – sociologists are interested in the social groups within society, such as social class, race, gender and age. Students will learn to answer the questions above and many more. They will explore topics such as Education, Families and Households, Research Methods, Global Development and Crime & Deviance. An A-Level in Sociology requires students to develop critical thinking skills and develop excellent essay-writing abilities.

Sociology allows students to understand their own identity and their social environment around them. The A-Level has provided previous Cardinal Pole students to go onto study degree courses such as Politics, Law, Criminology, International Development Studies and History.

A group of five people are in a kitchen. An older woman with white hair and glasses, wearing a red shirt, is cutting yellow squash on a cutting board. Three young women, wearing white aprons over their school uniforms, are standing around her, watching. One woman is pouring something from a small metal pot into a pink bowl. The kitchen has stainless steel countertops and a large metal hood over the stove. There are various kitchen items like a microwave, a water dispenser, and bags of vegetables on the counter.

# EXTRACURRICULARS & ENRICHMENT

We firmly believe that Sixth Form education should be about more than just exam results and university places.

At Cardinal Pole students get the opportunity to achieve positions of leadership within the school, contribute to the wider community, prepare for university and experience a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

This ensures that our students leave Cardinal Pole Sixth Form as well-rounded individuals, ready to take their place in the world of Higher Education and employment.



# ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Students on roll at Cardinal Pole are required to apply for a place in the sixth form as are students from other schools.

**Internal applicants:** Internal applicants i.e. students on roll will receive an Information, Advice and Guidance interview in the autumn term to discuss their predicted grades and possible courses. This will happen shortly after the KS5 'Open Evening'. They will be asked to make choices at this point on which courses they wish to study.

**External applicants:** All external applicants may be invited to a meeting to discuss subject choices.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

There are 2 main pathways:

**Academic:** All students wishing to study A-level courses must achieve a minimum of six grades of between 4 and 9 at GCSE including three 6's or above. Students must also have English Literature or Language and Maths at a minimum grade 4. In addition, students must meet an ALPs prediction of at least a D in their chosen subjects.

**Vocational:** Students wishing to study Level 3 Vocational Business or Health & Social Care must achieve a minimum of five grades of between 4 and 9 at GCSE with two grades of 5 or above. This must include English and Maths at least a 4 for both vocational subjects and Science at least a 4 for Health and Social Care. For these courses we will also accept a Distinction from one BTEC Diploma Level Two as the equivalent of one GCSE grade 4.

Art & Design	Biology, Chemistry & Physics	Business	Computer Science	Drama & Theatre Studies	Economics	English Literature	French	Further Maths
5 in Art	7 in Combined Science, 6 in Maths	5 in English Language, 5 in Maths	5 in English Language, 6 in Maths & 6 in Computer Science	5 in Drama	6 in English Language, 5 in Maths	6 in both English Literature & English Language	6 in French	8 in Maths
Geography	Government and Politics	History	Maths	Media Studies	Philosophy & Ethics	Psychology	Sociology	Spanish
6 in Geography 5 in Maths	5 in English Language or English Literature	6 in History	7 in Maths	5 in English Language	6 in RE, 5 in English Literature	5 in English, Maths & Science, 6 in at least one of the above	5 in Sociology	6 in Spanish

Art & Design - If not studied before a portfolio and subject interview will be required.

Biology, Chemistry & Physics - Students who wish to study physics must also be studying Maths.

Drama & Theatre Studies - If not studied before an audition will be required

Computer Science - if not studied before a 5 in English Language, 7 in Maths and 7 in Science will be required. In both cases (if studied before and if not) an assessment will need to be completed to confirm place on the course.

Geography - If not studied before a 6 in English (Literature or Language) will be required.

History - If not studied before a 6 in English (Literature or Language) will be required

Sociology - If not studied before a 5 in English Language will be required.

Please note admission onto courses without meeting these criteria may be granted on a discretionary basis. All those seeking admission to the sixth form must achieve the necessary grades for access onto the courses they have chosen. Students will also be expected to display evidence of motivation and commitment to post-16 study and show high standards of behaviour, punctuality and attendance in Year 11. Maximum admission numbers of 20 places apply to A-level and vocational level 3 courses.

**Entry into Year 13:** There is no guarantee of entry into Year 13 for students in Year 12. Students wishing to move on to the second year of a course will need to achieve a minimum of 3 Ds at the end of Year 12 or merits on vocational courses. Students who do not meet the 3Ds or merits criteria will be offered the opportunity to move to a more appropriate course. They must also meet minimum expectations of 95% attendance and punctuality.

### **Oversubscription Criteria:**

1. Students who are in the care of a local authority (as defined by section 22 of the Children Act 1989) are subject to meeting the specific entry criteria for their chosen programme of study.
2. Applicants who are judged to have an exceptional social or medical need where they meet the admissions criteria. There will have to be a clear link between the child's exceptional need and the school. Parents/carers will need to submit a case supported by appropriate professional evidence from a doctor, social worker, or similar professional. That evidence will need to support the link between the need and the school.
3. Internal year 11 students subject to meeting the specific entry criteria for their chosen programme of study (up to a limit of 100).
4. External applicants subject to meeting the admissions criteria for their chosen programme of study where places are still available on that programme (up to a limit of 20)

In the event of oversubscription places will be allocated to those applicants meeting the basic qualification who live closest to the school and for whom places on their chosen courses are available. Each applicant must select their courses of study at the time of the application; these cannot be changed before the application is determined. Closeness to the school is measured in a straight line ('as the crow flies') from the centre of the pedestrian gate in the perimeter fence on Morning Lane and the permanent address at which the applicant normally resides at the time of the application. The school will carefully verify the permanent address of the applicant.

Once applicants have been ranked according to distance:

1. Places will be allocated in order of closeness to the school.
2. Once the places available for a particular course of study have been filled, any other applicant who has chosen that course will be not considered for admission to that course, regardless of whether places are available on other courses that the applicant has chosen. The number of students who have applied for each course will need to be taken into account. Extra students may sometimes be accommodated over the admission number if the chosen course is not full.

All decisions regarding admissions will be initially be heard by the Headteacher.

**Appeals:** Should admission to the sixth form at Cardinal Pole Sixth Form be refused, applicants can acquire details of the statutory appeals procedure from the website.

**False Information:** In the event that Cardinal Pole Catholic School makes the offer of a place in the sixth form on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application which has effectively denied a place to a sixth former with a stronger claim, then the initial offer will be withdrawn.

**Conditions:** All places offered are subject to the following post-acceptance conditions:

- The applicant must provide documentary proof of having in fact met the minimum and course specific entrance requirements
- The applicant must produce proof of address in the form of a copy of their parent/carer's current council tax bill.

Any applicant who is unable to satisfy these conditions will not be admitted to the school.



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