



University of Manchester - 133 miles  
Latitude 53.466850 Longitude -2.233884

University of Exeter  
Latitude 50.737127

University of Oxford - 43 miles  
Latitude 51.751916 Longitude -1.254367

Cardiff University  
Latitude 51.486

King's College, London - 108 miles  
Latitude 51.511486 Longitude -0.115997

# HENLEY BANK SIXTH FORM

COURSE INFORMATION  
SEPTEMBER 2024

# WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our prospectus, and to tell you a little about Henley Bank Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form is an ambitious, academic Sixth Form with the aim of preparing students for the world of tomorrow through developing their character, personal skills as well as securing excellent academic results.

We are in an exciting position to be able to work on a project to create a new building for the Sixth Form. This is enabling us to design a block that is specific for your use.

I look forward to welcoming you to Henley Bank.

**Stephen Derry** • Headteacher

## OUR SIXTH FORM

Henley Bank's Sixth Form will be the pathway our brilliant students aspire to take towards further qualifications and life beyond school. The excellent opportunities we will provide will enable you to develop your academic studies, as well as helping you achieve any future aspirations you may hold. .

Our Sixth Form will be a small, close-knit community that will allow our expert team of teachers and support staff to provide individual support for each and every student. We are proud of the academic pathway we will be offering at Henley Bank and we look forward to building upon outstanding outcomes in KS4.

Please get in touch or arrange a tour of the school if you are interested in Henley Bank and I look forward to welcoming you to our community.

**Fred Derbyshire** • Assistant Headteacher, Sixth Form





# OUR VALUES

Everything we do at Henley Bank is based on our five values; Ambition, Confidence, Creativity, Respect and Determination. We believe our students should have these values in order to be fully prepared for the world of tomorrow.

These values are shown throughout everything that we do at Henley Bank, both within and beyond the classroom, including with our co-curricular offer. We have exceptionally high expectations of our students and expect them to put effort and commitment into everything they do. This is so that our students get the best possible chance of success.



# CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Year 12 students will choose subjects from Henley Bank's A Level Pathway.

Students will study three A Levels over two years. A Levels are assessed primarily by terminal examination (small proportion of coursework in some subjects). A Levels are recognised by universities and carry UCAS points, students can progress to university or direct into apprenticeships.

The A Level Pathway entry criteria is five grade 5+ GCSEs including Mathematics and English Language or Literature (subject specific requirements are detailed within the subject information).

## A Level pathway subjects on offer

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| • Art                | • Mathematics |
| • Biology            | • Photography |
| • Chemistry          | • Physics     |
| • Economics          | • Politics    |
| • English Literature | • Psychology  |
| • Geography          | • Sociology   |
| • History            | • Spanish     |

For information about the application and enrolment process, please see the back of this booklet.





## What is the course about?

In this course, students will explore fine art, including a variety of themes looking at portraiture, landscape still life, abstraction human form, narrative or experimental imagery. These areas can be combined using a range of mixed media. During this course, students will develop their capacity for independent working. Students are free to explore both traditional methods and digital techniques within their work.

### Course content

The study of fine art through:

- Shape and texture
- Contextual study
- Personal response
- Externally set assignment

### Assessment

Coursework including a portfolio of practical work to include a related study of a minimum of 1000 words. 60% of the total.

Externally set task, examined in 15 hours. 40% of the total.

## Career pathways

Study art related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: architecture, fashion design, art therapist, illustrator, print maker, jewellery designer, interior designer, graphic designer, textile designer, museum curator.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 in GCSE Art.

A portfolio of work may further support your application.

## What is the course about?

Biology covers a wide range of topics, from investigating the molecular and cellular function of living organisms to the interactions between populations and whole communities of animals and plants.

Students will gain a strong understanding of biological concepts but also develop the skills to describe, explain, predict and analyse the biotic and abiotic factors which influence the world.

### Course content

Students study topics including:

- Biological molecules, DNA, cells and the immune system exchange and transport, genes, genetic diversity and biodiversity.
- Detailed study of photosynthesis, respiration, energy transfer in ecosystems.
- In-depth analysis of inheritance, gene expression and the development and application of gene technology.
- Homeostasis, muscles, the nervous system, and whole organism biology including taxis, population biology and ecosystem ecology

There is an important focus on developing practical skills with students needing to complete a series of 12 required practicals.

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

## Career pathways

Study biology or science related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: agriculture, ecology, zoology, plant sciences, biotechnology, food science, and marine biology, biological research research, or conservation of endangered animals.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least 6-6 in Combined Science or a grade 6 in Biology separate sciences.



## What is the course about?

This course is designed to answer questions about the basic and complex make up of our known universe and the world we live in, the concept that we are all matter made from stars and when broken down in to their elements can be studied to develop an in-depth knowledge and recognition of patterns that can be applied to everyday life. The course allows students the opportunity to explore the nature of the periodic table whilst beginning to understand the three major disciplines that make up the foundation of chemistry. Chemistry students become confident in describing the natural and modern world around them through the understanding and explanation of the subject.

### Course content

Students study topics including:

- Organic, inorganic and physical chemistry
- Bonding, structure, kinetics, basic spectroscopy and energetics
- Exploring chemistry of polymers, proteins, further energetics, electrochemistry, spectroscopy, acids and bases and transition metals

There is an important focus on developing practical skills with students needing to complete a series of 12 required practicals.

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

## Career pathways

Study chemistry or science-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: agrochemical, biochemical, pharmaceuticals, engineering, nursing, medicinal chemistry, medicine, academics.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE and at least 6-6 in Combined Science or a grade 6 in Chemistry separate sciences.



## What is the course about?

Economics at A Level is a study of economic theory which then leads to the evaluation of current economic developments in the world. As well as this, it encourages students to appreciate the differences and relationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics. This course will help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to analyse data, analyse it appropriately and to then think critically about how to interpret what they have found. This course would be appropriate for students who have enjoyed mathematics or history at KS4, or who have an interest in current affairs.

### Course content

Topics include:

- Operations of markets and market failure
- National economy in a global context
- Microeconomic issues
- Macroeconomic issues
- Statistical and other data
- International economy

A significant aspect of this course is learning that macro and microeconomics are linked and not entirely distinct areas of study.

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

## Career pathways

Economics is a well-respected academic subject that helps prepare for a broad range of university degrees and jobs. It is especially helpful for anyone interested in working in the public sector or finance.

Employment opportunities: economist, analyst, researcher or adviser to the government, journalism, law, accountancy, management or the financial sector.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE and at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## A LEVEL

### What is the course about?

Taking English Literature is a perfect choice for any student with a passion for reading widely, be it poetry, plays or prose. English Literature will provide students with the chance to comprehensively study a wide range of texts from various authors around the world, both modern and historic in context.

#### Course content

Studies include:

- 'Othello' - William Shakespeare
- John Keats' poetry
- 'Death of a Salesman' - Arthur Miller
- 'The Handmaid's Tale' - Margaret Atwood
- William Blake's poetry
- 'The Kite Runner' - Khaled Hosseini
- Two non-examined assessment essays (One will be a taught poetry anthology and one will be a novel of your choice through a critical lense)

#### Assessment

Two terminal examinations worth 80% of the A Level.

Non-exam assessment worth 20%.

### Career pathways

Study an English-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities : advertising copywriter, arts administrator, editor, writer, media advisor, librarian, lawyer, human resources.

### Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

## What is the course about?

This course is for students with an interest in issues affecting people and places where they live and how places are changing. The hazards facing the planet and people are also studied. Students will study current events and world problems, such as the effects of natural hazards, global warming, migration and the plight of refugees.

### Course content

There are four areas of study over the two years:

- Dynamic landscapes – including tectonic hazards and coastal landscapes
- Dynamic places – including globalisation and regenerating places
- Physical systems and sustainability - including water and energy insecurity
- Human systems and geopolitics – including superpowers and migration identity and sovereignty

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations form 80% of the total.

Non-exam assessment worth 20% in the form of an Independent Investigation based on field work.

## Career pathways

Study geography, geology or environmental related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: management, leisure, administration, travel, business, tourism, environmental management, urban or land use planning, hazard management and planning.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 in GCSE Geography.



## What is the course about?

Students will study significant individuals, societies, events and developments within a broad historical context. Investigating specific historical questions, problems or issues. Students will also analyse and evaluate how the past has been interpreted and represented in different ways.

### Course content

Study of the following will be included:

- Britain 1785 - 1870
- The unification of Germany 1840 to 1871
- The Making of Modern Russia 1855 to 1991

### Assessment

Two terminal examinations form 80% of the total.

Non-exam assessment worth 20%.

## Career pathways

Study history-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: journalism, law, publishing, the media, archaeology, museum, teaching and archive work.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least a grade 6 in History.

## What is the course about?

A Level Mathematics gives students the opportunity to study topics such as geometry, calculus and trigonometry (pure mathematics) and to use these ideas within the 'applied' topics such as mechanics and statistics.

### Course content

- **Pure Mathematics** – mathematical argument, problem solving, proof, algebra, graphs, sequences, logarithms, trigonometry, calculus, functions, numerical methods, vectors and differential equations
- **Statistics** – working with a large data set to make inferences about the underlying population, probability calculations, using the Binomial and Normal distributions and statistical hypothesis testing
- **Mechanics** – kinematics, working with forces and Newton's laws, motion under gravity, friction, projectiles and simple moments

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

## Career pathways

Study maths, engineering, physics related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: analyst, actuary, accountancy, scientist, statistician, systems developer.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 GCSE in Mathematics.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## A LEVEL

### What is the course about?

This course aims to develop the creative photographer. Students will learn technical skills and how to use camera to control contrast, exposure and focus. They will study photographers – both modern and historical.

#### Course content

The study of photography through:

- Shape and texture
- Contextual study
- Personal response
- Externally set assignment

#### Assessment

Coursework including a portfolio of practical work to include a related study of a minimum of 1000 words. 60% of the total.

Externally set task, examined in 15 hours. 40% of the total.

### Career pathways

Study a design-based related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: graphic designer, magazine photographer, medical illustrator, photographer, journalism, television camera operator.

### Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 in GCSE Art or Photography or a portfolio if you do not do Art or Photography GCSE

A portfolio of work, whilst not essential, may further support your application.



### What is the course about?

Physics encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. 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. By studying physics students learn the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, seismology, and astronomy.

### Course content

Students study topics including:

- Matter and antimatter, discovering how quarks and antiquarks combine and interact, researching up to the minute discoveries from cern, and other particle accelerators
- The consideration of whether particles can also be waves, investigating the interference patterns, and properties of waves
- Electricity and mechanics
- The mechanics of particles in gases and interactions between charged particles
- Nuclear physics,
- Optional topic of astrophysics, electronics, engineering or turning points in physics

There is an important focus on developing practical skills with students needing to complete a series of 12 required practicals.

### Assessment

Three terminal exams.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

### Career pathways

Study physics, maths or science related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: engineering, electronics, astrophysics, particle physics, medical physics, biomechanics and nuclear physics. Research into solving the energy crisis, or discovering what atoms are made of using particle accelerators.

### Entry criteria

You have a minimum of Level 6-6 at GCSE for Science or Grade 6 in Physics separate Sciences and 6 for GCSE Mathematics.

## What is the course about?

Students will study the political systems of the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition to learning about the political institutions of these countries, students will also be learning about political ideas such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism as well as the beliefs of political thinkers like Marcus Garvey, Rosa Luxemburg and John Locke.

### Course content

Students study topics including:

- Government of the UK, including the British Constitution, role of Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- The politics of the UK including democracy, elections and referendums, political parties and pressure groups.
- The government and politics of the USA, including the constitution, role of Congress, the President, electoral process, political parties and pressure groups.
- Political ideas including liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

## Career pathways

Study political, law or history related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: politics, journalism, law, management or Civil Service.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5-9 grades at GCSE, including at least a 6 in English Language or Literature.

## What is the course about?

A Level Psychology involves studying a wide range of topics exploring the fascinating human mind. Psychology looks at the varying ways people think, behave and interact with others. We seek to understand why certain behaviours occur and the science that underpins the theories. Through investigations we discover how researchers conduct their studies, how they collect and analyse data and how their findings can be applied to 'real life'.

### Course content

There are six 'core' topics which we will explore:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in psychology
- Research methods

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

## Career pathways

Students who study A Level Psychology often progress onto degrees such as psychology, English studies, sociology, business studies, teaching, sport and exercise science and law.

Employment opportunities include forensic psychology, clinical psychology, occupational therapy, nursing, teaching, social work, counsellor, educational psychologist and many more.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE including at least grade 6 in Science.



## What is the course about?

Sociology at A Level will give students the opportunity to study society. During the course, they will explore social behaviour across a range of different examples, appreciating where it starts and then how it develops over time. Also, students will examine how people become organised into groups, according to race, gender and class. As well as this, students will study public institutions that are used and shaped by these varying groups within society, with a specific focus on areas such as religion, education and media. In terms of skills, students will learn approaches and methods of Sociology, which will allow them to engage in debate and an active involvement with the research.

### Course content

Topics to be studied include:

- Culture and identity
- Families and household
- Health
- Work, poverty and welfare
- Education
- Crime and deviance
- Research methods

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

## Career pathways

Sociology is a well-regarded academic subject that equips students with a range of skills beyond the core curriculum, such as independent critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical writing – good preparation for almost any university degree, but particularly sociology, or in combination with other subjects like criminology. It is a useful subject for areas of employment that require working with people or that need investigative skills.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE including a grade 6 in English Language or Literature.

## What is the course about?

Spanish at A Level enables students to develop and build upon their knowledge of the Spanish language. Excitingly, this course also offers the chance to explore themes relating to Spanish culture and society, as well as other countries where the language is spoken. This will all allow students to hone their language skills, with the support of authentic spoken and written sources. This course will allow students to immerse themselves in a language and culture, giving them a qualification that is valued in the wider world.

### Course content

Topics to be studied include:

- Aspects of Hispanic society social
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic work
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Specific topic areas of cinema and literature
- In-depth study of a literary text and a film

### Assessment

Three terminal examinations including listening, reading, writing and speaking.

## Career pathways

Students who study A Level Spanish can progress onto language-related degree courses in higher education.

Employment opportunities: interpreter, teacher, translator, journalist, international aid worker, tourism.

## Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least a grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.





# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

## **December 2023**

Our application procedure opens from 7th December. The application form is accessed from the website:

**[www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk](http://www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk)**

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## **January 2024**

We advise students to complete their application forms by Wednesday 10th January 2024 to have their choices included in the setting of option blocks. In addition, students can focus solely on their GCSEs and not have to worry about applying for our sixth form.

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## **January to March 2024**

Students will be invited to attend a interview and following, receive a conditional offer.

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## **April 2024**

Deadline for applications.

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## **Summer 2024**

GCSE final examination period.

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## **July 2024**

Henley Bank Sixth Form induction days.

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## **August 2024**

Following receipt of GCSE results, students enrol into the Sixth Form.

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**If you have any enquiries, or would like a tour of the school, please contact [admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk) or by telephone 01452 863372.**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Can I still apply even if I've missed the application deadline?**

Yes. Please send the form back as soon as possible so your details can be added to our system.

## **What happens if I'm unable to attend my enrolment day?**

If you do not attend your enrolment day then we cannot guarantee we'll be able to hold your place. Please email [admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk) to discuss.

## **My grades are lower than expected, can I still join Henley Bank Sixth Form?**

We will discuss this with you on your enrolment day. It will depend on how low your grades are and what spaces we have available.

## **I'm new to Henley Bank Sixth Form, can I have a tour?**

Yes - to arrange a tour, please email [admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk).

## **I want to change a subject choice on my application form?**

Final decisions on your subject choices are made when you enrol with us in August.

You do not need to notify us unless you're changing a subject choice after you've enrolled with us in August.

## **How can I stay in touch with updates on the application procedure?**

We recommend you check our website regularly for updates:

**Website – [www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk](http://www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk)**





# HOW TO APPLY

Thank you for your interest in applying to Henley Bank Sixth Form.

For more information on subject choices, and how to apply, please visit [www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk](http://www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

For further details, please contact our Sixth Form team.

## HENLEY BANK SIXTH FORM



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[www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk](http://www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

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