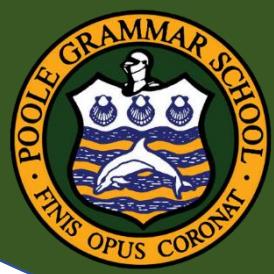




POOLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

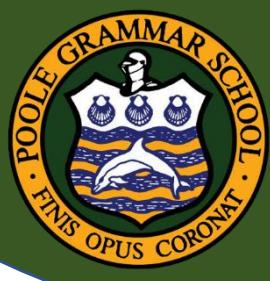


**JOINING THE SIXTH FORM
2022/2023**



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POOLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Headteacher's welcome message

I am delighted that you are considering joining Poole Grammar School Sixth Form. We are extremely proud of our students' achievements, both academically and on a personal level.



Dr A. Smith
Headteacher

Poole Grammar School students have an outstanding education in the Sixth Form; they experience academic rigour and have great opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, problem solving and communication skills through the varied enrichment, sport and games programme. This extends into the community through many volunteering schemes.

When OFSTED inspected the school in 2018 they found that students' performance was above average in the Sixth Form. Indeed, Poole Grammar School Sixth Form is in the top 25% of schools and colleges in England for A-level value added.

Each year, we are able to demonstrate consistently excellent outcomes and in 2022, 68.7% of all grades awarded were A*-B, with 39 students gaining at least 3 A or A* grades.

This has enabled many of our students to secure places at prestigious Russell Group universities. Over the last 7 years, 23 students have gained entry to either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge and a significant number have gone on to read Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry at university. In 2022, 5 students went on to read Medicine at University.

Every year we also have a number of students gaining places on extremely competitive higher level apprenticeships with local employers such as Cobham, J P Morgan and Dyson. All students progress into higher education, apprenticeships or employment after Year 13.

We provide excellent support to students applying to University and students have access to have a full time careers advisor in school, enabling them to make informed choices for their futures.

Over the last few academic years, our Sixth Form has grown further with students joining us in Year 12 from surrounding schools. Our Year 12 induction programme ensures that this transition is as smooth as possible and new students are welcomed and settle into the Poole Grammar School family quickly.

I hope that you choose to continue your education at Poole Grammar Sixth Form or indeed join us from another school. The Sixth Form Team looks forward to welcoming you.

Dr A. Smith

Headteacher



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Life in the Sixth Form

Curriculum: Students pick A-level subjects from a choice of 28: the average Sixth Form student studies 3 A-levels and many also take up an additional qualification such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Some subjects are taught exclusively at Parkstone Grammar, some subjects are co-taught and some subjects taught at Poole Grammar have Parkstone students in the class.

A-levels are all 2-year linear courses i.e. there are no external examinations for A-level until the summer of Year 13. The school will provide students with the opportunity to take a rigorous mock examination at the end of Year 12. The mock examinations are also used to help inform decisions about Year 13 and also to establish grade predictions for university applications.



Senior Prefect Team 2022



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Enrichment: All students must participate in a games/sport and an enrichment activity each week. This is a central part of the Sixth Form curriculum as engaging in sports and enrichment helps students improve on skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and problem solving. Examples of sports options include: football, rugby, cricket, athletics, badminton, tennis.

Enrichment options involve giving something back to either the school community or the local community. For example, school enrichment activities include: mentoring students in younger year groups or running a student society, community enrichment activities include helping out local charities or volunteering at organisations like Montacute Special School, Broadstone Middle School, Canford Heath Junior School and other partner junior schools.



Pastoral care: Students are placed in a mixed Year 12 / Year 13 tutor group. They spend at least one and a half hours per week with their tutor. The tutor provides front line help, advice and guidance and will ensure that students have a high level of support when considering their post-Year 13 options. Tutors meet regularly with each of their tutees on a one-to-one basis. If students are not making high rates of progress, or experience personal or medical problems that affect their learning, then interventions may be put in place by a member of the student support team and/or the Head of Year 12 to help the student get back on track quickly.

Independence: Students benefit from a greater degree of independence (for example, there is a dress-code rather than a prescribed uniform, lunchtime exits are granted, and there is a Sixth Form Centre for student use), whilst being able to take advantage of being part of a school, with its supportive structures and personal knowledge of individuals. As its most senior students, Sixth Formers are able to contribute tremendously to the life and ethos of the school community. Towards the end of Year 12 thirty-five students are chosen as school prefects. Students can also become Subject Ambassadors, which involves supporting younger students and helping encourage a love of the subject. There are many other student leadership opportunities that we encourage our sixth formers to get fully involved with. Such contributions can be reflected in school references when students move on to careers or Higher Education, as well as being rewarding and valuable in fostering personal development. With independence, however, comes the need for responsibility and self-discipline: for the first time students will have 'private study lessons'. There is a supervised Sixth Form Study Centre with computers and a printer and the school library is available for private study, as are some classrooms (including computer rooms).



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Student progress: This is monitored by regular assessments. Students' performance is matched against their expected levels of attainment using projections provided by the A Level Performance System (ALPS). ALPS uses students' GCSE performance as a baseline for setting A-level targets.

There is a progress check, which is for school use only and so is not sent home, at the end of the first half term of Year 12 to ensure students have settled in to the A-level pattern of work and study. If any problems emerge at this stage the Head of Year and/or Head of Department will intervene. There is also a pastoral parents' evening in the first half term of the year; an opportunity for parents and form teachers to check that students have settled into sixth form study well. A fuller progress report, which is sent home, follows this at the end of the autumn term and another at the end of the spring term. The Year 12 consultation evening takes place in the spring term. All students complete rigorous mock examinations in May of Year 12. These results provide an important mid-course assessment of progress and allows teachers and students to plan for Year 13 study. The end of Year 12 mock examination results will be used by teachers to generate A-level grade predictions that are included on university, apprenticeship and job applications.

Where students find themselves in difficulty in adapting to the demands of work, the school has a number of support systems. Pastoral support is offered to students through the Sixth Form Office. Students who find they are struggling with the academic demands of one or more of their A-levels can receive additional monitoring and guidance, in our sixth form Study Centre. However, it must be stressed that Sixth Formers are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. The Sixth Form academic intervention system is applied where students are failing to commit themselves fully to their studies, are missing deadlines, have poor attendance, and/or are exhibiting inadequate effort. We will work with students and parents in this situation to agree necessary steps for success.



Joining the sixth form

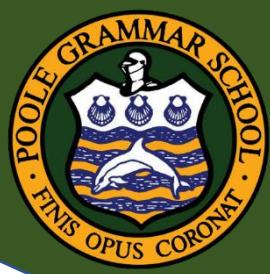
Programmes of study

The majority of students in Year 12 study **3 core subjects* for 2 years, ending up with 3 A-level qualifications**. Additionally, students can take further mathematics AS/A-level. It is possible to take mathematics (core), which is a 2 year course, or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside 3 core subjects. Both qualifications are worth half an A-level each.

It is possible to take more than 3 core subjects in Year 12, but this is **not recommended** as even the most competitive universities and higher apprenticeships only require 3 A-levels or their equivalent. Students who choose to do 4 or even 5 core subjects often find that they are stretched too thinly and their performance across the board suffers. It is far better to study 3 core subjects across Year 12 and Year 13 and invest the time that would have been spent on a 4th subject in gaining work experience or carrying out volunteering/community work, both of which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Due to Government funding restrictions it is not possible to take fewer than 3 core subjects in Year 12 or in Year 13. It is not possible to re-take Year 12 or Year 13, unless the school has been supplied with evidence of exceptional circumstances (such as a letter from a medical professional stating that the student is not capable of being in full-time education or continuing with full-time education for a prolonged period).

*A core subject is any AS/A-level subject excluding EPQ, further mathematics & mathematics (core).



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Choosing courses

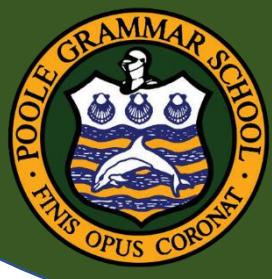
All subjects are offered on a provisional basis: courses that do not attract a viable number of students may be withdrawn and courses that are over-subscribed may become subject to a waiting list.

Applicants who are in Year 11 at Poole Grammar School will be asked for their provisional subject choices at the end of the autumn term after they have had their **one to one careers/higher education interview** and a chance to attend the **Post-16 Information and Sixth Form Subject Evening 14 November 2022**. There will be taster sessions during year 11 lessons following this evening, and presentations during registration periods for year 11 students for subjects not taught at GCSE (for example, psychology, business studies). Students will be asked to firm up their Sixth Form subject choices by the end of February, early March 2023 following their mock results. However, subject choices can be changed once again in the light of GCSE results as students are not required to confirm their subject choices until they have received their results. Even when a student has started Year 12 it is possible to change subjects during the first few weeks of the autumn term, although the earlier that this is done the better.

Applicants who wish to join Poole Grammar School from another school do not need to submit their subject choices until the end of February 2023. Application forms for the Sixth Form will be available on the school website after the **Post 16 Information and Sixth Form Subject Evening on 14 November 2022**

All applicants will be invited for a **guidance meeting** from February 2023 onwards with members of the Sixth Form team and Senior Leadership Team. For students who are new to the school, there will be an opportunity to visit the school and have a tour and meet current students and teachers on the day of their guidance meeting.

We will also run an induction day for all applicants immediately after the last GCSE examinations in the summer term. All students are **strongly encouraged** to attend the induction day where they will have induction lessons in their chosen subjects, and be issued with A level preparation work to complete over the summer.



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How to choose your courses

You are advised to think about your higher education and/or career ambitions when choosing courses.

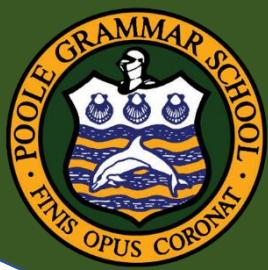
Higher Education - all courses will have minimum entry requirements, which can vary greatly from one course to another, and in practice most will select applicants with qualifications above that minimum. If you have a particular target in mind you should seek advice from school careers advisors before making any decisions.

By way of illustration, some of the factors which may influence your choice are:

- some professions are degree entry only, and some degree courses require specific A-level subject passes (maths and physics for engineering; chemistry and two from maths/physics/biology for medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, etc.);
- some areas of employment require degree-level knowledge - you cannot expect to work as a physicist or a linguist, for example, with no more than A-levels in these subjects;
- some subjects at university require you to have studied that subject at A-level (e.g. English literature), some (e.g. economics, geology, law, psychology, politics) do not.

Employment - many employers and apprenticeship providers now recruit mainly or solely from applicants with A-level passes, even though the subjects studied may not be directly relevant to the job. In such cases the employer is more concerned with the academic/intellectual potential of the applicant than with the specific knowledge s/he possesses. For example, the Civil Service, and the insurance and banking sectors, are just as likely to be impressed by passes in the sciences or languages as by passes in more commercially orientated subjects such as business or computing. If, therefore, you are taking A-levels primarily to enhance your employment prospects at age 18 you would be wise to choose those subjects which you have enjoyed or for which you have a genuine enthusiasm, in which you might reasonably expect to do best. For example it is better to get a B in history rather than a D in business - even if your target is some aspect of business or management.

Other considerations - some subjects complement each other (geology and geography; maths and physics). On the other hand, students should consider maintaining breadth in the curriculum they follow. A range of contrasting subjects offers a broad portfolio of skills and knowledge. Some subjects involve certain study aspects or methods - those who do not enjoy reading should therefore avoid English or history; those who are not good at organising themselves should think carefully about coursework requirements.



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If students are not sure which subjects to pick, it is possible to start on 4 subjects and drop down to 3 at some point during the autumn term of Year 12.

Students should pick 3 core subjects from the list below. Please note that subject availability is provisional as some courses may have limited spaces on them⁺ and whilst Poole Grammar School seeks to resolve any timetable clashes sometimes certain subject combinations are not possible.

Subjects provisionally offered for September 2023⁺

Ancient History	Geography
Art (Fine Art)	Geology
Biology	German ^{\$}
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computer Science	Mathematics (Core)*
DT – Art & Design (3D Design)	Mathematics (Further)
DT – Electronics	Media Studies ^{\$}
DT – Product Design	Music
Drama and Theatre Studies [^]	Physics
Economics	Politics
English Language ^{\$}	Psychology
English Literature	Philosophy
Extended Project (EPQ)*	Sociology
French [^]	Spanish [^]

* = Subjects that do not count as core subjects – these subjects are taken in addition to 3 core subjects

^{\$} = Subject taught solely at Parkstone Grammar School

[^]= Subject taught jointly with Parkstone Grammar School

⁺= If a subject is oversubscribed then places will be allocated by random selection from the students who picked the subject as one of their firm choices in February 2022. In exceptional cases, the school may need to withdraw a course if the numbers are not sufficient to make the course viable.

⁺ = Please note that this information is correct and the time of writing but may be subject to change



Entry requirements

General entry requirements

Entry requirements are based on an applicant's **best 7 GCSE or iGCSE results**. Only GCSE or iGCSE qualifications are included in the calculation.

A minimum of a **mean grade of 5.5** is required from an applicant's best 7 (I)GCSE results.

Applicants must also have achieved at least a **5 in English language GCSE** and a **5 in mathematics GCSE**.

In exceptional circumstances when a student is admitted without a 5 in English and/or a 5 in mathematics a requirement of a place in the Sixth Form is that the student re-takes English GCSE and/or mathematics GCSE in Year 12.

Subject specific entry requirements

In addition to the general entry requirements students must also meet the subject specific entry requirement for the A-level that they wish to study.

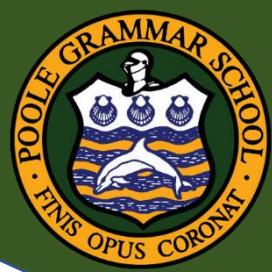


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Subject	Entry requirement
Ancient History	English literature 6 or History 6
Art (Fine Art)	Art 6
Biology	Biology 6 or Science (double) 6,6
Business Studies	Mathematics 6
Chemistry	Chemistry 7 or Science (double) 7,7 and mathematics 6
Computer Science	Computer Science 6
DT (3D Design)	Design Technology 6 or Art 6
DT (Electronics)	Electronics 6
DT (Product Design)	Design Technology 6 or Mathematics 6 if DT not taken
Drama & Theatre Studies	Drama 6 and English Lang. 6 or English Lit. 6
Economics	English Lang. 6 & Mathematics 6
English Language	English Lang. 6
English Literature	English Lit. 6
French	French 7
Geography	Geography 6
Geology	Mathematics 6 & Science GCSEs: two 6 grades
German	German 7
History	History 6
Mathematics	Mathematics 7
Mathematics (core) ⁺	Mathematics 5
Mathematics (further)*	Mathematics 8 & Mathematics (Further) 7
Media Studies	English Lang. 6 or English Lit. 6
Music	Music 6
Philosophy	Religious Studies 6
Physics	Physics 7 or Science (double) 7,7 & Mathematics 7
Politics	English Language 6 or History 6 or Religious Studies 6
Psychology	English Language 6, Biology 6 or Double Science 6,6
Sociology	English 5 (Language or Literature) or a Humanities subject
Spanish	Spanish 7

⁺Core Mathematics is not a core A-level subject, cannot be taken in conjunction with Mathematics and/or Further Mathematics and has to be taken with 3 other subject choices.

*Further Mathematics is not a core A-level subject and has to be taken in conjunction with A-level Mathematics. Consequently, Mathematics and Further Mathematics counts as 1 subject choice not 2.



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Application Timeline

Students currently in Year 11 at Poole Grammar School

Year 11 one to one careers/higher education interview (Oct to Dec)

Post 16 information & Sixth Form subject evening
Monday 14 November 2022

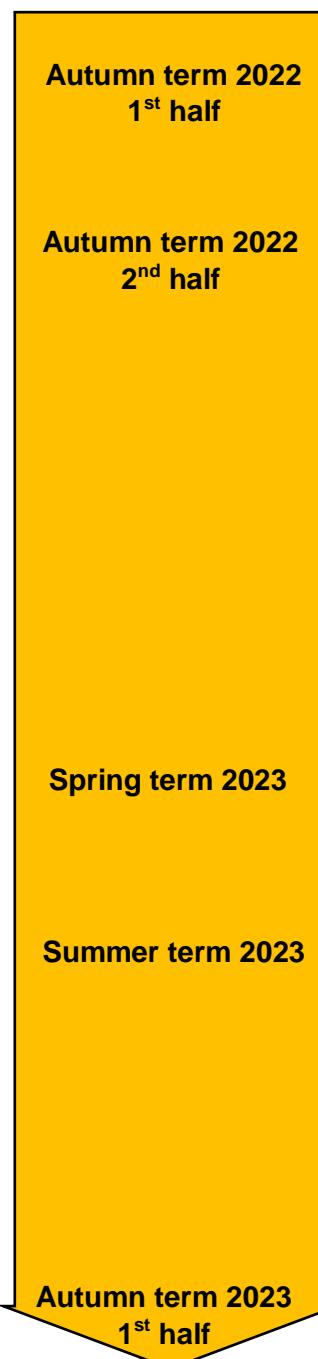
Sixth Form taster lessons
November/December

Initial course choices submitted by
14 December 2022

Guidance meetings to discuss option choices (Feb/March 2023)

Induction Day
Summer term 2023

GCSE results day and Sixth Form Enrolment Day
Thursday 24 August 2023



Students currently in Year 11 at another school

Post 16 information & Sixth Form subject evening
Monday 14 November 2022

Complete application form between Nov 2022 and Feb 2023. Application forms available on school website

Guidance meetings to discuss option choices (Feb/March 2023)

Induction Day
Summer term 2023

GCSE results day and Sixth Form Enrolment Day
Thursday 24 August 2023

Induction day for new Year 12 students, Monday 4 September 2023