



FINBOROUGH SIXTH FORM

The best preparation for life

CURRICULUM 2025/26



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



'I am delighted to welcome you to the Sixth Form at Finborough School.'

We are especially proud to be the final stage of the Finborough journey, where pupils continue their development into young adulthood. At the same time, we warmly welcome new members to our community, who quickly become part of the supportive environment that defines our school.

Our ethos is built on a balance of academic rigour, exceptional pastoral care, and a commitment to individual character growth. All our students enjoy individualised programmes designed to secure academic success while providing the very best preparation for life. We focus intently on their progress, developing the skills they need both for their Sixth Form studies and for their onward journey to university and beyond.

We are proud to provide fantastic facilities for both sports and performing arts, giving every student the opportunity to flourish across a wide range of disciplines. Our unique Futures Pathway programme ensures personalised post-18 support, while our dedicated Oxbridge preparation exemplifies our ambition for every learner to achieve their highest potential.

Outstanding teaching staff are at the heart of the Sixth Form. We pride ourselves on knowing every student exceptionally well allowing us to challenge, support and inspire them to thrive in an inclusive and ever-evolving environment. We proudly champion and reflect the aspirations of our Sixth Form community.

Finborough Sixth Form students are outstanding young people who make a tremendous contribution to school life. They achieve excellent academic outcomes, develop invaluable life skills, and, most importantly, enjoy two wonderfully formative years that lay the strongest foundations for exceptional futures.

Mrs Carol Clark
cclark@finboroughschool.co.uk

SUMMARY OF COURSES

At Finborough School, we work hard to ensure that every student has the opportunity to pursue the subjects that inspire them and support their ambitions. Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed so that every individual can find the right pathway, selecting courses they will both enjoy and thrive in.

We offer a wide range of A Levels and Level 3 qualifications, including BTECs, ensuring that every student can follow a programme of study that best suits their strengths and goals. To successfully access A Level courses, we require students to have achieved a Grade 6 in their chosen subject (or a related subject where applicable), alongside a strong pass in both English and Mathematics. Students typically study three subjects, giving them the depth and focus required for success at Sixth Form and beyond.

Our Sixth Form team is here to support every student in choosing the right options for their post-18 pathway - whether that be university, including Oxbridge and Russell Group destinations, apprenticeships, or direct entry into professional careers. We provide clear guidance to ensure subject choices align with future ambitions, while also allowing space to explore individual passions.

Beyond academic study, our curriculum is enriched by a wealth of opportunities. Students can undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), a highly regarded qualification by universities, which builds research and independent learning skills. We are proud to offer a strong programme of sport and performing arts, enhanced by our excellent facilities, and students can also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Together, these opportunities foster leadership, creativity, and resilience, helping our students stand out from the crowd.

At Finborough, every student benefits from a diverse and inclusive curriculum — whether through A Levels, BTECs, or other applied qualifications — that provides both challenge and support, preparing them not only for academic success but also for a confident transition into life beyond school.

2026-2027

EXPANDING OUR CURRICULUM

To extend our diverse curriculum offering further we are opening the opportunity for students to study **Agriculture** at Finborough.

We are exploring offering this as either an extended certificate (1 x A Level), Diploma (1.5 x A Level) or extended Diploma (2 x A Level).

Our location in Suffolk and the farming heritage of our community and alumni, makes this an obvious choice for our students, creating a pathway into the leading universities with agricultural courses, including Harper Adams University and the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester. This opportunity will lay the foundation for careers in farming and agricultural industries.

This is an exciting new pathway that can be taken in combination with other subjects at the school.

In addition to Agriculture, we are excited to explore the offer of **A Level Politics**, based on student feedback. We are very keen to canvas interest in any new courses ensuring 'better never stops' with our Sixth Form curriculum.



A L L E V E L S

Art

Biology

Chemistry

Computer Science

Economics

English Literature

French

Further Mathematics

Geography

History

Mathematics

Photography

Physical Education

Physics

Psychology

Spanish

LEVEL 3

Business (BTEC L3 National
Extended Certificate)

Dance
BTEC L2

Digital Media
L3 Cambridge Technical
Extended Cert

Extended Project
Qualification L3

Gold Arts Award & Trinity
Acting Exams

Music
BTEC L3 Extended Cert

Performing Arts
BTEC L3 Diploma

Sports Coaching
(BTEC L3 Diploma)

Art, Craft and Design

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>This course offers students the opportunity to develop their abilities in a variety of practical disciplines. There is a strong academic element with critical thinking and contextual analysis as well as concept generating.</p> <p>Component 1: students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Their practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and will be supported by written work of 1000-3000 words.</p> <p>Component 2: students respond to a title, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes produced under exam conditions.</p>
Nature of the lessons	The lessons are practical based and very much student led. The small class sizes mean that lessons are adaptable to allow students to pursue their personal interests. Due to the coursework based assessment it does mean that every lesson counts and students must be motivated to work with a high level of focus at all times. Students are also expected to spend a minimum of an extra 4 hours a week in the Art studio continuing their work independently.
Assessment	<p>Component 1 = 96 marks = 60%</p> <p>Component 2 = 96 marks = 40%</p> <p>Each component is marked against 4 Assessment Objectives with equal weighting. All Assessment Objectives relate to each other and so each component is marked holistically.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	AQA
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Art, Craft and Design is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects.</p> <p>Studying an Art, Craft and Design related degree at university can give you all sorts of exciting career options, including: Animator, Architect, Art therapist, Cartoonist, Computer game designer, Exhibition designer, Fashion designer, Film/video maker, Furniture designer, Graphic designer, Illustrator, Interior designer, Jeweller, Museum/gallery Conservator, Printmaker, Product designer, Teacher, Theatre designer.</p>
Further information	Contact Mrs Gregory (egregory@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Biology

Qualification	A Level (AS Level)
Course outline	<p>There are six topics areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Practical skills in Biology2. Foundations in Biology (the cell structure and biological molecules)3. Exchange and Transport4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease5. Communication, homeostasis and energy6. Genetics and ecosystems
Nature of the lessons	<p>Lessons will be a mixture of theory and practical lessons. Independent study is an integral part of the course and is required in order to cover the content of the course.</p> <p>Students are required to keep a clear set of notes that they can revise from and a separate book of practical experiments that may be requested for checking by the exam board.</p> <p>A Level Biology includes a lot of new terminology.</p> <p>We have an option of taking the AS Biology exam in the summer of Year 12.</p>
Assessment	<p>There are 3 exams which are all taken at the end of Year 13:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Biological Processes (2h 15 mins) worth 37% of the course2. Biodiversity (2h, 15 mins) worth 37% of the course3. Unified Biology (1h, 30 mins) worth 26% of the course <p>Practical assessments are completed throughout the course.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	OCR
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Studying Biology can lead to many careers. These include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Research■ Medicine and Healthcare■ Agriculture■ Ecology■ Sport and fitness■ Engineering■ Education
Further information	Contact Mr Jordan (mjordan@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Business

<i>Qualification</i>	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (Equivalent to one A Level)
<i>Course outline</i>	<p>The course is divided into four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Business • Developing a Marketing Campaign • Personal and Business Finance • Recruitment and Selection process
<i>Nature of the lessons</i>	<p>Lessons will be theory based using a combination of presentations, videos and independent research. Case studies involving real businesses provide students with an insight into, and experience of how businesses work. Students are encouraged to follow current business developments in the news and think critically about contemporary business issues. Good GCSE Mathematics and English will assist students with the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the course. Academic writing skills will be developed during the two years and will be essential to ensure success.</p>
<i>Assessment</i>	<p>4 units of which 2 are internally assessed and 2 are external assessments. Internal coursework content (42%). External assessment (58%):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploring Business: Internal assessment - consisting of a research paper exploring two businesses 2. Marketing: External assessment. Part A - two hour preparation period, part B - three hour assessment 3. Personal and Business finance: Two hour external assessment 4. Recruitment and selection: Internal assessment - consisting of research and a practical recruitment task
<i>Exam board / links to further information</i>	Pearson Edexcel
<i>Links with other subjects / careers</i>	<p>This BTEC in Business provides the ideal foundation for those learners who wish to pursue further study of business or work in the business field. It also offers a complete course for those who are interested in achieving greater understanding of what they see in the news and the world around them. It supports progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other vocational or general qualifications.</p>
<i>Further information</i>	Contact Mr Sheldrake (bsheldrake@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Chemistry

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>Content is split into six teaching modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of practical skills in chemistry 2. Foundations in chemistry 3. Periodic table and energy 4. Core organic chemistry 5. Physical chemistry and transition elements 6. Organic chemistry and analysis
Nature of the lessons	<p>Many lessons are practical based, where students will be guided to become more independent as the course goes on. They will need to keep a careful record of their practical lessons as the exam board visits to check that students are able to fulfil their practical criteria. Other lessons will be theory based, and whilst there is a lot of theoretical content, we do try to make these as interactive as possible, using molymod and balloons to make models and computer simulations. Microsoft Sharepoint is extensively used, with lesson content and useful information placed on there. There is also a specific Chemistry website that students can use to aid their independent study.</p>
Assessment	<p>The course is entirely assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: Periodic table, Elements and Physical Chemistry. This assesses modules 1, 2, 3 & 5, and is 2hrs 15min long. Paper 1 counts for 37% of the A level. • Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical techniques. This assesses modules 1, 2, 4 & 6, and is also 2hrs 15min long. Paper 2 counts for 37% of the A level. • Paper 3: Unified Chemistry. This is a synoptic paper which assesses all modules and is 1hr 30 mins long. It counts for 26% of the A level.
Exam board / links to further information	OCR (A)
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Chemistry has obvious links with Biology, Physics and Maths, and whilst it can be useful to take these subjects together, an interest in Chemistry is good enough reason to take it alone. Chemistry can help you to understand the world around you, understand what's in products, and make informed decisions.</p> <p>Lots of university courses may require you to take Chemistry, including Medicine, Veterinary science, Dentistry and many more.</p>
Further information	Contact Mr Scholier (vscholier@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Computer Science	
<i>Qualification</i>	A-Level
<i>Course outline</i>	<p>This A Level has a focus on programming and the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. Students will also learn the fundamental principles of how computer systems work. This will further develop their knowledge from GCSE, as well as enabling students to learn about new topics such as binary arithmetic, programming paradigms and software development lifecycles.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to undertake a full project that covers all aspects of software development from analysis right through to implementation and evaluation.</p>
<i>Nature of the lessons</i>	As the content is so varied, lessons will consist of a range of activities, such as practical programming projects, research-based topics and theory lessons that incorporate questions, articles, activities and problem solving. Course content is delivered in a range of different ways; lecture style, research tasks, independent study and practical investigation.
<i>Assessment</i>	<p>The course is assessed by two written exams at the end of the course and a programming project. Each exam lasts 2 hours and 30 minutes.</p> <p>The first exam covers computer systems and is worth 40%. The second exam covers algorithms and programming and is also worth 40%.</p> <p>The programming project is worth 20%.</p>
<i>Exam board / links to further information</i>	OCR
<i>Links with other subjects / careers</i>	Computer Science works well in combination with Physics and Maths. The course covers a broad range of aspects; these topics and skills figure in career paths such as science, technology, manufacturing, research and even medicine. Computer Science involves everyone, in every walk of life, so career opportunities are endless.
<i>Further information</i>	Contact itrewen@finboroughschool.co.uk

Dance

Qualification	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performance (Dance)
Course outline	<p>This course will have practical elements with many performance opportunities. Parts of the course have elements of written work. This will be through research, logbooks and evaluations all compiled in a portfolio. The course is designed to enhance any dance style, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballet • Contemporary • Tap • Modern • Jazz <p>There is the flexibility to choose different units which allows us to make this more bespoke to those taking the course, allowing us to play to the strengths of our students as well as developing new things. Below are some examples of the course units studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Performance Workshop • Developing Skills and Techniques for Performance • Jazz Dance Technique • Choreography for Live Performance • Contemporary Dance Technique
Nature of the lessons	<p>Students will learn in such a way that they develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technique of a variety of styles of dance • skills required for choreography • the ability to work as a team <p>The course is such that everything counts from the moment you begin lessons, making this suitable for someone who perhaps struggles with the stress of final exams as this is continuous study.</p>
Assessment	As this is a BTEC qualification, the work is assessed throughout the two years. Final grades awarded will be Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. This is a two-year Dance course which is equivalent to one A Level, with the same amount of UCAS points for university or further education. One of the units is assessed externally whilst the other 4 are assessed internally.
Exam board / links to further information	Pearson
Links with other subjects / careers	This practical course is ideal preparation for a course or career in the performing arts. A common mistake is that this just means performing however there are so many things that this could lead to for example dance therapist, dance journalist, community arts teacher to name just a few.
Further information	Contact Miss Scott (lscott@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Digital Media

Qualification	OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A-Level)
Course outline	<p>Digital Media is the study of how media texts are conceptualised, produced and edited to suit a particular brief and appeal to a target audience. It encourages pupils to investigate real-world examples of a range of media texts, including film, television, online media, news, advertising and marketing. They will then apply this knowledge and research to crafting and developing their own media pieces, which could compete in existing markets. The course involves three core modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: Media Products and Audiences • Unit 2: Pre-production and planning • Unit 3: Create a Media Product <p>Additional optional modules will be studied alongside these, such as 'Advertising Media'; however, these will be chosen to suit the students within each class.</p>
Nature of the lessons	<p>Debate and discussion around issues within media production or representation will be the cornerstone of Digital Media lessons. Pupils will be encouraged to engage with a range of industries, where they will critically analyse a wide variety of contemporary and historical media texts.</p> <p>Students will become proficient in understanding and responding to a creative media brief. Research methods used by media companies, such as market research, will be evaluated and applied within students' own pre-production planning. Within production, pupils will be taught a range of design skills on different platforms.</p>
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: 2-hour examination worth 80 marks - a mixture of short, medium and extended response questions • Unit 2: 2-hour examination worth 80 marks - a number of short, medium and extended questions based upon a case study scenario • Unit 3: internally assessed coursework folder consisting of proposals, plans and final product, responding to a creative brief
Exam board / links to further information	OCR
Links with other subjects / careers	Digital Media explores so many elements of industry and production that it could lead to a range of careers across business and creative fields. The course can enable pupils to enter higher education or apprenticeships within subjects such as business, marketing, media and design.
Further information	Contact Mr Colgan (acolgan@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Economics

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>The course is divided into 3 components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Microeconomics is the branch of Economics that pertains to decisions made at the individual level, such as the choices individual consumers and firms make after evaluating resources, costs, and trade-offs.2. Macroeconomics which is the branch of Economics that studies the behaviour and performance of an economy as a whole.3. Themes in Economics which is a synoptic component where students are encouraged to make reasoned and informed judgements using both qualitative and quantitative evidence.
Nature of the lessons	<p>Lessons will be theory based using a combination of presentations, videos and the course textbook. Case studies involving real economic situations provide students with an insight into, and experience of how households, firms and the government make economic decisions. Students are required to take an interest in current affairs and think critically about contemporary economic issues. Good grades in GCSE Mathematics and English will assist students with the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the course. Essay writing skills will be developed during the two years and will be essential to ensure success in this course.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment is by 3 written exams at the end of the course. Each exam is 2 hours in length and include multiple choice and data response questions and a number of pieces of extended writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam 01 – Microeconomics (2hrs)• Exam 02 – Macroeconomics (2hrs)• Exam 03 - Themes in Economics (2hrs)
Exam board / links to further information	<u>OCR</u>
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>This A-Level in Economics provides the ideal foundation for those learners who wish to pursue further study of Economics at university or work in the field of business, finance or accounting. It also offers a complete course for those who are interested in achieving greater understanding of what they see in the news and the world around them. It complements most other courses and is well thought of by universities if applying for unrelated degree courses.</p>
Further information	<p>Contact Mr Sheldrake (bsheldrake@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>

English Literature	
Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>There are three components to this course (AQA Literature A specification):</p> <p>Component 1: Love through the ages (examination)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare Section B: Unseen Poetry Section C: comparison of <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald and pre-1900 Anthology Poems <p>Component 2: Texts in shared contexts: Modern times: Literature from 1945 to the present day (examination)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> by Tennessee Williams Section B: Unseen Prose Extract Section C: comparison of <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood and <i>Feminine Gospels</i> poetry collection by Carol Ann Duffy <p>Component 3: Texts across time (coursework)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils study two texts - with some independence in the choice of texts - and then write an extended investigation of approximately 2500 words
Nature of the lessons	<p>The close reading and animated discussion of exciting literary texts forms the heart of English Literature lessons. Classic texts are brought to life via a seminar approach, using imaginative critical methods and wide background reading. We will perform poems and plays in the classroom and, wherever possible, will travel to see theatre productions.</p> <p>Essay skills are taught discretely to ensure that all pupils feel confident in writing critically and academically. Skills of formal referencing and bibliography writing are taught through the coursework element.</p>
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component 1 (40%) - written examination paper - 3 hours Component 2 (40%) - written examination paper - 2 hours 30 minutes Component 3 (20%) - one coursework essay of approximately 2500 words
Exam board / links to further information	AQA
Links with other subjects / careers	This is a qualification well recognised by top universities. It provides a sound basis for a wide range of careers in law, journalism, publishing, advertising, education and the media.
Further information	Contact Mrs Rande (vrande@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Extended Project Qualification

Qualification	A-Level (half, offering up to 28 UCAS Points)
Course outline	<p>The EPQ is an excellent opportunity to explore an area of interest that is not taught in Level 3 courses (although it can relate to the subject area).</p> <p>An overview of the qualification can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct independent research that culminates in a 'product', such as a 5000-word dissertation, investigation, artefact, or performance • Complete a presentation of their project • Submit a reflective log (the logbook) that documents the process and their learning • The entire project should be completed across a sustained timeframe (90 learning hours) • Work with a supervisor who will support them during the process and deliver taught skills (30 hours) • The course commences in the second half of the Autumn Term (Year 12) with the option to submit in November or the Spring Term of Year 13
Nature of the lessons	<p>This qualification places a significant emphasis on independent learning skills and students are expected to be organised and motivated. The role of the supervisor is to not chase for work or instruct what to do, rather to act as a 'sounding board', provide advice and deliver taught skills.</p> <p>Students will meet with their supervisor once a week, outside of timetabled lessons.</p>
Assessment	<p>This is a non-exam qualification and marks are awarded from their submitted project, logbook and presentation. Awarded marks are subject to both internal and exam board moderation.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	<p>AQA</p>
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>The Extended Project Qualification teaches numerous skills such as time management, organisation, critical reading, academic writing and referencing, many of which will complement other Level 3 Qualifications.</p> <p>Furthermore, Universities recognise the value of this qualification and some offer a reduced UCAS offer on the basis that it is completed to an adequate standard.</p>
Further information	<p>Contact Mr Scholier (vscholier@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>

French

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>The course is split into four themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Les changements dans la société française 2. La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones 3. L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française 4. L'Occupation et la Résistance
Nature of the lessons	<p>Lessons will enhance linguistic skills and promote and develop capacity for critical thinking on the basis of knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken.</p> <p>We will also work on developing control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language.</p>
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (2 hours). Students will be assessed on their understanding of spoken and written French from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as their ability to translate accurately from French into English. ● Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (2 hours 40 minutes). Students must study two discrete French works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. ● Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 minutes). Task 1 (discussion on a Theme), Task 2 (presentation and discussion on student's independent research project).
Exam board / links to further information	Pearson Edexcel
Links with other subjects / careers	A language is a very versatile addition to any combination of subjects to be studied at A Level and at university. Language skills can lead directly into a career in translating, interpreting or teaching and they are also in high demand in areas such as hospitality, law, publishing and business services.
Further information	Contact Miss Battison (jbattison@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Further Mathematics

Qualification	A-Level		
Course outline	<p>This course is for exceptional mathematicians that would like to take Mathematics to a level beyond that of the normal A level. Much of the course begins to teach concepts taught in the first year of university Mathematics courses.</p> <p>Pupils study one compulsory unit, 'Pure Core', which makes up 50% of the course. The other 50% of the course is examined as either three minor papers, or one major and one minor paper.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Major options (33⅓ % each)</p> <p>Mechanics Major Statistics Major</p> </td><td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Minor options 16⅔ % each</p> <p>Mechanics Minor Statistics Minor Modelling with Algorithms Numerical Methods Extra Pure Further Pure with Technology</p> </td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pure, Statistics and Mechanics modules all build upon content taught in normal A level Mathematics lessons. • All students in Year 12 will study 'Pure Core' along with Mechanics Minor and Statistics Minor. In Year 13, students will be able to choose which to major in and the possibility of studying one of the other options will be explored - we aim to make the course bespoke. 	<p>Major options (33⅓ % each)</p> <p>Mechanics Major Statistics Major</p>	<p>Minor options 16⅔ % each</p> <p>Mechanics Minor Statistics Minor Modelling with Algorithms Numerical Methods Extra Pure Further Pure with Technology</p>
<p>Major options (33⅓ % each)</p> <p>Mechanics Major Statistics Major</p>	<p>Minor options 16⅔ % each</p> <p>Mechanics Minor Statistics Minor Modelling with Algorithms Numerical Methods Extra Pure Further Pure with Technology</p>		
Nature of the lessons	<p>A lesson consists typically of exploring a new concept through discussion, use of technology and demonstration, followed by examples and exposure to problem-solving questions, designed to deeply engage the students. Homework is set to provide further practice. Problems chosen are from the supplied textbook, with accompanying online support, and from past examination papers.</p>		
Assessment	<p>This is a fully examined course. The examinations take place at the end of Year 13 and consist of four 90-minute papers, two compulsory and two optional from the choice of the four modules.</p>		
Exam board / links to further information	OCR B (MEI)		
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>It is compulsory that pupils take the regular A Level Mathematics course as well as A level Further Mathematics as it builds upon concepts taught on this course in most cases.</p> <p>Note: Some highly competitive university courses for Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science etc. may require a student to have studied A Level Further Mathematics.</p>		
Further information	<p>Contact Mr Warren (mwarren@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>		

Geography

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	This specification offers an issues-based approach to studying geography, enabling students to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change. The content gives students the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography, the complexity of people and environment questions and issues, and to become critical, reflective and independent learners.
Nature of the lessons	<p>Lessons are mainly theory based and, where the syllabus lends itself, an enquiry-led approach leads to the student becoming the investigators of a geographical issue.</p> <p>Students are expected to spend 4 days completing fieldwork, two of which should be spent on their own coursework.</p>
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: Physical Topics. Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification • Paper 2: Human Topics. Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification • Paper 3: Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% This synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place • Coursework: Independent Investigation, non-examined assessment. 20% of the qualification
Exam board / links to further information	Pearson Edexcel
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Geography, by its very nature and its locational approach, overlaps with many other 'A' Level subjects, but more specifically with Biology, Business Studies, and Economics.</p> <p>The course will provide a suitable foundation for those wishing to study Geography or other related courses in higher education (i.e. Earth Sciences, Transport Management, Estate Management, Travel and Tourism).</p> <p>Equally the course will be useful for those candidates wanting to pursue a geography-based career in business (logistics), various social sciences (social work), or as part of a course of general education.</p>
Further information	Contact Mrs Foss (nfoss@finboroughschool.co.uk)

History

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>There are three elements to the course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A breadth study of the Tudor period 1485-1603 with a focus on political, social, economic, and religious challenges and developments during the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I. 2. A depth study of the USA between 1845-1877 with a focus on the causes and course of the Civil War and the post war efforts to reconstruct the union. 3. A 'Historical Investigation' of 4000 words based upon investigating and researching a historical controversy. The subject of the investigation is entirely the choice of the candidate - it can be anything but must be a theme that covers at least 100 years and cannot overlap with any elements of components 1 and 2 above.
Nature of the lessons	<p>Lessons will feature narrative presentation and reading, together with discussion focussing on the issues of interpretation, assessing motive and making judgements on significance. This will be supported by visual and audio/visual materials. An interest in and curiosity to know more about people and societies and social, political and economic development are important.</p>
Assessment	<p>There are two written exams at the end of Year 13:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Tudors 1485-1603. 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of total. 2. The USA 1845-1877. 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of the total. <p>In addition, there is the 'Historical Investigation' – a 4000-word investigation. 20% of total - non-exam assessed by teacher, moderated by exam board.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/history/specifications/AQA-7041-7042-SP-2015.PDF
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>A-Level history develops skills in critical analysis, judgement and efficient communication. It may qualify students to pursue degree level qualifications in History, Politics, Law, Business and many other humanities or social science-based courses. Possible career paths include teaching, the law, Civil Service, local government, armed forces, heritage, tourism, human resource management, police and the security services.</p>
Further information	<p>Contact Mr Banks (sbanks@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>

Mathematics

<i>Qualification</i>	A-Level
<i>Course outline</i>	<p>The course is studied under three main headings, Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pure Mathematics builds on the concepts and methods in algebra, geometry and trigonometry studied for GCSE and introduces differential and integral calculus as important new disciplines.• Statistics extends GCSE coverage by introducing probability distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.• Mechanics deals with forces in equilibrium and the relationship between forces and motion.
<i>Nature of the lessons</i>	<p>A lesson consists typically of a demonstration and detailed explanation of the solution to a problem, followed by practice at solving problems on this topic. Homework is set to provide further practice. Problems chosen are from a textbook and from past examination papers.</p>
<i>Assessment</i>	<p>This is a fully examined course. The examinations take place at the end of Year 13 and consist of three 2-hour papers, two Pure Mathematics and one Statistics and Mechanics.</p>
<i>Exam board / links to further information</i>	Edexcel
<i>Links with other subjects / careers</i>	<p>Strongly recommended if studying Physics or Computer Science at A level. Essential if future plans involve studying these or Mathematics, Engineering or Economics at university. The Statistics element is useful for some aspects of A level Geography. A level Mathematics is also regarded favourably by many employers in the world of business.</p>
<i>Further information</i>	<p>Contact Mr Warren (mwarren@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>

Music

Qualification	BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate - Music Performance
Course outline	A qualification designed for students with a passion for music and performance. This course offers an in-depth exploration of the music industry, focusing on developing both practical performance skills and an understanding of key music theory concepts. Through a mix of performance workshops, music theory, and industry-focused assignments, students will gain hands-on experience in live music settings, composition, and rehearsal techniques.
Nature of the lessons	Music theory is taught in a highly practical way, learning many 'traditional concepts' through the context of modern music. The performance element involves much practice and refinement of your ability to make music with your instrument(s) of choice, with particular focus on certain musical styles and pieces as you draw nearer to your exam. Learning how to compose music requires research and study of pieces of music in order to build knowledge and skills as you learn to compose your own pieces. Listening and appraising involves study of a broad range of pieces, practising listening but also producing written work to describe your analysis of pieces of music.
Assessment	<p>Unit 1: Music Theory This unit will be completed by the end of Year 12. Assessment will be based on a series of music theory tasks, spaced out over the course of the year to track your progress.</p> <p>Unit 2: Principles of the Music Industry Assessment is divided into two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part One: A three-hour research task, designed to prepare you for the second part of the assessment. • Part Two: A five-hour project where you'll be given a music industry scenario (e.g., designing a music festival). You will be required to create a project plan, budget, rationale, and a presentation. <p>Unit 3: Ensemble Performance At the end of Year 13, you will perform as part of a group ensemble. This performance will assess both your instrumental or vocal abilities and your capacity to lead a group during rehearsals.</p> <p>Unit 4: Solo Performance Throughout the course, you'll have several opportunities to enhance your solo performance skills, and participation in school concerts is highly encouraged. For the final assessment in Year 13, you will deliver a 10-minute solo recital in front of a small audience. This performance will be recorded, internally assessed, and externally moderated by the exam board.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	BTEC
Links with other subjects / careers	BTEC Music Performance is a well-regarded subject, complementing both creative and non-creative courses like Science and Maths. While it supports Arts and Media university courses, the most direct pathway is a Music degree, leading to careers such as professional musician, sound technician, music therapist, teacher, or private tutor. Additionally, a Music degree is valuable for roles in arts administration, radio, theatre, and events management.
Further information	Contact Mr Griffin (jgriffin@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Physical Education

Qualification	A Level
Course outline	At A-Level the course is examined in two parts; Theory (70%) and Practical (30%)
Nature of the lessons	The AQA course is predominantly theoretically based and as such, the majority of teaching focuses on the theoretical aspects documented below.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport: Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology, Section B: Skill acquisition, Section C: Sport and society. It is assessed via written exam - 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level ● Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport: Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics, Section B: Sport psychology, Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport. It is assessed via written exam- 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level ● Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport: Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance. It is assessed via internal assessment, external moderation, 90 marks, 30% of A-level
Exam board / links to further information	AQA
Links with other subjects / careers	This course provides an excellent foundation for candidates in coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport. It is also a suitable qualification for students wishing to study sports-related or other courses in Higher Education.
Further information	Contact Mrs Collins (mcollins@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Photography	
Qualification	A Level
Course outline	<p>Component 1: students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Their practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), and photographers and will be supported by written work of 1000-3000 words.</p> <p>Component 2: students respond to a title, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes produced under exam conditions.</p>
Nature of the lessons	<p>The lessons are mainly practical, with a clear focus on developing students' photographic knowledge and skills during year 12. Critical understanding of their own and the work by others, are key ingredients for each project. This is adapted to meet the skill level and prior learning of each individual student.</p> <p>Initially, the course starts with teacher-led mini-projects, which helps to build, develop and cement students' understanding of Photography and the success criteria. This includes digital and analogue photography, and students are introduced to studio lighting and the darkroom. The smaller class sizes allows each student to explore in depth an idea that is both personal and meaningful for them, facilitated through 1:1 feedback. Group feedback enables students to gain an understanding of how their work is assessed in a supportive and constructive way. Subject specific trips that allow students to produce work on location and to inform ideas through gallery visits take place during the two years.</p>
Assessment	<p>Component 1 = 96 marks = 60%</p> <p>Component 2 = 96 marks = 40%</p> <p>Each component is marked against 4 Assessment Objectives with equal weighting. All Assessment Objectives relate to each other and so each component is marked holistically.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	AQA
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>A Level Photography can lead to a range of art related degrees including: Photography, Graphics, Fine Art, Marketing, Advertising, Filmmaking, and Animation. Students from past years have gone on to study degrees in Fashion Photography and Filmmaking.</p> <p>There are a number of careers Photography can lead onto: Photographer (documentary, weddings, nature, portraiture), Digital/social media marketing, Image retoucher, Art director and more.</p>
Further information	Contact Mr Goffe (jgoffe@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Performing Arts

Qualification	OCR Cambridge Technicals Introductory Diploma in Performing Arts
Course outline	<p>Students Complete 6 units over 2 years which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development in Performing Arts • Community Arts Project • Professional Practice in Performing Arts • Contemporary Theatre • Theatre in Education • + 1 of a choice of <u>72</u> individual units that include but are not limited to...Musical Theatre, Performance Workshop, Drama Improvisation, Directing, Scriptwriting, Storytelling, several dance units, Stage Management, Make Up, several music and singing units and many more!
Nature of the lessons	<p>These courses dovetail beautifully so that Year 12 and Year 13 do the course at the same time. Some units are undertaken separately as year groups, but some can be combined with everyone on the course. Each unit is practically explored by the students who record video, photograph and written evidence which is collated in their Logbooks.</p>
Assessment	<p>Students work in Logbooks and Practical Performances are assessed in each unit at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinction* - 56 UCAS points - A* at A Level equivalent • Distinction - 48 UCAS points - A at A Level equivalent • Merit -32 UCAS points - C at A Level equivalent • Pass- 16 UCAS points - E at A Level equivalent
Exam board / links to further information	OCR
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Students will develop a multitude of skills, including confidence, collaboration, communication, and an understanding of how to amend and refine work in order to make a smooth transition to the next level of study. Possible careers include acting, directing, working in any part of the Performing Arts sector, journalism, law, teaching, event management, public relations and many many more.</p>
Further information	Contact Mr Bridgeman (jbridgeman@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Physics

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>Physics is an intellectually challenging subject which rewards students with a deeper understanding of how the world works. The course is divided into six modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
Nature of the lessons	<p>The A Level Physics course enables students to build on their knowledge of the laws of physics, applying their understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from subatomic particles to the evolution of the universe. Students are given the opportunity to develop all the relevant practical research and communication skills throughout the course.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment in Year 13 is by three written papers. Practical skills are assessed in the written papers and there is also a practical endorsement (pass/fail) which is reported separately.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Modelling Physics (100 marks) - 2 hour 15 minutes2. Exploring Physics (100 marks) 2 hour 15 minutes3. Unifying Physics (70 marks) - 1 hour 30 minutes
Exam board / links to further information	OCR
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Students develop practical and problem-solving skills which are relevant to a vast number of career paths.</p> <p>Physics is a fascinating subject, studied at degree level in its own right, and studied at A-level by those wishing to pursue degrees courses such as Engineering, ICT, Medicine, and Architecture.</p> <p>A-level Physics is a highly valued qualification for any career which requires numeracy and logical thought.</p>
Further information	Contact Mr Rande (rrande@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Psychology

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>The course is split into 11 topic areas across 3 papers:</p> <p>Paper 1 - Introductory topics in psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social influence• Memory• Attachment• Psychopathology <p>Paper 2 - Psychology in Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approaches in Psychology• Biopsychology• Research Methods <p>Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues and debates• Gender• Stress• Aggression
Nature of the lessons	<p>A wide range of topics will be studied through whole class teaching and group discussions, online resources and practical research. An important skill to learn will be how to evaluate conflicting theories about the topics you cover. Discussions about research findings will develop this key skill. Some psychological research will be undertaken to improve knowledge of the methods psychologists use.</p>
Assessment	<p>Assessment is by written exam only - 3 x 2-hour papers. The topics in each paper are represented in the 'Course Outline' above.</p>
Exam board / links to further information	AQA
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>Psychology is the study of human behaviour and the mind, so it's an ideal subject choice if you have an interest in understanding human behaviour from a scientific perspective. An A-Level Psychology course complements a range of other A levels, including the sciences (e.g. Biology) and the social sciences. Psychology will provide you with the skills required of an undergraduate - an inquiring mind and the ability to use scientific research findings to support and challenge various claims about why people behave the way that they do.</p>
Further information	<p>Contact Mr Collins (bcollins@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>

Sports Coaching	
<i>Qualification</i>	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sports Coaching
<i>Course outline</i>	<p>This course is equivalent in size to one A Level. There are 3 units which all are assessed internally</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Careers in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry 2. Health, Wellbeing and Sport 3. Developing Coaching Skills <p>The course is split over two years looking at unit 1 and 2 combined in one year and unit 3 taking place by itself the year after due to the guided learning hours placed on each unit.</p>
<i>Nature of the lessons</i>	A mixture of theory and practical lessons based in preparation for the assignment briefs and collection of evidence.
<i>Assessment</i>	Assessed through the completion of assignments and tasks which are internally assessed. No exams take place in this subject.
<i>Exam board / links to further information</i>	BTEC Nationals Sports Coaching and Development (2019)
<i>Links with other subjects / careers</i>	<p>Continue studying sport or a related area at university, or seek employment in the sport and active leisure industry. Possible career options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gym instructor ● Assistant Coach ● Teacher ● Referee ● Strength and conditioning coach ● Personal trainer
<i>Further information</i>	Contact Mr Turner (mturner@finboroughschool.co.uk)

Spanish

Qualification	A-Level
Course outline	<p>A motivating two-year course of study that will enable students to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language, the culture of Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theme 1: La evolución de la sociedad española• Theme 2: La cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante• Theme 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española• Theme 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia
Nature of the lessons	<p>Lessons are taught in Spanish and they are focused on the development of all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Grammar and the mastering of linguistic features are key elements in lessons as is the inclusion of authentic written and spoken sources, responding through writing to literature and film, and independent research.</p>
Assessment	<p>Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (2 hours)</p> <p>Students will be assessed on their understanding of spoken and written Spanish from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as their ability to translate accurately from Spanish into English.</p> <p>Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (2 hours 40 minutes)</p> <p>Students must study two discrete Spanish works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.</p> <p>Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task 1 (discussion on a Theme)• Task 2 (presentation and discussion on student's independent research project)
Exam board / links to further information	Pearson Edexcel
Links with other subjects / careers	<p>A language is a very versatile addition to any combination of subjects to be studied at A Level or at university. Language skills can lead directly into a career in translating, interpreting or teaching and are also in high demand in areas such as hospitality, law, publishing and business services.</p>
Further information	<p>Contact Senora Romero (sromero@finboroughschool.co.uk)</p>