



Six 21

LONDON'S PIONEERING SIXTH FORM

Studying at Six 21

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What is the ethos of Six 21 and what are the expectations we have of our sixth formers?

The values of Six 21 are integrity (honesty and strength of character), humanity (acting with kindness and empathy) and striving (dedication and effort). We expect all of our students to demonstrate these values and to be able to articulate how they are developing these character traits over time.

Studying in the Sixth Form is different from study at secondary school in a number of ways:

- **You will be studying in greater depth.** You will be working on each A-level subject for around 12 hours per week (teaching + supervised study + homework).
- **Your subjects will be more intellectually demanding.** A-levels are challenging qualifications that require you to build a broad understanding of the subject and deep expertise in particular areas.
- **You will be expected to work more independently and take more initiative than at GCSE.** Remember that Sixth Formers who make a poor start to Year 12 often do so as a result of underestimating the level of work required for success at A-level and we would not want you to fall into the same trap. This may sound daunting, but bear in mind that for the first time you will be studying only subjects you have chosen (and so the expectation is that you will be motivated and interested to take your studies to the next level).
- **You will also have more freedom (and responsibility)** to organise your time and when you do your 'out of class' work.
- **Your academic progress will be closely monitored** by your teachers and tutors and there will be regular assessments to help you know how well you are doing and to keep your studies on track.

In order to ensure the best possible chance of academic success for every student we offer:

- World Class teaching described as "outstanding" by Ofsted
- Subject specialists with expertise and experience of getting students into top universities
- Engaging and challenging lessons
- Our Top Universities Programme tailored to all those aiming for Russell Group universities (the best universities in the country)
- Partnerships with top universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Kings College London
- Smaller class sizes and personalised support for every student
- One-to-one academic tutorials similar to those given by the best universities
- Masterclasses from the best academics in the field
- Opportunities to do research in university laboratories and faculties
- A small sixth form where each student experiences a bespoke study, support and extra-curricular programme



Making subject choices

Six 21 offers a wide range of fantastic courses. Many of these subjects are new at A-level, and even those you have studied at GCSE may differ considerably from what you have previously experienced. Faced with important choices, it's crucial that you carefully consider your options and seek advice from trusted sources.

You should start by looking at the course summaries provided in this pack. We have provided you with information on a variety of subjects, not just the ones you have said you are interested in, so that you can fully explore the options available to you. Reading through this information is a good first step to see what combination of courses might suit you.

The range of courses

The courses available for study at Six 21 are listed below. All lead to full A-level qualifications, with the exception of Creative Digital Media Production and Business and Enterprise which are both Level 3 BTEC qualifications. The Extended Project Qualification is worth half an A-level, and more than an AS-level (because it is possible to achieve an A* grade).

The subjects available are as follows:

Art and Design	Geography
Biology	Government and Politics
Business and Enterprise	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computing	Music
Creative Digital Media	Music Technology
Drama and Theatre	Philosophy
Economics	Physical Education
English Language	Photography
English Literature	Physics
Environmental Science	Psychology
Extended Project Qualification	Sociology
Further Mathematics	Spanish

How many subjects/courses?

At Six 21, most students will study three A-levels because this is the basis upon which the vast majority of university courses make their offer. By studying three A-levels students are able to concentrate more time per subject and usually achieve higher grades in those subjects. However, through conversations with you about your plans for university and beyond, we will discuss whether taking three or four A-levels is best for you. This is particularly relevant for those studying maths and further maths who may wish to take a fourth A-level to ensure that they maintain breadth in their learning, or those studying for a BTEC (who in most cases will be studying an additional two A-levels).

How to choose?

In choosing your subjects, you should be guided principally by your academic strengths and interests. Therefore, the two key criteria in selecting subjects are:

1. How interested and enthused am I by a subject? Does this subject get me excited and motivated to learn more?
2. Will I be good at this subject? Does the kind of thinking play to my aptitudes and academic strengths?

Studying subjects that reflect your strengths, interests and aspirations is most likely to bring success. Choosing a subject simply because you perceive it as 'useful' is unlikely to bring success or satisfaction. The general rule of thumb is that you will be studying each of your subjects for 12 hours per week for two years, so it is crucial that you have selected that subject with careful thought and due consideration of your interests and ambitions.

Choosing subjects with university in mind

Strengths, interests and aspirations should also guide your thinking about Higher Education. Universities look for students who not only have good grades, but grades in the right subjects for the course they want to apply for. If you already know what you want to study at university, you should think about choosing subjects which give you the best possible preparation for your chosen degree course. Each course at each university will have their own entry requirements, so if you have a specific course in mind, you should research what is required by your preferred universities (and our sixth form team will be able to help and advise you in this area).

There is some debate about whether any subjects are 'preferred' by top universities. The truth is that universities are happy with any combination of subjects that meet the entry requirements for the **specific course** you are applying for. Our sixth form team will support and guide you through the process of choosing subjects that are right for you, making sure that you study the required courses if you have a specific degree or occupation in mind, or keeping your options open if you have not made this decision at this time.

In thinking about choices it is important to note that:

- A student aiming to study a scientific subject at university may find his or her choice of A-level subjects more restricted. For example, for the study of medicine, an A-level in chemistry is essential combined with at least two out of biology, physics and mathematics. For engineering, mathematics and physics are required A-level subjects. These may be combined with further maths, chemistry or design.
- By contrast, entry to many jobs including the traditional professions of teaching, the Civil Service, business and industry, rarely require any particular A-level subjects.

Applying to university

Although university might seem a long time away, a survey earlier this year found that over 40% of students wished they had considered university requirements more carefully when choosing their A-levels. Consequently, we have included some general guidance regarding university applications below.

Admission to degree courses is mainly governed by performance at A-level, although most students apply to university before taking their A-level exams. In this case, universities make conditional offers based on predicted grades which will need to be achieved at the end of Year 13.

Competition for places, especially in the more popular subjects, such as English, medicine, history and law, and at all top universities is very strong.

Typical subject combinations for specific degrees

Some degree courses will require certain subjects to have been studied at A-level (a selection of these is given on the next page); others will accept any combination. For some subjects, it is important to have done relevant work experience: these include medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy and engineering. Work experience can also be useful for law. For these reasons it is essential to plan ahead. The most important requirement for all courses is good results in GCSEs and A-levels.

Students at Six 21 may wish to consider studying a set of subjects that span across traditional groupings of 'sciences', 'arts' or 'humanities' as this can be used to show that you are a rounded person who can think in a variety of ways. For example, those aiming for a career in law should be studying primarily humanities subjects, but might consider either an arts subject such as drama (that provides evidence of the ability to communicate with confidence) or a science (that could be used to demonstrate strong logical thinking skills) for one of their A-level options. These kinds of thoughtful subject combinations are well-received by universities as long as basic entry requirements are met for their courses. The sixth form team are available to support you in making your final subject choices throughout the application process.

The table on the next page gives some general indications of any essential or desirable A-levels to study if you are intending to progress to a specific degree area. These are based on research across a range of UK universities. However, it is also highly advisable that students check the 'entry requirements' pages for a range of universities they are considering, as there will be some variation from university to university.

Degree area	Essential	Desirable
Accountancy, Finance and Management	Maths is essential at some universities	
Architecture	Art, portfolio of artwork usually required	Art, Mathematics, D&T, Physics. A broad range across arts/sciences is helpful.
Art and Design	Art or D&T	Most entrants complete 1 Year Foundation course following A-levels.
Biochemistry	Chemistry plus Maths or one other science (Biology may be preferred.)	Maths, Physics, Further Maths, Computing
Biological Sciences	Biology plus one other science (usually Chemistry)	Maths, Physics, Computing
Business Studies	none	Maths
Chemistry	Chemistry and in some cases Maths plus one other science (usually Biology)	
Chemical Engineering	Chemistry and Maths. Sometimes Physics as well	Physics, Biology, Further Maths, Computing
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology sometimes with Maths or Physics	Maths, Physics, Further Maths
Drama	English Literature, sometimes with drama	
Economics	Maths	Economics, Computing, History, Further Maths
Engineering	Maths, usually Physics	Further Maths, D&T, Computing
English	English Literature	History, modern foreign language, Philosophy and Theology
Geography	Geography	Physics, Chemistry and Biology
Geology	Two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Geography, Geology, Computing
History	History	English Literature, Government and Politics
Law	none	English Literature, History, Maths, Politics and Government
Materials Science	Two from Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Biology	D&T, Further Maths, Computing
Mathematics	Mathematics, sometimes Further Maths	Further Maths, Physics, Computing
Medicine	Chemistry and one or two of Biology, Physics or Maths	Arts subject or social science

Modern Languages	Languages	English Literature, History, Politics and Government
Music	Music	Some courses ask you to be Grade VIII in an instrument
Nursing and Midwifery	Biology or another science	Chemistry, Maths, Physics
Pharmacy	Chemistry and one from Biology, Maths and Physics	
Philosophy	none	English, History, Philosophy, Government and Politics
Physics	Maths, Physics	
Physiotherapy	Biology	Chemistry, Maths, Physics
Politics	none	
Psychology		Government and Politics, History, English Literature
Sociology	none	Sociology, Geography, History
Sports Science	Often one of P.E., Biology, Chemistry, Maths, or Physics	
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and one or two of Biology, Physics or Maths	Arts subject or social science

Our team of experienced teachers will support and guide you to make good choices every step of the way: from selecting A-levels, to exploring possible career paths, pursuing areas of interest and making applications to the best universities and courses. As a sixth form we are absolutely dedicated to making the most of our connections, networks and partnerships to ensure that our students have access to:

- High quality and up-to-date advice and information about universities and the world of work, delivered by our university partners and industry experts
- Personalised support for applications to top universities and specialist courses
- Inspirational role models and mentors from sectors that interest them
- Learning opportunities that are situated in ‘the world outside the school gates’, such as extended work placements, university visits and projects that focus on solving ‘real world problems’

Taken as a whole, these aspects of Six 21 mean that you will leave us as a person who knows themselves well, knows where they are going and knows how to get there - a recipe for success in the 21st century.