

# Sixth Form Prospectus 2019



Living to Learn | Learning to Live

## Dear Year 11 Student...

Choosing what to do next after Year 11 is an important decision. You need to consider all possibilities very carefully. One excellent option is to continue your education in the Sixth Form at North Halifax Grammar School (NHGS).

### At North Halifax Grammar School:

- In 2018, 99.5% of the 417 A-level entries achieved A\*-E grades, with over 60% at A\*-B. Our average pass rates over the last three years have been 99.3% (A\*-E grades) and 63% achieving A\*-B grades. These scores are well above national averages and we consistently achieve results that put us in the top 25% of Sixth Forms for value added
- Our results are consistently excellent in a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, English language and literature, the sciences and social sciences, languages and creative subjects
- Our purpose-built Sixth Form Learning Centre has hi-spec teaching rooms, as well as social, catering and study facilities
- Our subject staff are all fully qualified teachers with a proven track record of delivering excellent results at GCSE and A-level
- All our personal tutors are teachers who provide caring and effective support which keeps students on track
- We encourage students to become confident, independent learners, who use their time and resources effectively so that they are ready for university or employment
- We deliver an extensive range of enrichment opportunities in such areas as music, drama, sport and business and enterprise. These promote personal development and build fantastic personal statements and CVs

- We provide excellent careers advice to help students plan for the next stage. In 2018, 78% of students went on to study at university (40% entries into Russell Group Universities) and increased uptake into Higher Level Apprenticeships (e.g. PWC, Cisco, Morrisons, BT)

- A £4m building refurbishment programme has been completed recently and a new £3m sports hall was opened in 2017

Our school motto is Living to Learn, Learning to Live, and this captures the school's belief that there is far more to success in life than just passing exams. We provide a wide range of courses, opportunities, activities and experiences to enable students to become motivated, independent and fulfilled lifelong learners.

If you are intending to take A-levels to progress to university or enter employment, then NHGS could be the best place for you. Find out more at our Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 13th November 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm when you can look around and meet us in person. If you are unable to attend, please call us to arrange a time to visit.

Yours sincerely



Gill Quigley  
Director of Sixth Form



Andrew Fisher  
Principal



A photograph of an earwig, magnified 50 times. The picture was taken at NHGS using the school's scanning electron microscope.

At NHGS we provide a vibrant and friendly environment in which students are able to learn, develop as individuals and enjoy themselves. There are currently around 360 students in the Sixth Form, engaged in a wide range of courses and activities. All students joining the Sixth Form take part in an induction day in the first week, helping everyone to settle quickly into Sixth Form life.

Our entry requirements are as follows:

- A minimum of 6 GCSE subjects at Grade 5 or above including English and Mathematics;
- A Grade 5 or above in any subject to be studied at A-level (where the student has previously studied the subject);
- Equivalent vocational qualifications may be accepted;
- All full course, Level 2 qualifications, including Applied GCSEs, of whatever size will count as one GCSE;
- To study Biology, Physics or Chemistry, students need to have achieved a Grade 6 or above in the respective GCSEs or a minimum of two Grade 6s in Science and Additional Science at GCSE;
- To study Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry students must have Grade 6 or above in Mathematics at GCSE;
- To study French or Spanish students must have a Grade 6 or above in their chosen language;
- Students wanting to study 4 A level courses should achieve at least an average GCSE Grade of 7.

### Sixth Form Programme of Study

Following the recent national post 16 curriculum reforms, all A-levels now follow linear assessment, with all formal examinations taking place at the end of year 13. In line with this, and requirements for university entry, the majority of year 12 students will study 3 A-level subjects. Students with an average point score equating to a Grade 7 or better at GCSE will have the opportunity to study 4 A-level subjects if they feel this is appropriate. In addition, it is recommended that any student studying Further Mathematics A-level should study 4 A-levels.

Internal examinations will be held towards the end of Year 12. Full advice and guidance on student progress will be provided throughout the course to ensure students are in the best position to move into further education, training and/or employment following Sixth Form studies.

Students will also have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which will be introduced to students later in year 12 once independent study skills have been developed. Alongside their A-levels, all students will complete the PSCHEE programme which helps to prepare them for Higher Education or employment, including life skills appropriate to Sixth Form students

Being the largest school sixth form in Calderdale, the vast majority of our groups are of a viable size that we do not need to outsource teaching. There are a few occasions when students will study through the Calderdale Sixth Consortium, for example A-level Music, where numbers across the authority are low, or if we do not offer a specific subject. A potential development for next year is the opportunity for students to combine A-level subjects with vocational study in conjunction with Calderdale College. Please speak to a member of staff if you think you might want to study a course not currently offered.

### Pastoral Care

*"Moving to North Halifax for Sixth Form was without a doubt the best decision I could have made! The top quality teaching and support combined with the wide range of enrichment activities creates an unforgettable Sixth Form experience!"*

We understand that young people face numerous challenges in today's society and we work with all students to support them through Sixth Form life. Students are allocated to a tutor group on entering the Sixth Form and stay with this group through the two years.

We have an experienced team of tutors who work closely with the Year Group Leaders and Sixth Form Leader to ensure students' time at NHGS is both happy and successful.



## Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

This additional qualification allows well-motivated students to carry out their own research project in an area of their choice.

The EPQ is a relatively new qualification which was introduced nationally to give students an opportunity to pursue their own study interests beyond the constraints of their A-level subjects. Submitting a project for the EPQ will help to develop research and writing skills and will give participating students an advantage when it comes to undergraduate study at university.

Such research is aimed at developing skills which can be transferred throughout many subjects. It also demonstrates to universities and employers students' ability to think independently and their real passion for their chosen subjects.

### What does an EPQ entail?

- Selecting a topic of interest and drafting a proposal for it.
- Planning, researching and carrying out the project.
- Providing evidence of all stages of the project.
- Delivering a presentation to a specified audience – this can be in any format such as a play, a film, a piece of art or another original idea.

The EPQ really is an independent project which the student has control over, both in terms of their choice of research topic, and the form in which they present their findings.

*'The Cambridge Colleges welcome the introduction of the Extended Project ... primarily because of the benefit we recognise in the skills it will develop in learners and the consequent easing of the transition from study in secondary to higher education'*

The school's Sixth Form Learning Centre is situated in the centre of the school's grounds. The first floor comprises five teaching rooms for specialist Sixth Form subjects. The ground floor includes a social area, the Finches Diner and the Sixth Form Office.

An independent learning area has been created adjoining the Sixth Form Centre, solely for Sixth Form students, which is equipped with work stations and study booths.

The provision of dedicated teaching areas, an independent learning area and the Learning Resources Centre (all of which provide ICT access) facilitates the range of learning experiences required at post-16 level. Students also have access to all the other learning resources in the LRC and the school's Careers Library. The social facilities in The Sixth Form Learning Centre promote informal social interaction in a 21st century environment.



The Sixth Form Office

### Why do we have a Sixth Form Enrichment Programme?

It is no longer enough simply to do well in academic subjects in order to secure a place at university or a good job. Both university admissions tutors and employers now increasingly look for more.

They want to see rounded individuals who have explored their potential. They want to see Sixth Formers gathering experience in different areas in order to develop a broad range of skills and attributes. Universities are also interested in whether a student has the ability to effectively manage a wide range of activities alongside their academic work, thus revealing both their organisational skills and personal qualities. It is precisely for these reasons that we are committed to a full enrichment programme here at North Halifax Grammar School.

Students' involvement in North Halifax Grammar School's enrichment programme also ensures that our students continue to be active members of the school community, often gaining valuable leadership experience and preparing them for the world outside our gates. While students are expected to participate in at least one extracurricular activity, most of our students will be involved with many more enrichment opportunities.



The Christmas Concert: photograph by Marc Hamilton Year 12



The Sixth Form Common Room



Sixth Form Induction Day

### Core Enrichment

Wednesday afternoons are devoted to the Core Enrichment Programme. All Year 12 students choose from a range of activities including mentoring in local primary schools, sports, cooking, a touch typing course, other online courses, volunteering and relevant work experience.

### Optional Enrichment

Whilst all students are expected to participate in the core enrichment, most of our students will be involved in many more enrichment opportunities. Some of the current optional enrichment activities on offer include;

*First Bow* - Write and produce plays with a cast of year 7 & 8 students.

*First Aid* - Complete a certificated First Aid course with external tutors.

*Young Enterprise Group* - Year 12 students form companies running a range of activities and developing general business skills.

*Debating* - Develop thinking and communication skills, either for fun or in competitions.

*Amnesty International* - A Human Rights support group. Pupils organise a variety of events designed to raise money and awareness.

*Sign Language* - A certified course with an external provider.

*Chess Club* - Play friendly games or take part in a chess ladder.

*MedSoc* - For students who intend to pursue a career in Medicine.

*TEFL* - Teaching English as a Foreign Language (qualification).

*Duke of Edinburgh* - Opportunities up to Gold D of E.

*Sporting Activities* - football, netball, hockey and athletics.

*Musical Activities* - for example, rock choir, swing band, orchestra, concert band, mixed-voice choir and a variety of chamber ensembles. Or play in your own rock band in the Christmas concert.

*Rotary Interact Charity Committee* - Interact is Rotary International's Service Club for young people. Each year, students coordinate fundraising for a variety of charities.

*Philosophy club* - for students to get together and discuss a variety of issues.

*Bar Mock Trial Competition* - for prospective Law students.

*National Citizen Service (NCS)* - links with NCS who enables students to take part in social action projects.

Former students now employed by blue-chip companies have told us how important our enrichment programme has been to their success. At interview they could give concrete examples of being successful leaders and of having positive impact on others. Many of these leadership opportunities are not available in colleges which have no 11-16 students to be led!





Max Frost Y13



Chloe Bean Y12

*"Art doesn't feel like a lesson because of the enjoyment we all get out of it."*

*"You rapidly pick up new skill sets and techniques. You also display pieces of work you never would've known you could achieve and support is always there."*

During the Art course students initially work on a number of expressive and creative projects. These are designed to develop their independent research skills and introduce them to a breadth of techniques such as photography, drawing, painting, printing, textiles, ceramics, digital art and mixed media.

Initial work leads to an extended unit of self directed study. Our Year 13 students this year produced some exciting work based on Islamic pattern, the human form, landscapes and expressive portraiture.

Students enjoy the range of extra-curricular activities we offer such as artist workshops, the still life course and trips to major art galleries and museums. This year we went on a visit to London to gather research.

**Students enhanced their work with gallery visits and life drawing sessions.**

In Year 12, students focus on fundamental cell biology and biochemistry. Basic physiology and body systems are covered whereby students have the opportunity to dissect animal organs and consider comparative anatomy.

Students in Y13 consider the essential metabolic processes of photosynthesis and respiration. The ever changing and developing topic of genetics is covered as well as our role within ecosystems. The control and regulation of body processes is covered, looking at homeostasis and the nervous system.



*"The course is very enjoyable with a wide range of teaching styles to suit everyone."*

*"Very interesting, a good foundation for many university courses."*

*"An awesome subject, really interesting and great teaching..... loved it."*

**A-level 2018**

**52 students**

**23% A\* - A**

**56% A\* - B**



*"It taught me new skills which I can use in later life when running my own business."*

*"Fun lessons where we learnt a lot as well."*

*"I feel that the way it is taught is on a level with me and encourages me to speak up."*

In Year 12, students study the basics of business management: marketing, managing people, production and finance. Students then apply their knowledge to real-life business situations.

In Year 13, students develop further through the study of international business and business decision making. In 2018, the 20 students performed extremely well, gaining 95% grades A\*-C. Many of the students enjoyed the course so much that they went on to study the subject further at university.

Students also develop a wide range of skills including data analysis and effective communication, preparing them for further study or the world of work.

**A-level 2018  
95% A\* - C**

**Many  
students go  
on to study  
Business.**

Chemistry is the study of substances: what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things. It links with all the other sciences and underpins many branches of technology from the silicon chip to brewing.

Chemistry is taught in modern, dedicated labs which are equipped with everything needed to deliver this practical science.

The OCR specification contains practical activities embedded within each unit, to reflect the nature of Chemistry. The Chemistry Olympiad allows high performing students to stretch and challenge themselves.



*"The variety in the subject interests me and it complements my other subjects, Physics and Biology."*

*"Thanks for a great course, Chemistry was my favourite subject."*

*"I have enjoyed the creative application of knowledge."*

*"Really friendly teacher and a great vibe in class."*

**A-level 2018**

**36 students**

**81% A\* - C**

**100% A\* - E**



*"The Computing course helps you to think logically to solve any problem you may encounter."*

*"Computing is a really useful and interesting subject. I love facing the challenge programming offers."*

Computer Science enhances pupils' lives as well as their life skills. It prepares young people for a world that doesn't yet exist, involving technologies that have not yet been invented and that present technical and ethical challenges of which we are not yet aware. It aspires primarily to teach disciplines with long-term value, rather than skills with short-term usefulness.

Computer Science is an exciting and engaging subject that encourages students to be creative when solving problems. It builds confidence to experiment with the purpose of finding more efficient and effective ways to improve students' education, work and life.

Experience tells us that students who excel on this programming-rich course tend to be highly confident and competent mathematicians, achieving Level 7 or above at GCSE.

**Students made apps, distributing them through the Google Play Store.**

Students are involved initially in a variety of short design-and-make activities which enhance their knowledge of product design and enable them to build a strong skills base. They independently research areas as diverse as architecture and inclusive design and experiment with prototypes whilst using CAD skills and 3D printing techniques to model potential outcomes.

In Year 13, students embark on an extended project of their choosing (NEA Task), which will occupy the first two terms, and is a substantial design project worth 50% of their final A-level. This strengthens their practical skills and allows them to design and make a more complex product.

Opportunities will be available such as visits to Jaguar Land Rover and an industrial recycling centre.

**All students pick their own area of interest for the extended major project.**



*"The structure of the course allows you to work on a project that is completely your choice."*

*"All the staff encourage you to be creative yet realistic."*

*"A real hands-on subject - fun, yet challenging."*



*"The atmosphere in the class was good. The work related to everything."*

*"Lessons were always in good spirit and I learnt a great deal."*

*"Enjoyed the lessons and can apply Economics to many things."*

Our students study both how businesses behave (what markets to sell in, what price to charge, and how to dominate a market), and the workings of the UK economy (unemployment, economic growth / recession, inflation, poverty, the environment, the EU and Euro).

The lessons are planned to encourage students to develop their own opinions of key economic and political issues: Should the UK have voted to leave the EU? How should university education be funded? As a result students complete the course with a sound grasp of the economic world in which we live, and a competence in arguing the cases for and against contentious issues.

Students also develop a wide range of skills including data analysis and effective communication, preparing them for further study or the world of work.

**Many enjoyed Economics so much at NHGS that they went on to study it at university.**



Electronics is involved in every aspect of the modern world and its importance is both undeniable and universal. It is one of the fastest growing industries of the twenty-first century. Electronics and electronic engineering offer an immense variety of further study and career opportunities.

The aim of this course is to attract students to study Electronics by providing a rewarding and stimulating examination course. By its very nature, Electronics is a practical subject and is taught in a practical manner.

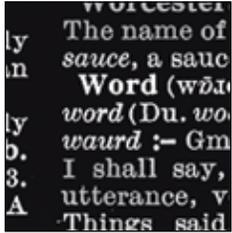
*"Fun-filled lessons, lots of creativity."*

*"A good break from purely theory based subjects."*

*"Very interesting course, lots of practical work too. You get to discover the laws and equations yourself, which really helps learning the key concepts."*

*"I really enjoy the practical work as it gives me a real sense of achievement when a circuit works."*

**A highlight of the year was the highly impressive robot competition.**



*"Delving into English  
Language has opened my  
eyes to a whole new way of  
looking at things."*

*"I never imagined so much  
of a text message could  
be analysed for an A-level  
subject."*

*"It's fascinating seeing  
how English can change  
not just over centuries but  
sometimes over a matter of  
months."*

How do babies manage to acquire a language? Do women really speak a different language to men? Or is it just a dialect? And what is a dialect anyway and why do Geordies sound so different to Scousers? Where did the idea of standard English come from?

In A-level English Language we tackle all these questions and many more, getting to grips with the machinery of English in order to deepen our understanding of it and to help us all make better use of its power.

Like words? Like grammar? Love A-level English Language.

**A-level 2018**

**100% A\* - C**

**80% A\* - B**

At NHGS you are guaranteed experienced, enthusiastic teachers with highly developed literary skills, keen to share a wide range of great texts from *The Catcher In The Rye* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* to Duffy's *Feminine Gospels* and dystopian fiction. We don't tell you what the books are about, we ask you.

Covering authors such as Shakespeare, Wilde and Rossetti, Orwell, Atwood and Duffy, this course challenges you to think and write with greater clarity than you ever have before.

If you love reading and you love thinking for yourself, you will love this course.

**A-level 2018**

**100% A\* - D**

**96% A\* - C**

**38% A\* - A**



*"The teachers truly care  
about us AND the grades."*

*"Some of the texts have  
been surprisingly and  
enjoyably edgy!"*

*"I never realised how  
comedy and tragedy could  
be so similar."*



Are you good at grammar? Do you think about words? Studying French at NHGS, you'll get taught by experienced and enthusiastic teachers who love languages.

You'll get to know more about the history, politics and cultures of French speaking societies and get plenty of opportunities to develop your writing and speaking.

Come and join in our "extended learning sessions", taking an in-depth look at film, grammar and literature or become a French mentor to a younger student. Come with us on film trips and get involved in national and international competitions.

With Brexit looming, the country needs a new generation of linguists. Will you be one of them?



*"The teaching was always helpful and useful."*

*"My French speaking has come on so much."*

*"I've really enjoyed A-level French and I'm so glad I picked it."*

**A-level 2018**

**100% A\* - C**

**80% A\* - B**

The department has developed a course to build students' confidence by deepening their understanding of familiar topics. However, you should be prepared to be challenged by some of the new skills and understandings which will develop you into a fully rounded A-level student.

A highlight for students is the compulsory field trip which will enable you to embark on your own individual project in Year 13. Your coursework marks and the formal summer exam results will be collated to form your final mark. You will enjoy this dynamic and contemporary course which links well to many careers.



*"The staff are motivated and keen to make the work accessible for everyone."*

*"Researching a project of my own choice in year 13 was really interesting and really pushed up my grade."*

*"The field trip in Snowdonia was great, it showed you how to use all the skills that you learned on the course."*

**A-level 2018**

**20 students**

**75% A\* - B**

**100% A\* - D**



*"Having always studied modern history I was a bit apprehensive about the medieval topics. However, I soon found that I really enjoyed them."*

*"The A-Level units really gave me a chance to develop my independent work and establish my own viewpoint on different issues."*

The course includes the study of both medieval and modern history.

NHGS's unusual combination allows students to learn about an exciting period of history that they have not studied in depth before (Crusades, Norman Conquest). The course also adopts a more media and social history focus on a previously studied era (Britain 1884-2004). Lessons will involve students analysing sources (medieval manuscripts to songs from the 'Swinging Sixties'), putting forward their views in discussion and gaining feedback on exam technique.

In their coursework students become a 'real historian'; independently following their own lines of enquiry whilst still being supported. Students will analyse, explain and evaluate the interpretations of three historians.

**A rare opportunity to study events very close to, and very far from, the present day.**

Students will study Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics.(9MA0).

The main areas in Pure Mathematics are algebra, functions, exponentials and logarithms, vectors, numerical methods, trigonometry, co-ordinate geometry, sequences and series, differentiation, integration and direct methods of proof. Applied Mathematics covers Statistics and Mechanics and will usually be taught by a separate teacher.

There is a qualified mathematics teacher available every lunchtime for a drop in help session. Curriculum learning is augmented by opportunities to mentor KS3 and KS4 pupils.

**A-level 2018**  
**45 students,**  
**59% of whom**  
**gained an**  
**A\* - B grade.**



*"I love how challenging Mathematics is and if the challenge ever gets too big there is always a teacher on hand to help."*

*"Probably the most enjoyable of all my A-level choices. Teaching was great and lessons went at a good pace."*

*"I wasn't planning on doing Mathematics at A-level but now I'm doing it I really enjoy Mathematics. The teachers are always really happy to give you extra help."*



*"I feel like I was prepared well for the exams and was given the option of extra help at lunchtimes."*

*"I really enjoyed studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics in year 12 and am greatly looking forward to studying both next year."*

*"I find Further Mathematics exciting because the content is very interesting."*

Students will study Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics (9FM0). NHGS follows Route E. There is the option to sit AS Further Mathematics at the end of year 12.

Students taking Further Mathematics find it provides a challenge and a chance to explore more sophisticated concepts, resulting in a rewarding and stimulating experience. NHGS students are encouraged to participate in residential courses, problem solving sessions, UKMT individual and team competitions, and visits to local universities.

In Year 13 we facilitate preparation for STEP papers for Oxbridge or Warwick candidates by co-ordinating attendance at specialist sessions at Leeds University.

**In 2018, 60% of Further Maths candidates achieved grades A\* - B.**

Media Studies is the academic examination of all areas of the media. Media encourages students to analyse media texts in an analytical and critical manner employing various approaches such as Marxism, feminism and pluralism.

The power of the media cannot be underestimated and through this course students will gain an insight into the organisations that shape our lives. Media Studies offers the opportunity for YOU to shape the media. Through dedicated teaching you will become equipped with the skills to create your own media products, such as short films or music videos.

If you enjoy consuming the media, analysis and creative freedom...Media Studies may be the subject for you.

**Students did work experience at a prestigious production company in Halifax.**



*"I took Media as a fourth subject and now I'm studying it at University."*

*"I really enjoy the combination of theory and practical work."*

*"I'll never look at films in the same way again."*



*"It's a great course. You get to take everything you enjoy about music and expand upon all the interesting bits. You develop loads of useful skills that you would never find anywhere else."*

Music is a subject which will allow you to build on the aural, analytical, composing and performing skills that you will have developed through studying GCSE Music.

Music at A Level gives all students access to study an eclectic mix of music from the vocal music of J S Bach to the jazz music of Courtney Pine.

Studying A-level music at NHGS is so much more than what happens in the classroom. All students are encouraged to become involved in the vast extra-curricular provision that the department has to offer.

**A vast range of enrichment opportunities is available for Music students at NHGS.**

Our students will study three theory topic areas in the AQA specification: physiological factors affecting performance, psychological factors affecting performance and socio-cultural and contemporary sporting issues.

These will collectively account for 70% of the students' overall grade through two written exam papers at the end of their two-year course.

Students' performances will also be assessed in one practical activity and in a written or verbal analysis of performance which together will account for 30% of their grade.

We have a brand new Sports Hall, complete with fitness suite, dance studio and classrooms for examination classes.

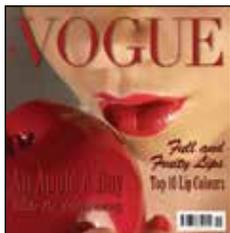
**All of our students attend the National AQA Revision Conference.**



*'A fun interactive subject with great teachers. Thanks.'*

*"I've really enjoyed A-level P.E. I definitely recommend it if you are a keen sports person."*

*"An interesting mixture of theory and practical exams."*



Rebecca Macdonald Y12



Rachael Archer Y13

*"I like working individually instead of being told to do everything, the way the lessons are laid back and it's all up to us."*

*"I like having weekly deadlines and knowing exactly what to hand in."*

*"There is more freedom in Photography than in any other subject."*

Students focus on the language of photography in the first term, learning critical frameworks and practical techniques. New writing frameworks and analogue photography are introduced to complement the digital work done. The galleries in Bradford are used for some of the work.

In Year 13 we visit galleries, usually in London, to carry out critical work in support of students' Personal Investigation projects. In recent years projects have been completed on documentary, feminist and aesthetic themes, resulting in some huge and powerful prints.

Our students regularly have success in national competitions and exhibitions.

Photography A-level is accepted by the majority of university courses as part of their entrance criteria.

**Six year averages:**

**76% A\* - B**

**100% A\* - E**

Physics is the study of the natural world. It deals with the fundamental particles of which the universe is made, and the interactions between those particles, the objects composed of them (nuclei, atoms, molecules, etc) and energy. It is an essential subject for undergraduate engineering study.

Key concepts taught include: kinematics, Newtonian and quantum theory, nuclear and particle physics, wave theory and electrical circuits. We also looked at life-saving medical physics and out of this world astrophysics!

We strongly believe in putting physics into perspective through practical experiments in our lessons and enrichment activities. Our students are regularly very successful (national winners 2014) in the UK Youth Rocketry Challenge and there is the opportunity to enter the British Physics Olympiad.

**A-level 2018**

**36% A\* - A**

**90% A\* - C**

**100% A\* - E**



*"Explaining the complex theories with simple, fun practical tasks."*

*"I enjoyed the Astrophysics unit."*

*"We went on trips that helped with the course and the teachers were very helpful when I was stuck."*



*"Psychology is an amazing and interesting subject and the things you learn can apply to everyday life and your future career as well."*

*"Studying Psychology helps you to understand other people better, as well as yourself."*

*"You study very interesting topics in Psychology and you can apply your knowledge to what's going on around you all the time."*

How does your memory work? What significance do different brain structures have on behaviour? How do psychological disorders such as OCD, depression and phobias develop? A-level Psychology can help answer these questions.

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour which will give you an insight into the multifaceted nature of human beings. Students find the course content relevant to their lives as it explains people's behaviour and what can be done to change this.

Psychology helps develop many transferable skills that complement other subjects and it prepares you for a wide variety of degree courses and careers.

**In 2018, 73%  
achieved A\*-B.**

**Many went  
on to study  
Psychology at  
university.**

The past few years have been some of the most exciting times to study politics and have demonstrated the importance of understanding what is happening in the world around us. The Politics course at NHGS gives students a broad understanding of issues, including; the formation of the outcome of the 2017 general election, the causes of Brexit, the rise of Donald Trump and the changing identity and ideas of political parties in the UK.

Over two years students will look at topics in UK politics that will build their knowledge of; political parties, pressure groups, elections, the judiciary, parliament and the constitution. In addition, students will gain an understanding of the ideas that inform political action through studying the ideologies of socialism, liberalism and conservatism. The course will also allow students to compare the UK and US systems of government.

**A-level 2018**

**90% A\* - C**

**100% A\* - E**



*"The issues we studied in Politics were much more interesting than I anticipated. The subject gave me a much better understanding of what was happening during the EU referendum."*

*"The visit to Westminster was great – a chance to meet MPs, members of the House of Lords and see Parliament in action."*



*"RE is a fascinating part of my school week."*

*"Interesting topics that lead to lively class discussions."*

*"Great feedback from essays."*

*"Great for those who wish to challenge themselves and the ideas around them."*

This course is equally weighted between Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism and is assessed by a 2-hour examination in each of the three topics.

The Philosophy of Religion paper includes Plato and Aristotle, before looking at the concept of God, while classic arguments for and against God's existence and religious language are also studied. The Religious Ethics paper consists of the study of a variety of ethical theories which are then applied to issues such as euthanasia and sexual ethics.

The third paper includes the life of the Buddha, establishment of Buddhist society, key teachings, meditation, Buddhism and gender and modern developments in Buddhist thought.

**A-level 2018**

**100% of students achieved A\* - B .**

Sociology is a social science and involves studying (as objectively as possible) society and the people within it. Unlike Psychology which focuses more on individual behaviour and psychopathology, Sociology explores the impact of political legislation on societal change. There will be an exploration of historical policies such as the Equal Pay Act, as well as more recent and proposed policies such as education reform, immigration policies and welfare reform.

We explore such policies in light of the impact they have on the structure and functions of society in such areas as education, family life and crime and deviance.

**In 2018, Sociology had 88% A\* - C and 100% A\* - E grades.**



*"Sociology is very interesting and extremely informative. It is also made better by being taught by someone so enthusiastic and passionate about the subject."*

*"Sociology helps you understand the bigger picture."*

*"Sociology is about bringing YOU into a school subject. Your opinions, experiences and thoughts all matter."*



*"I really enjoyed learning the history of Spain around the Civil War and in the context of Pan's Labyrinth."*

*"Topics were particularly thought-provoking especially due to their relevance to today's society".*

*"All taught in good detail by very experienced and enthusiastic teachers. They are so knowledgeable!"*

*"Lessons were extremely effective and engaging".*

*"Feel very prepared for the exam. I know the book and film inside out."*

In Spanish we deliver inspirational, innovative and communicative lessons with high standards of teaching. Results have been consistently outstanding.

Revision and extension classes with very experienced teachers are available during lunchtime workshops. These focus on grammar, essay writing and critical analysis.

We also provide opportunities to become a Spanish mentor to younger students and to participate in national and international competitions and events.

Students also have the opportunity to get involved in an independent research project of their own choice and they take an in-depth look into a film and a literary work.

**A-level 2018**

**A\* - B 89%**

**A\* - C 100%**



## 2018 Student Profiles

## Eva Chapman

**University of Nottingham**  
Psychology



### A Level (2018)

English Language (A\*); Psychology (A); Sociology (A); EPQ (The techniques used by coaches and the effect on swimmers performance) (B)

### Activities

Sign Language, Prefect, Competitive Swimming National Level, Volunteer at PRISM youth project for disadvantaged children

---

"After a change in direction at the end of year 12, the school was extremely supportive in my decision to restart my A Levels and choose two new subjects. Whilst the year was difficult, the support I received from the sixth form staff was amazing. The memories and friends I have made whilst being at North Halifax are ones that will stay with me forever, which is why I encourage everyone to stay on or join the sixth form. My time at sixth form may not have been the most normal, but without the support I received I would not have achieved the results I did, and most importantly I would not be starting at my dream university this September."

## Hadar Khan

**Brunel University London**  
Economics and Accounting



### A Level (2018)

Business Studies (A); Economics (A); Media Studies (B)

### Activities

Prefect, Volunteer at Primary School, Football, Reception for Sports Hall Facilities

---

"North Halifax was a really welcoming place to me from the point I joined. At school I was always encouraged to do my best and the teaching was exceptional. NHGS helped me achieve grades that exceeded my own personal expectations and I am very proud to be part of this community!"

## Kit Orange

**University of Leeds**  
Music Performance




---

### A Level (2018)

Biology (A); French (B); Music (A)

### Activities

Music ABRSM - Piano grade 8 distinction, Singing grade 8 distinction, Trombone grade 5 pass, Choir, Big Band, Orchestra, Concert Band, Brass Group, Wind Band, Prefect

---

"NHGS has provided me with a nurturing environment in which to learn, and the brilliant teaching encouraged me to work hard to get the results I wanted so I could get onto my dream course. I've had fantastic opportunities both inside and outside the classroom to gain experience in my subjects, particularly in music which I've chosen to study. Choosing subjects I enjoyed was the best choice, as it meant I was more motivated to work for them, especially once I received my university offer. Set your sights on where you want to be in the next few years, and work for it."

## Damilola Shofoluwe

**University of Nottingham**  
Aerospace Engineering




---

### A Level (2018)

Biology (A); Mathematics (A); Physics (A)

### Activities

UKRoC Competition, Primary School Mentor, Headstart Summer School, Nuffield work placement

---

"I chose NHGS for Sixth Form because everyone was so friendly and welcoming and made me feel like this was an environment that I could do well in. During my time at Sixth Form all my teachers and sixth form leaders were really helpful and I appreciated this when it came to the application process for university and gaining work experience placements. Top tips would be to try and do extra-curricular things relating to the course you want to go into in the future. I would recommend Nuffield summer placements for STEM students - it gives you something interesting to write about on your personal statement."

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2018

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2018

Accountancy	University of Nottingham	Building Surveying	Northumbria University
Accounting and Finance	Sheffield Hallam University	Building Surveying	Nottingham Trent University
Aerospace Engineering	University of Nottingham	Business Management	Liverpool John Moores University
Ancient History	University of Manchester	Business Management	University of Liverpool
Apprenticeship	CISCO	Business Management	American University of London
Apprenticeship	Morrison's Bradford	Chemical Engineering	Newcastle University
Apprenticeship	Victoria Theatre	Chemistry and Mathematics	University of Leeds
Apprenticeship	PWC - Accountancy	Chemistry with a Year in Industry	University of Leeds
Apprenticeship	CRS	Chinese (Modern)	University of Leeds
Apprenticeship	BT - Huddersfield	Civil Engineering	Queens University Belfast
Architectural Studies	University of Strathclyde	Clinical Sciences/Medicine	University of Bradford
Architecture (RIBA Part 1)	University of Huddersfield	Clinical Technology	University of Bradford
Art Foundation	Leeds College of Art	Computer Science	University of Huddersfield
Biological Sciences	University of Liverpool	Computer Security and Forensics	Sheffield Hallam University
Biology	Edge Hill University	Computing	Manchester Metropolitan University
Biology	Newcastle University	Criminology	University of Liverpool
Biomedical Science	University of Plymouth	Dental Surgery	University of Plymouth
Biomedical Science	University of Bradford	Dental Surgery / Oral Science	University of Leeds

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2018

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2018

Dentistry	Newcastle University	French and Spanish	Manchester Metropolitan University
Diagnostic Radiography	University of Leeds	Genetics	University of York
Economics	Manchester Metropolitan University	Geography (Foundation Entry)	University of Central Lancashire
Economics	Lancaster University	International Business Management	University of Sheffield
Economics (Foundation Year)	Manchester Metropolitan University	Journalism	University of Huddersfield
Economics (SocSci)	University of Glasgow	Law	University of Huddersfield
Economics and Accounting	Brunel University of London	Marketing with a Year in Industry	University of Liverpool
Economics with Financial Services	University of Huddersfield	Mathematics	University of Lincoln
Employment	Escape Room, Halifax	Mathematics	Durham University
English	De Montfort University	Mathematics & Chemistry	University of Leeds
English and Philosophy	University of Leeds	Mathematics & Meteorology (MMath)	University of Reading
English Language	University of Huddersfield	Mechanical Engineering	Harper Adams University
English Literature	Newcastle University	Medicine	Applying for Medicine Abroad
English Literature & Creative Writing	University of Huddersfield	Medicine	Applying for Medicine Abroad
Environmental Science	University of York	Medicine	University of Liverpool
Employment - Pilot's Licence	Leeds Bradford Airport	Medicine and Surgery	Newcastle University
Film Studies	University of Salford	Modern and Medieval Languages	University of Cambridge
Football Business and Marketing	University of Football - Business	Modern Languages	University of Sheffield

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2018

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2018

Modern Languages and Cultures	Durham University	Psychology	Sheffield Hallam University
Multimedia Journalism	Manchester Metropolitan University	Psychology	University of Huddersfield
Multimedia Journalism	Manchester Metropolitan University	Psychology	Swansea University
Music (Performance)	University of Leeds	Psychology	University of Liverpool
Nursing (Adult)	Sheffield Hallam University	Psychology / Clinical	University of Lincoln
Nursing (Child)	University of Leeds	Psychology with Criminology	De Montfort University
Nursing Studies (Mental Health)	Northumbria University	Public Health	University of Bradford
Nursing (Mental Health)	De Montfort University	Religion and Education	University of Huddersfield
Optometry	University of Bradford	Science and Engineering	Queen Mary University of London
Orthoptics	University of Sheffield	Science Extended	University of Huddersfield
Paramedic Science	Sheffield Hallam University	Social Sciences	University of Bradford
Photography	Falmouth University	Social Sciences	Northumbria University
Photography (environmental)	Falmouth University	Spanish & International Relations	Nottingham Trent University
Physics	University of Warwick	Sport and Exercise Science	Manchester Metropolitan University
Physics	University of Nottingham	Sport and Exercise Sciences	University of Leeds
Politics and International Relations	Lancaster University	Sports Therapy	University of Central Lancashire
Psychology	Durham University	Technical Theatre	University of Salford
Psychology	University of Chester	Veterinary Medicine	University of Glasgow
Psychology	University of Nottingham		



A £4m building refurbishment programme has been completed recently and a new £3m sports hall was opened in September 2017.





North Halifax Grammar School  
Living to Learn • Learning to Live

Moorbottom Road  
Illingworth • Halifax • HX2 9SU

[www.nhgs.co.uk](http://www.nhgs.co.uk)  
[mail@nhgs.co.uk](mailto:mail@nhgs.co.uk)  
01422 244625

Principal • Mr A Fisher  
Sixth Form Leader • Mrs G Quigley



Science

