



JANE  
AUSTEN  
COLLEGE  
SIXTH FORM

Prospectus





# Welcome to your sixth form

The warmest welcome to Jane Austen College sixth form. I believe passionately that all students have the potential to fully succeed in life, and that sixth form should give you the opportunity to do just that.

We have established ourselves in recent years as one of Norfolk's top sixth forms, with our students consistently achieving some of the county's leading results.

We provide an excellent, academic education for all our students but we also do a lot more. All of our students receive excellent support, enabling progress to university and into successful careers. The UK has some of the world's top universities and our students achieve the results that help get them there.

Progressing to university is increasingly about more than just grades. Our pastoral and academic mentoring programme gives you the wider experiences you need to develop excellent employability skills and will prepare you for university and beyond.

Our students benefit from the best teaching and academic support, but also have the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of societies and electives.

The college is a vibrant, diverse, and social community. From joining the college debating society or choir, to getting involved with sports clubs or drama productions, you will be able to develop your passions at Jane Austen College.

Our specialism in English, humanities, and the arts means that our students benefit from the best expertise and facilities. Through our unique partnership with Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form – the UK's first specialist science and mathematics sixth form – we are also able to offer our students a range of science and maths subjects. Both Sir Isaac and our sixth form courses are rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

Our facilities, in our iconic and extensively redeveloped city centre buildings, are tailored to these specialisms.

Our students find every college day stimulating and engaging and develop a real love of learning.

I look forward to meeting you and working together with you to help make your future a successful and exciting one.

**David Thomas**  
Principal

*Our students achieved*  
**88% A\*-C overall**  
*at A Level*  
*Summer 2018*





# Sixth form life

Our city centre location means that life at Jane Austen College is busy, vibrant, and diverse.

We have the best facilities to support sixth form study. Our library and study hub provide great environments for learning, and our breakout areas are lively social spaces.

Our teachers are highly skilled specialists. If you opt for English, humanities, languages, or arts subjects then your courses will be held at Jane Austen College. For science and maths courses we partner with the nearby Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form. This gives our students a unique, flexible opportunity and with both sixth forms benefiting from a city centre location, it is easy to move between the two campuses.

We expect our students to fully commit to their studies and make no apologies for that. But we also support you fully, providing personalised advice and guidance about careers and higher education. Our smaller size allows us to offer more individual support, and all students have regular contact with their sixth form tutor. Our 1:1 academic mentoring programme ensures you have the support you need to achieve your personal goals.

Many students find the gap between sixth form study and university a large one and feel unprepared for the transition. We help you develop all-important independent study and life skills that make that transition smoother.

## Electives and opportunities

We offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs and activities through our electives programme. Electives are staff-led extracurricular clubs. These will strengthen your personal statement and are often linked to the area of study you wish to complete at university. Sixth form students have the opportunity to support with an elective run for the lower school, such as dance, politics, or music. Alternatively, students can set up their own elective for their peers based on their area of interest.

You will also have the opportunity to volunteer your time to support others, for example through reading with Year 7s, peer mentoring, or visiting the residents at local care homes.

We encourage and support all of our student to take part in work experience.





# Preparing you for later life

## Employability

We enjoy warm and growing links with local employers, organisations, and higher education institutions, all aimed at providing you with valuable work-related opportunities and work experience. We also offer regular independent careers advice and guidance for all our students. Our external speaker programme is an opportunity for you to attend seminars led by local professionals and experts. These sessions provide an insight into potential careers and are also an opportunity for you to question professionals in the sectors that interest you. Our guest lecture series, on a range of changing topics, offers an additional opportunity for you to widen your knowledge and experience of the world around you.

## University

We run a series of seminars and events aimed at students who want to apply to the UK's top universities. This enables students and parents to meet staff members and alumni from high-ranking universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. In these seminars you will focus on writing personal statements, the skills required for university interviews, and university life, all matched with expert advice and feedback. Our Oxbridge society is also a chance for like-minded individuals to get together to discuss their aspirations, share ideas on applications, and support each other through the application process.

***“Excellent support,  
enabling progress to  
university or into  
successful careers”***





# Choosing the right subjects

It's really important to make informed decisions when you choose subjects for A Level study. Choosing certain subjects can give you an advantage when it comes to university applications and being successful in your chosen career.

The UK's top universities often prefer students to have studied particular subjects at A Level. These are known as facilitating subjects.

We recommend that you choose at least two subjects from the list if you want to give yourself the best chance of securing a place at a good university.

It's also a good idea to research courses you might want to apply for at university and check their course requirements.

The facilitating subjects are:

- English literature
- geography
- history
- languages (modern or classical)
- maths and further mathematics
- biology
- chemistry
- physics

You also need to choose subjects which you are going to enjoy studying and subjects which you know you will do well in – after all, you'll be studying them for the next two years.

We're always happy to talk through subject choices with students who need further guidance and advice.

Course details are given on the following pages. Subjects with headings in green are taught by our sister institution, Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form.





# Our courses

## Art, craft and design

The main purpose of this course is to develop your ability to appreciate and respond to the visual world in a creative way. You will further develop and master skills learnt at GCSE and encounter new media, techniques, and methods of working. You will build on your knowledge of materials and practices, develop further your interpretative and analytical powers, and explore your imaginative and creative potential. You will also develop a specialist vocabulary and increase your knowledge and understanding of art, craft, and design. Underpinning all work will be the use of sketchbooks and the exploration of ideas through drawing and other research media such as photography. You will study the following disciplines in individual projects at the beginning of the A Level course – fine art, photography, graphic communications, textiles, and 3D design, before specialising in at least one as an extended project. The broad nature of this course makes it well suited to students who have studied any of these creative disciplines at GCSE. (AQA)

## Biology

All living organisms have similarities in cellular structure, biochemistry and function; an understanding of these similarities is fundamental to the study of biology. You will enjoy a flexible approach to the study of this diverse subject. You will use microscopy to study the cell structure of a

variety of organisms. Biologically important molecules such as carbohydrates, proteins, water, and nucleic acids are studied with respect to their structure and function. You will also study the structure and function of gas exchange and transport systems in a range of animals and in terrestrial plants. Heredity and the mechanisms of evolution and speciation are also covered. Some of the practical techniques used to manipulate DNA such as sequencing and amplification are applied and their therapeutic medical use considered. Through this, you will develop a balanced understanding of the issues surrounding biotechnology. Assessment at the end of Year 13 takes the form of three written papers, one of which is a synoptic paper covering content from both years. (OCR)

## Chemistry

Chemistry is a practical subject and the development of practical skills is fundamental to understanding the nature of chemistry. You will be given many opportunities to develop the expertise needed to collect and analyse empirical data. Important skills are developed, including writing chemical formulae, constructing equations, and calculating chemical quantities using the concept of amount of substance. The role of acids, bases, and salts in chemistry is investigated, and the central role of electrons in ionic and covalent bonding is studied. You will explore periodic trends to extend their understanding of structure and bonding. Group properties

are studied using Group 2 and the halogens allowing students to further develop their understanding of redox reactions. The importance of organic chemistry in everyday life is explored, placing chemistry in context. Assessment at the end of Year 13 takes the form of three written papers, one of which is a synoptic paper covering content from both years. (OCR)

## Computer science

During this course you will be encouraged to develop a broad range of knowledge, understanding, and skills in computing, as a basis for progression into further learning and/or employment.

A significant part of computer science involves programming to an advanced level, although no previous programming experience is required. You will develop:

- An understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Maths skills related to Boolean algebra, comparison and complexity of algorithms, and number representations and bases
- The ability to articulate the individual

(moral), social (ethical), legal, and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

Assessment is via one computer-based practical exam, one written exam, and an extensive computing project. (AQA)

## Drama and theatre

Our course engages students through encouraging creativity, focusing on practical work which reflects 21st century theatre practice, and developing skills that will support progression to further study of drama and a wide range of other subjects. The course focuses on the practical exploration of performance texts, including exploring them in light of the work of theatre practitioners.

The course is assessed across three examined components. In component one, you will devise your own performance; in component two, give a performance of a text; and in component three, be assessed on your knowledge of theatre makers in practice. A GCSE in drama is not essential for this course. (Edexcel)

## English language

You will study the ways in which language varies, depending on the contexts of production and reception, and explore and critically evaluate how language choices can create personal identities, as well as how language varies over time. In addition, you will study the development of both speech and writing in children from birth to eight years old. The course focuses on the spoken language acquisition of children and how children learn to write. You will undertake your own language investigation, focusing on specific research topics, and also look at the craft of language and produce your own original writing

piece. The course is assessed through both coursework and examination. (Edexcel)

## English literature

Over the course of the two years, you will study a variety of different texts (poetry, prose and drama), connected through either a theme (love through the ages) or the time in which they were written (either WW1 and its aftermath, or modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day). As part of the course, you will study a Shakespeare play, a core literary heritage novel, a pre-1900 text, and a contemporary (post-2000) text. The majority of assessment is through examination at the end of the A Level course. In the second year you will have the opportunity to complete an independent critical study into texts across time using text chosen by you and driven by your own individual interests, though it must include some material written pre-1900. (AQA)

## French

This course will not only help you to develop confident, effective communication skills in this important world language, but also give you a thorough understanding of the culture, and an opportunity to study the geography, history, and literature of countries and communities where French is spoken. It will develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for language learning and will encourage you to consider your study of the language in a broader context. By the end of the first year, you will be confident in discussing in French your thoughts and opinions on changing trends in the media, popular culture, relationships, and issues of health and wellbeing. By the end of the second year, you will be able to justify your stance in a debate on subject

matters as diverse and controversial as the future of nuclear energy and renewables, the causes and effects of immigration, and questions regarding fundamental global concerns such as the fair distribution of wealth and poverty. (AQA)

## Further mathematics

Further mathematics is a second full A Level in mathematics, useful for students considering mathematics at university, but also for students going on to study subjects that have a very high mathematical content, such as physics, engineering, or economics. In further maths, students study additional pure mathematics topics, such as complex numbers, matrices, and proof; there is a strong emphasis on problem solving. The topics studied in further maths are at least as stretching as those in A Level maths; students are expected to build a deeper understanding so they can make links between all the content studied, and apply their knowledge effectively when solving difficult problems. Our further maths students study A Level further maths as a full timetabled subject alongside their other subjects. For students considering studying maths at Oxbridge we provide support to develop the deeper problem-solving skills required for the MAT and STEP entrance exams. (OCR-A)

## Geography

This course will help you develop knowledge about locations, places, processes, and environments, at all geographical scales from local to global. You will investigate physical processes such as water and carbon cycles, coastal systems, and landscapes. You will explore human processes like global systems and governance, population, and environments.





You will also conduct a geographical investigation where you collect data in the field and conduct your own research based on a question or issue related to any part of the A Level. (AQA)

## German

This course will give you an opportunity to develop effective and confident communication skills as well as foster your interest in and enthusiasm for language learning, giving you a solid foundation for further study of this highly valued world language. By the end of the course you will be confident discussing in German your thoughts and opinions on current trends and issues in German-speaking societies, such as multiculturalism and crime and punishment. Political and artistic culture forms a large part of the course and you will be able to debate topics such as teenagers and the right to vote and the politics of immigration as well as studying a text and a film in depth. (AQA)

## Government and politics

This course focuses on how power is distributed through government and within society. Students have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of the UK and US political systems, whilst thinking critically and analytically about the ideologies and actions of modern politicians and political parties. In the first year of study, we will examine the way the government in the UK works, as well as an in-depth examination of the four ideologies that have shaped UK politics the most – Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism, and Nationalism. In the final year, we examine the political structures of the US – the reasons the government is so ineffective at passing laws, the role of money in politics, the way the media



shapes public opinion and more – whilst comparing this to the UK. (Edexcel)

## Graphic communications

The course is centred on the following design areas: branding/logo, illustration, multimedia, packaging, and typography. In the first half of the course we will develop your skills and capabilities to use graphical techniques through a series of teacher-led short projects and culminating in your own extended design project. You will study the work of leading graphic designers and will be encouraged to use a range of media for 2D, 3D, hand, and digital work. You will develop your abilities to use both freehand and CAD software to communicate your ideas. In the second half of the course you will build upon the techniques learnt and will have the freedom to explore your own project work. This course is highly regarded by the universities as an excellent foundation for degree study in any design field. However, it is particularly useful to those considering advertising, animation, art foundation, graphics, illustration, multimedia, and digital design. (AQA)

## History

You will study three exciting topics during your A Level: industrialisation and the people: Britain, c1783-1885; the Cold War, 1945-1991; and the historical investigation. All three units will enrich your understanding and challenge your thinking around issues and concepts such as communism, democracy, abolition of slavery, impact of the French Revolution and Irish rebellion. You will explore international relations during an era of tension between communist and capitalist powers which

threatened nuclear Armageddon. The course is assessed by both examination and a piece of written investigative coursework of 3000-3500 words. (AQA)

## History of art

This course is for all those who have an interest in our culture and that of other eras and peoples, exploring the art and architecture of the world across different themes and periods. All students will learn the vocabulary and skills of formal analysis across painting, sculpture, and architecture. This visual literacy is combined with analysis and debate to offer valuable learning and key transferable skills for today's visual world. You will develop the ability to explore and respond to art works and to understand how and why they were created. The principal aim of the course is to allow the students to develop their own critical judgement and become well versed in the history of both art (including architecture) and artists. Art history is offered by a wide range of excellent universities. Many students also find that it offers a highly relevant insight into humanity, philosophy, and the making of art which creates a versatile and positive outlook and basis for our rapidly changing world. (AQA)

## Law

This course will enable you to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. Studying law develops your problem-solving skills through the application of legal rules, together with an understanding of legal method and reasoning. These skills provide excellent preparation for those who wish to progress to degree-level study or pursue a wide range of careers. We will investigate fascinating topics

such as: law making and the legal system; criminal law (offences against the person) and contract; and criminal law (offences against property). The course is assessed by written examination. (AQA)

## Mathematics

Mathematics continues to be the most popular A Level subject choice because it is accessible, enjoyable, and challenging, with applications and use across many other subjects. The new A Level maths curriculum introduced in 2017 has a strong emphasis on deeper understanding and problem solving, which prepares students well for work or study beyond A Level. As well as being essential for studying any mathematics-based subject at degree level, A Level mathematics is required by many universities for students studying subjects such as chemistry, biology, or economics. Our A Level maths students study a broad curriculum, including richer topics such as calculus from first principles, alongside the traditional ones, such as quadratics, trigonometry, and sequences. Applied mathematics forms roughly one third of the course, and comprises mechanics and statistics. As they learn each topic students are encouraged to apply these new skills to difficult problems to help build vital problem-solving skills and make links to other topics. (OCR-A)

## Music

This course builds on students' understanding of the key areas explored in GCSE music: listening and appraising, composition, and performance. Component 1: Performance (assessed in school). Students will prepare for a public performance of three pieces, lasting for

a duration of 10-12 minutes. This will be performed as a recital to an examiner from the exam board. The required standard of performance is grade 6 minimum. Component 2: Composition (completed in school and externally assessed). Students will learn how to create and develop musical ideas with technical control and expressive understanding. Students will create two compositions; one will be in response to an externally set brief and the other a free composition. Component 3: Appraising (examination and externally assessed). Students will develop an understanding of the organisation of sounds (form, harmony, instrumentation and timbre, melody, rhythm and metre, texture and tonality), the context of music (composer, performer, audience, occasion, time and place) and musical styles and genres. The unit includes in-depth study of set works from the Western Classical tradition, popular music, musical theatre and jazz/blues. The exam will assess students through listening questions and essay questions. (Eduqas)

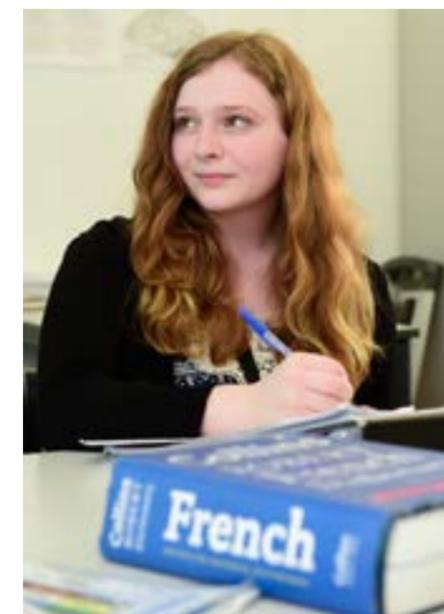
## Music technology

This course gives students an understanding of use and application of production techniques through the following components: Component 1: Recording; assessing skills in capturing, editing and mixing sounds required to produce an audio recording. Students will develop the skills to capture and manipulate sounds in corrective and creative ways in order to communicate effectively. Component 2: Technology-based composition; covering editing and structuring sounds to develop a technology-based composition. Students

will develop the skills to create and manipulate sounds in imaginative and creative ways in order to communicate effectively with listeners. Component 3: Listening and analysing, developing listening and analysing skills through the study of a range of music production techniques used in unfamiliar commercial recordings. The production stages of capture and creating sounds, editing and arranging sounds and mixing will be covered in the examination. Component 4: Producing and analysing; assessing knowledge of the techniques and principles of music technology through a series of written and practical tasks. The production stages of sound creation, audio editing and mixing will be covered. (Edexcel)

## Philosophy

Philosophy is an activity: it is a way of thinking about certain sorts of question. Its most distinctive feature is its use of logical argument. Philosophers typically deal in arguments: they either invent them, criticise other people's, or do both. Why study philosophy? It deals with fundamental questions about meaning, morality, and existence. What is the nature of knowledge? What can we really know about the world around us? How should we make ethical decisions? Is the concept of God coherent? Can the existence of God be proved? What is the mind? Another reason for studying philosophy is that you will learn to think clearly about a wide range of issues. Using philosophical methods such as precise analysis of argument, identifying the soundness of ideas and critical evaluation in essay-writing is clearly beneficial to students of a variety of other A Level subjects as well as preparing students for undergraduate





study and future careers. Students will learn about key concepts in philosophy through the study of four themes: epistemology; philosophy of religion; ethics; and philosophy of mind. Through textual extracts they will explore and learn to assess philosophical arguments and counter-arguments. Students will be expected to engage with, analyse, and evaluate original philosophical texts. *(Edexcel)*

### Physics

During this course you will build on your knowledge of the laws of physics, applying your understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe. Practical skills are embedded throughout all the content of the course, ensuring you develop a range of practical skills in preparation for the written examinations. You will be introduced to the important conventions and ideas that permeate the fabric of physics. Understanding of physical quantities, S.I. units, scalars and vectors help our physicists to effectively communicate their ideas and to model the motion of objects using mathematics. You will also learn about the important connection between force and energy, appreciate how forces cause deformation, and understand the importance of Newton's laws of motion. You will apply the important principle of conservation of energy to a range of situations. Electrons, electric current, electrical circuits, wave properties, electromagnetic waves and, of course, quantum physics are studied together with the fields of astrophysics and cosmology. Assessment at the end of Year 13 takes the form of three written papers, one of which is a synoptic paper covering content from both years. *(OCR)*



### Psychology

In this course you will develop a knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies and their ethical implications. You will evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness. Explanations for conformity and the impact of social influence are considered alongside the role of social influence processes in social change. You will consider the works and theories of psychologists such as Schaffer, Bowlby, Pavlov, and Skinner. Psychopathology is explored including deviation from social norms; failure to function adequately; and the behavioural, emotional, and cognitive characteristics of phobias, depression, and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Psychology is placed in context through the evaluation of case studies and research methods; scientific processes and techniques of data handling and analysis are critiqued for their application, strengths and limitations. Assessment at the end of Year 13 takes the form of three written papers which include shorter written answers, longer essay questions, and data handling. *(AQA)*

### Sociology

Ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? How the way you see yourself determines the way people identify you? Whether men or women are more likely to commit a crime? This course will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all. You will explore topics such as families and households; education; the media; and crime and deviance. You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to

support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking. Sociology is relevant to the society you live in so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers. The course is assessed by written examination. *(AQA)*

### Spanish

A Level Spanish will not only help you to develop confident and effective communication skills, but also a detailed understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. By the end of the course you will be confident discussing in Spanish your thoughts and opinions on current trends and issues in Hispanic societies, such as multiculturalism and crime and punishment. Political and artistic culture forms a large part of the course and you will be able to debate topics such as teenagers and the right to vote and the politics of immigration as well as studying a text and a film in depth. The course is assessed by written examination. *(AQA)*

# Start your future with us

## Entrance requirements

Our core entry requirements are six or more GCSEs at grade 5+, including 5+ in English and mathematics. You will also need to achieve 5+ in the subjects you wish to study at A Level. If you are new to a subject we will consider achievement in the GCSE that most closely corresponds. For further maths you should hold grade 8+ at GCSE maths. Interviews are an important part of our application process, giving the opportunity to explore your strengths and interests and provide advice and guidance. We will apply some flexibility where you can demonstrate aptitude and enthusiasm for your chosen subjects, yet may not fully match our base entry requirements.

## Applying for a place

Choosing a sixth form is such a very important decision. We want to make that decision as easy as possible and support you every step of the way. It's easy to apply for a place at Jane Austen College through the website [www.helpyouchoose.org](http://www.helpyouchoose.org). Attending our open events and taster events will help you to make an informed choice; full details of when these take place can be found on our website. If you have any questions at all about the college, or the application process, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help. To find out more, you can visit our website at [janeaustencollege.org](http://janeaustencollege.org) or email us at [janeausten@inspirationtrust.org](mailto:janeausten@inspirationtrust.org) with any questions.

## Student safety

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our young people. To achieve this we ensure the continuous development and improvement of robust safeguarding processes and procedures that promote a culture of safeguarding within our staff and volunteers. We expect all our staff to undertake a full enhanced DBS check.





Jane Austen College is part of the Inspiration Trust, a not-for-profit charity whose mission is to transform the lives of young people in Norfolk and Suffolk through education.

The Trust believes that all children deserve the chance to achieve academic excellence.

We also offer the widest range of sporting and cultural opportunities to our young people, and encourage them to play an active role in their school and the wider community.

Our family of schools work together to ensure that all pupils have access to the very best teaching expertise, exceptional facilities, and extracurricular activities that excite and broaden their minds.



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