

Open 

Course Guide

2026/27



Learning without limits



Our Open6 concept blends on-campus classes with remote learning, giving you the freedom to study wherever you thrive.

Choose from a range of subjects without being held back by traditional schedules or travel. Open6 is all about empowering you to take control of your learning journey and unlock your potential.

Please note, courses are subject to minimum enrolment numbers.

Photo by Toby Springle
Grove School, Market Drayton

Why Open6?

1. High-quality, digital learning

Expert educators create a learning environment where every student is challenged, inspired and empowered to succeed.

2. Blended study model

A unique experience that fits around your ambitions, lifestyle and learning style.

3. Personalised guidance

A dedicated personal tutor with regular check ins plus a caring team helping you feel safe, supported and become who you're meant to be.

4. More subjects, more choice

Learning that suits your future not just your postcode.

5. Beyond the classroom

Sport and enrichment opportunities helping you grow as a person, not just as a student.

6. Ready for life, not just exams

From improving employability to mastering workplace tools, we equip you with real-world skills to help you understand the future and thrive in it.

Core Maths

AQA Level 3

Sir John Talbot's School, Whitchurch

This course is perfect for students who want to continue with practical mathematics beyond GCSE without taking A-level Maths.

Why choose Core Maths ?

Core Maths focuses on real world applications, enhancing skills useful in various subjects and careers.

What will I study?

Learn about personal finance, data analysis, and critical path analysis. Develop problem-solving and analytical skills valued by employers.

Compulsory Units: Data Analysis, Personal Finance, Estimation, Critical Data Analysis.

Optional Units: Choose from Statistical Techniques, Critical Path and Risk Analysis, or Graphical Techniques.

Assessment: Two 1.5-hour written exams at the end of the year, covering both compulsory and optional content.

Where can it lead me?

A qualification in Core Maths is great for higher education and careers in social sciences, business, and natural sciences.

Famous mathematics graduates:

Jonny Buckland: The lead guitarist of Coldplay formed the hugely successful rock band Coldplay while studying Astronomy and Mathematics at University College London.

Reed Hastings: The Co-founder of Netflix completed a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, followed by a Masters Degree in Computer Science. In 2019 he had a net worth of over \$3billion.

Virginia Wade: The Wimbledon champion studied Mathematics and Physics at the University of Sussex. She won three Grand Slam titles including winning Wimbledon in 1977, and is one of the UK's most famous tennis players.

Works well with...

Geography, Psychology, Business, and Sciences.

Further Maths

A Level

Marches School, Oswestry
Sir John Talbot's School, Whitchurch

This course aims to develop your interest and understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes, whilst giving opportunities to understand how different areas of mathematics are connected.

Why choose Mathematics?

Studying Mathematics develops excellent problem-solving skills, and you will learn how to think logically and analytically.

Even if you choose not to study it directly at university or enter this field of employment, the skills learned are highly transferable and universities and employers require candidates to have a balanced skills base.

What will I study?

You will develop the skills to recognise how a 'real world' problem can be modelled mathematically to make accurate predictions. You will extend your range of mathematical skills and use them in more challenging, unstructured problems. The course will enable you to read and comprehend mathematical arguments and articles concerning applications of mathematics.

Throughout this course the emphasis is on understanding and problem-solving rather than routine calculations.

Mathematics is not only an exciting subject, but also one that underpins many other branches of learning, providing a wide range of options as you progress beyond your A Levels.

Famous mathematics graduates:

Ada Lovelace (née Byron): Mathematician and writer, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. She is often regarded as one of the first computer programmers.

Rachel Riley: The TV personality studied maths at the University of Oxford before replacing Carol Vorderman as the presenter of Countdown.

Works well with...

Physics, Biology, Psychology, Business Studies, Computer Science and Economics.

Where can it lead me?

An A Level in Mathematics is highly regarded by employers and universities, precisely because of the demands it makes, the skills it develops and the logical problem-solving basis of the subject. It is of course useful for any degree with a numerate component such as Mathematics, Computing, Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Business and Engineering.

Applied Criminology

Level 3

Idsall School, Shifnal

Criminology is an incredibly fascinating field of study that weaves aspects of Law, Psychology, and Sociology together.

Why choose Criminology?

If you have a keen interest in the application of the criminal justice system, the profiling of criminals or wish to pursue a career in law enforcement, then this is definitely the course for you.

You will work much more independently than at GCSE, we will train you in thinking critically, analysing the facts of case studies and debating the trials, tribulations and outcomes.

What will I study?

The course examines theories regarding the causes of different types of crime and what makes some people more 'criminal' than others. You will discover why certain crimes are under-reported and will be given the opportunity to create a campaign for change that increases awareness.

Year 2 will focus more closely on crime and punishment, exploring the purpose of the criminal justice system and how and why we punish crimes. You will learn about the procedures around crime, all the way from the crime scene to the courtroom, and gain an understanding of how the criminal justice system works. You will also be asked to review a criminal case to ensure that it has been tried fairly.

Where can it lead me?

Many students choose to progress into studying law at university, others choose to work in social care or law enforcement. This course has so many transferable skills that the possibilities of where this course can lead you are limitless.

Famous Criminologists:

Dan Aykroyd: Former Ghostbusters actor known for his Hollywood roles studied Criminology after his father was an advisor to the Canadian Prime minister in the 70's.

Economics

A Level

Grove School, Market Drayton

The course will appeal to students who have an interest in economic and current affairs and a desire to explore why and how the study of Economics contributes to an understanding of the modern world.

Why choose Economics?

The fundamentals of our existence are based on a successful economy. This subject will equip you with the skills and understanding to be able to formulate sound economic arguments about issues that affect us, from Brexit to sugar taxes. It will challenge you academically but will also give you a range of life skills that will sharpen your decision making and make you more employable.

What will I study?

Economics is split into two areas of study: Microeconomics looks at the decisions that consumers and firms make it explores why they make these decisions by exploring their motives and considers how the government regulates the decision making of both individuals and businesses.

Macroeconomics looks at the whole economy and explores what techniques the government can employ to maintain a successful and sustainable economy.

Where can it lead me?

This subject could lead to a career in accountancy, management consultancy, teaching, banking and finance, journalism, trading, or business management.

Famous Economists:

Warren Buffett: The American an investor, business tycoon and philanthropist, (not to mention the world's 7th wealthiest individual) graduated in Economics from Columbia business school.

Ed Milliband: The politician and former leader of the labour party studied PPE at Oxford before embarking on his political career.

Meg Whitman: Former CEO of ebay and one of the top 100 most powerful women in the world, Meg Whitman has an economics degree from Princeton.

Works well with...

Mathematics, Politics, Business Studies, History, Modern Languages and English Literature.

English Language

A Level

Marches School, Oswestry

English Language is an exciting and interesting course which gives insight into how language connects to society. English Language is a challenging yet interesting course; it gives you the freedom to explore your own topics and to be creative, in addition to learning evaluative approaches to the language surrounding us.

Why choose English Language?

By studying English Language at A Level, you will develop your writing skills for topical language issues and study how language develops, as well as its use in the media. It suits those who enjoy writing and are keen to learn more about the relationship between social, political, and historical contexts and how meanings are conveyed through language.

The study of English Language is a fascinating insight into pronunciation and writing, grammar and meaning.

What will I study?

In English Language you will conduct an independent language investigation on identity, developing methods of language analysis through research, data collection and interpretation. Amongst other topics, you will learn about language and power, spoken language and develop your critical and creative writing.

Where can it lead me?

English Language is an extremely versatile qualification and will prepare you for essay-based subjects such as Philosophy and Psychology. It is also recommended for those who are interested in Sociology, Law and Medicine. Publishing, journalism, marketing, copywriting, proofreading, and editing are some careers related to English Language.

Famous English Language graduates:

James Franco: The American actor, filmmaker, painter, and writer studied English and creative writing at UCLA.

Danny Boyle: is an English film, television, and stage director and producer. He is known for his work on films including *Shallow Grave*, *Trainspotting* and its sequel *T2 Trainspotting*, *The Beach*, *28 Days Later*, *Sunshine*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *127 Hours*, *Steve Jobs* and *Yesterday*.

Michael Morpurgo: The English author of best-selling fiction such as 'War Horse' graduated from Kings College London.

Simon Bird: The star of 'The Inbetweeners' studied English at Cambridge.

Works well with...

English Language complements any subject as it is the science of language but also supports those with an essay requirement such as the Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages.

Government & Politics

A Level

Marches School, Oswestry

A Level Government and Politics will deepen your understanding of British government and the political landscape. This course will develop your ability to analyse information and express yourself both orally and in writing. Politics is an A Level that will develop your critical faculty, teach you to 'read between the lines' as well as give you an understanding of our political system.

Why choose Government and Politics?

Politics, Aristotle's "master science", is about power within and between states. Studying Government and Politics involves examining the formal institutions of government and exploring the ways in which power is exercised by individuals, groups, and states.

If you are interested in understanding how the UK is governed and interpreting and deconstructing current political debates, then this course is ideal for you.

What will I study?

You will study forms of political participation; voting behaviour; types of electoral system used in the UK; the history, ideology, and organisation of the main political parties; and the impact of pressure groups and protest movements on policy-making and public opinion.

In addition, you will learn about the nature and sources of the British Constitution; the roles, functions, and powers of Parliament; the changing powers of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and the impact that devolution has had upon Parliamentary sovereignty. You will also compare American and British political institutions, focussing on: The US Constitution and Federalism; Congress; The role of the Presidency; The role of the Supreme Court; Democracy and Participation in the US and comparative theories between Britain and America.

Where can it lead me?

A Level Government and Politics provides a good basis for degrees in Law, History, Philosophy, European Studies, Social Sciences, International Relations, as well as Politics and the valuable PPE degree. Students who study politics progress into a range of careers including the media, law, business, journalism, teaching and the civil service.

Famous politics graduates:

George Alagiah: The BBC newsreader studied at Durham University, where he developed his interest in journalism.

Miranda Hart: Studied political science at the University of the West of England before becoming a comedian and actress.

Barack Obama: He put his political science degree to good use when he was elected president of the US.

Hilary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice: Both of these women put their political science degrees into the world of Politics, serving as Secretaries of State in the US Government.

Works well with...

History, Religious Studies, Psychology, Business Studies, Modern Foreign Languages and English Literature.

Law

A Level

Marches School, Oswestry

Studying Law at A Level will help develop your knowledge and understanding of the English Legal system and will enable you to further improve your analytical and critical thinking skills.

Why choose Law?

A Level Law allows you to grow knowledge in areas that are often unrepresented at secondary school.

You will develop many skills in the study of law, in particular essay writing, analysis and the evaluation of topics and application of law to real life scenarios.

What will I study?

We learn about the civil and criminal courts, ADR, legal funding, judges, juries, magistrates, solicitors, and barristers in England.

In addition, we will study murder, manslaughter, theft, robbery, burglary, non-fatal offences, and defences. The topic of 'law making and tort law' covers Law making in the courts and Parliament and in addition, negligence, occupier's liability, land-based torts, and vicarious liability. Nature of law and contract law focuses on morality, justice and society and examines the formation of contracts, terms, vitiating factors, and discharge.

Where can it lead me?

A Level Law provides an excellent foundation to progress onto the further study of law and other humanities-based subjects. You will develop a real and in depth understanding of current affairs and what is happening in the news.

Famous lawyers:

Winston Churchill: Although best known as PM, Winston Churchill was a prolific writer throughout his life, and many of his works were historical. His better-known works include Marlborough: His Life and Times, The World Crisis, The Second World War, and A Law of the English-Speaking Peoples.

Sacha Baron-Cohen: The creator of many comic characters is a Cambridge Law Graduate.

Louis Theroux: The multi-Award winning filmmaker, author, broadcaster, and journalist has a first-class Law degree from Oxford University.

Michelle & Barack Obama are both graduates of Harvard Law School.

Works well with...

Mathematics, Sociology, History Psychology, Politics, Business Studies and English Literature.

Extended Project Qualification

EPQ

All Open6 campuses

Why choose the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)?

The EPQ enables you to explore a topic in depth, or to be creative, in ways that take you beyond or outside of your A Level studies.

Extended project is offered in Year 12 as a fourth qualification to complement students studies for their first year, submitting their project in the first week of the summer term.

What will I study?

The choices are limitless, no two projects are the same. You will spend the initial period discussing your ideas and making the right choice for you. Your project will end up as one of the following:

- An extended essay of 5,000 words
 - An artefact (e.g. piece of art, music, a short film, creative writing, a performance) supported by a report of at least 1,000 words
-

Where can it lead me?

The EPQ is valued by a broad range of universities who may reduce their offer for high grades EPQs or include them in a points based offer. Universities differ in whether or not they will include the EPQ as part of any offer they make to a student, but you students can draw upon their Extended Project in their personal statement and at interview to provide evidence of enthusiasm for their chosen subject.

Works well with...

The EPQ is designed to sit alongside your other subjects. By taking this qualification you develop the sorts of independent learning skills that universities value. It must not cover topics you will be examined on for your A Levels (but can, of course, be totally unrelated to them.)

Previous EPQ topics

- Is there a gender bias in the diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder (APD)?
- Production of an art installation to raise awareness of climate change.
- Does the moon influence people's mood?
- Are anti-depressants overprescribed?
- Could artificial intelligence spell the end for humankind?

Beyond the classroom

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a fantastic opportunity for all students. It's designed to help you build strong academic skills and pave the way to higher education. Plus, it lets you develop essential soft skills that will make you stand out in your future career. Think independent study habits, research skills, critical thinking, presentation skills, public speaking, and communication.

But that's not all! The EPQ is here to help you develop entrepreneurial skills and target the areas you want to focus on, using the Unifrog platform. We partner with Unifrog to make sure every student can choose the best pathway for them, and we've got an outstanding record for helping students reach their destinations.

We also work with many businesses across Shropshire as a member of the Shropshire Chamber of Commerce and support students who are interested in the apprenticeship pathway. So, whether you're aiming for university, a career, or an apprenticeship, we've got you covered!

The Scholars Programme

The Scholars Programme is here to give you the ultimate support, advice, and guidance if you're aiming to study medicine, veterinary sciences, dentistry, or get into top universities like Oxbridge, Durham, the Russell Group, and other top-tier institutions.

We start working with you early in Year 12 and stick with you all the way through your application, personal statement, and interviews. We pool our experience across the trust to make sure you're as competitive as possible. This means you'll have access to visits, webinars, events, and the latest information to support you every step of the way.

Virtual Arts

Our Open6 gallery aims to promote the creativity within our Marches Academy Trust Sixth Forms. Throughout our gallery, we want to celebrate our Sixth Form students throughout each Art & Design discipline by sharing the work they have created as part of their further education studies.

Choosing an A Level in the Arts opens up a world of possibilities. Whether you're into graphic design, fashion, interior design, animation, or fine arts, there's a path for you. These fields aren't just about expressing yourself—they're about gaining practical skills that can lead to awesome careers.

Studying Art subjects helps you develop skills that are useful in so many areas. Creativity, problem-solving, communication, and time management are just a few of the skills you'll pick up. These are super valuable in industries like marketing, advertising, and tech, where fresh ideas are always in demand.

Don't let misconceptions hold you back—the creative sector is booming with opportunities. From digital media and film production to roles in art galleries and museums, there are tons of career options for those with an Arts background. Following your passion in Art and Design can lead to a fulfilling and successful career.

Open6 Choir

The Open6 Choir is perfect for those who love to sing and want to be part of a vibrant musical community. Whether you're an experienced vocalist or just love to sing for fun, this choir welcomes everyone. You'll get the chance to perform a diverse range of music, improve your vocal skills, and collaborate with fellow students. Plus, it's a great way to unwind, make new friends, and be part of something special. Join us and let your voice be heard!



MUN (Model United Nations).

Participating in MUN develops key life skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, leadership, and diplomacy. You will have the opportunity to research and debate complex global issues in a simulated United Nations environment. MUN also provides an opportunity to learn about international affairs, meet people from diverse backgrounds, network, travel for conferences, and gain valuable experience for future careers in law, government, and business.

YEP (Young Enterprise Program)

Taking part in YEP will develop key skills, such as financial literacy, confidence, and an enterprising mindset, preparing you for the future of work through practical, real-world learning experiences. YEP connects education and the workplace. You will develop essential employability skills such as teamwork and communication, through hands-on activities.



Open6 Sports

Open6 Elite Sports

The Open6 elite sports teams bring together talented Sixth Form students from across the Trust's network of Sixth Forms. The elite teams provide a platform for students to develop their skills, engage in healthy competition, and represent the Trust in regional and national events.

These elite teams are formed to compete in local and national sporting leagues, these include:

- Shropshire Schools and Colleges FA U19 League (Football)
- AOC Sport National Championships (Basketball)
- RFU National Schools Cup (Rugby)
- Sisters N Sport Nationals (Netball)
- Table Tennis England Nationals
- ESFA U19 Nationals (Football)

BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport

The Level 3 BTEC Sport programme offers an excellent pathway to top tier qualifications through a combination of classroom based and practical coaching. Develop independence and practical experience in the sport and leisure industry. This Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels. As part of the course, students will also have the opportunity to coach and play high level sports, helping to further enhance practical skills and industry experience.

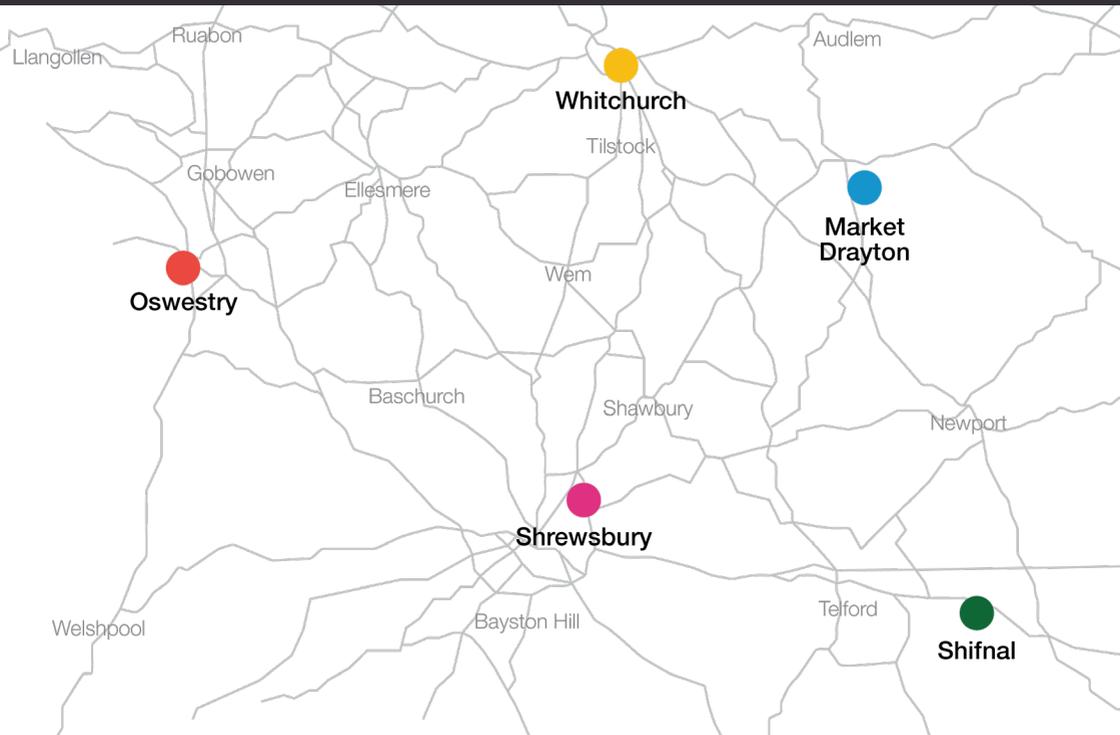
Students will have the exciting opportunity to take part in sports tours and experiences at world renowned venues. These include visits to elite facilities such as St George's Park, the home of England's national football teams, as well as international destinations like Barcelona FC and the prestigious Gothia Cup in Sweden. These experiences offer a unique chance to develop sporting skills, gain global insight into the industry, and create unforgettable memories.





Photo by Toby Springle
Grove School, Market Drayton

Find out
more about
our different
campuses.



Blended
learning
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as your
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