Netherhall School

An Ambitious, Caring Community

Ofsted rated as 'GOOD' - February 2018 & March 2023, Alps rated as Outstanding – August 2021

Sixth Form Prospectus 2024

At Netherhall School, we are ambitious for every student. We want all our students to achieve the best possible academic qualifications, to have the best experience of school and to be well prepared for their next steps in employment, education and training.

We are proud of our sixth form. It has a fine track record of academic success and achievement. It is a welcoming, friendly, vibrant and happy place to learn, where staff and students are treated with care and respect. I believe that the values and ethos of Netherhall School Sixth Form are indicative of the Cumbrian spirit and represent the very best of Maryport and West Cumbria. Achievement and success are built on positive relationships. I see this on a daily basis at Netherhall School Sixth Form, through the work of great teachers who have positive, constructive relationships with their students. The result is happy, confident learners who are inspired and surpassing their expectations.

I know you will enjoy and do well throughout your next two years at Netherhall School Sixth Form. My aim is to make school an enjoyable and productive experience for every student, where each young person looks forward to the possibilities of the day with energy and enthusiasm.

"Students' attitudes to their learning and contributing to the wider school are excellent."
"There is an industrious atmosphere around the sixth form, both generally and within classes"
"Relationships between students and staff are excellent"

Results

In 2020 and 2021 Netherhall's A level results were rated at grade 1 (outstanding) by Alps. This means that the exam grades achieved by students in year 13 at Netherhall were among the very best in the country.

In 2022, students' attainment was the best the school has seen. In A level subjects, 20% of the grades achieved were A or A*, and 41% of grades were B or above. In vocational subjects, around 90% of students achieved the top grades of Distinction and Distinction*.

The average points score per pupil in 2023 was 27.04. Netherhall School Sixth Form is a place where students make excellent progress, no matter their background, ability or aspiration.

Aims

The aim of Netherhall School Sixth Form is to support the development of healthy, confident, capable and happy young people, who are supportive and tolerant of each other. A sixth form that builds understanding, recognises individuality and embraces collective responsibility to fellow students, the school and the wider community.

The sixth form's aims are to provide relevant and meaningful experiences which nurture individual aspirations, whether it is an Oxbridge education, public service, artistic endeavour, industrial excellence, cultural or sporting experiences. A sixth form that actively encourages involvement and participation, with the intention of preparing its young people for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Principles

The five principles that guide Netherhall School Sixth Form are:

Students First: every decision is founded on the best interests of the students.

Aspiration: to be fiercely ambitious for all students.

Quality: to provide the highest quality education possible.

Opportunity: to provide enjoyable and relevant opportunities that enable students to fulfil their considerable potential.

Community: to be an active part of the local community.

Destinations

100% of year 13 leavers in 2023 secured places in higher education, training or employment. A selection of destination universities and courses for 2023 leavers is shown below:

- Advanced Apprenticeship - Dental Nurse
- Advanced Apprenticeship - Northern Gas
- Carlisle College - Level 3 Diploma in Sports Coaching
- Degree Apprenticeship - Atkins Software Development
- Degree Apprenticeship - NNL Nuclear Engineering
- Degree Apprenticeship - Sellafield Control Systems
- Harper Adams University - Veterinary Nursing
- Higher Apprenticeship - Energus IT
- Higher Apprenticeship - NNL Health Physics Monitor
- Higher Apprenticeship - Sellafield Health Physics Monitor
- Higher Apprenticeship - Sellafield Nuclear Welding Inspector
- Lancaster University - English Literature with Creative Writing - Year Abroad
- Leeds Beckett University - Cyber Security
- Liverpool John Moore's University - Graphic Design
- Liverpool Media Academy (LMA) - Performing Arts
- Northumbria University - Applied Sciences with Foundation Year
- Northumbria University - Business Management with Foundation Year
- Northumbria University - English Literature
- Northumbria University - Health and Social Care
- Northumbria University - History and Politics
- Northumbria University - Mathematics
- Northumbria University - Sport with Foundation Year
- UA92 University - Sports Management
- University of Cumbria - Biomedical Sciences
- University of Cumbria - Forestry
- University of Cumbria - Primary and Early Years Education
- University of Cumbria - Social Work
- University of Salford - Law

Curriculum

At Netherhall School Sixth Form we offer a broad and inclusive curriculum which supports the aspirations and achievement of all students. It is a bespoke curriculum offer that enables students to select from a wide choice of academic and vocational subjects.

Academic Subjects	Vocational Subjects
• Art & Photography • Biology • Chemistry • English literature • French • Geography • History • Mathematics • Music • Physics • Religious studies	• Applied science • Health and social care (single and double award) • IT • Sport and physical activity

Extended Project Qualification

All students in the sixth form at Netherhall have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This qualification allows students to carry out in-depth research in an area of interest to them. By completing the qualification, they develop and demonstrate their project management skills and have opportunities for extended writing. It is highly valued by universities and employers. We have had some wonderful projects in the past, on themes as diverse as electrical engineering, photography, plant-based diet, gymnastics and e-sports. Students can tailor their project to their individual needs, choices and aspirations. The outcome of the project can be a design, performance, report, dissertation or artefact. Students undertaking the project have the full support of a dedicated and experienced EPQ tutor.

Core Maths

Students have the opportunity to study for a level 3 core maths qualification, which provides essential problem-solving and quantitative skills. Equal in size and UCAS tariff points to an AS Level, the qualification is aimed at students who aren't studying AS or A level maths, but need mathematical skills to support their other level 3 subjects and for future study and employment.

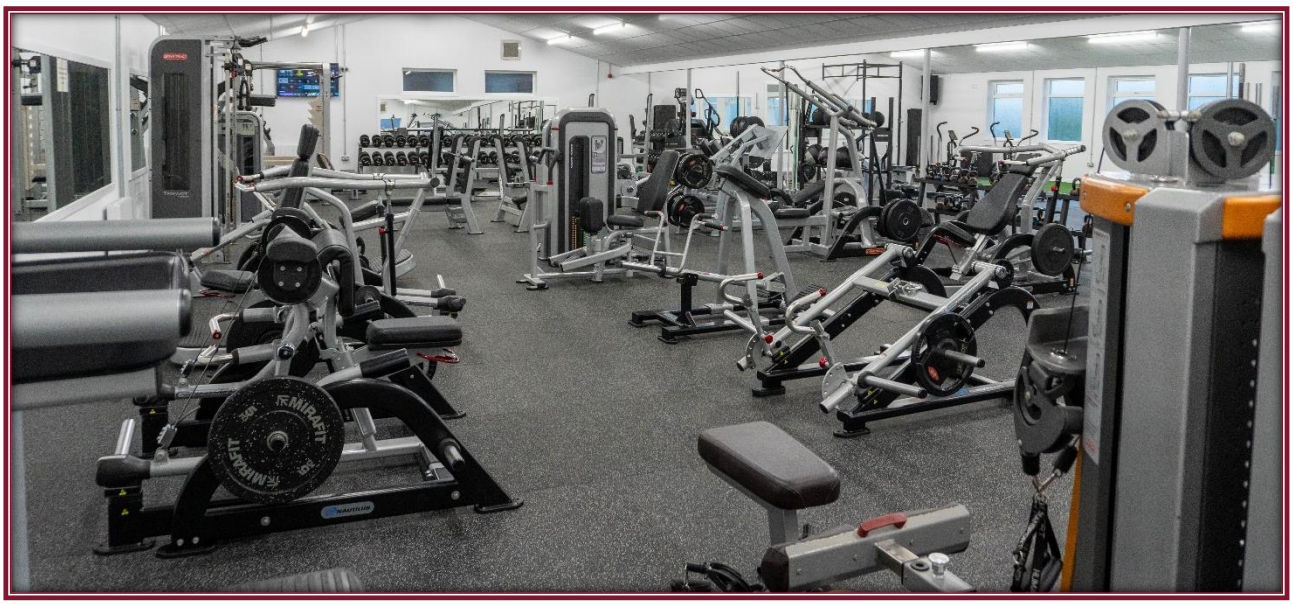
Extracurricular Opportunities and Enrichment

I am confident that whatever you choose to study at Netherhall School Sixth Form you will be expertly taught. In addition to this there is a great range of extracurricular and enrichment activities available. These will provide you with opportunities for leadership and personal development. You will be guided throughout your time in the sixth form by friendly and caring tutors, who take a personal interest in supporting every student towards their end goal of a university education or apprenticeship; they will encourage you to develop your skills by participating in:

- Cooking.
- First aid.
- Sports coaching and sports leadership qualifications.
- School sports teams.
- Social action projects through Cumbria Community Foundation.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award, with direct entry to the Gold Award for sixth form students.
- Work experience placements.
- Primary school placements.
- Literacy and numeracy support for younger students.
- Fundraising and charity work.
- Sixth Form Council leadership opportunities.
- Head Boy and Head Girl positions.
- National Citizenship Service.
- University open days and summer schools.

In the past we have run school trips to:

- **London** – the arts, university and cultural experience.
- **Edinburgh** – the arts.
- **Manchester** – sports.
- **Newcastle** – the arts.
- **Ski trip.**
- **University of Cumbria** – Careers Fair.
- **Queen's College, Oxford** – open day.
- **Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge** – open day.
- **Northumbria University** – open day.



Netherhall Community Sports Centre

Students of Netherhall School Sixth Form benefit from full membership of Netherhall Community Sports Centre free of charge. This membership would normally cost £330 and entitles students to use the facilities during their enrichment time as well as within the centre's after-school and weekend opening hours.

The sports centre is located on the school site and is a state-of-the-art facility which has recently been fully refurbished. Within the centre there are five separate gym areas that offer free weights, spinning, cardio, resistance and plate loaded machines, functional training and much more. Casual gym goers and experienced athletes alike will all be able to develop their health, fitness and wellbeing whilst studying in the sixth form by making use of this excellent facility. Students can also benefit from a broad range of instructor-led exercise classes that are included within their membership.

Entry Requirements

Grade requirements for entry to Netherhall School Sixth Form can be found on the options form. Specific entrance requirements for each course of study vary and have been set to enable the very best outcomes for students in their sixth form studies.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me as you make your choices for post 16 learning. I look forward to welcoming you into the sixth form in September.

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SIXTH FORM
Mr C Pattinson

Head Boy & Head Girl

Lewis Moore

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Netherhall School and strongly believe that it is a place that gives all students an opportunity to be successful and sets them up perfectly for the future. At the end of year 11 I made the decision to continue in the sixth form to further develop myself as a person and gain important skills that will benefit me as a working adult. After my first year in sixth form I can safely say that I have definitely made the correct decision.

I have always been passionate about sport. I have competed at a high level in both football and rugby league outside of school and represented Netherhall School in several sports, which is something I am extremely proud of. There are a range of excellent sporting opportunities in school, and I think that my experience in PE has helped me develop as an athlete. I have recently made first team appearances for Workington Reds which has been a fantastic challenge. In sixth form I am currently studying sport, IT and English language. These are all subjects I believe I can excel in and I hope I can use the skills they have helped me develop in my future career. After my time at Netherhall School I would like to further my education in sport by attending university and gaining extre knowledge about something I have a strong interest in.

Throughout my years so far at Netherhall School, I have had many memorable moments that will stick with me forever. In 2022, winning the under-18s football County Cup for the first time in our history is something I am especially proud of and is genuinely something I will never forget. Being elected Head Boy of Netherhall School by my peers is something that I am delighted about. It is my aim to be a first-class role model for younger students.

Abbie Armstrong

As a student at Netherhall School, I have been given many opportunities that have allowed me to develop my character and gain skills that I will be able to use in the future. I joined the school in 2017 and since then I have been able to explore different subjects to be able to find what interests me. This led me to the decision to carry on into sixth form so that I would be able to expand my understanding of the subjects I am passionate about. I am currently studying A levels in geography, applied science and religious studies. After sixth form, I aim to attend university to further my studies in geography.

I have had access to many different opportunities through being part of the sixth form, such as the school's paired reading programme where I was able to work closely with students in the lower school and help them to develop skills that they could use in all areas of their life. I also had the opportunity of volunteering in a primary school for enrichment. Aside from studying my chosen subjects, I have been able to do an extended project qualification which has allowed me to spend time

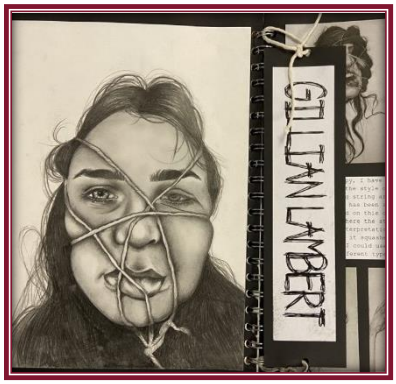
researching and writing about something that I am personally interested in, as well as coming to my own conclusions about what I have found. I chose to research the topic of space, which has enabled me to expand my knowledge while incorporating it into my studies. This will benefit me as I will have skills for the future such as extended writing that I can use at university.

I am honoured to have been selected as Head Girl of Netherhall School. This role allows me to lead by example for younger students in the school, and to support my peers. I also use this position to represent the school and its hard-working students in the local community and allow people to see how dedicated the school is to its students' success.

A Level - Art

What is it about?

A level art is a broad-based course exploring practical and critical/contextual work, through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media associated with two or more of the titles: fine art, graphic communication, textile design, three-dimensional design, photography.



Students are encouraged to develop their ideas in an original and exciting manner, providing them with the opportunity to gain new skills and develop existing ones. We encourage students to visit galleries locally and in Edinburgh and London. The art department organises trips in the autumn term to Edinburgh to visit galleries, and the University of Cumbria to take part in printmaking workshops and life drawing. This enables students to experience a rich variety of historical and contemporary work, which will subsequently inform their own creativity.

Art and design is a wide ranging course covering printmaking, sculpture, painting, photography, mixed media, drawing and art history. Students are encouraged to develop their ideas using a range of experimental techniques and media, extending their creative individuality. The course enables students to develop their skills in decision making, the ability to follow tasks through from conception to completion and to develop their potential when working independently.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have a good imagination and be able to develop creative ideas. You should be happy to experiment with a range of materials and processes. A grade 4 in GCSE art is essential. It is important to remember that a lot of work will need to be completed not just in lessons but in your own time too. There are two components to the course, one chosen by the student and one set by AQA.

What can I combine this subject with?

Art combines with any subject but in particular English, history and RE can help to develop the analytical and evaluative skills needed in art.

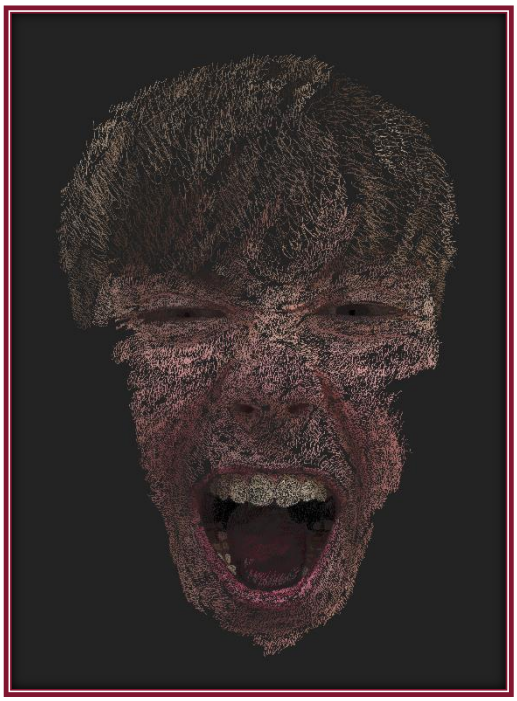
What can I do with this qualification?

Any art based degree or any art based course. This can lead to careers in fine art, illustration, photography, design or teaching.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Cotton or Mrs Stead

A Level Art – Blake Wassell



I'm Blake, I'm in year 12 and studying A level art, photography as well as geography. I am, and always have been a creatively wired person, I have always enjoyed art and any form of creating. My enjoyment of the subject helped me obtain a grade nine in art at GCSE. I am hoping to achieve two A*s in art and photography and go on to study graphic design at university.

I would highly recommend A level art at Netherhall School Sixth Form as it has allowed me to realise my full potential in my creative skill, not only in the physical side of work but in the written analysis as well. I also really enjoy developing my ideas using different media to create successful pieces of art with personal meanings.

During my time studying art I have learnt how to create outcomes with different media forms such as, pencil, charcoal, chalk and pastilles, oil paints, acrylic paints as well as different digital artwork forms.

Level 3 – BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Science

What is it about?

This Pearson qualification covers the fundamental scientific knowledge, understanding and practical skills associated with applied science learning. Learners will cover the scientific principles of biology, chemistry and physics. They will develop experimental and practical techniques and study the roles and skills of scientists and the public and media perception of science.

How is it structured?

The course is made up of five mandatory units, plus one optional unit from a choice of three.

Mandatory units

Unit	Theme	Assessment
1	Key concepts in science	Written exam
2	Applied experimental techniques	Portfolio
3	Science in the modern world	Exam with pre-release material
16	Space and Astronomy	Coursework - this unit involves fieldwork and taking measurements using telescopes.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have a real interest in the topics and be looking towards a career that is based in science, such as nursing, engineering, laboratory work or even the leisure industry. Over the two

years you will be expected to take a full and active part in all learning activities, including group projects and independent learning. A commitment to doing your best in and out of class is essential as there is a lot of written coursework to complete during the two years. All deadlines must be met without fail, so personal organisation and good time-management are also vital. You should have achieved grade 4 or above in science at GCSE level.

What can I combine this subject with?

Health and social care, sport and physical activity or any other subject with a science element.

What can I do with this qualification?

Applied science can be studied on its own at university or as an essential part of degrees in engineering, sports science, physiotherapy or nursing studies.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Poddington or Miss Cooke

BTEC Extended Certificate in Applied Science – Olivia Bigrigg

Hi! My name is Olivia, I am currently in year 12. I am studying applied science, geography and religious studies. I believe this is a great combination of subjects as it expands and develops my skills. By the end of year 13 I am hoping to achieve a Distinction in applied science. My ambition is to apply to university and study an animal care related subject.

I chose the applied science course because I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different topics in all three sciences during my GCSE studies and wanted to dig deeper into them all as one A level course, as well as it being a great subject to help me achieve my desired degree.

There is a lot of practical work in each aspect of this course, which I find to be very fun, interesting and varied. This is a great subject to choose if you love the idea of getting to do hands-on coursework that will also add to your final grade. There is a broad range of content in this course, so it is vital that you are well organised when it comes to your revision. On the whole, this course is great for anyone wishing to go into the science or engineering field.

A Level - Biology

What is it about?

This OCR course will be taught through real life biology for the 21st Century. You will learn a wide range of experimental and investigative skills needed by modern biologists, including the ability to make judgements about the quality of evidence both as individuals and in groups. You will participate in practicals, simulations, interactive IT tutorials, online seminars and tests.

How is it structured?

Your A level course is divided in to 6 modules taught over 2 years, this also includes 12 required practicals.

1. Development of practical skills in biology	The practical assessments which are completed as part of this module link directly to the topics which you have learned throughout modules 2-6. You will complete a range of practical assessments including: microscopy, heart dissection, colorimetry and growing microbial samples.
2. Foundations in biology	In this module you will study cell structure, different biological molecules, the base structure of DNA, enzyme structure, how membranes allow substances to move across and cell division.
3. Exchange and transport	In this module you will study how different molecules are transported in plants and animals as well as how the exchange surfaces are adapted for this role.
4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease	In this module you will study communicable diseases, disease prevention, the immune system, biodiversity, classification and evolution.
5. Communication, homeostasis and energy	In this module you will study homeostasis, neuronal and hormonal communication, photosynthesis, respiration and plant and animal responses to change.
6. Genetics, evolution and ecosystems	In this module you will study cellular control, patterns of inheritance, how genomes can be manipulated, ecosystems, cloning, populations and sustainability.

How will I be assessed?

You will have regular opportunities during lesson time to practise past exam questions in order to familiarise yourself with the language used in the examinations. The final examinations will all take

place at the end of year 13. You will have 3 exams in total which will link directly to the units which have been completed throughout your A level biology studies. You will also have full mock examinations throughout year 12 and year 13.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE biology or a grade 7 in the biology component of Combined Science (Trilogy) before considering taking this course. You will need to be organised and committed to working at a fast pace and be willing to complete work and wider reading outside of the classroom.

What can I combine with this subject?

Biology can combine with most other subjects but students particularly benefit from also studying chemistry, maths, physics, geography or health and social care.

What can I do with this qualification?

Biology can be studied on its own at university or as an essential part of degrees in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy, ecology, nursing studies, marine biology or forensic science and criminology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Poddington or Mr Dewar

A Level Biology – Sophie Anderson

I'm Sophie and I'm currently in year 13 studying biology, chemistry and maths. I'm aiming to achieve grade A* in each subject, and I would like to study medicine at university.

A level biology is an interesting and exciting subject which develops knowledge from GCSE. During the two years of studying biology, you will learn a range of things; from heart dissections to studying biodiversity. This makes A level biology a great subject which provides many opportunities no matter the career you wish to go into. Personally, because of the combination of subjects I chose at A level, I often find that there are times where my prior knowledge from one subject consolidates my learning in another.

A Level - Chemistry

What is it about?

This OCR course will be taught through real life chemistry for the 21st Century. You will learn a wide range of analytical and investigative experimental skills needed by modern chemists. You will participate in practicals, simulations, interactive IT tutorials, online seminars and tests.

How is it structured?

Your A level course is divided in to 6 modules taught over 2 years, this also includes 12 required practicals.

Module	Overview
1. Development of practical skills in chemistry	The practical assessments which are completed as part of this module link directly to the topics which you have learned throughout modules 2-6. You will complete a range of practical assessments including: titration, synthesis of organic chemicals, rates of reaction, identification of unknown compounds and ions and analysis of electrochemical cells.
2. Foundations in chemistry	In this module you will study bonding, intermolecular forces, moles, acids and bases and redox reactions.
3. Periodic Table & Energy	In this module you will build on GCSE chemistry by studying the periodic table and groups 2 and 7, enthalpy changes and reaction rates.
4. Core organic chemistry	In this module you will study hydrocarbons, alcohols, alkenes and methods of organic synthesis.
5. Physical chemistry & transition elements	In this module you will study further reaction rates, pH and buffers, enthalpy, entropy and free energy.

6. Organic chemistry & analysis	In this module you will study a variety of carboxyl and carbonyl compounds, polymers and methods of spectroscopy.

How will I be assessed?

You will have regular opportunities during lesson time to practise past exam questions in order to familiarise yourself with the language used in the examinations. The final examinations will all take place at the end of year 13. You will have 3 exams in total which will link directly to the units which have been completed throughout your A level biology studies. You will also have full mock examinations throughout year 12 and year 13.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE chemistry or a grade 7 in the chemistry component of Combined Science (Trilogy) before considering taking this course. You will need to be organised and committed to working at a fast pace and be willing to complete work and wider reading outside of the classroom.

What can I combine with this subject?

Chemistry can combine with most other subjects but students particularly benefit from also studying biology, maths, physics or geography.

What can I do with this qualification?

Chemistry can be studied on its own at university or as an essential part of degrees in medicine, veterinary science, engineering, dentistry, marine biology or forensic science and criminology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Nicholson or Miss Frankland

A Level Chemistry – Cerys Tyson

My name is Cerys, and I am a year 12 at Netherhall Sixth Form studying chemistry, biology and maths with the ambition to pursue a university degree in biomedical science after sixth form. I have been given a grade B target for my exams, yet I am motivated to work as hard as needed to achieve a higher grade.

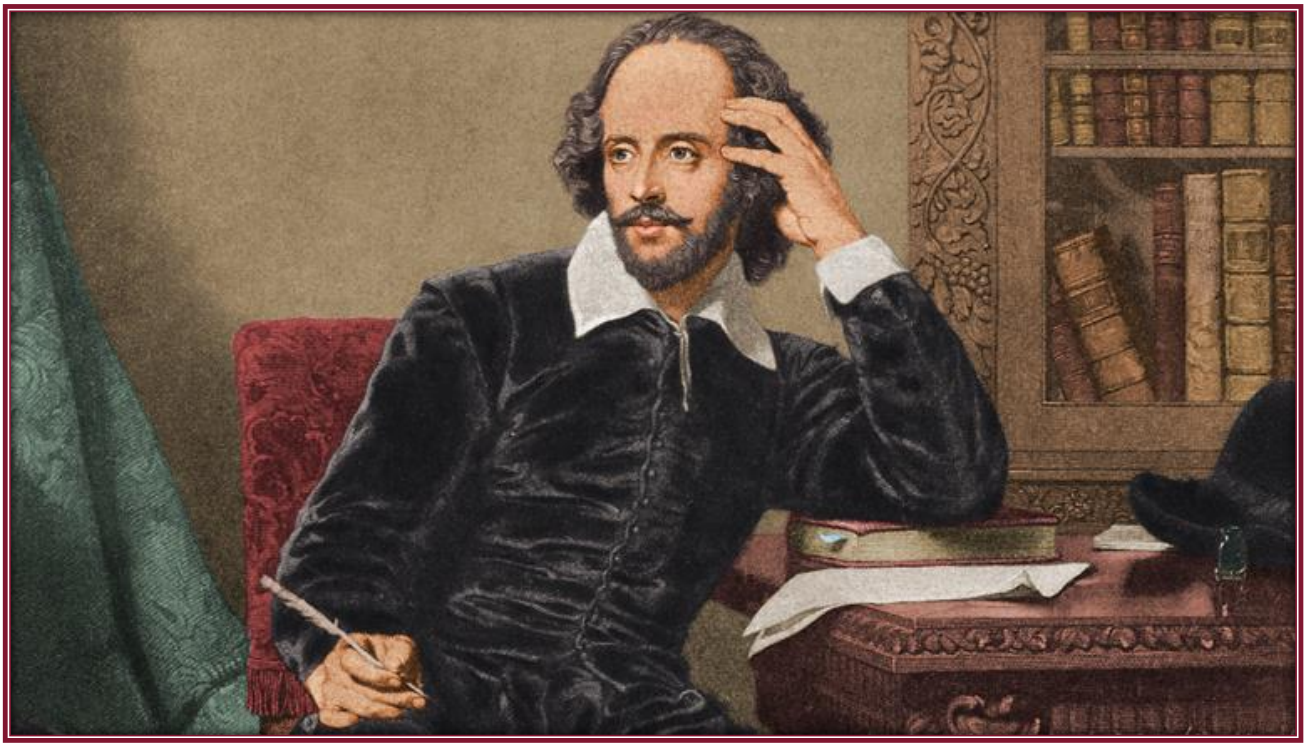
I have always been interested and excelled in the STEM subjects at school, achieving a grade 7 in chemistry at GCSE level. My favourite module in A Level chemistry is definitely the development of practical skills in chemistry. I enjoy doing experiments in the lab as it allows you to put your prior knowledge into use. Despite being a challenging subject, topics are presented in fun and enticing ways, making lessons feel enjoyable. The teachers are also incredibly encouraging and supportive during the more difficult modules.

Despite only being a term into my A level studies, I am really enjoying chemistry and would definitely recommend it to other students. It has opened up many routes for my future and can be applied in many professions.

A Level - English Literature

What is it about?

On this course, students are asked to develop personal responses to a wide range of literary texts, from Shakespeare through to contemporary poetry. The course from Edexcel allows students to develop their expression and communication in response to drama, prose, poetry and critical theory. Reading is also a major part of this course, and students enjoy reading independently, as well as considering the views of others in discussion.



Modules of study include:

- Drama – Tragedy: *Othello* by (including critical theory) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- Prose – Science and Society: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- Poetry: Poems of the Decade and The Romantics
- A comparison of two texts chosen by the student

What is expected of me during the course?

- You will need to have passed GCSE English Literature at grade 5 or above.
- You will need to be self-motivated, hardworking, an avid reader, and interested in discovering the way that literature reflects us as human beings.
- You will need to be able to think critically and reflectively about your own ideas, and those of others.

How is the course assessed?

- Drama: 2 hours 15 minutes open-book examination, worth 30% of the qualification.
- Prose: 1 hour 15 minutes open-book examination, worth 20% of the qualification.

- Poetry: 2 hours 15 minutes open-book examination, worth 30% of the qualification.
- Non-examination Assessment: Students have a free choice of two texts to study. Worth 20% of the qualification.

What can I combine this subject with?

The skills learned in English literature transfer most easily to English language, history, modern languages, religious studies and art.

What can I do with this qualification?

English Literature is highly regarded by universities, and develops skills sought after by institutions offering journalism, writing, editing, publication, law, marketing, media, public relations and advertising.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Barlow or Miss Parker

A Level English Literature – Macie Crellin

I am Macie and I am currently in year 12 studying English literature, English language and religious studies. I not only achieved my highest grades at GCSE in these three subjects, but they are areas that I find interesting and enjoy studying. I am hoping to achieve As and Bs in my subjects at A level which will hopefully leave me with a good standing to study law at university, preferably Edinburgh or Northumbria.

Currently in English literature, I am studying Frankenstein by Mary Shelley which I am finding extremely interesting. We recently visited Theatre by the Lake in Keswick in which we attended a live viewing of Frankenstein which not only developed my understanding of the play but sparked a further interest. Alongside this, I am studying modern poetry which allows me to explore the many different aspects of poetry and interpret my own meanings for each. Although this is an area which can often be challenging, as we progress it is becoming easier to tackle. I am looking forward to the course work aspect of this subject as it allows us creative freedom in our choice of books and topics to research. This excites me as I enjoy creative writing and expressing my own opinions through my writing.

I believe the skills that I will gain in this subject, such as essay writing, will be transferable to future careers I am hoping to pursue, as well as writing my university applications.

A Level - French

Who is the course for?

People who are curious, willing to work hard, have imagination and a sense of humour. By the end of the course you should be able to discuss and write in French about any topic from politics to bake-off competitions, fashion to nuclear fusion. You will be introduced to French film, music, theatre, literature and history and have a firm grammatical understanding.

What will you study?

You will study films, music and literary, political or historical texts, carry out your own research into the language and customs of a French speaking country and develop your spoken, written, listening and reading skills to university entrance level.

Unit 1 - Les changements dans la société française.
Unit 2 - La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones.
Unit 3 - L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française.
Unit 4 - L'Occupation et la Résistance en France.

How is the course assessed?

You will learn in a variety of ways, including demonstrations, skills workshops, formal lessons and individual tuition. You will have your own online textbook as well as a paper version in class which will enable you to progress at your own pace. You will be expected to accurately self-assess some work.

There is also a programme of on-going and end of module tests. You will be able to complete and submit these online assessments and tests when you feel confident enough to do so but within the

allocated time period. We organise a week's residential visit which is designed to improve your cultural knowledge as well as prepare you for your speaking exam.

Your final assessment at A level will be with the completion of three exams with Edexcel.

- Paper 1 - Listening, reading and translation.
- Paper 2 - Written responses to works and translation.
- Paper 3 - Speaking.

What is required to join the course?

You will need to have passed GCSE French at grade 5 or above.

What next?

A level French could lead on to a language degree or a degree with a language component, typically a business-related, history or law degree. A language A level is highly regarded by university admissions tutors. Your linguistic skills are also highly prized by businesses in all sectors and are a valuable tool for securing employment. Recent A level French students from Netherhall School have gone on to study languages, law, medicine, maths, business, criminal psychology, the expressive arts, journalism and sport at university.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Monsieur Machard, Madame Fox or Monsieur Pattinson

A Level French – Daniel Woods

Hello, my name is Dan and I study French, physics and maths at A level. I have been at Netherhall School since year 7 and I must say that it has been a great time. In the future I want to do a degree apprenticeship at Sellafield in engineering.

French was an easy choice for me at sixth form because of how much I enjoyed it at GCSE. I developed an interest in the language and the French culture during KS4 and I wanted to further develop my understanding. At A level, you don't just learn a language, but you learn the history, the culture and anything else you choose in the Individual Research Project. This allows you to research a topic of your choice on something in France. You also get to study a film, *La Haine,* and the novel *No et Moi*.

If you make the smart choice of taking French at A level in Netherhall, you will be taught by three amazing teachers: Monsieur Pattinson, Monsieur Machard and Madame Fox. Simply being able to speak a different language is such an advantage, and this opportunity is one that you cannot miss.

A Level - Geography

What is it about?

The AQA Geography course aims to excite your minds, challenge perceptions about the world today and stimulate your investigative and analytical skills. It will equip you with the knowledge of the world and skills sought by higher education and employers.

There are three units of study in year 12 and three units in year 13.

Year 12	
Physical Geography	**Human Geography**
Water and carbon cycles: We will focus on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them.	**Changing places:** We will focus on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them. We will focus on two contrasting places, Maryport and a suburb of Birmingham.
Coastal systems and landscapes: We will focus on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments.	**Global systems and global governance:** We will focus on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes which have been a key feature of the global economy and society in recent decades.
Year 13	
Ecosystems under stress: We will focus on the biosphere, in particular the nature and functioning of ecosystems and their relationships to human activities. We will study tropical rainforests, savanna grasslands and coral reefs.	**Contemporary urban environments:** We will focus on urban growth and change, processes found nearly everywhere, which present significant environmental and social challenges. We will focus on Newcastle, Mexico City and many other locations.
Fieldwork: We will undertake four days of fieldwork, divided between physical and human geography.	**Independent Fieldwork Investigation:** You will undertake an independent investigation based on a question or issue defined and developed by you.

How will I be assessed?

- **Paper 1:** Physical Geography (2 hours 30 mins), 40% of the A level
- **Paper 2:** Human Geography (2 hours 30 mins), 40% of the A level
- **Independent Fieldwork Investigation** (3,000 – 4,000 words) 20% of the A level

Who can take this subject?

You should have achieved at least a grade 5 in geography at GCSE and also have a range of good GCSE passes. These would be at least grade 5s, especially in science subjects and English.

What can I combine with this subject?

Geography beautifully compliments most subjects as it sits right in the middle of the arts / humanities and the sciences.

What can I do with this qualification?

Geography has been identified as a 'facilitating subject', these are preferred subjects that the Russell Group of Universities have identified as opening up a wide range of options for university students. This is because geographers are multi-skilled people with a good understanding of the world they work in. Geographers enter a wide variety of professions.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Bradley or Mr Blades

A Level Geography – Joe Denwood

Hi, my name is Joe, I came to Netherhall School back in 2017 as a year 7 student and I am now studying A levels in maths, biology and geography. I am hoping to go to university to study zoology after I complete my A levels.

Geography has to be one of my favourite subjects as it covers a wide range of topics. You look at both the human and physical side of geography which will enhance your understanding of the whole world. You will also learn valuable skills which will be useful throughout your entire life. The teachers in the geography department build meaningful relationships with their students to help support them and help them and are dedicated to ensure their students get the best possible education.

Due to the confidence this school has given me, I have been able to do things outside of my studies that I previously thought I could never do, such as Duke of Edinburgh and a World Challenge expedition to Borneo.

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 - Health and Social Care

What is it about?

The health and social care level 3 is offered as a single or double award:

Extended certificate (single award / 1 A level) - 360hrs.

This will cover 6 units - Equality & Diversity, Health & Safety, Anatomy & Physiology (all externally examined), Building Positive Relationships (compulsory coursework), plus two other optional coursework units from a choice of 8.

Diploma (double award / 2 A levels) - 720hrs.

This will cover 12 units - the above 6, plus Person-Centred Care, Safeguarding (both externally examined), Infection Control (compulsory coursework) and an additional 3 optional units from a choice of 17.

All the coursework units will be divided into a range of assignments with clear pass, merit and distinction criteria to achieve. Students are able to sit each external exam a maximum of twice, either in the June of year 12, or the February or June of year 13.

What is expected of me during the course?

Over the two years you will be expected to take a full and active part in all learning activities, including group projects, role plays, practical activities, presentations, independent learning and work experience placements in health and social care settings. All students would benefit from finding a long-term work experience placement (e.g. a morning or afternoon per week for the full year), rather than just the year 12 work experience week alone.

The accumulation of hours that a long-term placement would give will be valuable experience that could be used in UCAS applications, especially for social work, teaching or nursing. Although some time in lessons is given for typing assignments, students will be expected to do independent research and improvements in their study lessons. A commitment to doing your best in and out of class is essential.

There is a lot of written coursework to complete during the two years. All deadlines must be met, without fail, and students will be given the necessary help to achieve distinction in each coursework unit. Personal organisation and good time management are therefore vital. Grade 4 and above in English and biology will help with the maturity, quality and depth of writing required and the compulsory science content.

What can I do with this qualification?

Level 3 qualifications in health and social care will prepare you for employment in a wide range of caring, medical and public service sectors and in higher education in general; however, the transferable skills learned will be useful in any employment, regardless of the sector.

All degrees at university accept this qualification in conjunction with other A levels or BTECs, and the final P, M, D & D* grades are worth the same number of UCAS points as the academic grades E, C, A & A*.

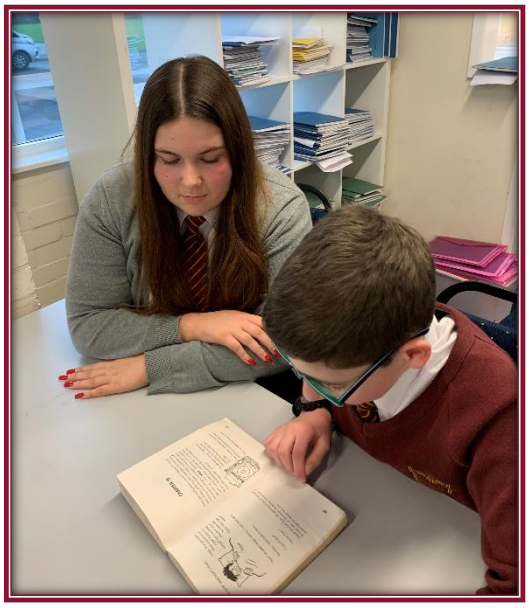
WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mrs Fisher

Health and Social Care – Tilly Joy

I joined Netherhall School in 2017 and I am currently studying the double award in health and social care with A level religious studies. Since starting sixth form in 2022, I have developed my knowledge and life skills. I have participated in a nursing and midwifery course, supported younger students in religious studies lessons, and I do a weekly work placement as a teaching assistant with my old primary school. There are plenty of opportunities to make a contribution in sixth form!

I was interested in taking health and social care following my GCSEs where I achieved a distinction. I knew from an early stage that I wanted to choose this as an option. I am especially enjoying the dementia unit as well as the work we have done on anatomy. These things have helped my understanding of a range of different conditions, and how best to care for vulnerable people. We recently organised an event for elderly people and people with disabilities, and it was great to apply the skills I have learnt in the course to a real-life scenario. I hope to be a paediatric nurse in the future, and I feel the course prepares me really well for this. I would highly recommend this subject, either as a single or a double award.



A Level – History

What is it about?

Unit 1 **Britain:** **1930 - 1997**	Part 1: This is a fantastic course that covers British history from 1930 to 1997. The first part of the course looks at Churchill between 1930 and 1951. We consider Churchill's view of events between 1929 and 1934, which help explain why he is such a controversial figure today. We then go on to study Churchill as wartime prime minister, considering whether it really was his "finest hour." Part 2: This part of the course considers Britain between 1951 and 1997. We question why the Conservative Party were able to dominate between 1951 and 1964 and also consider the Labour and Conservative governments between 1964 and 79. We then go on to consider another divisive figure, Margaret Thatcher, and consider the 'end of consensus' from 1979-1997.
Unit 2 **Democracy and dictatorships in Germany:** **1919 - 1963**	We begin with an assessment of the impact of WWI and the Treaty of Versailles. We examine the establishment, struggle and development of the Weimar Republic. We consider how an extremist such as Hitler was able to become Chancellor in 1933 and eventually dictator of Germany. We then assess how much control the Nazis wielded over the German people and the impact that their policies had on people's lives. Next, we look at the impact of WWII and the defeat of Germany in 1945. One of the most thought-provoking elements of the course gets us to question how and why the Holocaust was possible and the extent to whichthe German people supported it. Finally, the course involves a study of the divided nature of post-war Germany, the Federal Republic and the DDR between 1949 and 1963.
Unit 3 **Thematic study and historical interpretations**	The Tudor dynasty is one of the most famous royal families and we tend to see them as the strongest English monarchs, but this was not the case at the beginning of their dynasty. Henry VII was a usurper of the English throne, having defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. As the course progresses, we consider the main causes of rebellion and disorder, the frequency and nature of disturbances, the impact of disturbances upon Tudor governments and the maintenance of political stability. We study the rebellions in depth: The Pilgrimage of Grace, the Western Rebellion and Tyrone's Rebellion (in Ireland).

Unit 4 **Historical Investigation**	The final unit of Year 13 history, involves writing a 3,500 word personal enquiry. This is the unit that prepares students well for university. Students are given free choice to write their coursework on a question of their choice. Students complete independent research and write their coursework with guidance from their teacher. This is a real opportunity to produce a piece of academic work to be proud of.

What is expected of me during this course?

You must have at least a grade 4 in GCSE history to study this OCR A level history course.

What can I combine this subject with?

History combines well with most subjects but is particularly popular with students studying English, geography and RS. History is also useful to those studying maths and sciences as it develops different skills.

What can I do with this qualification?

History develops many skills that are essential for all types of further education, such as essay writing and research skills. At university it can be studied by itself and is particularly useful as part of business and law degrees.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Rainsley or Mr Johnston

A level history – Olivia Tubman

My name is Olivia and I'm currently studying history, English literature and health and social care. I also do the EPQ which has really helped me to develop my research and academic writing skills.

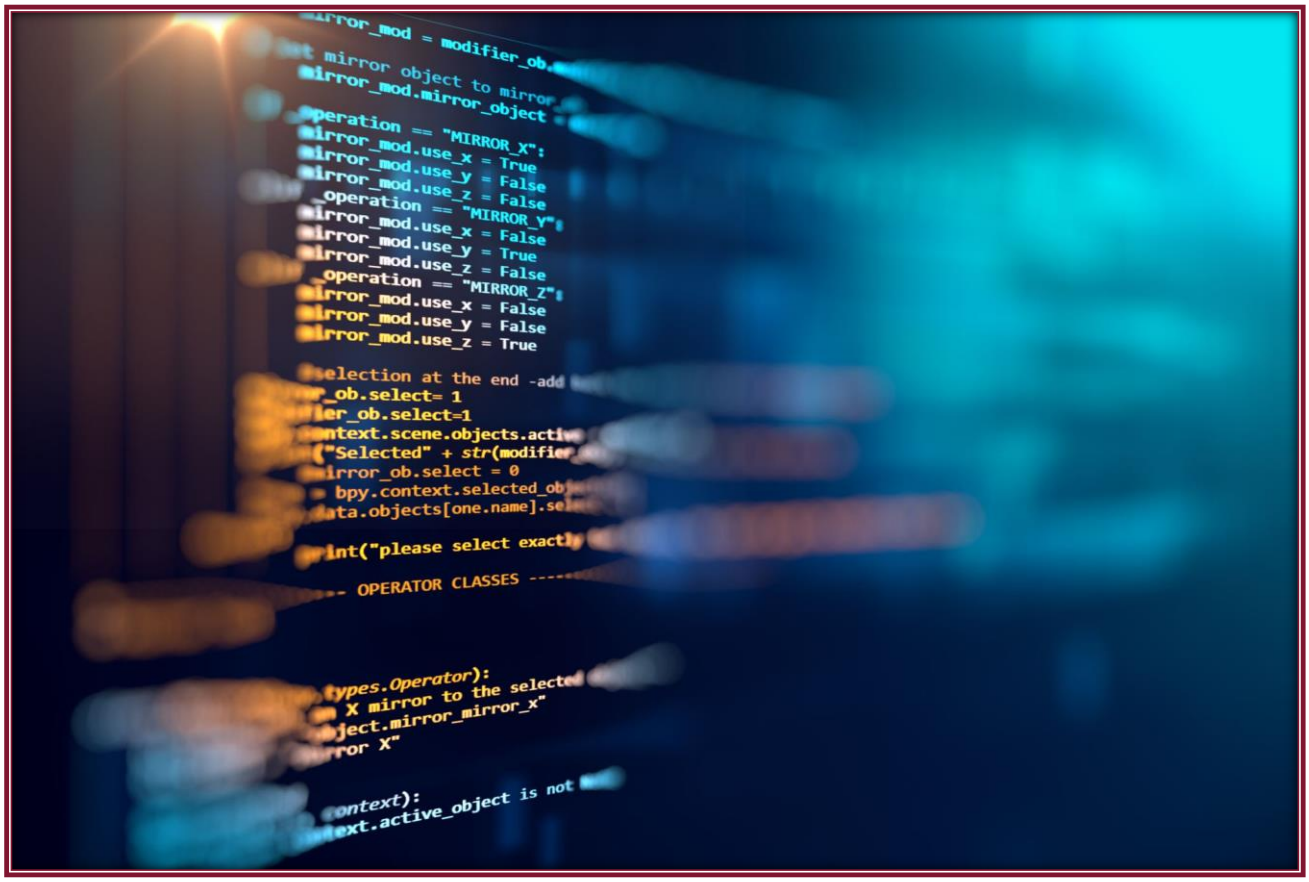
Although I didn't study history at GCSE, I am very much enjoying the course and my teachers have been very supportive in ensuring I make progress. Teaching staff regularly give up their time to offer one-on-one help which is really useful. I'm aiming to achieve at least grade A by the end of the course, and I would like to complete a law degree when I finish sixth form. To help with this, I have applied for an internship programme with the Social Mobility Foundation, and I'm hoping to be part of a mentoring programme for aspiring law students.

I have really enjoyed the British history unit as it has given me an interest in politics, as well as an understanding of why things are the way they are today in the UK. The Germany unit is fascinating, too, and I'm looking enjoying studying the Tudors this year. Studying history helps you to develop good essay writing skills and gives you the ability to analyse different texts and sources. I would definitely recommend it to anyone with an interest in history. It is challenging but very rewarding!

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 - Introductory Diploma in IT.

What is it about?

Learners will be able to develop their core knowledge, skills and understanding of the IT sector, and develop further skills by completing a range of units through a pathway called emerging digital technology practitioner. Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Cambridge Technical in IT focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand.



What is expected of me during the course?

There will be five units to complete over two years. It is expected that students opting for this course will have a very good attendance record in order to work successfully to many short-term deadlines.

The units you will have to study are;

- **Unit 1** - Fundamentals of IT (80 mark written exam).
- **Unit 2** - Global information (80 mark written exam).
- **Unit 5** - Virtual and augmented reality (Coursework).
- **Unit 8** - Project management (Coursework).
- **Unit 17** - Internet of everything (Coursework).

What can I combine this subject with?

Information technology will combine well with all other subjects.

What can I do with this qualification?

The qualification develops many skills that will prepare you for further education or employment. It is particularly useful for students interested in following a career as an IT infrastructure technician, emerging digital technology practitioner, application developer or data analyst.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

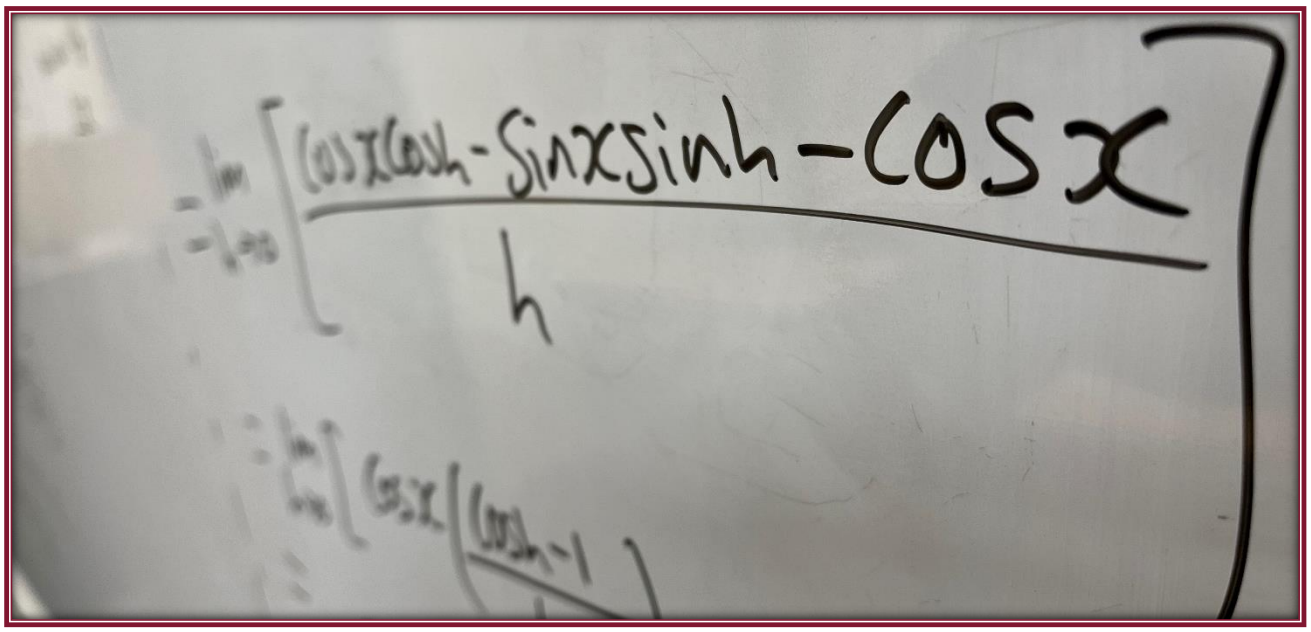
Mrs Cooper or Mr Lister

IT – Harvey Clifford

My name is Harvey and I am in year 13 studying A levels in history and English literature alongside IT. I am aiming to get an A in history and English as well as a distinction in my IT. It is my ambition to secure a degree apprenticeship in project management, and I have completed a range of work experience placements alongside my sixth form studies. This will help me with my upcoming applications and interviews.

The OCR Cambridge level 3 introductory diploma in IT will give you a greater understanding of computer systems and how they work and how to use them professionally or in businesses. My knowledge of these systems has improved since starting the course as well as learning about other technology such as virtual reality and augmented reality. If you have an interest in technology this part of the course is amazing to learn about. Within the course there is a mixture of exams and coursework, being able to meet deadlines and being organised with your work is crucial. I feel that the course helps you to develop a range of skills that are useful for life and university study. Currently the future of technology is expanding rapidly and so many careers and jobs are available within IT. If there is anything within computing and IT that you enjoy and are interested in and want to have a future career that involves this, I would definitely recommend you take this course.

A Level - Mathematics



What is it about?

The A level mathematics course will build upon many of the ideas you have been studying at GCSE. You will develop a deeper understanding of topics such as algebra, logarithms, trigonometry, differentiation and sequences and be introduced to new ideas such as integration proof and logs. This Edexcel course also covers content on statistics and mechanics.

What is expected of me during the course?

You will need to have obtained at least grade 7 in mathematics at GCSE. The course is assessed at the end of 2 years by three externally examined papers, each worth 1/3 of the final marks.

- **Paper 1** - Pure mathematics 1 (2 hours).
- **Paper 2** - Pure mathematics 2 (2 hours).
- **Paper 3** - Statistics and mechanics (2 hours).

Calculators can be used in all of the exams, so it is advised to have an A level standard calculator throughout the course. A graphical calculator is recommended, for example Casio FX-991EX or FX-9750GII.

What can I combine this subject with?

Maths combines well with all the sciences, geography, arts and languages.

What can I do with this qualification?

University courses concerning or leading to accountancy, actuarial services (statistics/insurance), investment banking, civil service, teaching, diplomatic service, health service, government, public health, management, software design, telecommunications, environmental consultancy, medical research, surveying, engineering, cryptography (code writing/breaking), financial computing, medical statistician, weather forecasting, defence analysis, operational research, business management, mathematical/IT sciences, electronic and electrical engineering, micro-technology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Juhasz, Mr Bell or Miss Wright

A level maths – Max Nealy

My name is Max and I am currently in year 13, with the ambition of pursuing a career in medicine and surgery. I am studying maths, chemistry and biology. Combining my enjoyment and interests in these subjects with the support of my teachers I am aiming to achieve grade As and A*s.

My maths studies have given me a great advantage across all my subjects, especially in chemistry where maths and mathematical skills are very prominent. So far, I am particularly enjoying mechanics as it allows me to use and develop my logical thinking in real-world scenarios.

I find maths to be the most challenging, yet most rewarding subject I have taken. I would recommend it to anyone with a genuine interest in mathematical areas such as engineering or finance. It will allow you to access a wide range of mathematical or scientific careers due to it being one of the most highly respected and sought-after qualifications. As expected, succeeding in the course requires a lot of hard work, yet thanks to the support of my teachers and the foundation created by GCSE maths, I am able to work at my target grade.

A Level - Photography

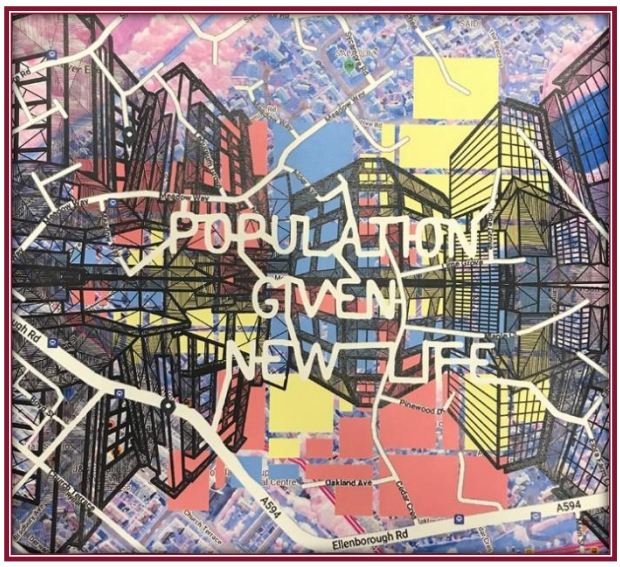
What is it about?

A level photography is an exciting course exploring a range of approaches, supported by contextual understanding. Throughout the course we will study portraiture, landscape and still life photography; however, students are encouraged to develop their own ideas in an original and exciting manner, providing them with the opportunity to gain new skills and develop existing ones. We strongly encourage students to develop their work through the use of Photoshop, so prior knowledge of this is essential. There are two components to the course; one set by the student and one set by AQA. Prior to planning their own project, students will complete a range of smaller projects to help expand their understanding of a range of artists and processes.

The art department organises trips in the autumn term to Edinburgh to visit galleries, and the University of Cumbria to take part in printmaking workshops and life drawing, which photography students will also have access to. This enables students to experience a rich variety of historical and contemporary work, which will subsequently inform their own creativity. The course enables students to develop their skills in decision making, the ability to follow tasks through from conception to completion and to develop their potential when working independently.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have a good imagination and be able to develop creative ideas. You should be happy to experiment with a range of materials and processes. A grade 4 in GCSE art or photography is



essential. It is important to remember that a lot of work will need to be completed, not just in lessons, but in your own time too.

What can I combine this subject with?

Photography combines with any subject, but in particular English, history and RE, which can help to develop the analytical and evaluative skills needed in photography.

What can I do with this qualification?

Any art based degree, or any art based course. This can lead to careers in fine art, illustration, photography, design, advertising, graphics or teaching.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Cotton or Mrs Stead

A level photography – Kia Carter

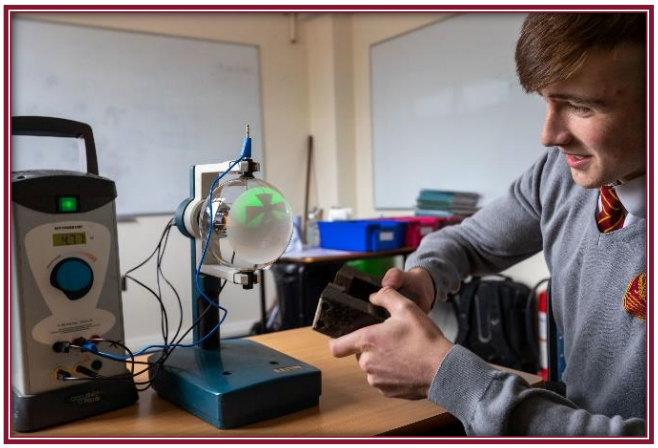
I'm Kia, and alongside A level photography I am also studying IT and applied science; I am in year 13 at the moment and in the future, I would like a medical career. I am expecting to gain at least a merit in IT and also in applied science. In photography, we started off with an induction project, titled 'A Sense of Place'; this is about the mood or atmosphere that can be created within portrait, landscape and still life photographs. This helped us to develop a lot of the foundational skills required to analyse the work of photographers and create our own shots, before developing our work in a more individual direction.

I would recommend A level photography as it allows me to be creative within my practical work and through my written analysis, where I can look into the symbolism and meaning behind the different artists work that inspire my projects. Personally, I enjoy experimenting by hand and exploring the new possibilities each edit creates.

Within my first term of sixth-form I have been given many extra-curricular opportunities, including a photography trip to Keswick and a workshop session with a local graphic designer

A Level - Physics

What is it about?



Physics has an important role in our consideration of why many of the actions we see on Earth (and beyond) take place. It gives us an understanding of the benefits and risks of many physical processes, including electric and magnetic fields and nuclear radiation. Students will study the course offered by the Edexcel exam board (specification for 2015) in order to develop their mathematical responses whilst considering mechanics, oscillations and particles for example. Practical investigative tasks structure a large part of the curriculum, allowing students to apply their knowledge and understanding to real life situations within the school laboratory. A visit to the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland is planned for the coming year, to enhance the course experience.

How is it structured?

Your A level course is divided into 13 topics taught over two years, this also includes 12 required practicals.

1. **Working as a physicist:** In this module you will learn about the theory of measurement. You will learn how to use base and derived quantities and also SI units.
2. **Mechanics:** In this module, you will study statics and kinematics, and apply the equations of uniformly accelerated motion.
3. **Electric circuits:** In this module, you will learn how to derive a number of electrical quantities including charge, potential difference, current and work done.
4. **Materials:** In this module you will learn about density, Archimedes' principle, and Stokes' law of viscous drag. You will investigate Hooke's law and measure the Young modulus of a material.
5. **Waves and the particle nature of light:** In this module, you will investigate the properties of sound and light waves. Your study will begin with the nature of transverse and longitudinal waves, how to measure them, and how to apply these measurements in a practical to determine the speed of sound in air.
6. **Further mechanics:** In this module, you will study momentum changes and how these relate to Newton's second law. You will also consider elastic and inelastic collisions and the energies of non-relativistic particles.
7. **Electric and magnetic fields:** In this module, you will learn about the nature of electric and magnetic fields, how they arise, and their effect on charged particles.
8. **Nuclear and particle physics:** In this module, you will learn about the different particles that make up the Standard Model of particle physics, how these particles interact, and how the conservation laws apply to each interaction.
9. **Thermodynamics:** In this module, you will learn about specific heat capacity, specific latent heat and internal energy.
10. **Space physics:** In this module, you will learn how to determine astronomical distances using trigonometric parallax and standard candles. You will discover how to sketch and interpret Hertzsprung-Russell diagrams and relate these to the life-cycle of a star.

11. **Nuclear radiation:** In this module, you will use Einstein's $E = mc^2$ equation to understand how changes in the nucleus drive the processes of nuclear fusion and fission. You will explore the properties of alpha, beta and gamma radiation through practical activities using radioactive sources.
12. **Gravitational fields:** In this module, you will learn how to describe the gravitational field of a mass using Newton's law of gravitation, how this relates to the acceleration due to gravity on Earth, and also how to calculate the work done when moving between any two points in space.
13. **Oscillations:** In this module, you will learn the fundamentals of simple harmonic motion. You will formulate equations to describe the motion of oscillating systems and use these to predict how changing different quantities will affect this motion.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE physics or a grade 7 in the physics component of Combined Science (Trilogy) before considering taking this course. To be successful in physics you need to be well organised, complete all tasks set, be prepared to engage in wider reading and have a genuine interest in the subject. You will also find it beneficial to study A level maths alongside physics. Assessment is by way of three exams at the end of the course.

What can I combine this subject with?

Physics combines with a range of other A level subjects, especially maths and chemistry.

What can I do with this qualification?

A level physics is usually required in order to undertake degree courses in engineering, physics or mathematics and can be an advantage when applying for medicine, veterinary science and sports science. It can also be beneficial when applying for engineering type apprenticeships with local companies.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Richardson or Mrs Shipton

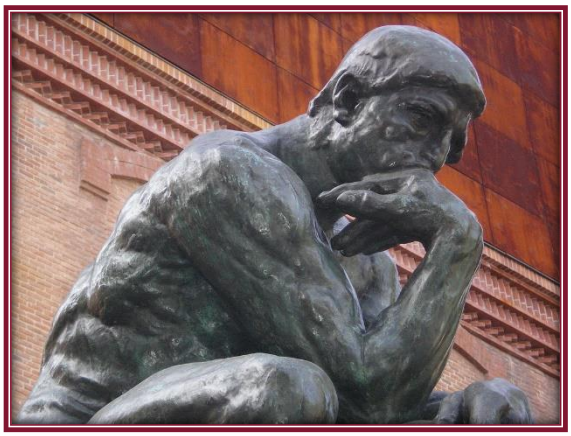
A level physics – Ren Bray

I am currently studying physics, chemistry and maths for my A levels. I have always had an interest in physics which has only been amplified since coming to Netherhall School Sixth Form. I am hoping to secure As in my subjects so in the future I can go to study physics and philosophy at university. I think physics is a very good option for anyone who enjoys maths and science-based subjects and also enjoys problem solving.

I have particularly enjoyed the way that the physics course builds upon what I learnt at GCSE. The A level unit for electric circuits has provided a much greater depth of explanation than at GCSE – making the content feel a lot more thorough, and making it easier to visually conceptualise and draw links between different ideas. The course also goes over many other topics such as waves, mechanics, materials, some quantum physics, thermodynamics, nuclear radiation and some others. Good maths skills are essential for the course as there are many complex equations and formulae to work with.

A Level - Religious Studies

What is it about?



Have you ever wondered if life may not be entirely as it seems? Or questioned whether a good God can really exist with so much evil in the world? Or thought about whether humans do have such things as souls, free will or a conscience? Or how people come to decide what is right and wrong? And why people disagree so frequently in business, medicine and politics? This course will help you to explore various answers to these questions and to many, many more.

How is it structured?

Your OCR A level in religious studies is divided into three linked sections.

Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences.
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God.
- The nature and impact of religious experience.
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil.
- The nature of the soul, mind and body.
- The possibility of life after death.
- Ideas about the nature of God.
- Issues in religious language.

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories.
- Ethical language and thought.
- Debates surrounding the significant ideas of conscience and free will.
- The influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion.

Development in Christian Thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority.
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition.
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought.
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

What is expected of me during the course?

You should have achieved grade 4 in GCSE RS before considering taking this stimulating yet academically demanding course. Over the two years, you will be expected to take a full and active part in all learning activities both in class and in your own free time. A commitment to doing your best in and out of class is essential.

What can I do with this qualification?

A level RS can lead to degrees in philosophy, religion and ethics, sociology or psychology as well as careers in any profession where understanding people's attitudes and behaviour is important e.g. teacher, lawyer, business manager, police etc.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Miss Barcock, Mrs Bishop or Miss Holliday

A level religious studies – Abbie Armstrong

My name is Abbie Armstrong and I am currently in year 13 studying RE, geography and applied science. I joined Netherhall School in 2017 and have studied religious studies the whole way through, as well as choosing to continue studying it for a further two years in sixth form.

I enjoy religious studies because it allows us to understand the beliefs and opinions that come from different people and cultures all across the world. It also gives us an insight into the theories that people have and how they could be viewed from different perspectives. We are able to learn about philosophy that is both ancient and recent while understanding how philosophers believe things came about. From studying religious studies, I have been able to learn how to dig deep into complex ideas and understand them as well as being able to explain what they mean. This has allowed me to gain confidence in my own ideas and being able to express them. Big questions with unknown answers are raised, such as over the existence of God. This allows for discussion and views to be exchanged, so that everyone's opinions can be recognised.

I would recommend RE to anyone that enjoys learning about a variety of ideas and crafting extended, personal answers to them, as well as sharing opinions and finding out about a range of contrasting views and theories that are believed to have shaped the world we live in.

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 - Sport and Physical Activity

What is it about?

This qualification is for students who want to study sport, leisure or fitness. The OCR qualification is not just about being able to play sport, it will provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into higher education on a sport-related programme such as sport and physical education, sport science, sport coaching and development, or sport and leisure management.

Your OCR course will be divided into 5 units:

Two units will be exam based and assessed externally, while the other three units will be based around written and practical coursework.

Unit	Units	Assessment Type	Learning Hours
1	Body systems and the effects of physical activity.	External exam.	90
2	Sports coaching and activity leadership.	Internal assessment.	90
3	Sports organisation and development.	External exam.	60
4	Organisation of sports events.	Internal assessment.	60

Unit	Units	Assessment Type	Learning Hours
5	Practical skills in sport and physical activiti es.	Internal assessment.	60

What is expected of me during the course?

You will need to be to have a confident grasp of literacy, as much of the internally assessed work will be written coursework. You will need to have experience of various sports and practical activities, as you will need to demonstrate your sporting ability in 3 areas, including an individual sport, team game and outdoor adventure activity.

What can I do with this qualification?

The OCR level 3 in sport and physical activity will prepare you for employment in various sectors, such as coaching and the leisure industry and will also help you move into higher education.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Smith, Miss Smith or Mrs Holliday

Sport and physical activity – Lewis Moore

My name is Lewis and I am currently studying sport and physical activity, ICT and English language in 6th form. I am aiming to follow on from receiving a Distinction* in GCSE PE and hopefully receive the same result in my A level. As well as this, I am also hoping for a Distinction in ICT and a minimum of a grade B in English language. In the future I am considering either studying sport at university or a degree apprenticeship with Sellafield.

I began studying PE at GCSE in year 9. Since then, I have learnt that in sport there are an extremely wide range of opportunities and roles for the future that I would be interested in. The subject has taught me many key attributes and skills, including how to coach a group of students and how all the of the human body parts work and where they are. I have had the opportunity to plan my own session in my chosen sport, which was football, and delivered it to group of younger students. I found this very enjoyable as it gave me the opportunity to teach something I have always loved, and try to pass on my knowledge and understanding of the sport, hoping that the students would be able to improve their game and learn new skills. I have also begun to referee school football games, which allows me to view the game from a different aspect and have a greater understanding of the rules. The subject consists of 3 different parts, coursework, practical and examination. In my personal opinion, I mostly enjoy the practical as it allows me to show my physical skills and gives me the chance to improve in all of the sports that we participate in.

I have played several sports both in and outside school. My two favourites have always been football and rugby league, which I have played from around 5-6 years old. In football, I have captained the school team, represented Allerdale, won the schools under 18s County Cup and played at an Academy level from under 11s-16s. I currently play for Workington Reds. In rugby league I have represented Cumbria, won the under 16s County cup, as well as participating in the school teams.

A Level Music

What is it about?

A Level music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative education in music with an integrated approach to the three main elements – performing, composing and appraising. You are encouraged to be creative and to broaden your musical horizons and understanding with areas of study that inspire and challenge.

This course will enable you to explore performance and composition in greater detail and allow you to choose a specialism in performance or composition. Through the various genres, styles and eras contained in the areas of study, you will explore musical context, musical language and performance and composition skills. Studying an A Level in music has options and pathways designed to appeal to, and cater for, a wide range of interests, instruments, personalities and directions. During the course, you will:

- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation and expression
- Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- Develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Reflect critically and make personal judgements on your own and others' music
- Engage with, and extend appreciation of, the diverse heritage of music in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development
- Recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising underpinned by attentive listening
- Develop and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of instruments and styles, and of relevant approaches to both performing and composing
- Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology.

What is expected of me during the course?

You will need to be creative and happy to perform in a public setting, both as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble. You must be able to play an instrument or sing to a good standard, this will require you to commit to regular practice at home.

What can I combine this subject with?

Music combines with any subject, but in particular creative subjects like art, photography and English because it requires a similar creative yet methodical approach. ICT is also a good combination, as you will be required to work extensively with recording software and hardware.

What can I do with this qualification?

Any music-based degree or music-based course. This can lead to careers in performing, composing, teaching, or music technology.

WHO SHOULD I ASK TO FIND OUT MORE?

Mr Newton or Mr McCrickerd

A level Music - Benn Potts

Hello, my name is Benn Potts, and I am an A level music student here at Netherhall school. Alongside music, I currently study applied science and IT. In music lessons I have learnt how to read, write, and understand musical notation, as well as studying key elements of music like tempo, pitch, dynamics and texture. We are also covering a variety of jazz standards that are an important part of a musician's repertoire, as they are great examples of useful techniques like call and response, rhythmic stabs, and the use of musical elements to display different emotions or meanings into music, as well as keeping the listener interested.

Music is a very useful subject, because it coincides with other subjects like English, art and photography as all these subjects require a degree of creativity, and music can greatly aid these. Music can also lead you down many different careers like teaching, music technology, composing and performing.

There is an extra-curricular club in the music department every day of the week. I currently participate in guitar (bass and ukulele) club and jam club, and I am part of the school band. The department also offers after-school sessions in instrumental skills, guitar and choir.

Students have full access to the instruments in the music department, and to the practice rooms where they can rehearse without distractions. Anyone, regardless of skill level, can come and practise.

I can see myself going down a music route in the future. Music is a great interest of mine and to pursue it from a career standpoint sounds like something I am definitely considering, and working with excellent music department at Netherhall school has inspired me even more.

Useful Information

- Main School Reception - 01900 813434
- Netherhall Community Sports Centre - 01900 813434 - Option 3
- Email: office@netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk
- School Website: www.netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk

"Students have considerable respect for their teachers because they believe their teachers are doing a great job."