



PLUME

Maldon's Community Academy

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

2026



Welcome from the Joint Heads of Academy

‘Students in the sixth form build on the knowledge and skills they acquire in the main school, and as a result they achieve well’.

Ofsted, 2023



Tom Baster
*Joint Head of
Academy*



Ruth Clark
*Joint Head of
Academy*

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Post-16 education is an exciting yet challenging ‘next step’ prior to moving into the increasingly competitive employment market, securing a place at university or, as is increasingly the case, successfully progressing onto an apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship pathway.

Plume College remains a very popular post-16 choice where year in, year out, our students achieve excellent results whilst growing as individuals at the same time. We have absolute confidence that this will only continue moving forward.

Plume College is highly successful and continues to develop and evolve across all key areas whilst remaining one of the largest school-based sixth forms in Essex. We offer a wide range of courses and excellent opportunities for students to further their studies in a collaborative, nurturing yet expectant environment.

Purpose-built facilities serve Plume College well with students having their own coffee shop, a suite of common rooms and a large study room equipped with modern computers and internet access. Plume College students also have access to their own fully equipped Learning and Information Centre (LAIC).

An experienced team of tutors and a fully committed team of specialist Plume College staff are also available to provide Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) to our sixth form students to assist them with their studies, whilst also preparing them for Higher Education and employment.

Our detailed induction and enrichment programme also helps all our students to quickly settle into both the academic as well as the social life of Plume College. Those who join the College enjoy the greater freedom and the responsibility of working as a post-16 student whilst at the same time being supported by staff who may have known them for many years. Additionally, in recent years, we have welcomed many students from other schools; these students have also settled in quickly and thrived academically.

We hope you will take the opportunity to explore the range of courses that we have on offer. As proud Plume College teachers ourselves, we play a full part in Plume College life. To this end, we look forward to welcoming you to Plume College, to the Plume Family and maybe into our respective A Level classes, from September 2026.

With respect and sincerest best wishes,

Mr T. Baster
Joint Head of Academy

Mrs R.Clark
Joint Head of Academy

Assistant Headteacher Head of College

Mr J Hallam

Our Sixth Form College provides an ambitious and enjoyable experience that produces excellent outcomes in the classroom and in the wider community. We pride ourselves on our student-centred approach, high-quality teaching and the extensive opportunities we provide to our students.



Firstly, thank you for your interest in Plume College, I understand that your Post-16 decision is extremely important and I hope that you will consider joining us in September 2026. In my opinion, a Sixth Form College should be an inspiring and engaging learning environment that fosters talent and provides the high quality teaching and guidance to enable students to access their full potential. At Plume College, we combine the academic rigour of a Sixth Form with the freedom and flexibility of a College. Plume College has a history of high achievement, Plume College has a history of high achievement, with our 2024 outcomes ranking as the best in Essex based on Value Added. I believe this is a result of the culture and ethos that makes Plume College what it is. When I joined Plume, I set out a vision for a 'successful, supportive and student-centred college'. One of our greatest assets is the level of pastoral support we offer students. Whilst we are highly ambitious and encourage our students to excel, we live by the philosophy that a students' first priority is their health and happiness, if this is achieved, success will follow. Plume College students have access to their own dedicated study spaces, library and canteen. As well as these excellent facilities, Plume College students have access to outstanding collective support from our College team and expert teachers in their subjects.

Mr J Hallam

Assistant Headteacher: Head of College

HEAD GIRL



My name is Nicole Kaczynska, and I am the Head Girl at Plume Academy for this academic year. I am currently studying Biology, French and Cambridge Technical Business at A-level, having also completed my Level 3 Mathematical studies during my first year at Plume College. I am aiming to pursue a career working with animals in the veterinary field.

I started my journey here at Plume Academy in 2019 as a year 7 student and have had such a positive experience going through secondary school and Sixth Form here. My choice to continue my studies at Plume was the best

decision I could have made for my education. With an amazing support system in place, I was able to broaden my experiences and knowledge within my subjects but also develop as an individual. Plume has helped me become the person that I am today, giving me opportunities to engage and work within my community and meeting many new people along the way. The support from staff here at Plume Academy allows students to express themselves for who they are, making the Plume family a safe and welcoming environment for students. With such a vast range of subjects and consistent dedication from staff, it has made our school a fantastic place to learn.

I am extremely honoured to represent Plume Academy and look forward to helping students exceed their expectations throughout their journey as a Plume student.

HEAD BOY

Hi, my name is Benjamin Whitworth, and I am proud to be the Head Boy at Plume for this academic year. Since joining in Year 7, I have had the pleasure to enjoy all aspects of life at Plume, and the opportunities it has offered. I am currently studying Maths, Further Maths and Computer Science, and I would like to pursue a career in STEM. Thanks to these subjects, all taught by fantastic and knowledgeable teachers, I have a wide range of options open to me.

Here at Plume, the staff are always there to support the student. Whether that is a subject teacher helping you revise your weak points, or a Head of Year connecting with the students at lunch, there is always a sense of connection and a passion for learning.

Plume College has been the best opportunity to further my studies that I could have asked for. The support given to students is incredible, always pushing them forward to achieve their best, whether that be a traditional university route, higher or degree apprenticeship, or whatever helps the student get to where they want to be in the world. Through the help of our amazing College staff, I have managed to attend apprenticeship conferences and work experience events in fields related to my interests.

I am looking forward to working with the Leadership Team to represent Plume, create great opportunities for our students, and help connect our two Campuses.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Each year Plume Academy offers the opportunity for all students to apply to join the College Executive Student Leadership Team. This group of exceptional students are a fundamental part of developing Student Voice and bring about positive change for the benefit of all stakeholders.

College students can apply to take on the role of Head Boy/Girl, Deputy Head Boy/Girl or to be a member of the extended Student Leadership Team. As a member of the extended team, College students can take a lead on areas such as Sports & Fitness, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Environmental & Sustainability plus many more.



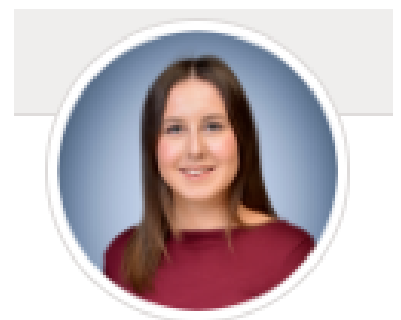
AN EXTERNAL STUDENT'S VIEW

My name is Laura Barnes, and I am taking on a role within the Student Leadership Team, managing the College's social media, and advertising events within the College. In addition to this, I am taking 3 A levels: History, English Language and Media Studies, and I completed an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) in Year 12.

Last September, I joined the College, and as an external student joining a tight knit community, it was a huge step. However, within just a few weeks, I felt entirely comfortable within the College, and in my subjects. I chose Plume instead of my previous school as they offered a wider range of subjects, and more freedom than any other local sixth form.

Next year, I hope to begin a degree apprenticeship, in the digital marketing and public relations sector, I have received support from the College staff and my subject teachers to help me achieve this. I am so glad that I chose to come to Plume and I really feel the supportive network of pastoral staff and passionate teaching has helped motivate me to work my hardest.

One thing that I like about Plume is the opportunities you are given. With frequent subject specific trips, and university fairs/trips, in the past year myself and my peers have been able to grasp a greater understanding of our subjects through trips across the UK and internationally. If you are unsure about what sixth form or college to attend, you won't regret coming to Plume.



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If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Demes (College Manager) in the College Office on her direct line: 01621 879830 or by email: 6thform@plume.essex.sch.uk.

ART

COURSE CONTENT

In the first term students will complete a foundation module of skills related to good Fine Art practice. These include drawing, mark making, painting, print making, sculpture and alternative media such as photography and video presentations. Completed work will be presented on appropriate formats in A2 sketchbooks and will cover all appropriate aesthetic skills such as colour, the use of line and texture.

Students will begin a sustained project in an area of study of their choice in the second term. Students will select sources, organise their own projects and present in creative presentations in either sketchbooks or worksheets. The module will be sub themed into three sections to allow depth of knowledge and a full range of creative outcomes. The final response can either be a single outcome such as a large painting or sculpture, or a series of smaller outcomes that explore a concept in a personal way.

Students are also required to write a related study – a minimum of 1000 words essay about existing Art and how it has influenced their own work.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The course is constructed around four assessment objectives: A01 (Develop), A02 (Explore), A03 (Record), A04 (Present). The two outcomes are a Personal Investigation (60%) of total A level and an externally set task (40%) of total A level.

Students receive formative assessment at least every four weeks to help them develop and improve their work.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course is suitable for students who wish to study art, craft and design at a higher level. It is appropriate for those looking to take up careers for which an art background is relevant (for example in advertising, publishing, architecture, museums, theatre or art gallery work) and for students with an interest and aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to study it further.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr K Flower

EXAM BOARD

OCR H601

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Art Grade 4

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Photography
- Graphic Communication
- English

BIOLOGY

COURSE CONTENT

Students will study the biology of a range of organisms, both plant and animal, with a heavy bias towards humans and human activity. The course involves both theory and practical activities and makes use of Information and Communication Technology. There is a two-day field course at the end of Year 12.

Content overview

Module 1: Development of fundamental skills in biology (integrated into the whole course)

Module 2: Foundations in biology

Module 3: Exchange and transport

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Year 12

Students will be assessed at the end of Year 12 with a mock examination consisting of two papers: A Breadth paper and a Depth paper. These two papers examine the content and practical skills found in Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Year 13

Students will be examined on all six modules across three papers, where paper 3 is a synoptic paper and draws on content from the entire course. Practical skills will also be reported separately and will contribute to the practical endorsement in Biology.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course is suitable for any career involving Biology, including medicine, veterinary science, agricultural and environmental courses, physiotherapy, forensics, nursing and laboratory work. Biology counts as a required science qualification for a range of these careers and courses. Many Biology-based courses at University may also require AS/A level Chemistry.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Dr G Georgiou

EXAM BOARD

OCR A

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Biology Grade 6
GCSE Chemistry Grade 5
(or GCSE Combined Science
Grade 6-6)

Due to the level of mathematical
content in the course we
recommend a grade 5 or above in
GCSE Maths

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Psychology

BUSINESS

COURSE CONTENT

Students will study the core knowledge, understanding and skills related to the 4 themes. Students will develop their analytical and evaluative skills relating to a series of business concepts and theories

Themes which will be covered include:

- Marketing and the people
- Managing Business Activities
- Business decisions and strategy
- Global Business

These themes will be assessed across three exams.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Business is taught through a variety of methods including case studies, theoretical application, problem solving and evaluation. Students will use business models and techniques to analyse business issues and situations. Students will be expected to take an active part in all activities including discussions, debates and extended reading.

The A level will be assessed by 3 exams which are 2 hours long at the end of year 13. These papers will include short and extended answers relating to unseen business case studies. Papers 1 and 2 are worth 35% and paper 3 is worth 30% and based on pre released content.

All exams include data response and extended open-response questions.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students could continue their studies with a degree in Business, Management, Accounting, Marketing or Finance, it also combines well with other subjects at degree level such as Law, Psychology, Modern Languages and Computing

A level in Business will give you a clearer idea of different areas of business and can be used to help enter employment such as training programmes and Level 3 Apprenticeships.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr R Howlett

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Maths Grade 4
GCSE Business Studies 4 (if studied)

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Product Design
- Media
- History

CTECH BUSINESS

COURSE CONTENT

The Cambridge Technical in Business has been developed to meet the changing needs of the business sector, and prepare students for the challenges they will face in Higher Education or employment. Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Cambridge Technical in Business focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand. The business world places a high value on the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information in order to make considered decisions and all students who study this programme will have the opportunity to gain these vital skills. Alongside this you will develop practical employability skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with both internal and external stakeholders, and to manage your time effectively

The units studied are:

- Unit 1: The Business Environment
- Unit 2: Working in Business
- Unit 4: Customers and Communication
- Unit 5: Marketing and Market Research*
- Unit 20: Planning a business event*

**these units are chosen optional units and are decided upon each year depending on the interests of the cohort*

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Units 1 and 2 are both external assessments, and are 2 hours and 1.5 hours long. The papers include multiple choice questions, an element of pre-released study and longer answer questions. Both papers include data response and mathematical calculations. In preparation for this, you will be assessed in class after every learning objective is complete.

Units 4, 5 and 6 are internal assessed pieces of work also known as non-examined assessment. The content for these units will be covered, and then examined in the classroom under exam conditions.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students could continue their studies with a degree in Business, Management, Accounting, Marketing or Finance. The Ctech qualification allows students to gain practical working skills and will also aid students with gaining meaningful employment or in securing an apprenticeship after their two years of study.

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PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr R Howlett

EXAM BOARD

OCR

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- Media
- Law
- IT

CHEMISTRY

COURSE CONTENT

This course gives a fascinating survey of all the main areas of Chemistry

- ☐ Organic - The chemistry of carbon compounds.
- ☐ Inorganic - The chemistry of metals and non-metals other than carbon.
- ☐ Physical - The study of heat changes and rates of reactions.

Linear - 2 year A level. OCR Chemistry A

Content overview

Module 1: Development of fundamental skills in Chemistry (integrated throughout whole course)

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

Module 4: Core Organic chemistry

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis

The course involves both theory and practical activities and makes use of Information and Communication Technology. Due to the high level maths content in this course, we highly recommend a grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics for this subject.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Year 12—Students will be entered into internal mock AS examinations at the end of Year 12 as a benchmark of the progress they have made. There are two papers both examining content and practical skills in Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Year 13—Students will be examined on all six modules in three papers. Practical skills will also be reported separately as the practical endorsement in Chemistry.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course is suitable for any career involving Chemistry, including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Forensic sciences and laboratory work. Chemistry counts as a science qualification for a range of jobs and courses. Many Chemistry-based courses at University may also require A Level Biology.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mrs E Early

EXAM BOARD

OCR

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Chemistry Grade 6

GCSE Biology Grade 5

(or GCSE Combined Science
Grade 6-6)

GCSE Mathematics Grade 5

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Physics
- Biology
- P.E.
- Psychology

COMPUTER SCIENCE

COURSE CONTENT

A-level Computer Science students will study three units of work, the first focuses on your ability to program and computational thinking, which includes procedural and object-oriented programming techniques, data structures, algorithms, abstraction, regular expressions, and the Turing Machine. Our second unit explores the theory elements of Computer Science, including data representation, hardware and software, computer architecture, networks, databases, Big Data, functional programming and the individual, social, legal and cultural issues within the subject. The final unit is the non-exam assessment where students develop their skills by creating a programmed solution in the context of solving a realistic problem or carrying out an investigation.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Computer Science is taught using a practical application to problem solving using programming techniques and theoretical application to all other topics. Both the programming related topics and theoretical topics are examined in the summer of Year 13, each exam is worth 40% of the A-level. The exam for the programming topics is completed using a computer where you are expected to be able to answer questions about and make changes to a piece of pre-released code that is made available from September of Year 13, the exam also contains some questions about the theory of computation and a procedural oriented programming task. The exam for the theory topics is completed as a written exam. The non-exam assessment is worth 20% of the A-level and is assessed by the development of a programming project with the evidence submitted in a written report.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

University students can choose from a range of undergraduate programs, including computer science, software engineering, artificial intelligence, or cybersecurity. These programs provide comprehensive knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the rapidly evolving technology landscape. After graduation, students find themselves in high demand across industries. They can pursue careers in software development, data science, cybersecurity, technology consulting, systems analysis, or research and development. The A-level in computer science equips students for a dynamic and fulfilling career in the ever-expanding field, whether they opt for further education or enter the job market directly.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mr C Farrow

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Computer Science 5
GCSE Mathematics 4

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Mathematics
- Physics
- IT

CORE MATHEMATICS

(Level 3 Mathematical Studies)

COURSE CONTENT

In this one-year course, students will build on the skills acquired at GCSE and will expand their learning in the practical applications of Mathematics. This includes familiar and new topics such as percentages, personal finance, taxation, graphical techniques, data analysis, estimation techniques, and use of spreadsheets as well as critical path and risk analysis. We recommend anyone studying one or more of the complementary subjects listed below to add Core Mathematics as a fourth subject (if they have not chosen A Level Mathematics).

Compulsory Content:

Collect and analyse a sample, use of spreadsheets, percentages and interest rates, cost of credit, interpret graphs, taxation, solutions to financial problems, budgeting, Fermi estimations, mathematical modelling, and critically analyse headlines and mathematical models.

Optional Content:

Normal Distribution, confidence intervals, correlation and regression, product moment correlation coefficient, summarise data by calculations.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Level 3 Core Mathematics will be taught using a variety of modelling, practical tasks and group activities. Students will learn how to use spreadsheets effectively to test and justify the assumptions used to model real-world data.

Students will be assessed by 2 exams at the end of Year 12. The exams will each be 1.5 hours long – paper 1 will assess the compulsory content and paper 2 will assess the optional content. There is no coursework. However, students will be provided with preliminary information up to 3 months before the exams which will be part of the exam.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students may continue their studies with a degree in Data Analysis, Medicine, Finance, Accounting, Psychology, Marine Biology or any other field given the varied applications of Mathematics. Some university will lower their offer for applicants with Level 3 Core Mathematics.

The qualification is equivalent to AS Levels in terms of UCAS points, attracting up to 20 UCAS points. Equally, employers favour candidates with a Level 3 Core Mathematics qualification for degree apprenticeships.

Please note this option is to be taken in addition to three A Levels.

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COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs C Hicks

EXAM BOARD

AQA

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Maths Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

All other subjects but in particular

- Geography
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Business
- Product Design

CRIMINOLOGY

LEVEL 3 APPLIED DIPLOMA

COURSE CONTENT

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and criminals, including the motivations and consequences of crime and its perpetrators, as well as preventative measures. Studying criminology can be seen as multi-disciplinary, as it contains elements of Psychology, Sociology and Law. Students will cover four areas:

- Unit 1 (year 1) Changing awareness of crime: Students will recognise representations of crime, changing public perceptions and develop skills to plan a campaign.
- Unit 2 (year 1) Criminological theories: Students will assess the reasons as to why people commit crime, develop critical thinking skills and analyse criminal cases.
- Unit 3 (year 2) Crime scene to courtroom: Students will develop skills to analyse evidence, review criminal cases and evaluate evidence to determine whether the verdict is safe and just.
- Unit 4 (year 2) Crime and punishment: Students will consider why people obey the law and evaluate the aims and effectiveness of punishment.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Criminology is taught via a multitude of methods such as, class discussions, debates, presentations, independent research skills and theoretical application.

Criminology is assessed internally and externally. Students will complete an 8-hour controlled assessment in each year for unit 1 and unit 3. Additionally, students will sit a 90-minute external exam each year for unit 2 and unit 4.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

The main purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma in Criminology is mainly to use the qualification to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc/BA Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology

Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within various aspects of the criminal justice system. For example, the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service.

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COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mr P Carlsson

EXAM BOARD

WJEC

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Law

DRAMA AND THEATRE

COURSE CONTENT

The Drama and Theatre studies course enables students to develop and apply skills to make, perform, interpret and understand drama and theatre. Students will participate as a theatre maker and as an audience member in live theatre and will experience a range of opportunities to create theatre, both text based and devised work.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Theatre Workshop - 20% of qualification

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Students produce: a realisation of the performance or design and a creative log.

Component 2: Text in Action - 40% of qualification

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC:

1. A devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1)
2. An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner.

Students also produce a process and evaluation report.

Component 3: Text in Performance - 40% of qualification.

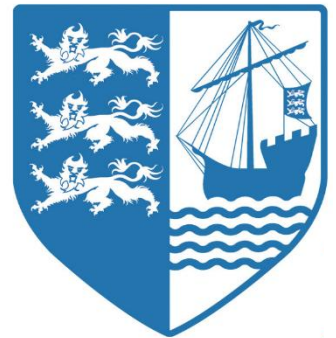
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

In this component, learners are required to study two complete texts and one extract from a third contrasting text.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students could continue their studies with a degree in Drama, Acting, or in a course focused on specific roles backstage within theatre production. An A-Level in Drama and Theatre will develop your knowledge and understanding in theatre practice and will develop a range of transferable skills, including the ability to analyse, project manage and lead a team, which are invaluable for a range of careers.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs L Ingram

Acting Key Stage 5 Coordinator

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Language

Grade 4

Drama Grade 4 (if studied)

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Dance
- English Literature
- History

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

COURSE CONTENT

In A Level English Language, students will explore how English works as a language in scientific detail, investigating how writers use language to convey meaning in contemporary and archaic written, spoken and multi-modal texts. During the course, students will also explore the theories and issues surrounding language use, and its importance and influence in society. Students will complete data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing.

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society (40% of AL)

Section A: Textual Varieties and Representations – 3 questions on two unseen texts

Section B: Children's Language Development – an essay response using unseen data set

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change (40% of AL)

Section A: Diversity and Change – essay response to choice of two questions

Section B: Language Discourses – **Q3:** analysis of two unseen texts on language diversity and change. **Q4: Directed Editorial Writing** on the topic covered in Q3.

Coursework – students complete a Language Investigation and a piece of Original Writing and Commentary. **(20%)**

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

English Language is taught through a variety of methods including case studies, theoretical application, investigations, analysis of linguistic features and evaluation. Students will use data sets, transcripts and their theory to write essays and articles. Students will be expected to take an active part in all activities including discussions, debates and extended reading.

The A level will be assessed by 2 exams which are 2 ½ hours long at the end of year 13. These papers will include extended answers relating to unseen data and sources. Papers 1 and 2 are worth 40% each and coursework is worth 20%.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students could continue their studies with a degree in English Language, journalism, linguistics or English studies. It is an extremely versatile subject that opens up many career opportunities in journalism, broadcasting, speech therapy, marketing and education. However, the analytical, evaluative and creative skills are beneficial to most careers.

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**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs G Wills

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE English Language
Grade 5

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Psychology
- Sociology
- English Literature
- Law
- Media
- History

ENGLISH LITERATURE

COURSE CONTENT

English Literature is a challenging and rewarding subject that will enable students to develop critical thinking and argumentative skills as well as build on GCSE skills and knowledge of literary analysis. Students are expected to read widely and independently; this course will therefore appeal to those who love reading and have a passion for studying literature of different genres and eras.

Paper 1: Drama two essays, one on each of the studied drama texts. (30%)

Paper 2: Prose one comparative essay on the two studied prose texts. (20%)

Paper 3: Poetry one comparative essay on an unseen poem and a poem from the studied modern poetry collection and one essay on the other poet/poetry collection studied. (30%)

Coursework one extended comparative essay referring to two texts of students' choice. (20%)

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

English Literature is taught through a variety of methods including analysis of literary features and evaluation. Students will use their set texts and literary criticism to write essays. Students will be expected to take an active part in all activities including discussions, debates and extended reading.

The A-Level will be assessed by 3 exams at the end of year 13. These papers will include extended answers relating to the texts they have studied. The exams are worth 80% of the course and coursework is worth 20%.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

English Literature is recognised by universities as a traditional and highly valued subject which will prepare you for the challenges of any degree courses you may pursue. It is an extremely versatile subject that opens up many career opportunities in humanities, media, arts, education and communications. The skills needed to study English Literature can lead to careers in journalism, education, publishing and even television screenplays and broadcasting.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs G Wills

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Literature
Grade 5

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- English Language
- Law
- Media
- History
- Drama
- Psychology
- Sociology

EPQ

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

COURSE CONTENT

The EPQ is an opportunity to develop an academic project on a topic of your choice. It mirrors academic work at university and therefore develops skills and prepares you for transition to Further Education.

There are 3 elements in the EPQ: The project, which is a 5000 word academic essay or the creation of an artefact. The presentation, where you present your final project to an audience. The production log, where you track and review how your project develops over time.

Your project should be an academic question that your research will try to answer, unless you take the artefact route and plan, design and create something great!

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The EPQ delivery model include systematic teaching of skills in research and academic writing, but the majority of lesson time is allocated to researching and developing the project. Students have frequent one-to-one discussions with their EPQ supervisor to receive guidance and feedback on project development.

The final project is marked by the EPQ supervisor and then moderated by the AQA. Learners are marked on their ability to:

- Manage the development of a project in a set time frame.
- Identify, use, and develop sources to support the project.
- Develop academic ideas and arguments.
- Review progress and the EPQ process.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

The EPQ develops academic writing and research skills and supports learners transition to study at university. However, the skills for independently managing an extensive project over time is also applicable to most sectors in the workplace.

Many students have found that studying an EPQ has been an asset when applying to study popular courses at university.

Please note this option is to be taken in addition to three A Levels.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mr P Carlsson

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE English Language grade 4

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- All subjects

FRENCH

COURSE CONTENT

Students will enhance their French language proficiency, gain cultural insights into France and other French-speaking countries. The course builds on GCSE skills, emphasising listening, speaking, reading, writing, translation and A-level students develop understanding, communication, fluency, and accuracy in French.

Themes which will be covered include:

- Social issues: current trends (Family, Cyber society, Volunteering) and Current issues (Diversity, Marginalised people, Criminality)
- Political and artistic society: Artistic culture (Heritage, Music, Cinema) and Political Life (Voting and political involvement, Trade Unions, Politics and Immigration)

These themes will be assessed across three exams.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The A-Level French course offers an engaging learning experience with exciting resources like role plays, photo cards, authentic materials, podcasts and videos, news reports, cultural activities and online interactive platforms.

Students sit the A-Level exams at the end of the course. It comprises three components: Paper 1 (listening, reading, and translation) worth 50%, followed by Paper 2 (writing) worth 20%, and Paper 3 (speaking assessment) worth 30%.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

A foreign language, like French, holds practical value in various careers such as tourism, international banking, commerce, and teaching. Universities offer diverse subject combinations with French, including European Law, Business, History, and Law. Language qualifications are highly sought after in today's global economy, providing valuable opportunities for students. Mastering a language opens doors at interviews, giving you the edge over competitors, while also unlocking unparalleled personal growth and travel opportunities.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr I Charnock

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE French Grade 5

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- English literature
- History
- Politics
- Maths
- Economics
- Sociology
- Business studies
- Media studies
- Art or Music

FUTHER MATHEMATICS

COURSE CONTENT

Students will build on the skills acquired at A-Level Mathematics and will expand their learning to pre-university Mathematics. This includes the compulsory Core Pure Mathematics, and two options Further Pure and Decision. Undoubtedly, students will enjoy the challenge of learning Mathematics at this level.

Core Pure (50%)	Further Pure 1 (25%)	Decision 1 (25%)
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Compulsory Core Pure Content:

Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.

Optional Content: A: Further Pure 1 Vectors, conic sections, inequalities, the t-formulae, Taylor series, methods in calculus, numerical methods and reducible differential equations	Optional Content: B: Further Decision 1 Algorithms, graphs and networks, algorithms on graphs, route inspection, the travelling salesman problem, linear programming, the Simplex algorithm and critical path analysis.
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TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Further Mathematics is taught using a variety of modelling, practical tasks and group work. Students use dynamic graphing calculators to explore new concepts and to investigate models.

The A-Level will be assessed by 4 exams which are 1.5 hours long at the end of year 13 – papers 1 and 2 will examine the Core Pure content; papers 3 and 4 will examine Further Pure 1 and Decision 1 respectively.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students could continue their studies with a degree in Mathematics, Actuarial Studies, Data Analyst, Engineering, Medicine, Aeronautics, Finance, Accounting, or any field given the varied applications of Mathematics. Equally, employers favour candidates with a Further Mathematics qualification for degree apprenticeships.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs C Hicks

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Maths Grade 7

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Geography
- Biology
- Psychology

GEOGRAPHY

A-Level Geography is a dynamic and relevant subject for all young people with its core themes firmly grounded within the real world. AQA's course aims to encourage learners to develop a range of essential skills for Higher Education and the world of work through content which is relevant to any citizen of the planet in the 21st century. Through topics studied learners will understand the nature of physical and human geography whilst unpicking debates surrounding contemporary challenges facing the world today. Moreover, the course fosters critical thinking, data analysis, and cross-cultural understanding, making it highly relevant for careers across various sectors, ultimately shaping informed and responsible global citizens prepared to tackle the complex challenges of our interconnected world

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

You will be taught in a range of ways from engaging in problem solving activities, writing reports, completing fieldwork, preparing presentations, taking structured notes, conducting directed research, studying sources for evidence, carrying out data analysis to drawing and explaining system diagrams.

Course Outline:

- **Paper 1** – Physical Geography – Water and Carbon Cycle, Coastal systems and Landscapes, Hazards. 2.5 hour written exam (40%)
- **Paper 2** – Human Geography – Global Systems and Governance, Changing Places, Population and the environment. 2.5 hour written exam (40%).
- **Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)** – There is a requirement to complete 4 days of fieldwork. This is then written up as a 3000 to 4000 word investigation (20%). This is delivered as part of a 5-day residential field trip in the UK.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Geography is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences, this provides geographers with a variety of career prospects post A-level. Higher education opportunities open to A-level Geography students include; Geography, Earth Science, Geology, Environmental Science, Oceanography and many other related subjects. Career possibilities include Environmental consultant, Geographical information systems officer, Catastrophe Risk Analyst, Civil Servant, Marketing Analyst, Sustainability Officer and Development Officer to list a few.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mr A McCarthy

EXAM BOARD

AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Geography Grade 4
GCSE Maths Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

COURSE CONTENT

This course is made up of two components which are both internally assessed and externally verified. Component 1 - Personal Investigation- is weighted at 60% of the final grade, and Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment, is worth 40%. Both components allow students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s)

Term 1 will introduce students to the following disciplines: branding, illustration and editorial design, via a series of workshops and mini projects. These will include both traditional and computer based techniques, used in the Graphic Design process. Students will then begin Component 1 in term 2, selecting one - two of the disciplines to work in, extending their understanding of the scope of graphic communication and developing and realizing outcomes appropriate to their chosen creative discipline/s. By term 5 students will be ready to showcase all they have learnt, in the externally set Component 2, which will consist of a preparatory period and culminate in 15 hours of sustained focus (exam) over 3/4 days. Students are also required to write a related study – a minimum of 1000 words essay about existing Art and how it has influenced their own work.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The course is constructed around four assessment objectives: A01 (Develop), A02 (Explore), A03 (Record), A04 (Present). The two outcomes are a Personal Investigation (60%) of total A level and an externally set task (40%) of total A level.

Students receive formative assessment at least every four weeks to help them develop and improve their work.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This A-Level will support students in applying for degree courses, especially in Art, Media and Graphics related specialisms. Work completed on this course will contribute to the essential portfolio required when applying for the majority of creative under graduate courses.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs M West

EXAM BOARD

OCR

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Art Grade 4

GCSE Graphics Grade 4

BTEC Creative Media L2 Pass

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Photography
- Art
- Media Studies

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE (AAQ)

COURSE CONTENT

The Level 3 Advanced National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (AAQ) qualification is a vocationally based qualification focusing on providing students with an insight on the study and explanation of the care profession. This qualification's main aim is to allow students to explore different approaches to support, care and meet individual needs. During the course students will experience individual and group tasks related to the Health & Social Care sector.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Students must complete **four mandatory** and **two optional** units totalling 360 guided learning hours (GLH).

There are 2 mandatory units that are externally assessed, both via a 1 hour 30-minute examination

Unit F090: Principles of Health and Social Care

Unit F091: Anatomy and Physiology for Health & Social Care

Students can resit each examined unit twice. This means they can have three attempts in total at exams for each of units F090 and F091.

There are 4 units that are internally assessed via coursework.

F092: Person-centred approach to care (Mandatory)

F093: Supporting people with mental health conditions (Mandatory)

F096: Supporting people: sexual health, pregnancy & postnatal health

F097: Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles

These units are marked by your teacher and then moderated by the exam board. The unit grade students achieve is based on the total number of criteria achieved for that unit. The total number can come from any combination of the pass, merit or distinction criteria.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students who have studied Health and Social Care can look forward to a wide range of exciting and promising career opportunities. With the rise in demand for health services and our ageing population, the need for health and social care professionals is expected to climb. There are opportunities to specialise in various areas and the future progression for Health and Social Care graduates and apprentices holds the potential for a dynamic and rewarding career with opportunities for continuous learning and professional growth.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mrs H Taczynski

EXAM BOARD

Cambridge OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 4 in English

Language

GCSE grade 4 in Biology

or 4-4 Combined Science

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Biology
- Sociology
- Psychology

HISTORY

COURSE CONTENT

The course will provide students interested in studying the past with the ideal opportunity to develop their existing interests and to explore some of the most exciting periods of history. The course is divided into four units. Three are assessed by examination at the end of a two year linear course.

The four units are:

- **Liberals, Conservatives and the Rise of Labour 1846-1918** (British Period Study and Enquiry)
- **Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany, 1919-1963** (Non-British Period Study)
- **Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th Centuries** (Thematic study and historical interpretations)
- **Historical Enquiry**

The first three are assessed by examination at the end of a two year course. The fourth is a topic-based essay of your choice submitted as coursework.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

History consists of three taught modules and one that is coursework-based: Unit 1 is a British period study, Unit 2 a non-British period study, Unit 3 is a thematic study, and Unit 4 a topic-based essay. Students interact with a wide chronological framework, as well as a variety of contemporary sources and historical interpretations. Discussion, debate and further reading are all core elements of the course that all students will be expected to engage with.

The A Level will be assessed by 3 exams, ranging from 1½ hours to 2 hours 45 minutes, at the end of Year 13. These papers will consist of a choice of essay questions and unseen sources and interpretations. The examination for Unit 1 is worth 25% of the A Level, Unit 2 is 15%, and Unit 3 is 40%. The final coursework module is based on a topic of the student's choice and is a piece of individual research of up to 4000 words. It is worth 20% of final A Level.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

History is an excellent qualification for progression to Higher Education. History has particular value for those interested in law, publishing, teaching, management and journalism, or indeed any job in which an ability to evaluate evidence, analyse complex issues and communicate fluently and concisely is required.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr M Springett

EXAM BOARD

OCR

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE English Literature Grade 4
GCSE History Grade 4 (if studied)

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- English Literature
- Law
- Politics
- Psychology
- Criminology

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DATA ANALYTICS LEVEL 3

COURSE CONTENT

The OCR Level 3 Advanced Applied Qualification (AAQ) in Data Analytics is a forward-thinking, vocational course designed to equip students with the analytical and technical skills that are in high demand across industries. This qualification focuses on real-world data challenges, encouraging students to develop practical problem-solving abilities using industry-standard tools and techniques.

Throughout the course, students will engage in both individual and collaborative projects, applying data analytics to real-life scenarios. They will also explore the ethical, legal, and societal implications of data use in today's digital world.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Year 12

Students study two mandatory units, both externally assessed:

- **Unit F200: Fundamentals of Data Analytics**
Exam duration: 1 hour 15 minutes
This unit introduces the core principles of data analytics, including data types, sources, and the data analysis process.
- **Unit F201: Big Data and Machine Learning**
Exam duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
This unit explores how large datasets are managed and analysed using machine learning techniques.

Both exams are graded as **Distinction***, **Distinction**, **Merit**, or **Pass**

Year 13

In the second year, students complete three coursework-based units:

- **Unit F202: Spreadsheet Data Modelling**
- **Unit F204: Data and the Internet of Everything (IoE)**
- **Unit F205: Data Visualisation**

These units are internally assessed and externally moderated, allowing students to apply their knowledge through practical, project-based work.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This qualification opens doors to a wide range of exciting opportunities in the digital and data sectors. With data analytics becoming essential across industries, students can progress into roles such as:

- **Data Analyst**
- **Cybersecurity Analyst**
- **AI and Machine Learning Technician**
- **Software Developer**

It also provides a strong foundation for university-level study in computing, data science, or related fields, offering a dynamic and rewarding future with continuous opportunities for growth and innovation.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mr R Howlett

EXAM BOARD

OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Media
- Business
- Computer Science

LAW

COURSE CONTENT

A-level Law is a two year programme, and students will progress into Year 13 on successful completion of Year 12. The law of England and Wales is studied.

Course content includes:

- Courts system and people who work within the legal system
- How laws are made and interpreted
- Criminal offences and defences including murder, theft and insanity
- Tort law (civil wrongs) including negligence and nuisance
- Contract law including, how a contract is made, the terms within it and how a contract ends
- Theories behind the law, for example, how law and morality overlaps

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

There will be 5 hours of lesson per week and these will include a range of activities such as extended reading, debates and practice of exam questions. Much of English Law comes from case law, therefore this is studied in detail. The skills learnt are to:

- accurately know the law
- be able to apply that law to a range of scenarios
- evaluate the law.

Assessment at A-Level is by 3 exams, each 2 hours long. All exams are worth 80 marks and are assessed externally by OCR. The exam content consists of extended essays, focussing on the different skills learnt throughout the course.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

A-Level Law is a well-regarded qualification and offers access to a wide range of possible career and Higher Education opportunities. It combines well with most other subject areas and prepares students for University courses, including a degree in law. The subject is extremely useful for those thinking of careers in banking, insurance, media, police, civil service, management and business and of course the legal profession.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

HEAD OF SUBJECT
Dr S Hansell

EXAM BOARD
OCR

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**
GCSE English Language Grade 4

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- English Language
- English Literature
- History
- Criminology
- Psychology

MATHEMATICS

COURSE CONTENT

Students will study Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. Problem-solving and mathematical modelling are interwoven across all topics and form the over-arching theme of the course. Students will build on the skills acquired at GCSE and will learn new fascinating concepts to expand and apply their knowledge.

Pure (66%)	Statistics (17%)	Mechanics (17%)
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Pure Content:

Proof, algebra and functions, co-ordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponential and logarithm, calculus (differentiation and integration), numerical methods and vectors.

Statistics Content:

Statistical sampling, data representation, probability, statistical distributions (Binomial and Normal) and statistical hypotheses testing.

Mechanics Content:

Quantities and standard units, kinematics, moments, forces and Newton's law.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Mathematics is taught using a variety of modelling, practical tasks and group work. Students use dynamic graphing calculators to explore new concepts and to investigate models.

The A-Level will be assessed by 3 exams which are 2 hours long at the end of year 13 – papers 1 and 2 will examine the Pure content and paper 3 will examine Statistics and Mechanics.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students could continue their studies with a degree in Mathematics, Actuarial Studies, Data Analyst, Engineering, Medicine, Marine Biology, Social Sciences, Finance, Accounting, or any field given the varied applications of Mathematics.

Equally, employers favour candidates with a Mathematics qualification for degree apprenticeships.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs C Hicks

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Maths Grade 6

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

All other subjects but in particular

- Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Geography
- Biology
- Psychology
- Business

MEDIA STUDIES

COURSE CONTENT

Throughout the course students will develop the ability to analyse a wide range of media, this includes studying a number of set products such as specific music videos, film marketing, newspapers, computer games, radio programmes and advertisements. In Year 12 students will develop media language in order to analyse these media and engage with key issues and debates, including stereotyping of groups, and the effects media may have on people. In addition, students will study the industries that have produced these set products and how this impacts the way audiences may respond to these products. In Year 13 students will study three media industries in depth: television, magazines and online media. Students will investigate set products and analyse all aspects of the text's production, reception and regulation. In addition to this, students will independently undertake a cross-media production (Non Examined Assessment) brief. This requires students to research, plan and produce their own media texts. This is based on a set brief provided by the exam board which changes yearly. However, examples may include making a print marketing campaign and website for a new film or launching a new magazine in print and online or making a music video and promotional materials for a new music artist. The coursework portfolio is worth 30% of the A-level.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

There are two written exams (Component 1 and Component 2) with a combined worth of 70% of the A Level course. The final 30% of the A Level grade is awarded through the completion of Component 3 (Non-Examined Assessment).

Component 1: This exam is 2 hours 15 minutes long; this paper requires a broad knowledge of a range of media products.

Component 2: This exam is 2 hours 30 minutes long; this paper requires more in-depth knowledge of three key industries, along with an ability to critically analyse, evaluate, and develop a sustained line of argument.

Component 3: Students will spend up to 16 weeks completing their Cross-Media Production which is internally assessed and externally moderated by Eduqas (WJEC).

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Media Studies provides an excellent foundation for further study on media-related courses in Higher Education, for a range of related subject areas in the Arts and Humanities, as well as a foundation for a range of practical roles in the creative industries.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mrs E Godfrey

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas (WJEC)

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- Graphic Communication
- Photography
- Sociology
- Art and Design
- Business
- Psychology

PERFORMING ARTS

Musical Theatre Focus

BTEC LEVEL 3 EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

COURSE CONTENT

Students will develop both their practical musical theatre skills and their theoretical understanding of musical theatre. Students complete 4 units across the two year programme.

- Unit 1 (External Assessment): Investigating Practitioners' work - Students study the work of two professional choreographers
- Unit 2 (Internal Assessment): Developing Skills and Techniques - Students explore the role of a musical theatre performer by developing their skills in two styles of musical theatre
- Unit 3 (External Assessment): Group Performance Workshop - Students work in a group to produce a musical theatre production of 10-20 minutes on a set stimulus
- Unit 27 (Internal Assessment): Musical Theatre Techniques - Students explore the key features of musical theatre whilst also developing and refining their musical theatre skills through performance work.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level and is designed to occupy one option block and be combined with other vocational or academic qualifications, such as other BTECs or A levels.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Students will receive a mix of both practical and theory based lessons across the programme, students typically have 3 practical lessons a week and 2 theory lessons. For internally assessed units, students collect evidence from practical lessons such as videos and images. They complete written milestone reviews evaluating and analysing their progress as well as reflecting on the professional world of musical theatre in the form of written reports. For Unit 1 students will complete a four week investigation period on a set theme prior to completing three unseen essay style questions. For Unit 3 students will collect images and videos of their creative process. They will write 4 milestone reviews in controlled conditions and present their dance to an invited audience.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

BTEC Performing Arts is a great preparation for students looking to continue their studies and training in Performing Arts, Musical Theatre or Dance either at Degree level or Professional Diploma.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mrs N Markham-Lee

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

BTEC Level 2 Pass in
Performing Arts -or
GCSE grade 4 in Arts subject

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Drama
- English
- PE

PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE CONTENT

This qualification focuses on the opportunity for learners to explore, research, and acquire techniques, whilst developing their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of photographic media. A range of genres and themes will be available to explore to allow learners to personalise outcomes to areas of interest to evoke individuality and push personal outcomes.

Fine Art: Photography is a two year A level programme. The first term will be delivered as a fundamental core skills unit, covering a range of traditional and digital skills and outcomes.

The emphasis in this course is on dynamic and individualistic approaches to image-making and will be particularly suitable for students who are already enthusiastic about Photography and image manipulation. It offers students the potential to make a personal response to their own experience, environment and culture.

Students are also required to write a related study – a minimum of 1000 words essay about existing Art and how it has influenced their own work.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The course is constructed around four assessment objectives: AO1 (Develop), AO2 (Explore), AO3 (Record), AO4 (Present). The two outcomes are a Personal Investigation (60%) of total A level and an

Externally set task (40%) of total A level.

Students receive formative assessment at least every four weeks to help them develop and improve their work.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course will combine well with a variety of arts or media-based subjects. Studying photography will also equip students with some of the study skills required for Higher Education. It will offer an opportunity for self-exploration and responding to larger, challenging issues of society today.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr K Flower

EXAM BOARD

OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Art Grade 4 or
BTEC Creative Media L2 Pass or
A suitable portfolio of work

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Graphic Communication
- Art
- Media Studies

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COURSE CONTENT

This is an ideal course for students who have an interest in both practical performance and the theoretical aspects of sport.

It is a coherent and worthwhile course of study both for students who will not continue with further study of the subject beyond this qualification or as a preparation for Higher Education or employment in a sports-related field.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The A Level PE course is a two-year course.

Students will undertake a rigorous mock exam process in A Level PE towards the end of Year 12, in order to thoroughly prepare them for the demands of Year 13 and provide a strong benchmark of current progress. Only examinations at the end of the A-Level course will count towards the final grade.

Students will be expected to be highly proficient in one practical performance in physical activity and sport (i.e. club level and beyond). **Students should have studied GCSE PE in order to access this course.**

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport	+	Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	+	Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport
What's assessed Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology Section B: Skill acquisition Section C: Sport and society		What's assessed Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics Section B: Sport psychology Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport		What's assessed Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance.
How it's assessed - Written exam: 2 hours 105 marks 35 % of A-level		How it's assessed - Written exam: 2 hours 105 marks 35 % of A-level		How it's assessed - Internal assessment, external moderation 90 marks 30 % of A-level

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course provides an excellent foundation for candidates in coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport. It is also a suitable qualification for students wishing to study sports-related, or other courses, in Higher Education.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr J Ainscough

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Biology Grade 4
GCSE Science Grade 5-5.
GCSE Mathematics Grade 4.
GCSE PE Grade 5

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Biology
- Psychology
- Physics

PHYSICS

COURSE CONTENT

The OCR GCE Physics course is designed to give a flexible and stimulating approach to studying A level Physics. In addition to traditional concepts, students will study modern contexts in which Physics is used. Questions asked will range from movement of objects and how every day material behaves to questions about the future of the Universe and what we can learn by observing the stars.

The Programme of Study
Linear - 2 year A level. OCR Physics A

Content overview:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in Physics
- Module 2: Foundations in Physics
- Module 3: Forces and Motion
- Module 4: Electrons, Waves and Protons
- Module 5: Newtonian world and Astrophysics
- Module 6: Particle and Medical Physics

The course involves both theory and practical activities and makes use of Information and Communication Technology. Due to the high level maths content in this course, we highly recommend a grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics for this subject.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Year 12

Students will complete mock examinations at the end of year 12. There are two papers (Breadth in Physics and Depth in Physics) both examining content and practical skills in Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Year 13

Students will be examined on all six modules in three papers (Modelling Physics, Exploring Physics and Unified Physics).

Practical skills will be reported separately as the Practical Endorsement in Physics.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course is suitable for any career involving Physics including medicine, engineering, research, the Armed Forces, law, banking and commerce to list a few. Students make use of not only their physics knowledge but also the analytical and problem-solving skills they developed during the course.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr A Robinson

EXAM BOARD

OCR

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Physics Grade 6
GCSE Chemistry Grade 5
(or GCSE Combined Science
Grade 6-6)

GCSE Mathematics Grade 5

*Due to the high level of
mathematical content in the
course we recommend a grade 6
or above in GCSE Maths*

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- Maths
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Biology

PRODUCT DESIGN

COURSE CONTENT

Students study the course content of Technical Principles and Designing and Making Principles in 10 manageable units of work.

Technical Principles includes the study of classifications of materials, their applications and performance characteristics, methods for investigating and testing materials, their enhancement and use of finishes. Forming, redistribution and addition processes, modern industrial and commercial practice, digital design and manufacture, health and safety, protecting designs & intellectual property. Students also study design communication enterprise & marketing of products.

Designing and Making Principles focusses on product development including the iterative design process, the work of other designers, design influences, design styles and movements, socio-economic influences, cultural, moral and ethical issues, responsible design, conservation of energy and resources and the use of quality assurance and quality control methods.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Product Design is taught in manageable Units of work, each focussing on a specific course content topic. Regular practice of exam style questioning is used to establish students understanding and Focussed Practical Tasks accompany the theory.

The A level will be assessed by 2 exams. Paper 1, Technical Principles, (2h 30m) 120 marks is worth 30%. Paper 2, Designing and Making Principles (1h 30m) 80 marks is worth 20%. The other 50% is gained through the NEA, non-examinable assessment. The extended Design and Make project provides students with the opportunity to develop a product to suit the needs of an identified client.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students who have studied A Level Product Design can look forward to a wide range of exciting and promising education and career opportunities. With the rapid advancements in technology and the ever-increasing demand for sustainable, ethically sourced, quality products they are well placed to enter Higher Level courses and industry.

This is a valuable course for students seeking a career in architecture, designing, product design, furniture and textile design, graphics, engineering, or just to broaden their post-16 education.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr J Lane

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Mathematics Grade 4,
GCSE Combined Science 4-4
and
GCSE D&T Grade 4
or
Engineering Level 2 Pass

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Art & Design

PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE CONTENT

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. You develop understanding of key concepts and theories in Psychology by studying eleven areas of the discipline. You gain insight into psychological investigations and research methods where you evaluate studies to support and/or question psychological theories.

- Social Influence • Memory • Attachment • Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology • Biopsychology • Research Methods
- Issues and Debates in Psychology • Cognition and Development
- Eating Behaviour • Aggression

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The delivery model of the course requires students to undertake weekly pre-reading and preparation tasks prior to studying the content in lessons with the support of a subject specialist.

Regular assessments with feedback will develop your academic writing skills and prepares you for extended writing questions in the exams.

The course is assessed at the end of the 2 years with 3 formal (2hr) exams.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Psychology is a popular degree at university where you also can specialise in specific areas of Psychology such as Therapy or Forensic Psychology. It is particularly useful for careers that involve working with people, such as nursing, teaching, social work, the police and prison service, personnel and marketing.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mr P Carlsson

EXAM BOARD

AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Biology, Chemistry or
Physics Grade 4, or
Combined Science 4-4

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Criminology
- Sociology
- Biology

RELIGION PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

COURSE CONTENT

This A Level course is designed to give our students a grounding in the key concepts and methods of philosophy, theology and ethics. Students will explore and evaluate a wide variety of philosophical questions, including how we know what is good, why people are moving away from religion in the western world, can euthanasia ever be ethical, whether all religions are paths to the same God. Students will be expected to study the writings of many influential scholars including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, David Hume and Immanuel Kant. From the evaluation of these scholarly texts students will form their own arguments.

Students will apply secular ethical theories to the moral issues of business ethics, euthanasia and sexual ethics. This is a thought-provoking subject that leads to lively discussion and dialogue that often continues beyond the classroom, and results in students who are confident in their essay writing and ability to construct solid, persuasive arguments.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Programme of study over two years:

Philosophy	Ethics	Developments in Christian Thought
Ancient Greek influences Soul, mind and body Arguments for God's existence Religious experience The problem of evil God's attributes Religious Language	Normative ethical theories Euthanasia Business ethics Sexual ethics Meta ethics The conscience	Pluralism Gender and theology The challenge of secularism Liberation theology and Marx The person of Jesus Augustine on human nature Christian moral principles and action Death and the afterlife Knowledge of God

The A Level is assessed by three two-hour exams at the end of the course. Each exam covers one of the three modules, and students select three of four possible essay questions to answer. There is no coursework.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students who have studied RPE A Level are highly skilled at constructing strong arguments and have well developed communication skills and confidence in discussion which sets them up well for a range of careers such as in law. Our study of medical ethics also compliments future careers in medicine, caring and sciences.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Mrs A Eldridge

EXAM BOARD

OCR

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- History
- English Literature
- Sociology
- Psychology

SOCIOLOGY

COURSE CONTENT

Sociology is the study of society and encourages students to look at the world in a critical and evidence-based way to help them understand the relationship between society and the individual.

Throughout the course students will develop the ability to analyse a wide range of sociological theories and ideas about the nature of society and apply them to a range of topics. This includes the sociology of families, education, beliefs and crime. In addition, students will study the many ways sociologists conduct their research including their use of primary and secondary methods and will explore methodological issues, for example, the extent to which sociology can be a science.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The course is taught and assessed in such a way as to prepare students for the rigour of 100% written examination. Writing skills will be developed for that purpose. The three assessment objectives are knowledge and understanding, application and evaluation and analysis. These skills are learnt and practised over the 2 year programme and students are expected to prepare for and complete regular timed assessments in class, including completing full past papers and mock examinations.

A Level Sociology Papers

- Paper 1 Education, Method in Context and Theory and Methods
- Paper 2 Topics in Sociology: Beliefs in Society and Families
- Paper 3 Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods

All papers are 2 hours and have equal weighting.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

As a highly respected and relevant subject, Sociology provides an excellent foundation for further study for a range of courses in Higher Education, as well as a foundation for a range of professional occupations which require an understanding of today's complex world and an ability to manage, lead and think outside of the box.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME COLLEGE

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Miss S Claydon

EXAM BOARD

AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English Grade 4

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Law
- Criminology
- Psychology
- English Literature
- Media Studies
- All humanities subjects

SPANISH

COURSE CONTENT

Students will enhance their Spanish language proficiency, gaining cultural insights into Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries. The course builds on GCSE skills, emphasising listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. A-level students work towards achieving mastery in their understanding, communication, fluency, and accuracy in Spanish.

Themes which will be covered include:

Aspects of Hispanic Society (modern and traditional values, cyberspace and equal rights).

Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World (modern day idols, Spanish regional identity and cultural heritage).

Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society (immigration, racism and integration).

Aspects of Political Life in the Hispanic World (today's youth and tomorrow's citizens, monarchies and dictatorships and popular movements).

Students also study and write essays on a film and a novel.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

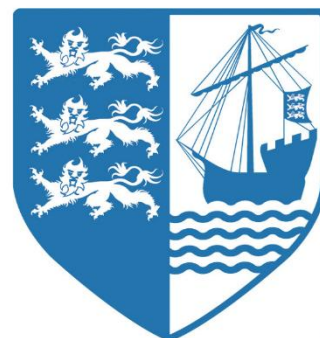
The A-Level Spanish course offers an engaging learning experience with exciting resources like role plays, photo cards, authentic materials, podcasts and videos, news reports, cultural activities and online interactive platforms. Students also carry out an independent research project on a subject of their choice; this forms an integral part of the speaking examination.

Students sit the A-Level exam at the end of the course. Paper 1 (listening, reading, and translation) worth 50%, followed by Paper 2 (writing) worth 20%, and Paper 3 (speaking assessment) worth 30%.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

A foreign language, like Spanish, holds practical value in various careers such as tourism, international banking, commerce, and teaching. Universities offer diverse subject combinations with Spanish, including European Law, Business, History, and Law. Language qualifications are highly sought after in today's global economy, providing valuable opportunities for students. Mastering a language opens doors at interviews, giving you the edge over competitors, while also unlocking unparalleled personal growth and travel opportunities.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr I Charnock

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS**

GCSE Grade 5 in Spanish

**COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS**

- English Literature
- History
- Politics
- Maths
- Economics
- Sociology
- Business
- Media Studies
- Art
- Music

SPORT

BTEC

COURSE CONTENT

This National Extended Certificate in Sport is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing examinations and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

In addition to learning about the employment area you have chosen, you develop the skills you need to start a career.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

The BTEC Sport course is a two-year course. All units are assessed, graded and an overall grade (pass, merit, distinction, distinction*) is awarded.

The course is made up of 4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are externally assessed.

Year 12

Unit 1 – Anatomy & Physiology - This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed via a 1 hour 30-minute examination.

Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing or Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance – The choice of unit will be tailored to the cohort. This is an optional unit which is internally assessed (marked by your teacher) and then externally moderated by the exam board.

Year 13

Unit 2 – Fitness Training & Programming - This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed via a 2 hour 30-minute examination. Learners will be given a case study one week before the supervised assessment period to carry out preparatory work.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry - This is a mandatory unit which is internally assessed (marked by your teacher) and then externally moderated by the exam board.

This course may be taken as part of the **Football College Programme** and is recommended to be taken alongside other Level 3 courses.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This highly valued course provides an excellent foundation for candidates in coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport. It is also a suitable qualification for students wishing to study sports-related, or other courses, in Higher Education,

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Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr J Ainscough

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL (Pearson)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Biology Grade 4
GCSE Science Grade 4-4.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- Biology
- Psychology

KINGS TRUST

COURSE CONTENT

This is a one year 'Personal Development and Employability' level 2 programme aimed at learners who do not achieve five GCSE grade 9 to 4, including a Level 4 in GCSE English (and a Level 4 in GCSE Mathematics).

- King's Trust Level 2 certificates in - Personal Development and Employability and Employment, Teamwork and Community Skills
- OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical Award in Digital Business Technologies
- GCSE English*
- GCSE Mathematics* (if appropriate)
- Compulsory work experience placement

* or other relevant qualifications depending on prior KS4 attainment

The qualifications have a strong vocational application, these subjects give learners the opportunity to engage in learning that is relevant to them, whilst enabling the development of a range of skills, techniques and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

These qualifications make explicit the link between theoretical learning and the world of work by giving learners the opportunity to apply their research skills and knowledge to work-related contexts and case studies.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Both Level 2 courses are assessed 100% by coursework on a Pass or Fail only basis. Students must successfully complete all work at a Pass level to achieve these qualifications.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

The compulsory work placement will give learners the experience of a real work environment to further support their classroom learning and the development of work-related skills.

This programme will prepare learners for employment, apprenticeship, training and/or access to relevant Level 3 courses.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs J Newton

EXAM BOARD

OCR

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

Four GCSE grades at Grade 3

ENGLISH GCSE RESIT

COURSE CONTENT

This course consists of:

Paper 1: Creative Explorations in Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minute examination 80 marks 50% of total GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minute examination 80 marks 50% of total GCSE

Non Exam Assessment: Spoken English

One teacher assessed presentation, lasting around 3 minutes, followed by questions and answers on the topic presented. This qualification can be carried forward from Year 11.

Students will receive a separate grade for this Non Exam Assessment. The grade is separate from the GCSE qualification, and does not contribute to the overall GCSE English Language grade.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

English GCSE is taught through a variety of methods including analysis of language and structure as well as original writing skills. Students will use unseen fiction and non-fiction texts to write responses to a range of questions. Students will be expected to take an active part in all activities including discussions, debates and writing tasks.

The GCSE will be assessed by two exams with the first opportunity to sit in November. If they achieve a Grade 4, they will finish their studies after the results are awarded in January. The second opportunity to sit the exams will be in May/June. At the start of the course, the class teacher will review student Year 11 exam performance to decide whether the student would benefit from a November or June GCSE resit.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

This course is essential study for College students who have not secured a 4 grade or above in Year 11 and means they may be able to access further qualifications and employment opportunities.

Please be aware that this is the only GCSE resit English qualification we offer at Plume College.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs G Wills

EXAM BOARD

AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For those students who haven't achieved a Grade 4 at GCSE.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

- King's Trust

MATHS GCSE RESIT

COURSE CONTENT

Students will study the core skills and knowledge required to achieve grade 4 at GCSE Maths. This is a crucial qualification to access level 3 courses and for future employment.

Students will follow a condensed 2-term curriculum centred on:

- Number and Algebra
- Ratio
- Proportionate Reasoning
- Statistics
- Geometry & measure
- Probability

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

In the first few weeks of term students will complete a set of mock examinations. Students who perform well in these will have the opportunity to take the GCSE Maths exam in November. All students will be entered for the June exams at the end of the academic year.

The exam consists of:

Paper 1 (Non-calculator)

Paper 2 (Calculator)

In addition, there will be a mock exam in the Spring term.

Students will be encouraged to be proactive in their learning and to take responsibility for their own progress, along with the support of their teacher.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

Students who qualify may do level 3 courses while they pursue a good pass at GCSE Maths. Others may opt to focus on getting this key qualification to get onto a level 3 vocational course of the choice.

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Maldon's Community Academy



PLUME
COLLEGE

SUBJECT LEAD

Mrs Carina Hicks

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas – (part of WJEC)

ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS

None

COMPLEMENTARY
SUBJECTS

- King's Trust

FOOTBALL COLLEGE

COURSE CONTENT

The development programme is aimed at students who demonstrate the flair and potential for football, and who are committed to gaining further academic qualifications.

Students will be able to access full-time studies alongside their football coaching. This means students should select three A-Levels (or the Level 2 Pathway) alongside Football College. In addition, students will also gain Football Association coaching awards, other National governing body qualifications, First Aid qualifications and the opportunity to coach young people in the community.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT

Technical Programme

The programme will consist of up to two hours each afternoon of coaching and/or match-play covering all technical and tactical aspects of the game. In addition, players will be given guidance on individual fitness programmes. Advice will also be given on diet, nutrition and sports injuries, together with students mentoring and access to physiotherapy support.

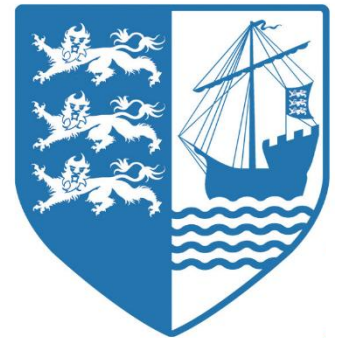
Competitive Opportunities

Students will play in the National Colleges Cup, Essex College league, Essex School Cup, North East Essex league and Mid Essex league as well as develop links with professional clubs.

FUTURE PROGRESSION

By combining top class football coaching with full time education and other training opportunities the Plume Football College will provide students with an ideal route to progress into the Sports Industry, Higher Education and the most appropriate level of sustainable football.

PLUME
Maldon's Community Academy



**PLUME
COLLEGE**

SUBJECT LEAD

Mr J Ainscough

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of
Football College Trial

KEY STAFF

- Mr R Munro

Plume CEIAG

The Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme is an integral part of the preparation of our students to develop skills, attitudes and abilities that will enable them to be equipped for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and the world of work. We believe that our students should have access to a high quality careers programme as such a programme can inspire, motivate, inform, and support students through key decision times. Our programme includes:

**One-to-One
careers
guidance**

**Plume Careers
Fair**

**Tutorial
Programme**

**Careers
Website**

**Work
Shadowing**

Work Shadowing

Plume College recognises the need to ensure that all young people are able to gain real experience of the workplace and is an integral part of our whole school careers and work related learning provision supporting decision making and career planning. Genuine work shadowing is an important part of a student's programme of study while remaining in education, and we are committed to supporting our students as they enhance their employability skills and further develop their curriculum vitae.

Work shadowing is a useful way of gaining insight into a certain career path and how work colleagues negotiate their workload. The job students work shadow is dependent on their own specific career interest and can be anything from accountancy, broadcasting to police work, catering to working with animals. Work shadowing encourages students to appreciate the distance people travel to work, the inter relationships formed in a business environment, the variety of skills that a job requires and how technology is applied.

One to one careers guidance

All students have access to independent and impartial careers advice and guidance from a fully qualified Careers Adviser from Directions IAG Ltd. This is an opportunity for students to talk about their ideas and plans for the future. As part of this, a Career Action Plan will be produced and shared with the student. Parents/Carers are also welcome to attend these appointments with their sons/daughters.

To book a careers appointment please send an email to our Careers Advisers - deslb@plume.essex.sch.uk. Students can also book an appointment via Mrs Pipe.

Tutor Programme

CEIAG activities are planned and delivered as part of the year 12 and 13 tutorial and enrichment programme. The activities enable students to develop employability skills and their understanding of the world of work, in addition to, receiving vital information and guidance to prepare for their next steps.

Visiting Speakers

Various guest speakers will be coming into the academy throughout the year to talk about their work and their career pathway. Students will also have access to visiting speakers from a range of post-18 providers in order to ensure a fully informed decision on their future destination.

Careers Website & Other Information

Up to date careers information is vital for making key decisions and we provide information to students and parents in the following ways;

- The Careers Hub can be accessed via the following link - <https://www.plume.essex.sch.uk/careers-hub-homepage> - The hub has been designed to ensure that all stakeholders, including students, staff and parents/carers, have up to date information and resources which can be used to enhance knowledge and understanding about careers. The hub has also been designed to support students in writing a CV and finding and applying for jobs and/or apprenticeships. Detailed information to inform post-18 options can also be found on the hub.
- Twitter for up to date information on employment opportunities. Follow us on [twitter@plumecareers](https://twitter.com/plumecareers)

If you would like any more information on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We can be contacted in the following ways:

- Mr John Hallam- Leader of CEIAG Email: j.hallam@plume.essex.sch.uk
- Careers Advisers Email: directions@plume.essex.sch.uk



Plume College Destinations

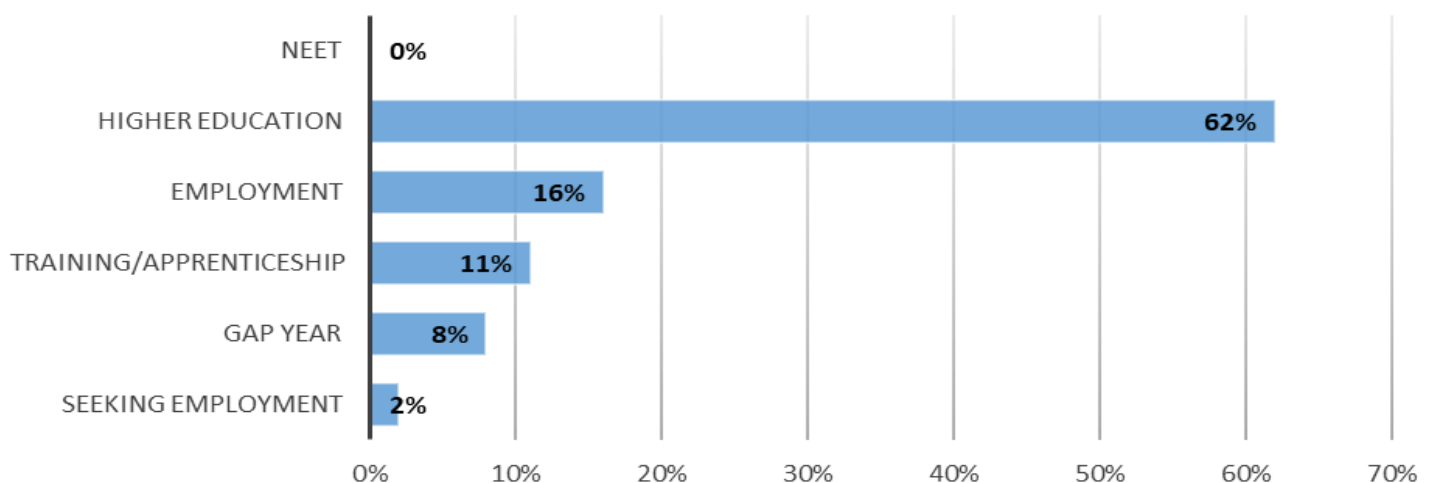
Students leaving the College generally choose to either move straight into employment, degree apprenticeship or to continue their studies at University.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is part of the tutorial curriculum and enrichment programme for our KS5 students. The CEIAG KS5 programme at Plume College aims to inspire students to make informed and appropriate choices for their future, whether that is progressing on to Higher Education or into an apprenticeship/employment.

In 2025, 62% of students went on to HE courses, with all students gaining a place at their first choice university and many attending Russell Group Universities. Some of these students, as well as students from previous cohorts, have gone on to study at prestigious universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and The Royal Veterinary College.

In 2025, 11.% moved onto Training /Apprenticeships and 16% into Employment. Many students in the past have secured degree apprenticeships at a wide variety of reputable companies such as Amazon, Ford, KPMG and PepsiCo.

Year 13 Leavers Destinations 2025



Subject Specific Entry Requirements

Students must achieve at least five GCSEs at grade 4 (**including GCSE grade 4 English Language and English Literature**) to study on a level 3 learning programme. Students will typically choose to study 3, or in some cases 4 A Level/BTEC subjects. Please see the specific requirements for each subject below.

Subject	Level 3 Option Choices for 2026	Will students be considered without a GCSE in this subject area?
Art : Art & Design	GCSE grade 4 in Art	No
Biology	GCSE grade 6 in Biology and grade 5 in Chemistry or 6-6 Combined Science	No
Business	GCSE grade 4 Mathematics and Business if studied.	Yes
Business Level 3 Cambridge Tech.	A GCSE grade 4 in English Language.	Yes
Chemistry	GCSE grade 6 in Chemistry and grade 5 Biology and or 6-6 Combined Science and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.	No
Computer Science	GCSE grade 5 in Computer Science and grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.	Yes
Core Mathematics	GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics	No
Criminology	GCSE grade 4 in English Language	Yes
Drama and Theatre	GCSE grade 4 in English Language and Drama if studied.	Yes
English Language	GCSE grade 5 in English Language.	No
English Literature	GCSE grade 5 in English Literature.	No
EPQ	GCSE grade 4 in English Language.	Yes
French	GCSE grade 5 in French in all aspects of the language	No
Further Mathematics	GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics	No
Geography	GCSE grade 4 in Geography and a grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.	No
Graphic Communication	GCSE grade 4 in Art or Graphics or a Level 2 Pass in BTEC Creative Media	No
Health and Social Care Advanced National Extended Certificate	GCSE grade 4 in English Language, GCSE grade 4 in Biology or 4-4 Combined Science. <i>Equivalent to 1 A level.</i>	Yes
History	GCSE grade 4 in English Literature and History if studied.	No
Information Technology Level 3 Advanced National	GCSE grade 4 in English Language.	Yes
Law	GCSE grade 4 in English Language.	Yes

Subject	Level 3 Option Choices for 2026 - continued	Will students be considered without a GCSE in this subject area?
Mathematics	GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics.	No
Media Studies	GCSE grade 4 in English Language.	Yes
Performing Arts National Extended Certificate (Musical Theatre)	BTEC Level 2 Pass in Performing Arts –or GCSE grade 4 in Arts subject. <i>This subject is equivalent to one A level.</i>	Yes
Photography	GCSE grade 4 in Art and a 'suitable' portfolio or Level 2 Pass in BTEC Media.	Yes
Physical Education	GCSE grade 5 in PE, grade 4 or above in Biology and grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics, or 5-5 Combined Science. A commitment to school and/or club sport is essential.	Yes
Physics	GCSE grade 6 in Physics and grade 5 in Chemistry or 6-6 Combined Science and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.	No
Product Design	GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics, GCSE grade 4-4 in Combined Science and a technology subject at GCSE level (Resistant Materials/Graphics/Engineering)	No
Psychology	GCSE grade 4 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics or 4-4 Combined Science.	Yes
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE grade 4 or above in English Language and GCSE RE (if studied)	Yes
Sociology	GCSE grade 4 in English Language.	Yes
Spanish	GCSE grade 5 in Spanish in all aspects of the language	No
Sport - National Extended Certificate	GCSE grade 4 in Biology or 4-4 Combined Science. <i>Equivalent to 1 A level.</i>	Yes

	Level 2 Option for 2026	
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Subject	Grade requirements
Level 2 Personal Development and Employability	Four GCSE grades at grade 3.

If you require any further information, please contact Mrs Demes (College Manager) in the College Office on her direct line: 01621 879830 or by email: 6thform@plume.essex.sch.uk.

APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW TO APPLY

1. Students will now have the opportunity to apply to College using our online system. Internal students can apply via the link on our website. External students will need to complete an expression of interest, once this has been completed, they will be sent a link to the external student application form. The deadline for application is **Friday 30 January 2026**.
2. Successful applicants are sent a written offer of a place at Plume College. This will be conditional on obtaining the appropriate GCSE grades. Applicants are reminded that their choices are limited by a five option grid and in a small minority of cases, clashes may arise and amendments may be required.
3. Students will receive various mailings. These will include information about Taster Days, transport information, information explaining what to do if your GCSE results are better or worse than expected, and details about Registration Day (**Thursday 20 August 2026**). All internal and external students **must** register for Plume College on these days.
4. All students who are given an offer of a place will be expected to attend the two Taster Days in the summer term. This takes place a few weeks after the GCSE exams have finished. The purpose of these days is for all new students to experience a taste of College life before the start of term, and to ensure the courses you have chosen are right for you. The dates of Taster Days will be confirmed with your offer letter. Students will be introduced to the '**Transitional Challenges**' during the Taster Days, and asked to complete this work over the summer break ready for submission during the week commencing **Monday 31 August 2026**. This work will be available on the College website from **July 2026** and will be assessed as part of student suitability for their study programme.
5. Students starting College in September **2026** will be sent information about arrangements for the start of term, such as when to collect your timetable, equipment you will need, and the structure of Induction Day.
6. Please note that the College advises that students who apply to several post-16 educational institutions confirm their place on receipt of an offer. This will provide a range of choices should they receive GCSE results that are better or worse than expected. It will also provide an alternative option should clashes arise at Plume College. Students will be notified of potential clashes in July during the Taster Days when the option grids are published.

BURSARY

16-19 Bursary Fund

If your household income is less than £20,000 a year or you are eligible for Free School Meals in College, you could get extra financial support towards the costs of: transport, books, trips, meals, exam re-sits, etc.

*Application forms are available from the College Office or you can download one from the Plume Academy website. **Proof of household income (or income-based benefits) will be required.***

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character education at Plume Academy refers to the cultivation and development of students' moral, ethical, and personal character. Character Education at KS5 focuses on preparing students not only for academic success but also for becoming responsible, well-rounded individuals who are equipped to face the challenges of adulthood and contribute positively to society.

The Four core Plume values are defined as:

- Ambition:** **Desire** and determination to achieve success
Strive for our own individual goals and those of others
Demonstrate motivation to thrive in all areas of our lives
- Respect:** Know your own **self-worth** and the value you give to society
Recognise we are all different from **one another** and deserve respect
Care for our immediate and wider **environment**
- Resilience:** **Embrace** the opportunity to face challenges
Value the chance to learn and **grow** from both our successes and mistakes
Adapt to change and manage stress to overcome set-backs
- Community:** Recognise the **diverse** community in which we live
Commit to making a positive **contribution**
Value and connect with our community with **purpose and pride**

Our KS5 Character Education programme at Plume is delivered through our tutor time with additional 'whole' academy focus and inclusion:

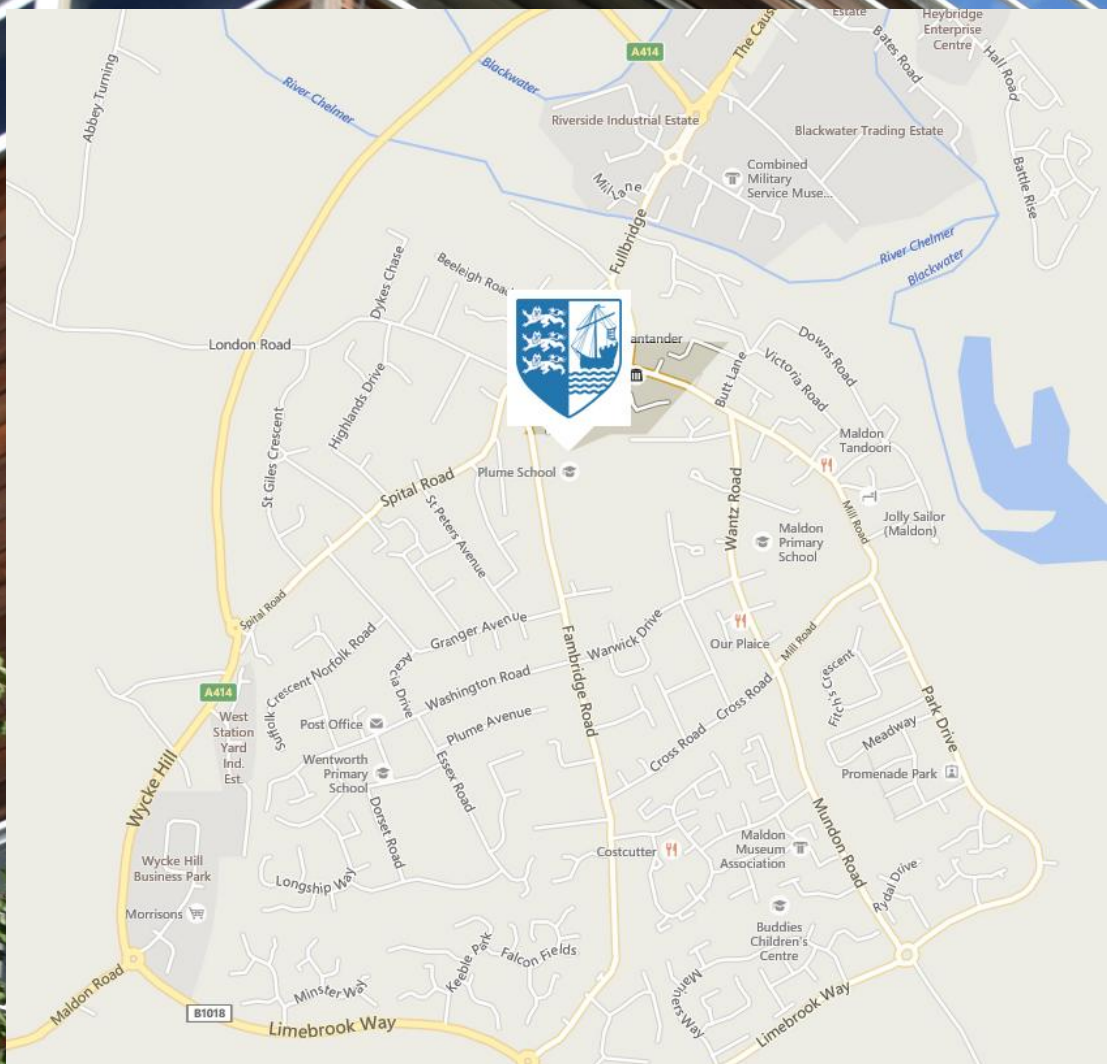
Ethical Decision-Making: Character Education at this stage emphasises the importance of ethical decision-making. It encourages students to think critically about moral dilemmas and ethical issues they may encounter in their academic, personal, and professional lives.

Leadership and Citizenship: KS5 Character Education at Plume includes opportunities for students to explore leadership roles (both inside and outside the academy) and engage in community initiatives to help them understand their role as responsible citizens and the impact they can have on our community.

Self-Reflection and Self-Improvement: Students are encouraged to engage in self-reflection and self-assessment, identifying their strengths and areas for growth in terms of character development. This process fosters self-awareness and personal growth as well as a recognition to support all students in the academy.

Critical Thinking and Ethical Discussions: Through our robust tutor programme, Character Education elicits critical thinking exercises and ethical discussions that challenge students to consider different perspectives and make informed ethical decisions.

Overall, Character Education at Plume Academy aims to prepare students not only for academic success but also for ethical and responsible decision-making, personal growth, and active participation in society. It equips them with the skills and values needed to navigate complex moral and ethical challenges as they transition into adulthood and therefore flourish as an individual.



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