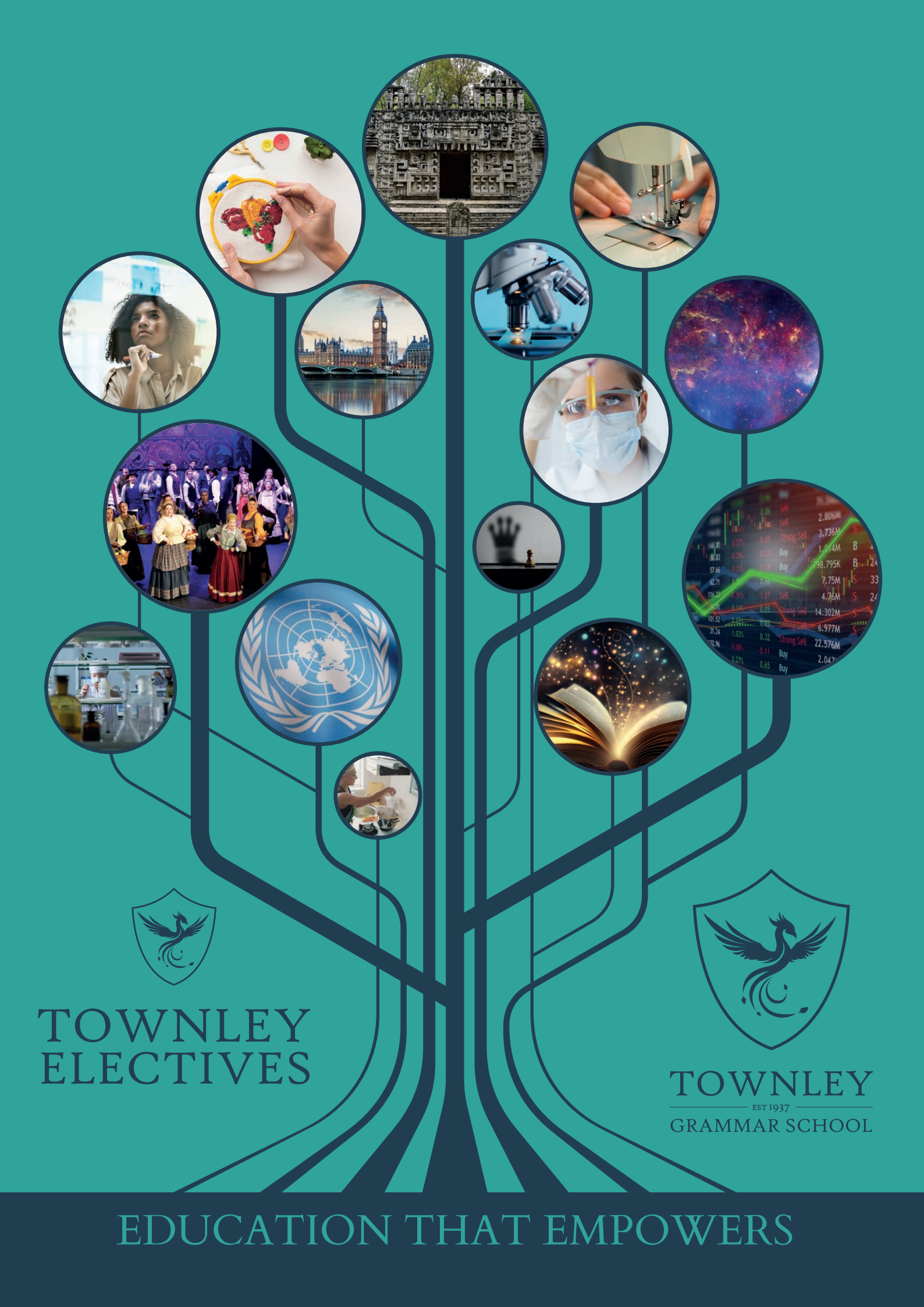




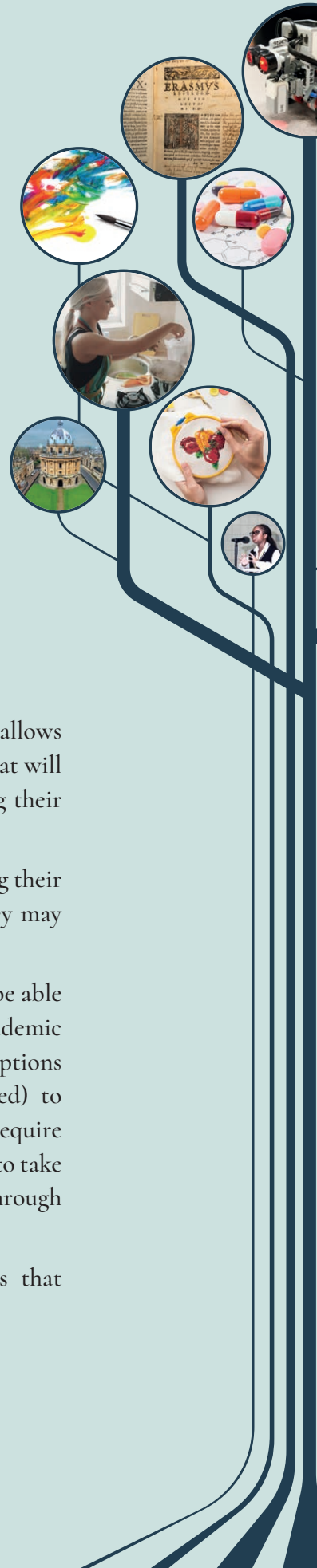
TOWNLEY
ELECTIVES

TOWNLEY
EST 1937
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EDUCATION THAT EMPOWERS



TOWNLEY ELECTIVES 2026



Education that Empowers

Townley Grammar wants to provide students with an education that allows them to go beyond the curriculum, providing a bespoke experience that will enable students to specialise in fields, they may not be able to during their study of A Levels.

Electives will enhance our students' education, widening and deepening their knowledge and providing an exciting opportunity to study areas they may not be able to access until they get to university.

The purpose of the programme is, therefore, to enable all students to be able to develop their knowledge and understanding of areas that their academic rigours do not necessarily cover. There is, therefore, a wide variety of options for students to choose from; these range from accredited (certified) to non-accredited (non-certified) options, as well as those which will require curricular or some extra-curricular involvement. Students will choose to take two or more of these electives for one period per week per elective through to the Summer Term.

Please read the options carefully and ensure you choose electives that complement your A Level choices.

CONTENTS

Maths Electives

Additional Mathematics*	4
Mathematics Beyond A Level	5
Maths For Economists	6

Science Electives

Astronomy	7
Medical	8
Pharmaceutical Science	9

Business Electives

Entrepreneurship	10
Introduction to Investment	11

Humanities and Social Science

An Introduction To British Politics	12
Anthropology	13
Foundations of Christian faith	14
Model United Nations	15

Personal Development Electives

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award	16
------------------------------	----

Personal Development Electives

Food	17
Leadership	18
Public Speaking	19
Self Defence	20

Tech

Robotics	21
----------	----

Arts

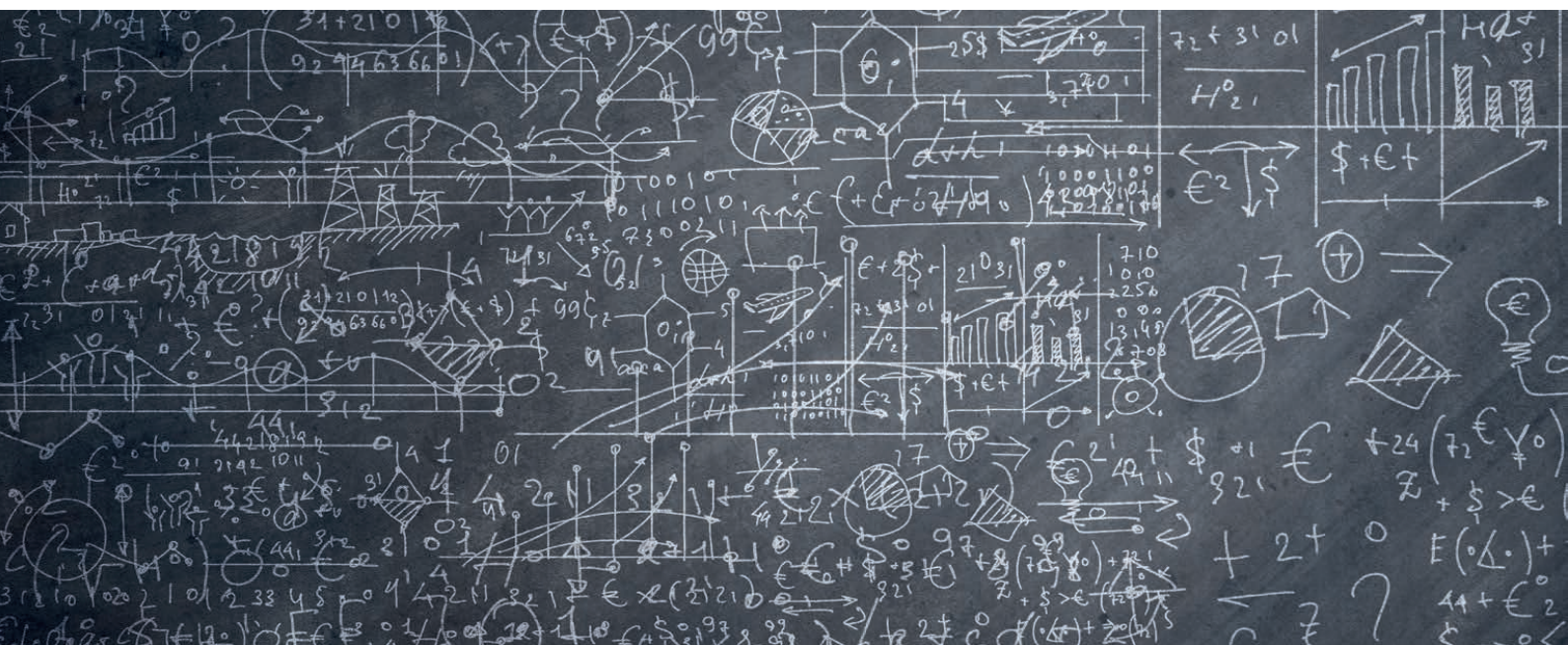
Artistic Development	22
Music	23
Musical Theatre	24
Practical Film Making	25
Photography	26
Play and Performance	27
Producing and designing a show	28
Book club	29
Creative writing	30
Knitting and crochet	31
Sewing	32
Embroidery	33

University Access Electives

Oxbridge	34
UCAT Preparation	35

*Electives marked with an asterisk are accredited courses.

NB. Subjects offered are dependent on numbers and staffing.



ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

Additional Maths is an accredited one year course for students not studying A-level Mathematics, designed to build on the GCSE Mathematics course and extend knowledge to cover some of the basic concepts learnt at A-level such as calculus, statistics and mechanics. The course will help students studying any maths based A-Level course such as Computing, Economics, Physics, Biology or Chemistry, but can be taken by anyone wishing to extend their interest in the subject. (The course should not be taken by anyone taking A-level Mathematics)

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	The first half term will cover the cross-over between the GCSE course and the Additional Maths course, extending your GCSE knowledge in areas such as the cosine and sine rules.
Autumn half-term 2	We will start to look at new areas of mathematics such as the binomial expansion and more complicated graph transformations.
Spring half-term 1	Students will spend time continuing to cover new elements of mathematics including differentiation and integration.
Spring half-term 2	Preparation time for the upcoming assessment.

Teacher Profile

The Head of Maths will lead this course, he has a background within both maths and economics having studied a joint degree at university.



MATHEMATICS BEYOND A LEVEL

'Problem Solving for Mathematicians' develops advanced problem-solving skills essential for success in higher-level mathematics. It is ideal for students aiming to apply to top Russell Group universities for Mathematics or related subjects. The course covers the Advanced Extension Award, Oxford MAT, Cambridge STEP papers, and general problem-solving techniques, including puzzles. Students must be studying A Level Mathematics, and the course is especially suitable for those also taking Further Mathematics, providing rigorous practice to enhance analytical thinking, reasoning, and mathematical confidence.

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	This elective aims to prepare students for additional mathematics tests set by some universities as part of their entrance requirements e.g. STEP, MAT, TMUA. Given that students' mathematical knowledge will initially be below the level of the test, we will spend the first term looking at Senior Maths Challenge questions, including the Kangaroo and Team Challenges.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will be introduced to the free resources offered by the University of Cambridge designed to prepare them for the STEP. We will continue to use SMC resources and consider problem solving approaches.
Spring half-term 1	As students' mathematical knowledge and sophistication increases, we will gradually introduce questions from TMUA and MAT, together with the discontinued STEP 1.
Spring half-term 2	We will consider the differences between the tests and entrance requirements for different universities. We will examine a suitable programme of extra study for students to follow leading up to the tests.

Teacher Profile
Mr Clarridge studied Mathematics at the University of Warwick and then qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, working in the life assurance and pensions sector. He qualified as a teacher in 1998 and has been at Townley since 2006. He organises the UKMT Maths challenges for the school and has supported many students towards taking mathematically related degrees at top universities.



MATHEMATICS FOR ECONOMISTS

Mathematics for Economists covers essential math skills needed for A Level Economics. The course reviews and reinforces topics from GCSE Mathematics while introducing new formulae and techniques required for quantitative analysis in Economics. It is designed for students who are not taking A Level Mathematics and who achieved a level 6 or below at GCSE. Through practical exercises and focused learning, students will gain the confidence and skills necessary to handle economic calculations and apply mathematical reasoning effectively in their A Level studies

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	Targeted practice of the key maths skills required for economics, this would include statistics, percentages and number
Autumn half-term 2	A look at how maths can be incorporated in economics techniques such as mpc and game theory
Spring half-term 1	Personalised support with maths
Spring half-term 2	Further personalised support with maths

Teacher Profile
The Head of Maths will lead this course, he has a background within both maths and economics having studied a joint degree at university.



ASTRONOMY

Students will explore Planet Earth, The Moon, The Solar System, solar astronomy and cosmology in this elective, based on the content of the GCSE Astronomy course. As well as studying time and starlight, students will consider their place in our galaxy and the Universe. Students will learn theoretical models of planetary motion and stellar evolution. They will cover the basics of celestial navigation alongside observation of a range of astronomical features.

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	We start the elective with an introduction to what astronomy is, how astronomy has developed over the course of history, and look at how we view space.
Autumn half-term 2	Now we catalogue and classify the components of our own solar system: the Moon, the planets and their moons, comets and of course the Sun itself.
Spring half-term 1	Next we move onto the classification of stars, constellations and galaxies; this leads us to examine structure and origin of the Universe. We take this opportunity to look at ways in which the far reaches of the Universe can be viewed using modern, large-scale, land- and space-based telescopes
Spring half-term 2	Once we have a wider perspective of what has been discovered so far, we look to the future: exoplanet discovery and future human space missions. This includes looking back at the Space Race and Apollo missions as well as looking forward to what the discoveries in astrobiology might tell us about the origin of life.

Teacher Profile

Mr Llewellyn has a BSc (Hons) in Geophysics from Southampton University and a MS in Earthquake Studies from CERl / The University of Memphis. Before a PGCE from Goldsmiths College and now 13 years of teaching physics, he worked in academic publishing for 10 years, managing the publication of the world's oldest science journals for The Royal Society, London.



MEDICAL

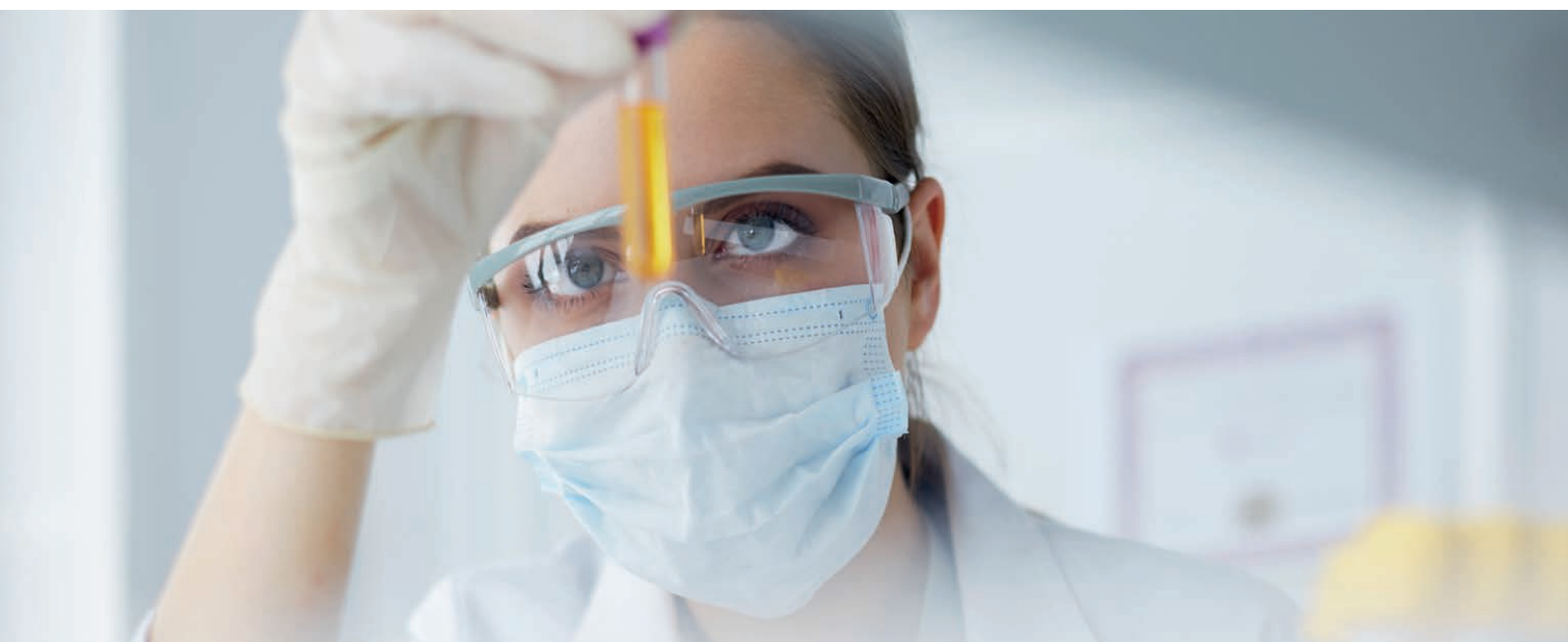
This course is ideal for students interested in medicine or related degrees. It covers personal statement preparation, interview practice, and guidance on securing and making the most of relevant work experience. You'll develop key skills, learn to reflect on them, and receive support in applying for medical opportunities. Sessions may also include additional science work, discussions, and presentations on current medical articles and news. The course equips students with the knowledge, experience, and confidence needed to pursue a successful career in medicine.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	We firstly look into what it means to get into the medical pathway. What it means to go into medicine, especially the 'how' to make strong applications. We will cover medical related pathways with their requirements. Also how to read scientific literature that will be expected for applications that will also reinforce wider reading of science subjects taken
Autumn half-term 2	A continuation of delving into scientific literature, examples such as IVF, cancer, cardiovascular disease, autoimmunity, cannabinoids/opiates and much more. We will also cover a section on medical myths to debunk commonly accepted 'facts' that have no or very little evidence found in science
Spring half-term 1	In the second school term, the focus will shift into applications for medicine or related courses. There will be the opportunity for students to build on interview skills that will be essential for all types of interview styles universities will expect. We will also cover medical ethics and case studies that can be used within interviews for students to discuss.
Spring half-term 2	Further interview preparation and a series of 'mock' interviews. We will also outline any other application requirements (e.g., examinations/work experiences). Throughout the spring term current and previous students who have applied for medicine and related courses will join us to give best advice for aspiring students which has always been highly appreciated across the past few years.

Teacher Profile

Dr Ward is the head of the biology department and holds a BSc (Hons) in Biology and a PhD in Genetics. His past research within comparative genomics focused on applying the single cell investigative approach using new techniques to gain deeper insights into chemotherapy resistant cancer cell lines. A background of scientific research that runs parallel to the medical field allows an insight for prospective students interested in this area to gain an upper hand with university applications, as proven with many years of successful medical (and other related scientific courses) applications.



PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE

This course provides an introduction to careers in Pharmaceutical Science, covering work with healthcare providers and the preparation and dispensing of medicines. Students will learn how pharmaceutical scientists are trained to discover, develop, test, and manufacture new drugs. The elective explores laboratory research, studying how compounds interact with disease-causing cells and the human body. Sessions include investigative analysis using techniques common in pharmaceutical research and industry, giving students hands-on insight into the processes and skills required to pursue a career in this field.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	The Pharmaceutical Industry is a world wide and changing all the time. Students are introduced to all the different areas of a Pharmaceutical organisations from how raw materials are bought and used to make different stages of each pharmaceutical product. How the active pharmaceutical ingredient is manufacture and regulated to the final product. Legal and compliance areas of the industry are explored and how each batch is tested for quality assurance. Students research how drugs were discovered and used to make modern pharmaceutical products. The history of Aspirin is explored and problems in drug development where side effects have been fatal.
Autumn half-term 2	Students explore different analytical techniques that are used in the Pharmaceutical Industry and how they relate to A Level Subjects. This includes Analytical Techniques in Chemistry, microscopes and vaccines in Biology and Instruments used for measuring in Physics. The course also includes IT and Mathematical skills.
Spring half-term 1	There are opportunities in the course for debates and research. Students will research an area of the course that interests them. As well as the Thalidomide tragedy and how that avoided in America. Presentation and oracy skills are developed throughout the elective.
Spring half-term 2	Students studying Pharmaceutical science also explore career opportunities. They play a key role in the Science Fair running stalls to engage and share their passion for STEM subjects during British Science Week. Students in this elective are also given the opportunity to help run STEM sessions for Key Stage 3 and 4.

Teacher Profile

Mrs Winter teaches Organic and Physical A Level Chemistry and GCSE Chemistry. She holds a BA (Hons.) in Applied Chemistry and was an Analytical Chemistry working for a Pharmaceutical Company for 15 years before teaching. She has a wealth of experience in analytical techniques used in Pharmaceutical Science and how the industry researches new medicines and how they are tested and regulated. This course was started 5 years ago to engage students in the vast career opportunities that are available across STEM subjects in the Pharmaceutical industry.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

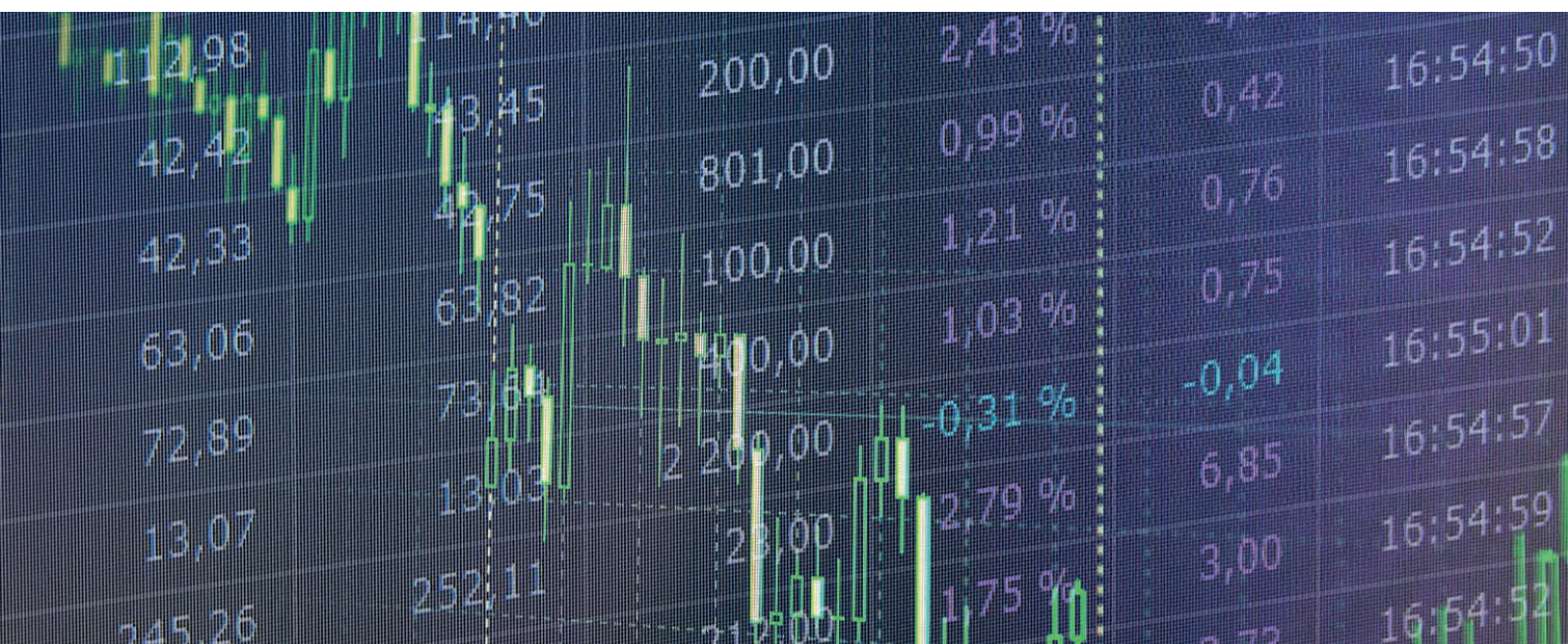
We partner with Entrepreneurs to run this exciting elective which offers an effective introduction to entrepreneurship. Learn about common myths, mental models, and different types of entrepreneurship. Understand risk management and explore the importance of ethical practices focusing on practical application to help you master the craft of entrepreneurship. Students will be able to: debunk common myths about entrepreneurship, understand the Entrepreneur's journey to Develop essential entrepreneurial skills, understand risks effectively, create strategic actions and execute and adapt business ideas based on customer feedback.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	This course introduces business research and information skills using BIPC and library resources to build a strategic roadmap. Students will explore databases, industry guides, and external resources; analyse trends, values, and sustainability for value propositions; conduct market research and customer segmentation; assess partnerships, competitors, IP, and funding streams. The focus is on making informed business decisions and delivering customer value.
Autumn half-term 2	This session explores how to protect your business idea through the four main areas of intellectual property (IP): patents, trademarks, registered designs, and copyright. You'll learn which apply to your business, see everyday examples of IP in action, and take a deeper dive into time limits, registered vs. unregistered rights, and other practical considerations.
Spring half-term 1	This session focuses on the financial side of running a business. Students will learn about tax and National Insurance, understand key financial concepts such as turnover, gross profit, net profit, and reinvestment, and explore the responsibilities and rights involved in being an employer. The aim is to build confidence in managing business finances effectively.
Spring half-term 2	This half term will focus on summarising the course and developing project work

Teacher Profile

Mrs Oswald is a Maths Teacher and Key Stage co-ordinator with over 15 years teaching experience, and is on the school's timetable team. She has a Maths Degree from the University of Bristol. Prior to teaching her role was a Mortgage compliance officer. This elective gives an introduction into running your own business, covering the basics of getting started and the legal requirements.



INTRODUCTION TO INVESTMENT

This elective introduces students to investment and financial literacy, helping them make informed decisions and build wealth. It also provides insight into careers in finance, banking, and asset management. Topics include the economic environment, financial markets, bonds, derivatives, investment funds, life insurance, and taxation. Students may opt to take the CISI Level 3 Award in Investment, an internationally recognised entry-level qualification with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment—typically a postgraduate-level credential, offering a unique opportunity for 16–18-year-olds.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	We begin with an introduction to the course, and the accompanying reading material. We then move on to look at the Financial Services Sector and role central banks play in the management of the global economy.
Autumn half-term 2	This course begins with an introduction to the stock market, focusing first on equities—the features, benefits, and risks of owning shares, corporate actions, major stock markets and indices, and how trades are executed and settled. It then explores bonds, followed by a review of other financial assets, including cash deposits, money markets, property, and foreign exchange markets.
Spring half-term 1	This term delves deeper into content covered in the previous term, looking at Derivatives, then investment funds focussing on the various types of open-ended and closed-ended funds, exchange-traded funds and hedge funds, and how they are traded. We also cover Regulations and Professional Integrity
Spring half-term 2	We review key regulations in financial services before exploring UK investment wrappers such as ISAs and pensions, along with taxation principles and the use of trusts. It also examines financial products including loans, mortgages, and protection policies like life assurance. The course concludes with an overview of financial advice, the advisory process, and essential legal concepts

Teacher Profile

Mrs Oswald is a Maths Teacher and Key Stage co-ordinator with over 15 years teaching experience, and is on the school's timetable team. She has a Maths Degree from the University of Bristol. Prior to teaching her role was a Mortgage compliance officer. This elective is challenging, but if completed successfully it can give students a boost for entering the competitive world of finance.



AN INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH POLITICS

This course introduces non-Politics A Level students to the workings of the British political system. It explores how Parliament passes laws, the role of the judiciary, whether Britain has a constitution, and what it means to vote. Students will examine why their vote matters, how the electoral system functions, and how governance shapes daily life. By addressing these key questions and linking them to current events, the course provides a solid foundation for understanding the complexity of modern British politics with clarity and confidence.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	The course starts by considering the historical roots of British democracy and how the political philosophy of liberalism provides the foundation of our political system and the democratic and governing principles it operates by. This will include exploring what are the key features of UK democracy, using comparisons with other nations to help us identify core characteristics and begin to assess why these are important in modern Britain and how they may be changing.
Autumn half-term 2	We consider our political institutions - Britain's famously "unwritten constitution", Parliament and the UK's other representative assemblies, the office of Prime Minister and the executive and the role of the judiciary. We will explore the UK's voting system, referenda, changes in the franchise and whether voting should be compulsory in a representative democracy. Also the emergence and impact of political parties and the role played by civil society with theories of power such as pluralism and the development of the system of rights protection.
Spring half-term 1	At this point we will create case studies of three important prime ministers and three significant general elections to evaluate how consequential these events are and what they tell us about the nature of political power and how British politics and the society it reflects, has changed over time.
Spring half-term 2	In the final section of the elective we will return to the democratic credentials of the UK and explore the key question of just how healthy is Britain's democracy by identifying the major issues facing the governance of Britain and consider potential solutions to these challenges.

Teacher Profile

Mr Tipping, Head of Politics at Townley, has taught A Level Politics for several years. Before teaching, he held public policy advocacy roles, including managing parliamentary affairs for a trade union, lobbying MPs, appearing before a Commons select committee, and giving evidence to a railway safety enquiry. A Politics graduate from York, his research on Michael Gove's "Troops to Teachers" policy was published in Education Studies.



ANTHROPOLOGY

Students will gain an understanding on how human beings interact with each other, through culture, rites, language, beliefs and more. This will complement many social sciences and will focus on how society and culture work together. Students will gain an understanding of how humans communicate with the world and their environment and generally to understand why do individuals exhibit certain behaviours, beliefs and actions.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Introduction to anthropology with analysis on human beings and their environment
Autumn half-term 2	Human nature, the soul, evolution, consciousness, and the anthropological search for "the human."
Spring half-term 1	" Society, the Individual & the Social Contract Students explore how societies are structured, the origins of authority, and whether we owe anything to each other."
Spring half-term 2	In this half-term, students will choose a real-world question about identity, belief, or community and explore it by observing people, asking questions, and thinking deeply about what they see drawing on experts they have learnt about in the field of anthropology to conclude their findings and thoughts on the question to the class

Teacher Profile

Miss Kaur chose this anthropology elective as her Philosophy degree modules Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics, encouraged her to think about human experience and meaning-making and Phenomenology, links to anthropology through its focus on lived experience, perception, and how individuals make sense of their world. RS explores social science topics like Gender and Society and Cultural Diversity engaging in the human experience.



FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

This course explores key questions about Christianity, the Bible, and the nature of God. Students will examine how we received the Bible, the attributes of God, the Trinity, and the identity of Jesus—whether teacher, prophet, or God incarnate. Designed for both Christians wanting to deepen their faith and anyone curious about Christianity, the course offers biblical answers to life's important questions. Through engaging discussions, students can explore profound topics, strengthen their understanding, and have the opportunity to ask questions and explore their own beliefs in a supportive environment.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	In the first term, students will study the Bible's history, how it was received, and its story across the Old and New Testaments. They will gain tools to study, interpret, and understand Scripture personally, while exploring each book's context and the Bible's continuing relevance for Christian faith today.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will explore what the Bible teaches about God, focusing on the Trinity and His attributes. In an interactive way, they will learn to explore what the bible teaches, growing in their knowledge of God and His character.
Spring half-term 1	In the spring term, students will study who Christ is from the Old and New Testament and exploring the Gospels to understand His Diety, incarnation, life and work on earth and his significance to the Christian Faith.
Spring half-term 2	Through discussions and group tasks, students will conduct character studies of key figures in the Bible, exploring their lives and significance to the Christian faith.

Teacher Profile

Mr. Cromwell is in his fourth year Diploma studying Theology, Hermeneutics, and Biblical Greek. He's passionate about the Bible and enjoys helping students understand it for themselves. Alongside teaching Economics, he has led study groups and discussions to make Scripture clear and relevant. He looks forward to guiding students as they explore God's Word and grow in their faith in a fun and exciting way.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

In this dynamic Model UN elective, students step into the shoes of world leaders, researching global issues and exploring the politics and culture of an assigned country each half term. You'll develop public speaking, negotiation, and diplomacy skills, from crafting speeches to drafting and debating resolutions. The course encourages compromise, critical thinking, and persuasive argument, while building oracy through structured discussion and debate. Whether passionate about global affairs or debate, Model UN provides engaging, hands-on experience and insight into international decision-making.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Students will become familiar with UN conference style, processes, and structure. We will discuss how to effectively research countries and issues and what makes a good opening speech, how to effectively propose and consider concessions necessary for writing resolutions, and how to write and debate resolutions. You will be randomly assigned countries and debate Freedom of the Press
Autumn half-term 2	Students will be representing a different country from the first half term (again, randomly assigned). The issue for resolution will centre around the returning of 'stolen' artefacts to their country of origin
Spring half-term 1	Our third debate will see new countries assigned, and students will debate the proliferation of nuclear weapons
Spring half-term 2	Our final debate will be some form of current or historical crisis - with students receiving new countries to represent once again. The topic will be based on a relevant topic happening in the world at the time or throughout the year.

Teacher Profile

Mr Hicks-Pattison has a PGCE from University College London, a Masters Degree in Environment and International Development from the London School of Economics, and a BA in Geography from Keele University. He has taught Geography at Townley for the past 6 years, is the Head of International Relations and 2 years ago he founded, and still currently runs, the Townley Model UN club.



DofE GOLD



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Doing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award builds skills, confidence, and a strong advantage for college, university, and future employment. You'll develop communication, leadership, and teamwork while making a real difference in your community. The exciting, challenging expedition creates unforgettable memories, and your achievement is celebrated at a Royal Family presentation. Employers also value the DofE highly, making it a respected qualification. The programme costs around £650 per student, offering lifelong personal growth, recognition, and opportunities.

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	Students organise themselves into DofE groups and select their Volunteering, Skill, and Expedition activities, as well as explore Residential opportunities. They will also cover the Highway Code and the Countryside Code of Practice to ensure safe and responsible participation. Finally, kit checks will be carried out to prepare for upcoming expeditions.
Autumn half-term 2	This stage includes essential preparation for the DofE. Students will complete a certified First Aid course, receive CPR training, and take part in a practice walk to build navigation, teamwork, and expedition readiness.
Spring half-term 1	Students will plan for the Exmoor expedition by developing key skills in compass use, map reading, and completing route cards. They will also cover food preparation for the trip and learn how to pack effectively for safety, comfort, and efficiency.
Spring half-term 2	Students will prepare for the Yorkshire Qualifier expedition by practising compass use, map reading, and completing route cards. They will also focus on food preparation and effective packing techniques to ensure they are fully equipped and ready for the challenge.

Teacher Profile

Mr Quinn, 18 years experience of DofE, DofE Lead and Assessor qualification



FOOD

This course will focus on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition and Healthy food choices. Cooking is a life skill that during the year you will cover topics from affordable meals to cooking Hacks for University. There are limited spaces on this course, class sizes run at a maximum of 18 students to a class.

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	"Students will work in cooking pairs, taking turns each week. On cooking weeks, they will prepare dishes such as vegetable soup and pizza, while non-cooking weeks are dedicated to planning recipes and sourcing ingredients. The course also covers essential health and safety practices in the kitchen to build confidence and safe cooking habits."
Autumn half-term 2	Students will continue developing their cooking skills by preparing dishes such as bolognese, savoury rice, and smash burgers. To finish, they will create their own choice of an affordable "uni hack" style meal, focusing on budget-friendly, practical recipes that can be easily recreated in everyday life.
Spring half-term 1	Students will practise baking skills by making fruit crumble, scones, and cupcakes. To conclude, they will choose and prepare their own affordable "uni hack" style sweet dish, focusing on simple, budget-friendly recipes suitable for everyday student life.
Spring half-term 2	Students will take part in 'The Great Townley Bake Off' Competition, where each week they are given different ingredients to bring in and use to create a dish. Their bakes will then be judged, encouraging creativity, skill development, and a fun competitive spirit in the kitchen

Teacher Profile

Miss Greenwood is a Level 2 Food Teacher



LEADERSHIP

This elective helps students develop leadership skills to take charge of their own lives and prepare for the future. You'll explore who you want to be, your strengths, and how to turn them into a career. The course covers confidence, resilience, communication, listening, understanding others, and networking. You'll reflect on your personal impact, decision-making, and influence, learning how to lead yourself and others effectively. By the end, you'll be better equipped to shape your life and stand out as a leader.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Our first topic is called 'Leading Self' (Self-Awareness and Personal Values). It's all about understanding our personal values, strengths, and how to lead one's own life with purpose. In order to lead others, we must have clarity over ourselves.
Autumn half-term 2	Our second topic is all about communication and collaboration, it's called 'Leading Teams.' In this topic, we look at leaders who have mastered communication, active listening, and collaboration for effective leadership.
Spring half-term 1	Leading Through Challenge is our third topic and it centres on Problem-Solving and Decision-Making. It's all about developing critical thinking, conflict resolution, and strategic decision-making skills.
Spring half-term 2	Our final topic is called 'Leadership in Action.' It's about exploring different leadership styles and applying skills to real-world, service-oriented projects. Our focus is on: what do we want our leadership legacy to be?

Teacher Profile

Mr Rouse is the Head of Sixth Form and one of the Assistant Headteachers, at Townley. He attended the University of Oxford to complete his postgraduate MSc in Learning and Teaching. This followed from a BA in Theology from King's College London. He is interested in leadership and wants all students to know themselves as leaders, embody values-driven leadership and be prepared for formal leadership roles within and beyond Townley!



PUBLIC SPEAKING

This elective is designed to enable learners to develop a wide range of skills in public speaking. Learners will be able to deliver two prepared speeches and one impromptu speech. They will integrate their knowledge and skills, demonstrating an understanding of the subject matter and the techniques required to speak confidently and with flair in public.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Students will begin by identifying the main stumbling blocks and reasons for nerves/stage-fright when speaking in front of other people. They will then explore different contexts for public speaking - eg lesson presentations in class and speaking in the Hall in assembly/at events. They will also listen to and learn from some of the top orators and speech-makers over history.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will learn to breathe and train the diaphragm as a muscle all over again - breathing from there, rather than relying on the vocal chords. Small informal 1-2 minute speeches will be shaped and delivered amongst the group primarily with peer and teacher feedback on how to improve for next time. Discovering what students feel passionate about in current affairs and the world at large, in order to convey this interest and energy in speeches.
Spring half-term 1	Students will work on slightly longer, deeper and more thoroughly researched speeches, aiming for a maximum of 3 minutes. Other public speakers/staff/students will come in to the session to relay their top tips for success and confidence.
Spring half-term 2	The course will end with final speech preparations for Year 12 assembly/final session, with sixth form team/SLT invited. There will be teacher feedback and help going forward for 'big' public speaking events coming up in the summer term.

Teacher Profile

Mrs Bingham and Mr French have made good use of their confident and resonant voices throughout many years of teaching and directing, and they enjoy enabling and helping others to 'find their authentic voice' too.



SELF DEFENSE

Townley Grammar provides a safe, nurturing environment, equipping students with both academic and life skills. Our Self-Defence program focuses on avoidance, early detection, and escape from potentially dangerous situations. Training includes verbal diffusion, neuro-linguistic programming, and practical techniques for extricating oneself safely. Sessions are fun, informative, and engaging, with students enjoying both verbal and physical practice. The course builds self-confidence, promotes physical fitness, and fosters camaraderie, helping students feel empowered, capable, and prepared to handle challenging situations in a safe and supportive setting.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	The first term of this wonderful elective is based on learning the ethos behind peaceful conflict resolution. Students are schooled in increased awareness and avoidance tactics for any potentially dangerous scenario. Alongside this fundamental maxim, pupils learn a handful of very simple, easy to learn techniques for use when all else fails in the street.
Autumn half-term 2	After learning basic techniques, this term focuses on more complex fight scenarios. Students practice drills with training weapons—flexible rubber knives, rubber guns, and batons made from pipe lagging—and learn safe breakfalls on padded judo mats to simulate street-fight situations within the school's controlled environment, emphasising safety, technique, and rehearsal. You also develop situational awareness, partner communication, timing, and controlled disengagement.
Spring half-term 1	This term is primarily concerned with recapping the ten basic disarm and threat neutralisation moves whilst under pressure. This is designed to increase the pupil's ability to think clearly when under extreme stress, a skill which is transferrable to their academic pursuits as well. There will also be a more in-depth exploration of ground fighting techniques as well as low contact boxing, kicking and standing clinch drills designed to work in all the various phases of a would-be physical attack.
Spring half-term 2	By the final term students will have substantial knowledge of physical and psychological self defence against armed and unarmed attackers, plus improved fitness and hand eye coordination. In controlled conditions with full protective gear they may choose to join mini competitions and mock attack scenarios. Safety is paramount: no student will be forced into training they find uncomfortable or pressured.

Teacher Profile

Dr. Philp began Judo at age five, later studying Wado Ryu and Shotokan Karate. Returning after a hiatus, he earned a Judo black belt and has trained since. He also achieved a black belt in Goshin Jutsu (Krav Maga), studied boxing under a former British Heavyweight, and trained Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu with Roger Gracie. Martial Arts instilled a warrior spirit that supports his careers in Dentistry and Mathematics



ROBOTICS

VEX Robotics has developed over 20 years to teach STEM principles using approachable, flexible, and powerful V5 electronics. The program helps students develop critical computational thinking and soft skills like communication, collaboration, and time management. Through hands-on experimentation, tinkering, and competitions, students build confidence as STEM learners. VEX Robotics competitions, held locally, regionally, nationally, and culminating in the World Championship, motivate learning and innovation, with 95% of participants reporting increased interest in STEM and pursuing related careers, preparing them for the workforce and everyday problem-solving.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Students will work in pairs to build a Micro:bit robot, then complete coding tasks and compile a portfolio showcasing their outcomes. Afterwards, they will split into two teams, each controlling their robots in a head-to-head challenge, applying their coding, problem-solving, and teamwork skills in a fun, competitive setting.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will form teams to code, design, and build a robot to take to nationals. Each team will have defined roles: a Team Leader to oversee the project, Coders to program the robot, Drivers to control it in competition, Robot Builders to construct it, and a Design & Field Team to create the battle field and team merchandise.
Spring half-term 1	Students will work in teams to code and build a robot for the VEX V5 Robotics Regionals. They will first compete against each other in school-based challenges before representing their team at the official VEX Regional Competitions, applying their coding, engineering, and teamwork skills in a competitive, real-world setting.
Spring half-term 2	Students will form teams to code and build a robot for nationals. Along the way, they will compete in school competitions, progress to regional contests, and, depending on their success, have the opportunity to advance to national or even world-level competitions—showcasing their coding, engineering, and teamwork skills on increasingly larger stages.

Teacher Profile

Mr Meheux has taught Electrical Engineering for over 25 years, taking apart in the VEX last year.



ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

In this course you will be taken through drawing and painting techniques to improve your skills. This course is an excellent opportunity for students to learn new skills or improve existing ones in Art. You will mainly work in groups to produce large pieces for the school. Suitable for any student interested in visual art.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Students will explore the beginnings of Modern Art, examining how and why it developed. They will study artists such as André Derain, Degas, Van Gogh (Post-Impressionist), and Monet. To deepen their understanding of Impressionism, students will create work inspired by Monet's Impression, Sunrise. In the Autumn term, they will also participate in the Articulation Prize Competition, organised by the National Portrait Gallery, joining Year 12 A Level Art students weekly at lunchtime to develop themes of their choice and prepare engaging presentations.
Autumn half-term 2	"Students will continue exploring Modern Art. The focus will be placed on Expressionism where they will learn about the different disciplines inspired by it: Architecture, Fine Art, cinema, German Expressionism. Students will also explore brutalist buildings in London, the film "Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari" (The Cabinet Dr. Caligari) (1920) by Robert Wiene and will establish connections with contemporary film makers such as Tim Burton. Around November, students will take part in the Internal heat of the Articulation Prize which will determine who will go to the regional heat."
Spring half-term 1	Students will study the Surrealists and will discuss artists such as the photographer Lee Miller, the artists Salvador Dali and the film "Un chien andalou" (An Andalusian dog) (1929) by Luis Buñuel. Students will also explore the artist Frida Kahlo; some of her surrealist and Naïve pieces. Students will create a collection of photographic self-portraits inspired by Lee Miller and Frida Kahlo.
Spring half-term 2	Richard Hamilton, and Robert Rauschenberg. They will learn the stencil printing technique used by Warhol and create a series of pieces using this method. In the final two weeks, students will explore contemporary art, engaging in class debates on works influenced by current socio-political issues. Artists studied will include Kara Walker, Yinka Shonibare, Sonia Boyce, The Guerrilla Girls, Marc Quinn, and Donald Rodney, fostering critical discussion and analytical skills.

Teacher Profile

Ms Oña de la Blanca is Head of Art and Urban Classroom Curriculum Lead. She studied Architecture in Granada, Spain, and worked in various Spanish cities and London. She completed her PGCE at Goldsmiths University and her National Professional Qualification in Leading Teacher Development at UCL. Passionate about painting, drawing, writing, and reading, she enjoys engaging students in creative challenges and artistic discussions, fostering both skill development and a love of the arts.



MUSIC

This elective explores why we like or dislike certain styles of music and examines music from around the world and throughout history, including fusion genres. Students will study diverse styles, from Ancient and Medieval music to Northern Soul, RAP, Reggae, and global folk. The course runs over two weeks: the first focuses on listening and learning about a specific style, composer, or genre, and the second involves group discussions reflecting on the music heard. No prior experience is needed, just curiosity and a keen ear.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Each week introduces world music through a short lecture on styles, history, instruments, and cultural sounds. You'll receive a playlist link with musical extracts to explore and reflect on. Sessions include group discussion of the playlist—sharing likes, dislikes, and insights into each style. Just bring your ears, curiosity, and a voice ready for lively conversation
Autumn half-term 2	This term we will look at particular composers, and instruments from Western Classical music
Spring half-term 1	This term we will listen to folk music from around the world and look at blues, jazz, soul and funk.
Spring half-term 2	This final term we will look at modern pop, rap, hip-hop, r & b and look at the development of the British Invasion in pop, rock and grime influences. Choices on styles can be taken from the class, if there are a few extra areas which may have felt forgotten from previous choices.

Teacher Profile

Ms Troth is Head of Music



MUSICAL THEATRE

The aim of this course is to develop performance skills in acting, singing and/or dancing. It will explore a wide array of musical theatre examples, building to informal showcases. This will be a fun and enjoyable experience for all. No previous experience necessary, although willingness to try and energy required!

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	Students will learning to trust each other as a group of performers, and experimenting with acting THROUGH song, so that the lyrics and character tell a story, and not just singing for the sake of it.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will be experimenting with a variety of different MT musicals, styles and genres/types, and starting to integrate staging, movement and choreography.
Spring half-term 1	There will be an Informal showcase amongst the group and to other Year 12 students/members of the sixth form team. Students can choose their own MT numbers to work on independently and as a group.
Spring half-term 2	This term will see students developing, refining and honing the MT skills from the first three units, with the possibility of MT professionals coming in to lead workshops and Q&A about breaking into, and making a success in the industry. We end the spring term with a West End theatre visit, to a production of the group's choosing.

Teacher Profile

Mrs Bingham and Mr French are both big fans of musical theatre, and have been since knee-high to grasshoppers! This has involved being in MT productions themselves, as well as directing such extravaganzas as "Frozen", "Miss Saigon" and "Six!"



PRACTICAL FILM MAKING

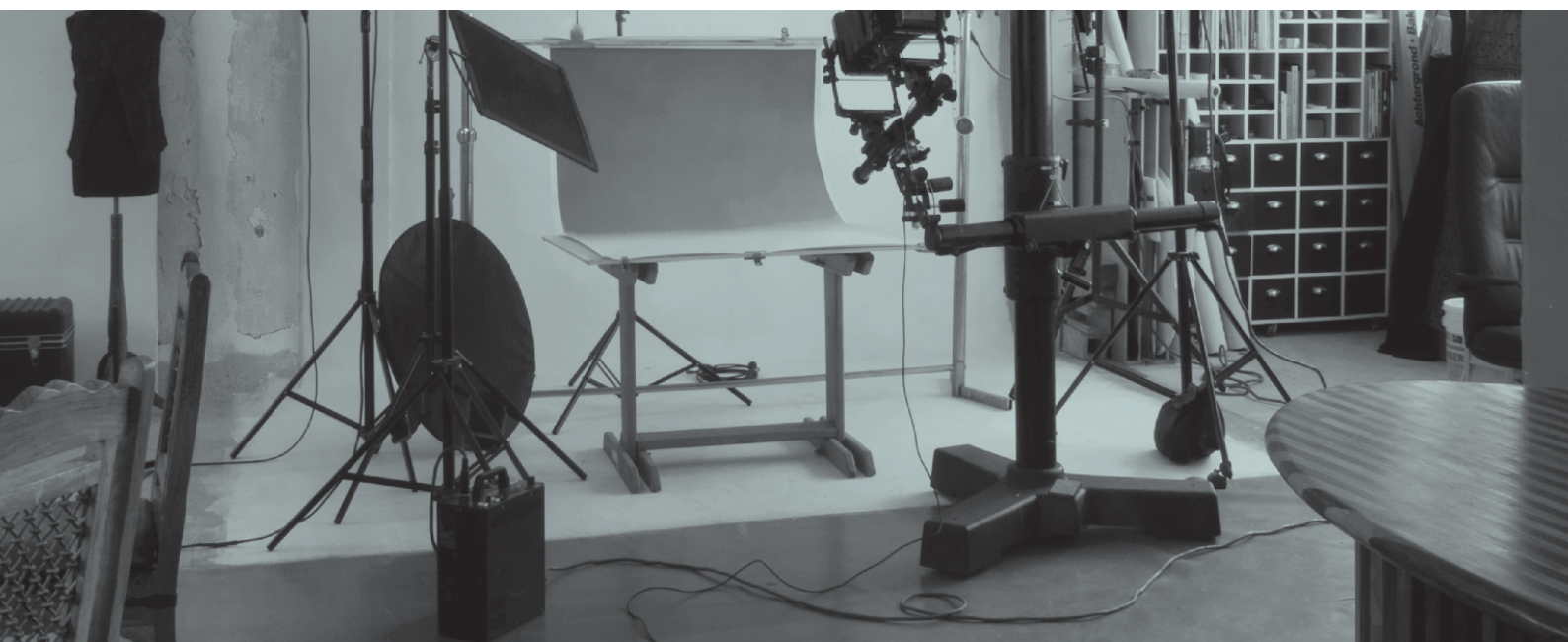
This course introduces students to the key elements of filmmaking, including cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound, and performance, helping them understand how films create meaning and elicit responses. Learners will develop their skills in each area before producing their own short films, using cameras to shoot and Adobe Premiere Pro to edit. Designed for students interested in filmmaking but not taking the full Film Studies A Level, the course provides practical experience and a strong foundation in film production techniques and creative storytelling.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	We will alternate weeks between learning the terminology for the key elements of film form (cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing and sound) and going out to film examples based on what we have learnt. Students will work in groups and will learn how to operate filming equipment and how to edit using Adobe Premiere Pro.
Autumn half-term 2	Continuing and further developing the work from Autumn 1
Spring half-term 1	Students will create their own short films: they will plan, script, storyboard, film and edit their work to create a film which can be used as part of a portfolio (or just for fun).
Spring half-term 2	Continued from Spring 1. At the end of the course there will be a screening of students' films.

Teacher Profile

Miss Welch is the Head of Film Studies and an English teacher at Townley Grammar. She has significant experience guiding students through the creative and technical process of producing their own short films for A-Level and elective courses. She is a recognised educator, having received a Certificate of Excellence for Teacher of the Year - Secondary School in the 2025 Pearson National Teaching Awards.



PHOTOGRAPHY

In this course, you will make the most of learn how to professionally take photos with a digital camera and how to work with photographic paper and develop your own photos. You will get to understand about composition and light using different photographic techniques inspired by professional photographers.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	The first term in the Photography course would focus on learning the basics. How to use a manual camera, the settings and functions. The exposure Triangle, aperture, Shutter speed, ISO. With that knowledge the students should be able to use their mobile phones to develop their skills in lighting, and their visual skills in observation. I would also like to plan a few trips to galleries. The photographers gallery is always a great place to visit. Students will start to understand how other photographers create stunning, impactful images. Lee Miller has a major exhibition in Tate Modern soon, the students would be inspired by her work as a photojournalist.
Autumn half-term 2	The first term in the Photography course would focus on learning the basics. How to use a manual camera, the settings and functions. The exposure Triangle, aperture, Shutter speed, ISO. With that knowledge the students should be able to use their mobile phones to develop their skills in lighting, and their visual skills in observation. I would also like to plan a few trips to galleries. The photographers gallery is always a great place to visit. Students will start to understand how other photographers create stunning, impactful images. Lee Miller has a major exhibition in Tate Modern soon, the students would be inspired by her work as a photojournalist.
Spring half-term 1	Given we have the resources, we would like to introduce students to our small darkroom in school. Firstly, taking them through the health and safety aspects of using chemicals, and working in a small space. Students will then be taken through the steps on how to develop their own black and white images from film.
Spring half-term 2	Students will continue to learn how to develop their own black and white images from film. The aim of This course is to provide students with the necessary skills to go out and create their own creative photography that will stimulate the eye and reward the viewer. To tell their own stories through the lens.

Teacher Profile

Mr. Douglas has extensive experience in the advertising industry as an Art Director, developing creative solutions for clients across diverse products, from cars to technology. His role focused on overseeing visual elements, commissioning photographers and illustrators, and ensuring impactful advertisements and commercials. Passionate about imagery, he has always admired the power of a single photograph, which naturally evolved into photography becoming a personal and rewarding hobby



PLAY IN PERFORMANCE

The aim of this elective is for students who are interested in performance and technical aspects of theatre, to stage a play to be performed in the summer term. Guided by the Drama department but directed by the students. This would be particularly beneficial for students considering a profession within the creative arts, but equally for those wanting to develop confidence in presentational flair and finesse.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	This half term students will be reading, exploring and staging a wide variety of different plays, styles and periods.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will then choose one particular play to work on as a group/theatre company.
Spring half-term 1	Students will move on to rehearsing, blocking and refining the chosen play in each elective session, integrating lighting, sound, costume and set design skills.
Spring half-term 2	The elective will end with final rehearsals and a performance of the play to an audience of Year 12 students/sixth form team.

Teacher Profile

Mrs Bingham and Mr French are both seasoned Drama teachers, over a number of different schools and environments, and have a real passion for bringing the words on the page to life on stage.



PRODUCING AND DESIGNING A SHOW

Students will work towards a school production or a hypothetical production. They will learn key skills in designing and making set, props, costumes; learn to source items and costume. Students will develop skills in lighting, sound and technical skills. They will also project manage and undertake budget management skills.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	This term is an introduction to the performance / Production. Students will analyse technical elements and research the themes and context of the production. There will be time for preparation for planning the production and understanding the budget and financial implications.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will be researching, creating and designing Lighting, Sound, Set and props across Act One
Spring half-term 1	Students will be creating and designing Lighting, Sound, Set and props across Act Two
Spring half-term 2	Students will be integrating Technical aspects into the performance - how do actors interact and how do we promote and market the performance.

Teacher Profile

K Bingham is Head of Performing Arts and has a Degree in Theatre Arts from London Studio Centre - University of the Arts London. She has a range of professional performance and stage experience within Theatre.



BOOK CLUB

For passionate readers eager to share their favourite books, Townley's Year 12 Book Club offers a exploration of diverse genres, guided by student suggestions. Whether revisiting classics or exploring the latest BookTok trends, members discuss, debate, and celebrate literature together. Sessions include reading discussions alongside creative projects like designing book covers, decorations, quizzes, games, and lively debates. The reading list is chosen by members, giving everyone a voice. Connect with fellow literary enthusiasts and explore books in a fun, engaging, and interactive way

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	The syllabus will be tailored specifically to the members of the group. In the early weeks we will share our preferred genres, authors and favourite books- introducing a rota where members can bring in their favourites and read them with the group. This will help us get to know eachother's styles better, and find common interests. Each reading will be followed with analytical discussion, debate and other fun activities (quizzes, crafts, games etc.)
Autumn half-term 2	We will use Google Forms and debate to suggest books for the group, deciding on a reading plan that suits our weekly timetables. We will be discussing old favourites as well as encouraging ourself to find new favourites: branching out of our comfort zone to sample unfamiliar artists, genres and writing styles. We will also be setting up our own social media/blogging platform to share our ideas and track our progress.
Spring half-term 1	We will be focusing on a specific writer: 'Author Spotlight', which we will decide upon as a group. We will grow an indepth understanding and knowledge of this writer and their body of work, tracking their development across each new publication and learning more about how their lifestyle impacted and inspired their writing.
Spring half-term 2	We will be planning out events to widen our community. This will include hosting discussion panels, guest speakers and lectures, Read-A-Thons, Library activities and anything else the group may come up with!

Teacher Profile
Miss Mitchell teaches English, Classical Civilisation, and Consciousness. She studied Classical Literature and Civilisation at the University of Birmingham and is an avid reader active on Goodreads, Bookstagram, and BookTok. Having enjoyed Book Clubs at university and beyond, she is eager to create a welcoming space where students can share their love of literature, engage in thoughtful discussion, and build new friendships.



CREATIVE WRITING

This creative writing workshop is perfect for aspiring writers, whether finishing a novel, starting a short story, or exploring journalism. Over the year, students will develop their writing skills and gain confidence in sharing their work. Each experience is tailored, offering independent projects with deadlines or peer-led discussions and exercises for inspiration. Participants will have opportunities to enter nationwide competitions, with chances for publication, prizes, and recognition. Ideal for passionate writers eager to expand their portfolio and bring their ideas to life.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	We will begin the year with a review of any current body of work we may have, and get a sense of each other's goals- whether that be to finally finish a drafted novel, begin a new project or just to pick up some skills. We will draw up unique progression plans for each student mapping out how they will meet their goals by the end of the year. We will then start our writing workshops. These will be suitable for all writing forms (blogging, articles, novels, poetry, short stories etc.)
Autumn half-term 2	Writing workshops focusing on theme and genre. Either to help students find their feet in their chosen field and improve their voice and style, or to experiment with a range. This will help widen their scope, improve their skills and help them find or solidify their own style.
Spring half-term 1	Writing workshops focusing on technique and style. Helping students get comfortable with a range of techniques (language, form and structure) and using them in their own writing. This will make their writer richer and more sophisticated.
Spring half-term 2	We will work on structuring - either building an anthology compiling all their work, or planning out a larger work (novel etc).

Teacher Profile

Miss Mitchell teaches English, Classical Civilisation, and Consciousness, having studied Classical Literature and Civilisation at the University of Birmingham. A passionate creative writer, she has spent three years at Townley Grammar supporting students' writing. She has overseen competitions, workshops, and guided many to publication. She is excited to coach new writers, helping them develop unique voices—whether for future careers or the joy of self-expression.



KNITTING AND CROCHET

Come along and Knit and natter! This class teaches knitting and crochet, a relaxing, lifelong skill suitable for beginners and those with some experience. Students will learn to read patterns, work with different stitches, needles, techniques, and yarn types. The course allows you to create wearable items, gifts, or pieces to pass down to future generations. It's a perfect way to unwind, meet new people, and enjoy a mindful, absorbing hobby. All are welcome - come craft something amazing while boosting your creativity and mental well-being.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	This term we will focus on starting knitting techniques - making simple projects, and possible presents. Those who are more advanced may bring their own projects to work on, or start research on new projects. We will focus on gauge, and preparing for a project, reading a pattern and/or chart, and deciding how much yarn and materials each will require. We will also research on wool substitution, allowing projects to be made with cheaper alternatives.
Autumn half-term 2	This term we will continue with our knitting projects - continuing with gift ideas, and plan to achieve a finished project by the end of the term.
Spring half-term 1	We will start this term with an introduction to crochet. How to read a crochet pattern and/or chart, how to achieve different stitches and working in circles or in straight lines, changing colours, casting on and binding off. We will start small projects which can be achieved by the end of this half term.
Spring half-term 2	We will be finishing previous projects, and introducing other types of crochet, such as Tunisian crochet. There will also be a chance to return to knitting and try other more advanced techniques such as cabling, brioche and entrelac.

Teacher Profile

Ms Troth is head of Music but has found knitting, especially, a wonderful way to relax. It is also a skill you can complete while listening to music, sitting on the bus or train, watching TV, chatting to friends or family, or just being alone with the yarn and the gentle click of the needles. It's also a great way to listen to an audio book or catch up on some podcasts, there is always somebody interested in your project, no matter where you are take out your work - even sitting by a pool on holiday!



SEWING

Unlock your creativity in our weekly sewing elective. Whether a beginner or with some experience, you'll learn essential skills such as using a sewing machine, reading patterns, and crafting your own clothing and accessories. From simple alterations to designing custom pieces, you'll gain hands-on experience in a fun, supportive environment. This course offers the chance to express your personal style, develop a lifelong skill, and create unique items. Join us and bring your fashion ideas to life through sewing.

Elective Syllabus	
Autumn half-term 1	This half term focuses on foundational sewing skills and safety. Students will learn health and safety protocols, become familiar with tools, materials, and the sewing machine, including threading and operation. They will master basic stitches (straight, zigzag, backstitch), explore essential seaming techniques, and finish their learning by completing a simple mini-project. This practical start ensures confidence and competence in using all essential sewing equipment.
Autumn half-term 2	Building on the basics, this term introduces construction skills and fabric knowledge essential for garment making. Students will review fabric types, grainlines, and selection principles. They will learn to interpret commercial or provided patterns, practice accurate cutting, and apply seam allowances and pressing techniques. Students will also learn to take body measurements and adjust patterns before beginning the construction of a basic wearable garment, such as a simple skirt, top, or shorts.
Spring half-term 1	In this stage, students complete their wearable garment by adding fastenings (elastic, zip, or buttons), hemming, and finishing techniques. They reflect on the outcome and skills used before moving into self-directed work. With teacher guidance, they explore independent project options, selecting an item, materials, and design, planning their time, and beginning construction of a personal sewing project.
Spring half-term 2	This final stage is dedicated to the execution and completion of the student-led project. Students will work independently, applying all previously learned skills, while receiving teacher support for any challenges. They will learn advanced techniques like darts, buttonholes, or invisible zips as required by their design. Regular progress checks and peer feedback will guide development, culminating in the completion of the final item, fitting adjustments, and preparation for a class showcase or presentation.

Teacher Profile

Mrs Khoshnevisan is a Biology Teacher, who studied Physiotherapy at King's College London. In her spare time she enjoys sewing her own clothes and completing embroidery projects. She is excited to share these skills with others to encourage others to create and personalise their own wardrobes!



EMBROIDERY

Whether new to stitching or with some experience, this hands-on embroidery course teaches a variety of techniques to create unique designs and express creativity. Students will explore modern and traditional patterns, experimenting with color, texture, and detail in a relaxed, enjoyable environment. Perfect for developing a new skill and unwinding, embroidery allows you to add a personal touch to clothing, accessories, and home décor. Join us to learn, create, and stitch your way to beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	This half term establishes the foundational skills for hand embroidery. Students will learn about essential tools, materials (needles, floss, fabrics), and hoop management. They will focus on mastering core linear and fill stitches, such as the running stitch, backstitch, stem stitch, and satin stitch, as well as decorative and textural stitches such as french knots and woven wheels through creating a personalised stitch library.
Autumn half-term 2	Students will continue to complete their stitch library and from this point the main focus shifts to design application: students will use their first sampler as a reference to design and begin embroidering their own garment or accessory. This practical project integrates decorative techniques onto a functional piece, moving from practice to personalised creation.
Spring half-term 1	In this stage, students complete their first embroidered garment project, reflecting on the skills and techniques used. The course then transitions to self-directed design, encouraging deeper engagement with personal interests. Students will develop more complex designs that require the integration of multiple stitch types from their sampler. They will explore incorporating embellishments like beads or sequins and begin planning material procurement and time management for their final, ambitious, personal embroidery project.
Spring half-term 2	This final stage is dedicated to the execution and completion of the advanced, student-led project. Working independently with teacher support, students will focus on translating their complex design into a high-quality finished piece. They will apply specialized techniques like shading or needle painting and master the use of any chosen embellishments. Regular peer and teacher feedback will guide their progress, culminating in fitting adjustments, project completion, and presentation in a final class exhibition or showcase.

Teacher Profile

Mrs Khoshnevisan is a Biology Teacher, who studied Physiotherapy at King's College London. In her spare time she enjoys sewing her own clothes and completing embroidery projects. She is excited to share these skills with others to encourage others to create and personalise their own wardrobes!



OXBRIDGE

This course supports students interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge in Year 13. It covers admissions test preparation, personal statement guidance, and interview practice. Students will develop key skills, learn to reflect on them, and engage in discussions to broaden their knowledge and improve communication and debating abilities. By the end, participants will be able to produce a strong, well-rounded personal statement and gain confidence in interviews. It is not a requirement for students wishing to apply to Oxbridge to attend this course.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	We will be looking at the admissions process, outlining the requirements for each part and doing initial research into colleges and courses. There is no expectation for you to make any decisions at this point!
Autumn half-term 2	"We focus on oracy and interview skills, focussed on Oxbridge interviews. This is a key part of the process – and one that many people find the scariest. We will also debunk some myths! Oracy is a life skill and important for all manners of careers. At this point, too, we will also begin building our extra-curricular log, and have some time to apply for Work Experience opportunities.
Spring half-term 1	In Spring 1, we begin looking at admissions tests, as well as any required work for application. This allows us to build up our super-curricular log via Work Experience, enter essay competitions, and reflect on books read and podcasts listened to. We also revisit our research around Oxbridge courses and colleges.
Spring half-term 2	During Spring 2, our focus is on the Personal Statement – breaking down the 3 questions and filling in the gaps for each of us. This half-term also includes two one-to-one meetings to discuss your progress and application. A decision around Oxbridge needs to be made at this point.

Teacher Profile

Mr Rouse is the Head of Sixth Form and one of the Assistant Headteachers, at Townley. He attended the University of Oxford to complete his postgraduate MSc in Learning and Teaching. This followed from a BA in Theology from King's College London. He has a successful track record of mentoring and supporting Oxbridge applications ensuring that the elective is focussed learning around applications and fun!

Ms Cox is Director of Learning for Years 12 & 13. She attended St John's College Oxford for an MA in Theology and completed her Post Graduate in Education at Trinity Hall Cambridge. She has had the pleasure of mentoring and supporting many students in their Oxbridge applications. The elective is will prepare students in their applications for whichever university they apply to.



UCAT PREP



The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is a compulsory admissions test for the majority of UK medicine and dentistry courses. A good result gives students the chance to stand out from the crowd and increases their chances of being selected for interview. In this course students will learn how to approach all sections of the test and be given guidance on resources. This course is suitable for students aiming to study medicine or dentistry.

Elective Syllabus

Autumn half-term 1	In the first lesson, students are introduced to the four UCAT sections—verbal reasoning, decision making, quantitative reasoning, and situational judgement—along with their timings. They complete a diagnostic test to identify strengths and weaknesses. The half-term then focuses on verbal reasoning, with updates on relevant work experience opportunities shared during lessons and via the UCAT Google Classroom
Autumn half-term 2	The second section of the UCAT will be the focus for this half-term - decision making. Students will work collaboratively to discuss scenarios and strategies to efficiently make the appropriate decision. Students will start creating their own 'dummies guide to the UCAT' to consolidate the techniques they have learned.
Spring half-term 1	Quantitative reasoning is the focus of the third half-term. As students often find this section the most straight forward, practice tests for the three topics we have covered will be done on a fortnightly basis to practice time management.
Spring half-term 2	Finally, we conclude the course by exploring medical ethics to inform our decision making process for the situational judgement section. Finally, practice tests will be utilised to familiarise students with the set-up.

Teacher Profile

Miss Hawkins is the Year 13 Learning Manager and teaches, Chemistry, Physics and PE at Townley. Miss Hawkins attended the University of Virginia and graduated with University honours with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.



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