



2023/24

RUNSHAW COLLEGE

# HORIZONS

High Performance Programme - A Level

ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Core Curriculum

A Level Subjects



Additional Qualifications



Enrichment Activities



Runshaw Extra



Subject Academies



Subject Enhancement



Work Related Activities



Volunteering

Prestigious Guest Speakers and Lectures

Specialist Application Advice

Additional Personal Statement Support

Additional University Visits & Events

Bespoke Mock Interviews

- Additional Learning Support
  - Pastoral Support
  - Student Services



# Welcome

## to Runshaw's **Horizons** Programme

Runshaw's programme for high-performing students is incredibly comprehensive and highly successful. At Runshaw, we pride ourselves on supporting all students to reach their full potential. For students with the highest standards of academic performance, and aspirations to progress to prestigious destinations and careers, this means developing knowledge and understanding that goes far beyond the confines of an A Level course. We therefore offer Academies across the full range of subject areas, designed to broaden students' experience and further cultivate their passion for their subject.

High performing students at Runshaw study a programme of 3, 4 or 5 A Levels, tailored individually to them and their progression intentions, to ensure they have the best possible chance of securing top A level grades and progressing to the most prestigious destinations.

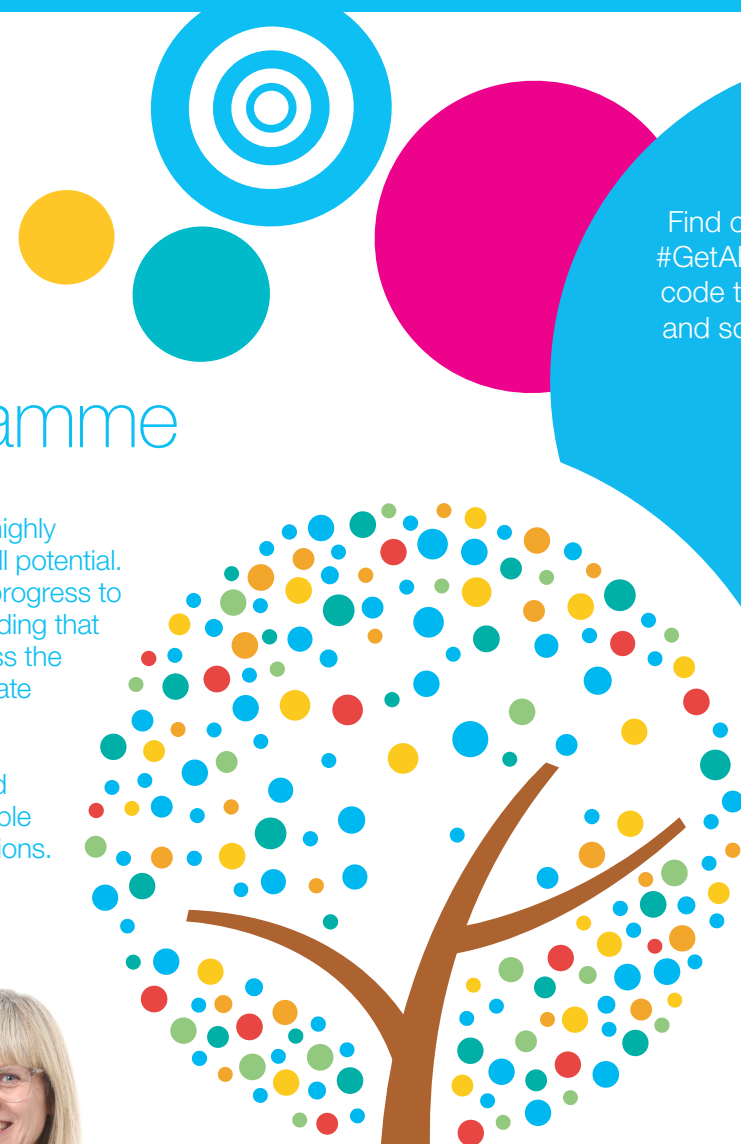
We are delighted that our students consistently achieve among the best A Level grades in the North West of England. The outstanding preparation provided at college ensures that a high proportion of Runshaw students progress to the most prestigious universities and careers, including to study courses for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science and we are proud to boast one of the highest numbers of students locally progressing to Oxbridge.

Please read on for the full range of opportunities available at Runshaw for high-performing students.

**Lucy Turner**, A Level Head of Studies



**Lucy Turner**



Find out how we can help you #GetAhead by scanning the QR code to browse our academies and societies, or download our brochures.



**“Make the horizon your goal; it will always be ahead of you!”**

William Makepeace Thackeray

# PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES PROGRAMME (PUP)

## Prestigious Universities Programme

The Runshaw PUP is available to students as soon as they begin their studies at the college and is designed to support students with their progression to the most prestigious universities and courses, including Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary courses. The programme aims to de-mystify the application process and to clarify what prestigious universities are looking for, whilst developing students' communication and thinking skills. Above all, it provides huge encouragement to students who are considering making an application to one of these universities or courses.

The comprehensive range of PUP support, events and activities includes:

- our annual Prestigious Universities Evening for parents and carers in the first term
- talks from former students who have successfully progressed to prestigious universities
- detailed guidance with the application process
- individual support with personal statement writing
- subject-specialist help with preparation for admissions tests
- bespoke mock interviews with Heads of Studies and relevant subject experts
- a series of workshops with Oxbridge admissions tutors

- Oxbridge Open Days and STEM Day trips
- guest speakers from prestigious universities including the Russell Group, covering all subject areas
- opportunities to participate in national competitions in a variety of subjects, including Oxbridge essay writing competitions
- regular 1:1 Progress Mentor support
- an unrivalled range of academies, guest

speakers and lectures within Schools across the A Level programme

- support with admission tests
- additional critical thinking and debating sessions
- additional Oxbridge support sessions delivered by Heads of Studies

Our students benefit greatly from our strong links with prestigious universities. The A Level Programme Team will provide key information to students about PUP events and activities via Progress Mentor Group sessions, email and the Aspire Magazine; we encourage our students to be proactive and to take full advantage of the many opportunities available to them.



### Pretesh Patel

Studied: Biology, Further Maths, Maths, Chemistry, Physics

Achieved: A\*A\*A\*A\*A\*

Previous High School: St. James

Where are they now?

The University of Cambridge to study Medicine



### Jess Burt

Studied: Government & Politics, History, Sociology

Achieved: A\*A\*A\*

Previous High School: Balshaw's

Where are they now?

The University of St Andrews to study International Relations & Modern History



### Harry Best

Studied: Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths, Physics

Achieved: A\*A\*A\*A\*

Previous High School: Ladybridge

Where are they now?

The University of Oxford to study Maths

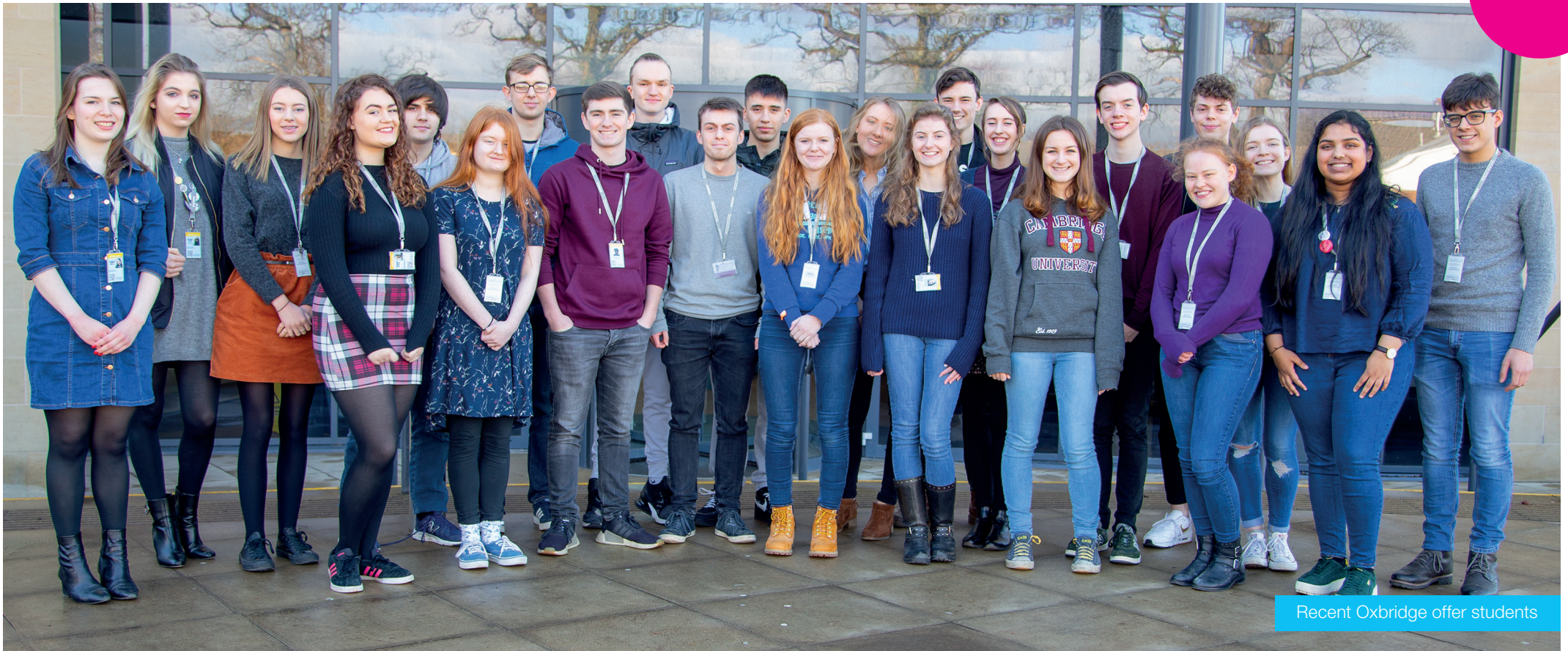
*"By booking application support days, inviting visiting speakers, and arranging mock interviews, Runshaw does a brilliant job of assisting its Oxbridge applicants."*  
Adam Kellett, Horizons student.

## Oxbridge

We currently have over 50 former students studying at Oxford and Cambridge universities; we are very proud of their achievements.

The Oxbridge selection process is unique, so special assistance is provided using the expertise which Runshaw staff have built up through our relationships with colleagues at these universities. Practical help with applications, personal statements, aptitude tests and interviews is also given.

Notably, Runshaw is the only state sector school or college to have produced two presidents of the Cambridge Students' Union: Pav Akhtar and Laura Walsh, and a recent president of the Oxford Students' Union. Both Pav and Laura have visited the college to give guidance and information to prospective Oxbridge applicants. They are a real inspiration and show just what can be achieved by Runshaw A Level students.



Recent Oxbridge offer students



Runshaw's Horizons programme is quite unparalleled in the scope of provision across all aspects of the A Level curriculum. Our individual subject Academies aim to stretch and challenge and enthuse the academic interests of our most able students in all subjects through an exceptional range of activities, including trips and visits, delivered by passionate teachers who are experts in their field. Each Academy provides additional support with subject specific university applications, personal statements, mock interviews, preparation for admissions tests and careers advice.



## Revit Academy

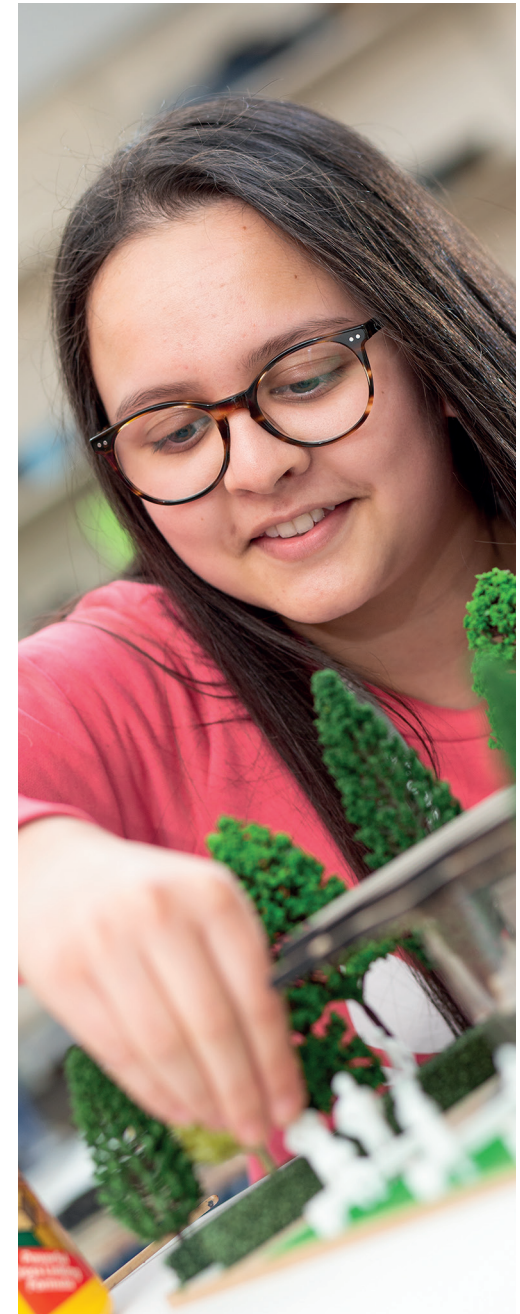
Begin your exciting journey of Revit Academy and get first-hand theoretical and practical experience of industry standard architectural and engineering software. This academy will give you the chance to embark on a creativeness journey in civil/architectural technology and allow you to explore architectural design through simple modular housing schemes, small offices designs and school design. You will learn to understand the material make up of a building and the fundamentals behind regulations and standards. This knowledge will then feed into your design work of plans, sections, elevations, details, walkthroughs and final renders for a potential client that will be displayed in professional architectural portfolios (ready to take to potential future interviews). Furthermore, you will gain exciting experiences in drone technology, drone missions and flight control in order to conduct building and ground surveys.

This is definitely an academy to place on your bucket list!



## Architecture Academy

Our Architecture Academy encompasses a range of extra-curricular activities for prospective university undergraduates across all of the associated areas within engineering design. The Academy comprises of a range of visual representation, photography and practical manufacture using a range of architectural techniques and processes within our specialist MA3DE design centre. The applied nature of the academy will provide our students with outstanding opportunities to achieve places to study on these prestigious courses within higher education. The societies provide our students with the opportunity to work effectively both in teams and within independent settings, giving them additional chances to enhance their subject knowledge and gain experiences that will enable them to shine in their future career and endlessly boost their employability. As a member of these societies, students will be provided with an up to date curriculum created by our experienced staff, alongside regular feedback from university lecturers, ensuring the highest standard of experience. This has included guest lecturers from a broad range of areas and the opportunity to take part in residential trips to key architectural design shows and national museums, as well as more local events such as visits to Manchester and Liverpool.



## Art Academy

Our Art Academy provides outstanding support for our many gifted and talented students to achieve the highest grades in all A Level Visual Arts subjects (Fine Art, 3D Design, Textiles, Graphics and Photography). Students are taught a breadth of skills in a wide range of media techniques and processes, to expand on the knowledge and experience gained on the A Level Art courses. Work produced in the Academy sessions is linked to current project work and themes and is assessed in course lessons so that students can develop their coursework journals. As well as enabling students to have an extensive range of work in their journals, their Academy work also enhances students' university applications, with work being presented as an impressive portfolio ready for interview.

During the exam session, Academy students are challenged to select their best skills and work more in-depth, through experimentation with media and development of thoughtful concepts. Students attending the Academy also gain greater confidence in discussing their ideas and constructively evaluating their work with others through collaborative work and peer support. We are extremely proud of the exceptional work produced by our Art Academy students which we showcase at our annual exhibition in the summer term; a most inspiring event, not to be missed!

## Aspiring Teachers @ Runshaw

We are very proud of our 'Aspiring Teachers @ Runshaw' society.

'AT @ Runshaw' has been especially designed for 1st Year students who are keen to pursue a career in teaching. Sessions are delivered by a dynamic team of highly experienced teachers who are all passionate about teaching. We want to inspire and enthuse the next generation of teaching professionals through an exciting 6 week programme of taught sessions and work placement guidance that will boost students' preparation for a career in teaching.

The taught sessions take place on study days and include:

- Developing presentation and delivery skills
- Lesson planning
- Observation of lessons
- Mini-teaching
- Expert advice and guidance with applications and personal statements

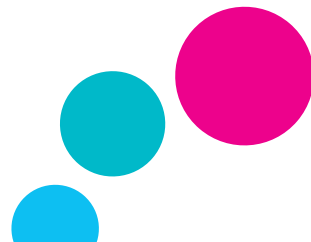
Students are informed about the 'AT @ Runshaw' application process via their Progress Mentors.

## Astrophysics Society

During your time in the society you will train to compete in the prestigious "International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition" where cash prizes can be won! All students who enter this competition will be awarded a certificate of participation which will be useful addition to your UCAS personal statement. Each week you will learn new astrophysics content which may be tested as part of the competition; most of this content will also be taught at some point in the A Level Physics course, so the society will also provide valuable exam practice.

The competition will consist of three rounds. The first round is the "Qualification Round" where you will be presented with five astrophysics problems, varying in topic and difficulty, each problem is worth 5 points, in order to progress to the next round, the "Pre-final round" you will need to score at least 15 points. Participants that have solved the qualification round successfully are qualified to participate in the pre-final round. The problems will be more challenging, but even more interesting! The pre-final round consists of 8 different problems that vary in difficulty, points, and topic: three basic problems each worth four points, three advanced problems each worth six points, and two research problems each worth ten points. You will have three days to solve as many of these problems as possible. It is possible to reach up to 50 points in total. Participants have to reach at least 20 points to qualify for the final round. Participants that have solved the pre-final round successfully are qualified

to participate in the final round: The final round consists of a single online exam with 20 multiple-choice questions. The final exam will take place in college. The awards and prizes are given to the finalists with the most points in the final round.







## Business Academies

There are several, excellent Academies in the School of Business, one for every course. Through our Academies, we stretch and challenge students with an increased depth of subject knowledge to develop the advanced level analytical and evaluative skills necessary to perform at the highest academic level. Students enhance the key employability skills sought by employers including problem solving, decision making, collaborative working and interpersonal skills; skills essential for university success and working life. Many of our Academy students are inspired to study our subjects at prestigious universities and to secure employment with highly reputable, globally renowned businesses.

To date, we have offered our students many extra-curricular opportunities such as the A\* clubs, our mentoring programme, “Dragons’ Den” and “The Apprentice” simulations, Micro Tyco, ICAEW Challenge, Young Enterprise, Extended Projects, fund raising for charities, Fair Trade activities and marketing with Performing Arts. Our teachers are highly experienced in offering mentoring, coaching and support for prestigious university applications and for our students seeking places on the highly sought after sponsored degrees.

Feedback from our Business Academy students is always very positive in response to the opportunities we provide.

## Criminology Academy

This exciting, weekly programme is ideal for students with a specific desire to embark on a future degree in Criminology and/or Criminal Justice at university. Alternatively, students would also find Criminology Academy highly relevant and subject enhancing if they are studying A Level Law, Sociology, History or Psychology in particular.

The Criminology Academy will substantially equip students with the required academic tools to excel in their studies and beyond through the examination, application, analysis and evaluation of criminological theories, counter measures, case studies, statistics and journal articles in the specific context of violent crime. The main subject areas will include: Criminal Extremism, Knife Crime, Domestic Abuse, Gang Violence and Serial Murder. As members of the Criminology Academy our students will be involved in the preparation and management of Runshaw’s Annual Public Services and Social Sciences Conference which takes place at Chorley Town Hall during the month of October. Previous guests have included Colin Parry OBE, former MI5 Intelligence Officer Annie Machon and James Bulger’s mother Denise Fergus. Additionally, our academy members will be furnished with contemporary curriculum knowledge and a detailed insight into the workings of the Criminal Justice System from both an academic and vocational standpoint.

Highly relevant guest speakers and study tours will also be included which will heighten not only our students’ overall experience but will certainly increase their leadership and employability skills.



## English Academy

The ambition of the English Academy is to enhance engagement, enjoyment and achievement in our endlessly fascinating subject. In the first year, students from all three English A Level courses (Literature, Language and Language/Literature Combined) are invited to an English Extra group to explore texts and issues of interest to all English students, whilst in the second year each individual course offers weekly stretch and challenge groups for students aiming for the highest grades.

The Academy supports English student's enthusiasms and the next steps on their English journey in a variety of other ways. Visiting speakers offer new insights into selected texts and topics, plus advice and guidance on university courses and English-related careers. We also visit a number of university English departments, offering a taste of degree level English and the opportunities available. There is also the chance to give others a helping hand: Academy students can apply to mentor those less confident with the subject, either at A Level or GCSE, and to be English Ambassadors at our open events and partner high school activities.

The School of English also runs an online magazine – The Runshaw Insider – and a creative writing group, providing students with a forum to showcase their talents, be they literary, journalistic or editorial. Members of the creative writing group

regularly enter – and achieve recognition in – national writing competitions such as Tower Poetry and 2018's Armistice 100.

With the addition of theatre and other trips open to all, the English Academy offers many opportunities for students to deepen their experience of the subject, and to enhance their academic and employment prospects in the future.



### Eleanor Bird

Studied: English, Government & Politics, History, Law

Achieved: A\*A\*AA

Previous High School: Balshaw's

Where are they now?

The University of Cambridge to study Law

## Electronics Society

The Electronics Society is open to students who are studying Physics A Level and want to apply their knowledge and learn new practical skills through a range of activities including building and soldering circuits, and programming robots. Students will learn about, or bring their knowledge from, computer programming too.

The group work and independent research involved are also great transferable employability skills.

## Humanities Academies

(Classics, Economics, Geography, History, Philosophy and Religious Studies)

The School of Humanities' Academy sessions allow students to extend their learning beyond the classroom and learn about topics of interest which may not be directly covered in the A Level specifications. Students have the opportunity to listen to university lecturers from prestigious universities such as Lancaster, Manchester, Oxford, Warwick and York; and are invited to attend university style seminar sessions focused around extra reading and work on examination technique, in order to reach the top grades.

In the lunchtime Academy sessions, gifted and talented students work together to improve both their academic performance and their employability and interpersonal skills. Our Academy students thrive in such an academically challenging environment, with many choosing to study Humanities courses at degree level at some of the most prestigious universities.



*“For me, the maths department played an invaluable role in my Oxbridge application. In particular the weekly STEP sessions, which are held for both years, have provided not only an enjoyable challenge, but also important preparation for the entrance exams at prestigious universities.” Tom Wordsworth, Horizons student.*

## IT & Computing Academies

### eSports

Are you interested in supplementing your studies with some alternative sport? Want to be part of an industry worth an estimated \$1.5 Billion? Whether you are an experienced Gamer or trying for the first time, the eSports academy is open to you. As a member of this Academy you will learn strategy and team work, compete or play for fun and enjoy the social interaction. Launching in September 2022, you will have access to a ‘state of the art’ gaming facility within the college and the opportunity to represent Runshaw in local, national and global tournaments and fixtures!

### Digital Skills

Digital productivity skills remain the number one digital skill required by employers across a range of industries. The Digital Skills academy will give you the opportunity to gain these additional digital qualification and accreditations to not only supplement your current and future academic studies, but also strengthen your CV and future employment applications. The qualifications will be delivered through eLearning packages so you can study at home, in college and more importantly at a pace that suits you, dependent on your own current workload. The Academy tutors will work with you to decide on qualifications that will benefit

you now, and in your future, providing you with support through your journey. This Academy is available to all Runshaw learners, we have courses to meet all skill levels and in a range of topics including IT Fundamentals, Microsoft office, Programming, Cyber Security and a range of Adobe Training courses.



Sam Gerrard

Studied: English, Further Maths, History, Physics, Maths

Achieved: A\*A\*A\*A\*A

Previous High School: Bishop Rawstorne

Where are they now? The University of Cambridge to study Law

## Law Academy

Our vibrant Law Academy runs weekly for students across all subjects and provides a unique opportunity to practice advanced legal skills such as mooting, mock trialling and mentoring. Experience of these advanced skills definitely enhances a student’s university application, CV and employability, leading to Runshaw’s fantastic record of students studying Law at all prestigious universities including Oxbridge. Law Academy also provides targeted revision and examination preparation sessions for those aiming for an A\* grade and provides an opportunity to examine contemporary legal issues in more depth. Our Academy students tell us that they thoroughly enjoy working with a wider group of like-minded people and often form enduring friendships.

We have had great success in the National Bar Mock Trial Competition and were Regional Winners in 2023. We work closely with practicing barristers to plan and prepare cases and ultimately compete in the national finals against the best teams from across the UK. Recently we have presented cases in front of real judges at the Royal Courts of Justice in London and the Court of Session in Edinburgh. We also have close links to local and national law firms and provide a whole host of events and competitions to prepare students for the legal world.

Academy students also demonstrate their compassion for each other and the wider community, acting as peer mentors within college and mentors to Year 9 and 10 pupils as part of the Mock Trial Competition for local high schools. They have also set up their own non-competitive weekly Mock Trial club that is run by and for students, in order to develop their leadership skills. The students make full use of the School’s excellent facilities including barristers’ gowns and wigs and the court room, in order to practice their advocacy skills.

Our Academy students also benefit from our close links to the Sutton Trust’s “Pathways to Law” scheme. Students attend lectures at Manchester University and are offered the work experience opportunity of a lifetime in high profile firms such as Eversheds LLP and Allen & Overy LLP. One student said “I got a training contract last week at Eversheds LLP! Couldn’t have done it without Runshaw Law!”

“From inviting Oxbridge academics to give us an invaluable insight, to organising mock interviews, Runshaw gave me the confidence and encouragement I needed to succeed.” Eleanor Derbyshire, Horizons student.

## Mathematics Academy

Runshaw’s highly popular Maths Academy ensures that our students are provided with a range of extra opportunities. Students can become involved in many areas of academic challenge and enrichment beyond the regular curriculum and classroom environment.

Each year our maths students are given the opportunity to take part in the biggest annual national maths competition: ‘The UK Senior Maths Challenge’ (UKSMC). Over recent years many students have performed well enough to progress to further rounds and some of the highest scorers are selected to represent Runshaw in the UKSMC team event where we compete against other Sixth Forms and Colleges across the North West. We also take part in the ‘Liverpool Maths Society Pop Quiz’ where teams of students from both years get the chance to put their problem-solving abilities to the test.

Students aspiring towards the highest grades are invited to the Maths A\* class in a bid to secure the highest grade. These sessions encourage a meticulous approach to answering exam questions which in turn helps to develop students’ confidence when tackling seemingly unfamiliar questions.

Our ‘STEP’ Programme runs over the two years with the aim of developing students’ Maths skills to a level that is often more advanced than what is required for A-level. The techniques and approaches

implemented are extremely valuable in preparing students for entrance exams to prestigious Universities and for tackling problems at the University interview stage for any degree course containing Mathematical components.

Maths students are invited to take part in several trips and visits each year. ‘Maths Inspiration’ is a series of interactive presentations covering a wide variety of entertaining topics, for example, exploring the Maths behind: The Simpsons, juggling, rock guitars and boomerangs! We also offer trips where students get the chance to explore campus-based Universities and take part in their Maths workshops to help give a taste of University life.

Through our Peer Mentoring Programme, Maths Academy students offer much valued support to less confident Maths students within college. Peer Mentoring is a highly rewarding experience which further embeds the mentors’ understanding of A-level Mathematics and also enhances key employability skills such as interpersonal, communication and time management skills.



### Sherin Babu

Studied: Biology, Chemistry, Maths

Achieved: AAA

Previous High School: Canon Slade

Where are they now?

The University of Manchester to study Medicine

## Medical Society

Our prestigious Medical Society is open to all students who wish to apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science courses (MDV). The society continues to go from strength to strength, with record numbers of students gaining places to study on these highly competitive courses year upon year. The medically orientated curriculum allows students to understand the role of these professionals and gain off-specification knowledge around these highly respected professions and invaluable work experience. Through Medical Society, Runshaw is also one of only two colleges nationally able to provide with the chance to apply for the esteemed Preston Widening Access Programme (PWAP), supporting students with reduced entry requirements for Medicine at the University of Manchester. This, combined with comparative physiology, medical ethics, problem based learning, an introduction to British Sign Language, preparatory classes for UCAT and BMAT admissions tests and MDV mock interviews, benefits our students exponentially, as well as increasing confidence to allow their ambitions to come to fruition.



*“Runshaw prepared me for the application by helping me apply for the Sutton Trust, which allowed me to experience university life before I began to apply.”*  
Kymerley Priestley, Horizons student.

## Modern Foreign Languages Academies (MFL) (French, German, Spanish)

The best MFL Academy is beyond the classroom, in the world where languages live. The very best way, then, to become a more competent and confident language learner is to visit countries where your chosen language is spoken. We aim to offer trips to France, Germany and Spain as the main focus of our MFL Academy, and we strongly advise keen linguists to participate. To help you make the most of your time overseas, you will be given language tasks to complete, such as making vlogs and conducting video interviews with native speakers – all in the target language, of course.

In addition to actually taking you abroad, we provide guidance on other ways to go the extra mile (or kilometre) beyond set tasks and homeworks, suggesting a wide range of foreign language websites, podcasts, novels, films, music and news channels for you to engage with and enjoy. In short, the more you involve and push yourself, and the more you practice your chosen foreign language, the better you will become!

Finally, we offer a range of activities throughout the year to help prepare you for the next steps on your MFL journey. These typically include competitions such as the UK Linguistics Olympiad, coaching for Oxbridge applicants, assistance with UCAS personal statements for university entry, and guest speakers on a variety of topics, including degree options and career prospects.

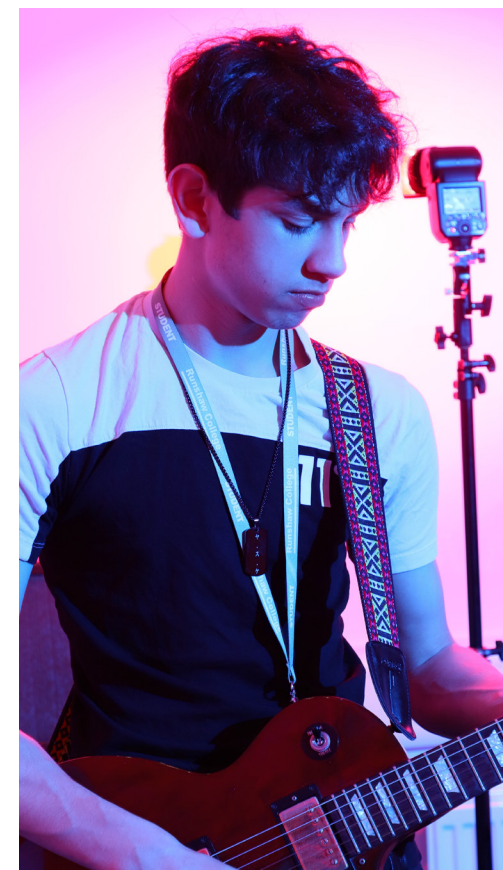
Learning a language will always broaden your horizons. Taking up our MFL Academy offers will take you that little bit further.

## Music Academy

Our Music Academy consists of weekly activities including concert band, jazz ensembles, brass ensemble, choir, folk group, big band, piano club, acoustic guitar ensemble and music theory classes, looking at both traditional and popular music theory. Prestigious institutions, such as The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA) and the Royal Northern College of Music are asking for a high level of music theory, in addition to A Levels in Music and/or Music Technology, which the Academy helps students to achieve. This extra music theory tuition also supports students with the academic demands of the A Level curriculum.

The Academy allows for performance opportunities in a range of music genres including classical, jazz and folk, allowing students a broad range of musical experiences. In a supportive and enjoyable way it can take students out of their comfort zones to experience different types of music that they may not usually perform, for example big band will encourage a more classically trained brass player to improvise and learn about different modes and scales. It supports A Level subject understanding by giving extra theory tuition and by allowing students to experience, in a practical way, some of the music studied. In the second year students study jazz works, which they can play in the jazz ensembles. This helps all students to gain a deeper understanding of the music, supporting the most talented towards achieving the very highest grades.

In addition to weekly activities the Academy runs trips through the year, enabling students to experience rehearsal of various ensembles and orchestral performances of the highest quality. There are trips to higher education establishments and to orchestral concerts helping to give students high aspirations, and we regularly arrange performance tours within and outside the UK.





Runshaw's production of "Agamemnon"

## Performing Arts Academy

Recognising the importance of providing performance opportunities for students with a talent in the performing arts, we offer a range of activities that will stretch all students, regardless of ability.

For those who are interested in dance, we offer Extension12 – the Runshaw Dance Academy elite group. Extension12 has an international reputation for excellence, having competed in the Barcelona World Dance Grand Prix winning the Jazz, Modern and Contemporary prizes in recent years. We run the Barcelona Trip alternate years so that all students in the Dance Academy have the opportunity to go on this trip at least once whilst studying at Runshaw. Within Extension12, the Dance Academy offers a wide range of students the opportunity to develop technique in a variety of styles through workshops, performances and specialist classes both with professionals from the industry and past students.

For those more interested in acting, each year there is a range of shows for students to be involved in. We hold open auditions for some of these so that any student on any course may gain a role as an actor. Anyone who is more interested in working backstage, such as in lighting or set design, has the opportunity to be trained in the relevant area and then design and operate technical support for the shows.

We regularly take one of our plays to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, giving students the experience of performing in front of a different public audience and the opportunity to sample the unique atmosphere at the festival. The quality of the shows that we take to Edinburgh has been met with high acclaim. One review stated: "So stunningly good that, even among all the thousands of great shows on offer, I saw it twice in three days."

The PA Academy also offers intensive audition preparation for those students applying to drama or dance schools. As a result, the percentage of students who gain a place at institutions such as Mountview, LAMDA and Central is, to our knowledge, the highest in the North West.



*"The visits from prestigious universities to Runshaw are informative and enjoyable because they give us an insight into university life, interview tips, and the option to ask our own questions."* Graeme Sutcliffe, Horizons student.

## Science Society

Our renowned Science Academy encompasses a range of extra-curricular activity for prospective scientists across all of the scientific areas. The Academy comprises of the college Medical Society, Science Society and Oxbridge classes, all of which provide our students with outstanding opportunities to achieve places to study upon these prestigious courses within higher education. The societies provide our science students with the opportunity to work effectively both in teams and within independent settings, giving them additional chances to enhance their subject knowledge and gain experiences that will enable them to shine in their future career and endlessly boost their employability.

As a member of these societies, students will be provided with an up to date curriculum created by our experienced staff, alongside regular feedback from university lecturers, ensuring the highest standard of experience. This has included guest lecturers from a broad range of scientific areas and the opportunity to take part in residential trips to CERN and Iceland, as well as more local events such as Body Works Ltd and visits to Manchester and London.

Our past members have successfully participated in a number of nationally recognised events, including the

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the Physics and Biology Olympiads. All members are also offered the opportunity to complete a Gold CREST award in their chosen area of interest, further commending them for their additional commitment to their subject and celebrating their outstanding achievements at our annual Science Awards event in the summer term.



*"I received great support and advice from Runshaw for my university applications. This included mock interviews by the staff for Oxbridge, which were excellent preparation. The knowledge and guidance of the staff really improved my confidence."* Zoe Moore, Horizons student.

## Social Science Academies

(Psychology and Sociology)

In addition to Think Tank, the Social Science Academy also provides students with academies in Psychology and Sociology.

Psychology Academy combines a wide range of stimulating activities which allow students to extend their knowledge and skills beyond those developed in lessons, assisting their progression to prestigious universities and honing key employability skills. We provide short courses focusing on topics not covered by the syllabus; including educational, abnormal and sport psychology. Our students benefit from guest lectures by professionals who use psychology in their fields of work, such as medical detection dog training and clinical psychology specialists. We also provide exam focused skills sessions to support students aiming to achieve A\* grades at the end of the course.

Each year, the Psychology Academy team designs new programmes for our gifted and talented students, based on our teachers' expertise and the individual interests and career plans of the current student cohort. The Academy strives to keep students abreast of new developments in psychological research and application in modern society. We also inspire students to conduct independent research and to actively participate in a variety of academic seminars; thus enhancing communication and research skills, vital for success at

the highest level both at A Level and when studying at university.

In our Sociology Academy, students examine a range of contemporary issues reflecting the fast-changing nature of modern society. Academy sessions vary between lectures, debates, guest speakers, university visits, workshops and research activities, based on students' interests and future career aspirations. Sociology Academy students regularly organise charity events to support most vulnerable groups in society, thus enhancing their employability skills. Sociology Academy students develop analytical and evaluative skills beyond the syllabus requirement, giving them the all-important "edge" over other students when applying to prestigious universities to study Sociology or related degrees. Indeed, the stand-out quality of our Sociology Academy students' UCAS personal statements has been noted in feedback from prestigious universities.





*"My Progress Mentor has been a huge support throughout the application and interview process, encouraging me to enjoy the experience as much as I could."*  
Rachael Vickerman, Horizons student.

## Sports Academy

Runshaw continues to be the North West's number one college for its Sports Academy and sporting honours, a title we have held since 2000. The ethos of the Sports Academy is to achieve excellence in both academic performance and sporting achievement.

Our celebrated Academy is accessible to students across all A Level subjects as a daily, timetabled element of their study programme. Currently we have Academy teams in football (male and female), rugby union, rugby league and netball. Our Academy also caters for individual students' specialities in terms of physical conditioning: whatever their speciality is, we offer first class training in our purpose built gym.

The college has exceptional facilities that include a floodlit 3G pitch, a large sports hall, a fitness suite and a competition standard grass pitch. Our teachers are highly qualified in Physical Education and possess a range of relevant coaching qualifications, helping students towards regional and national representative

honours. We offer the latest coaching techniques and advice to athletes in return for a weekly commitment that includes training sessions and competitive fixtures. Our Academy students have access to top level coaching in their sport from highly qualified coaches and make use of our outstanding facilities to keep in peak shape through fitness testing and psychometric assessment. We are very proud of our development programme which provides students with specialist skills, appraisals, personalised support and individual mentoring, leading to great success in their chosen sports.



## Think Tank

Think Tank is an ever-popular, weekly debating club within our Social Science Academy which is open to students across all subjects allowing them to enhance their oratory and thinking skills through argument, analysis and evaluation. Each week, students focus on a new topic, suggested by the Institute of Ideas, in either structured and timed debates or via round table open discussions. Our Think Tank students are encouraged to stretch and challenge one another in a supportive environment whilst building on their curriculum knowledge and extending their communication skills.



# ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CURRICULUM....



## ENRICHMENT & ENHANCEMENT

### Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Students with a passion to study a particular topic in great detail can opt to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside their A Level studies. The EPQ is equivalent to an AS Level qualification and involves researching a topic of interest beyond the curriculum, preparing a report and presenting findings to a small audience. Universities greatly value the EPQ as it shows that students have independent research skills and a passion for learning. Students can discuss the EPQ in more detail with their Progress Mentor or contact the Head of Humanities. For further information about the course and the entry requirements for the EPQ prior to enrolment at Runshaw, please ask at our Open Events or contact our School Liaison team.

### Duke of Edinburgh

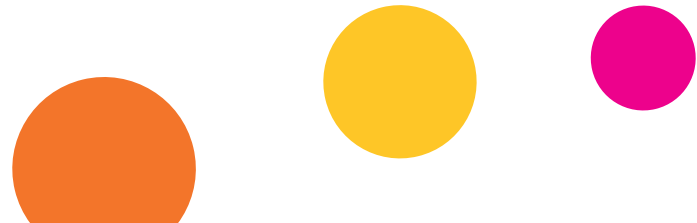
We employ our own dedicated staff to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. The D of E experience encourages students to help their communities, build their self-esteem, try new activities and become more physically active. Students achieving these awards demonstrate their commitment, initiative and excellent team-working skills; such valuable attributes will enhance their future applications for prestigious universities and careers.

### Work Experience

We have a dedicated Work Placement Team within Student Services, which offers support and many opportunities for work experience for all students, taking into account their course commitments (for first year A Level students, this is usually in the week after their end of term in July). We also support students who find their own work experience placements in their free time.

### Student Services

We have outstanding Student Services facilities, staffed continuously through the week by a highly qualified and experienced team. The service is accredited by Matrix to offer high-quality information, advice and guidance. Our Student Services team offers detailed advice on the completion of UCAS applications, gap years, careers, bursaries, finance, and many other matters relating to successful progression and key employability skills, such as our First Aid course. The team can also provide further information about **enrichment and volunteering opportunities** available, including taking on roles of responsibility as a Student Ambassador, a Student Rep, a member of our Student Council or applying for the post of Student Governor.





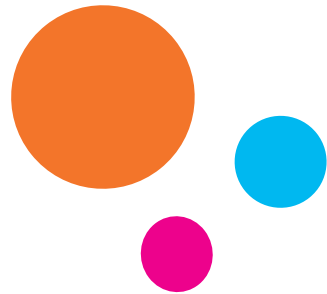
Volunteering Certificates

## PROGRESS MENTORS

All students have a Progress Mentor who acts as a progression coach through regular 1:1 support. All of our Progress Mentors are highly experienced in guiding students through their applications for prestigious universities and competitive Apprenticeships. Progress Mentors will keep students informed of key information about our Prestigious Universities and Apprenticeship Programme and offer their expertise with the application process, personal statement support and preparing for interviews. They will also provide students with their references.



Children in Need fundraising





“There is a sense of teacher and learner working together in the pursuit of excellence.”

Ofsted good practice visit to Runshaw