

Prospectus

2017/2018



MEDEN
COLLEGE



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WELCOME

ALL VISITORS PLEASE
REPORT TO RECEPTION



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Meden College — a place where academic excellence and success for all our students drives everything we do. A place where support is second to none and where we encourage you to widen your horizons and your ambitions.

We have high expectations of ourselves and our students and as a whole community we take pride in what we do on a daily basis.

You will meet your full potential if you join Meden College and you will be guided and supported every step of the way so that you leave us fully prepared for the next step, whether that be in higher education, further training or employment.

I look forward to welcoming you to our community. Please contact us for an application form.

Louisa Ellis
Head of College

College entry requirements:

The general entry criteria for Meden College is a grade 5 or above in English and Maths and a grade 4 or 5 (dependent on the subjects you will be studying at A Level) in a further three subjects. There are some subject-specific entry requirements that need to be met—these are detailed on the individual subject pages.

Professionalism



As a 21st century educator, we realise that Post 16 learning does not stop at the classroom door, or end when the exam is over.

We aim to equip our students with all of the skills you will need to succeed throughout your lives.

We expect that you will take responsibility for your own education and through this develop a love of learning which will extend beyond your time with us.

This quality will be key for you as you take your next steps into the world of work or further study.



Responsibility

Independence

At Meden, we know that the most successful Post 16 students are those whose education continues when the bell rings for the end of the lesson.

We invest in high quality academic monitoring for all our students in order to make the transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 as successful as possible.



Our students are set challenging and aspirational targets as we believe that the education we provide is second to none within the north Nottinghamshire area.

We want our students to face challenges with resilience and learn lessons you will take with you at 18.

Determination



The world our students will enter at 18 or 21 will look entirely unlike anything today, so it is key that you can act on your feet, adapt and think outside the box.

We want your time at Meden to equip you with a wide portfolio of skills so that you can tackle everything life throws at you.



Enterprise



Facilities

Meden College is based around a bespoke and professionally designed Study Hub. This is a new centre which provides an outstanding work environment for our students.

There are dedicated study areas and extensive computing and ICT facilities. Wi-Fi is also available in the Study Hub.

Students also have exclusive use of a state-of-the-art refreshment area where drinks can be made and food prepared and eaten. In addition, college students have access to the excellent catering facilities of Meden School.

Well-equipped classrooms and workshops are provided for lessons and there are extensive sporting facilities available both for lessons and for extra-curricular activities.



Student Voice

The College Council is an integral part of the Meden College community, and members are elected by their peers to represent the interests of the college body. The current council comprises ten Year 12 and 13 students.

Students are also offered the opportunity to apply for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl. Successful applicants run an election campaign, and are then voted into post by their peers and staff.

The roles and responsibilities of the College Council are broad and varied. They include the following:

1. Acting as the voice of the student body—College Council members are the point of contact for the college students whenever they have an issue that needs addressing, or that they think needs to be brought to the attention of staff.
2. Organising social events—the College Council is responsible for organising social events like the Christmas party and end of year party, as well as other events throughout the year.
3. Organising charity events—the College Council is responsible for organising events such as bake sales in order to raise money for charity.



A Level Art and Design

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

What will I learn?

You will develop your ability to appreciate the visual world, responding in a personal and creative way. You will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within art and develop the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using art and design.

How am I assessed?

Coursework, externally set assignment portfolio and examination.

What do I need to study this course?

A GCSE grade 5 or above in Art and Design is preferred.

Where can it lead?

An A Level in Art and Design can lead to further study at art school or university, either an Art Foundation course or directly onto a degree course.

“There is a lot of creative freedom with studying Art. There is no wrong answer, just different ways of interpreting what you see. The subject allows you to be an individual. It also teaches you to consider the context and ideological starting point of a wide range of creations and artists.”

Lucy Proctor (Year 13)



Courses

A Level Biology

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

Biology is a complex and broad subject which is the stepping stone to future study. You will look at biochemistry, cell biology, animal physiology and cutting-edge genetic techniques. You will also study different types of biological organisms and how they function and survive in their environment.

This subject will inspire and nurture a passion for the natural sciences.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

A grade 5 or above in GCSE Double Award or in separate sciences.

Where can it lead?

A Level Biology can open up a range of careers in medicine, nursing, midwifery, pharmacology, physiotherapy, sports science, microbiology and forensic science.

“I chose biology for my future as I want to study sciences at university. You study the world around you in scientific depth which is really interesting as well as being challenging.”

Brandon Jones (Year 12)

A Level Business Studies

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

A Level Business Studies looks at every aspect of a modern organisation, including human resources, marketing and finance. You will also study operational aspects such as production, e-commerce and manufacturing.

You can expect to study large multinational companies as well as smaller, less well-known businesses in the dynamic business world.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

General college entry criteria.

Where can it lead?

An A Level in Business Studies develops transferable skills which can be used on any degree programme at university and in any career. It is also an excellent starting point for a degree in Business Studies, Marketing, Finance or Economics.

“Studying Business has given me a completely different outlook on how everyday business actually works. It is one of the most useful subjects I have studied.”

Jodie Holmes (Year 13)

A Level Chemistry

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

You will develop and enhance your knowledge in three main areas; physical, organic and inorganic chemistry.

You will study in detail topics such as atomic structure, bonding and kinetics. You will also study the periodic table, chromatography and polymers.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

A GCSE grade 5 or above in Double Award with a minimum grade 5 in the Chemistry paper, or grade 5 in Chemistry separate science paper. A grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths.

Where can it lead?

A Level Chemistry can lead to a variety of careers including medicine, forensics, teaching or in the pharmaceutical industry.

“I really enjoy studying Chemistry—there are so many different aspects to it and the variety makes it really dynamic and interesting. It is teaching me some really important practical skills I can use in the future.”

Molly Evans (Year 12)



A Level Computer Science | Meden College

A Level Computer Science

Exam Board: **Cambridge**

What will I learn?

Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement.

You will study problem-solving, program design, programming and website creation. You will also examine game development, digital imaging and Internet security.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science or equivalent.

Where can it lead?

A Level Computer Science offers excellent progression to a variety of degrees including Computing, Software Engineering and Computer Games Production. It is also valuable in a wide range of careers.



A Level

Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

What will I learn?

This is a practical based subject which will develop your performance and interpretive skills. You will be given the chance to work creatively with others and will be expected to develop work to be performed to an audience.

The course involves the study of a range of challenging drama texts and it is essential that you have a thoughtful, open, sensitive and mature approach to a range of contemporary social issues.

How am I assessed?

Coursework, performance and examination.

What do I need to study this course?

General college entry criteria. You do not need to have studied Drama at GCSE level, however you do need to display a keen interest in the subject and a willingness to visit the theatre regularly. You also need to show a willingness to perform your work, both in improvisation and in scripted performances.

Where can it lead?

This A Level can lead to a range of university courses as well as progression into drama school.



A Level English Literature

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

You will study a range of texts within different genres including prose, poetry and drama. You will develop a knowledge of critical theory and gain a solid understanding of how texts are interconnected.

Reading is an essential part of the course and you will be encouraged to develop an active, critical approach to texts. You will also be encouraged to develop your own tastes by exploring a wide range of texts from different genres and styles.

How am I assessed?

Coursework and examination.

What do I need to study this course?

A GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language is required.

Where can it lead?

Many students go on to study English at university, often combined with other subjects, such as History. Careers in English are varied and include journalism, teaching and the law.

“I love studying English Literature because it encourages you to interpret the reasons and context behind the writing. It is a good subject choice for university as it teaches you important skills which are needed on degree courses.”

Amelia Boldero (Year 12)

AS Level Extended Project Qualification

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

What will I learn?

Extended Project is an optional extra AS Level qualification which can be studied for one year, alongside your other A Level subjects. Extended Project puts you in control and gives you the chance to explore something that really interests you. Success with this qualification depends on you being able to work independently as your teacher is only involved in the process as a mentor or coach.

You will choose a subject to explore in-depth, something that interests you, or that you might want to study at university or even pursue as a career. You will choose one of four types of project to complete:

- Write a dissertation
- Produce an artefact, like a sculpture, model or DVD
- Develop and showcase a performance
- Conduct an investigation or field study

How am I assessed?

Presentation and coursework.

What do I need to study this course?

General college entry criteria. You will need to be self-motivated and enjoy working independently.

Where can it lead?

An Extended Project Qualification is accepted by the vast majority of universities. It shows admission tutors that you are developing the higher learning skills required to be successful at university. The project is also a useful tool to enhance your performance in higher education interviews.

A Level French

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

Studying French will open up your future to possible careers around the world in countries as far apart as Canada and Benin.

You will still be working on the four language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, but the subject matter that you cover will be more abstract, dealing with present day problems and issues seen in relation to the foreign country. Areas you may study in Year 12 include family relationships, the media, culture, leisure and tourism and education and so you will need to take a general interest in current affairs and be willing to develop and argue a point of view.

How am I assessed?

Written and oral examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE French.

Where can it lead?

Specific career opportunities are business management and marketing, secretarial work, the hotel and catering trade, banking, the civil and diplomatic services, interpreting and translating, journalism and publishing, teaching, insurance, archive and information work, museum work and archaeology.

“Studying French at A level has enabled me to build on my linguistic skills and also allowed me to develop my interest in the cultural life of French-speaking countries. It is not just about learning the language, but about using my skills to investigate a wide range of cultural topics.”

Ellie Davison (Year 13)

A Level Geography

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

Geography is often referred to as the subject of the future. You will be given the chance to learn about real life issues affecting us in the present and potentially in the future. You will develop your ideas on solving these problems.

It is the study of the natural and human environments and how the two interrelate. You will study topics such as forecasting hazards, coastal processes and management, tropical rainforests and rivers, geopolitics, resource security and globalisation.

You will be expected to carry out your own personal geographical investigation out in the field. This is an excellent opportunity to experience real life geography first-hand.

How am I assessed?

Geographical investigation and written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE Geography.

Where can it lead?

Geography is a course which is respected by universities and employers. It is a facilitating subject and therefore is highly regarded by all universities and is also accepted as a science subject.



A Level History

Exam Board: **OCR**

What will I learn?

The study of history is designed to help you understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals and the nature of change over time. By studying History, you will gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Over the course of two years, you will study Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy 1603–1702, and Democracy and Nazism 1918–1945.

How am I assessed?

Historical investigation, personal study and written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE History and GCSE English.

Where can it lead?

History is useful for a wide range of university courses including History, English and Law. The subject is also useful for a variety of careers including a teacher, archivist, curator, lawyer, journalist, or politician.

“History improves your analytical and evaluative skills, which are easily transferable in the real world or in higher education. The topics we study are really interesting as you look at historical figures who continue to influence the modern world.”

Conor Marples (Year 13)

A Level Mathematics

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

A Level Mathematics is where Maths becomes a little more advanced and a lot more interesting! Important topics like calculus, graphs and trigonometry are studied in the core Maths section and these enable you to solve new and challenging problems.

Decision Maths tackles network and optimisation problems, such as how Internet search engines work. The statistics unit teaches you how to show statements to be true or false. All science from geography to economics to particle physics need statistical proof. Finally the mechanics section is the maths behind a lot of what you learn in physics.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

Where can it lead?

Mathematics is a gold standard A Level and is welcomed by all colleges and universities.

“I like problem-solving and so A Level Maths was an ideal choice for me. It is more fun and more challenging than at GCSE level—a lot harder, but you get a greater sense of achievement when you have successfully solved a complex equation or problem. I want to work within the finance industry so a Maths qualification is invaluable.”

Nathan Milner (Year 13)

A Level Further Mathematics

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

In Further Mathematics, you will study the more abstract and pure mathematical ideas such as complex numbers and learn about matrices—a whole new element to algebra. You can also delve deeper into applied modules, looking at higher level optimisation or some advanced testing of statistical hypotheses. You may even have a taste of mechanics to give you a taster of what you might study on an Engineering degree.

If you are considering studying Mathematics at university, Further Mathematics is an excellent way to bridge the gap and cover some of the first year topics of your degree.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

You need to be also studying A Level Mathematics and should have a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or at GCSE Further Mathematics.

Where can it lead?

An A Level in Further Mathematics is highly desirable by the top universities including Oxford and Cambridge. It is also desirable for Physics and Engineering courses.

“I find Further Maths to be intellectually challenging but extremely satisfying. You look deeper into complex problems and there are more concepts to learn. It is an excellent complement to A Level Maths, as you get to apply complex concepts to real problems.”

Harry Sisson (Year 12)

Level 3 Certificate (equivalent to an AS Level) Mathematical Studies

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who achieved a Grade C or above at GCSE. It helps you develop your mathematical skills and thinking, and supports subjects such as A Level Psychology, Science and Geography.

You will study several areas of Maths that are applicable in real life situations. These will include analysis of data using tools such as spreadsheets and maths for personal finance such as taxation and solutions to financial problems. Also, Mathematical Studies incorporates some elements of AS Level Mathematics, such as statistics and using algorithms, which is the maths behind how all computer programs make decisions.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Where can it lead?

Supports subjects such as Psychology, Science and Geography, as well as medical courses such as Nursing and Midwifery. It will also be useful for those who are going on to do further technical or vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.

A Level Media Studies

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

Today's world is an ever-evolving one of technology and communication. As an A Level Media Studies student, you will learn about how to become a critical thinker and analyst of the world around you. You will learn how to decode messages that you never thought were even there and how today's world of high-tech communication and advertisements try to reach out to you in our digital age. You will investigate how texts are constructed and how audiences respond to them in a variety of ways.

You will develop such skills as the development of creative work in writing, audio-visual and electronic media; and a broad commercial and cultural awareness of the media and creative industries.

How am I assessed?

Coursework and written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

General college admission criteria.

Where can it lead?

If you are considering a career in journalism, television, film, radio, marketing or advertising, you will find A Level Media Studies very useful.

“I chose Media as an A Level because I enjoy the study of film and film-making. Media Studies allows you to develop skills such as designing and creating your own media products along with discovering techniques used by professionals working in the media.”

Kim Morton (Year 13)

A Level Music

Exam Board: **Edexcel**

What will I learn?

Music is, at its heart, a creative subject. It is a subject in which you are able to express yourself by either performing or composing. It does, however, also have a rich history which needs to be studied to fully understand its development over time.

Studying A Level Music, you will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and creative identities.

This is an exciting and challenging course that will stretch and enlighten you in equal measure. You will form personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, including performing, composing and appraising.

How am I assessed?

Performance and written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a Grade C in GCSE Music. Students with considerable experience or who are able to demonstrate performing ability at Grade 5 standard upwards (e.g. ABRSM, Trinity) may be accepted at the Head of Department's discretion.

Where can it lead?

A Level Music can lead you onto a Music, Music Technology or Performing Arts degree which could take you into the music industry as a performer, composer, music producer, or sound engineer.

A Level Physical Education

Exam Board: **OCR**

What will I learn?

This course provides an excellent opportunity for you to gain a clear understanding of the key issues in Physical Education and sport including balanced, active and healthy lifestyles. Throughout the course there will be a focus on performance in two practical activities either as a performer, official or leader. Over two years you will study such elements as the history of sport, sport psychology, exercise physiology, and the acquisition of movement skills.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

In addition to the general college admission criteria, you will need a high level of personal motivation and commitment. You need to be practically able in a range of sports and currently taking an active involvement in sport and competition. You will also need to have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE PE.

Where can it lead?

PE is a complimentary subject to Biology and Psychology. It also provides you with excellent preparation for degree level study in PE, Sports Science and related courses.

“Studying PE gives you real insight into how a person moves, as well as the muscular and skeletal system. I enjoy the subject because it is both very practical and theoretical. It allows me to develop my sporting skills alongside learning the theory behind it all.”

Oliver Pinnick-Cook (Year 12)

A Level Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

You will study aspects of one or more religion, including textual, theological, historical, ethical, phenomenological and philosophical perspectives. Wide-ranging debates will be examined, including life after death, the nature and role of religion, sources of wisdom and authority, evil and suffering, and miracles.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

General college admission criteria. No prior study of Philosophy and Ethics is necessary.

Where can it lead?

An academic qualification in Philosophy and Ethics is highly valued by employers. It can lead to careers in the police, journalism, the health service, education and social work.

“Philosophy and Ethics is an intellectually stimulating subject that enables us to explore such topics and philosophers as the ontological argument, religious experience, Immanuel Kant, the Natural Law argument and, my absolute favourite, the cosmological argument. With guidance from committed teachers, resources straight from the exam board and a variety of wider reading sources we have everything on-hand to achieve our best grades.”

Zoe Darrall (Year 13)

A Level Physics

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

In the first year, you will cover familiar subjects in more depth, such as mechanics, materials and waves. Exciting new topics such as particles; quantum phenomena and electricity are also examined.

In the second year, you are introduced to topics including fields and further mechanics. Choices are then offered from options including astrophysics, medical physics, applied physics and turning points in physics.

The practical skills of how science works are integrated throughout the course.

How am I assessed?

Practical skills assessments and written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE Double Award or separate sciences.

Where can it lead?

An A Level in Physics is highly valued by universities. It can lead to careers in engineering, forensics, medicine, sports science, geophysics, aeronautics and nanotechnology.

“This is a really interesting subject that has expanded my view of the universe and made me think about things I didn’t even know existed. The course is challenging but there is a good balance between being complicated and easy! I know that my A Level in Physics is going to really benefit me in the future.”

Rose Hemingway (Year 12)

A Level Product Design

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

Think about the objects or products that you love or would really love to own. Whether it be a phone, a car, a boat or a building, they all came about by someone sketching, developing, modelling and making their idea reality. As a designer, you combine a number of skills needing the creativity to imagine the shape, function and appearance of a product, alongside the technical know-how about materials, manufacturing methods and marketing.

Developing these skills and combining them to produce tomorrow's 'must have' products is what Product Design is all about.

How am I assessed?

Coursework project and written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in either GCSE D & T or BTEC Engineering.

Where can it lead?

Product Design could take you on a wide range of exciting career paths. As well as going on to further training and becoming a professional designer, you could also use this course as a route into architecture, teaching, manufacturing, advertising, or engineering.

“I love studying Product Design because it enables me to be creative and to produce my own designs. There is an ideal balance between developing design skills and learning the techniques needed to bring designs to life.”

Curtis Humber (Year 13)

A Level Psychology

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

You will be introduced to key areas of psychology including how memory works, child psychology and mental health disorders. There is an emphasis on how science works, which is taught through research methods.

In the second year, you will examine the psychology of relationships and of addiction and associated disorders. You will also be required to carry out your own research in order to apply your knowledge of research methods.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE English and preferably in Science.

Where can it lead?

You can pursue a variety of fields in psychology including forensic and educational psychology. It is a useful subject for any career which requires an understanding of people and how their mind works, such as education, medicine, and business.

“I wanted a better understanding of how our brain works so I chose to study Psychology. It has proved really intriguing learning about how our behaviour is influenced by parts of our brains and bodies.”

Chloe Higginson (Year 12)

A Level Sociology

Exam Board: **AQA**

What will I learn?

You will be encouraged to think critically about the world in which we live. You will explore the idea that people are shaped by society. In the first year, the focus will be on families and households, and issues with the education system.

The second year introduces you to the study of crime and deviance, and the mass media.

Throughout the course, you will examine the different methods sociologists use to obtain the data they analyse and from which they construct their theories.

How am I assessed?

Written examination.

What do I need to study this course?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE English.

Where can it lead?

Any career which involves working with people including management, social work, teaching, nursing and the police force. It is an excellent subject to progress to higher education with and opens up degrees such as criminology.

“Sociology is a subject that you can easily apply to the world. It is really interesting and not only answers many of your questions about society, it also causes you to ask more questions! I chose the subject because it is really useful for so many jobs.”

Robyn Robinson (Year 13)

Next Steps

The process of taking those next steps towards your future beyond Meden College starts right from the outset of Year 12. Whether you see yourself going to university, doing a higher level apprenticeship or going straight into your chosen job, we endeavour to give you the right guidance from day one.

We have talks and workshops that appeal to all, including speakers from some of the top-ranking universities, not only in this country, but in the world. Also, we can assist you in applying for some of the most competitive apprenticeships.

For our most academic students, we have the Russell Club, which aims to see you going to the most prestigious universities in the UK, but if you are more hands-on some of the biggest multinational such as KMPG, Barclays and many more, now recruit from 18 onto in-house training apprenticeships and we have recently seen an increase in our students successfully choosing the apprenticeship route. During your time at Meden College, we want to help you explore all your opportunities so when you leave you feel like you have made a fully informed decision and are ready for whatever the future holds.





MEDEN
COLLEGE

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