

Fortismere Sixth Form
Guidance relating to students requesting to study a fourth A-Level course or equivalent

1. At Fortismere, we believe that the study of three A Levels (plus an EPQ) alongside a broad range of extra-curricular interests, will enable students to have the best experience of their two years of Sixth Form life.
2. Three A Levels are the requirement to get onto university courses. The most prestigious universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, are clear that they do not require four A Levels.
3. We strongly encourage students to take an EPQ alongside three A Levels; EPQ is an A level standard stand-alone qualification designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A Level and is recognised by Universities; many universities make lower A level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.
4. In order to maintain the breadth of study, all Fortismere students who take Further Maths do so as a fourth A Level.
5. We will consider individual requests to take a fourth A Level based on the following criteria:
 - A commitment from student and parents/carers to complete all four A Level courses; by taking a place on a course, you may prevent another student from doing so
 - A student-specific reason to take a fourth A Level; this may include a focus on three Academic A Levels and the addition of a fourth more creative A Level (or vice versa), based on a student's interests
 - There will need to be space on the course of the student's fourth choice A Level
 - The volume of written work in the courses chosen; for example, we would not support a student taking four A Levels with significant essay-writing
 - In all cases, requests will only be considered if a student has an Average GCSE points score of 7.5+
 - A student taking four A-Levels will not be able to take an EPQ, due to lesson-blocking