

Course Outline Booklet

2018-2019



Midsomer Norton Sixth Form

Building better futures

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Entry Requirements for the Sixth Form 2018/2019

To take A Level or Pre-U courses you will need to achieve 6 A*-C/9-4 grades at GCSE.

To take BTEC courses, Business Academy and the Extended Project you will need to achieve 5 A*-C/9-4 grades or equivalent at GCSE.

Subject	Essential including GCSE grades
Applied Law (BTEC)	5 9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent, including a grade 4 or higher in English Language and a grade 4 or higher in either History, Geography, English Literature or Philosophy and Belief
Applied Science (BTEC)	Minimum of 5 grade Cs/4s at GCSE including English and Maths. In addition a minimum of a grade 4,4 in GCSE Science.
Art & Design (A Level)	Grade 6 in GCSE Art.
Biology (A Level)	Grade 6,6 in GCSE Combined Science. Grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.
Business and Management (Pre-U)	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Business and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics in addition to 6 GCSE at grade 9-5/A*-C
Chemistry (A Level)	Grade 6,6 in GCSE Science and a grade 6 in GCSE Maths is desirable. The continuation of Maths at Post-16 is an advantage.
Computer Science (A Level)	GCSE grade 6 or equivalent in Computing or Mathematics.
Core Maths (Level 3)	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9)
Creative Media Production (BTEC)	No previous qualification in Media Studies is necessary, but candidates must have a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and have an interest in the media.
Criminology (Level 3 Diploma)	5 A*-C/9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent including a grade 4 in English Language or English Literature.
Drama & Theatre Studies (A Level)	Grade B in GCSE Drama plus an interest in Performing Arts.
Economics (Pre-U)	Grade 6 in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language or English Literature, in addition to 6 GCSEs at grades 9-5/A*-C.
Employability Skills (Level 3 Certificate)	5 A*- C/9-5 grades at GCSE or equivalent.
English Language and Literature (A Level)	Students must achieve a Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature.
English Literature (Pre-U)	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and/or a Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.
Enterprise & Entrepreneurship (BTEC)	5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent including a 4 grade in GCSE Mathematics
Extended Project (EPQ)	5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.
Fashion and Clothing (BTEC)	Grade 4/C in GCSE Art, GCSE Textiles or another D&T subject.

Further Mathematics (A Level)	Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9)
Geography (A Level)	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography or through discussion with Head of Geography if not studied Geography at GCSE.
Global Perspectives & Research (GPR)	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.
Graphics and 3D Product Design (BTEC)	Grade C in GCSE Graphics or Resistant Materials
Health and Social Care (BTEC)	5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.
History (Pre-U)	Grade 6 in GCSE History. If History not taken at GCSE then a Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
IT (BTEC)	5 A*-C/9-4 at GCSE or equivalent. No previous IT qualification required.
Mathematics (A Level)	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9). Entry is at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics.
Modern Languages – French, German, Spanish (A Level)	GCSE Grade 6 or higher in the chosen language.
Music (A Level)	A minimum of a Grade B in GCSE Music or Grade 5 standard on an instrument or voice (exam doesn't have to have been taken) and a passion for the subject.
Music Practitioners (Level 3 Diploma)	Grade 4 or above at GCSE Music or equivalent Music performing evidence, such as graded exams or equivalent standard to grade 4.
Performing Arts (BTEC)	5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent and previous experience in Performing Arts: Dance and/or Drama
Philosophy & Ethics (A Level)	GCSE Grade 6 in Philosophy & Belief and a GCSE Grade 6 in English Language.
Photography (A Level)	All students should submit a portfolio of work to the Art & Photography department. Also students will need to have their own camera to complete this course. Places on this course will be allocated following an interview with the Head of Art.
Physical Education (A Level)	Grade 6 in GCSE PE and a grade 5/6 in GCSE Science. If GCSE PE has not been studied, it is essential that the candidate has gained a grade 5/6 or above in Science at GCSE level.
Physics (A Level)	Six GCSE subjects at Grade C/4 or above. To study A Level Physics, you should have achieved grades 6,6 in GCSE science and you should have studied GCSE Maths at higher tier level and achieved a GCSE grade 6. The continuation of Maths to A level is an advantage.
Politics (A Level)	GCSE Grade 6 in History or if History was not taken at GCSE a 6 in English Language or Literature.
Psychology (A Level)	Grade 5 or above in English Language. Grade 6 or above in Mathematics. Grade 6,6 or above in Combined Science.
Sociology (A Level)	Sociology is a demanding subject. For this reason you will need. Grade 6 or above in English Language GCSE. Grade 5 or above in Mathematics GCSE. Grade C or above in Science GCSE
Sport (BTEC)	Grade 4 in GCSE PE and a grade 4,4 in GCSE Science.

Applied Law (BTEC)

What is the course about?

Why do we have laws? Who decides what our laws are? Is the law always fair? What is a crime? Why is some behaviour criminal? How does our justice system work? These are the sorts of questions you will consider in BTEC Applied Law.

The BTEC Level 3 in Applied Law offers students the opportunity to understand the civil and criminal court structure, the ways in which laws are enacted and key aspects of offences and negligence. This qualification is equivalent to one A Level and enables students to display their knowledge and understanding through assignments, examinations and controlled assessment tasks. This course will help students to understand the practical impact of legal rules and will involve guest speakers as well as a visit to the Houses of Parliament and the Law Courts.

What might the course lead to?

The BTEC in Applied Law is designed to appeal to those who are interested in a career in law, criminology, social work or other related subjects requiring a high level of evidenced based judgement. You may wish to pursue a career in legal services for example as a police officer or paralegal. Alternatively it will prepare you well for a career in any of the public services, in teaching, social work, business management, journalism, the civil services or customer services.

Who might the course suit?

The BTEC in Applied Law is designed to appeal to those who are interested in a career in law. The course is aimed at anyone who is interested discussions, asking questions and understanding the legal aspect of society.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent, including a grade 4 or higher in English Language and a grade 4 or higher in either History, Geography, English Literature or Philosophy and Belief

Taught Modules:

Applied Law
Year 12 – Mandatory Units
Dispute Solving in Civil Law
Investigating Aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal System
Year 13 – Will be made up of one mandatory unit and one option from the following:
Applying the Law (mandatory unit)
Aspects of Family Law (optional unit)
Consumer Law (optional unit)
Contract Law (optional unit)
Aspects of Tort (optional unit)

Applied Science (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The Applied Science course is a two year course which will allow you to study how science is applied in many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work.

You will learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live. The course is designed to allow you to spend a considerable amount of your time in the laboratory, working on the kind of practical projects that may be undertaken by employees working in science-based industries.

You will complete core units on the fundamentals of science, working in the science industry and scientific techniques. You will then have the opportunity to investigate other areas such as human physiology and biochemistry.

Who might the course suit?

The course that you choose to study will depend on your interests, strengths and preference for a particular style of learning as well as your future ambitions. You will need to work independently on a number of projects. The course is aimed at students who do not necessarily want to specialise in the separate sciences at this stage.

What might the course lead to?

The BTEC in Applied Science will prepare you for a career in the science industry or industries that use scientific knowledge and skills. It will also prepare you to take on learning and training in further and higher education. The types of courses include, for example, many science and paramedical degrees.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Minimum of 5 grade Cs/4s at GCSE including English and Maths. In addition a minimum of a grade 4,4 in GCSE Science.

Art and Design (A Level)

What is the course about?

The A level course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set exam unit. The coursework unit is designed to build on skills and knowledge gained at GCSE level, and to extend these into new areas and to a much higher standard. The course is teacher-directed initially, but as the course develops students take on increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work.

The coursework unit contains a separate written element, consisting of an essay investigating artists and art works linked to the student's practical work.

For the externally set exam unit students select one question from the exam paper and develop a practical creative response. This is self-directed, and demonstrates the student's level of skill in a chosen range of media.

The department organises a series of visits to galleries and aims to introduce students to ways of working outside the classroom environment. Every year there is a gallery trip to either Paris, Barcelona or London which students are expected to take part in, which is designed to enhanced skills and contextual understanding.

A thirst for experiencing and engaging with the Arts is vital if students are to develop their skills and understanding, and we expect students to be open and enthusiastic towards any experiences that might develop their knowledge and experience of the world around them, and the Arts in particular.

Who might the course suit?

Students who have gained at least grade B at GCSE Art, who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought. It is beneficial, though not essential, for students to be studying other visual, creative and expressive subjects.

What might the course lead to?

A-Level Art is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students go on to study some aspect of Art and Design at foundation level, before progressing to a degree in areas such as: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration and Advertising etc.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Art.

AQA	Art & Design	
A Level		
Unit 1	Object and Environment/Figure and Identity Self-directed Unit (including Personal Study)	Internally assessed Externally moderated
Unit 2	Examination	Internally assessed Externally moderated

Biology (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course encompasses all areas of both plant and animal biology. The course looks at the biochemistry of various organic and inorganic molecules e.g. carbohydrates, lipids and proteins and build upon this is in Year 13 to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the metabolic pathways in photosynthesis and respiration.

Human physiology forms an important part of the course and students gain an insight into how each of the organs systems work.

Plant and environmental biology are also vital topics studied, and students have to opportunity to get hands-on with a field trip.

Practical skills are a key part of biology and students will build up their lab skills in lessons, including dissection, research skills, biological drawing and microscopy.

Who might the course suit?

Students must have an inquisitive nature and show great enthusiasm for biology. The ability to research independently will be essential as much as background reading surrounding the topics. Students need to engage in all aspects of practical work and adopt a methodical approach to improve their scientific skills.

What might the course lead to?

Biology is a facilitating subject, so it can open doors to many different courses at university. There are courses in Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Microbiology, Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing and many more. A degree in Science may also lead to professional jobs e.g. Doctor, Dentist, Vet etc.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6,6 in GCSE Combined Science
Grade 6 in Mathematics is desirable.

Biology – Topics Studied
Practical Skills in Biology
Foundations in Biology
Exchange and Transport
Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease
Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

Business and Management (Pre-U)

What is the course about?

The course will blend academic rigour and the development of practical skills. Students will investigate key strategic decisions that are made by small, medium and large enterprises in the face of new economic and challenges and opportunities which include:

- China & India as emerging economic powers
- The importance of Corporate social responsibility
- Driving efficiency, for instance, by means of improved waste management or via off-shoring
- Furthermore, students will also generate a thorough understanding of the fundamental divisions within most businesses.

Students will also undertake a personal investigation into a chosen area of interest, which will involve working closely with a local business. This personal investigation represents 25% of the final grade.

Who might the course suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have a clear interest in the world around them; they will be curious about the causes and effects of the global financial crisis & how businesses have responded to this and other challenges in the global world of business.

What might the course lead to?

Students studying Pre-U Business & Management will have a clear desire to pursue a degree course at university.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Business and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics in addition to 6 GCSE at grade 9-5/A*-C.

Business and Management Pre-U	
Year 12	The Business Environment
	Operations and Project Management
	People in Organisations
Year 13	Finance and Accounting
	Marketing
	Personal Investigation

Chemistry (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course covers all the key concepts of Chemistry. As learners progress through the course they will build on their knowledge of the foundations of Chemistry, and apply this knowledge to help them understand key concepts regarding the Periodic Table, Organic and Physical Chemistry. There is a strong emphasis on practical skills and the Practical Endorsement will also support the final qualification. Grades obtained at the end of the two year course are based on three exams: Organic Chemistry; Physical Chemistry and The Periodic Table; and Unified Chemistry which is a synoptic paper testing a range of topics covered over the two years.

The course aims to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other,
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods,
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills,
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject,
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works').

The Practical Endorsement:

The practical endorsement accompanies the A level qualification. It requires a minimum of 12 practical activities to be completed over the 2 year course. It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported results, alongside the overall grade for the qualification. You will need to keep a record of all the practical tasks as you complete them to be used as part of the assessment. At the end of the two years, students' portfolio of practical work will be assessed and a 'Pass' or 'Fail' grade will be awarded.

Who might the course suit?

Students who have enjoyed GCSE Science and have a natural interest in Chemistry would be best suited to the course. Students who are considering careers in Medicine or Veterinary Science should also take Chemistry. Well-motivated and organised students will be the most successful. Extended writing skills are not essential.

What might the course lead to?

There are numerous job opportunities for students with Chemistry qualifications including Medicinal Chemistry, Forensic Science, Bio-medical Sciences, Pharmacy and Biochemistry. A Level Chemistry is also highly regarded for non-scientific careers including Accountancy and Law.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6,6 in GCSE Science and a grade 6 in GCSE Maths is desirable. The continuation of Maths at Post-16 is an advantage.

Computer Science (A Level)

What is the course about?

The study of computer science is about how computers have the potential to change how we view the world. On this course you will have the opportunity to think computationally and apply skills in programming complex systems.

Computer Science is a practical subject that combines invention with creativity to understand the power and limits of both human and machine intelligence. Students complete three units, two are external exams with the final unit being an internally assessed project.

Unit 1 focuses on all the elements of how computers function. Students will learn about the intricacies of object-oriented programming, computer architecture, artificial intelligence, networking, forensic encryption and the latest in web technologies.

Unit 2 focuses on algorithms and programming. Push your problem solving skills to the limits and apply your understanding from Unit 1 to solve complex computational problems using a range of abstract thinking methods.

Unit 3 is where creativity flourishes in the programming project. Apply the principles of computational thinking to develop solutions to a practical coding problem. Learn how to develop using agile methods and produce professional grade software built for the real world to defacto industry standards.

Who might the course suit?

Students who are interested in computers and problem solving will thrive on this highly engaging and rewarding course.

What might the course lead to?

Computing is the perfect stepping stone to further education as well as a career in Computer Science in all aspects including software engineering, robotics, network administration, game design and more. Students who study Computer Science can use their computational thinking to enhance a career in Business, Engineering, Medicine or any type of science, IT and Computing related career path.

What are the specific entry requirements?

GCSE grade 6 or equivalent in Computing or Mathematics.

Taught Modules:

Computer Science		
Unit 1	Computer Systems	Written external exam
Unit 2	Algorithms and Programming	Written external exam
Unit 3	Programming Project	Internally Assessed

Core Maths (Level 3)

What is the course about?

Core Maths is an AS Level equivalent, post-16 qualification that is specifically designed for students who wish to continue developing their Mathematics and problem solving expertise, but do not wish to study Mathematics A Level.

Core Maths focusses on how students can apply the Mathematics they already know from GCSE to solve extended real-world problems, whilst also introducing them to some of the applied concepts from the Mathematics A Level course. Amongst the learning of some new Mathematical formulae and techniques, the course focuses on investigating real-world scenarios, testing hypotheses, making suggestions and improvements and using technology to further investigate problems and support conclusions.

Core Maths is a Level 3 qualification studied over two years alongside your three other choices.

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at students who want to develop their problem solving skills and learn some new Mathematics. It is suitable for students who enjoy Mathematics and wish to further their understanding. It also supports the study of other post 16 qualifications in subjects such as Geography, Business, Psychology and the Sciences.

What might the course lead to?

Universities are keen for students to be more Mathematically savvy, regardless of the discipline they wish to study, therefore Core Maths will be an excellent qualification to enhance your university application and prepare you for any higher education and career.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9)

Core Maths		
Year 13		
Paper 1 (Analysis of Data, Maths for Personal Finance and Estimation)	50%	1h 30m Exam (June)
Paper 2A (Statistical Techniques)	50%	1h 30m Exam (June)

Creative Media Production (BTEC)

What is the course about?

This is an exciting course that will allow students to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of the television and film industries.

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys television and films and who is interested in learning about the production elements before putting them into practice. Students who want to develop a range of visual and practical skills will particularly enjoy the course as they can combine skills from diverse subjects such as Art, Drama, English and Music with the practical skills of using Media technology.

The two year course is equivalent to one A level.

What might the course lead to?

The emphasis in this course is upon the development of understanding of television and films, as well as practical production skills. This makes it particularly relevant to candidates wanting to choose a career in the Media industry or study the Media at university. It can provide a useful taster for candidates considering more specialised vocational courses and careers in the Media. In addition, knowledge of the Media is increasingly valued and is becoming an important aspect of work in most institutions in an information society. This course should therefore be of value to candidates entering or studying for employment across a wide range of industries and professions.

What are the specific entry requirements?

No previous qualification in Media Studies is necessary, but candidates must have a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and have an interest in the media.

Taught Modules:

Creative Media Production	
Unit 1	Pre-Production Techniques for the Creative Media Industries
Unit 2	Communication Skills for Creative Media Production
Unit 3	Research Techniques for the Creative Media Industries
Unit 30	Advertisement Production for Television
Unit 26	Film Studies
Unit 31	Social Action and Community Media

Criminology (Level 3 Diploma)

What is the course about?

The Level 3 Diploma in Criminology offers students the opportunity to understand the crime and deviance in society. This qualification is equivalent to one A Level and enables students to display their knowledge and understanding through one assignment per year (50% of final grade) and one external examination (50% of final grade).

The topics the course covers includes:

- Types and consequences of under-reported crime. These include domestic violence, hate crime and e-crime.
- Theoretical explanations for criminal behaviour including Psychological, Biological and Sociological perspectives
- The role the media plays in our perception of crime
- The effectiveness of crime prevention strategies and campaigns

Taught Modules:

Criminology
Year 12
Changing Awareness of Crime (internal Assessment)
Criminological Theories (External Assessment)
Year 13
Crime Scene to courtroom (Internal Assessment)
Crime and Punishment (External Assessment)

Who might the course suit?

The Diploma is designed to appeal to those who are interested in a career in the Criminal Justice system such as Policing, Law, Social and probation work. It is also suitable to those who are interested in either Sociology or Psychology- an interest in current issues is a must. The course is aimed at anyone who is interested in discussions, asking questions and understanding the criminal justice system.

What might the course lead to?

You may go to University to read Law, Criminology, Social Work or other related subjects requiring a high level of evidenced based judgement. You may wish to pursue a career in the Criminal Justice System as either a Police Officer, Legal Executive, Social Worker or Probation Officer.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 A*-C/9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent including a grade 4 in English Language or English Literature.

Drama and Theatre Studies (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course explores drama and theatre studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. Students' creativity and understanding are developed through the active study of major play texts enhanced through practical drama exploration.

In the first year of the course the students are introduced to two play texts: one theatre performance and one 'set' text. The pupils are encouraged to consider the fundamentals of drama study including plotting, character, meaning and context. Later in the first year the pupils will engage in a practical exploration of two modern play extracts leading to an assessed performance of one piece. The students also have to complete a portfolio of evidence including analysis and evaluation of the process.

In the second year students take the lead in the course and become theatre practitioners. The first study challenges the group to devise their own piece of unique drama, based on a stimulus introduced by the teacher. The students go on to adapt and perform play scenes, selected and directed by themselves.

Finally towards the end of the A-level the students will undertake a practical exploration of three key play extracts with a final performance assessed by an external examiner. Accompanying all practical work in Year 13 students must complete reflective reports on the development of their performance pieces.

Who might the course suit?

It would be advantageous if the applicant has studied Drama to GCSE as the two courses are designed to ensure a progression in student skills. A student needs to be prepared to perform in front of an audience at some point throughout the one/two years of the course. Additionally, they will be expected to attend live theatre productions as a critical aspect of textual analysis.

In both years there are options for performance support candidates who may be interested in developing their skills as directors or technicians.

Who might the course suit?

It would be advantageous if the applicant has studied Drama to GCSE as the two courses are designed to ensure a progression in student skills. A student needs to be prepared to perform in front of an audience at some point throughout the one/two years of the course. Additionally, they will be expected to attend live theatre productions as a critical aspect of textual analysis.

What might the course lead to?

The course would suit anyone interested in going into a career in the Arts such as actor, director or designer. It would also suit students interested in a career in arts administration. More specifically, it would be a valuable starting point for a student wishing to go to Drama School or University to study on a drama course.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Drama plus an interest in Performing Arts.

Economics (Pre-U)

What is the course about?

Economics enables students to:

- Gain a thorough and rigorous understanding of the theory that underpins the workings of a modern day economy
- Develop quantitative skills through the appreciation and use of various statistical methods
- Understand the causes of the current financial crisis or global credit crunch, both on a micro and a macroeconomic scale and develop an appreciation of how this crisis may be resolved
- Have a sound understanding of events, both internal and external that have influenced the UK economy over the past ten years
- Understand the risks, rewards and challenges to the UK and the global economy posed by the vast emerging markets of China and India.

Who might the course suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have a clear interest in the world around them; they will be curious about the causes and effects of the global financial crisis and have an interest in understanding the changes that are afoot within both the UK and global economies. The course will also suit students who possess strong numerical and written skills which will enable them to carry out detailed research and analysis in the world of economics and global finance.

What might the course lead to?

Students studying Pre-U Economics are likely to have a clear desire to pursue a degree course at University.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language or English Literature, in addition to 6 GCSEs at grades 9-5/A*-C.

Taught Modules:

Cambridge Pre-U Economics	
Units include:-	
Unit 1	Microeconomics
Unit 2	Macroeconomics and the National Economy
Unit 3	International Economics
Unit 4	Research investigation on China's role in the Global Economy

Employability Skills (Level 3 Certificate)

What is the course about?

Employability Skills is designed to allow you to develop those skills which are highly regarded in the workplace. There are many businesses who complain about students who lack the skills to succeed in the workplace and this course is designed to address this.

Students complete activities looking at the following areas;

- Active Citizenship
- Work Related Activities
- Career Planning
- Global Awareness
- Enrichment Activities
- Extended Project

There are a wide range of activities available from carrying out a dedicated research project, or taking on a leadership role, to work experience and volunteering placements.

Who might the course suit?

This course will suit any student who plans to go into an apprenticeship or direct into work after 6th form. The course is assessed entirely by coursework so would suit those that thrive with this sort of assessment criteria.

What might the course lead to?

The course is equivalent to an AS level and can be used for entry to either university, an apprenticeship or the work place.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 A*- C/9-5 grades at GCSE or equivalent.

English Language and Literature (A Level)

What is the course about?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by English Language and Literature students:

- How can I manipulate different features of language in my own creative writing?
- What are the differences between written and spoken English?
- What are the different ways in which people manipulate language to present their views, prejudices and feelings?
- How do writers create fictional and fantasy worlds?

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys creative writing and reading literary and non-fiction texts. Lesson time is often spent talking and writing about texts so you will need to enjoy forensic analysis of language. The course will develop your skills as a critical reader, your ability to listen attentively to the views of others, and establish your own critical viewpoints through speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will have the chance to flex your creative muscle as well as evaluating your own creative writing in detail through a written commentary.

What might the course lead to?

English is one of the most popular degrees at University; nearly every University in the country offers a wide range of courses in the subject. Often students who take an English A Level and then go onto do an English based degree will enjoy careers in print journalism, advertising, public relations and teaching. It is highly regarded by both employers and higher educational establishments because of the way it helps students to develop analytical skills and their powers of persuasion.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Students must achieve a Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature.

Taught Modules:

English Language and Literature		
A Level (AQA)		A Level
Unit 1: Remembered Places	External written exam	40%
Unit 2: Imagined Worlds and Poetic Voices	External written exam	
Unit 3: Writing about Society	External written exam	40%
Unit 4: Dramatic Encounters	External written exam	
Unit 5: Making Connections	Coursework	20%

English Literature (Pre-U)

What is the course about?

The course is linear with all assessment at the end of the two years. There are four components to the Pre-U: two of these are based on poetry, prose and drama texts. The third is an unseen comment and analysis paper. The fourth element is a personal investigation designed to encourage both wider reading for the analysis paper and to allow the student to pursue their own passion and interests in literature.

Students of Pre-U Literature study a range of texts from different historical periods and cultures. The course looks at writers' techniques, the contexts in which authors write and interpretations we make. Lessons involve creative and critical responses in the form of seminar discussions, group work and presentations. Students are expected to have a passion for reading and the desire to read independently and widely.

In the first term the course is devoted to encouraging wider reading and giving students a deeper understanding of the ideas, perspective and methods that influence writers.

Who might the course suit?

Students who enjoy reading literary texts, discussing ideas and exploring different interpretations and points of view will gain a great deal from this course. We expect our candidates to have a love of literature and a thirst to discover more about it!

What might the course lead to?

Pre-U English Literature is highly regarded by universities in the UK and across the globe – including Oxbridge and the Ivy League universities in the States. It is well-established and demonstrates that a student can interpret and analyse language as well as argue a case fluently. These are essential skills in many professions including journalism, law, publishing and teaching.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and/or a Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

Taught Modules:

Cambridge	English Literature Pre-U	
Component	Focus	Assessment
1	Poetry and Prose - Exam	Written Paper – externally set and marked
2	Drama - Exam	Written Paper – externally set and marked
3	Unseen Comment and Analysis	Written Paper – externally set and marked
4	Personal Investigation	Externally marked project

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (BTEC)

What is the course about?

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is a major part of the UK's drive to increase the employability of young people within the UK and globally. Improving the understanding and skills of young people in enterprise have been identified as an area for dramatic improvement and is part of the government's strategic business plan.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the enterprise sector.

The qualification gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the enterprise sector and that will prepare them for further study or training at a higher level.

Who might the course suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have the "get up and go" to research independently and participate enthusiastically in presentations, role-plays, debates and in-depth research.

This research may involve library resources, the internet, business visits and surveys. Clearly, they will need to have an interest in the world of enterprise.

What might the course lead to?

The qualification is recognised by higher education providers as fully meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses in the enterprise sector, as single or joint programmes at degree, Foundation Degree or HND level.

When studied with other qualifications within the study programme, learners can progress to higher education on combined courses. They can also progress to Higher Apprenticeships in areas such as business administration, marketing, accounting, sales or enterprise. The qualification will also give learners the skills to enter the self-employed market.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent including a 4 grade in GCSE Mathematics

Taught Modules:

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (BTEC)		
Year 12		
Unit 1	Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (Internally assessed via coursework)	June (Year 12)
Unit 2	Developing a Marketing Campaign (Externally assessed)	June (Year 12)
Year 13		
Unit 3	Personal & Business Finance (Externally assessed)	June (Year 13)
Unit 4	Launch and run an Enterprise (Internally assessed)	June (Year 13)

Extended Project (EPQ)

What is the Course?

The Extended Project is a one year course which carries equivalent points for university entry as an AS level and is awarded Grades A*-E. Some universities will accept it as part of an offer, but the top universities will not but have said that they would look favourably on students who opt to do it and others have said they would be willing to make lower offers because of it, e.g. Bristol.

How is it assessed?

- Students record what they do in a production log.
- They produce an extended piece of work and make a presentation about it.
- They are assessed on the log, the project and the presentation.

What can they look at?

- Students can choose to look at an area which is an extension to their current area of study or alternatively they can explore an area of personal interest or an activity outside the main programme of study.

- Students have taken the opportunity to examine a wide variety of subjects from Radiography, cubist artwork to devising a training plan for a hockey team.

What will students need to show that they can do to achieve a good grade?

- To choose an area of interest
- Draft a project title
- Draft aims of the project
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Provide evidence of all stages of project production
- Deliver a presentation to a specified audience.

What are the Entry Requirements?

5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.

Fashion and Clothing (BTEC)

What is the course about?

This course enables students to:

- Undertake specialised studies directly relevant to the fashion/ textile and other creative professions in which learners intend to seek employment or further study.
- Develop an understanding of the skills required to develop careers within the fashion, design and related industries
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life
- Achieve pathways into higher education or careers in a variety of related industries.

The coursework is broken down into small units of work and this will involve using CAD/ CAM and traditional methods to produce practical samples, final outcomes such as garments and accessories and experiment with different techniques.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 4/C in GCSE Art, GCSE Textiles or another D&T subject.

Taught Modules:

Fashion and Clothing Award - Core Units

Visual recording and communication
Critical and contextual studies
The creative process

Specialist unit examples (choose 2 units)

Fashion materials, techniques and processes

All units are coursework based, however the visual recording and critical and contextual studies units have a five hour time period to assemble your portfolio of work and is sent off for external moderation.

What might the course lead to?

This course will allow you to pursue a number of pathways. You can progress straight into employment. There is a wide variety of prospective careers that you can explore, for example: Fashion/ clothing designer, tailor/dressmaker, multimedia designer, sales, marketing, buying and distributing, quality control, testing, researching or as a computer specialist. The BTEC in Fashion and Clothing has the equivalence of one A Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC qualifications give UCAS points for university applications. This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level.

Who might the course suit?

Anyone who enjoys Textile Design, Art, Fashion and is creative. This course will develop your practical, visualisation and CAD/ CAM skills and allow you to explore vocational possibilities. The structure of the course enables learners to identify their own areas of interest and select appropriate units. Specialist unit examples: Fashion material, techniques and processes and costume design.

Further Mathematics (A Level)

What is the course about?

This course is an additional A-Level for those who wish to take the study of Mathematics to a higher level. The A-Level Further Maths Course studies Pure Mathematics in greater depth as well as covering further applications of Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics problems.

The Further Core Pure components introduce Matrices, Complex Numbers, Methods of Proof and Differential Equations. In the applied component students will study how to model more complicated Mechanics problems and probability distributions. Further Mathematics lessons take place after school to avoid conflict with other subjects and make the option available to a greater number of students.

Further Mathematics is **only** available to students already opting for A-Level Mathematics.

How is the course assessed?

Further Mathematics		
Year 12		
Further Pure Mathematics 1 (Complex Numbers, Matrices, Proof)	50%	1h30m Exam (May)
Further Applied Mathematics (Mechanics, Statistics)	50%	1h30m Exam (May)
Year 13		
Further Pure Mathematics 2 (Complex Numbers, Differential Equations, Hyperbolic Functions)	50%	2 x 1hr30m Exam (June)
Applied Mathematics or Further Pure 3 (TBC)	50%	2 x 1hr30m Exam (June)

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at students who wish to specialize in Mathematics. It is particularly suitable for those who might study Mathematics or a heavily mathematical discipline such as Engineering, Physics or Economics at university. The course is suitable for those who achieve Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9)

What might the course lead to?

Universities and employers alike are impressed by students who can demonstrate the ability to succeed in Mathematics at this level. Many of the most prestigious universities prefer, or require, their Mathematics applicants to have studied Further Maths.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9)

Geography (A Level)

What is the course about?

1. **Dynamic Landscapes:** tectonic hazards, landscape systems, processes and change. Coastal Landscapes as a fieldtrip.
2. **Dynamic Places:** globalisation of the world over time. Shaping urban areas through regenerating them as a field trip.
3. **Physical System and Sustainability:** water insecurity, energy security, life cycles and futures climate change.
4. **Human Systems and Geopolitics:** superpowers, global development, global health and human rights.

These are some of the topics we'll cover in Geography A-Level. The course content is divided between physical and human topics and is supported with field trips and extra-curricular university conference visits. We look at the processes that cause change and the impacts of that change on human activity. Interpretation of geographical data and fieldwork are integral parts of the course.

Who might the course suit?

Anybody who has an interest in what is happening in the world will enjoy A-Level Geography. Do you have concerns about the environment? Do you enjoy fieldwork and practical learning as geographers often enjoy the outdoors and will be inquisitive?

What might the course lead to?

Geography graduates are now some of the most employable in the workplace as they have such a wide range of skills including problem solving, decision making, teamwork and communication. Geographers work in diverse areas such as business and finance, environmental management, engineering, medicine, politics and education.

Often our students go on to study Geography or subjects related at university and others also move on to work with companies and charities with a more geopolitical view.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography or through discussion with Head of Geography if not studied Geography at GCSE.

Taught Modules:

Geography	
Year 12	
Unit 1	Dynamic landscapes
Unit 2	Dynamic places
Year 13	
Unit 3	Physical Systems and Sustainability
Unit 4	Human Systems and Geopolitics

Assessments:

Paper 1 (30%): Dynamic Landscapes, Physical Systems and Sustainability

Paper 2 (30%): Dynamic Places, Human Systems and Geopolitics

Paper 3 (20%): Synoptic Paper (Players, Attitudes and actions, Futures and uncertainties)

Coursework (20%): the investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

Global Perspectives and Research (GPR)

What is the course about?

Global Perspectives and References is a core component of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma which provides:

- An introduction to critical thinking skills
- A practical application of rigorous research skills
- A chance to explore connections between academic subjects
- A focus on real-world challenges and opportunities.

The course is built around a series of topics, each one representing a key global challenge that will face candidates as adults, wherever they live and work.

The topics are organised into broad generic themes: Ethics, Economics, Environment, Technology and Politics and Culture.

Topics explored recently in GPR sessions have been as diverse as 'Organ Donation – a Gift or a Right?', 'Drugs – Just what the Doctor Ordered?', 'Intensive Farming', 'Darwin 'vs- Creationism', 'Gun Control in America' and 'Bring back the death penalty'. Students also have the opportunity to debate and discuss topics that they feel passionately about.

What might the course lead to?

Cambridge Pre-U has been specifically designed to prepare students for higher level university study. It develops both deep understanding and independent learning skills – so students should have a head start once they're at university, making it easier for them to achieve their academic goals. It would particularly suit students wishing to pursue careers in any form of research, Law, Economics, Politics/Government, Media and a wide variety of occupations.

Who might the course suit?

The Global Perspectives course helps students to explore the challenges that will face them as young people in the modern world – wherever they live and work. The emphasis is on giving students the tools to identify, evaluate and explore competing arguments and perspectives. Mastering these tools involves high level skills which are valued in all subjects and indeed employment. This course is a perfect accompaniment to any student taking Economics, Business, History, Sociology, the Sciences, Politics or English Literature.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Graphics and 3D Product Design (BTEC)

What is the course about?

This course enables students to:

- Undertake specialised studies directly relevant to graphics, 3D product design and other creative professions in which learners intend to seek employment or further study.
- Develop an understanding of the skills required to develop careers within graphics and related industries
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life
- Achieve pathways into higher education or careers in a variety of related industries.

The coursework is broken down into small units of work and this will involve using CAD/ CAM and traditional methods to produce practical samples, final outcomes and experiment with different techniques.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade C in GCSE Graphics or Resistant Materials

Taught Modules:

Graphics and 3D Products

Visual recording - design and develop a product based on a theme given by the exam board.

Critical and contextual studies - Looking at a artist or designer given by the exam board as well as a designer of your choice

The creative Process - A design and make task based on a designer of your choice

3D design, materials and processes - Designing a 3D product of your choice using any graphical or resistant materials

What might the course lead to?

This course will allow you to pursue a number of pathways.

You can progress straight into employment. The BTEC in Graphics has the equivalence of one A Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC qualifications give UCAS points for university applications. This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level. There is a wide variety of prospective careers that you can explore, for example architect, graphic designer, 3D product designer, web design, engineer and many more.

Who might the course suit?

Anyone who enjoys Graphics, Resistant Materials, Art and is creative. This course will develop your practical, visualisation and CAD/ CAM skills and allow you to explore vocational possibilities. The structure of the course enables learners to identify their own areas of interest and select appropriate units. You will be given the opportunity to work from real life scenarios of a Graphics designer/3D designer within the industry through the units given.

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The course will give you an introduction to the Health and Social Care sector.

Who might the course suit?

The course is ideal for those who are unsure of their specific future pathway in Health and Social Care as it provides an insight and broader understanding of the sector. It consists of four units completed over two years and is based on the **person-centred approach** and **care values** needed to work in the health and social care sector.

The mandatory units in year 12 focus on:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

What might the course lead to?

This will enable you to progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the Health and Social Care sector or future employment in this sector. This course focuses on employment opportunities and trains you to take on a responsible role in this sector.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 A* - C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.

Taught Modules:

Health and Social Care BTEC			
Year 12			
Unit	Title	Guided Learning Hours	Assessment
Unit 1 (mandatory)	Human Lifespan Development (Develop knowledge and understanding of human growth and development. Review factors that can influence human growth, development and wellbeing e.g. inherited, environmental, social or financial factors during our lifespan)	90	Exam – 90 minutes
Unit 5 (mandatory)	Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (Learn about the values and principles of meeting care and support needs, as well as some of the ethical issues that arise when personalising care.)	90	Course work - Set and marked internally
Year 13			
Unit	Title	Guided Learning Hours	Assessment
Unit 2 (mandatory)	Working in Health and Social Care (Demonstrate knowledge of service user needs, roles and responsibilities of workers and working practices within the health and social care sector. Analyse and evaluate information related to the roles and responsibilities of health and social care workers and organisations and how workers and organisations are monitored and regulated.)	120	Exam – 90 minutes
Unit 11	Physiological Disorders (Examine how psychological perspectives contribute to the understanding of human development and behaviour in <u>manganging</u> and treating service users in H&SC settings.)	60	Internally assessed coursework

All units are assigned a credit value according to whether a P, M or D is achieved. These scores then come together in the calculation of a final grade.

History Pre-U (Pre-U)

What is the course about?

The Cambridge Pre-U is a challenging, well-respected qualification for students interested in learning about the past and developing their analytical, research and written communication skills. The Pre-U is an A Level equivalent which we began to offer alongside the traditional A Level in 2009. The course is equally as accessible as the traditional A Level, but with the capacity to achieve beyond an A*. The course is widely recognised as a rigorous, well-taught and worthwhile qualification.

Who might the course suit?

This course would suit the more independent learner as it involves wider reading and research. History combines well with almost any other subject because it requires both the empirical skills of science and the creative imagination of the arts.

Taught Modules:

Cambridge Pre-U History		
Unit 1	European History c. 1715 – 2000 Russia – Tsarist through to Communist Russia Italy – Unification, Liberal Italy and Fascist Italy	Exam: June - Year 13.
Unit 2	British History 1886-1951	Exam: June – Year 13.
Unit 3	Germany, 1919-1945	Exam: June- Year 13
Unit 4	Personal Investigation	Year 12/13

What might the course lead to?

The list of occupations and prospects is endless. Studying History provides more than knowledge and understanding of the key events. It provides each student the essential skills required to succeed in any occupation, course or apprenticeship. Having a qualification in History at this level is regarded as prestigious and admirable. Many of our pupils go on to study History at undergraduate level, but some will opt for related disciplines such as Law or PPE. Even those moving into unrelated areas will find the skills fostered by History, the ability to analyse, explore and communicate in a clear and interesting way, will be profoundly useful.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE History. If History not taken at GCSE then a Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

IT (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The BTEC in IT is an exciting new qualification launched for first teaching in 2016. The course has been completely overhauled to bring it up-to-date with recent technological developments and industry changes.

The course is practical based and has a far more technical emphasis than the previous BTEC in IT. Students complete four units, two in Y12 and the other two in Y13.

Unit 1 focuses on how IT impacts the world in which we live. Students will learn about digital devices, computer software, emerging technologies, connectivity, networks, online systems, online communities and IT security issues. This unit is assessed by a written examination

Unit 2 is a practical exam where students are asked to build an IT system from scratch. Students will learn how to construct relational databases which are at the heart of almost every modern business today.

Unit 3 is completed in year 13 and revolves around a Social Media coursework project. Learners explore how businesses use social media such as Facebook® and Twitter™ to promote their products and services.

Learners implement their own social media strategies in order to meet business demands.

Unit 4 is the final unit of the course where students design an interactive eCommerce based website. Students will learn about cutting edge web technologies and web programming languages such as JavaScript and HTML5.

Who might the course suit?

The BTEC in IT has been designed to prepare students for a career in the IT industry. The course allows students to learn about the latest applications that are being used in the ever changing world of Information Technology. Students who have a genuine passion for ICT and are interested in technology would thrive on this course.

What might the course lead to?

Careers in web design, project management, graphic design, multimedia product design, database development, IT Maintenance, network management and game design are all possibilities. The BTEC can also allow students to study a related course at university.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 A*-C/9-4 at GCSE or equivalent. No previous IT qualification required.

Taught Modules:

IT BTEC		
Certificate Yr12		
Unit 1	Information Technology Systems	Written external exam
Unit 2	Creating systems to manage information	Practical external exam
Extended Certificate Yr13		
Unit 3	Using Social Media in Business	Internally Assessed
Unit 4	Website Development	Internally Assessed

Mathematics (A Level)

What is the course about?

The A-Level course consists of a Pure Mathematics component and two Applied Mathematics components: Mechanics and Statistics.

Pure Mathematics is the core of the course and extends the study of Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry from GCSE and introduces Calculus.

Mechanics is the study of how physical objects behave when acted upon by different forces. You will learn how to model objects and predict their motion. There is a strong relationship with concepts in Physics and Engineering, but since all concepts are introduced from first principles it is not necessary to study Physics in order to succeed in this part of the course.

Statistics is the study of how to analyse data and calculate probability. Statistics is absolutely fundamental to scientific process and in this component of the course you will learn how scientists distinguish results that back up their hypotheses from random noise. Concepts from statistics will help with the study of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Medicine, Psychology, Sociology and Business at A-level and beyond.

All three components are interrelated and there will be a strong emphasis on learning to solve problems in one component using concepts from another.

Who might the course suit?

Students wishing to take this course must enjoy Mathematics and problem solving. They must be targeted a Grade 7 or above at GCSE and have a strong work ethic, since this is a very demanding course. Students will be expected to have a strong foundation in Algebra and Trigonometry. A-Level Mathematics is an invaluable companion course for Science A-Levels and for anyone intending to study the Sciences, Medicine or Engineering at university.

What might the course lead to?

Mathematics is described by university admissions tutors as a *facilitating* subject, this means it is often a stipulated or preferred prerequisite for many university course. Additionally Mathematics A-Level is recognised internationally as proof of a student's intelligence, tenacity and work ethic. If you have the ability you can't afford to miss out on the huge boost Mathematics A-Level will give to your future options and prospects!

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9). Entry is at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics.

How is the course assessed?

Mathematics		
Year 13		
Pure Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus)	67%	2 x 2hr Exam (June)
Applied Mathematics (Mechanics, Statistics)	33%	2hr Exam (June)

Modern Languages – French, German, Spanish (A Level)

What is the course about?

Work will continue at sixth form level on the four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. A more in-depth study of grammatical structures will be undertaken, leading to a greater ability to manipulate the language for the purpose of self-expression. Classes are conducted mainly in the foreign language and students are encouraged to contribute as much as possible to discussions. A variety of contemporary topic areas make up the basis of the course.

Cultural awareness is promoted by the use of authentic sources. Learners engage with the target cultures through a variety of media, producing written and spoken work springing from meaningful and engaging contextual knowledge. The extensive use of a variety of authentic materials acquaints learners with a range of syntax, lexis, style and expression in the target language and helps them to develop an authentic feel for the language.

Critical and independent thinking are developed through the study of literary and non-literary texts. Learners articulate their understanding and justify opinions both in the foreign language and in English, gaining essential critical tools and writing skills required for further study, as well as for the workplace. Grammatical competence and the ability to manipulate language accurately and appropriately are a prerequisite for study in higher education and are developed and rewarded through the mode of assessment.

Who might the course suit?

Applications are welcome from students who have shown an aptitude for understanding language structures at GCSE level and who want to build on these foundations to study the language in greater depth. Emphasis will be placed on building up the fluency of the spoken language, so a willingness to 'have a go' is a must.

What might the course lead to?

The A Level languages courses are focused on the future needs of students, be they employment or higher education. Each year, a number of our students go on to pursue their language studies at university, either as the main focus of their degree or as a supplementary subject.

What are the specific entry requirements?

GCSE Grade 6 or higher in the chosen language.

Assessment Units (AQA exam board, 100% final exam):

A Level Paper 1 (50%) – Listening, reading and writing (aspects of French/German/Spanish society, current trends, artistic culture, aspects of political life in the target language country).

A Level Paper 2 (20%) – Writing (based on an in-depth study of two books, or a book and a film).

A Level Paper 3 (30%) – Speaking (20 minutes, discussion of prepared themes, and unprepared discussion based on a stimulus).

Music (A Level)

Who might the course suit?

Are you passionate about music? Enjoy listening to lots of different styles of music and trying to figure out how it was made? Do you ever create your own original music? Spend your free time singing, playing an instrument or creating tracks using music technology software? Loved GCSE Music and don't want it to end? Then keep reading...!

What is the course about?

The course covers the following areas of music: listening, performing and composing and you will develop your skills in all 3 as you progress through your A level studies!

Listening and Evaluating:

The exam section of the course requires you to be familiar with a variety of styles of music:

- The Baroque Concerto
- Pop Music (including Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, Muse and Daft Punk)
- Mozart's Operas
- Music for Media (film and gaming)

You'll improve your ability to identify key features in pieces of unfamiliar music and how you write about music.

Composing:

You will create 2 compositions; one in a style of your choice, the other to a brief set by the examiner which could include some lyrics, a chord pattern or the outline of a scene from a film.

Performing:

You will choose from several performance tasks, which include performing as a soloist, as part of an ensemble on any instrument and through music technology.

What might the course lead to?

You might decide to continue studying a music based course in higher education. There are several careers associated with music: theatre, recording work, music journalism, performing, music therapy, and teaching. However, even if you don't want to pursue a career in music, this is an academic A level that is respected by employers and top universities for the transferrable skills it provides you with.

What are the specific entry requirements?

A minimum of a Grade B in GCSE Music or Grade 5 standard on an instrument or voice (exam doesn't have to have been taken) and a passion for the subject.

Music Practitioners (Level 3 Diploma)

What is the Course About?

The Music Practitioners is aimed at Sixth Form students who are enthusiastic performers. The aim of the course is to provide students with a core focus (performing) completing three core units and three specialist units over two years.

Who Might the Course Suit?

The course will suit musicians who have a passion for performing and who are interested in developing their musical skills. The course provides students with the opportunity to develop their performance skills through:

- Developing effective instrumental or vocal technique through a structured practice routine, learning a range of appropriate repertoire for a solo and ensemble performance.
- Learning and understanding the different roles in the live music industry. Developing their organisation skills to manage a project, preparing financial records and taking responsibility to oversee the project and evaluate a successful live event.

- Preparing for a live event, working as a member of a team and contributing to a performance to a technically acceptable level.

What Might the Course Lead To?

The completion of six units will be assessed against a set of outcomes, which is an on-going process enabling students to analyse and improve their own performance throughout the course. The units are graded as a Pass, Merit or a Distinction, which is equivalent to an E Grade, C Grade and an A*/A Grade. The Level 3 Diploma in Music Performance is a nationally recognised vocational qualification aimed at developing student's performance skills to progress into higher education and pursuing a career in music.

What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade 4 or above at GCSE Music or equivalent Music performing evidence, such as graded exams or equivalent standard to grade 4.

Taught Modules:

Music Performance
Core Units
Music Performance Techniques, Solo Music Performing Skills , Planning for a Career in Music
Specialist Units (A choice of 3)
The specialist units are: Aural Perception Skills, Music Project , Improvising Music, Modern Music in practice, Musical Theatre Performance, Pop Music in practice, Music Dissertation

Performing Arts (BTEC)

What is the course about?

This exciting course offers those who love performing the opportunity to take their practical studies to a new level. It offers you the opportunity to continue your academic studies, gaining a qualification equivalent to **one A-Level**. You will gain real experience and be encouraged to develop, write, perform, stage and direct new work. The majority of the course is practical and internally assessed with an emphasis on performance – Dance, Drama or a mixture of both (Mr Bridges and Mrs Glasgow will tailor the course to suit you). During this two-year course, you will develop your skills in a range of optional units; from contemporary dance, dance choreography, to musical theatre; drama, acting styles and physical theatre.

What should I expect?

- A majority of practical **Dance** and/or **Drama** activities;
- Development **Dance** and/or **Drama** skills;
- Dance and theatre trips;

Units covered in the course:

- Investigating practitioners work
- Developing skills and techniques for live performance
- Group performance workshop/choreography
- Optional unit - physical theatre/jazz/contemporary etc

- Assessed through performances to a live audience;
- Some project deadlines that will involve written tasks;
- Additional qualification: Arts Award Gold.

Who might the course suit?

Anyone who excels in performance skills;

Anyone who has enjoyed **Dance** and/or **Drama** lessons;

Anyone who prefers research projects over examinations.

What might the course lead to?

The course is suitable for students wanting to pursue performing arts (Dance and Drama) as a career.

What are the specific entry requirements?

5 A*- C/9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent and previous experience in Performing Arts: Dance and/or Drama

Philosophy and Ethics (A Level)

What is the course about?

- How can we know how to live a good life?
- Are some actions always right or wrong, or does it depend on the circumstances?
- How can a theist justify the existence of God in the face of human suffering?
- Is there life after death?

This course engages students with the questions that human beings have asked since the time of the ancient Greek philosophers.

In the first year the Philosophy section includes philosophical issues and questions; the nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering. The ethics unit includes significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; a study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance. The Buddhism section includes Buddhist beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity.

In the second year The Philosophy section includes Philosophical issues and questions; The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; Philosophical language; Works of scholars; Influences of developments in religious belief. The Religion and Ethics section includes Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance; Ethical language; Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the works of scholars; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life issues. The Buddhism section includes Religious beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity; social and historical developments; Works of scholars; Religion and society; Primary texts.

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys asking questions and does not mind not getting a straight answer! Each module of the course is assessed through essay style questions in an exam. However, some of these are based on the material studied, some on the student's own research and some on the student's ability to critically engage with texts. Therefore students will need to be able to develop their arguments in written form as well as through class discussion and presentations.

What might the course lead to?

The study of Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Buddhism enables students to develop transferable skills such as communication, empathy, reason, logic, analysis and critical thinking, which are key skills that employers and universities look for. It combines well with almost all other humanities subjects and will give a broad-based education which will enable you to enter higher education.

What are the specific entry requirements?

GCSE Grade 6 in Philosophy & Belief and a GCSE Grade 6 in English Language.

Taught Modules:

Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies)		
A Level		
Paper 1	Philosophy of Religion	2 hour exam June
Paper 2	Religion and Ethics	2 hour exam June
Paper 3	Study of Buddhism	2 hour exam June

Photography (A Level)

What is the course about?

The Art Department offers Advanced Level Photography.

The course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set examination.

At the start of the course students are introduced to the materials, techniques and processes of photography, both traditional and digital. The course is teacher-directed initially, but students take on an increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work as the course develops.

There is written element to the course, in which students are required to research and analyse photographic and other visual work in more depth, and produce a written essay of 3000 words.

For the externally set exam unit students select one question and develop a practical creative response, which is self-directed.

Who might the course suit?

Students who have gained at least grade B at GCSE Art, who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought. It is beneficial, though not essential, for students to be studying other visual, creative and expressive subjects.

What might the course lead to?

A-Level Photography is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students go on to study some aspect of Art and Design at foundation level, before progressing to a degree in areas such as: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration, Journalism and Advertising etc.

What are the specific entry requirements?

All students should submit a portfolio of work to the Art & Photography department. Also students will need to have their own camera to complete this course. Places on this course will be allocated following an interview with the Head of Art.

Taught Modules:

Photography		
A Level		
Unit 1	Teacher Directed Unit Self-directed Unit (including Personal Study)	Internally assessed Externally moderated
Unit 2	Examination	Internally assessed Externally moderated

Physical Education (A Level)

Who might the course suit?

An interest in the theoretical aspects of Physical Education and Sports Science is essential as the A-Level is majority theory based. To have studied GCSE PE is highly recommended.

What is the course about?

The course is varied and students will study theoretical content behind a wide range of topics including:

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology – including muscular skeletal system, cardio-respiratory system, cardiovascular systems, and neuro-muscular system.

Topic 2: Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis – including diet and nutrition, training methods, rehabilitation of injury, linear motion, angular motion, and projectile motion.

Topic 3: Skill acquisition – including coach and performer, learning theories, practices, guidance, feedback, and memory models.

Topic 4: Sport psychology – including dynamics of a group/team, goal setting, attribution theory, confidence and self-efficacy, and leadership.

Topic 5: Sport and society – including development of sport, globalisation, commercialisation, ethics and deviance in sport, media, and talent ID.

Practical Modules:

Component 3: Practical performance.

Students will also be required to perform in one physical activity, in the role of either player/performer or coach. They will be required to demonstrate their skills in this sport and should be already performing at a high level with the intent to continue participation in their sport.

Component 4: Performance Analysis and Evaluation.

Students must complete a Performance Analysis and then, based on the results of the analysis, produce a Performance Development Programme.

What might the course lead to?

The specification prepares students well for further study in various fields, for example, social and natural sciences, teaching, sports science, leisure and tourism. An A Level qualification is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study in PE and Sport Science in Higher Education and is also a desirable qualification for other areas of study, including physiotherapy and nutrition.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE PE and a grade 5/6 in GCSE Science. If GCSE PE has not been studied, it is essential that the candidate has gained a grade 5/6 or above in Science at GCSE level.

Physical Education A Level		
Year 12 & 13		
Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport	Examination	Written examination: 2 hours, 35% of the qualification
Component 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	Examination	Written examination: 2 hours 35% of the qualification
Component 3: Practical Performance	Internal assessment with external moderation	15% of the qualification, 45 marks
Component 4: Performance Analysis and Evaluation	Internal assessment with external moderation	15% of the qualification, 45 marks

Physics (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course covers all the key concepts of Physics. As learners progress through the course they will build on their knowledge of the laws of Physics, applying their understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe.

The course aims to:

- develop practical skills which are assessed through the Practical Endorsement: excellent preparation for your university courses. The course aims to:
- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- develop interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the Sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works').

Assessment is by 3 terminal exams.

The Practical Endorsement accompanies the A level qualification. It requires a minimum of 12 practical activities to be completed over the 2 year course.

It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for the qualification.

Who might the course suit?

If you have an enquiring mind, always asking why things happen, then Physics will help you find the answers. It forms the basis of most modern technologies and holds the key to the future for global well-being.

What might the course lead to?

Physics is at the heart of everything and is a highly rewarding discipline to study at School, University and beyond. Above all Physics opens doors to a wide variety of careers. Employers see a Physics qualification as an indication of someone who will immediately be an asset to the organisation.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Six GCSE subjects at Grade C/4 or above. To study A Level Physics, you should have achieved grades 6,6 in GCSE science and you should have studied GCSE Maths at higher tier level and achieved a GCSE grade 6. The continuation of Maths to A level is an advantage.

Politics (A Level)

What is the course about?

Government and Politics attempts to analyse, understand and explain the relationship between the political ideas, institutions and processes. The A Level focus is on: parliament, government and the people, representative democracy; participation; the structures of authority and power; the rights and responsibilities of individuals; engagement with contemporary politics in the UK; current political debates; and the links between political ideologies and political action.

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Politics students. As well as studying the ideas that are the basis of our political system, we investigate how effective the institutions of government really are, using the ever-changing world of current affairs to illustrate the academic theories.

In addition to reading and written work, research and presentations are regular features of the course. There is also a good deal of discussion and argument!

Who might the course suit?

A willingness to engage in the discussion of political issues is essential. Students are expected to keep up to date with political events by reading the papers and following relevant radio and television programmes. In addition, students will be expected to read formal texts and develop their essay writing skills. This course is a perfect accompaniment to any student taking Economics, Business, History, GPR, Sociology or English Literature.

What might the course lead to?

Studying politics does *not* mean you have to become a politician! A knowledge of how the country is run would benefit anybody with an interest in law, the media, government, economics and a wide variety of other occupations. Universities and employers will always be impressed by candidates with a good knowledge of current affairs and the social political and economic ideas that shape the world.

What are the specific entry requirements?

GCSE Grade 6 in History or if History was not taken at GCSE a 6 in English Language or Literature.

Taught Modules:

Politics	
Year 12	
Unit 1	People and Politics – examining the key channels of communication between the government and the people.
Unit 2	Governing the UK – examining an understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions such as the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Year 13	
Unit 3	Introducing Political Ideologies
Unit 4	Comparative US Politics

Psychology (A Level)

What is the course about?

Psychology is concerned with all aspects of behaviour and with the thoughts, feelings and motivations underlying that behaviour. Psychology is a science and psychologists study human behaviour by observing, measuring and testing, then arriving at conclusions that are rooted in sound scientific methodology. The course looks at important aspects of human life; relationships, stress, memory, aggression, obedience and mental health issues such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety.

Who might the course suit?

It is naturally suited to those who have an interest in people and who want to understand more about the causes of behaviour. Given the competing explanations of why people “do what they do” the best students are those with an “open mind” and a willingness to read around the “key issues” discussed.

What might the course lead to?

There are professionally trained clinical, educational, occupational and forensic Psychologists – but Psychology features in many degree courses (nursing and health care, marketing and advertising, education, criminology). It also prepares students for jobs including health care, police work, management, teaching, personnel work, workplace design, retailing and advertising.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Psychology is a demanding subject. For this reason you will need GCSE grades of:

*Grade 5 or above in English Language

*Grade 6 or above in Mathematics

*Grade 6,6 or above in Combined Science

Psychology	
Year 12 – 2 Compulsory Topics	
Social Influence, Memory and Attachment	Internal examination (June Year 12)
Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology and Research Methods	Internal Examination (June Year 12)
Social Influence	The topics are assessed in three exams sat in Summer 2020. The exams are 2 hours long, each worth 96 marks in total.
Memory	
Attachment	
Psychopathology	
Approaches in Psychology	
Biopsychology	
Research Methods	
Issues and Debates in Psychology	
Cognition and Development	
Schizophrenia	
Aggression	

Sociology (A Level)

What is the course about?

Sociology is the study of society. It aims to explain how institutions (for example the family, education, religion and the media) within society make people behave the way that they do.

Have you ever wondered ...?

- How being poor affects education?
- Why 1 in 4 marriages end in divorce?
- Why women suffer an average of 33 domestic violence attacks before going to the police?
- Why we obsess over fashion labels?
- Why black males are 7 times more likely to be stopped and searched?
- What is 'chav culture'?

Who might the course suit?

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experience. It will help you develop skills to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on careful consideration of evidence.

Students should be interested in contemporary social issues and will be expected to be well informed in political and social debates.

What might the course lead to?

Sociology is a highly valued course and prepares students for a variety of courses in higher education. Particularly relevant areas are law, academic research, advertising, criminology, social policy planning, teaching, journalism and social work.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Sociology is a demanding subject. For this reason you will need:

Grade 6 or above in English Language GCSE

Grade 5 or above in Mathematics GCSE

Grade 5,5 or above in Science GCSE

Taught Modules:

Sociology	
Year 12 – 4 Compulsory Topics	
Education	The topics here will be assessed internally in the Summer of 2019
Methods in Context	
Research Methods	
Families and Households	
Year 13	
Education	The topics are assessed by three examinations in Summer 2020. The exams are two hours long, each worth 80 marks.
Methods in Context	
Crime and Deviance	
Theory and Methods	
Families and Households	
Beliefs in Society	

Sport (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The course was introduced to capitalise on a very highly motivated group of students within core Physical Education with the intention of offering the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification that can be used when applying either for higher education or employment. It is intended that the course will use each student's skill and enthusiasm in sport to develop an awareness and interest in science technology, which underpins much of the sporting industry. The course is student centred. Students learn through investigation and active involvement taking a large responsibility for their own learning. The four units are taught through 'learning outcomes' and each assignment will concentrate on testing and extending the students' knowledge in one or more of the outcomes. The tutor will act as a learning resource for the students, offering advice and guidance as to how to approach the work.

Who might the course suit?

Students with an interest in sport and coaching who may wish to seek employment in those fields. The course relies on assignments, presentations and practical work as its means of assessment and these elements may be seen as a valid factor in its favour.

What might the course lead to?

The course should provide a sound and sufficiently broad educational base to enable each individual to progress either to a HND or Degree Level Course in Higher Education or to employment in the Sports and Leisure Industry. The course can be studied as a vocationally based alternative to A-Level P.E.

What are the specific entry requirements?

Grade 4 in GCSE PE and a grade 4,4 in GCSE Science.

Taught Modules:

Sport BTEC
Year 12
Anatomy and Physiology (1 hour & 30 minute exam – June 2017)
Professional Development in the Sports Industry (internally assessed coursework)
Year 13
Sports Leadership (Internally Assessed coursework)
Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being (Externally assessed coursework)

All units are assigned a credit value according to whether a P, M or D is achieved. These scores then come together in the calculation of a final grade.

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