



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2023 - 2024

**BE THE BEST
YOU CAN BE**

ABOUT US

Continued development of Post 16 provision is a crucial element for raising standards at Bloxwich Academy. We aim to provide the best Sixth Form experience possible by developing the whole person academically, morally and physically. We set high standards in Post 16, working closely with students to set achievable, personalised goals and meeting regularly to discuss their progress. We are very proud of our Post 16 students' achievements, which in turn provide students with a range of options available at the end of their studies including apprenticeships, work or university.

We offer a broad curriculum in the sixth form, both academic and vocational, with a range of A-level and BTEC courses on offer. Students are able to combine a selection of these qualifications in order to enhance their chances of academic and employment success and make the most of their individual skills and talents.

For more information about all of our courses please see the Post 16 prospectus. We believe it is important to develop the 'whole student', ensuring they leave us as responsible, committed and ambitious young people who are a credit to themselves, their families and their communities.

All Post 16 students are encouraged to make a positive contribution to Academy life by mentoring the younger students, assisting group tutors and being ambassadors for Academy events.



Mr A Seager
Headteacher





MONITORING

PERFORMANCE

We expect all of our students to work hard at all times. All students are closely monitored to ensure this is the case. If a member of staff is concerned that a student is working below their expected grade, despite all their own best efforts to improve the student's performance, they shall refer them. In the first instance their tutor will interview them.

If a second referral is received, Mrs Lockley (director of post 16) will interview the student and set them targets to improve. If these targets are not met parents will be invited to attend an interview alongside their son/daughter. Following this, if students continue to work below their expected grades, and are not demonstrating that they wish to improve the situation, they will be asked to leave.

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to attend school every day. Students whose attendance falls below 95% can expect to be seen by Mrs Lockley. Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Any concerns with poor punctuality will be dealt with by the Form tutor and then with Mrs Lockley.

DRESS CODE

We realise that this is the age when young adults really start becoming individuals, but it's also the time when they are firming up their decisions about their future. Most of our students' futures involve them wearing 'smart business dress', hence our strict dress code. Uniform must be worn correctly at all times.

If there is any infringement, students will not be permitted to return to Sixth Form until it is corrected.

Male students must wear:

- Two-piece suit
- Shirt
- Tie
- Smart shoes.

They may also wear a V neck jumper under a jacket in cold weather and a stud in each ear lobe is also allowed.

Female students must wear:

- Blazer
- Smart trousers or a knee length skirt
- Shirt or blouse
- Smart shoes

CHOOSING A COURSE

BY WAY OF EXAMPLE

If you want to do something hands on such as a career in fashion design, then A Level Art or Art Textiles would be ideal. Similarly, if you are better at practical work and completing coursework assignments than sitting longer exams, then a BTEC subject such as Sport, Performing Arts, or Health & Social

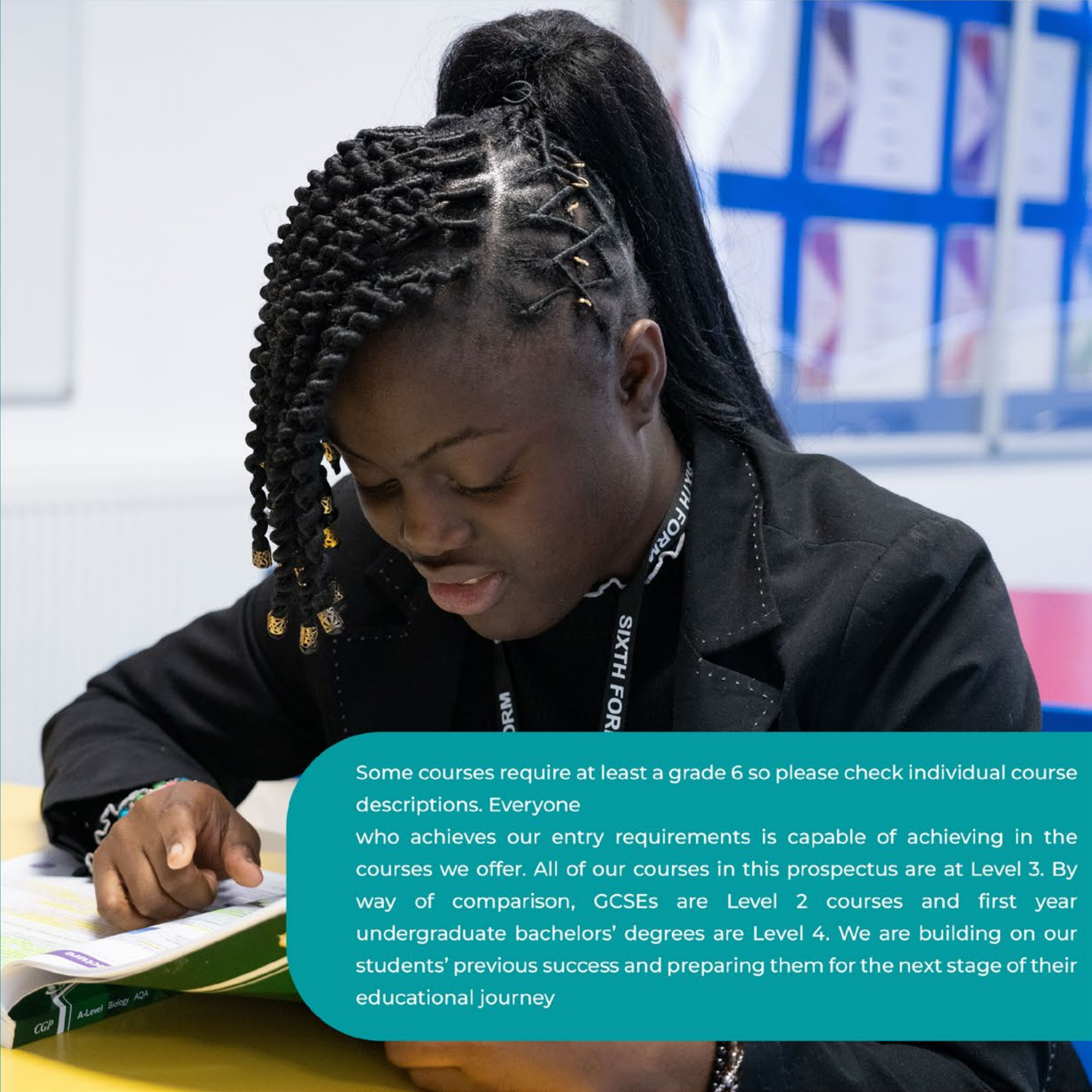
Care would be a good match for you. If you are more traditionally academic then subjects such as Maths, Chemistry or Psychology, where exams form all of the assessment, are the type of subjects you should consider.

If you already know what you'd like to do after sixth form, and if that does include studying at university, then it's often a good idea to have a look at their websites for degree courses that you may be interested in and seeing if they require you to study any specific subjects at A Level. For example, to study Medicine you would need to choose Biology and Chemistry. If you want to study Engineering then it would be Maths and Physics. If you want to be a Nurse or Midwife then you'd need to choose Health & Social Care and Biology.

HOW MANY COURSES?

In year 12 you will pick three subjects that you will study for the full two years. Meaning you won't be dropping a subject at the end of year 12. So it makes choosing the right courses for you at the start even more important. If you are still unsure, we will guide you towards the right subjects for you at interview.

You will need a **minimum** of 5 GCSE levels, grades 4-9, including English and Maths and at least three other subjects.



Some courses require at least a grade 6 so please check individual course descriptions. Everyone who achieves our entry requirements is capable of achieving in the courses we offer. All of our courses in this prospectus are at Level 3. By way of comparison, GCSEs are Level 2 courses and first year undergraduate bachelors' degrees are Level 4. We are building on our students' previous success and preparing them for the next stage of their educational journey



A LEVEL OR VOCATIONAL

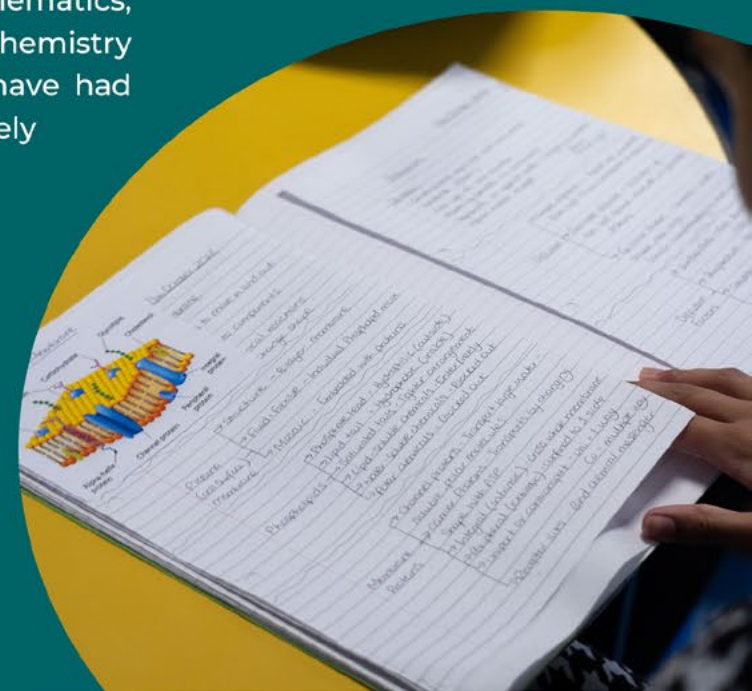
A levels are more 'traditional' and therefore some of the most 'traditional' universities prefer these over BTECs. But the majority of the hundreds of higher education institutions in the UK acknowledge how academically rigorous these courses are and include them in their offers. It really depends on what sort of university course you want to do and career you want to have.

PROGRESSION

Students typically achieve grades that are in line with their GCSE's e.g. a grade 6 at GCSE = a grade B at A level.

However, we have many students who exceed these estimations every year because they realise that to give themselves the best chance of getting into their top choice university, they need to work harder than they've ever worked before. The current average offer to gain a place at university is BBB at A Level or DMM at BTEC.

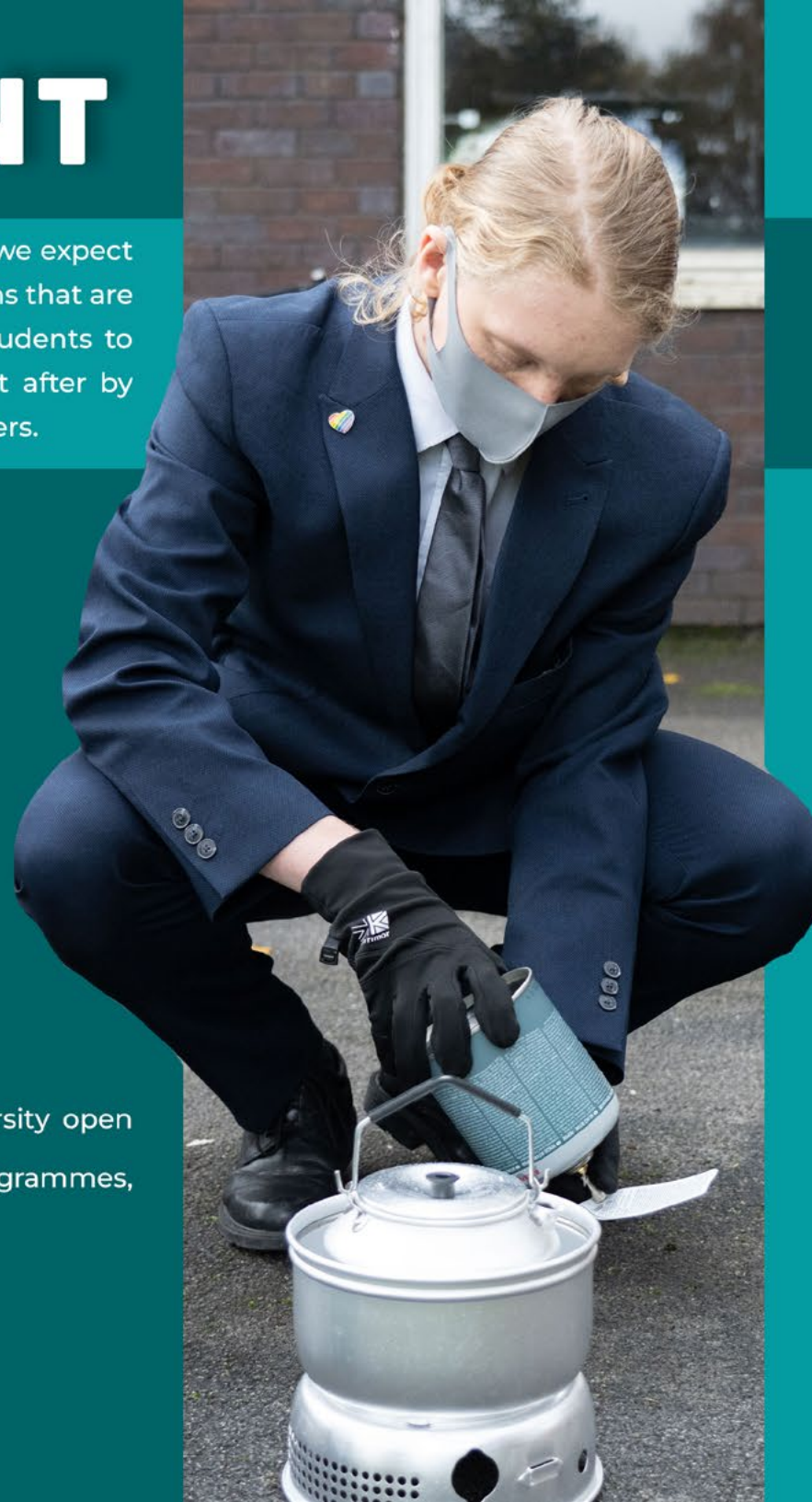
The Russell Group of 24 leading universities in the UK lists the following subjects as 'Facilitating Subjects' – meaning that you would need to study some of these subjects to be considered for place at one of their universities. These are Mathematics, English Literature, Geography, History, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. And over the last three years we have had many of our students gain places at these extremely competitive and prestigious universities on some of the most popular degree courses in the country. These include places on Pharmacy, Biomedical Science, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Psychology, Physiotherapy and Social Work at the University of Birmingham, Physics at Durham University Marine Biology at the University of Portsmouth, and Sports Psychology at Loughborough University. There really is no limit to what you could achieve next.



ENRICHMENT

In addition to our wide ranging academic offerings we expect all of our Sixth Form students to experience situations that are non-classroom based. These activities allow our students to develop the crucial 'work skills' that are so sought after by university admission teams and prospective employers.

- Sixth Form Council
- Extended project qualification
- Pupil Mentoring with Diane Award
- Gold Arts Award
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh award
- The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award
- Combined Cadet Force
- Post 16 Football team in the British Colleges League
- Compulsory year 12 work experience placement
- Post 16 specific PSHE sessions
- Academic opportunities – UCAS exhibitions, University open days, University of Birmingham's Pathways, access programmes, Sutton Trust mobility program



To give you an idea of the 'currency' of each qualification, this table shows how many UCAS points each one is worth. It must be noted that some universities prefer to make grade-based offers and require specific qualifications so this should only be used as a guide. We encourage all of our students to log on to www.ucas.com as soon as possible to check the specific entry requirements of the courses they are interested in studying at university.

A Levels and Highers

UCAS points



	A*	A	B	C	D	E
A Levels	56	48	40	32	24	16
AS Levels		20	16	12	10	6
Highers		33	27	21	15	
Advanced Highers		56	48	40	32	

BTEC Nationals

UCAS points



National Extended Certificate

D*	D	M	P
56	48	32	16

National Diploma

D*D*	D*D	DD	DM	MM	MM	PP
112	48	96	80	64	48	32

National Extended Diploma

D*D*D*	D*D*D	D*DD	DDD	DDM	DMM
168	160	152	144	128	112
MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP		
96	80	64	48		

(D) distinction (M) merit (P) pass



APPLICATION PROCESS

Thursday 17th November 2022 - Sixth Form Information Event

This will be your opportunity to meet with our post 16 teaching staff and tutors. Each subject that we offer in sixth form will have a stand at the information event where you can find out more about the subject and entry requirements. You will have the opportunity to look at what each subject includes and speak to the teaching staff who currently teach those subjects at A level or BTEC Level 3. Our careers adviser will also be at the event if you feel you need any further advice or guidance on your future options.

Friday 18th November 2022 - Applications open

Online and paper application forms will be available. See Mrs Lockley or Mr Martin with any questions about the application form. The prospectus will only be available online via the school website www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk

Friday 16th January 2023

Deadline for applications.

February 2023 - Interviews

Interview with Mrs Lockley, including a discussion about your application, the subjects that you are choosing and what your future plans are. Parents are invited to attend the meeting if they would like to.

End of February 2023 - Conditional offer of a place

You will receive a letter informing you if your application has been successful and whether or not we will be offering you a conditional place of study at Bloxwich Academy sixth form for September 2023.

All offers are conditional, and will only become final following your GCSE results in August 2023.



A Level Art and Design

Coursework/Exam Split
60% Coursework, 40% Exam



Overview

The Fine Art course will give students the opportunity to explore different art and design contexts such as portraiture, landscape, still life, human form, abstraction, experimental imagery, narrative, installation and working in a genre.

Students will explore research and acquire techniques and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of Fine Art media. They will look at relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to Fine Art. They will learn to use many traditional methods and/or digital techniques to produce fine art work.

Sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work where appropriate. Students must be able to demonstrate an ability to work within relevant frameworks and use a broad range of media. They must develop independence in relation to exploring their own ideas and lines of enquiry, refining intentions and producing personal outcomes.

They will be expected to demonstrate specialisation in particular materials, media or processes to allow for an appropriate depth of study. This can be achieved by working toward the extension and development of particular themes, ideas or issues.

Drawing skills are paramount to the course and will be understood and developed as appropriate to the ways of recording and communicating intentions, ideas and emotions in the context of fine art.

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade 6 in GCSE art. They will also be people who spend time outside school developing their artistic skills

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who love art and have a real passion for personal expression.

Assessment

Component 1: Personal Investigation

This component is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Candidates should produce two elements: A portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario, or stimulus, this should be based on an area of their own interest.

A related study of continuous prose with a guided minimum of 1,000 words.

Component 2: Externally Set Task

This component is internally assessed and externally moderated.

The early release paper will be issued in February for year 13 and will provide candidates with a number of themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points, briefs and stimuli. Students will select one task to base their final response on. The final piece must be completed in 15 hours.

Career Progression

Possible career paths that this course will support include advertising, graphic design, curating, art restoration, photography, fashion, film production, art education, teaching and many more.



A Level Biology

Coursework/Exam Split
100% Exam



Overview

The course consists of 8 modules at A Level including:

1. Biological molecules (chemical structures of common biological compounds).
2. Cells (structure and functions of different cell types and roles of parts of the cell).
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment (Heart, lungs and how these systems exchange substances with the environment).
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms.
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (Homeostasis and the nervous system).
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.
8. The control of gene expression.

Entry Requirements

You need to have achieved at least two **grade 6's** in GCSE Sciences.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who have good mathematical skills who are intending to study a variety of sciences further at degree level. A2 biology is essential to students intending to study biology and the various biological sciences at degree level. It is also essential to the various

Assessment

Paper 1 (35%) 2 Hours - 91 Marks

Based on topics 1-4 including relevant practical skills. Includes short and long answer questions and 15 extended response question.

Paper 2 (35%) 2 Hours - 91 Marks

Based on topics 5-8 including relevant practical skills. Includes short and long answer questions and 15 comprehension question.

Paper 3 (30%) 2 Hours - 78 Marks

Based on topics 1-8 including relevant practical skills. Includes structured questions on practical technique, critical analysis of given experimental data and 25 marks essay questions from a choice of two titles.

Career Progression

Careers in medicine, biochemistry, biotechnology and many lab based areas will require A2 biology. Animal science careers including veterinary science, zoology and marine zoology along with animal behaviour and animal husbandry are also areas of study that students with biology A level move into.

Biology is also recommended for nursing and other health based occupations.



A Level Chemistry

Coursework/Exam Split
100% Exam



Overview

The course consists of 3 sections each covered to a varying degree of depth for AS and A level. These include:

3.1 Physical Chemistry

- Atomic structure
- Amount of substance
- Bonding
- Energetics
- Kinetics
- Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle
- Oxidation, reduction and redox equations
- Thermodynamics
- Acid, Bases and Buffers
- Electrochemistry

3.2 Inorganic Chemistry

- Periodicity
- Group 2, the alkaline earth metals
- Group 7(17), the halogens
- Period 3

3.3 Organic Chemistry

- Introduction to organic chemistry
- Alkanes
- Halogenoalkanes
- Alkenes
- Alcohols
- Organic analysis
- Carboxylic acids
- Aromatics
- Acylation and Amines
- Spectroscopy

Entry Requirements

You need to have achieved at least two grade 6's in GCSE Sciences.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who have good mathematical skills who are intending to study sciences further at degree level. Chemistry is the required subject for admission to medical school and is valuable to students intending to study all aspects of biology and biomedical sciences.

Assessment

Paper 1 (35%) 2 Hours - 105 Marks
Including relevant practical skills. Includes both short and long answer questions

Paper 2 (35%) 2 Hours - 105 Marks
Including relevant practical skills. Includes both short and long answer questions

Paper 3 (30%) 2 Hours - 90 Marks
Including structured questions on practical technique, critical analysis of given experimental data, 20 marks on questions from across the specification and 10 marks of multiple choice questions.

Career Progression

A-level chemistry is regarded as an indicative subject for thinking skills in many professions such as medicine. In addition to being essential to many scientific careers, the subject is used as an indicator of aptitude for professions as diverse as accountancy to law. Many students doing chemistry opt into university courses involving You need to have achieved at least two chemical engineering, pharmacy and dentistry.

A Level Computer Science

Coursework/Exam Split

70% Exam, 20% Project



Overview

Computer Science is not the same as ICT! At the heart of Computer Science is the development of computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. The subject is practical – learners will apply classroom learning to real-world systems and write and test significant amounts of code. The subject is creative – learners will blend ideas and methods to create inventive solutions to problems. The subject is academic – learners must apply high level powers of analysis, evaluation and decision-making to produce elegant and accurate results. Throughout this course there will be an emphasis on problem solving using computers, computer programming and algorithms, and the mathematical skills such as Boolean algebra used to express computational laws and processes.

A Level lessons are delivered using practical, hands-on methods where possible. Programming is not taught in isolation – it is applied to produce solutions that illuminate and clarify other aspects of theory relevant to the course. Students will be exposed to several programming paradigms and languages – they will also be encouraged to explore additional options through self-study. No prior experience of Computing is required, although we would expect students to have achieved at least a grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE level. However, a passion for computing is much more important and we would be delighted to consider any student who is fascinated by computer technology and is willing to work hard and try their very best

Assessment

Paper 1: Computer Systems (Written paper 2 ½ hours – 40% of A Level)

Paper 2: Algorithms and Programming (Written paper 2 ½ hours – 40% of A Level)

Project: Programming Project (Non-exam teacher assessment – 20% of A Level)

Is this course for me?

On completion of Computer Science courses most students look back on a challenging but very rewarding achievement. They feel that the skills they learn will be good preparation for future study and vocational responsibility. Some have maintained an interest in programming and database development, and have found useful applications later on in their careers.

Career Progression

Computer Science, Software Engineering, Programming, IT, Computer Game Design, Creative Media.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in Maths



A Level English Language

Coursework/Exam Split
80% Exam, 20% Coursework

edexcel 

Overview

A-Level English Language offers opportunities for learners to develop their subject expertise by engaging creatively and critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. Learners will create texts and reflect critically on their own processes of production, while analysing the texts produced by others. A-Level learners will:

- Explore the study of English Language both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right.
- Pursue lines of enquiry, debate different views, and work independently to research aspects of language in use.
- Study how language as a symbolic system is used to assert power in society.
- Develop methods of language analysis to explore concepts of audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation in their wider social, geographical and temporal contexts.
- Undertake an independent language investigation on a study of spoken, written or multimodal data, or a mixture of text types, demonstrating knowledge in areas of individual interest.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

Language, the Individual and Society explores Textual Variations and Representations as well as Children's Language Development Language Diversity and Change explores the movement that variety has brought to our language and Language Discourses.

Class work that counts!

Non-exam assessed: a language investigation and a piece of original writing and commentary (20%)

Is this course for me?

If you have an inquisitive mind, a thirst to understand the English language in greater depth and to explore how language is being used to influence you, then this course is for you.

Cant decide?

Literature and Language Combined Methods of Language analysis through Imagined Worlds, Poetic Voices, Remembered Places, Re-creative writing, Critical Commentary and writing about society

Class work that counts!

Non-exam assessment: Making connections – investigation on a chosen theme and texts (20%)



A Level English Literature

Coursework/Exam Split
80% Exam, 20% Coursework



Overview

A-level English Literature encourages learners in their interest and enjoyment of literature and literary studies. A-level learners will:

- Read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves.
- Engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them.
- Develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation.
- Explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them.
- Undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

The study of literature should encourage the enjoyment of literary studies based on an informed personal response to a range of texts. This is further underpinned by establishing critical discussions of texts and their potential meanings, using such engagement to inform diverse interpretations. Love through the ages delves through Shakespeare, Unseen poetry and Comparing texts, allowing you to transfer all your GCSE knowledge.

Texts in shared contexts explores a range of set texts and contextual linking to bring places in time to life. Class work that counts!

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical studies: texts across the time. (20%)

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who enjoy thinking outside the box and those who have an interest in Literature and wish for this to be enhanced and enriched. This A-level course builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding established at GCSE level whilst introducing learners to the discipline of advanced literary studies. The course is suitable for learners who enjoy reading across the range of literary forms: poetry, prose and drama. A-level will extend the breadth and depth of literary understanding, furthering skills of analysis, evaluation and comparison.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.



A Level Film Studies

Coursework/Exam Split

70% Exam, 30% Non-Exam Assessment (coursework)



Overview

The study of film is fast becoming one of the most popular A level courses in the creative A level options. You will sit the course over a two year period to gain a full A level qualification at the end of year 13. A Level Film Studies is designed to broaden students' knowledge and understanding of film and the variety of meanings and responses films can generate. You will study a wide variety of films: British and American films (both mainstream and independent), you will also look at European and World cinema. Studies in documentary, silent film, experimental and short films will add to the breadth of your learning experience. Production work is a crucial part of this course, and you will be given the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed through your own film-making and screenwriting.

Is this course for me?

First and foremost, you must enjoy different styles and types of films and watch them regularly. You should be curious and critical about things you watch and are told in films and documentaries and be confident to criticise and ask questions. You need to be confident to write essays, both of the exams consist only of essay style questions and you need to be prepared to work hard, write at length and conduct a lot of independent study away from the classroom. You also need to be creative, as part of the course will be practical and you will have to design and make your own short film.

Career Progression

Film Studies can help with analytical skills which are required in a wide range of professions. Typically, students of this subject may choose to follow a course in a similar area at degree level, such as Film or Media Studies. They can also choose to study at degree level in English, Social Sciences, Journalism or other creative subjects. Typical career paths involve film-making, work within digital/social media and animation, Journalism, Performing Arts, etc. This subject suits other A level subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, English, Art and Performing Arts.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Literature/Language to study Film Studies. If you study BTEC Media at KS4 you will also need at least a Merit Grade



A Level Geography

Coursework/Exam Split
80% Exam, 20% Coursework



Overview

Geography is a love for the world around us and how to create global links. Geography provides both excellent preparation for the independent learning required at university and the wider skills sought by employers. By studying geography, you will learn in a variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, podcasts and through residential fieldwork. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and demonstrate your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing.

Students will study a range of subjects, both physical and human:

- Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Water and Carbon
- Natural Hazards
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Changing Places
- Global Systems and Global Governance.

All of these modules build on the fundamental skills taught at GCSE.

Entry Requirements

Students must have achieved GCSE Grade 5 in Geography. GCSE Maths at Grade 5 is preferred due to numerical skill being vital.

Assessment

Paper 1: Physical Geography 40%
Paper 2: Human Geography 40%
NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) 20%

The NEA will allow students to choose an area of Geography that interests them- finding research to determine the outcome of a geographical enquiry. For A Level Geography there is a compulsory requirement for fieldwork to be undertaken in both urban and rural areas. This will consist of 2 overnight trips.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who want to learn more about how the world around us interacts- linking to human geography such as urbanisation and globalisation, and physical geography linking to natural hazards and coasts.

Career Progression

Geography can lead to a range of careers, with most leading too travel and tourism careers, environmental land planner or teaching. Students will be well prepared for any career working in society or within rural areas.



A Level History

Coursework/Exam Split
80% Exam, 20% Coursework



Overview

Studying History A Level is both fascinating and provides students chronological breadth as well as an opportunity to study key events, periods and individuals from the past. History is a subject that encourages students to critically evaluate and interpret evidence in order to develop reasoned hypotheses and form balanced judgments.

Paper 1 is the Breadth study focusing on The Tudors: England, 1485-1603. This involves the study of significant historical developments and different historical interpretations. Students will learn about the fascinating reign of each Tudor Monarch, from the Henry VII: 'The Winter King' to the triumphant reign of Elizabeth I.

Paper 2 is the Depth study focusing on Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-1945. This involves the study in depth of a major historical change, examining Germany's 'journey' from a democracy to a dictatorship. It is investigated through the enhancement of knowledge and skills developed at GCSE. The qualification is completed with coursework based on an area of investigation. They will then be guided through a historical enquiry in which research, analyse and evaluate existing historical interpretations then organise and communicate the findings.

Entry Requirements

It is important for students to have the ability to express complicated arguments logically and coherently in written form. Consequently, they need a minimum of a grade 5 in History, English language & literature.

Assessment

Paper 1 Breadth Study:
The Tudors 1485 -1603
2 hours 30 minutes – 40%

Paper 2 Depth Study
Democracy & Nazism: Germany 1918 – 1945.
2 hours 30 minutes – 40%
Coursework: 3500 – 4500 words – 20%

Is this course for me?

This course suitable for people who possess critical abilities and can think and make decisions. The skills of literacy, communication, reasoning and expression are integral to the study of this subject. History will complement most subject combinations, whilst also stimulating the student's awareness and comprehension of the world today. Above all, students should be genuinely interested in the subject.

Career Progression

There are certain areas for which history has a particular relevance, especially in the fields of journalism and law. However, people with a qualification in the subject can be found in all walks of life – industry, business, politics, civil service, accountancy and teaching. For many, an interest in History is lifelong. People in the public eye who have studied History at degree level include Jonathan Ross (TV presenter), Louis Theroux (TV Presenter), Sir Howard Stringer (Chairman of Sony), Jeremy Bowen (Foreign correspondent for BBC).



A Level Law

Coursework/Exam Split

100% Exam



Overview

Law affects virtually all aspects of our lives and regulates much of our everyday activity. Studying A level Law will give you an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raise your awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

During the course, you will study criminal and civil law and develop your ability to analyse legal rules and principles and factual issues. You will learn how to construct persuasive legal arguments to offer answers to problems and case studies and evaluate the strength of those arguments.

By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, you will also develop your analytical ability, decision-making, critical thinking and problemsolving skills. All these skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers.

Topics are clearly structured and include:

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Private law
- Public law
- Legal skills

Entry Requirements

A grade 5 or above in English language at GCSE. If you studied History at GCSE, we would also want you to have that at a grade 5 or above.

Is this course for me?

Enjoy reading and researching, are good at looking at both sides of an argument or situation and have a genuine interest in the law and wider society. This also suits being studied alongside A level English, History or any of the social sciences.

Career Progression

Studying A level Law will enable you to go on and study Law, Criminology, English or History at university. You may eventually want to train as a Barrister, Solicitor or work for the Police.



A Level Mathematics

Coursework/Exam Split
100% Exam



Overview

The units of this course have been designed to encourage students to:

- Develop abilities to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, to generalise and to construct mathematical proofs.
- Extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and use them in 'real-world' problems and standard and other mathematical models and how these can be refined and improved.
- Use Mathematics as an effective means of communication.
- Develop an awareness of the relevance of Mathematics to other fields of study, to the world of work and to society in general.

Through studying the Pure units you will study Algebra and function, Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and series, Differentiation, Integration, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Algorithms, Numerical methods and Vectors.

In Statistics and Mechanics, you will study Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Law.

Assessment

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (33.3%)
2 Hours - 100 Marks

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (33.3%)
2 Hours - 100 Marks

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (33.3%)
2 Hours 100 Marks

Is this course for me?

Excelled at and enjoyed GCSE Mathematics and relish the challenge of unfamiliar problems. You must be passionate about Mathematics and be resilient when faced with a challenge.

Career Progression

This course equips students with the skills necessary for a wide variety of careers and higher education courses from Medicine to the Social sciences.

Entry Requirements

At least a **Grade 6** in GCSE Mathematics is required.



A Level Media Studies

Coursework/Exam Split

70% Exam, 30% Coursework



Overview

A Level Media Studies is the study of the media industry and the products within it. What Will I Learn The new A Level Media Studies course qualification is split into four key areas of study:

- 1: Media Language
- 2: Media Representation
- 3: Media Industries
- 4: Media Audiences

Paper 1 will focus on issues and debates in the media industry, with the theme of 'Media Messages'. You will study a range of texts such as popular newspapers, music videos and advertising campaigns through the years. Paper 2 will focus on an analysis of 'Close Study Products (CSP's) which you will study in depth before the exam. The theme of this paper will be 'Evolving Media'. These are media products are provided by the exam board. This exam will be a mixture of short and extended answer questions. You will study texts such as The Jungle Book (2016), The Radio 1 Breakfast Show, The Guardian newspaper and music videos in depth. You will also study a long form TV Drama such as 'Homeland' or 'Stranger Things'.

Assessment

The qualification will be taught as a full 2 year course with your exams at the end of year 13. The course will consist of two exams, these will make up 70% of your final grade.

- Paper 1 (35%) - 2 hour written exam
- Paper 2 (35%) - 2 hour written exam
- NEA (coursework element) – 30%

Is this course for me?

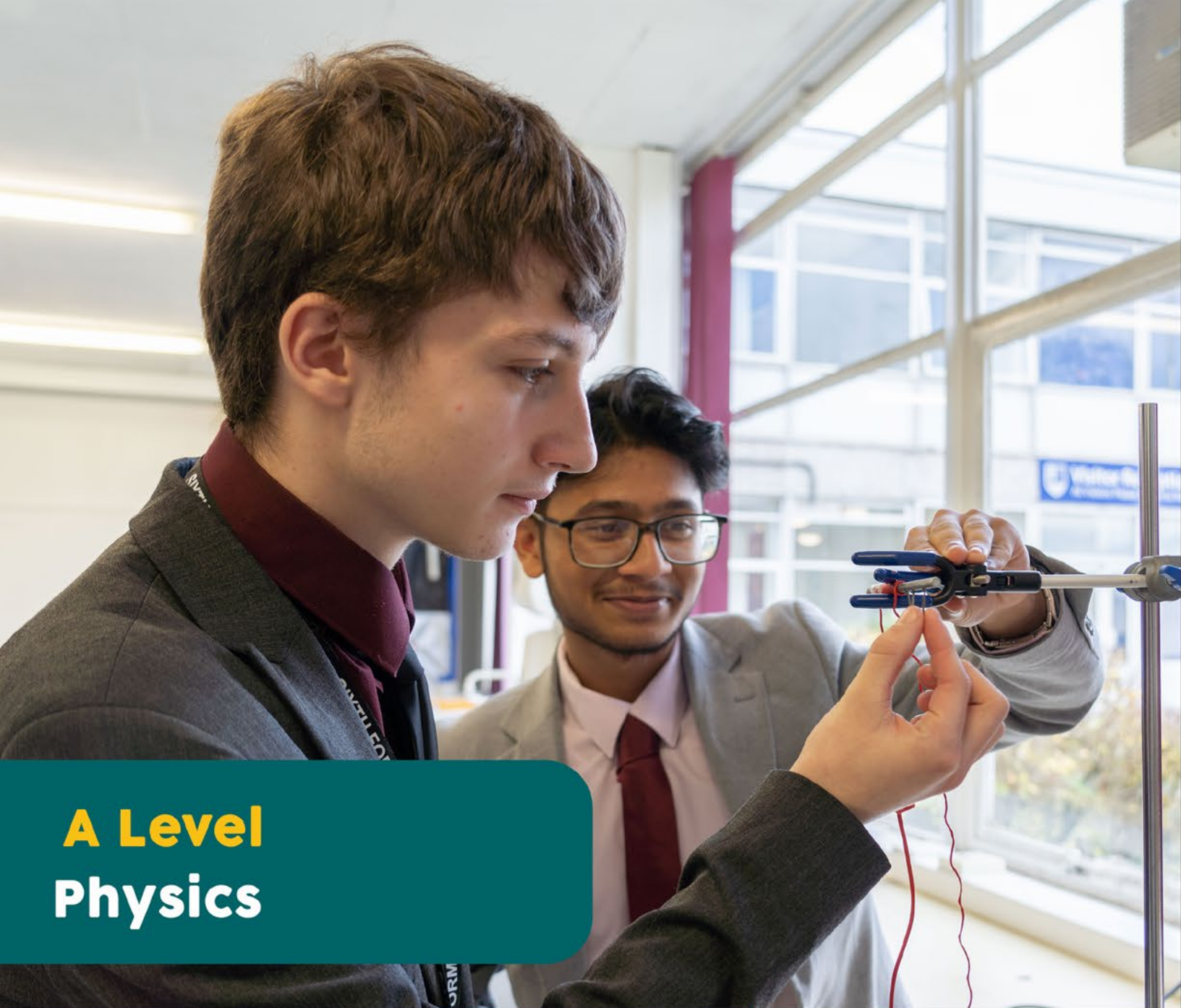
You must have a real interest in media products. You should be the type of person who watches films, TV shows and adverts, pays attention to the news and current affairs and uses a wide range of media products in their day to day lives.

Career Progression

You could go onto study Media or a related subject at university. You could also go onto study English, Law or Social Sciences as many of the skills you will develop through studying Media are transferable to these types of degree courses.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or above in English Literature or English Language



A Level Physics

Coursework/Exam Split
100% Exam



Overview

The compulsory modules are:

1. Measurements and their Errors
2. Particles and Radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and Materials
5. Electricity
6. Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
7. Fields and their Consequences
8. Nuclear Physics

The option choice includes: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics and Electronics.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who have excellent mathematical skills who are intending the study of numerical based scientific and technical degree subjects – study of the subject at A2 level relies on mathematical skills taught within AS Mathematics.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Combined Science and a minimum Grade 6 in Maths.

Assessment

Three Papers (2 Hours Each)

Paper 1 - 85 Marks (34%)

Questions – 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content

Paper 2 - 85 Marks (34%)

Questions – 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content.

Paper 3 - 80 marks (32%)

Questions – 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis and 35 marks of short and long answer questions on optional topic

Career Progression

In addition to being essential to the study of all branches of Physics, Advanced level physics is important for successful entry to and completion of all branches of Engineering.

The subject is also useful for mathematical modelling of the real world and has applications in the computer game industry and in risk analysis in finance.



A Level Psychology

Coursework/Exam Split

100% Exam



Overview

Psychology is the 'study of the mind'. The course is designed to help you understand human thinking and behaviour.

Paper 1 consists of Introductory Topics in Psychology, including Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2 is designed to look at Psychology in Context. Areas covered include Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods. Although Research Methods is a standalone topic, Research Methods questions can be imbedded in any of the topics covered.

Paper 3 is studied during the second year of the course and covers Issues and Options in Psychology. Content includes topics such as Issues and Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

Is this course for me?

People who want to learn more about the human mind and how our behaviour is shaped by our life experiences.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English, Mathematics and Science.

Assessment

The course is 100% exam. There are three papers (Paper 1, Paper 2 and Paper 3) each worth 33.3% of the A level qualification. Each section has 24 marks worth of questions except for Research Methods which is 48 marks. The papers are 2 hours long and include a range of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions. 10% of your assessment will consist of mathematical skills.

Career Progression

Psychology opens the door to many job opportunities, not solely working as a psychologist. Some Psychology graduates go onto graduate schemes in large companies, as this subject helps you understand how to work with others. Common types of employment for Psychology graduates are: management in any company, sports coaching, training and human resources, police, probation, prison service, nursing or care worker, hospitals, clinical psychologist, social worker, teachers, lecturers and researchers.

Subject Requirements

You will be required to write essays, analyse statistics and understand many biological concepts.

If you studied Psychology at GCSE we ask for at least a Grade 5. However, you do not have to have studied it previously in order to choose this subject at A level.



A Level Sociology

Coursework/Exam Split

100% Exam



Overview

Sociology is the study of 'Society'. The course is designed to help you understand the way that people work in society. For example, it asks questions like why do crimes happen? Is education a good thing or a brainwashing technique to control working class people? Is religion a way of controlling people to work for the rich? Are divorce rates meaning there is no such thing as a 'family'? You would study the following topics: 'Families and Households', 'Education', 'Beliefs in Society' and 'Crime and Deviance'.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who want to learn more about how society works, and how we are influenced by the decisions that the government and religious organisations have on our behaviour.

This complements the Psychology course well, and uses similar examination skills.

Assessment

The course is 100% exam. There are three papers each worth 33.3%.

They are each worth 80 marks and are 2 hours long. They include a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions with the biggest questions being worth 30 marks.

Career Progression

There are many career opportunities open to people who do Sociology, not solely being a sociologist. Most Sociology graduates go on to graduate schemes, and work in large corporations. The following are other common types of employment by Sociology graduates: management in any company, criminologist, teaching, politician, working in the criminal justice system, lecturer, nursing, child care, social worker, journalist and lawyer.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English, Mathematics and Science.



BTEC **Business**

Course availability is dependent on the Department of Education guidance

Coursework/Exam Split

70% Exam, 30% Coursework



Overview

This is a two year programme consisting of three mandatory units and one optional unit. Assessment of the four units comprises of an external examination, an assignment completed under controlled conditions and two internally assessed units. The examination and controlled assessment are worth 60% of the overall marks, with the internally assessed units making up the remaining 40% of the qualification.

The mandatory units are as follows:

Unit 1 – Exploring Business

Unit 2 – Developing a marketing campaign

Unit 3 – Personal and Business finance

Assessment

Unit 1 is an internally assessed unit using the BTEC marking scheme. Each assignment is marked against Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria.

Unit 2 is an externally assessed piece of work, completed as a controlled assignment. The work is marked by BTEC assessors against a grading criteria.

Unit 3 is an externally assessed examination which is 2 hours long.

The exam paper consist of questions relating to personal finance and business finance.

The final optional unit can be selected from a choice of 5 units and will be assessed internally using the BTEC marking criteria. At the end of the programme, all of the marks are combined together to give an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who are considering employment in the business sector; who want to develop personal skills and attributes for a successful working life; who want to progress to degree or HND courses at university in business, accounting, economics or management, as well as more specialised degrees in marketing for example. There are many degree courses which combine business or management with other subjects.

Career Progression

Careers options include business management (as an employee or entrepreneur) banking and finance, including accountancy, sales and marketing including events management. Specialist areas such as marketing can be studied at university, or the subject can be combined with a variety of subjects for joint degrees.

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in Maths and English. You do not need to have studied Business previously to take this course.



BTEC **Childcare**

Coursework/Exam Split

50% Coursework, 25% Exam, 25% Assessment



Overview

The course is designed for students who are interested in child care and are considering entering a child care profession such as an Early Years professional.

The course content looks at many aspects of children's development which is vital for working with children in an early years setting. You will also look at the development of children's communication, literacy and numeracy skills where you will gain an understanding of how children develop literacy, numeracy and communication skills and how to promote and support this development.

You will also cover a unit looking at play and learning where you will study the benefits of play, the influence of theories and approaches to play, and how to provide and support purposeful play and learning activities for children. Finally, you will look at keeping children safe where you will study the responsibilities of a professional to promote and maintain health and safety, and what to do in an emergency or when there are concerns about a child's welfare.

During this course you will also complete a fifty hour at one setting, with children aged from birth to 7 years 11 months.

Assessment

All coursework is marked using the BTEC marking scheme and holds A-Level equivalence. Each individual task will be marked pass, merit, distinction.

You will complete 4 units over the course. At the end of your course students will receive an overall mark that convert into UCAS points. The overall grades are as follows: Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction*.

You will need to produce:

- Portfolio Work
- Internal Assignments
- External Assignments
- 50 hour work placement

Is this course for me?

Students should be hard-working, able to meet deadlines, are good at working with children and have a genuine interest in the Early Years profession.

Career Progression

Nursery Nurse, Early Years Teacher, Early Years Assistant, Creche Practitioner, Special Needs Support Worker, Learning Support or Nanny.

Entry Requirements

A grade 6 in Child Care at GCSE level is desirable.



BTEC Criminology

Coursework/Exam Split
50% Exam, 50% Coursework



Overview

Criminology is the study of crime, order and criminal justice. It considers both psychological and sociological aspects of crime.

The first topic during this course looks at different types of crime and how the media portrays criminals. You will then develop your knowledge of why people commit crime during the second topic. These are both covered during Year 12.

Moving into Year 13, the third topic considers how offenders are prosecuted. For example, should we trust eyewitness testimonies of crime? The final topic considers how offenders are punished and whether these punishments are effective and appropriate. In summary, criminology will allow you to further your understanding of crime in many ways.

Career Progression

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.

The qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service. It also supports access to a wide range of higher education degree courses at University such as BSc Criminology.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Language

Assessment

Two pieces of coursework and two external exams.

Unit 1 – Changing awareness of crime
(internal assessment)

Unit 2 – Criminological theories
(external assessment)

Unit 3 – Crime scene to Courtroom
(internal assessment)

Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment
(external assessment)

Is this course for me?

This course is suitable for people who are interested in learning about different types of crime and their representation in the media. Within the coursework elements, students will plan, design and justify their choice of a campaign for change relating to crime.

Students will also discuss different reasons why a person might commit a crime and also discuss the aims of punishments for offenders.



BTEC Health and Social Care

Coursework/Exam Split

Two internally assessed units - 42%
Two externally assessed units - 58%



Overview

This course is designed for students who are interested in health and social care and are considering a caring profession such as nursing, social work, midwifery, rehabilitation following treatment and probation services. The course content looks at many aspects of Health and Social care including effective communication, safeguarding adults, promoting health education, health, safety and security, equality, diversity and rights as well as exploring working in the health sector. Students will develop a variety of skills including independent learning, investigation and research skills as well as data handling and analysis.

Career Progression

Health and social care is a popular degree subject in its own right, although many students choose to go into midwifery, social work, teaching and nursing. Jobs in this field include advice worker/personal advisor, charity officer, civil service administrator, administrator, FE lecturer, health service manager, local government administrator, nutritional therapist, physiotherapist, probation officer, social worker, nurse, midwife, advocate and many more.

Entry Requirements

A grade 4 in English Literature and English Language is desirable.

Assessment

All internally assess assignment are marked using the BTEC marking scheme and hold an A Level equivalence. The externally marked units will be assessed and marked by Edexcel.

Externally Assessed Units

- Unit 1 Human Lifespan Development
- Unit 2 Working in Health and Social care

Internally Assessed Units

- Unit 5
Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Unit 14
Physiological Disorders and their Care

Each task, internally and externally assessed, will be marked pass, merit or distinction. At the end of the course students will receive an overall mark that will convert into UCAS points.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who have an interest in the caring professions such as nursing, midwifery, social work, probation services and other caring professions.

It is suitable for students who are willing to work hard, who are good at communication their opinion, whilst sensitive to the views of others.



BTEC Health and Social Care Double

Course availability is dependent on the Department of Education guidance

Coursework/Exam Split

5 Units Internally Assessed, 3 External Examinations
Examinations worth 46%. Internally assessed units worth
54%



Overview

This course is designed for students who are interested in health and social care and are considering a caring profession such as nursing, social work, midwifery, rehabilitation following treatment and probation services.

The course content looks at many aspects of Health and Social care including effective communication, safeguarding adults, promoting health education, health, safety and security, equality, diversity and rights as well as exploring working in the health sector.

Students will develop a variety of skills including independent learning, investigation and research skills as well as data handling and analysis.

Career Progression

Health and social care is a popular degree subject in its own right, although many students choose to go into midwifery, social work, teaching and nursing.

Jobs in this field include advice worker/personal advisor, charity officer, civil service administrator, administrator, FE lecturer, health service manager, local government administrator, nutritional therapist, physiotherapist, probation officer, social worker, nurse, midwife, advocate and many more.

Entry Requirements

A grade 4 in English Literature and English Language is desirable

Assessment

All internally assess assignment are marked using the BTEC marking scheme and hold an A Level equivalency. The externally marked units will be assessed and marked by Edexcel.

Externally Assessed Units

Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development

Unit 2 - Working in Health and Social care

Unit 4 - Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care

Internally Assessed Units

Unit 5 - Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Unit 7 - Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social care

Unit 8 - Promoting Public Health

Unit 12 - Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs

Unit 14 - Physiological Disorders and their Care

Each task, internally and externally assessed, will be marked pass, merit or distinction. At the end of the course students will receive an overall mark that will convert into UCAS points.

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who have an interest in the caring professions such as nursing, midwifery, social work, probation services and other caring professions.

It is suitable for students who are willing to work hard, who are good at communication their opinion, whilst sensitive to the views of others.



BTEC IT single award

Coursework/Exam Split

75% Coursework, 25% Exam



Assessment

Unit 1 – Information Technology Systems – External Exam (Paper)

Unit 2 – Creating Systems To Manage Information – External Exam (Computer)

Unit 11 – Cyber Security and Incident Management – External Exam (Computer)

Unit 3 – Using Social Media in Business – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Unit 6 – Website Development – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Unit 4 – Programming – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Unit 8 – Computer Games Development – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Unit 9 – IT Project Management – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Is this course for me?

This course is suitable for people who are thinking of a career within the ICT or computing industry and want to develop their technical skills. This course is designed for the students who want to further their knowledge of the ICT sector and build on or improve their computer science skills.

Students will also examine the impact that the use of ICT tools has had on the way in which we approach problems in organizations and how we use tools to solve them. Students will develop key transferable thinking skills such as problem solving, robotics, coding thinking logically, creatively and critically to analyse the issues they come across in ICT and how these can be resolved.

Career Progression

Website designer, games designer, programmer, analyst graphic designer, database designer, network engineer, software engineer electronics engineer, network manager, technical support, digital empowerment manager and many more.

Entry Requirements

Interest and good comprehension of IT systems
Level 2 qualification in related subject and awareness of programming is essential.



BTEC **IT double award**

Coursework/Exam Split

75% Coursework, 25% Exam



Overview

This is a two year programme consisting of three mandatory units and one optional unit. Assessment of the four units comprises of an external examination, an assignment completed under controlled conditions and two internally assessed units. This qualification is the equivalent of one A-Level subject.

Assessment

Unit 1 – Information Technology Systems – External Exam (Paper)

Unit 2 – Creating Systems To Manage Information – External Exam (Computer)

Unit 3 – Using Social Media in Business – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Unit 6 – Website Development – Internally Assessed (2 Assignments)

Is this course for me?

This course is suitable for people who are thinking of a career within the ICT or computing industry and want to develop their technical skills. This course is designed for the students who want to further their knowledge of the ICT sector and build on or improve their computer science skills.

Students will also examine the impact that the use of ICT tools has had on the way in which we approach problems in organizations and how we use tools to solve them. Students will develop key transferable thinking skills such as problem solving, robotics, coding thinking logically, creatively and critically to analyse the issues they come across in ICT and how these can be resolved.

Career Progression

Website designer, games designer, programmer, analyst graphic designer, database designer, network engineer, software engineer electronics engineer, network manager, technical support, digital empowerment manager and many more.

Entry Requirements

Interest and good comprehension of IT systems
Level 2 qualification in related subject and awareness of programming is essential.



BTEC Performing Arts

Coursework/Exam Split

75% Coursework, 25% Exam



Overview

You will complete units in a range of different performing arts styles, playing to your individual strengths. You will study the following core units to develop new skills, giving you a chance to work in a wide variety of performance situations, explore progression opportunities and reflect on your work.

The core skills you will develop through studying performing arts are:

- Performance workshop
- Performing to an audience
- Musical theatre
- Dance
- Acting
- Historical context of theatre

Is this course for me?

The course is suitable for people who are passionate about the performing arts and want to build upon performing skills; it will also build confidence and allow students to reach their potential.

Entry Requirements

Some acting or performing arts experience is desirable whether that be GCSE or BTEC. Applicants with no specific dance qualifications who have attended performing arts clubs outside of school will be considered.

Assessment

You will apply their learning through practical assessments in the form of internally assessed assignments and externally assessed tasks.

External Units:

Unit 1:

Investigating practitioner work (*mandatory*)

Unit 3:

Group performance workshop (*mandatory*)

Internal Units:

Unit 2:

Developing skills and techniques for live performance (*mandatory*)

Another unit will be chosen by your teacher

Career Progression

BTEC Performing Arts allows you to further your skills on a degree course, or Higher Apprenticeship or start your career in performing arts, in roles such as acting, directing, stage management or theatre design.



BTEC Sport

Coursework/Exam Split

33% Coursework, 67% Exam



Overview

For the BTEC Sport Level 3 qualification, pupils have the option of completing the 'Extended Certificate' or 'Diploma'. The Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A-level and the Diploma equivalent to 2 A-levels. The course gives students a broad basis of study for the sport sector. The qualification is designed to support progression to higher education courses and job roles related to the sport sector. It provides progression by meeting entry requirements to higher education alongside other qualifications at the same level.

Is this course for me?

The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and or ultimately to employment in the sport sector. Students should be hard-working, able to meet deadlines as well as have a passion for sport. There are both theoretical and practical element to the qualification throughout.

Career Progression

Some example of Higher Education progression are: Sports Development and Management, Sports Management, Sports Business Management, Sport and Leisure Management, Sports Science (Outdoor Activities), Exercise, Health and Fitness, Sport and Exercise Psychology.

Entry Requirements

A Merit in BTEC Level 2 Sport is desirable.

Some examples of Sport sector job opportunities are: Leisure and Fitness Industry, Personal Training, Physiotherapy, Teaching, Sports Coaching, Sports psychology, Sports Coaching, Sports Management, Elite Sport.

Assessment

Units for the EXTENDED CERTIFICATE:
Learners will study 3 mandatory units and 1 optional units:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

Units for the DIPLOMA:

Learners will study 6 mandatory units and 3 optional units:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 4: Sports Leadership

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

Unit 22: Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry

Unit 23: Skill Acquisition in Sport.

Unit 25: Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport

Unit 26: Technical and Tactical Demands of Sport



West Bromwich Albion Football Programme

Overview

Alongside pupil's education, they have the opportunity to participate in the West Bromwich Albion football programme. There are 3 hours of training per week with WBA football coaches and fixtures on a Wednesday afternoon in the AOC British Colleges Football League.

Training will involve:

Fitness work: weight training, aqua and Cardio Fitness.

Technical: passing, shooting, receiving, defending, movement, heading, ball protection, attacking and dribbling.

Tactical: phases of play, conditioned matches, match analysis and SSG (Small Sided Games).

Assessment & Future Opportunities

- NGB (National Governing Body) Qualification Opportunities, such as: FA Level 1, Refereeing, Personal training and leadership courses.
- 4 year Football Scholarship at University in USA (combined with a degree of their choice).
- Sports related degree at a UK University.
- Future Jobs: Physiotherapy, Sports Coaching, PE Teaching, Fitness Instructor, Personal Trainer, Sport & Leisure Management, Sport Development Officer etc.
- Full Time employment within the Sport & Leisure Industry.
- To play Semi Professional Football.

Entry Requirements

Any pupil at sixth form can participate in the WBA Football Programme alongside their chosen pathway of study.



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