Blythe Bridge High School & Sixth Form

2022-23
Sixth Form Prospectus

PRIDE. RESPECT. KINDNESS.

BTEC Applied Science

Course Overview

The emphasis throughout the course is on increasing knowledge, developing competence and confidence in practical skills and developing problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how science contributes to the success of the economy and society.

BTEC applied science is an interesting and challenging learning experience, linking key scientific ideas and understanding how they relate to each other. Throughout the course you will develop transferable skills including: investigative, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical skills and analytical skills.

Assessment Structure

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science

The topic areas covered in this unit include: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications. Externally assessed through three 40-minute examinations.

Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

This unit introduces you to standard laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetry, calorimetry, chromatography, calibration procedures and laboratory safety. Through the practical tasks in the unit, you will develop proficiency in the quantitative analytical techniques of titration and colorimetry, including learning to calculate the concentration of solutions. You will also have the opportunity to calibrate equipment and will be encouraged to be aware of the safety aspects of given laboratory procedures and techniques. This unit is internally assessed through four assignments.

Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills

In this unit, you will develop the essential skills underpinning practical scientific investigations. As well as drawing on Unit 1 and Unit 2, these skills will be delivered through subject themes ranging from enzymes and diffusion to electrical circuits. To complete the assessment task within this unit, you will need to draw on your learning from across your programme. Science investigative skills will help you in many scientific or enquiry-based learning courses in higher education, as well as prepare you for employment in a science-related industry. This unit is externally assessed, Part A is a 45-minute practical and Part B a 90 minute write up and questions.

Teaching and Learning

The department prides itself in moving with the times and using a range of teaching and learning techniques. You will have several practicals to complete to support your understanding of key concepts. The science labs are well equipped for practical lessons.

Where will success take me?

The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects which would benefit from some scientific background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen. For example, taken alongside:

· A Levels such as Mathematics, Physics and Design and Technology to progress to engineering related courses

· A Level in Psychology and BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport to progress to sport psychology courses

· BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care to progress to nursing courses

Entry Requirements

To study BTEC applied science we recommend that students have at least grades 44 in GCSE science. We will consider each student on an individual basis for their suitability for the course.

A Level Fine Art

Course Overview

Students will be encouraged to develop: intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive attributes. Students will be investigative, analytical, experimental and practical in the use of technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. To study this course, you should be able to demonstrate some prior knowledge in Art. You should have studied GCSE Art or have a portfolio of your own art work from recent years.

What skills will I gain doing Fine Art?

● You will gain knowledge, understanding and application of art, craft, design media (traditional and new) and technologies in contemporary societies and cultures.

● You will gain awareness of sign, media (traditional different roles, function, audiences and consumers of art, craft and design practice.

● You will develop and present your own ideas and outcomes through a variety of 2D and 3D materials including traditional and new media, techniques and processes.

● You will present all of your portfolio work in an exhibition at the end of your course.

What topics are covered?

A2 – 60% Personal Investigation

A2 –40% Externally set task

Careers Link

· Interior designer
· Surface pattern designer
· Product designer
· Transport designer
· Model maker
· Film producer
· Costume designer
· Set designer
· Illustrator
· Architect
· Medical illustrator
· Court illustrator
· Art therapist
· Makeup artist
· Freelance artist
· Teacher

A Level Biology

Course Overview

The emphasis throughout the course is on increasing knowledge, developing competence and confidence in practical skills and developing problem solving. You will learn how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how science contributes to the success of the economy and society.

A level Biology is an interesting and challenging learning experience, linking key biological ideas and understanding how they relate to each other. Throughout the course you will develop transferable skills including: investigative, problem solving, research, decision making, mathematical skills and analytical skills.

A level Biology opens up a range of possibilities for further study and careers associated with the subject. Are you aiming to be a doctor, nurse or vet? Thinking of a career in research? Interested in the environment and the world around you? A problem solver? Interested in science? Keen on practical work? Studying other sciences or maths? If so, A Level Biology is for you.

Assessment Structure

The following modules are taught at A Level:

Module 1: *Development of practical skills in biology*

Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.

Module 2: *Foundations in biology*

Cell structure, biological molecules, nucleotides, enzymes, biological membranes, cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation.

Module 3: *Exchange and transport*

Exchange surfaces, transport in animals and transport in plants.

Module 4: *Biodiversity, evolution and disease*

Communicable disease, disease prevention, immune system, biodiversity, classification and evolution.

Module 5: *Communications, homeostasis and energy*

Communication and homeostasis, excretion, neuronal and hormonal communication, plant and animal responses, photosynthesis and respiration.

Module 6: *Genetics, evolution and ecosystems*

Cellular control, patterns of inheritance, manipulating genomes, cloning and biotechnology, ecosystems, populations and sustainability.

There are three examination papers (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the two-year course.

Teaching and Learning

The department prides itself in moving with the times and using a range of teaching and learning techniques. A minimum of 12 practical activities are planned throughout the two-year programme and class sizes are kept small to ensure that each student reaches their potential. The science labs are well equipped for practical lessons.

Where will success take me?

A Level Biology is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science. Biology can also complement sports science, psychology, sociology and many more. A Level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication. The transferable skills you will learn, such as problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.

Entry Requirements

To study A level Biology, we recommend that students have at least a grade 6 in GCSE biology (separate science) or grade 7 for combined science, as well as a grade 6 in maths.

A Level Business

Course Overview

As a linear A level course, business has evolved into an up to date and more relevant qualification. The use of real-life business case studies is far more frequent and the connection with external influences has greater importance.

All students studying the course will study business in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, UK focused, global, service, manufacturing) and consider:

· the importance of the context of business in relation to decision making.
· the interrelated nature of business activities and how they affect competitiveness.
· the competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate.
· the influences on functional decisions and plans including ethical and environmental issues.
· the factors that might determine whether a decision is successful e.g. the quality of data and the degree of uncertainty.
· how technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete.
· the impact on stakeholders of functional decisions and their response to such decisions.
· use of non-quantitative and quantitative data in decision making (including the interpretation of index numbers and calculations such as ratios and percentages).

Assessment Structure

The A level will have three exam papers at the end of the two-year course. All three papers have an equal weighting towards the overall A level, although the papers are all different in their assessment approach, from essay questions to multiple choice.

Teaching and Learning

The department prides itself in moving with the times and using a plethora of teaching and learning techniques to keep students up to date with the latest business case studies. Updates and materials are provided via FROG.

. A host of revision games are used by staff to make learning fun and recap on key terms and theories.
. Video clips are regularly used to enhance the learning experience and relate the theory to real life business case studies.
. Students regularly use computers to search for information and produce mini reports on topical business issues.

Where will success take me?

This A level will get you started in business and give you the skills and knowledge to progress to higher education. You could go on to work for a corporation, or maybe a management consultancy. All businesses (and other organisations like charities and hospitals) need sound business skills behind them. On a more general note A level business provides students with the opportunities to develop important skills and relevant tools that will be helpful in many courses and for employment.

Entry Requirements

We recommend that students have a grade 4 at GCSE Maths as some number crunching and using a calculator is important. GCSE business studies is an advantage but not a requirement at A Level.

Career Link

Possible career choices with A-level business studies include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.

A Level Chemistry

Course Overview

Students will 'think hard' during chemistry lessons to ensure that they develop a detailed knowledge of challenging concepts. Many concepts build on GCSE knowledge (such as atomic structure, bonding, exothermic reactions, ions, electrolysis, moles and the atmosphere) whilst new concepts (such as intermolecular forces, enthalpies, electronegativities, electron orbitals, entropy and organic reactions). Regular practical activities and experiments are carried out to support the theory being delivered. A minimum of 12 formal practical activities are carried out throughout the two-year course. These require analysis in a 'PAG' book. If criteria are met students will gain a pass grade for the practical endorsement which is a separate award to the A-level qualification. The science labs are well-equipped for practical lessons with an excellent equipment and chemical stock allowing students to work in small groups or alone.

Why chemistry is a valued qualification?

- An enquiring mind - chemists are interested in discovering why things happen.
- Mathematical ability - chemists are able to draw upon sound skills.
- Good powers of observation -chemists need to look at events objectively and record observations accurately regardless of what they think should happen.
- Practical ability - chemists need to plan and carry out investigations to explore phenomena.
- Adaptability - chemists need a readiness to learn new skills throughout their life to cope with advances in science and technology.
- Social skills - chemists need to talk and discuss their theories and observations with others and communicate their ideas clearly using evidence.
- A sense of humour - especially important if things do not go as planned.

Assessment Structure

The A level is made up of three examination papers with questions presented as multiple choice and/or structured questions, alongside extended response questions to cover theory and practical skills. Regular assessments help students to identify areas of weakness from each module and enable them to structure their revision effectively.

Specification - OCR (Salters B) - The chemistry content is split into ten teaching modules:

- Elements of life
- Developing fuels
- Elements from the sea
- The ozone story
- What's in a medicine?
- The chemical industry
- Polymers and life
- Oceans
- Developing metals
- Colour by design

Entry Requirements

To study A level Chemistry, we recommend that students have at least a grade 6 in GCSE chemistry (separate science) or grade 7 for combined science, as well as a grade 7 in maths.

Where will success take me?

Chemistry is a useful subject for the majority of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers and you will find chemists everywhere; in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more. If you already have ideas about university courses that interest you, we recommend looking at the entry requirements to see which A-level qualifications are needed. Please see the careers board in the science department for more careers.

A Level Computer Science

Course Overview

What role do computers play in the world today and what things could computers do in the future? Computer Science looks at the technology inside of the computer and how we utilise this technology to solve problems. You will develop an understanding of how the computer works, how data is stored, how some of the common algorithms work and how to tackle complex problems by breaking them down into smaller problems.

Assessment Structure

A Level -Unit One: ***Computer systems (40%)***

Learners will study:
· Characteristics of computer systems.
· Software development.
· Exchanging data.
· Algorithms & data types.
· Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

Unit Two: ***Algorithms and programming (40%)***

Learners will study:
· Elements of computational thinking.
· Problem solving and programming.
· Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

Unit Three: ***Programming project (20%)***

Learners will carry out:
· Analysis of a problem.
· Design the solution.
· Develop the solution.
· Evaluation.

How you will learn

You will learn through discussion, group-work, reading, research and writing essays and programs.

How you will be assessed

Examinations involve answering short and extended questions. You will also complete a project in year 13 on a topic of your choice. Past projects have included: 'glucose monitoring app for Android', 'arcade shooters', 'flight simulators' and a 'ukulele tuning tool'.

Where will success take me?

The British Computer Society recently highlighted an alarming down turn in computer science graduate projections which could imperil the long-term success for the nation's expanding IT economy. "The future success of the British IT economy, particularly in the nanotechnology, biotechnology sectors and cyber security, will rely on the availability of computer science graduates." The OCR computer science course will prepare you for further education, specifically in a globally expanding ICT/computer science field. From games or web-design to systems analysis, high quality practitioners will always be required.

Entry Requirements

The course involves problem solving and maths, a grade 5 maths or above is ideal. You do not need to have studied computer science at GCSE although it is an advantage.

Career Link

Application developer, cyber security analyst, forensic computer analyst, software engineer, SEO specialist, web developer, penetration tester, games developer.

Level 3 Criminology Diploma

Course Overview

Criminologists examine every conceivable aspect of deviant behaviour. This includes the impact of crime on individual victims and their families, society at large, and even criminals themselves. Some of the specific areas that criminology covers include:

- Frequency of crimes.
- Location of crimes.
- Causes of crimes.
- Types of crimes.
- Social and individual consequences of crimes.
- Social reactions to crime.
- Individual reactions to crime.
- Governmental reactions to crime.

The study of criminology is vast, some areas that you will study include; investigating types of crime, for example hate crime, honour crime, mafia crime and immoral crimes. You will also learn about who the victims of these crimes are and why people sometimes do not report them due to individual, social and cultures factors. You will look at campaigns for law change and create your own campaign. Additionally, you will also be taught biological and social explanations of crime. Here you will debate whether a criminal commits murder due to their genetics or brain abnormalities or if it is due to the environment they were raised in. In the second year you will study crime scenes, the role of DNA in identifying an offender and learn about the criminal justice system. We try to make your experience as hands on as possible, this includes opportunities to meet people who work in the sector, trips and interactive classroom activities.

Assessment Structure

Content covered in Year 12

Unit 1: Unit 1 content- Changing Awareness of Crime (Controlled Assessment)

- Analyse different types of crime.
- Explain the reasons that certain crimes are unreported.
- Explain the consequences of unreported crime.
- Describe media representation of crime and the consequences.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories (examination)

- Compare criminal behaviour and deviance.
- Describe biological and sociological theories of criminality .
- Evaluate the effectiveness of criminological theories to explain causes of criminality.

There are four units, each worth 25% of the overall grade. Units 1 and 3 are assessed through controlled assessments. These will be assessed February/March of each year and are 1.5-hour long examinations. Unit 2 and 4 are assessed through external examinations assessed in the June of each year of study.

Where will success take me?

BA Criminology, BSc Criminology, BA Criminology and Criminal Justice, BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology, LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology, BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology, BA (Hons) Criminology, BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology, BSc Criminology with Law. Alternatively, 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.

Entry Requirements

No specific subjects are required but a good level of English and maths would be advantageous.

A Level Dance

Course Overview

An exciting and diverse specification accessible for all, A level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills in both higher education and employment, and will help students stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career. This specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. We recognise the role of dance in young people's lives and our students will be able to study a range of dance styles. We have set relevant and exciting sources for all choreography and broadened our areas of study. Students can perform and choreograph in a style of their choice for the group work assessment, provided it meets the assessment criteria. The course gives students the opportunity to develop a range of skills, fostering leadership skills, confidence and ability to work closely with others, as well as independent study outside of the classroom.

Assessment Structure

A level Dance

Component 1*: Performance and choreography – 50%*

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study.
- Performance in a quartet.
- Group choreography.
- Practical exam.

Component 2: *Critical engagement – 50%*

Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works.

- One compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study.
- One optional set work.

A level examinations involve a written paper combining a series of short answers on the set work and two essay questions on the selected area of study. Students will also be examined by a visiting external moderator in their quartet/solo and choreography.

Entry Requirements

Students would benefit from having some dance technique. It would also be good if students have studied GCSE dance however, it is not vital.

Other Information

Our course gives students the opportunity to develop a range of skills; fostering leadership, confidence, ability to work closely with others as well as independent study outside of the classroom.

- Teaching groups are often small.
- Dance complements a range of A level subjects in drama, PE, sports studies and art.
- For those with university in mind, there are many universities that offer joint honours or single honours courses in dance.

Students are given the opportunity to deliver dance in the local feeder primary schools, we also attend many external theatre trips and perform in many local showcases as well as Move it! at the Excel in London which is a huge careers and networking event for all careers in dance.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DANCE EVENT

MOVE IT

BTEC Digital Games Production

Course Overview

There are over 1900 video games companies in the UK, producing some of the most popular games in the industry, such as Grand Theft Auto V, Batman: Arkham City and Moshi Monsters. These are just a few of the global successes that are proving the UK to be a world leader in the games industry. As such there is a shortage of people with the required skills and qualifications. The computer games industry has become one of the fastest growing forms of media entertainment. Global sales of game software exceed £10 billion annually. This course is designed to introduce to students how computer games and interactive products are designed, developed and produced.

Assessment Structure

The digital media skills unit is externally set and marked by Edexcel. All other units are internally marked and moderated.

You will complete the following units:

Digital Media Skills (Exam)

You will be required to create a game in response to a scenario set by the exam board. E.g. a game to promote a drinks brand on social media. It is a supervised task over a number of sessions that is externally marked.

Digital Games production (coursework)

You will explore game genres and the principles of game design. You will design and make a digital game. This unit will give you some of the key skills needed to be a game designer.

App production (coursework)

You will develop the skills to build apps and gain an understanding of the tools, principles and practices that underpin modern app development for both iOS & Android.

Game Engine Scripting (coursework)

You will learn about the core concepts in scripting languages, artificial intelligence (AI) and in game physics. You will plan the scripting of a digital game before creating it in a game engine.

Games Testing (coursework):

You will learn about quality assurance in the games industry, testing games using a bug tracking system and developing your own test cases.

How you will learn

You will learn through discussion, group-work, reading, research and completion of projects.

Entry Requirements

There is a large amount of written work involved in the BTEC so at least a grade 5 in English is recommended.

Possible further education:

Apprenticeships in the creative and design route. Bachelor's degrees in Digital Art, Games Design, Animation and Multimedia Technology.

Possible careers include:

- Game Designer
- Developer
- Reviewer / Tester

A Level English Language

Course Overview

Like many A level subjects, English Language A level is nothing like its GCSE counterpart. It is challenging at times, and requires a thorough and precise knowledge of terminology. Analysis is a major part of the course and you will encounter countless texts of different genres and subjects – and not only written data either. English Language is interesting, stimulating and allows you a chance to actively engage with everyday language and understand how it works. It affords you the opportunity to become more powerful in everyday life, simply by understanding how to use language to your advantage.

Assessment Structure

Paper 1

Language Concepts and Issues
Written examination: 2 hours (120 marks) 30% of qualification

Section A is based on the study of spoken language of the media (languages transmitted for a potential mass audience), and covers a range of contexts. It is designed to introduce learners to the ways in which speakers use language and interact. For reference, a list of phonemic symbols will be printed on the question paper.
Section B is based on the study of four language topic areas: standard and non-standard English; language and power; language and situation; and language acquisition. It is designed to introduce learners to how language affects all aspects of our lives.

Paper 2

Language Change Over Time
Written examination: 2 ¼ hours (120 marks) 30% of qualification

Section A: Language Change Over Time
Section A is based on the study of unseen written texts from different periods, linked by genre. It is designed to introduce learners to orthography, etymology, lexical and grammatical changes in context.
Section B: English in the Twenty-First Century
Section B is based on the study of the ways in which language is used distinctively in the twenty-first century. It is designed to introduce learners to how language is evolving to reflect technological and cultural change.

Paper 3

Creative and Critical Use of Language
Written examination: 1¾ hours (80 marks) 20% of qualification
This component will give learners the opportunity to communicate in different ways and to explain how they have used language to shape meaning. Candidates will choose one from a choice of two questions. Each question will have a stimulus text followed by three tasks. Two of these tasks require original writing and the third requires a commentary of one of the texts produced. At A level students are required to show a deep knowledge and understanding of phonology and phonetics, lexis, morphology, grammar and discourse, and how some of these approaches can be applied, as appropriate, to the study of language. Students will be expected to analyse and evaluate how context has influenced language use and, as appropriate, how speakers have made linguistic choices to convey their attitudes.

Entry Requirements

Because of the demands of this subject, we would normally expect you to have a 6 in English language at GCSE. However, if you show the ability can consider students with a 5.

Career Link

Journalism, Law, Teaching & the Civil Service

A Level English Literature

Course Overview

A level English literature involves studying how great writing enables the exploration of many of life's fundamental themes: love, loneliness, prejudice, bravery and perseverance to name but a few. Reading, discussing and writing are key. You will be expected not just to read, but to develop the skill of thinking critically about what you read and of analysing texts to work out how the author's use of situation and language create powerful impressions. You will need to explore your own emotional response to writing and be able to discuss it, in class and through your own writing, and to argue constructively for your point of view. There are often no 'correct' responses to issues or questions raised in English literature, so you need to be open minded and willing to hear and discuss the opinions of others. Literature is language at its most expressive and insightful.

Assessment Structure

Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours (120 marks) 30% of qualification
Section A: Poetry pre-1900 (open-book, clean copy) John Milton: *Paradise Lost IX* (Oxford)
Section B: Poetry post-1900 (open-book, clean copy) Philip Larkin: *The Whitsun Weddings* (Faber) & *Carol Ann Duffy: Mean Time* (Picador)

Drama

Written examination: 2 hours (120 marks) 30% of qualification
Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book) *Hamlet*
Section B: Drama (closed-book) John Webster: *The Duchess of Malfi* (Methuen)
Tennessee Williams: *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Penguin Modern Classics)

Unseen Texts

Written examination: 2 hours (80 marks) 20% of qualification

Section A: Unseen prose

Section A requires students to respond to **one** question from a choice of two. Each question will offer an unseen prose passage for analysis.

Question 1 will take a prose passage from the period 1880-1910.
Question 2 will take a prose passage from the period 1918-1939.

In their analysis of the unseen prose passage, students must focus their response on how meanings are shaped. In addition, they must give some consideration to relevant contexts and how texts may be read in more than one way. A set brief supporting contextual and critical extracts will accompany each prose passage to help candidates consider the significance and influence of contexts and other readers' views.

Section B: Unseen poetry

Section B requires candidates to respond to **one** question from a choice of two. Each question will offer an unseen poem or poetry extract from any period. In their response to the unseen poem, candidates must focus on the ways in which meanings are shaped.

Entry Requirements

Because of the demands of this as a facilitating subject, we would normally expect you to have a 6 in either English language or English literature at GCSE.

Career Link

English Literature is a highly respected A level, one of the Russell group 'facilitating' subjects. As well as an English literature degree itself, students of literature might go on to study for university degrees in a range of subjects including: history, sociology, psychology, drama, theatre studies and law. Even medical schools value the subject highly. It is also very effective in developing transferrable skills such as interpretive abilities, communication, an understanding of how language works, close analysis, and the ability to construct a well-argued case. These are highly valued in a range of graduate careers such as teaching, business and finance, journalism, publishing – even politics.

A Level Design & Technology

Course Overview

A Level Design & Technology provides students with the opportunity to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes. Product design is a material specialism and can be selected within the course making it suitable for students with past experiences in product design or graphic products. Lessons are varied and skills and knowledge will be delivered through mini projects, focussed practical tasks as well as structured theory-based learning. All are designed to prepare students for both external examinations and the non-examination assessment. Group sizes are small allowing learning and support to be more personalised for each students' needs. Students will develop the ability to draw on and apply a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including the use of mathematics and science for analysis and informing decisions in design. The aim of the course is to equip students with design skills for the future. Students will be able to recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impacts on today's world. The course encourages creativity and innovation at A-Level, students will have the confidence to innovate and produce creative design solutions as they develop their own design brief with a client/end user. The course is suited to those creative students who want to express themselves through a range of media. If you are interested in how things work and how products can be improved, then product design would be a suitable choice.

Assessment Structure

Examinations (20% + 30% = 50%)

Students will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials; including modern and smart materials and processes used in product design and manufacture. They will be required to develop an understanding of contemporary industrial and commercial practices applied to designing and manufacturing products, and to appreciate the risks involved. Students should have a good working knowledge of health and safety procedures and relevant legislation.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) (50%)

The purpose of this component is to undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project which will test students' skills in designing and making a prototype product. Under consultation with a client, students are required to identify a problem and design context from which they can develop a range of potential solutions before realising one through practical making activities.

In this project, students will be encouraged to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. To support the manufacture of the prototype, students will produce a concise design portfolio to evidence the design process. A typical design portfolio would include: Investigation into a target user/client and fully analyse their needs, a specification produced through consultation with the client, creative range of realistic ideas

- Development of ideas through consultation with client and modelling.
- 2D and 3D CAD.
- Final design solution.
- Manufactured prototype.
- Testing.
- Client testing.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Design and Technology grade 4 or above. Mathematics at 5 or above would be advantageous but not essential.

Where will success take me?

Design and technology opens the door to many exciting careers including engineering, product/industrial design, set design and CAD technician. See the DT careers wall for a more extensive list.

Level 3 Financial Studies

Course Overview

A Level 3 Diploma in Financial Studies provides an in-depth exploration of the important concepts of financial education and how to apply them in achieving longer-term financial stability. The course encourages you to become a responsible borrower and a sensible saver, and to appreciate the need for financial planning throughout your life. It prepares you for further study by developing the core skills of critical analysis and evaluation, verbal communication and written communication. This greater understanding of financial planning supports entry to university on finance and banking courses and a wide range of other disciplines. It also supports progress to a wide range of occupations within finance.

Assessment Structure

Unit 1 – *Financial capability for the immediate and short term*

- personal finance & financial products for managing money.
- legislation and regulation on earnings.
- impact of poor decision-making and unforeseen circumstances.
- key features of income tax and National insurance.
- how their financial needs will change through their life.

Unit 2 – *Financial capability for the medium and long term*

- key steps for financial planning.
- changing financial priorities verses needs.
- their financial footprint and its impact on future financing.
- risk and return terms of impact severity and probability.
- how personal values and beliefs affect financial decisions.
- valuating their circumstances.

Unit 3 – *Sustainability of an individual's finances*

- how financial products and services affect customer choices.
- making informed financial judgements.
- the impact of global events developments and ethical considerations.

Unit 4 – *Sustainability of the financial services system*

- impact of marketing techniques employed by financial services.
- impact of changes in the financial services market.
- how financial services companies retain, attract and satisfy customers.

How will you be assessed?

Units 1 and 2 (part A) – 45-minute exam
Units 1 and 2 (part B) – 1 hour 45-minute exam requiring essay responses to questions relating to a pre-released case study and unit content. Case studies are released 6 weeks before the exam.
Unit 3 and 4 (part A) – 1-hour exam
Unit 3 and 4 (part B) – 2-hour exam requiring essay responses to questions relating to a pre-released case study and unit content. Case studies are released 6 weeks before the exam

The pass threshold is 40%, graded at A*-E. This course allows students to resit each component once if required and carries the full UCAS points equivalent for A Level courses.

Entry Requirements

We recommend that students have a grade 5 at GCSE Maths

A Level French

Course Overview

Languages have existed since about 100,000 BC, and there are now around 6000 languages spoken in the world. Choosing an A level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and is a lot of fun along the way. Having a language opens every door to your future possibilities. You will learn new skills including essay writing, defending views and countering arguments.

Assessment & Structure:

Social issues and trends

ASPECTS OF FRENCH-SPEAKING SOCIETY: CURRENT TRENDS (Y12)

The changing nature of the family.
The 'cyber-society'.
The place of voluntary work.

ASPECTS OF FRENCH-SPEAKING SOCIETY: CURRENT ISSUES (Y13)

Positive features of a diverse society.
Life for the marginalised.
How criminals are treated.

Political and artistic culture

ARTISTIC CULTURE IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING WORLD (Y12)

A culture proud of its heritage.
Contemporary francophone music.
Cinema: the 7th art form.

ASPECTS OF POLITICAL LIFE IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING WORLD (Y13)

Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment.
Demonstrations, strikes—who holds the power?
Politics and immigration.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 – Listening, reading & writing – 2.5 hour written exam.
Paper 2 – Writing – 2 hour written exam.
Paper 3 – Speaking exam – 16-18 minutes

Career Link

Employers value language skills and research has shown that using language skills in business opens the door to a wide range of economic, social and personal benefits. Employers value language skills for the following reasons:

- Employers are looking to employ people with conversational language skills.
- Customers addressed in their mother tongue are much more likely to do business with you.
- Studying a foreign language improves your oral and written skills in English too, and also helps develop key communication skills that are crucial in the workplace.

Entry Requirements

You will need to achieve a grade 6 or higher at GCSE and have completed Higher Tier papers.

A Level Geography

Course Overview

Geography is useful in many ways. As a preparation for the world of work or further education, or simply as an enjoyable and interesting subject.

Geography is widely accepted as a good balanced subject which helps you to:
1. Understand the major issues and problems in the world.
2. Have some understanding of different cultures and different processes that operate globally.
3. Acquire a variety of useful job skills including collecting, analysing and evaluating data.

Assessment & Structure:

Component 1 - *Physical Geography – 40% of the A Level*
Section A: Water and carbon cycles.
Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes.
Section C: Hazards.

Component 2 - *Human Geography – 40% of the A Level*
Section A: Global systems and global governance.
Section B: Changing places.
Section C: Contemporary urban environments .

Component 3 – *Geographical Investigation (NEA) -20% of the A Level*
Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

Entry Requirements

It is recommended that students achieve a strong pass in GCSE geography. Strong results in GCSE English and maths will be beneficial.

Career Link

Careers linked to geography could include - cartography, environmental consultancy, recycling, police, town planning, travel & tourism, teaching, local government work, insurance, transport industries, banking and commerce, cartography and meteorology, mining and energy, agriculture & horticulture.

Other Useful Information

As part of the course, pupils are expected to undertake fieldwork which will be assessed as part of an NEA which is completed in Year 12 and 13.

Students attend a four-day residential visit at the end of year 12 to North Wales. In previous years students have visited Carding Mill Valley, Ainsdale Sand Dunes (near Southport), Castleton, Hanley, Shelton and Stafford as well as attending a number of revision workshops in Manchester and at Staffordshire University.

PRIDE. RESPECT. KINDNESS.

BTEC Health & Social Care

Course Overview

The BTEC National Extended Certificate, Diploma and Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care are a collection of units that when combined are equivalent to **1, 2 or 3 A-levels.** The qualification offers learners the experience of a vocational qualification that is attractive to and recognised by universities and employers alike.

15th Year-100% Pass Rate

100% students achieved D*- MERIT grades

The Diploma and Extended Diploma give students a broad base of underpinning knowledge and practical skills in preparation for employment or further study in the field of health or social care and for Higher Education as well as professional degrees such as **physiotherapy, paediatrics, specialist mental health nursing, counselling, social work, paramedic sciences, teaching and many more.**

The Extended Diploma brings with it a commitment to complete a minimum of 150 hours work experience in Yr12 and 13.

Health and Social Care is one of the only courses where exams can be re-taken, to give you the very best chance of success. It attracts UCAS points that are equivalent to similar sized qualifications within the UK such as separate A Levels. All BTEC Level 3 courses in Health & Social Care will help you to access a whole host of degree courses, for example, if you wish to enter careers such as **nursing, midwifery, counselling, occupational therapy, teaching, social work, or other health & social care related jobs such as physiotherapy, childhood studies, mental health promotion and treatment, addiction studies, youth work and crime prevention.**

Assessment & Structure

77% coursework both internally and externally moderated, a minimum of two exams. All exams can include a resit opportunity - A Levels do not offer this.

Units cover a wide range of health and social care topics, examples of units covered:

· Lifespan Development.
· Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs.
· Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care.
· Promoting Public Health.
· Psychological Perspectives in Health.
· Sociological Perspectives in Health.
· HUMAN anatomy and physiology.

Entry Requirements

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 Health & Social Care at a merit is an advantage or GCSE English at **4** or above.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Virtual Work Experience and Industry Talks

The HSC department has for the second year running seen students' complete courses in online virtual work experience offered by Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire NHS, students have been able to interact with current professionals working within Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire questioning them about their professionals' roles and responsibilities and route into their professions.

Students have also been able to attend talks given by leaders in mental health, equality, diversity and human rights as well as charities involved with suicide prevention. This has been highly influential in ensuring our BBHS Sixth formers stand out against other applicants when it comes to university applications and employment. The department have also been extremely lucky to be able to continue to work alongside Port Vale FCs Golden Valiants where Health and Social Care students can support and, in some cases, run sociable events for the Port Vale community. Students have been privileged to have met executives from the English Football Association and the Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire whilst supporting the Golden Valiants group at Port Vale.

A Level History

Course Overview

Students choosing to study History will follow a course by AQA. The course gives students the opportunity to develop a range of transferrable skills such as critical and analytical thinking, the ability to express complex ideas clearly and the ability to think for themselves. History benefits from small teaching groups and the subject complements a range of other A level subjects such as religious studies and English. For those with university in mind, entry to any arts or humanities course can be gained with a history A level such as archaeology and law.

Assessment & Structure

Three units make up the A level in history.

UNIT 1 – 1C The Tudors 1485-1603

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in the Tudor period. Some of the key questions are:

· How effectively did the Tudors restore and develop the powers of the monarchy?
· In what ways and how effectively was England governed during this period?
· How did relations with foreign powers change and how was the succession secured?

UNIT 2—2R The Cold War 1945-1991

This option provides for the in-depth study of the evolving course of international relations during an era of tension between communist and capitalist powers which threatened nuclear Armageddon. It explores concepts such as communism and anti-communism, aggression and détente and also encourages students to reflect on the power of modern military technology, what causes confrontation and what forces promote peace in the modern world.

UNIT 3– Historical Investigation

This unit focuses on a students' ability to research and produce an extended piece of historical analysis. This piece of coursework is currently completed on the Black Death and its impact in England.

How you will be assessed

- 2 x 2.5-hour examinations (80%)
- NEA project—3,500-word essay (20%)

Entry Requirements

The course covers a range of time periods and focuses on different aspects of history (e.g. change and continuity). The history A level course is varied in both its subject matter and the manner through which it is taught, which we hope makes it enjoyable! A strong result in GCSE English and GCSE history will be beneficial.

Career Link

By studying history, you may have the opportunity to pursue one of the following careers:

- secondary school teacher.
- Journalist.
- Civil Service administrator.
- Solicitor.
- Archivist.
- Curator.

A Level Further Mathematics

Course Overview

A Level further mathematics is a full 2-year course and is designed to be taught alongside A Level mathematics. A level further mathematics is a challenging, yet rewarding course which further builds upon the methods you develop in A Level mathematics as well as introducing newer, more advanced areas. The course is broken down into three main areas; core pure mathematics, further statistics and decision.

Learners will study:

Core Pure Mathematics

· Complex numbers.
· Argand diagrams.
· Series.
· Roots of polynomials.
· Volumes of revolution.
· Matrices.
· Proof by induction.
· Integration.

Further Statistics

· Discrete random variables.
· Poisson distributions.
· Geometric and negative binomial distributions.
· Central limit theorem.
· Chi-squared tests.

Decision

· Algorithms.
· Graphs.
· Networks.
· Linear programming.
· Critical path analysis.

How will you learn?

Through discussion, you will develop your understanding and become better at thinking logically and analytically. By solving problems, you will develop resilience and be able to think creatively and strategically.

How will you be assessed?

You will sit four 90-minute papers at the end of the two-year course. Two papers will cover the core pure content, one paper further statistics and one paper, decision. All papers are equal weighted at 25%.

Entry Requirements

An excellent understanding of all aspects of GCSE mathematics, is required for success at A level. You must have taken the higher GCSE paper and a pass at grade 8 or above is recommended.

Career Link

Careers linked to A-Level further maths could include: acoustic consultant, actuarial analyst, actuary, chartered accountant, chartered certified accountant, data analyst, data scientist, investment analyst, research scientist (maths), secondary school teacher, software engineer, statistician and many more.

Other Useful Information

A level further mathematics would be an ideal choice for those students thinking of studying mathematics in higher education or a course involving a heavy use of mathematical skills. Some universities state further mathematics as a prerequisite for a select number of courses.

A Level Mathematics

Course Overview

A level mathematics is an interesting and challenging course which extends the methods you learned at GCSE as well as introducing new areas. The course is broken down into three main areas; pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics.

Pure Mathematics

- Proof.
- Algebra and functions.
- Coordinate geometry.
- Sequences and series.
- Trigonometry.
- Exponentials and logarithms.
- Differentiation.
- Numerical methods.
- Vectors.

Statistics

- Statistical sampling.
- Data presentation and interpretation.
- Probability.
- Statistical distributions.
- Statistical hypothesis testing.

Mechanics

- Quantities and units.
- Kinematics.
- Forces and Newton's laws.
- Moments.

How will you learn?

Through discussion, you will develop your understanding and become better at thinking logically and analytically. By solving problems you will develop resilience and be able to think creatively and strategically.

How will you be assessed?

You will sit three two-hour examinations at the end of the two-year course. Two of the three papers assess your understanding of pure mathematics with the third covering both statistics and mechanics.

Entry Requirements

A good understanding of GCSE mathematics, particularly the algebraic content, is required for success at A level. You must have taken the higher GCSE paper and a pass at grade 7 or above is recommended.

Career Link

A level mathematics can open the door to many employment and higher education opportunities. Not only is it a prerequisite for those wanting to study mathematics at university but it is also a must have for subjects like physics, engineering and economics. It also plays a key supporting role in areas such as IT, chemistry, biology and business. Possible careers involving use of A-Level maths could include: accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, the civil service, design, construction and astrophysics to name a few. Specific job roles include actuary, business analyst, software engineer, technology analyst, information engineer, speech technology researcher, and maths teacher.

A Level Media Studies

Course Overview

The media are all around us and forever changing and developing. Whether it be TV shows, newspapers, magazines, adverts or the internet, we are forever in contact with some kind of media output. This course explores exactly what the media are whilst looking at a range of media products, from films and video games to magazines and social media. It also focuses on the key area of who is producing the products, for what target audience, and for what ideological purpose. Students create their own media products matched to a specific purpose and audience. We encourage students to gain knowledge of and insight into a range of different media, accounting for choices made by different media industries, ultimately assessing why audiences have such a range of media to choose from.

How will you be assessed?

Course content

- Media language.
- Media industries.
- Media audiences.
- Media representations.

Unit 1:
Media language and representation

Unit 2:
In-depth analysis of close study products

Non-exam assessment:
Creating a media product

Entry Requirements

Since this subject demands skills in essay writing and language, we normally recommend at least a 5 in English Language at GCSE.

Career Link

The skills media studies in students are transferable to a range of career paths. In the past, we have had many students take up media-related courses at universities with media specialisms. Career paths available include television / film / video producer, magazine journalist, broadcast journalist, programme researcher, media planner, market researcher, newspaper journalist, writer, public relations officer.

A Level Music

Course Overview

In music we follow the EDUQAS A-Level specification. If you want to extend and develop your musical performance and your knowledge of music theory, then A-level Music is an ideal qualification to study. Typically, music has a small number of students studying it, so you will benefit from more 1:1 discussion. You will also learn through reading, research and writing essays as well as composing independently. Practice for your performances will also be independent with regular input from your teacher and regular mocks.

As part of the Appraising exam, we will study:
· Haydn's 'Symphony No. 104 in D major.
· Mendelssohn's 'Symphony No. 4 in A Major'.
· Poulenc's 'Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano'.
· Debussy's 'Three Nocturns'.

Students will study 3 Areas Of Study (AOS):
AOS A {Compulsory} - The Western Classical Tradition.

One choice of AOS from:
AOS B - Rock and Pop.
AOS C - Musical Theatre.
AOS D – Jazz.

One choice from:
AOS E - Into the 20th Century.
AOS F - Into the 21st Century.

As well as this, students will need to produce a performance and a composition. Students will be expected to have regular instrumental lessons and to attend extracurricular ensembles.

How will you be assessed?

Performance - Externally assessed by a visiting examiner
Composition - Externally assessed

Students can choose which option they want to follow from the choices below:

Option A
· Performance: 10 - 12 minute recital = 35%
· Composition: 2 compositions totalling 4 - 6 minutes = 25%
· Appraising Exam : 2 hours 15 minutes = 40%

Option B
· Performance: 6 - 8 minute recital = 25%
· Composition: 3 compositions totalling 8 - 10 minutes = 35%
· Appraising Exam : 2 hours 15 minutes = 40%

Entry Requirements

Students must have achieved a grade 5 or above at GCSE or have grade 5 theory if no GCSE**.** Students should also have commitment to extracurricular life at BBHS & Sixth Form.

BTEC Performing Arts (Drama)

Assessment & Structure:

Unit 1—Investigating Practitioners' Work. Students will practically investigate two different practitioners, their methods of working, plays performed in their style and then write about them in a typed exam.

Unit 2—Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance. Students will develop their knowledge of stylistically different plays, rehearsing and performing key extracts alongside keeping a log book journal of key decisions. They will also investigate different ways into acting, universities, the life of an actor as well as set themselves clear targets on how to improve their own acting range.

Unit 3—Group Performance Workshop. Students will create a devised performance piece in the style of a recognised theatre practitioner. Alongside this they will write detailed critical notes of the creative process.

Unit 19—Acting Styles. Students will explore three practitioners and then perform a key extract from one of them. They will keep a logbook of all decisions made in the rehearsal process as well as undertake research into each practitioner.

Useful Information

The course gives students the opportunity to develop a range of transferrable skills such as critical and analytical thinking, the ability to express complex ideas clearly and the ability to think for themselves. Teaching groups are often small and lessons are mainly practical.
Drama complements a range of BTEC and A Level subjects in humanities, arts and languages and can help with university applications in those areas. Visiting the theatre is an essential part of the course as students will need to write about theatre they have seen. Students who study drama can go on to careers in the performing arts but also in many other areas too. Past students of drama now work as directors, architects, journalists, lawyers, actors, dancers, cameraman, media editor, costume design and in water/waste management!

How you will learn

You will learn through rehearsal and performance of scenes, workshops of different styles, going to the theatre, critical reading, research and writing logbooks. Each week will be different and full of varied activities – one week you might present a fact file on a favourite actor and then the next might be rehearsal of a naturalistic play. Alternatively, you could be performing work in front of your family and friends and then undertaking a range of workshops using Brechtian techniques.

How you will be assessed

Unit 1-written exam. Marked externally.
Unit 2-performance and working notebook. Marked internally.
Unit 3-performance and reflective report. Marked externally.
Unit 19-performance and working notebook. Marked internally.

Entry Requirements

The course involves a critical study of plays, practitioners and styles of acting from throughout history and is open to anyone with an interest in exploring these practically and theoretically.

A Level Photography

Course Overview

The course provides candidates with a vast range of photographic skills, explores different concepts giving them the opportunity to produce a personal and inventive portfolio of work as well as the experience of working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new media technologies. Students will be encouraged to develop their intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive attributes. You will need to learn to be investigative, analytical, experimental and practical in your use of technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. They should be able to demonstrate some prior knowledge or have a strong interest in art or photography in order to study this course.

What skills will I gain doing photography?

- You will gain knowledge, understanding and application of photography, art, craft, design, media (traditional and new) and technologies in contemporary societies and cultures.
- You will gain an awareness of different roles, function, audiences and consumers of photography, art, craft and design practice.
- You will experience working within relevant and real frameworks and where appropriate, make links to the creative industries.
- You will explore digital, traditional and experimental photography, video media, materials, techniques and processes.
- You will develop your own ideas, refining your own intentions and personal outcomes.
- You will present all your portfolio in an exhibition at the end of the course.

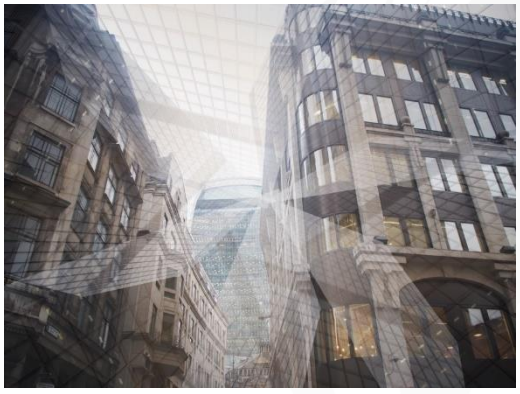
Assessment Structure

A2 – 60% Personal Investigation
A2 –40% Externally set task

Career Link

Possible careers in media and lens-based media:

- Photo journalist.
- Fashion photographer.
- Site photographer.
- Wedding photographer.
- Film producer.
- Teacher.



PRIDE. RESPECT. KINDNESS.

A Level Physical Education

Course Overview

Open up the world of sport. The course encourages students to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform or coach a sport and delve into the how and why of physical activity and sport. Students receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a fantastic base from which to build when they move on to higher education, employment or further training. Students can develop a range of practical skills, including communication using appropriate language, dealing with pressure, split second decision-making, analysing and evaluating performance and more.

Assessment & Structure

A Level examinations are completed at the end of the two-year course and involve the completion of 3 written exams. You will also complete a practical assessment in one sport and a talk based on the analysis and performance of an athlete in your chosen sport.

01 -Physiological factors affecting performance

90 marks -2 hour written paper

- Applied anatomy and physiology.
- Exercise physiology.
- Biomechanics.

02 - Psychological factors affecting performance

60 marks -1 hour written paper

- Skill acquisition.
- Sports psychology.

03 - **Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport**

60 marks 1 hour written paper

- Sport and society.
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

04 - Performance in physical education

60 marks - Non-exam assessment

- Performance or coaching.
- Evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement.

Entry Requirements

In order to complete this course, it is advisable that you are regularly performing in a sport outside of school.

Career Link

A Level Physical Education can open up a range of career opportunities including: sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, personal training or becoming one of the next generation of PE teachers. The transferable skills you learn through your study of Physical Education, such as decision making and independent thinking are also useful in any career path you choose to take.

A Level Physics

Course Overview

The department prides itself in moving with the times and using a plethora of teaching and learning techniques. A minimum of 12 practical activities are planned throughout the two-year programme and class sizes are kept small to ensure that each student reaches their potential. The science labs are well equipped for practical lessons.

Why Physics is a valued Qualification?

- An enquiring mind—physicists are interested in discovering how things work.
- Mathematical ability—physicists describe events using mathematical equations and computer modelling.
- Good powers of observation—physicists need to look at events objectively and record observations accurately.
- Practical ability—physicists need to design, build and use apparatus to explore properties of the real world.
- Adaptability—physicists need a readiness to learn new skills throughout their life to cope with advances in science and technology.
- Social skills—physicists need to talk and discuss their theories and observations with others and communicate their ideas clearly
- A sense of humour—especially important if things do not go as planned!

Assessment Structure

The A level is made up of three examination papers with questions presented as multiple choice and/or structured questions, alongside extended response questions to cover theory and practical skills.

OCR Syllabus A
The physics content is split into six teaching modules:
· Development of practical skills in physics.
· Foundations of physics.
· Forces and motion.
· Electrons, waves and photons.
· Newtonian world and astrophysics.
· Particles and medical physics.

Entry Requirements

To study A level Physics, we recommend that students have at least a grade 6 in GCSE physics (separate science) or grade 7 for combined science, as well as a grade 7 in maths.

Careers Link

Physics is a useful subject for the majority of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers and you'll find physicists everywhere, in industry, transport, government, universities, the armed forces, the secret service, games companies, research labs and more.

A Level Politics

Course Overview

Studying Edexcel Politics will give students the opportunity to learn about the political systems in the UK and USA. Students will study political ideologies, election systems and look at some of the most relevant elections in recent British and American History. A-level Government and Politics will provide insight into political beliefs central to an understanding of the modern world. It also develops analytical and evaluative skills in relation to interesting topics prevalent in the turbulent political climate of today. The course also provides foundation of political knowledge on which to develop skills for citizenship and university study. Example degree courses which generally require or accept Politics A-level include politics, economics, journalism, law, international relations, history and social policy.

What will you study during Government and Politics A-level?

Within the Edexcel specification, topics covered currently include democracy in the context of the UK, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the role of the media, UK constitution and parliament, the EU, the US Constitution, US federalism, US Supreme Court and civil rights and US Congress.

Assessment Structure

Paper 1 – UK Politics

- Types of government and democracies.
- Election systems.
- British political parties and core political ideas.
- Voting behaviour and the media.

Paper 2 – UK Government

- UK Constitution.
- Role of the Prime Minister and the executive.
- Relations between branches of government.
- Case studies of elections.

Paper 3 – US Government

- US Constitutions and Federalism.
- US Congress & Presidency.
- Supreme Courts & Civil Rights.
- Democracy & Participation.
- Comparative approaches.

Assessment in the summer of year 13 will comprise three exam papers of 2 hours duration each.

What skills will you get from studying Government and Politics?

Studying this subject will develop your understanding of structures of authority and power, how political systems differ, and enable you to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics and government. You will also develop a range of transferrable analytical, debating and communication skills - all of which are valuable in a wide range of careers.

Career Link

An A-level in government and politics provides an excellent background for careers in law, journalism, the caring professions, teaching, and a range of management and business areas.

A Level Psychology

Course Overview

Do you want to know why people become criminals and how to catch a criminal? Are you fascinated by the idea of understanding how the brain works? Do you want to grasp the complexities of human behaviour? If you have answered 'yes', then psychology A level is for you! In lessons, you will be exploring the following topics: memory; attachments; abnormalities in behaviour; physiological responses to stress and treatments; forensics; and psychological research methods. Most importantly, psychology will give you an opportunity to learn, understand and evaluate issues happening around you in everyday life, which can then be applied to the wider world. We offer a selection of facilities to help students through their psychology course. You will be given the opportunity to study many core areas in psychology, thus giving you a broad knowledge of the subject. You will sit three exams at the end of Year 13; each will be two hours long.

Assessment & Structure

Content covered in Year 12

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology:
· Social Influence.
· Memory.
· Attachment.
· Psychopathology.
Paper 2: Psychology in Context:
· Approaches in psychology.
· Biopsychology.
· Research methods.

Content covered in Year 13

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology
· Issues and debates in psychology.
· Relationships.
· Stress.
· Forensic psychology.

How will you learn?

Through discussion, you will develop your understanding and become better at thinking logically and analytically. By solving problems you will develop resilience and be able to think creatively and strategically.

Skills needed to succeed in Psychology

There needs to be a high level of commitment and the willingness to work independently and continuously throughout the year. Students need to enjoy researching studies and writing essay-based answers.

Which subjects does Psychology work well with?

Any subjects which involve analysing and evaluating material. Psychology works well in particular with English, sociology, biology and health & social care.

Entry Requirements

No specific subjects are required but a good level of English and maths would be advantageous.

Career Link

Psychology compliments many subjects taught in the sixth form either through the topics taught or the skills acquired. Psychology focuses on how the mind works, human behaviour and developing critical thinking skills all of which are attractive to employers. Psychology also provides students with skills in research, analysis, communication and organisation. It is essential for students wishing to pursue a career in psychology, for example, as an educational, forensic or clinical psychologist amongst others. Students who study psychology at university do pursue employment in areas not directly linked to psychology. For example: teaching, nursing, police, local government, retail, social work and many others.

A Level Religious Studies

Course Overview

How can we make difficult decisions about today's moral issues? Why are we here? Does God exist? Why do people suffer? This course provides the opportunity to find out how others have tackled a range of philosophical and ethical questions and to develop your own ideas.

Assessment & Structure:

Unit One: Ethics

- Normative ethical theories -the application of ethical theory to two contemporary Issues of importance.
- Ethical language.

Unit Two: Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences.
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God.
- The nature and impact of religious experience.
- The problem of evil.
- The nature of the soul, mind and body.
- The possibility of life after death.

Unit Three: Developments in Religious Thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world.
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority.
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition.

What does the course entail?

The course gives students the opportunity to develop a range of transferrable skills such as critical and analytical thinking, the ability to express complex ideas clearly and the ability to think for themselves.

- Teaching groups are often small.
- RS complements a range of A level subjects in humanities, arts and sciences.
- For those with university in mind, entry to any arts or humanities course can be gained

A level examination involves answering essay questions.

How will you learn?

You will learn through discussion, group-work, reading, research and writing essays.

Skills needed to succeed

The course involves a critical study of philosophy, ethics and religion and is open to anyone with an interest in exploring these subjects – you certainly do not need to be religious. A strong result in GCSE English language will be beneficial.

Career Link

Careers linked to religious studies include police officer, teacher, medicine, religious leader, youth/ community worker, hypnotherapist, human tesources, GP, examiner, law, armed forces.

A Level Sociology

Course Overview

In sociology we study the way people are affected by society, and how society is affected by people. Some sociologists see the behaviour of individuals as determined by how they are raised and educated, what media they are exposed to, how rich or poor they are, whether they are male or female, black or white. Others see individuals as powerful in shaping society. We discuss real world events and ask students to challenge common sense assumptions they may hear about in the news. Sociology will change the way you view the world.

Assessment & Structure

Content covered in Year 12:

Paper 1 Education with Methods in Context:

- Education.
- Methods in Context.

Paper 2 Research Methods and Topics in Sociology:

- Families and Households.
- Research Methods.

Content covered in Year 13:

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology:

- Beliefs in Society

Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Method:

- Crime and Deviance.
- Theory and Methods.

There will be three exams in June of Year 13 each of which will be two hours long

Skills needed to succeed in sociology

There needs to be a high level of commitment and the willingness to work independently and continuously throughout the year. Students need to enjoy writing essay-based answers.

Which subjects does sociology work well with?

Any subjects which involve analysing and evaluating material. Sociology works well in particular with English, history, geography, government & politics, philosophy & ethics and health & social care.

Entry Requirements

No specific subjects are required but a good level of English and maths would be advantageous.

Career Link

Sociology compliments all areas and subjects. You will learn to critically question common sense assumptions, to solve problems, to work independently and as part of a group and to write a clearly structured, analytical essay. All of this is excellent preparation for university. Sociologists go on to work in the media, law and other institutions of criminal justice, public relations, market research, social work, foreign aid and teaching. Many also continue with their academic studies in sociology, and remain in the academic field researching aspects of sociology.

A Level Spanish

Course Overview

Languages have existed since about 100,000 BC, and there are now around 6000 languages spoken in the world. Choosing an A level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and is a lot of fun along the way. Having a language opens every door to your future possibilities. You will learn new skills including essay writing, defending views and countering arguments.

Assessment & Structure

Social Issues & Trends

ASPECTS OF HISPANIC SOCIETY: (Y12)

Modern & Traditional Values.
The 'cyber-society'.
Equal Rights.

MULTICULTURALISM IN HSIPANIC SOCIETY:(Y13)

Immigration.
Racism.
Integration.

Political and artistic culture

ARTISTIC CULTURE IN THE HISPANIC WORLD (Y12)

Modern day idols.
Spanish regional identity.
Cultural heritage.

ASPECTS OF POLITICAL LIFE IN THE HISPANIC WORLD (Y13)

Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens.
Monarchies & dictatorships.
Popular movements.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 – Listening, reading & writing – 2.5 hour written exam.
Paper 2 – Writing – 2 hour written exam.
Paper 3 – Speaking exam – 16-18 minutes.

Career Link

Employers value language skills and research has shown that using language skills in business opens the door to a wide range of economic, social and personal benefits. Employers value language skills for the following reason:

- Employers are looking to employ people with conversational language skills.
- Customers addressed in their mother tongue are much more likely to do business with you.
- Studying a foreign language improves your oral and written skills in English too, and also helps develop key communication skills that are crucial in the workplace.

Entry Requirements

You will need to achieve a grade 6 or higher at GCSE and have completed Higher Tier papers.

BTEC Sports Studies

Course Overview

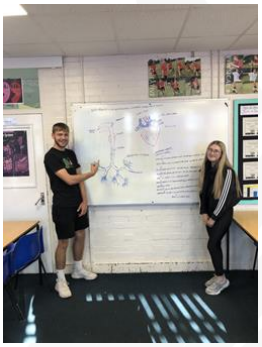
The course brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. This is achieved through students performing vocational tasks which enables them to gain valuable experiences in the sports industry and encourages the development of transferable skills. Transferable skills are those such as communication, teamwork, research and analysis, which are valued in both higher education and the workplace. Students develop the skills required to enter the world of sport and leisure or progress to Higher Education studies in related areas. Students will not only gain A Level equivalents in sport development, fitness and exercise, but also gain further qualifications through leadership and NGBS of sport.

We offer 3 different courses:

- Extended certificate (1 A level equivalent) 4 units.
- Diploma (2 A level equivalent) 9 Units.
- Extended Diploma (3 A Level equivalent) 14 Units.

Assessment Structure

Sports studies ensures that students receive content which is up to date and includes the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes required in the sport sector. Sports studies is made up of a number of different units which are either internally assessed or externally assessed. Externally assessed units require you to take a formal written exam or written tasks. Internally assessed units will require you to complete a number of different assignments in a number of different formats.



Year 1

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 10: Sports event organisation.
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

Year 2

Unit 5: Application of fitness testing.
Unit 8: Coaching for performance.
Unit 9: Research methods.
Unit 17: Sports injury management.
Unit 19: Development and provision of sport and physical activity.
Unit 30: Health, Sport and Exercise

Entry Requirements

In order to complete this course, it is recommended that you have either studied GCSE PE or Level 2 sports studies, but not a requirement. It is advantageous to have an interest and future ambitions to enter the sports industry.

Career Link

BTEC Sports Studies can open up a range of career opportunities including: sports development, sports coaching, physiotherapy, personal training or becoming one of the next generations of PE teachers.
The transferable skills you learn through your study of sports studies such as decision making and independent thinking, are also useful in any career path you choose to take.