

# 6th form @ Swakeleys

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## PATHWAYS IN 6<sup>th</sup> FORM @ SWAKELEYS

### Choosing Your Courses at Sixth Form Level for Further Study or Employment beyond I8

Just as we have pathways to meet the range of learning needs at Key Stage 4 there are pathways in the Sixth Form. These are to ensure that you achieve the very most of which you are able.

**Pathway 1** - 4 AS Levels & the EPQ; 4 A Levels & General Studies  
eg: Biology, Geography, Maths and Physics over 2 years  
**At least two facilitating subjects\***

*(This pathway requires a minimum of 5 A\*-A GCSE grades in academic subjects and A\*-C in GCSE Maths and English)*

**Pathway 2** - 4 AS Levels & General Studies; 3/4 A Levels  
eg: G&P, History, Sociology, Law - possibly dropping one AS in Year 13  
**At least two facilitating subjects\***

*(This pathway requires a minimum of 5 A\*-B GCSE grades in academic subjects and A\*-C in GCSE Maths and English)*

**Pathway 3** - 4 AS Levels & General Studies; 3/4 A Levels  
eg: G&P, History, Sociology, Law - possibly dropping one AS in Year 13

*(This pathway requires a minimum of 5 A\*-C GCSE grades and A\*-C in GCSE Maths and English)*

**Pathway 4** - A combination of L3 Qualifications over 2 years & GCSE English/Maths  
(if a C grade has not already been achieved)  
eg: Single Business and Double Sport

*(This pathway requires a minimum of 4 A\*-C grades)*

*In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to combine vocational qualifications with an AS Level if advised to do so by the Head of Sixth Form.*

#### General Requirements:

- **All** Pathways require 95% attendance in Year 11 (excluding known medical conditions/exceptional circumstances)

**The required qualifications only count BTECs and OCR Nationals as one qualification and do not include V2L or Preparation for Working Life.**

*If you do not have the qualifications for a specific pathway due to exceptional circumstances you will need to mention this in your 6th Form interview.*

All offers on courses will be subject to necessary student numbers

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## \*Facilitating Subjects

### What are facilitating subjects?

The Russell Group Universities, which are the country's top universities, have identified subjects that they feel will help applicants to gain university places.

Many courses at university level build on knowledge which you will gain while still at school. Where this is the case, universities need to make sure that all the students they admit have prepared themselves in the best way to cope with their chosen course. For this reason, some university courses may require you to have studied a specific subject prior to entry, others may not. However, there are some subjects that are required more often than others. These subjects are sometimes referred to as facilitating subjects. Subjects that can be viewed as 'facilitating' subjects are:

- **Mathematics and Further Mathematics**

- **English**

- **Physics**

- **Biology**

- **Chemistry**

- **Geography**

- **History**

- **Languages**

There are some A Level subjects which provide suitable preparation for entry to university generally, but which we do not include within the facilitating subjects, because there are relatively few degree programmes where an A Level qualification in these subjects would be a requirement for entry. Examples of such subjects include Economics and Religious Studies.

### What does the Director of the Russell Group say?

*"Our consistent advice is that taking two facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of degree courses and career options open to you. This is because these are the subjects most commonly required by our universities and hundreds of courses require one or more facilitating subjects"*

**It is important that you consider facilitating subjects, but also crucial that you choose subjects that you are good at and that you enjoy.**

## HOW TO CHOOSE WHAT TO STUDY

### Choose subjects you will enjoy

A Levels are hard enough without having to knuckle down to a subject you only choose because it will look good on a university application form.

### Choose subjects you will be good at

For many careers or courses, grades matter more than subjects. Plus, it is difficult to stay motivated if you are continually failing, no matter how hard you work.

### Check your combination of subjects

Ensure that the combination of subjects you choose meets the requirements of any careers or courses that you are considering. You can do this and still keep your options open – very few careers or courses specify more than one or two subjects within their overall requirements.

### What's essential? What's preferred? What's useful?

Bear in mind that some careers and courses need particular A levels.

Engineering/Technology require Maths and Physics.

Medicine requires Chemistry, plus at least one other science – preferably Biology.

Health care professions such as physiotherapy look for Biology.

For many degrees like English, History, French and Maths you will normally need an A level in this subject.

For others like Law, Psychology, or Economics for example, no prior knowledge is required, though it's useful to study a similar subject to show your aptitude and interest.

For many careers or courses, no subjects are specifically required but there are a number that could be useful.

Vocationally linked A levels in subjects like business studies are not required for careers or courses in that area, but can be a useful way of testing out and demonstrating an interest without totally committing yourself to one occupational area.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF COURSES?

All courses offered in 6th Form @ Swakeleys are Level 3 courses—BTEC, AS or A2. If you have not passed your GCSE Maths and/or English GCSE you will also be required to resit these (**this is now a requirement in all sixth forms**).

**So what are the different Level 3 Courses we offer?**

### **WHAT IS A Level 3 Vocational Course**

There are three different types of vocational courses:

- **The BTEC/OCR National Single Award (Certificate)**
- **The BTEC/OCR National Double Award (Diploma)**
- **The BTEC/OCR National Treble Award (Extended Diploma)**

These are 6, 12 & 18 unit courses which provide a specialist work-related qualification that covers the key knowledge and practical skills required in the vocational sector and also offer different emphasis through the choice of specialist units. They are given a double or treble grade, for example, PP, MP, DD. and carry double/treble UCAS points weighting. (P=Pass, M=Merit, D=Distinction)

**We offer Diplomas and Extended Diplomas in:**

- Applied Science
- Business
- Health and Social Care
- IT National
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism

### **WHAT ARE AS AND A2 LEVELS?**

These are academic qualifications, the majority of which are assessed through examinations. Currently the examinations are offered in modules, meaning that they can be taken in June.

An AS can be a stand alone qualification with points for university - and as such will be taken in Year 12 and can be picked up in Year 13.

Students on Pathways 1 and 2 will choose **4** AS subjects to study in Year 12. Pathway 1 will then continue with all 4 subjects into A2. Some students on Pathway 2 will drop a subject at the end of Year 12 and continue with three A2 subjects.

*See the subjects page to know which AS and A2 subjects we offer.*

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## SUBJECTS FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2014

You may select from either the A level/Level 3 route depending on your Pathway.

A Level courses: You can choose from the subjects listed below. You will need 5 A\*-C grades to study any A Level course, and will also need to meet the subject specific requirements, which are outlined in the Prospectus.

### **A Level Subjects**

Art and Design  
Art and Fashion  
Biology  
Business  
Chemistry  
Dance  
Design Technology: Product Design  
Drama and Theatre Studies  
Economics  
English Language and Literature  
English Literature  
Extended Project Qualification  
Film Studies  
Geography  
Government and Politics  
History  
Law  
Mathematics and Further Mathematics  
Media Studies  
Modern Languages: French & German  
Performance Studies  
Photography  
Physics  
Psychology  
Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics  
Sociology

### **Level 3**

BTEC Applied Science  
BTEC Business (single, double or treble)  
BTEC Health and Social Care (single, double or treble)  
BTEC IT National  
BTEC Sport (single, double or treble)  
BTEC Travel and Tourism (single, double or treble)

### **Extra-Curricular Activity**

Corporate Skills

Subjects attracting low numbers may be offered as part of a consortium arrangement with other schools. Teaching could involve team teaching by staff from more than one school. If numbers are too low and courses are not viable they will not run.

**In addition:** An AS in the Extended Project (EPQ) is compulsory for students on Pathway I. GCSE retakes in English or Maths are compulsory for those students who have not achieved a grade C or higher.

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