

# 6th form @ Swakeleys

*enjoy achieve aspire succeed*



## Introduction & Course Guide 2024

## Dear Students,

It's a busy time in Year 11 and one of the important things that you need to do in amongst preparing for your GCSEs is to choose the right sixth form for you. This is really exciting because you have lots to think about and it may be the first time in your life that you are able to make a decision just for you. Because sixth form is so important for your future success deciding where you will complete sixth form is in many ways a huge decision and in other ways a simple decision.

If you talk to any sixth former they will tell you how challenging level 3 courses are (level 3 courses are A levels and BTECs you can study at sixth form). In this situation it's really important that you are in an environment where you are known and supported to do your very best. In an environment where the teachers know exactly what you studied at GCSE, how you performed, what your strengths and areas for development are, and how you like to work. This environment would be 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys.

One of the reasons that some Swakeleys students give for moving on after Year 11 to a different school/college is that they want a change. My response to that would be firstly you can have a change whilst remaining in an environment where you are known and feel comfortable— when you join 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys you are able to wear your own clothes, attend lessons in a different part of the school building, use mobile phones, and have a separate area to study and socialise.

Secondly I would question why, if you've done well at Swakeleys, would you take a risk to go somewhere else at such a critical time in your school career. You will have a huge change when you start university, training, or a job after sixth form so think very carefully about whether you need to make that change at this exact time in your education.

When we think of a change we might always assume that means that it's going to be a change for the better. Many sixth form colleges have large numbers of students and it can be hard to find your place. At Swakeleys we have a small sixth form with 250 students across Year 12 and Year 13. In such an environment you should feel confident you will be known, supported and safe. Every year we have students who try somewhere else and come back to us at Swakeleys because they didn't feel comfortable elsewhere.

I am really proud of 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys. We have excellent staff – teachers and those who look after you to make sure you're doing well. We have experienced and stable leadership of the sixth form area. The facilities are modern and support the needs of our sixth form students. Sixth form students are very much part of school life at Swakeleys – helping us organise school events such as Halloween mufti day and staff vs students sporting events, leading our assemblies and helping the school run smoothly in their role as prefects. Students do incredibly well at 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys and can then confidently head off into the world to follow their passion.

I recommend 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys most highly and am sure that you will be happy and successful with us.

**Ms Stevenson - Head Teacher**



# Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys

We are delighted that you are considering joining 6th Form @ Swakeleys. We are an ambitious, hardworking, diverse and supportive community.

The Sixth Form has a proven track record of supporting students to reach their academic potential and achieve outstanding grades. These results are the product of our students' commitment to their studies as well as the support given by our dedicated sixth form teachers, expertly guiding students to do their best.

We also believe that alongside helping students to reach their academic potential that it is also vital that we empower students to develop wider skills that will enable them to thrive in their future workplace as well as make a positive contribution to their communities. This is why we run a comprehensive character and culture curriculum, offering students a multitude of different opportunities to develop themselves outside of the classroom.

As a community we work together to support one another. We value and celebrate our differences as well as giving time to come together in shared experiences. We believe that for a student to be successful they need to feel safe, known and understood. This is what we seek to achieve each day, through creating an environment of respect and kindness.

I am confident that by choosing 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys you will have the support, opportunity and challenge that will enable you to achieve your goals.

Mr Hayden

Head of Sixth Form





27% of students  
achieved an A\*-A  
or Distinction/  
Distinction\*

79% of  
students  
achieved  
an A\*-C  
grade  
@ A Level

**In 2023**

21% of students secured  
places at Russell Group  
Universities

10% Cohort  
applying for  
Oxbridge  
and/or  
Medicine

22% of Year 12  
students  
achieved an A  
grade @ AS

# Character and Culture in 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys

We share the same values as the wider school, **enjoy, aspire, achieve and succeed**. In the sixth form this is expressed through the wider opportunities we encourage students to engage in as well as the support we offer to students as they consider their future beyond sixth form.

## Enjoy – Caring for student's wellbeing

6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys takes student wellbeing very seriously. We want all of our students to feel safe, valued and happy here. We therefore have put in place a range of support for students' wellbeing, including an experienced tutor team, pastoral leader and support staff who are able to help students deal with challenges they may face.

We also have a team of student mental health ambassadors who have been trained to support other students. This team have created a mental health first aid station with take-away resources to support students. The team also run a twice weekly games club in sixth form, in order to create a supportive space students can come, relax and chat to others.

As part of the sixth form PSHCE programme we also run workshops on mental and physical wellbeing. For students who may need further support we work closely with our in school counselling service Place 2 be, who also run workshops for sixth form students on dealing with exam pressure.



## Aspire - Encouraging and support students to realise their aspirations

At 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys we also encourage students to be aspirational. We know that if a student is goal orientated, this acts as a powerful motivator. We are always so proud and excited to see the variety of pathways students take when they leave us.

The programme of support for post 18 options begins in January in Year 12, where through assemblies and PSHCE workshops we introduce students to the different options available to them and how the application process works. We also give all students' access to Unifrog – the online destination platform. In the summer term Year 12 students have 2 days off timetable to focus on future choices and how to make strong applications. We have a range of external speakers who contribute to these days. Students in Year 12 finish the term with a week of work experience to further support this process. We also give all Year 12 students 1 hour a week to focus on super curricular activities (such as wider reading, listening to podcasts, completing online courses) to help them create a portfolio of evidence which can be used for future applications.

In Year 13 students have one to one meetings with their tutor to review applications and receive further guidance. All students also have the benefit of being able to see our in schools career advisor Mr Williams, who also runs sessions during the year on the apprenticeships pathway.

### Oxbridge / Medicine pathway

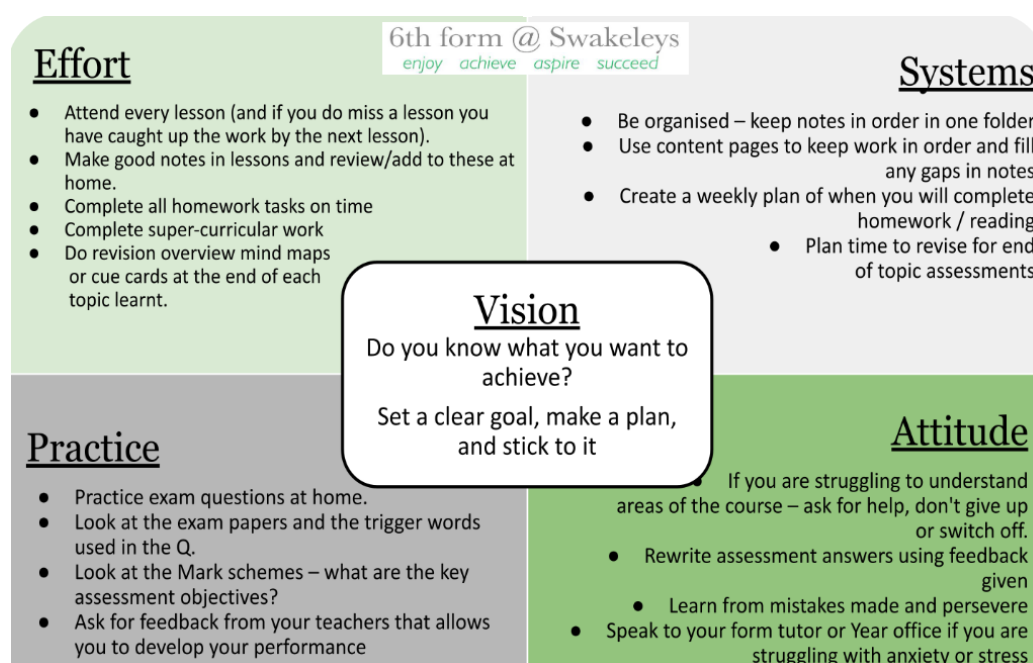
We also run an Oxbridge & Medicine pathway for students who achieved outstanding GCSE results. This programme begins in October for Year 12 students and involves a series of workshops by our partner colleges at Cambridge (Peterhouse) and Oxford (St Anne's). These students will also receive support from an external Oxbridge advisor and for medicine students we work closely with Brighton and Sussex Medical School as well as 'Tutoring Doctors', an organisation set up by a former student of Swakeleys to support future medics.



## Achieve – Empowering students to reach their academic potential

In order to empower students academically we give the majority of students in Year 12 the opportunity to study 4 AS levels. This gives students a wider breadth of study which maximises their chances of going on into Year 13 to achieve excellent grades in their A Level exams. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys are also entered for formal AS examinations at the end of Year 12. This gives students another chance to experience formal examinations as well as receive an additional qualification. These options are rarely available at other sixth forms.

We also teach students about the key characteristics of a successful sixth form student which includes support for students to understand how to organise themselves effectively, as well as implement the best ways to study and revise.



Students on 3 A levels in Year 12 and all students in Year 13 also have 3 hours of supervised study per week on their timetables with the specific focus being for exam skills practice. We believe giving students a silent environment to practice exam questions and/or respond to feedback given by teachers on previously sat assessments gives students the best possible chance of making strong progress.



We also operate a peer mentoring programme during form times to support students' academic progress. As all of our form groups are a combination of Year 12 & Year 13, once a half term Year 13 and Year 12 students pair up and the Year 13 can offer advice and support, based on their experiences the previous year.

After every grade entry, we also identify students in need of extra academic support and they are then formally mentored by their form tutor, Deputy Head of sixth form, or Head of sixth form. Students identify targets and these are then reviewed with their mentor.

#### Financial support with academic expenses

Students will be required to purchase supporting materials such as books or subject specific equipment. Most subjects also organised trips for students to enrich and support learning. This is why in Sixth Form @ Swakeleys we offer a 16 to 19 bursary fund, which is designed to support students who may struggle with the costs of full-time education or training. The school receives a bursary fund from the government, which is then distributed to students in various ways throughout the academic year. Students who successfully apply will be provided financial assistance with course related materials, such as books, in addition to support with meals, equipment or transport.

Students who qualify for Bursary or Pupil Premium funding are also supported in accessing widening participation programmes offered by Universities and employers.

### Succeed – Enabling students to develop their wider skills for the work place and wider community

We encourage our students to get involved in a wide variety of extra- curricular activities and clubs. We believe it is very important for students to develop not just academic skills but also wider social skills to help them be successful and positive citizens. We therefore give students access to a range of activities such as leadership training, student mentoring, and oracy sessions. We also have a bespoke PSHCE programme with a range of sessions and visiting speakers to equip students for life both at and after sixth form.

All sixth form students are expected to take part in extra-curricular activities such as participating in or leading a lunch time club. We also encourage students to participate in programmes that stretch and challenge them. For example:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Mark Evison Foundation project – students can receive up to £500 for a project of their choice
- National Citizens Service

We also run regular social events in the Sixth Form organised by students themselves. These have included in the last year – escape room competitions, Halloween dress up day, sports afternoon, Christmas movie afternoon for example.



### Student leadership programme

At Sixth Form @ Swakeleys we recognise that our students are leaders of tomorrow and we invited students to apply to join our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Student Leadership Programme, which leads to a national accreditation in student leadership. Students serve as Head students and prefects and are responsible for representing the needs of students in the sixth form and initiating projects to improve the school and wider community.



### Community Champion Award

We also expect all Year 12 students to give at least 10 hours of their time throughout the year to volunteer in school to support others. This could be through helping at school events, mentoring younger students, or assisting in clubs for example.

The Community Champion award scheme recognises and celebrates the voluntary work our students do. By completing voluntary work students can apply for an in school Bronze, Silver or Gold community champion award.





# Choosing what to study

Deciding on what to study can be difficult. It is important for students to make good, considered choices that will support strong academic progress. Our advice would be to:

## 1. Choose subjects you will enjoy.

A Levels and Level 3 BTECs can be challenging. To succeed students will need to show high levels of effort and commitment. Students who are interested in and enjoy the subjects they study are often more likely to show the sufficient levels of engagement to make good progress.

## 2. Choose subjects you will be good at.

For many careers or courses, grades matter more than subjects. In addition, it is difficult to stay motivated if a student is continually failing, no matter how hard they work. It will be important to be guided by the entry requirements for each subject and the grades a student is currently working at.

## 3. Choose subjects that will help you achieve future goals.

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 is essential? What is preferred? What is useful?

Bear in mind that some careers and courses need particular A-levels. For example:

- Engineering and technology require maths and physics.
- Medicine requires chemistry, plus at least one other science – preferably biology.
- Computer sciences needs maths and sometimes further maths.
- Health care professions such as physiotherapy look for biology.
- For many degrees such as 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 is useful to study a similar subject to show your aptitude and interest.

The Russell Group – made up of the 24 UK world-class, research-intensive universities have an excellent web site to support on which subjects to choose to help assist with future options. We recommend that this site is used to help with subject choices.

[www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)



# Different types of Courses

## What are AS and A levels?

These are academic qualifications, the majority of which are assessed through examinations at the end of the academic year.

An AS is a stand-alone qualification taken towards the end of Year 12. Sitting this external exam will help students gain more experience of formal examinations and can be useful to universities in checking the validity of predicted grades used for applications.

Students at Swakeleys are strongly encouraged to choose 4 AS subjects to study in Year 12. This is because it is often not easy to predict which subject a student will definitely enjoy or make good academic progress in. By choosing 4 subjects, this gives students more flexibility to work out what they enjoy and are best at.

If students choose 3 AS levels in year 12 they will be timetabled into additional supervised study periods to complete their timetables.

If a student achieves at least a grade D in their AS examination, they are able to go on into Year 13 to take the full A Level qualification. This will include the knowledge learnt at AS and then develops this further in the second year. We would anticipate that the vast majority of students will go on to study 3 subjects in Year 13

**The Extended Project (EPQ)** – This will be available for Year 12 students studying AS Levels. The EPQ is the equivalent to an AS Level. Students will apply to study the EPQ after AS exams in June. Access to study the EPQ will be based on a student's academic and attendance record in Year 12 at the time of application

## What is a Level 3 vocational course?

There are two different types of vocational courses we offer:

- The BTEC Single Award (Extended Certificate)
- The BTEC Double Award (Diploma)

These are 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. Both single awards require examinations in Year 12 or 13, with up to 50% of the qualification consisting of coursework. They are given a single or double grade, for example, PP, MP, DD. and carry single or double UCAS points weighting. (P=Pass, M=Merit, D=Distinction)

## GCSE English and maths retakes

If a student has achieved the entry requirements to study A Levels or BTEC courses but has not achieved a grade 4 in either maths, English or both, students will be expected to retake these GCSE exams. Students will be supported to do this by the maths and English departments with, where possible, timetabled extra lessons or 1-1 support dependent on number of students.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys entry requirements

## Academic Requirements

To study AS Level subjects (or a combination of AS subjects and BTECS) we expect a student to achieve a minimum of five GCSE grade 5s or above.

To study BTEC subjects only we expect a student to have achieved a minimum of four GCSE grade 4s or above.

## General Requirements

We require that students have 95% attendance in Year 11 (excluding known medical conditions/ exceptional circumstances) and an excellent behaviour record.

## Subject Specific Requirements

Subject	GCSE minimum grade
<b>AS LEVEL</b>	
Art and Design	Art Grade 5
Art and Fashion (Textile Design)	Art Grade 5
Biology	Science - 7-6, Maths 6 & English 5
Business	Maths 5 & English 5
Chemistry	Science 7-6, Maths 6 & English 5
Computer Science	Maths 6, English 6 & Computer Science 7
Economics	Maths 6 & English grade 6
English Literature and Language	English 6-5
English Literature	English 6-5
Geography	Geography 5
History	History 5 (if studied) & English 5
Mathematics	Mathematics 7 – students must also pass an entrance exam sat on Induction day
Mathematics - Further	Mathematics 8
Media Studies	English 4
MFL (French or German)	Grade 7 in the chosen language
Photography	Art 5 desirable
Physics	Science - 7-6, Maths 6 & English 5
Politics	English 5 & study of history at GCSE desirable
Psychology	Psychology 5 (if studied), English 5, maths 5 & science 5
Religious Studies	English 5 (RE 5 is also desirable)
Sociology	Sociology 5 (if studied) English 5
<b>LEVEL 3 BTEC</b>	
Childcare (Ext Certificate)	4 GCSEs at 9-4
Health & Social Care (Ext Certificate or Diploma)	4 GCSEs at 9-4

**Please note that we give all students a free choice and once we have received all applications we then create a timetable to try and ensure the vast majority of students have their desired combination of subjects.**

**All offers on courses will be subject to necessary student numbers.**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys application process

### November 2023

Applications for 2024 entry open on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. To apply students need to complete the online application form which can be found on the school website or accessed using the following QR code.



We welcome applications from students studying at other schools.

### January 2024

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**.

Yr11 students at Swakeleys who have applied will be invited to a taster day in sixth form on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**. This will give a students a day in the life of a sixth form student with, where possible, lessons in their chosen subjects

### February 2024

All applications will be reviewed in January. Students at Swakeleys who have applied will be invited for an interview to discuss their application in the first two weeks after February Half term. Interviews will be conducted by one of Ms Stevenson (Head teacher) Miss Wall (Deputy Head teacher) Mr Hayden (Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form) Mr Riches (Deputy Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form) or Mrs Cherry (Pastoral Lead in 6<sup>th</sup> Form). The interviews will take place during the school day and will last no more than 10minutes.

### March 2024

After the interview process decisions will made about offers. Students will be informed via a letter given via their form tutor in March. Students will be ask to accept or decline their offer via an online form by the end of April.

External student applications will be reviewed and selected students will be invited to an open afternoon in March, which will include a tour of the sixth form, introductory talk by Mr Hayden, and a brief interview. External students invited for interview will be informed by post if they have been offered a place before the Easter holiday.

### June 2024

All students who have accepted their 6<sup>th</sup> Form @ Swakeleys offer will be expected to attend an induction day on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. Students studying STEM subjects will also be expected to attend a STEM bridging morning on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**. Failure to attend these days will result in a student's place being reviewed.



6th form @ Swakeleys  
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# Course Guide 2024

# Art and design

## Exam Board - AQA

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two-and three-dimensional media, processes and techniques. They will explore both traditional and new technologies, relevant images, artifacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This will be integral to the investigating and making process. Their responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities, which demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. Students will become aware of the four assessment objectives and will explore drawing using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students will use sketchbooks/workbooks/ journals to underpin their work where appropriate.

### Entry Requirements:

Students should have studied art at GCSE level and gained a grade 5 or higher.

### Study Areas:

Two year linear course	Assessment
Skills workshops focusing on drawing skills and contextual studies	Ongoing assessment of skills
Study of art movements and artists/craftspeople	Ongoing assessment of skills
Personal investigation	60% of total A level mark
Art and Design Externally set assessment	40% of total A level mark 15 hour timed examination

### Future progressions from this course:

The course can lead into an Arts foundation course, leading into a degree in Fine Art; graphic design product design, illustration, web design, Fashion, Textiles and other design based courses. Careers include the media industries, design, education, galleries, architecture, fashion design, animation, medical illustrator, textile designer and many more.

# Art and fashion (textile design)

## Exam Board - AQA

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile and fashion design media, processes and techniques. They will explore both traditional and new techniques, relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to fashion and textiles design, from the past and from recent times. This is integral to the investigating and making process. Their responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities, which demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. Students will become aware of the four assessment objectives and will explore drawing using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students will use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work where appropriate.

### Entry Requirements:

Students should have studied art or textiles at GCSE level and gained a grade 5 or higher.

### Study Areas:

Two year linear course	Assessment
Skills workshops focusing on a range of skills and techniques using a range of textile and art media.	Ongoing assessment of skills
Study of art/design movements and artists/craftspeople and textile artists.	Ongoing assessment of skills
Personal investigation	60% of total A level mark
Art and Design (textiles) Externally set assessment	40% of total A level mark 15 hour timed examination

### Future progressions from this course:

The course can lead into an Arts foundation course, leading into a degree in Fine Art; graphic design product design, illustration, web design, Fashion, Textiles and other design based courses. Careers include the media industries, design, education, galleries, architecture, fashion design, animation, medical illustrator, textile designer and many more.

# Biology

## Exam Board - OCR

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

There will be opportunities for students to attend external lectures, workshops and conferences, often provided by the examining board for specific aspects of the course. Students develop skills in practical coursework as well as theoretical components which 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:

All students will need to obtain a minimum of 7-6 in science, a grade 6+ in maths and a grade 5+ in English.

There will be a compulsory residential field trip to complete coursework consisting of 4 days 3 nights usually in July with an expected cost of £250-£300, bursary students will have a fully funded place.

### Study Areas:

Modules covered	Extra Information	Assessment
<b>Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology</b>	<b>Module 1:</b> Development of practical skills – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement. <b>Module 2:</b> Foundations in biology – covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules. <b>Modules 3 and 4:</b> AS topics. <b>Modules 5 and 6:</b> A Level topics	<b>At AS Level:</b> AS Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4. This is a 'stand alone' qualification.  <b>At A Level:</b> A Level Paper 1 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 A Level Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 A Level Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6.
<b>Module 2 – Foundations in biology</b>		
<b>Module 3 – Exchange and transport</b>		
<b>Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease</b>		
<b>Module 5 – Communications, homeostasis and energy</b>		
<b>Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems</b>		

### Future progressions from this course:

Gaining a qualification in Biology at this level can lead into Higher Education in areas such as, Biological Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacology, Dentistry, Veterinary, Dietetics, Nursing, Forensics, Sports Science, Psychology, Teaching and more. Students of Biology have also progressed into other less related areas such as Business and Law



# Business

## Exam Board - EDEXCEL

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

AS and A level specifications in business encourage students to: develop an enthusiasm for studying business, gain a holistic understanding of business in a range of contexts, develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants, understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives, generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals, acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills, including decision making, problem solving, critical analysis, apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

### Entry Requirements:

All students must have at least a grade 9-5 in GCSE maths and English.

### Study Areas:

AS modules: 1st year of study	Assessment
<b>Theme 1</b> - Marketing and People	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks in total 50% of AS
<b>Theme 2</b> - Managing Business Activity	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks in total 50% of AS

A2 modules: 2nd year of study	Assessment
<b>Paper 1 : Marketing People and Global Business</b> Themes 1&4 assessed	Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks in total 35% of A-level
<b>Paper 2: Business activity and decision strategy</b> Themes 1&3 assessed	Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks in total 35% of A-level
<b>Paper 3: Investigating a business in a competitive environment</b> All themes	Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks in total 30% of A-level

### Future progressions from this course:

AS and A2 levels are recognised qualifications for a wide range of courses in Higher Education. Business Studies can also be a useful choice for a wide range of careers and can be combined with a wide range of subjects for example; accounting, economics, environment, international development, law, French or Spanish.

# Chemistry

## Exam Board - OCR

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

There will be opportunities for students to attend external lectures, workshops and conferences, often provided by the examining board, for specific aspects of the course. There will also be ample opportunity to develop practical skills as practical investigations are an integral part of this AS/A level course.

### Entry Requirements:

All students will need to obtain a minimum of 7-6 in science, a grade 6+ in maths and a grade 5+ in English.

### Study Areas:

Modules covered	Extra Information	Assessment
<b>Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry</b>	<b>Module 1:</b> Development of practical skills – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement. <b>Module 2:</b> Foundations in chemistry covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules. <b>Modules 3 and 4:</b> AS topics. <b>Modules 5 and 6:</b> A Level topics.	<b>At AS Level:</b> Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4.  <b>At A Level:</b>  Paper 1 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6.
<b>Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry</b>		
<b>Module 3 – Periodic table and energy</b>		
<b>Module 4 – Core organic chemistry</b>		
<b>Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements</b>		
<b>Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis</b>		

### Future progressions from this course:

Gaining a qualification in Chemistry at this level can lead into Higher Education in areas such as medicine, pharmacology, dentistry, veterinary, dietetics, nursing, forensics, sports Science, psychology, teaching and more. Students of chemistry have also progressed into other less related areas such as business and law.

# Computer Science

## Exam Board - OCR

### Course Outline:

The computer science A Level has been developed for learners to succeed in the field of computing. The duration of the course is 1 year for an AS qualification and 2 years to gain an A Level qualification.

### Skills:

You must have a real interest and enthusiasm for computing but equally important is the willingness to involve yourself in understanding the theory that underpins practical work.

### Entry Requirements:

A grade 9-6 in maths and English are essential. A grade 9-7 in GCSE computer science is compulsory due to programming knowledge.

### Study Areas:

Year 1 – AS modules	Assessment
<b>Paper 1 Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices</li><li>• Types of software and the difference methodologies used to develop software</li><li>• Data exchange between different systems</li><li>• Data types, data structures and algorithms</li><li>• Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues</li><li>• The nature of applications</li><li>• HTML/CSS</li></ul>	<b>50% of AS level mark</b>  Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes
<b>Paper 2 Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc)</li><li>• Problem solving and programming – how computers and programs can be used to solve problems</li><li>• Algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems</li></ul>	<b>50% of AS level mark</b>  Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Year 2 – A2 modules	Assessment
<b>Paper 1 Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database to third normal form</li> <li>• Floating point and Normalisation</li> <li>• Data types, data structures and algorithms</li> <li>• Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues</li> <li>• Karnaugh maps and De Morgan's Law</li> <li>• Adders and D-type flip flops</li> <li>• Graph and traversal algorithms</li> <li>• Optimisation algorithms</li> </ul>	<b>40% of A level mark</b>  Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes
<b>Paper 2 Content:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc)</li> <li>• Problem solving and programming – how computers and programs can be used to solve problems</li> <li>• Algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems</li> </ul>	<b>40% of A level mark</b>  Written exam 2 hour 30 minutes
<b>NEA:</b> Computational practical project Students are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. They will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen by the student and provides them with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science. We support a wide and diverse range of languages.	<b>20% of A Level</b> Non exam assessment

These units will be both internally and externally assessed.

#### **Future Progression from this course:**

This course enables students to progress to university as well as access career opportunities within the computing industry.



# Economics

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

## Skills:

**Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other.** It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices. Economics focuses on the world economy not just Britain, and looks at current problems facing governments, businesses and individuals. It is important to be interested and aware of current affairs. We expect you to regularly read a quality newspaper. The examination requires you to be competent at handling figures, statistics and also able to use and respond to economic data. Studying economics will teach you lots of transferable skills and by the end of your course you will have developed a number of employable skills, such as: analytical and critical thinking, communication skills, problem solving and quantitative methods.

## Entry Requirements:

Students must have at least a grade 6 in GCSE maths and a grade 9-6 in English is also a minimum requirement.

## Study Areas:

AS & A2 Themes: 1st year of study	Assessment
<b>Theme 1</b> – Introduction to markets and market failure	50% of total AS level mark Written examination: 1.30hrs 80 marks in total
<b>Theme 2</b> – The UK economy- performance and policies	50% of total AS level mark Written examination: 1.30hrs 80 marks in total

A2 modules: 2nd year of study	Assessment
<b>Paper 1 : Markets and Business Behaviour</b> Themes 1&3 assessed	Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks in total 35% of A-level
<b>Paper 2: The National and Global Economy</b> Themes 2&4 assessed	Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks in total 35% of A-level
<b>Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics</b> All themes	Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks in total 30% of A-level

## Future progressions from this course:

Economics fits well with maths, sciences, geography and language combinations. Many students take the subject further to degree level at university and then follow a career in accountancy, business, management, finance, law or even teaching.

# English Literature

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification. The examinations are open book and students will be allowed to take in blank copies of the text.

## **Skills:**

It is essential to enjoy reading, as students study a number of texts in the first year including modern fiction, drama and poetry. In the second year, students will study texts from a wide range of classic and modern poetry, prose and drama, including Shakespeare. The ability to critically analyse texts, alongside an openness to a range of approaches and views, is very important. The course also requires candidates to explore literature through their own wider reading. There may also be the opportunity to attend theatre trips.

## **Entry Requirements:**

Students must achieve a grade 9-6 in either English Language or English Literature and a grade 9-5 in the other corresponding subject.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>AS modules: 1st year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Paper 1</b> Poetry and Drama Modern poetry and modern play	60% of total AS level mark Written examination 2 hr
<b>Paper 2</b> Prose – comparing novels pre and post 1900	40% of total AS level mark Written examination 1.15 hr
<b>A2 modules: 2nd year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Paper 1</b> Modern Play and Shakespeare	30% of A level mark Written examination 2.15 hr
<b>Paper 2</b> Prose – comparing novels pre and post 1900	20% of total A level mark Written examination 1.15 hr
<b>Paper 3</b> Poetry – cluster of poetry and unseen poetry	30% of total A level mark Written examination 2.15 hr
<b>Coursework</b>	20% of total A level mark Pupils produce a piece of coursework 2500 words comparing texts

## **Future progressions from this course:**

The full A-level in English Literature offers a foundation for entry to degree courses in a variety of humanities and arts subjects. It is directly relevant to careers in media, education and publishing.

# English Language & Literature

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification. Most examinations are open book and students will be allowed to take in blank copies of the text.

## **Skills:**

Study of this subject encourages you to extend your interests in both language and literature. Students have the chance to develop as confident and reflective readers and writers. In the two-year course you will study a number of literary texts and a wide variety of non-literary material which will often be linked thematically to the literature.

It is expected that, as well as reading, students have an enthusiasm for creative writing. The course may also include a theatre trip and attendance at literary events.

## **Entry Requirements:**

Students must achieve a grade 9-6 in either English Language or English Literature and a grade 9-5 in the other corresponding subject.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>A Level modules: 1st year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Paper 1</b> — Voices in speech and writing	40% of total A level (50% of AS Level) Written examination 2hr 30 (AS – 1hr 30)
<b>Paper 2</b> – Varieties in Language and Literature	40% of total A level mark (50% of AS Level 1 hr 30) Written examination 2hr 30

<b>Coursework</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Investigating and creating texts.	Assignment 1 – Two pieces of creative writing  Assignment 2 – One Analytical Commentary.

## **Future progressions from this course:**

This is a good foundation for degree courses in linguistics, literature or a variety of arts and humanities courses. It is relevant for careers in communication, education and media and develops transferable skills of analysis and written communication.

# Extended project qualification

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## **Course Outline:**

This is a one year course, focused around completing an extended project, designed to 'stretch and challenge' students. It is worth half an A level and as such offers an A\* grade.

## **Skills:**

Students will have a significant input into the choice and design of their project. They will develop their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners. The project will require the use of higher order skills such as critical thinking, planning, analysis, synthesis, reflection and evaluation as well as effective project management.

## **Entry Requirements:**

This will be available for Year 12 students studying AS Levels. The EPQ is the equivalent to an AS Level. Students will apply to study the EPQ after AS exams in June. Access to study the EPQ will be based on a student's academic and attendance record in Year 12 at the time of application.

## **Study Areas:**

Contents	Assessment
Select a project topic	20% Identify, design, plan and carry out a project
Develop a project proposal	20% Research, critically select, organise and use the information
Develop and realise the project	40% Select and use a range of skills
Present the outcome, including an evaluation of the project and own learning	20% Evaluate all aspects of the course

## **Future progressions from this course:**

Students will have developed a toolkit of useful skills that will enable them to prepare for independent learning in higher education or provide experience for project based work in employment.



# Geography

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is one year for the AS and two years for the A level qualification.

Geography is a naturally diverse and dynamic subject, changing to meet the needs of modern day society. This syllabus is an exciting course allowing students the chance to investigate shifting global patterns and current world views for themselves. Geography at A level offers the chance for students to learn about the links between people and their place in the natural world, so equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make their own choices towards a sustainable future.

## **Skills:**

Geography encompasses a wide range of physical, human and environmental concepts. It is important for students to have a broad interest in these topics. The ability to work independently and collaboratively, both in class, and on home based research as well as in the field, is important. Good data handling skills are essential and students must be prepared to undertake both two days (for AS) and four days (for A2) residential field trips.

## **Entry Requirements:**

A GCSE in geography (grade 9-5) is essential.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>AS modules of study: Year 12</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Topic 1 – Tectonic processes & hazards Topic 2 – Landscape systems processes & change	Written examinations: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 90 marks
Topic 3 – Globalisation Topic 4 – Shaping places	Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 90 marks

<b>A2 modules of study: Year 13</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	
Topic 1 – Tectonic processes & hazards Topic 2 – Landscape systems processes & change Topic 5 – The water cycle and water insecurity Topic 6 – The carbon cycle and energy insecurity	Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks	Independent Investigation Coursework: 20% of the qualification
Topic 3 – Globalisation Topic 4 – Shaping places Topic 7 – Superpowers Topic 8 – Global development and connections	Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks	Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% of the qualification 70 marks

## **Future progressions from this course:**

Geography is useful for careers in environmental science, political sciences, economics, politics, town planning, meteorology and population studies.

# History

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

## **Skills:**

History covers a wide range of concepts in a variety of countries. It is important for students to have a range of interests in historical events. Good research skills are crucial, alongside the ability to construct well researched essays.

## **Entry Requirements:**

A 9-5 grade in history is essential: if the subject has been studied; a grade 9-5 in English is required.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>AS modules: 1st year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Unit 1</b> – Germany and West Germany 1918 – 89	60% of AS qualification Written examination at the end of year 12 2hr 15
<b>Unit 2</b> – The rise and fall of fascism in Italy 1911- 46	40% of AS qualification Written examination at the end of year 12 1hr 30

<b>A level modules: 2nd year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Unit 1</b> – Germany and West Germany 1918 – 89	30% of A level qualification Written examination at the end of year 13 2hr 15
<b>Unit 2</b> – The rise and fall of fascism in Italy 1911- 46	20% of A level qualification Written examination at the end of year 13 1hr 30
<b>Unit 3</b> – Ireland & the Union 1774 - 1923	30% of A2 qualification Written examination at the end of year 13 2hr 15
<b>Unit 4</b> – Coursework on the causes of World War One	20% of A2 qualification Coursework

## **Future progressions from this course:**

History is a much respected A level and is widely accepted for most university courses and sought by employers. It can lead to many different careers in journalism, education, law, management and politics.

# Mathematics and Further mathematics

## MATHEMATICS

### Course Outline:

The assessment of this course is via 3, 2 hour papers, each worth 100 marks. The papers are evenly weighted to award the final grade. All students will study pure, statistics and mechanics. (Note: This is a change for the new A level. Previously a choice could be made between mechanics and statistics.)

### Skills:

It is essential to have covered the grades 9-7 content at GCSE level, particularly in topics such as Algebra and Trigonometry, since students will need to build upon this knowledge and take it to a much higher level.

### Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 in maths GCSE (in certain circumstances a grade 6 and a recommendation from the Head of Maths may be sufficient to be eligible for the course). We also require all students to pass an algebra entrance examination based on algebra content from the GCSE course.

Specification at a Glance
<b>Pure</b> Algebra and functions; coordinate geometry; sequences and series; differentiation; integration; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometry; numerical methods
<b>Mechanics</b> Vectors; kinematics; Newton's Laws of Motion; forces; moments
<b>Statistics</b> Mathematical models in probability and statistics; representation and summary of data; probability; statistical distributions; hypothesis testing  A pre-released data set will be provided by the exam board for students to analyse. The data set will have examination questions based on this so time will be spent in lessons familiarising students with it.

The A level will be assessed using the following objectives:

- Using and applying standard techniques 50%
- Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically 25%
- Problem solving 25%

The use of suitable technology is to be encouraged. This includes graph plotting packages as well as tools to represent and interpret large data sets.

A calculator is required for all assessments in this specification. The calculator must have the ability to compute summary statistics and have an iterative function.

## **MATHEMATICS (CONTINUED)**

### **Further progression from this course:**

Mathematics is a world of pattern and order, where you take what you know and apply it to solve new problems, developing higher order thinking skills. It opens the door into many careers and has been proven to increase earning potential in the future. Mathematics is a facilitating subject that is desirable for many subjects at a degree level. Mathematics A level is regarded as an entry requirement qualification to scientific, engineering, information technology, architecture, accountancy and many other degree subjects and careers.

### **FURTHER MATHEMATICS**

This qualification is very useful, particularly to those wishing to go on to degree courses in mathematics or engineering. For many maths degree courses, further mathematics to A level is now an entry requirement. You are strongly advised to check entry requirements for mathematics degree courses, particularly if you already have a university in mind.

This course further develops pure mathematics skills including complex numbers, matrices polar co-ordinates and hyperbolic functions. It also takes a more in depth look at mechanics and statistics.

### **Entry Requirements:**

You must do this alongside AS/A2 level Mathematics.  
Grade 8 or 9 in maths GCSE.

# Media studies

**Exam Board - EDUQAS**

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

## **Skills:**

This exciting course offers the opportunity to study a range of areas within the media industry. It is an extremely contemporary subject and allows students to combine practical production elements with the theoretical study of a wide range of media topics. The nature of this course provides an opportunity for individual interpretation of current media within the assessment parameters, thus permitting a dynamic and accessible course of study covering this rapidly growing subject area.

## **Entry Requirements:**

Students with an interest in the media and innovative ideas will succeed on this course. A grade 9-4 in English GCSE is essential.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>AS modules: 1<sup>st</sup> year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Component 1</b> – Investigation the Media <b>Section A:</b> Investigating Media Language and Representation <b>Section B:</b> Investigating Media Industries and Audiences	35% of total AS mark Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes
<b>Component 2</b> – Investigating Media Forms and Products <b>Section A:</b> Television <b>Section B:</b> Magazine <b>Section C:</b> Online Media	35% of total AS mark Written exam 2 hours
<b>Component 3</b> – Production Creative production (individual media product created in response to brief by exam board)	30% of AS mark Non-exam assessment

<b>A2 modules: 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Component 1</b> – Media Products, Industries and Audiences <b>Section A:</b> Analysing Media Language and Representation <b>Section B:</b> Understanding Media Industries and Audiences	35% of total A level mark Written exam 2 hours 15 minutes
<b>Component 2</b> – Media Forms and Products in Depth <b>Section A:</b> Television in the Global Age <b>Section B:</b> Magazines, Mainstream and Alternative Media	35% of total A level mark Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes

<b>Section C: Media in the Online Age</b>	
<b>Component 3 – Production</b> Creative production (individual cross media product created in response to brief by exam board)	30% of A Level mark Non-exam assessment

**Future progressions from this course:**

A good route to careers in any type of media, including journalism and television. Any career or course requiring communication skills would value this qualification. This AS or A2 could lead you on to study media or communication at degree level. This course works well with English and sociology/psychology.



# Modern foreign languages: French / German

## Exam Board - AQA

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification. Under exceptional circumstances it may be possible to do a full A level in one year (e.g. if you have lived in the country).

### Skills:

Students will need to feel confident in the four language skills: reading, listening, writing and speaking. Knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life in the target language country is also important, alongside an interest in developing and understanding this in much greater detail.

### Entry Requirements:

All students will need to obtain a 9-7 grade at GCSE in their chosen language (either German or French) in order to continue with this subject at Sixth Form level, or have the language as part of their culture.

### Study Areas:

AS: Stand-alone qualification	Assessment
Listening/reading/writing	Listening, reading, translation into English 1 hour 45 minutes – 45% AS
Writing	Translation into French/German, guided essay on film 1 hour 30 minutes – 25% AS
Speaking	Discussion of 2 sub-themes based on a stimulus card 12-14 minutes – 30% AS

A Level	Assessment
Listening/reading/writing	Listening, reading, translation into English and translation into French/German 2 hours 30 minutes – 50% A Level
Writing	Essay on film and essay on a novel 2 hours – 20% A Level
Individual Research Project	Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card, presentation and discussion of individual research projects 21-23 minutes – 30% A Level

### Future progressions from this course:

A range of opportunities arise from studying French/German A level. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages, others pursue a higher education course in another subject, and may have a language option with it. Studying a language at A level greatly improves your employability, especially in companies with international markets. Careers include journalism, international trade, education, diplomatic services and many more.

# Photography

**Exam Board:** AQA

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is two years for the full A level qualification.

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. They will explore relevant images, artifacts and resources relating to Photography and a wider range of digital media and art. This will be integral to the investigating and making process. The responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities, which demonstrate the understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

Students will become aware of the four assessment objectives to be demonstrated in the context of the content and skills presented and of the importance of process as well as product. They will use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin the work where appropriate. Students will use digital techniques to produce images.

## **Entry Requirements:**

Students with an interest in photography will perform better in this subject. A grade 9-4 in English GCSE is essential. Pupils will also need to have their own digital SLR camera (Some students will be given financial support in order to purchase this – please see section on financial support)

## **Study Areas:**

<b>Two year Linear course</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Technical skills and techniques when using an SLR camera and other digital software for editing.	Ongoing assessment of skills
Range of skills based projects experimenting with photography techniques, supported with contextual studies of various photographers and artists.	Ongoing assessment of skills
Personal investigation	60% of total A level mark
Photography externally set assessment	40% of total A level mark 15 hour timed examination

## **Future progressions from this course:**

The course can lead into an Arts foundation course, leading into a degree in photography, lens based media courses etc. Careers include the media industries, photo journalism, design, education, web design, galleries and many other photography design based industries.

# Physics

## Exam Board - AQA

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

The ability to grasp theoretical concepts is crucial, alongside an interest in designing and conducting practical experiments. Data handling skills and a sound level of mathematical competency is also key.

### Entry Requirements:

All students will need to obtain a minimum of 7-6 in science, a grade 6+ in maths and a grade 5+ in English.

### Study Areas:

AS modules: 1st year of study	Extra Information	Assessment
<b>Module 1</b> <b>Measurement &amp; their errors</b>	Module 1 Development of practical skills and data analysis. This module underpins the whole specification and covers the practical skills students should develop throughout the course. These practical skills can be assessed within written examinations and at A level within the practical endorsement.	At AS level:  Paper 1 & 2 can assess any content from modules 1-5  This is a standalone qualification
<b>Module 2</b> <b>Particles and radiation</b>	Modules 2-5 are AS Topics  Modules 6-8 are A Level topics	
<b>Module 3</b> <b>Waves</b>		
<b>Module 4</b> <b>Mechanics &amp; materials</b>		
<b>Module 5</b> <b>Electricity</b>		

A2 modules: 2nd year of study	Extra Information	Assessment
<b>Module 6</b> <b>Further mechanics &amp; thermal physics</b>	Options at A level One of the following:	At A Level: Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1 – 6.1 (periodic motion)
<b>Module 7</b> <b>Fields &amp; their consequences</b>	Astrophysics Medical Physics	Paper 2 assesses content from modules 6.2-8 and assumed knowledge from module 1-6.1
<b>Module 8</b> <b>Nuclear Physics</b>	Turning points in Physics Engineering Physics Electronics	Paper 3 Practical skills and data analysis and Optional topic.

### Future progressions from this course:

The course is a sound preparation for degree level courses in physics and related science, engineering and medicine as well as chemical engineering and related programmes. A level physics is a recognised entry qualification for a wide range of Higher Education courses. AS and A level physics are also recognised as suitable qualifications for a wide range of employment in the science sector.

# Politics

**Exam Board** - EDEXCEL

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

Politics will enable students to develop a wide range of skills including the ability to comprehend, synthesise and interpret political information; analyse and evaluate political knowledge; identify connections, similarities and differences between the areas studied; select relevant material and construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently using appropriate political vocabulary.

## **Skills:**

If you are interested in the news and keeping abreast of current affairs then this course is for you, an interest in (and commitment to) keeping up-to-date with the news is essential.

## **Entry Requirements:**

A grade 9-5 in English is essential and the study of history at GCSE is recommended. An interest in general political affairs is essential.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>AS modules: 1st year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Unit 1 – People and Politics	50% of AS (33.3% of A2) 1 hour & 20 minutes written examination
Unit 2 – Governing the UK	50% of AS 33.3% of A2) 1 hour & 20 minutes written examination

<b>A level: 2nd year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
For Unit 1 & 2 we study the AS course with ideologies – Conservatism, Socialism, Liberalism & Feminism. Unit 3 – US Government and Politics.	Each is worth 33.3% of the course  33.3% of A2 1½ hour written examination

## **Future progressions from this course:**

A qualification in politics can lead to Higher Education in areas such as politics, history, law, journalism and teaching. It is widely accepted for most university courses and employers.

# Psychology

## Exam Board - AQA

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

Psychology is a fascinating and exciting subject which focuses on understanding and explaining human behaviour in a scientific way. As well as developing knowledge about the main areas of the subject, students of psychology will acquire valuable skills in critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and communication. Do you often wonder why people do the things they do? Are you interested in finding out about how people think and how our past can influence decisions we make now? If so, this course is for you.

### Entry Requirements:

A 9-5 grade in psychology is essential if the subject has been studied. It is also essential to have grade 9-5 in maths, 9-5 in English and 9-5 in science as it requires an understanding of basic statistics, learning scientific terminology and research techniques and the skills involved in evaluation, analysis and essay writing skills.

### Study Areas:

AS Specification	Assessment
<b>Unit 1</b> - Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment.	50% of total AS Level mark. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination
<b>Unit 2</b> - Psychology in context: Psychopathology, Approaches with Biopsychology, Research Methods.	50% of total AS Level mark. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination

A Level Specification	Assessment
Unit 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment & Psychopathology.	33.3% of total A2 Level mark. 2 hour written examination
Unit 2 - Psychology in context: Approaches, Biopsychology, Research Methods.	33.3% of total A2 Level mark. 2 hour written examination
Unit 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues and Debates, Relationships, Schizophrenia and aggression.	33.3% of total A2 Level mark. 2 hour written examination

### Future progressions from this course:

Students taking psychology at A level often go on to study the subject or a related subject at university. Knowledge of this field would be useful in careers such as social work, law, nursing, media, forensics, physiotherapy, etc. The subject can be combined equally well with science, humanities or arts subjects to provide a balanced A level profile.

# Religious Studies: (Philosophy & Ethics)

**Exam Board - AQA**

## **Course Outline:**

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

## **Skills:**

Whilst it is not essential to have studied GSCE RE, it is essential that you enjoy the subject. You will engage with interesting and challenging questions and you should enjoy discussing different viewpoints. You will be required to write analytically about different views. Philosophy asks us to analyse our existence and as such explores the nature and existence of God, religious experience and religious language. Ethics examines theories of moral behaviour and these are applied to contemporary ethical issues. The religion element of the course explores the beliefs and practices of Christianity. You will learn different theories and must be able to apply them to various situations or questions, and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

## **Entry Requirements:**

A grade 9-5 in English is essential and a GCSE in RE (grade 9-5) is preferable although not essential.

## **Study Areas:**

<b>AS modules: 1st year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Paper 1</b> — Philosophy of Religion and religious ethics	67% of AS mark Written examination 2hr
<b>Paper 2</b> – Study of religion Christianity	33% of AS mark Written examination 1hr
<b>A2 modules: 2nd year of study</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Paper 1</b> – Philosophy of Religion and religious ethics	50% of A level mark Written examination 3 hr
<b>Paper 2</b> – Study of religion Christianity and religious dialogues	50% of total A level mark Written examination 3 hr

## **Future progressions from this course:**

This course will allow you the opportunity to develop your skills in analysing philosophical and ethical arguments, beliefs and ideas. It will also enable you to further your own perspective on ultimate issues concerning life and the world. It is a recognised qualification for entrance to university and can lead to a number of varied career paths, including: banking, media, journalism, law, teaching, social work, and more.



# Sociology

## Exam Board - AQA

### Course Outline:

The duration of the course is either one year to gain an AS award or two years for the full A level qualification.

### Skills:

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour. Sociologists construct theories (general explanations) of social patterns based on research and evidence. Each topic covered involves consideration of the common themes of gender, ethnicity, age and class. Lessons involve discussion, debates and research. Students should have an interest in social processes and be able to write essays.

You do need to be competent at reading lengthy texts and be prepared to keep up to date with national and world events. By the end of the first term students should be able to compare and contrast different theoretical perspectives such as Functionalists and Post Modernists.

### Entry Requirements:

A grade 9-5 in English is essential. Students with GCSE sociology should have at least a grade 5, but GCSE sociology is not essential to take the subject at A level.

### Study Areas:

AS modules: 1st year of study	Assessment
<b>Unit 1</b> – Education with Methods in context.	50% of total AS level mark Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes
<b>Unit 2</b> – Research Methods and Culture and Identity.	50% of total AS level mark Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes

A Level Specification	Assessment
<b>Unit 1</b> - Education with Theory and Methods.	33.3% of total A2 Level mark. 2 hour written examination
<b>Unit 2</b> - Topics in Sociology: Families and Households and Beliefs in society.	33.3% of total A2 Level mark. 2 hour written examination
<b>Unit 3</b> – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.	33.3% of total A2 Level mark. 2 hour written examination

### Future progressions from this course:

Sociology can combine with all the humanities and it makes an excellent combination with subjects such as history, psychology and economics. Students who take Sociology A level often go on to study the subject or a related subject at degree level at university. Knowledge of the subject is useful for entry into all the caring occupations and related fields such as law, media, personnel work, and more.

# BTEC level 3 Extended Certificate in Children's play, learning and development

**Exam Board - EDEXCEL**

## **Course Outline:**

Level 3 single (Extended Certificate): equivalent to 1 A Level.

<b>Single Course – Extended Certificate</b>
Unit 1 – Children's Development Exam – 1 hour 45minutes
Unit 2 – Development of Children's Communication, Literacy, and Numeracy Skills Exam – 3 hours
Unit 3 – Play & Learning Coursework
Unit 5 – Keeping Children Safe Coursework
<i>Students will benefit from work experience placements in schools or other childcare settings</i>

## **Skills:**

An interest in child development and how to support children's development. An interest in gaining a broad understanding and knowledge of the early years and to develop essential skills, such as observation, assessment skills and reflective practice skills prized by employers and higher education institutions.

## **Entry Requirements:**

It is desirable for students to have 4 GCSEs at 9-4.

## **Assessment:**

Work is assessed on a pass, merit, distinction, distinction\* grading. The **BTEC Extended Certificate** will be delivered over two years; students must complete 4 units for this; 2 exams and 2 pieces of coursework.

## **Future progressions from this course:**

Learners who successfully complete the BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator) will be able to practise as early years educators. Both courses also provide opportunities for learners to progress to either academic or more specialised vocational pathways.

# BTEC level 3 Extended Certificate and Diploma in Health and Social Care

**Exam Board** - Edexcel

## **Course Outline:**

**This is a level 3 course which is selected as a single or double option.**

Level 3 National Diploma (Double) – 8 units to complete over 2 years = 2 A Levels

Level 3 National Extended Certificate (Single) – 4 units to complete over 2 years = 1 A Level

The course has been created to enable students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the health and social care sector.

<b>Single Course – Extended Certificate</b>	<b>Double Course – Diploma (including the single course topics)</b>
Unit 1 – Human Development Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes	Unit 4 – Enquiries into current Research in Health and Social Care Exam – 3 hours
Unit 2 – Working in Health and Social Care Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes	Unit 7 – Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care Coursework
Unit 5 – Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs Coursework	Unit 8 – Promoting Public Health Coursework
Unit 14 – Physiological Disorders and their Care Coursework	Unit 10 Sociological Perspectives Coursework

## **Skills:**

An interest in learning how to care for a range of different ages is important, alongside an interest in gaining practical skills which enable you to help people. You may want to complete your work experience in a health care setting which involves either voluntary work, a nursery, a school with special needs or a residential home.

## **Entry Requirements:**

It is desirable for students to have 4 GCSEs at grade 9-4.

## **Assessment:**

Work is assessed on a pass, merit, distinction, distinction\* grading. The **National diploma** is the equivalent to 2 A levels and will be delivered over two years; students must complete 8 units over 2 years; 6 are mandatory and 2 are optional. 3 of these 8 units are external exam elements. The **National Extended Certificate** is the equivalent to 1 A level and will be delivered over two years; 4 units to be completed over 2 years; 3 are mandatory and 2 are optional. 2 units are external exam elements.

## **Future progressions from this course:**

A level 3 course enables the student to progress onto university. The course could also lead in to employment within the health and social care sectors due to already gaining work experience in health and social care environments.