



Plymstock
School
Sixth Form



Course
Guide
2017

SUCCESSING TOGETHER

'Achievement in the Sixth Form is outstanding. Students make rapid progress over time. Attainment at the end of Year 13 is high. This is because students respond very well to the school's high expectations.'

Ofsted 2013

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What Qualifications Are Available?

A Level Qualifications

September 2016 saw changes to the A Level qualification. Due to these changes, students need to ensure they choose wisely and are fully committed to following a **2 year qualification**.

All exams will take place at the end of Year 13.

We recommend that all but a small minority of students study 3 A levels/Level 3 qualifications. If you wish to study 4 A Levels/Level 3 qualifications, you should be targeted all A*-A grades at GCSE.

Level 3 BTECS and OCR Technical Qualifications

The new Level 3 BTECs and OCR Technical's that have been introduced are more rigorous. The assessment criteria is extremely strict with even more emphasis being placed on students working independently and adhering to strict deadlines. BTECs and OCR Technical's are Level 3 qualifications and are designed to meet the very specific needs of the areas both universities and employers are looking for. BTECs and OCR Technical's are recognised by both employers and universities and are highly regarded.

Although the majority of these courses are made up of coursework an exam element has now been introduced.

Choosing Your Options

When choosing your subject choices please ensure you list them in preference order on the Option Form supplied. Where clashes occur in option blocks we will do our best to accommodate your choices however, this will not always be possible.

If we cannot accommodate all subject choices we will look at the subjects offered within the consortium schools (Coombe Dean, Plympton Academy and Hele's) to see if they will be able to accommodate your subject choice alongside your other subject options at Plymstock.

Further details on the consortium offer and transport arrangements can be found on page 6 of this prospectus.

When a subject is oversubscribed we will look at the possibility of running an additional class within a different block.

When a subject is undersubscribed we cannot always guarantee the subject will run. We are committed to ensuring students are able to study the subjects they wish. To enable us to accommodate running small classes some lessons may be allocated as independent study on topics the teacher has set.

Possible GCSE Results Pathway (these are guidelines)	Years 12 & 13	After Year 13
7 or more A* to B grades	Sixth Form A Levels (Level 3) (3 or 4 subjects)	University
		Higher Apprenticeship
		Work Place
5 or more A* to B grades	Sixth Form A Levels, including Applied courses (Level 3) (3 subjects)	University
		Higher & Intermediate Apprenticeship
		Work Place
5 or more A* to C grades	Sixth Form A Levels, including Applied courses (Level 3) (3 subjects)	University
		Apprenticeship
		Work Place
5 or A* to C grades	Sixth Form Applied A Level courses (Level 3) (3 subjects)	University
	Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship
	College (Level 1, 2 or 3)	Work Place
5 C to E grades	Sixth Form (Plym Consortium, Year 12 only)	Work Place, Apprenticeship, College
	Apprenticeship	
	College (Level 1, 2 or 3)	
	Work place which includes training, this would usually be the armed forces.	

It is essential you research your course choices and choose subjects that are relevant to what you may want to study at University or the industry you wish to work within. A couple of websites that can help with research are listed below. This is not an exhaustive list.

Engineering

Maths, Physics and a third option. Ideally this third option will bear some relevance i.e. Computer Science or Chemistry.

Law

Option 1: History, English and a third option. Ideally this third option will continue to develop your analytical skills and ability to construct well-formed arguments.

Option 2: History, Sociology and RS

There are other combinations that are accepted for Law; these are just a couple of examples.

Medicine

Biology, Chemistry, Maths and a possible fourth option. Students wishing to study medicine need to ensure they are choosing Biology, Chemistry and Maths. The fourth option could be RS, History, or English.

Veterinary Medicine

Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. A lot of universities offering Veterinary Medicine like this combination.

Nursing

A science (Biology, Chemistry, or Applied Science) and two other subjects for example Maths and English or Psychology and History. Again, these are examples and there are other options you can follow.

With the new A Levels it is important to check what universities require. For example Oxbridge and some universities offering medicine and veterinary medicine do not require students to take 4 A Levels and will make offers based on 3 A Levels. However, it is important that you research what your university choices require so you are not disadvantaged.

www.ucas.com

www.careerpilot.org.uk

The Plym Learning Consortium

Coombe Dean School, Hele's School, Plympton Academy, Plymstock School

When you join Plymstock you will become part of the Plym Learning Consortium (PLC) which covers four secondary schools to the east of Plymouth. The PLC provides over 500 students with access to a broad range of Level 3, BTEC and A Level courses.

Whichever you choose, the decision to continue to gain further skills, knowledge and qualifications is certain to help you make progress towards achieving your career ambitions. You can be assured of the full support of your teachers, tutors and PLC.

Rationale

The PLC serves students attending four schools to the east of Plymouth. Its rationale is to offer the widest choice possible to all our students enabling continued progression towards chosen career paths. The consortium seeks to provide opportunities for students to access as broad a curriculum as possible, particularly where it is increasingly difficult for an individual school to sustain very small class sizes.

Being a Partnership Student

If your home centre does not offer your preferred combination of courses, partnership working makes it possible for you to study up to two courses at another centre. All centres report on student progress and attainment regularly and this information is shared in the first instance with the home school which then distributes it.

Transport

Transport is provided by the PLC minibus which takes students from each school to a partner school for study. The minibus runs before period 1 and after period 5 as well as at break time and lunch time each day.

Entry Requirements

For all subjects, students wishing to study at a partner PLC school are required to meet the entry requirements for the course as set out in the partner school's prospectus. Depending on the subject(s) you are interested in, there may be further requirements which will be discussed with you at interview.

How to Apply

You will need to complete the application form provided by your home school, who will liaise on your behalf.

Level 3 Subjects

Equivalent to 1 A Level

In order to study a Level 3 subject students must meet the requirements of the course as stipulated in the following pages.

If students do not meet these requirements they will not be permitted to study the course except in exceptional circumstances. All students are expected to have gained a minimum of a grade 4 in Mathematics and English Language GCSE in order to follow a Level 3 programme of study. If they do not achieve these grades a place may still be offered on the proviso that they retake the subject in Year 12.

Applied Science BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Examination Board: Pearson Level 3. Students will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction in this 2 year BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Science.

Staff

K Merritt, BSc (Hons), MEd, PGCE

M Harrison, BSc (Hons), PGCE

C Johns, BSc (Hons), PGCert

V Strohmaier, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). Including either 2 Passes/1 Merit in BTEC L2 Science or 2 Cs at GCSE Science.

Skills Required

An interest in everything scientific, an ability to carry out practical work safely and carefully and the ability to work to deadlines are essential for this partially examined course. Good research and presentation skills are necessary for the portfolio based assignments, so good IT skills are also important. You will also need to be motivated to learn and revise for the examined units. You will need to be self-motivated and be good at meeting deadlines to succeed on this course as you will get out what you put in.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Science is crucial in life and the world of work. Your knowledge of Science may be used in the future to understand and perhaps help solve problems with important worldwide issues such as diagnosing illness, drug preparation and environmental protection. Structured questions, written reports, presentations, topic tests and PowerPoint presentations will assess and grade understanding of each task.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

A qualification in this subject can lead to careers in hospitals as a medical technician; working in a research laboratory or in the chemical industry; working with the forensic science service; working for a scientific magazine; nursing or social services.

Module	Extended Certificate in Applied Science (equivalent of AS)	Module	Extended Certificate in Applied Science (equivalent of A2)
Unit 1	CORE: Scientific Principles in all three sciences. Externally examined.	Unit 3	CORE: Scientific Practical Techniques – externally assessed.
Unit 2	CORE: Science investigations. Practical module – internally assessed.	Unit 18	Human Body – internally assessed assignments.

Art, Craft & Design

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

O Hurd-Thomas, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE.
(Head of Department)

C Wakeham, BA (Hons), PGCE

S Graves, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - Grade B or above in GCSE Art. In exceptional circumstances students who have not achieved a B may be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Department. Similarly if Art is not studied at GCSE students must meet with Head of Department and show evidence of art skills.

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent).

Skills Required

Students must be able to demonstrate a broad range of visual recording skills, including a variety of drawing styles. They will have to show a capacity for the critical analysis of images, and to develop the subject specific language to convey their ideas and insights. The ability to explore a range of materials and processes whilst developing their ideas is important. This naturally leads to the final realisation of their intentions into a coherent body of art work. An ability to manage time and workload is essential for this course.

As the course progresses the potential for specialisation in a particular area of art practice such as fine art, graphic communication, photography, textile design, or three dimensional design is a possibility. Alternatively a student could follow a broader learning pathway, mixing processes, techniques and ways of working from a range of art, craft and design disciplines.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

The Art, Craft & Design course at Plymstock is an excellent stepping stone to further study at both Foundation and Degree level. Thereafter careers in the creative industries, either in the Fine Arts (painting, sculpture etc.) or applied areas such as graphic design, advertising, architecture, fashion and film are all possibilities. An Art, Craft & Design A-Level is also an asset for anybody considering a supporting role in such industries, for example in the financial, marketing and administrative parts of the cultural sector.

Course Costs

All Year 12 and Year 13 students are asked to pay a studio fee of £30 at the start of September. We also usually run a residential trip to London for AS/A Level students. This costs around £210 and whilst it is not compulsory, it is an excellent opportunity to broaden student experience of art work. Students are expected to regularly visit and view art, craft and design in a gallery context in their own time throughout the course.

Art, Craft and Design A Level – Course Structure

Practical Portfolio; A broad skills-building introduction to a variety of art processes, initially following a theme set within the department. All work is thoroughly grounded in the research and appreciation of art practices both traditional and contemporary. Leading to a presentation of research and development and final piece(s) as a final portfolio.

Work from the Year 12 practical portfolio may also form part of the student's Year 13 Personal Investigation.

Year 12 Summer Exam; Students respond to a starting point set internally by the Art, Craft and Design department. A period of supported development work during the Spring of Year 12 leads to a 10 hour controlled test in which an outcome is to be produced.

Personal Investigation; A development of the work done in Y12, but with an emphasis on depth of engagement with artists and processes, that leads to one major project. The direction of study is increasingly student led, and once again leads to a mature presentation of ideas and research, together with a final portfolio of art work. Includes a related written element of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose.

The Personal Investigation accounts for 60% of the marks on the A Level course.

Controlled Assignment; Soon after Christmas in Year 13 the students respond to one of a range of starting points set by the exam board. A period of supported development work leads to a 15 hour controlled test in which an outcome is to be produced.

The Controlled Assignment accounts for 40% of the marks on the A Level course.

Biology

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

J Birchnall, BSc (Hons), PGCE
(Subject Leader of Biology)

B Evans, BSc (Hons), PGCE

V Strohmaier, BSc (Hons), PGCE

K Merritt, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least 2 B grades (or equivalent) in Science including B or above in Biology and Chemistry components/exams.

Recommended - Mathematics at grade 6 and English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

An interest in anything living, an ability to observe carefully using a microscope and an understanding of chemistry. Good organisation and the ability to meet deadlines are also important. Students will be expected to do a substantial amount of practical exam work during the course.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Biology is the study of life, past, present and future. Your knowledge of biology may be used in the future to understand and perhaps solve problems with important worldwide issues such as disease, food production, conservation and controlling population.

The AS modules involve studying cell structure and function, gas exchange, blood and the heart, plant structure and function, biochemistry, the key macromolecules, diet, a variety of diseases such as malaria and emphysema and evolution. A2 modules cover the nervous system, excretion, photosynthesis, genetics, respiration, bio-technology, populations and animal behaviour.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

An A Level in Biology can lead to entry to university to study Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Zoology and Plant Biology. Biologists from Plymstock have also followed careers such as Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary sciences, Ecology, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Psychology and Teacher training.

Biology A H420		Assessment	Content In Exam Paper
Paper 1	Biological Processes	2 hours and 15 min written exam - 37% of A2	Modules 1, 2, 3, 5
Paper 2	Biological Diversity	2 hours and 15 min written exam - 37% of A2	Modules 1, 2, 4, 6
Paper 3	Unified Biology	1 hour and 30 min written exam - 26% of A2	Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Practical element of course is also assessed in Module 1 - part of all 3 written examinations

Business Cambridge Technical Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

G Hughes BA (Hons) PGCE
(Head of Department)

R Pearsall BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent).

Recommended - Mathematics and English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

An ability to reason carefully, develop coherent arguments and commit these to essay format, therefore a good grade in English and Maths GCSE would be an advantage. Students will have to be comfortable within a culture where independence, innovation, creativity and self-motivation are expected. High level of competence is needed in numeracy as there is a significant finance requirement. Students will need to be able to assess business strategy and evaluate various suggested outcomes. Students will need a keen interest in topical global business issues and current methods of business management.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Learner will cover topics such as the business environment, investigating marketing and business resources. Learners will also have the opportunity to acquire the essential knowledge and tools for the world of work by developing transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis,

working with others and effective communication. Learners may wish to extend their programme of learning through the study of general qualifications such as GCE, GCE AS or other related/appropriate vocational qualifications for example OCR Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Business and Administration or progression to OCR Level 4 NVQ Certificate in Business and Administration. Introductory diploma can be topped up to a subsidiary diploma.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

These qualifications award UCAS points on completion, they also provide knowledge and understanding required to enable progression to further education/higher education in the same or related areas in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and from the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). These qualifications are designed to enable learners to enter employment. Such learners would normally enter employment through a work-related training programme. For example, a learner achieving an OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Business may enter employment and undertake a related qualification at a level appropriate to the job role or enter employment and undertake other related occupational qualifications.

The Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma has the same number of guided learning hours (GLH) as an A Level – 360 GLH – and also has UCAS points. The Distinction* in the Introductory Diploma has the same number of UCAS points as an A* at A Level, and a Pass in the Introductory Diploma has the same number of UCAS points as an E grade.

Diploma	Number of Mandatory Units	Optional Units
Introductory	2 Mandatory Units (1 & 2)	4 Optional Units
Subsidiary	3 Mandatory Units (1, 2 & 3)	6 Optional Units

Chemistry

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

E Parsons, BSc (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Chemistry)

C Johns, BSc (Hons), PgCert

K Windeatt, BSc (Hons), MSc, PGCE(M)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least 2 B grades (or equivalent) in Science in Chemistry component.

Recommended—Mathematics GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Skills Required

Strong candidates will have a range of skills, good study skills, mathematical ability and the ability to relate to abstract concepts all vital.

Students will be expected to do a substantial amount of work outside of lesson time in order to fully appreciate the links between different aspects of Chemistry. Self motivation and a capacity for independent study is an essential pre-requisite for examination success in this subject.

Knowledge, understanding and practical skills are all assessed separately. Exams are in June.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

The course is divided into chemical topics, each containing different key concepts of Chemistry. Once the key features of a chemical topic have been developed, applications are considered.

The study of Chemistry develops a student's ability to analyse and understand the material world. The three main areas of chemistry are organic chemistry, which covers topics on carbon compounds and analysis, inorganic, the study of all the other elements of the periodic table, and their reactivity and physical chemistry, which looks at the "hows and whys" of chemical reactions. Chemistry A Level consists of two written examinations for AS and three longer written papers for A2, all of which are taken in June. There is also extensive practical skills endorsement.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

The study of Chemistry develops a student's ability to analyse and understand the material world. It is also an excellent preparation for science based university courses, including medicine. In our fast moving technology-based society, a qualification in Chemistry is more useful and relevant than ever. Well qualified scientists can expect rewarding careers both intellectually and financially.

Chemistry	Assessment Overview	
Content is split into 6 teaching modules		
Module 1	Development of Practical Skills	A Level Paper 1 - Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry
Module 2	Foundations in Chemistry	
Module 3	Periodic Table & Energy	A Level Paper 2 - Synthesis & Analytical Techniques
Module 4	Core Organic Chemistry	
Module 5	Physical Chemistry & Transition Elements	A Level Paper 3 - Unified Chemistry
Module 6	Organic Chemistry & Analysis	
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		A Level Practical Endorsement

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

S Rogers, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

R Swan, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a B grade in Computer Science GCSE (if taken).

Recommended—Mathematics GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Skills Required

Students should be able to think logically to solve problems. They will also need perseverance and have good attention to detail to complete the programming tasks.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

The OCR syllabus allows students to complete the AS level in Year 12, assessed through an on-screen and a written paper exam. These topics are then developed and added to in Year 13 for the full A level, with similar, but longer assessments, plus a coursework project, either a practical solution or personal investigation.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course is a good route onto degree courses in Computing and also Science, Engineering and Maths. It would also prepare students well for a variety of jobs in IT.

Content	A Level	Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices Software and software development Programming Exchanging data Data types, data structures and algorithms Legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues. 	<p>Paper 1</p> <p>2½ hour written paper exam</p> <p>40% A Level</p>	<p>CORE: Scientific Practical Techniques – externally assessed.</p>
<p>There'll be a short scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, which will involve problem solving.</p> <p>Other areas covered include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements of computational thinking Problem solving and programming Algorithms. 	<p>Paper 2</p> <p>2½ hour written paper exam</p> <p>40% A Level</p>	<p>SECTION A</p> <p>Traditional questions concerning computational thinking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements of computational thinking Programming and problem solving Pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition Algorithm design and efficiency Standard algorithms. <p>SECTION B</p> <p>There'll be a scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, which will involve problem solving.</p>
	<p>Non-exam assessment</p> <p>20% A Level</p>	<p>Solution to a practical problem e.g. website with dynamic content, computer game, control system OR investigation report e.g. rendering 3D worlds on screen.</p>

Criminology

WJEC Level 3 Diploma

Examination Board: WJEC

Staff

L A Williams, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE
(Head of Department)

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

5 A*-C GCSE or BTEC equivalent.
Recommended—English GCSE grade 5 and Maths GCSE grade 4 or above.

Skills Required

You need to enjoy researching and exploring the world around you. You need to be able to see two sides of an issue and be interested in exploring why people commit crimes and the way that society deals with these.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

The course will run in the following way.

50% controlled assessment.

There is a possibility of doing a Certificate rather than a Diploma and this will take one year and involve half of the assessments in points 1 and 2 above.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course provides a useful foundation for degree courses in areas associated with criminology. It is also relevant for various careers including the police force, the prison service, probation, the courts and the law.

The Modules (4 for Diploma and 2 for Certificate)

Introduction to Criminology Theories (Compulsory for both Certificate and Diploma)	We will explore the biological, psychological and sociological explanations of criminal behaviour eg. why do serial killers develop into such a person.
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Options will be chosen from:

Realities and Perceptions of Crime	How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? Many people learn about the fear and fascination of crime from the media, but is the media a reliable source of information? We gain our ideas of morality from a variety of sources and one of the most important is mass media. Criminologists have developed a number of different procedures to learn about crime, but these too have their limitations. You will learn that the media presentation of crime and official statistics of crime may be influenced by social factors that we are not fully aware of.
Social Control: Policy and Practice	Most people in our society are law-abiding and unwilling to break laws. Society has had to develop a complex system of mechanisms, processes and organisations to ensure that people do not break the law. If they do commit crime, society needs to be protected from their behaviour. These social institutions each have different mechanisms, ideologies and policies. You will learn something of their variety, how they work and their effectiveness in protecting and preventing us from criminality.
Changing Awareness of Crime	There are many crimes that go unreported and under-reported and the purpose of this unit is to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of these crimes. They will also develop skills needed to plan for a campaign for change, whether a change in awareness, policy or action.
Crime Scene to Courtroom	Throughout this unit, learners will develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information to review the justice and verdicts in criminal cases.

Dance Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

S Wookey, BA (Hons), PGCE (Head of Dance)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade B in Dance (if taken). If not studied at GCSE a practical audition will be necessary.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

You will focus on the development and performance of your own choreography and performing with a duo/trio. You will receive training in technique and the health and safety of the dancer. You will begin to develop critical skills for analysis of choreography and performance within your own work and in professional repertoire.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

What will the units cover?

Component 1:

PERFORMANCE

Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform dance, as a soloist and in a duet/trio. The knowledge and understanding of physical skills, including: flexibility, strength, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, agility, neuromuscular coordination and kinaesthetic awareness, underpin and inform the development of both the physical/technical and interpretative/performance skills.

COMPOSITION

Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to choreograph a dance, as a soloist. They must show knowledge, understanding and skills required for the composition of a solo choreography, thinking about physical/technical skills, spatial elements, dynamic elements and interpretative/performance skills (in order to communicate the dance idea(s) in a clear and considered manner).

Component 2:

Students must critically engage with both their own practice to inform their knowledge and understanding of professional practice and to understand the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/appreciation of dance.

Compulsory area of study:

Rambert Dance Company (formerly Ballet Rambert) 1966–2002

Other Area of study:

The independent contemporary dance scene in Britain 2000–current

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Dance Studies provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including: Dance, Drama, Performing Arts, Dance in the Community, Theatre Studies and provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: Dancer, Choreography, Historian, Labanotater, Community Dancer, Dance Critic, and Teacher.

Units	What's Assessed	How It's Assessed
Component 1: Performance and Choreography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choreography and performance of a solo• Performance in a duet/trio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical exam• 80 marks• 50% of AS level
Component 2: Critical engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two areas of study:• one compulsory• one other area of study• The reflection and understanding of own choreographic and performance practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 80 marks• 50% of AS level

Drama & Theatre Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

K Chick, BA (Hons) Secondary Drama QTS
(Head of Performing Arts)

S Lowe, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least grade B at Drama

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

In practical modules, the process of creating a group presentation promotes negotiation skills and encourages the effective use of communication and interpersonal skills.

Students should be able to demonstrate analytic and critical responses to live theatre and written plays and show a high level of commitment to their fellow students.

Transferable Skills

Students of AQA Drama and Theatre develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This specification refines students' collaborative skills, their

analytical thinking and their approach to research.

Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making.

Whatever the future holds, students of AS Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills to prepare them for their next steps.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Theatre studies allows the student to develop important social skills essential in any field of work. Many of our students go in to further study degrees in: Drama, Directing of Performing Arts, Law, Marketing, Public Services and Media.

Component 1: Interpreting Drama	Component 1: Interpreting Drama
Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre Study of one set play from a choice of seven Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Practical exploration and theatrical interpretation of two extracts (Extract 1 and 2) each taken from a different playMethodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 2
How it's assessed Written exam: 2 hours Open book 80 marks 40% of AS Questions	Extract 2 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director) Portfolio evidencing interpretive process and analysis and evaluation of performance
Section A: one two part question (from a choice) on a given extract from the set play chosen (25 marks per part, 50 marks in total)	How it's assessed Performance of Extract 2 (30 marks) Portfolio (30 marks) 60 marks in total 60% of AS
Section B: one two part question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (30 marks)	

English Language & Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

D Burgess, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

A Bartlett, MA (Hons), PGCE

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE (Key Stage 5 Manager)

G Dale, BA (Hons), PGCE

K Glastonbury, BA (Hons), PGCE

M Grainger, BA (Hons), PGCE

M Schwarz, MA (Hons), PGCE

D Wyatt, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade 6 in English Language.

Skills Required

Students will be expected to undertake a substantial amount of reading so an enjoyment of this is essential. An interest in analysing the way language shapes the world we live in is also clearly important.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

This course involves studying the way language functions in literary and non-literary texts. Students will learn how to analyse a wide variety of texts, from Shakespeare to everyday conversations. This course also enables individuals to produce their own original writing. The course will run across the two years of Year 12 and Year 13, with both exams taking place at the end of the A level course in Year 13.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

English Language and Literature A Level provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects. The ability to communicate effectively is important for all careers, with this course.

Year 12 Study	Year 13 Study
<p>Telling Stories (3 hour exam at the end of Year 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remembered Places - the representation of place. Set texts include: AQA Anthology 'Paris'Imagined Worlds - point of view and genre in prose. Set Texts include: Frankenstein, Dracula, The Handmaid's Tale.Poetic Voices - the forms and functions of poetic voice. Set Texts include the following poets: Donne, Browning, Duffy, Heaney. <p>Making Connections (Coursework) - begin at the end of Year 12 but continue in Year 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigation on a chosen theme and texts - personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2500-3000 words).	<p>Making Connections (Coursework)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigation on a chosen theme and texts - personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2500-3000 words). <p>Exploring Conflict (2 hour 30 minute exam at the end of Year 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Writing about Society - the role of the Individual in society: re-creative writing with critical commentary.Set Texts include: The Great Gatsby, The Kite Runner, Into the Wild.Dramatic Encounters - conflict in drama textsSet texts include: Othello, A Streetcar Named Desire, All My Sons.

English Literature

Examination Board: AQA (Literature B)

Staff

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Key Stage 5 Manager)

G Dale, BA (Hons), PGCE

J Waterfield, MA (OXON), PGCE

L Williams, MA (Hons), PGCE

Examination Board: AQA (Literature B)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade 6 in English Language.

Recommended - A grade 6 or above in English Literature.

Skills Required

An enjoyment of reading is essential.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

This course involves studying a variety of literature from a range of genre and historical periods. These texts will be analysed on a thematic and linguistic level whilst also demonstrating an awareness of historical content. The course will run across the two years of Year 12 and Year 13, with both exams taking place at the end of the A level course in Year 13.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

English Literature A Level provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects. Various careers are available to students of this subject, including journalism, law and publishing.

Year 12 Study	Year 13 Study
<p>Written Paper: Aspects of tragedy OR Aspects of Comedy (2 hour 30 minutes closed book exam - 40% of A Level) Study of three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be written pre-1900.</p> <p>NEA (Coursework - 20% of A Level) Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology.</p> <p>Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.</p> <p>One essay can be re-creative. The re-creative piece will be accompanied by a commentary.</p>	<p>Continue with NEA</p> <p>Written Paper: Elements of crime writing OR Elements of political and social protest writing (3 hour exam - 40% of A Level)</p> <p>Study of three texts: one post-2000 prose text; one poetry and one further text, one of which must be written pre-1900.</p>

Entry to the Uniformed Services

NCFE Level 3 Diploma

Examination Board: NCFE

Staff

P Steward, BEd (Hons)

L Dover, BA (Hons) PGCE

Requirements

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent).
English GCSE at grade 4 or above.

Skills Required

Commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved.
Students will be expected to work independently in addition to the contact time with tutors.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

The Uniformed Services Diploma is targeted at learners who are interested in employment in the: Army, Navy, RAF, Fire, Police and Prison Service . The course combines both subject specific knowledge with practical skills including teamwork and leadership. This course is also suitable for students who are also considering a pathway in outdoor/ adventure/sport.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Aside from progression into employment with a uniformed service. The qualification can also contribute towards applications for Higher Education at degree level. The diploma is equivalent to 1 A Level and carries UCAS points (A-E).

Level 3 Diploma in the Uniformed Services

Mandatory units

- Prepare for employment to chosen uniformed service
- Develop aspect of physical fitness for entry to the uniformed services
- Develop leadership skills
- Understand conflict management and personal protection
- Participate in uniformed service routine

Level 3 Diploma in the Uniformed Services

Additional units (3 from the below)

- Carry out map reading and navigation across open country
- Understand how the government, international organisations and media impact on the work of the uniformed services
- Assist in planning and leading adventurous activities
- Explore the use of telecommunications in the uniformed services
- Understand planning for emergency situations in the uniformed services

French

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

Ms N Baker, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

Mrs R Kent, MA, PGCE
(Key Stage Manager)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade B in GCSE French.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

The best language learners are keen to speak, not shy to give their opinions, pay attention to detail (accuracy becomes increasingly important) and are interested in what's going on in France and the French-speaking world. They keep up to date by reading magazines and checking the foreign news on the internet.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

A level French is designed to offer a stimulating content, which enables students to develop their linguistic skills

alongside their understanding of the culture and society of countries where French is spoken. The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Students study technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings. They will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema, and learn about political engagement and who wields political power in the French-speaking world. Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

French can lead to higher education language courses including combined courses with another subject. Language skills are highly sought after in the business world. Specific careers involving French include: tourism, marketing, secretarial, translating, teaching, engineering, fashion.

'The A Level course introduces real life topics which can relate to wider society, giving you a better understanding of culture. The main focus is on developing ideas and being spontaneous. The trip to Fougères also really allowed my skills to develop.'

Maddie Burt, Year 13

Year 12	Year 13
In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries.	In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations.

Geography

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

A Bartlett, BSc (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

K Blundy, BA (Hons), PGCE

S Thursz, BSc (Hons), PGCE

J Wright, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - A minimum of grade B at GCSE

Recommended - English & Maths GCSEs at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

An ability to think logically and to be able to understand a range of physical and human processes over space and time. To be able to coherently synthesise a range of information, to develop clear arguments and problem solve, to want to develop further aspects of graphicacy including the interpretations of maps and diagrams, as well as clear data response – therefore, good grades in English and Maths GCSE would be advantageous.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Lessons will take many different forms with an emphasis on encouraging student led learning, allowing the student to be active in their learning. Fieldwork, research and practical work are all seen as a part of the wider investigation process. They form an intrinsic part of each of these topics and this will be reflected in their assessment by examining various parts of the geographical enquiry sequence. At AS level we will be carrying out fieldwork.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Geography requires students to have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in the environment and current affairs, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate ideas effectively.

The subject will enable students to have access to a wide range of possible career and Higher Education opportunities. Students will learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities as being of great value.

Geography also combines well with almost all other subjects. Taken with sciences and mathematics, geography supports applications for almost any science based degree; taken with other humanities subjects, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses, such as, business, law, media, politics and philosophy.

	A Level
Paper One: Physical Geography	Externally-assessed: Tectonic Processes and Hazards Coastal Landscapes and Change The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
Paper Two: Human Geography	Externally-assessed: Globalisation/Superpowers Regenerating Places Health, Human Rights and Intervention
Paper Three: Issues Evaluation	Based upon three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas: Players Attitudes and actions Futures and uncertainties
Non Examined Assessment	Independent Investigation, based on fieldwork. Report must be 3000 - 4000 words.

German

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

Ms N Baker, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

Mrs J Bindon, BA (Hons), PGCE, M.Ed
(Key Stage Manager for German)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade B in GCSE German.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

The best language learners are keen to speak, not shy to give their opinions, pay attention to detail (accuracy becomes increasingly important) and are interested in what's going on in Germany and the German-speaking world. They keep up to date by reading magazines and checking the foreign news on the internet.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

German A level is designed to offer a stimulating content, which enables students to develop their linguistic skills alongside their understanding of the culture and society of the countries where German is spoken. The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical

thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Students study technological and social change, highlights of German-speaking artistic culture, including art and architecture, and will learn how Germany's political landscape was formed. Students will also study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

German can lead to Higher Education language course including combined courses with another subject, such as politics or business. A specialised degree in languages will have many different elements in addition to the learning of the language itself. You will study your chosen language in its social, cultural and historical contexts, and the course is likely to have an element of translation. There are often specialist modules in literature or linguistics on offer and the course will almost always include a year abroad, which could be spent working or studying in a course of your choice.

‘Studying German has been incredible. The lessons are enjoyable and the best part by far was having the opportunity to visit Berlin and actually use the language in a real German environment. I have learnt so much since starting the course and the teachers have been excellent in helping me and my classmates to develop our grasp of German.’

Niamh Downes, Year 13

Year 12

In the first year, aspects of social context are studied, such as the importance of the Environment, together with the artistic life of German-speaking countries. Music, politics, literature and film all contribute to a varied and interesting course of study. A focus on spontaneity and authentic interaction are key to seeing students' confidence and aptitude flourish.

Year 13

In the second year, we delve deeper into the social background of Germany, covering topics such as immigration and Germany's political landscape in relation to its place in Europe. Germany's history and its role in shaping the present is viewed through the reunification while the focus on young people and politics looks forward to shaping the future of German-speaking countries.

Health & Social Care

Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate (Year 12)

Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate (Year 13)

Examination Board: OCR

Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care provide a broad introduction to the health and social care sector through applied learning. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other BTEC Nationals, Cambridge Technicals or A Levels.

Staff

L Dover, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

H Hughes, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSE (or equivalent).
English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

Intrapersonal skill: self-management, adaptability and resilience.

Interpersonal skill: communication, working collaboratively, self-presentation.

Good organisational skills and an ability to work independently.

The ability to take constructive criticism and advice!

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

This course is aimed at students wanting to improve communication skills and confidence in dealing with people in different circumstances. You will be expected to participate in work experience within the health, social care and early years sectors.

Unit	Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate in Health and Social Care (Year 12)	Unit	Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (Year13)
1 Coursework Unit	Building Positive Relationships in Health & Social Care: This unit introduces the many different relationships you will encounter in the health and social care sector. You will also study communication theories, communication skills and the person centred approach to care.	4 Exam Unit	Equality, Diversity & Rights in Health & Social Care: You will study - equality, diversity, individual rights, discrimination and care values. You will also consider the legislation in place to ensure equality of care.
2 Exam Unit	Equality, Diversity & Rights in Health & Social Care: You will study - equality, diversity, individual rights, discrimination and care values. You will also consider the legislation in place to ensure equality of care.	Option Unit 13 Coursework Unit	Sexual Health, Reproduction and Early Development stages: This unit will look at human development from conception to a one-year-old child. On successful completion you will have a sound understanding of the importance of sexual health and contraception. You will understand pre-natal health and the various stages of pregnancy and the factors that could have an impact on pregnancy.
3 Exam Unit	Health, Safety and Security in Health & Social Care: You will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to equip you in maintaining a safe working environment. You will learn how legislation and policies reduce risk in health and social care settings.	Option Unit 13 Coursework Unit	The Impact of Long-Term Physiological Conditions This unit will allow you to support individuals with long-term physiological conditions in planning there are and support by introducing you to the types, causes and effects of these conditions on individuals, the day-to-day effect the conditions can have, and the roles of practitioners.

History

Examination Board: Edexcel

Staff

A Withey, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

H Barr, MA (Hons), PGCE

D Willcocks, BA (Hons), PGCE

N Withey, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade B in History .

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

The skills required are an ability to analyse carefully, study and synthesise evidence, develop coherent arguments and commit these to presentations and essay formats. Students will be expected to do a significant amount of reading and show a willingness to develop as autonomous learners, managing their workload and meeting deadlines.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

The course rationale involves a study of how the two leading western democracies responded and adapted to the challenges brought about by the greater political, social and economic expectations of ordinary people in the twentieth century. Additionally the full A Level will include a study of the British Empire 1763-1914 and a coursework equivalent.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

History provides a useful foundation for degree course and careers in a wide variety of subjects including: 'Arts' and 'Social Sciences', Law Accountancy, Civil Service, Teaching, Banking, Business Studies, Personnel Management.

Year 12	Year 13
Democracies In Change: Britain and the USA in the Twentieth Century Unit 1 - Britain Transformed, 1918-1997 30% of A Level grade Exam – 2 hours 15 min Unit 2 - The USA, c1920-1955: Boom, Bust and Recovery 20% of A Level grade Exam 1 hour 30 min	Aspects in Breadth and Depth Unit 3 - Britain: Losing and Gaining an Empire, 1763-1914 30% of final A Level grade Exam 2 hours 15 min Unit 4 Coursework 20% of final A Level Grade Students will complete a single assignment on a question set by the centre.

IT Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

S Rogers, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

R Swan, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C at GCSE (or equivalent).
English GCSEs at grade 4 or above. At least a grade C in
ICT GCSE or Computer Science (if studied).

Skills Required

Students should have an interest in IT and be able to work
well independently and in groups. Self motivation is vital as
there are lots of assignments and reports to complete.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Students should have an interest in IT and be able to work
well independently and in groups. Self motivation is vital as
there are lots of assignments and reports to complete.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course is a good route onto degree courses in IT. It
would also prepare students well for a variety of jobs in IT,
such as network support, database management, website
development.

Level 3	Content
Mandatory Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 1 – Fundamentals of ICT• Unit 2 – Global Information
Optional Units We will then study 3 units from a wide range of options. These will be selected based on student numbers, interests and abilities to tailor the course to their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cyber Security• Computer Networks• Virtual and Augmented Reality• Application Design• Business Computing• Mobile Technology• Social Media and Digital Marketing• Games Design and Prototyping

Mathematics & Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel (could change subject to final specification)

Staff

K Marshall, BSc (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

E Monelle, MMath, PGCE

S Pelley, BA (Hons), PGCE

A Perry, MSc

R Wright, BSc (Ed) (Hons), MEd

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Further Maths

Required - Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Assessment

A Level Mathematics will be assessed through 3 external examinations taken at the end of Year 13. Each exam is 2 hours long and worth 33.33% of the qualification.

A Level Further Mathematics will be assessed through 4 external examinations taken at the end of Year 13. Each exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and worth 25% of the qualification.

Syllabus Outline

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques
- understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas in mathematics are connected
- apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general
- use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly
- reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning
- construct mathematical proofs
- draw diagrams and sketch graphs to help explore mathematical situations and interpret solutions
- interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation effectively in the context of the problem
- use technology such as calculators and computers effectively and recognise when such use may be inappropriate
- take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Advanced GCE Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in higher education. There are also many areas of employment that see Mathematics A Level as an important qualification. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, physics, computing and information and communication technology.

NB. This information is based on the published draft specifications and could change.

A Level	
Mathematics (3 external examinations) Paper 1 and 2: Pure Mathematics 1 and Pure Mathematics 2 Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics	Each examination is 2 hours long and worth 33.33% of the qualification
Further Mathematics (4 external examinations) Paper 1 and 2: Further Pure Mathematics 1 and Further Pure Mathematics 2 Paper 3 and 4: Further Mathematics Option 1 and Further Mathematics Option 2	Each examination is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and worth 25% of the qualification. Further Mathematics Options Papers are a choice of Further Pure Mathematics, Further Statistics, Further Mechanics or Decision Mathematics

Media Studies

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

P Broadwater, BA (Hons), PGCE

G Dale, BA (Hons), PGCE

M Grainger, BA (Hons) PGCE

D Wyatt, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). Minimum of a 4 grade in GCSE English Language. At least a B grade in Media GCSE, if studied at KS4.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

An ability to read a variety of texts, formulate opinions and reason carefully are all essential skills. Students will need to develop coherent arguments and commit these to essay format, therefore a good grade in English GCSE would be an advantage. Students will be expected to do a substantial amount of reading and have an interest in the media and its various forms of communication such across audio-visual,

print and online platforms. Knowledge of media theory and critical debates will also be tested. Finally, there is a practical element (NEA) where students will be required to produce their own media texts, so ICT skills are a definite advantage.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Students will study different topic areas ranging from advertising and marketing to popular culture. Key concepts such as representation, audiences and institutions are also studied. The NEA requirement will involve competent use of ICT equipment for film editing, website design or print design work. Currently this a draft version of the specification so course content may change slightly. It is a TWO-YEAR qualification, with no AS option.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Media Studies provides a useful foundation for any Arts degree and provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: Journalism, Advertising, Marketing, Television, PR, Teaching and many others.

Module	A Level Content - What's Assessed?
Paper 1: 2 hour Written Paper 35% of the A Level	Students are introduced to a framework for reading and understanding media texts, comprising the four areas of media language, representation, industries and audiences. They will also learn to apply a range of media theories. Exam questions will focus on issues and debates in the media, in the light of a pre-release topic. Students will be expected to use any relevant elements of the theoretical framework studied in order to explore ideas in the paper.
Paper 2: 2 hour Written Paper 35% of the A Level	Exam questions will focus on the analysis of media texts / products. Students will be expected to refer to products provided by AQA and demonstrate an understanding of the contexts in which these were created. Study of products across platforms would include TV, film, radio, advertising and marketing, video games, music video, social media, newspapers and magazines.
Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 30% of the A Level	Students will use one or more media technologies to produce a written 'statement of intent' outlining their production ideas and cross-media products made for an intended audience. They will create their own texts from a range of options outlined by AQA.

Music

Examination Board: OCR This qualification is subject to negotiations with other schools. See Mrs Lowe for more details.

Staff

S Lowe, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

Requirements

Students would benefit from having either a B grade in GCSE music or instrumental experience (including voice) and knowledge of music theory up to approximately grade 4-5. Students must be prepared to perform their music skills as an essential and integral part of the course.

Skills Required

Students must be able to perform on an instrument or voice to a good standard. Composition is another major strand of the A Level and students will need to be able to come up with musical ideas which they can develop into substantial musical works. An ability to analyse music is desirable in order to study the set works effectively along with the ability to retain and recall key facts about the music they have studied.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Students may choose to use their A Level music qualification as an access to further education - for example, a BA (Hons) in music. Students wishing to teach music as a subject either in state education, university lecturer, professional peripatetic capacity will usually take this qualification. Alternatively, students may use the A Level experience to focus on a particular strand of music either as a career or in further education - for example, composing and arranging, performing, music technology, etc.

Students can choose whether to specialise in performing or composing but will still need to complete modules in both. The course outline is as follows:

Course Content	Assessment Overview
Performing Performing specialists will do a 10 minute recital Composition specialists will do a 6 minute recital	35 % of A Level 25% of A Level
Composition Composition specialists will compose 2 pieces with a combined length of 8 minutes and complete some technical exercises Performance specialists will compose 2 pieces with a combined length of 4 minutes	35 % of A level 25 % of A Level
Listening and Appraising Analysing and evaluating music Familiar and unfamiliar pieces Prescribed works Questions based on aural extracts	40 % of A Level 2 hour 30 minute written exam

Performing Arts Cambridge Technical Single Award

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

S Wookey, BA (Hons), Secondary Dance QTS
(Head of Dance)

K Chick, BA (Hons), Secondary Drama QTS
(Head of Performing Arts)

S Lowe, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Music)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade C in Dance, Drama, Music or Performing Arts.

Recommended - English GCSE at a grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

This Cambridge Technical qualification requires a number of skills due to the diverse nature of the course. Strength in independent learning is desirable as the course is 100% coursework assessed. An ability to analyse, discuss and develop practical skills is required when studying all modules. An ability to build skills, and develop a knowledge and understanding in a number of different Performing Arts will further enhance a career in this area.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

What will the units cover?

This course is equivalent to two A levels. The units covered will give you an understanding of the performing arts in wider contexts, including the way the sector works, job roles, and progression opportunities, how to build strategies for sustaining a freelance career, and how to plan and develop projects. You will also study the work of performing arts practitioners and learn how to demonstrate practical ideas for performance.

Alongside this you will also develop transferable skills such as planning, communication and adaptability.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course provides a good route to employment through an apprenticeship in Performing Arts, directly into employment in a number of Performing Arts roles e.g. session musician, dancer, actor etc. or it could provide a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including: Dance, Drama or Theatre Studies, Music, Performing Arts, Arts Education, Arts Management or teaching.

Double Award			
Mandatory Units	Prepare to Work in the Performing Art Sector Proposal for a Commissioning Brief Influential Performance Practice Mandatory Unit		
Pathway Optional Units	Combined Arts Current Issues in Performing Arts Improvisation Health and Fitness for Performance Performing Repertoire Mandatory Unit		
Optional Units (Subject Specific Pathways)	Acting Pathway	Mandatory Unit	Music Pathway
	Acting Technique (M) Classical Theatre Performance Script Writing Theatre Directing	Acting Technique (M) Classical Theatre Performance Script Writing Theatre Directing	Create Music to Perform (M) Instrumental Music Technique Music Performance Singing Technique Singing Performance Song Writing

(Between 7-10 units)

*The double award course will run if enough students sign up.

Photography

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

O Hurd-Thomas, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE (Head of Department)

N Clarke, BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - A grade B or above at GCSE Art. In exceptional circumstances students who have not achieved a B may be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Department. If they have not studied Art for GCSE students must meet with Head of Department and show evidence of photography skills.

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent).

Skills Required

A desire to create exciting and visually interesting imagery. An ability to reflect upon images created and develop/improve them further. A willingness to engage with, understand and write about how other photographers have used the photographic medium to communicate. The ability to manage time/resources/workload to meet deadlines. A sensitivity to the need to present work in a considered, clear and professional manner.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

This is essentially an arts-based photography course, that focuses on the use of the photographic medium for personal creative expression.

In Year 12 the Practical Portfolio will represent a development of the skills outlined above over a three month period. The emphasis is on breadth, introducing students to a wide variety of photographic practices, both contemporary and historical. This is followed by a self-directed project drawing on the skills learnt in the first part of the course, and Year 12 is completed with a summer exam, responding to an internally set starting point.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

The photographic industry has many facets and, whilst the emphasis on this A Level course is on arts-based photography the course provides a starting point for all sectors of the industry. It would be possible therefore to consider careers in photojournalism or editorial photography, fashion & advertising, police or medical imaging as well as fine art approaches to the medium.

Intelligent image-making skills are an asset in related careers in the print/publishing sector, or even fields as diverse as archaeology, environmental science and graphic design.

Course Costs

All Year 12 and Year 13 students are asked to pay a studio fee of £30 at the start of September. We suggest that students budget £25-£30 per term on printing and presentation costs. We also usually run a residential trip to London for AS/A Level students. This costs around £210 and, whilst it is not compulsory, it is an excellent opportunity to broaden student experience of art and photographic work. It is clearly an advantage to have your own digital camera, and we are happy to give guidance on what to buy if you need this. Students are expected to regularly visit and view photography both in a gallery context and online in their own time throughout the course.

Year 12	Year 13
Practical Portfolio; A broad introduction to a variety of photographic practices, initially following a series of mini-projects set within the department. All work is thoroughly grounded in the research and appreciation of lens-based practices both historical and modern. This leads to a presentation of research and development and final piece(s) in a final portfolio. Work from the Y12 practical portfolio may also form part of the student's Y13 Personal Investigation.	Personal Investigation; A development of the work done in Year 12 but with an emphasis on depth of engagement with photographers and processes that leads to one or two major projects. The direction of study is increasingly student led, and once again leads to a mature presentation of ideas and research, together with final portfolio work. Includes a related written element of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose. The Personal Investigation accounts for 60% of the marks on the A Level course.
Year 12 Summer Exam; Students respond a starting point set by the photography teachers. A period of supported development work during Spring of Year 12 leads to a 10 hour controlled test in which an outcome is to be produced.	Controlled Assignment; Soon after Christmas in Year 13 the students respond to one of a range of starting points set by the exam board. A period of supported development work leads to a 15 hour controlled test in which an outcome is to be produced. The Controlled Assignment accounts for 40% of the marks on the A Level course.

Physical Education

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

M A Taylor, BEd (Hons)
(Head of Department)

A Campbell, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Key Stage 5 Manager)

M K Taylor, BEd (Hons)

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade B at GCSE PE theory component. It is essential that students are currently participating at least at club level outside of school.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

This A Level requires a number of skills due to the diverse nature of the course. A confidence in Science, especially Biology is needed to cope with the challenging exercise physiology content during both years. An ability to analyse, discuss and argue is required when studying both the origins of sport and their development in the UK. Furthermore an interest in the wider sporting world is essential when studying global issues such as World games. Finally, a good grasp of mathematics would be beneficial in order to fulfil the biomechanics requirement, studying areas such as Newton's Laws and Projectile Motion.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

This course studies the wide and varied area of sport. Sport in modern society is a multi-million pound industry that pulls in specialists in an astonishing range of careers. The syllabus covers aspects of performance analysis such as how to optimise the physiology of an athlete by training, perfecting technique through sports mechanics and the vital role that the mind plays through sports psychology. These topics are introduced at a participant level in the first year and then further applied to the elite performer. This course will involve a practical component in the form of producing a video and analysis of the students full sporting performance. It is therefore essential that students are good practical performers in one main sport.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course studies the wide and varied area of sport. Sport in modern society is a multi-million pound industry that pulls in specialists in an astonishing range of careers. The syllabus covers aspects of performance analysis such as how to optimise the physiology of an athlete by training, perfecting technique through sports mechanics and the vital role that the mind plays through sports psychology. These topics are introduced at a participant level in the first year and then further applied to the elite performer. This course will involve a practical component in the form of producing a video and analysis of the students full sporting performance. It is therefore essential that students are good practical performers in one main sport.

Theoretical Content	Practical Content
Applied anatomy and exercise physiology Sports psychology Sport and society and technology in sport Mechanics of movement Skill acquisition	Students ability is assessed as a performer or coach in a fully competitive situation within a sport of their choice. (30% of A2 marks)

Physics

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

C Wilson, BEng (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

Dr A Burdett, BSc (Hons), MSci, PGCE

L Phillips, BEng (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least 2 B grades (or equivalent) in Science including B or above in Physics component.

Recommended - Mathematics GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Skills Required

Good Physics students will need a range of skills: mathematical skills, self-study skills and the ability to relate to abstract concepts.

Students will need to have the motivation and inherent interest in this subject in order to do the necessary background reading to support their classwork. They will also have the ability to work in groups as well as to work individually.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

The Physics course will be assessed by two written papers at both AS and A2 Level. Internal assessment of practical skills is based on completing OCR set tasks. Each task is marked by the teacher using specific OCR mark schemes. Exams are in late June.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

The study of Physics at AS/A2 Level prepares students to progress into further education. Physics is the basic subject for most engineering courses such as Civil, Mechanical, Electronic and Communications, all of which offer excellent career prospects. It links well with Mathematics and IT plus it is an advantage to have a Physics qualification if intending to study Medicine or pure Science.

Physics H556		Assessment Overview	
Content is split into 6 teaching modules:			
Module 1	Development of Practical Skills in Physics	Modelling Physics (01) 100 marks 2 hours and 15 min written paper	37% of total A Level
Module 2	Foundations of Physics		
Module 3	Forces and Motion	Exploring Physics (02) 100 marks 2 hour and 150 min written paper	37% of total A Level
Module 4	Electrons, Waves and Protons		
Module 5	Newtonian World and Astrophysics	Unified Physics (03) 70 marks 1 hour and 30 min written paper	26% of total A Level
Module 6	Particles and Medical Physics		
Component 01 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 Component 02 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 Component 03 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6)		Practical Endorsement in Physics (04)* Non Exam Assessment	Reported separately

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

L A Williams, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE
(Head of Department)

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - A minimum of five A*-C GCSEs

Recommended - English & Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

Psychology involves the analysis and exploration of human behaviour and examining the reasons behind why people behave in the way that they do. You will need to be good at analytical thinking and have a good grasp of statistical techniques. You should enjoy reading and writing essays, and will need to enjoy looking at theoretical explanations for behaviour. The course will involve looking at the theories that explain human behaviour.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

There is no coursework. The course will involve applying the knowledge and understanding of psychology to different questions and then being able to thoroughly evaluate these explanations. Psychology is the science of the mind and psychologists use human behaviour as a clue to the workings of the mind. There are three examinations at the end of the two years, although there is a possibility to leave with an AS after one year.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Psychology provides a useful foundation for any degree course, including medicine. This subject is also relevant for any job that requires interpersonal skills such as Teaching, Nursing, Health Care professions, Social Work, Educational Psychology and Law.

* Please note that the current syllabus is subject to change as the current specification ends in September 2016 and there is no draft specification available yet. If available, similar options will be chosen in both years.

The A Level Modules include the following subject areas:

Social Influence
Memory
Attachment
Approaches in Psychology
Psychopathology
Research Methods
Biopsychology
Issues and Debates
Relationships
Schizophrenia

Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics

Examination Board: Eduqas

Staff

D Slade BA, (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

W Sprenkel, BA (Hons), Med, PGCE

G Tendell , BA (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). At least a grade B in full course RS. If not studied at GCSE a minimum of a 5 grade in English.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

An ability to reason carefully, develop coherent arguments and commit these to essay format, therefore a good grade of a B or higher in English GCSE would be an advantage. Students will be expected to do a substantial amount of reading and have an interest in people; their beliefs, attitudes and values. Critical thinking about text and other media is also important. Enjoying reading and being able to handle controversial subject matter are essential. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and to keep up to date with tasks. A good sense of humour is advisable.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Philosophy: This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of

fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for the existence of God to the use of religious language.

Ethics: This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental ethical themes, ranging from ethical language and thought to freewill and determinism.

The study of religion: This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of their chosen religion covering themes ranging from religious figures and sacred texts to practices that shape religious identity.

The course aims to develop students' ability to analyse and interpret material and to present answers in essay form. Students will be assessed frequently in order to develop these skills. There will be a variety of activities that will encourage independence and working as a team alongside individual work that could include detailed research skills and detailed analysis of the subject material.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Religious Studies provide a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including: Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, Law and Sociology and provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: Social Work, The Police Force, The Armed Forces, Journalism, Nursing/Medical Professions, Legal Work/ Solicitors and Higher Education Lecturer/Tutor.

Module	A Level
Component 1: Academic Study of Religion: Christianity Written examination: 2 hours 33% of qualification	Religious Figures and Sacred Texts; Religious Concepts and Religious Life; Significant Social and Historical Developments in Religious Thought; Religious Practices and Religious Identity.
Component 2: Philosophy of Religion Written examination: 2 hours 33 % of qualification	Arguments for the Existence of God; Challenges to Religious Belief; Religious Experience; Religious Language.
Component 3: Religion and Ethics Written examination: 2 hours 33 % of qualification	Ethical Language and Thought; Deontological Ethics; Teleological Ethics; Freewill and Determinism.

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Staff

L A Williams, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE
(Head of Department)

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Requirements

Required - A minimum of five A*-Cs at GCSE
Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.
and Maths GCSE grade 4 or above.

Skills Required

You need to enjoy analysing and exploring the world around you. There will be lots of writing and you will be required to carry out wider reading. You need to be able to see two sides of an issue and be interested in exploring contemporary society in depth. As well as looking at topics you will also need to be able to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the connections between methods of sociological enquiry and theoretical approaches.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

There is no coursework. The course will involve applying the knowledge and understanding of sociology to everyday life. You will develop an awareness of cultural diversity, including national and regional differences. You will also explore the processes of differentiation and stratification which are central to an understanding of the contemporary world. At AS there are two examinations. At A Level there are three examinations.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Sociology provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects. This subject is also relevant for teaching, the police force, nursing, the civil services, the armed forces, social work, the media, advertising, personnel, general management, business and law.

The A Level Modules:

Education
Methods and Context
Research Methods
Families and Households
Media
Crime and Deviance
Theory and Methods

Sport & Physical Activity

Cambridge Technical Single Award Extended Certificate

Examination Board: OCR

Staff

M Kirk, BEd (Hons)

N Campbell, BEd (Hons)

K Dyke, BEd (Hons)

Requirements

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent). A qualification in PE is not a prerequisite. English GCSE grade 5 or above.

Skills Required

This Cambridge Technical qualification requires a number of skills due to the diverse nature of the course. Strength in independent learning is desirable as the course is 50% coursework assessed. An ability to analyse, discuss and argue is required when studying all modules. An ability to build skills, and develop a knowledge and understanding in sport would further enhance a career in this area.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

This is a vocational style of course which does not have a practical performance element but does allow for practical based activity within each of the units. This is a 50% examination course equivalent to 1 A Level. It is assessed in the form of coursework and exam which is graded at either pass (A Level grade E), Merit (A Level grade C) or Distinction (A Level grade A).

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Cambridge Technical provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including: Sport Sciences, Sports Management, Sports Coaching or teaching and Leisure and Recreation, Sports Development and Sports Administration.

Module	Content
Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity (Examination)	Know the body's response to acute exercise Know the long term effects of exercise on the body systems Be able to investigate the physiological effects of exercise on the body systems. Know the structure and function of the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems Know the different types of energy systems.
Sports Coaching and Leadership (Coursework)	Know the roles, responsibilities and skills of sports coaches Know the techniques used by coaches to improve the performance of athletes Be able to plan a sports coaching session Be able to deliver and review a sports coaching session.
Sports Organisation and Development (Examination)	The unit introduces learners to the diverse nature of sports development whilst exploring fundamental principles such as the sports development continuum and barriers to participation.
Sport and Exercise Psychology (Coursework)	The unit will see learners understand the different elements to sports psychology, the importance the role of sports psychology plays and how performance can be improved with its use. This will cover topics such as personality traits, motivation, stress and arousal.
Organisation of Sports Events (Coursework)	Organising sports events develops transferable skills and enables learners to work effectively in a team. The unit requires learners to deliver a sports event and consider promotional material and effective planning in making it a success, while reflecting on their role in the team.

Travel & Tourism

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Examination Board: Edexcel BTEC

Staff

D Butler, BA (Hons), PGCE
(Head of Department)

Requirements

Recommended - At least 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent).
Maths and English GCSE grade 4 or above.

Skills Required

An ability to work effectively as a member of a team as well as an independent learner is absolutely essential. Good interpersonal and customer service skills. Skills linked to vocational elements of the course will be developed. An ability to research independently and in depth as well as numeracy, literacy and ICT. An ability to develop a portfolio of evidence to meet the requirements of the course is essential. Also practical skills relevant to the workplace of Travel & Tourism.

Syllabus, Assessment & Activities

Students of the course will be expected to produce two portfolios of evidence based on exam board guidelines; there are two external assessments. Each portfolio will be produced in both lessons and at home.

All units are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. Full award certificates are graded in the same way.

They can be taken in combination with A Levels and other BTECs; they are regarded by most universities as the equivalent of A Level qualifications.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

These are challenging, yet attainable qualifications which relate directly to the expectations of employers. They give students hands on experience in a wide range of career linked skills, while supporting progression to the workplace, further education or higher education. They can also be completed in conjunction with a work placement.

Clearly anyone interested in a career in the Travel and Tourism sector (the world's largest employer) should consider this course. Progression can be made to complete a Further Education course or even Travel & Tourism/ Management or related courses at degree level.

Mandatory Units	Optional Units
Unit 1 The World of Travel & Tourism	Unit 15 Visitor Attractions
Unit 2 Global Destinations*	
Unit 3 Managing the Customer Experience	

* Externally assessed

Level 2 Courses and Work Experience

GCSE Mathematics and English Language Retake

Students who have not achieved a C grade in GCSE Mathematics or English Language will be required to re-sit these GCSEs in the Sixth Form.

Work Experience

A Level students can choose their own work experience placement. This can be fitted in around your timetable and could be for a set period each week, or in some cases as a week-long block.

Students find work experience a very worthwhile experience. It can also help you to decide on your career, and the knowledge and experience gained will prove invaluable.

Students who undertake Work Experience for a long period time show commitment to their career aspirations, which is something Higher Education Admissions Tutors are looking for when deciding who should be offered a place at University. Some students, who can't fit in Work Experience throughout the school week undertake evening/weekend voluntary work, which shows real commitment to their chosen career.

Plym Consortium

Plym Consortium Courses

The Plym Consortium pathway is a 'stepping stone' into a full time college course or an apprenticeship. This pathway is for one year and is made up of three parts:

Training Monday & Wednesday	School Tuesday & Friday	Work Experience Thursday
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Work Experience

All Plym Consortium students will choose a placement usually for 1 or maybe 2 days a week.

The placement will enable you to put the job skills learnt on Monday and Wednesday (at your Training Centre) into practice in a 'real' job. You will have to think on your feet and develop your work skills.

You will receive regular visits from Mr Steward, who is always available to help you with any problems, and will ensure that you are enjoying the work.

Many students in the past have been employed full time with their Work Experience employer. Others learn about jobs they do, or do not, want to do.

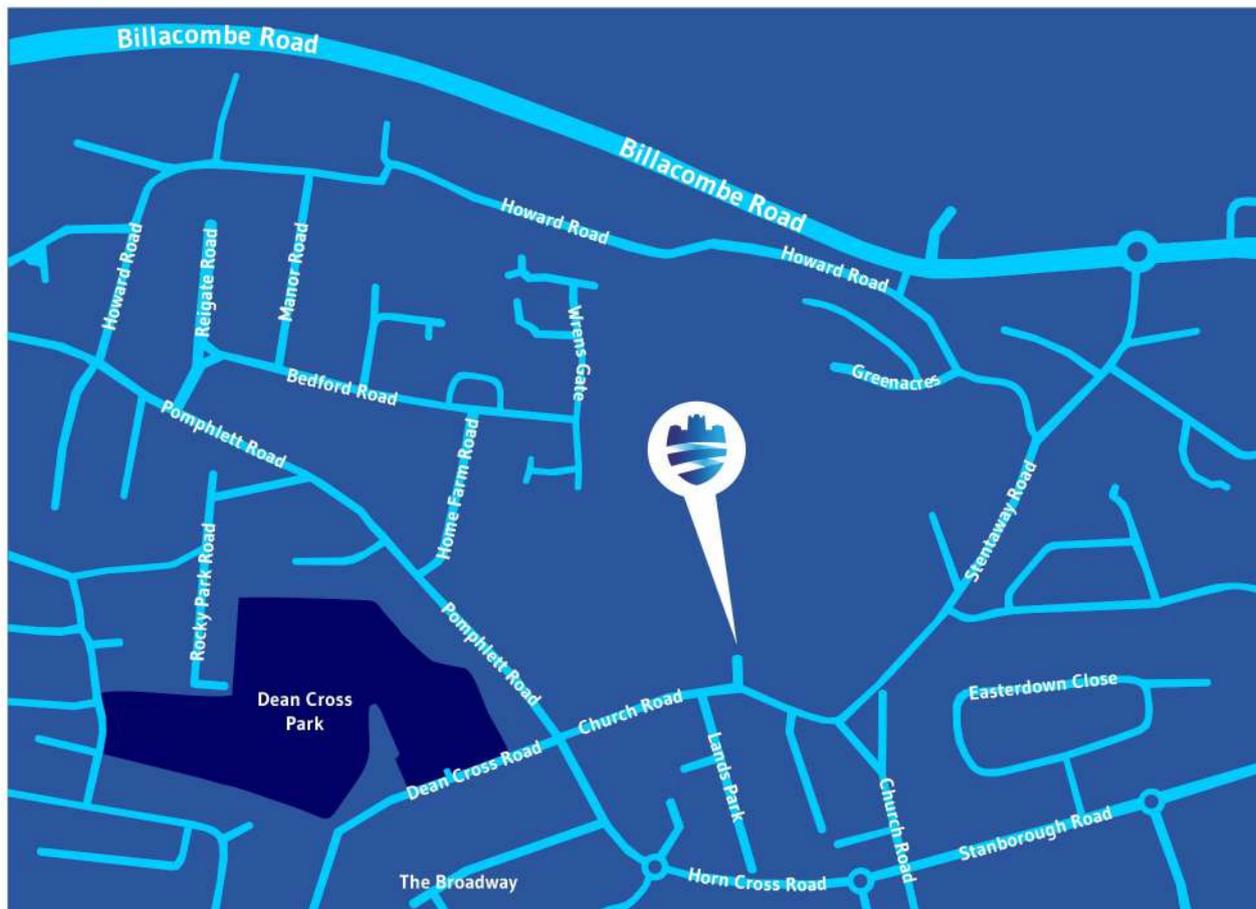
Plym Consortium - Vocational Courses

These are the courses offered to Plym Consortium students

Please see Mr Steward for more information

Skills Sector	Courses
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	Agriculture Animal Care Environmental Landbased Equine
Arts, Media and Law	Art Music Technology Performing Arts
Business, Administration and Law	Accountancy Business & Administration Business Business, Retail & Enterprise Customer Service Legal Studies
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	Carpentry Construction - Brick, Painting, Plastering Plumbing
Education and Training	Supporting Teaching & Learning in Schools
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	Engineering Fabrication and Welding Marine Industry Vehicle Maintenance & Repair
Health Public Services and Care	Children & Young People's Workforce Health Sector Health & Social Care Public Services
Information and Communication Technology	IT Users IT Professional
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	Outdoor Programmes Playwork Sports Travel Services
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	Barbering Beauty Therapy Hairdressing Hospitality & Catering Nail Services Retail

This list is subject to change for 2017/18



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