



Plymstock School

Achieving Excellence through Curriculum and Culture



Sixth Form Prospectus and Course Guide 2024

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Welcome From The Headteacher

We are delighted that you are taking the opportunity to consider Plymstock School Sixth Form as your next step. Making a decision on where to study next can often be overwhelming, however, it is also exciting as students have the opportunity to explore, consider and make informed choices about where they feel they can continue to progress and achieve to enable them to fulfil their talents and abilities.

The success of our Sixth Form is built around establishing a community where students are able to achieve well and aim high. Our quality of teaching by highly qualified and experienced staff who are experts within their subjects supports every student achieve their very best. Alongside this, the care and guidance that is offered within the Sixth Form further supports all students to achieve their very best and move onto their Post 18 aspirations, whether this be securing places at university or higher level apprenticeships. We are very proud of the work we do to ensure all our Sixth Form students achieve excellence.

Plymstock School's ambition is to empower our young people, through education, to have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in life and make a positive difference to their communities. Our school culture is underpinned by our core values of be kind, work hard and aim high. We believe that the key to achieving our ambition is giving every single student an ambitious academic curriculum from Year 7 through to Year 13. Our Sixth Form curriculum offer provides a wide range of challenging but rewarding Level 3 qualifications.

Alongside our academic curriculum, we are proud of the opportunities we provide our Sixth Form students to positively contribute to the school and wider community. Our students value these experiences as it enables them to further develop their skills, knowledge and experiences to support their personal development as young people and support future aspirations and ambitions. Alongside this, we aim to prepare our young people for the demands and challenges of our ever-changing multicultural society and to be equipped for life in modern Britain.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form team that provides expert information, guidance and advice about the next stage of students' education, employment or training. This is also true at the highest academic level, and we are delighted to frequently have pupils gain places at both Oxford and Cambridge University alongside those who secure apprenticeships and traineeships with internationally renowned organisations such as Babcock, Princess Yachts and the NHS upon completing their Sixth Form programme of study.

I hope you find all the information you need to support you in making the right decision for your next step. We have tried to share a real sense of what it is like to be a member of our Sixth Form community, both within the classroom and beyond.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Sixth Form team, who will be on hand to help and support with anything you may need.

Kind regards

Alan Yendell
Headteacher

Welcome From The Sixth Form Team

Thank you for your interest in Plymstock School Sixth Form. This is an exciting time as a Year 11 student, when you have the opportunity to explore your next steps and make decisions about where you choose to study to support you in your pursuit of your personal and career ambitions. Whether you are currently studying here at Plymstock School or considering joining us from another school, we are here to support you.

We are really proud of our Sixth Form and there are many things that we do that make it a great place to study. Our most recent Ofsted report (April 2023) commented that 'Sixth Form students are proud of the education they receive' and 'leaders support students' aspirations very well'. If you are looking for a learning environment where you have access to high quality, expert teaching alongside a culture of high expectations and ambition, then Plymstock School Sixth Form is right for you.

We place a strong emphasis on ensuring Sixth Form students achieve well. We expect them to secure high outcomes in their chosen subjects to enable them to access higher education or the world of work. Alongside the academic offer, we encourage students to engage and participate in a wide range of other opportunities, such as sport, performing arts, volunteering and mentoring to enrich their experience and make a positive contribution to the school and wider community.

Our Sixth Form provides excellent pastoral care for all of our students. This is overseen by Mrs Littler, who is always available to help and support with any problems, regardless of how big or small they may be.

If you have any questions, require further information or would like to come and visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Mrs Louise Duff
Director of Sixth Form
lduff@plymstockschool.org.uk

Mrs Rebecca Littler
Head of Sixth Form
rlittler@plymstockschool.org.uk

Welcome From The Student Leadership Team

Plymstock Sixth Form gives you the chance to specialise in the subjects that you love and to develop your knowledge and interests in greater depth. You will feel valued, challenged and nurtured within our Sixth Form family.

After finishing GCSEs and starting your Level 3 courses, the leap in both expectations and level of learning may appear overwhelming. Here at Plymstock Sixth Form, staff ensure that all students have a smooth transition. All year 12 students will be allocated to a tutor group with an experienced Sixth Form tutor who will support you during this time. In your group you will take part in a daily tutor programme that allows students to develop their academic skillset, knowledge of the world around you, research careers and learn about information that will help when you are progressing into adulthood.

Our Sixth Form promotes a welcoming, non-judgmental environment for all students. We are encouraged to get involved in a multitude of opportunities which you can choose from to further develop your subject knowledge or to help out the local community through volunteer work. This plays an integral part in helping you make decisions after Sixth Form, widening your breadth of knowledge and skillset to aid you in your future choices.

All students are welcome to get involved in the Sixth Form Student Senate. This allows students to run events and have their voices heard to further improve our Sixth Form community, by implementing ideas from Sixth Form students. This means the Sixth Form is constantly evolving, giving all students the chance to leave a positive influence on Plymstock School. At the end of Year 12 students have the opportunity to apply for a role on the Sixth Form Leadership Team which has a variety of roles, such as Head Student, Wellbeing Leader, Charity Leader and KS3 and KS4 Academic Leads. These opportunities will further develop your leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

Staff at Plymstock Sixth Form actively assist us with career advice and university applications and, most importantly, are there for us whenever we may need them. They will always go that extra mile to ensure all students are supported during their time in Sixth Form.

Plymstock Sixth Form is a remarkable community which we are proud to belong to. It promotes the positive growth of each and every student to help you develop in confidence and gain the skills needed for your next steps and beyond.

Sixth Form Leadership Team

What Qualifications Do We Offer?

Plymstock School Sixth Form offers a wide range of Level 3 courses. Our main qualifications are A levels alongside a number of Vocational Technical Qualifications. Students must study a minimum of three qualifications over a two-year period. We do not offer part time programmes of study or qualifications that are studied over a year.

A level Qualifications

The assessment is mainly through examinations taken in the summer of Year 13. Some subjects have a non-examined assessment (NEA) and you will find details about this on the individual subject pages of this prospectus.

Level 3 BTEC and Cambridge Technical Qualifications

The BTEC and Cambridge Technical Qualifications offered in our Sixth Form are all level 3 Qualifications and are equivalent to A levels. They are designed to equip students with the specialist knowledge, practical skills and understanding they need for employment or admission to higher education. They are assessed through formal exams and coursework-based assessment.

Choosing your qualifications

It is important that students make informed decisions regarding the subjects they choose. We strongly advise that students consider the following:

Identify subjects that you are strong at and enjoy.

Read the information about the subjects you are considering.

Do your research! Will these subjects support you to achieve your ambitions? Have you chosen subjects that are relevant to what you might want to study at university or the industry you want to work in?

Talk to your teachers about the subjects you are thinking of applying for.

Contact a member of the Sixth Form team to discuss your choices.

Some useful websites to research careers and suitable Level 3 option choices are:

www.ucas.com

www.unifrog.org

How To Apply To Sixth Form

Applications will need to be made online. This can be accessed through our school website:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/post-16-options/>

Applications will open on Friday 1st December.

The deadline for applications is Monday 22 January. Applications will be accepted after this date. However, these will be late applications and we cannot guarantee that places on courses will be available if the class is already full.

Courses that are undersubscribed may not run. If this is the case, you will be contacted and notified.

Conditional offers will be issued in February 2024. An offer is given on the condition that students achieve the entry requirements for Sixth Form and the courses chosen. Where entry requirements are not met, staff are available to discuss all options available.

Completing the application process

Sixth Form subjects are timetabled in blocks and our provisional timetable blocks can be found on our website.

Look at our provisional timetable blocks (on our website)

Select no more than one subject from each block.

The application form will allow you to let us know if you have a 'timetable clash' with two subjects you want to study in the same block.

We will let you know if we are able to solve the timetabling issues.

Working in partnership with other Schools

As a member of Westcountry Schools Trust, we work in collaboration with Hele's School and Coombe Dean School to provide students with access to a wider range of Level 3 qualifications.

Students who attend Plymstock School Sixth Form can study a subject at one of our partner schools whilst keeping Plymstock as their home school. For example, we will not be offering Music or Design Technology but will aim to secure a place for you at a partner school.

Students with timetable clashes might study one subject at a partner school. Transport to and from partner schools is provided by minibus which runs before period 1 and after period 5 as well as at break and lunchtime.

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

To study at Plymstock School Sixth Form students need to achieve a minimum average grade score of 4.5. To calculate this simply add together all grades achieved and then divide by the number of grades. In addition, students must have achieved grade 4 or above in at least five subjects. The subject information pages give details of grade requirements in each subject.

If students do not meet the grade requirements, they will not be permitted to study the course except in exceptional circumstances or at the discretion of the Head of Department in agreement with the Director of Sixth Form. All students are expected to have gained a minimum of a grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language 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 subjects in Year 12.

Our Facilities

Within our dedicated Sixth Form building, a wide range of facilities are offered to enable you to achieve your potential and ensure you can study effectively. The Lower Common Room forms both a social hub and a place to exchange ideas – the perfect atmosphere to build up new friendships. Comfy seating and kitchen facilities are provided, with a vending machine and tea and coffee making facilities, making this a great place to relax in between study periods. Upstairs you will find our Upper Common Room, equipped with computers and work stations; a calm and focused setting is created to aid you in your studies. Our Lower Computer suite exclusive to Sixth Form students also ensures that you will always have access to computerised resources.

Enrichment Opportunities

Plymstock School Sixth Form is not just a place to study. Throughout your two years here, you will find plenty of roles, clubs and extra-curricular events to involve yourself with. Whatever your interests, there is something for you to get involved in. Through our many volunteering opportunities students have the chance to share their talents and develop their abilities beyond academia. Our students volunteer weekly through our Give an Hour scheme. The volunteer work that Sixth Form students do by tutoring and mentoring students through Year 7-11, helping in lessons or in the school library creates strong links between our Sixth Form Community and the whole school. Students can also help in the local community with many volunteering with Age UK or with organisations that relate to their own interests.

Through our Sixth Form Senate, new ideas are put into action - weekly meetings mean students can share their views and impact the running of the Sixth Form directly. Charity is at the heart of what we do raising money and awareness for a variety of charities throughout the year. From themed fancy dress days to quiz nights, every person is able to put their talents to good use, have lots of fun and help people in the process.

Trips such as the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme and the South West Mock Law Trial have allowed students to experience what they have learnt on a more personal level. Outreach opportunities and trips to various UK universities also allow students to experience university life first-hand and get a taster of higher education. Finally, our work experience week at the end of Year 12 enables us to develop key employability and life skills before entering the world of work or university.

As a member of Plymstock School, you will have access to our extensive sports facilities onsite. From the fitness suite to our two all-weather pitches, sporting interests are readily catered for. Furthermore, there are opportunities for you to get involved with supporting sports clubs run for KS3 and KS4 students, allowing you to share your passion with students lower down the school.

The Sixth Form Opportunities Bulletin informs students of upcoming opportunities to take part in webinars and workshops that relate to subjects they are studying or will be of general interest to Sixth Form students. You can check out what our Sixth Formers get involved in by looking at our current and archived Sixth Form Bulletins on our Sixth Form website page.

Work Experience

All students in Sixth Form will complete a work experience placement in the summer term of Year 12. Sixth Form students will choose their own work experience placement. Additional work experience can be fitted in around your timetable and can be arranged for a set period each week, provided it does not clash with any of your subject lessons.

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 of 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. Employers also find work experience highly desirable. Some students, who can't fit in work experience throughout the school week, undertake evening/weekend voluntary work. This shows real commitment to their chosen career.

Post 18 Choices Support

We pride ourselves on the level of personalised support we give to our students as they prepare for their Post 18 journey. We also run information evenings for parents to explain the university application process.

During Year 12 students are offered a one-to-one appointment with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss their thoughts for when they leave Sixth Form in order to gain support with research and preparation for whatever their choices may be. Every Wednesday after school there is a drop-in session available for students to attend if they want support with university or apprenticeship applications. Students are also offered lunchtime workshops or one-to-one appointments for personal statement writing. Students applying for apprenticeships can arrange one-to-one appointments for support with applications.

Careers is a weekly part of our Tutor Programme where you will be supported by your tutor to explore career options through activities and using UniFrog. We also have speakers as part of our assembly programme talking to you about opportunities available to you.

ON THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSES WE OFFER. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OR JUST WANT TO TALK THROUGH YOUR CHOICES.

Mrs Rebecca Littler, Head of Sixth Form

rlittler@plymstockschool.org.uk

Mrs Louise Duff, Director of Sixth Form

lduff@plymstockschool.org.uk

Art, Craft & Design

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

O Hurd-Thomas, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE

Why Study Art, Craft and Design?

Students will build on current skills to demonstrate a broad range of visual recording skills, including a variety of drawing styles. You will develop a capacity for the critical analysis of images, and the subject specific language to convey your ideas and insights. The ability to explore a range of materials and processes whilst developing your ideas is important. This naturally leads to the final realisation of your 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, you 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. Given the increasing emphasis on creative thinking as a core skill in the world's most successful companies, an Art A level is an excellent counterpoint to a more academic set of A levels, and is widely considered to be valuable by employers.

Course Costs

All Year 12 and Year 13 students are asked to pay a studio fee of £30 at the start of September. Every year we try to organise a trip to visit galleries either in the city centre or further afield, in locations such as London or St Ives. If finance is an issue we will always try and find ways to support students so that they can attend.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art. In exceptional circumstances students who have not achieved a 6 may be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Department. Similarly, if Art is not studied at GCSE students must meet with the Head of Department and show evidence of art skills.

Year 12	Year 13
<p>Practical Portfolio; A broad skills-building introduction to a variety of art processes, initially following themes 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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. Work from the Year 12 practical portfolio and summer exam may also form part of the student's Year 13 Personal Investigation.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Biology A

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

J Birchnall, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Biology A?

Biology is the study of life: past, present and future. It is a fascinating subject; the study of which will see you learn about the natural world, how and why we and other organisms have come to exist, survive and thrive. The A level in biology is designed to expand on the knowledge you gained at GCSE level, giving you a far more in depth understanding of the key concepts.

Your knowledge of biology may be used in the future to understand and perhaps solve problems with important worldwide implications such as disease control, food production, conservation of endangered species, controlling world population and dealing with the pollution caused by humans.

The first year topics involve studying the foundations of biology: cell structure, gas exchange, blood and the heart, plant structure and function, biochemistry, the key macromolecules of life, diet, evolution, a range of diseases including malaria and emphysema and the workings of the immune system.

Second year topics include the nervous system, studying the histology and functioning of the kidney, liver and pancreas, the biochemistry of photosynthesis and respiration, genetics, biotechnology, ecology and population growth.

You will also learn many transferable skills like maths, literacy, research, curiosity, critical analysis, application of knowledge, problem-solving and critical thinking.

A level Biology can be challenging, as it requires a deep understanding of complex biological concepts and a mastery of scientific research methods. Throughout the 2 year course you will be taught by a very experienced team of teachers who will endeavour to guide you through the complexities and enrich your understanding of how life works.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

A level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities and university degrees including the study of pure biology, biochemistry, genetics, zoology, botany, veterinary sciences, medicine, nursing, radiotherapy, psychology, environmental sciences and many more.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least 6:6 grade in Science including 6 or above in Biology and Chemistry components/exams. Mathematics and English at grade 6 or above.

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

Pass or fail of the Practical Endorsement, carried out during practical sessions over the 2 years in lessons.

Biology B

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

S Lockett, BSc (Hons), MSc

Why Study Biology B?

Quite simply, you love learning science and in particular have a connection with biology, a subject where you naturally excel. You will learn to apply your knowledge to solve practical problems and theory.

This Biology B course is a context-based approach; we introduce the big ideas of biology but in an applied setting. The course is demanding yet engaging and has a combination of academic challenge, contemporary context as well as a practical focus. You have to enjoy studying plants; when we cover photosynthesis, we do so in the context of food productions and the environmental management. Practical skills are a continuous part of the course, and you will be specifically examined on these. The development of your maths skills is an integral part of this A level and it is essential that you come to the course with strong mathematical knowledge.

There are 5 teaching modules. In Year 12 you will cover:

- practical skills
- cells, biochemistry, transport and gas exchange
- cell division, development and control

In Year 13, we cover;

- energy, reproduction and populations
- genetics, control and homeostasis

Career Paths & Degree Courses

If you are considering which Biology course to choose, this one would be better suited to those who would like a career which involves people e.g. nursing, medicine, midwifery, radiotherapy, physiotherapy, vet or a forensic scientist. It is not the course for you if you wish to go into an environmental career, to be a botanist, geneticist, psychologist, or ecologist.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5.

Minimum grade 6 from any GCSE Science. Grade 6 in GCSE Maths & English.

Biology B H422		Covering	Content In Exam Paper
Paper 1	Fundamentals of Biology	Modules 1-5	2 hours 15 minutes, 41% of A2
Paper 2	Scientific literacy in Biology	Modules 1-5	2 hours 15 minutes, 37% of A2
Paper 3	Practical skills in Biology	Modules 1-5	1 hour 30 minutes, 22% of A2

Business Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

G Hughes BA (Hons) PGCE

Why Study Business?

Students should consider enrolling in the Business Studies Cambridge Technical Level 3 course offered by OCR for a variety of compelling reasons. This vocational course offers a practical and hands-on approach to business education, preparing students for real-world careers in the business and management sectors.

One key advantage is that this course blends academic knowledge with practical skills, ensuring that students are job-ready upon completion. It covers a wide range of business topics, including marketing, finance, human resources, and operations, allowing students to develop a comprehensive understanding of how businesses operate.

Another significant benefit is the emphasis on coursework and project-based assessments. This not only reduces the pressure of exams but also allows students to showcase their abilities through real-world business projects. This practical experience is highly valued by employers and is excellent preparation for higher education in business-related fields.

Moreover, the Business Studies Cambridge Technical Level 3 course encourages students to think critically and analytically about business challenges. It hones their problem-solving skills and decision-making abilities, which are highly transferable to various career paths.

Additionally, this course offers a clear and well-structured curriculum, making it accessible to students with varying levels of prior business knowledge.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

In summary, this course equips students with practical skills and knowledge essential for success in the business world. It focuses on real-world applications, fosters critical thinking, and provides a strong foundation for both employment and further education in business-related disciplines.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5.

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

Level	Units Covered	Assessment
Certificate (Year 1)	Unit 1 Business Environment Unit 4 Customers and Communication	Exam Coursework (60/40 Exam)
Extended Certificate (Year 2)	Unit 2 Working in a Business Unit 5 Marketing and Market Research Unit 20 Business Events	Exam Coursework Coursework (50/50 Coursework)

Chemistry

Examination Board: OCR A

Staff Lead

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

Why Study Chemistry?

In studying A level chemistry, not only will you develop your knowledge and understanding of chemistry and the material world, but practical, mathematical, and analytical skills, as well as problem solving, logical reasoning, application and both verbal and written communication skills. The development of these skills makes A level chemistry highly respected by universities and employers, in a wide range of fields.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Studying chemistry opens up an array of career opportunities. These include medical professions such as medicine, dentistry, paramedicine, ODP (operating department practitioner), pharmacology and radiology and veterinary science.

A level Chemistry also supports entry to science based careers such as astrophysics, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, chemical engineering, dietetics, ecotoxicology, environmental science, forensic science, geology, oceanography and regulatory science.

Financial professions including accountancy, auditing and investment banking may seem like unusual routes for chemistry students, but these professions specifically look for the skills developed through studying chemistry.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. A grade 6-6 (minimum) in Science including a 6 or above in the Chemistry component. Mathematics GCSE at grade 6 or above.

Teaching Unit	Title
Module 1	Development of Practical Skills
Module 2	Foundations in Chemistry
Module 3	Periodic Table & Energy
Module 4	Core Organic Chemistry
Module 5	Physical Chemistry & Transition Elements
Module 6	Organic Chemistry & Analysis

Exam	Modules Assessed
Paper 1 Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry	1, 2, 3 and 5
Paper 2 Synthesis and Analytical Techniques	1, 2, 4 and 6
Paper 3 Unified Chemistry	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

S Rogers, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Computer Science?

Students should consider taking A Level Computer Science for a number of reasons. Firstly, in today's digital age, computer science skills are in high demand across various industries. A level Computer Science provides a strong foundation in programming, algorithms, and problem-solving, equipping students with essential skills for future careers in technology, software development, data analysis, and more.

Furthermore, A level Computer Science fosters critical thinking and logical reasoning, enhancing a student's problem-solving abilities. These skills are not only valuable in the tech sector but also transferable to many other fields.

Additionally, A level Computer Science encourages creativity and innovation. Students learn how to create software and design algorithms, giving them the tools to develop their own applications and contribute to technological advancements.

In summary, opting for A Level Computer Science empowers students with valuable skills that are highly sought after in the job market, provides a solid foundation for further education, and encourages critical thinking and innovation, all while preparing them for the digital future.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Taking this subject opens doors to higher education and lucrative job opportunities. Many universities offer computer science-related programs and this course is also a good route onto degree courses in Science, Engineering and Maths. Employers seek individuals with strong computer science backgrounds.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in Computer Science GCSE (if taken) and at least a grade 5 in the Physics element of GCSE Science. If you did not take GCSE Computer Science you will be required to complete a programming portfolio over the Summer to bridge the gap in your programming knowledge.

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

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>	CORE: Scientific Practical Techniques – externally assessed.
<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>	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.

Criminology

WJEC Level 3 Diploma

Examination Board: WJEC

Staff Lead

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Criminology?

Criminology allows you to embrace the scientific study of criminal behaviour. You will leave the criminology course with an extensive understanding of the criminal justice system, a variety of different crimes and their consequences and an ability to analyse types of offenders. The course is rich in criminological theory and you will develop the ability to apply biological, individualistic and sociological theories to explain the potential causes of criminal behaviour.

Real life crimes are embedded throughout the course and you will not only get the chance to consider the causes of this criminal behaviour but you will also investigate the forensic evidence involved in securing the conviction and legal processes involved.

The course is assessed through a mixture of examinations and controlled assessments (NEA). Both controlled assessments foster the development of transferrable skills such as critical thinking, time management and report writing. This course will equip you with the skills that are relevant for industry and university studies, whilst fostering a real empathy and appreciation for justice, moral and ethical issues.

Examination units – units 2 & 4. Both examination units are 1 hour 30 minutes and contain a range of short answer and extended writing questions. These are both sat at the end of Year 13.

Controlled assessment units – unit 1 & 3. One controlled assessment is sat in Year 12 and one is sat in Year 13. These are completed in computer rooms over an 8-hour period and involve responding to an unseen crime brief.

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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5.

Recommended - English GCSE grade 5 and Science GCSE grade 4 or above.

The Modules

Unit 1 Changing Awareness of Crime Controlled assessment unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	There are many reasons that crimes that go unreported 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.
Unit 2 Criminological Theories Examination unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations of why people commit crime, but which is the most useful? Knowing about the different types of crime and the criminological approaches to theory will give you a sharper insight into the kind of thinking used by experts and politicians to explain crime and criminality. By undertaking this unit, you will learn to support, challenge and evaluate expert opinion and be able to support your ideas with reliable and factual evidence.
Unit 3 Crime Scene to Courtroom Controlled assessment unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	Throughout this unit, learners will develop an understanding of the personnel involved in criminal investigations and the techniques that are used to help identify the culprit. The criminal trial process involves many different people and agencies. Learning about the roles of these will give you a clearer insight into what happens once a crime is detected and the process that leads to either a guilty or non-guilty verdict. At the end of this unit you will have gained the skills to review criminal cases, evaluating the evidence in the cases to determine whether the verdict is safe and just.
Unit 4 Crime and Punishment Examination unit (25% of Applied Diploma)	The purpose of this unit is for learners to develop skills in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the process of social control in delivering policy in practice.

Drama

Examination Board: Eduqas

Staff Lead

C Swabey, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Drama & Theatre Studies?

We want students to have an inspiring experience of A level Drama. This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances.

Students taking the course should have an appreciation of the Arts and a willingness to work as a team. There will be regular opportunities to visit the theatre to watch live performance to enrich a wider subject appreciation.

Students of Drama develop skills that are not just essential for drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This course 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.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Drama 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 & Performance, Law, Marketing, Public Services, Media, Fashion, Business, Politics, and History.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least grade 6 in Drama. (However, if you did not take GCSE Drama a short audition may be required before entry).

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Component 1: Re-interpretation Response (20%) - Practical and theory	Component 2: Text-in-Action (40%) - Practical and theory (assessed by a visiting examiner)	Component 3: Text in Performance (40%) - Written examination
<p>Students will participate in the creation, development, and performance of a new piece of theatre based on (and including dialogue from) an extract from an existing published play.</p> <p>Students will produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A creative log based on the rehearsal process• A performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group).	<p>Students will participate in the creation, development, and performance of two pieces of theatre linked to their chosen stimuli, provided by Eduqas.</p> <p>Students will produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A devised performance using the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or company• A performance of a play-text in a different style.• A written Process and Evaluation Report of no more than 3,000 words.	<p>Students will study two set texts, one from pre-1956, and one from post 1956, answering a series of questions on how to realise a performance of an extract from the post-1956 text and their directorial vision for the pre-1956 text, making the play relevant for a modern audience.</p> <p>Students will also respond to a question from an extract from 'A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time'. The examined extract is released before the examination.</p>

English Language & Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study English Language & Literature?

Do you enjoy reading a variety of texts – both fiction and non-fiction? Are you interested in the ways writers create meanings in texts through a range of techniques? Do you like stories – both reading and writing them? If you have answered 'yes' to these questions, then English Language and Literature could be the A level for you.

Clearly to study English at A level, you can expect to undertake a fair 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 important. You will build on skills from GCSE and study the way language functions in both literary and non-literary texts, including spoken conversations. You will read, discuss, evaluate, analyse a range of Literature from novels to poetry to drama and the NEA component is a great opportunity to extend your knowledge and understanding in an area of your choice. Unlike the English Literature A level, you will also be able to develop original/creative writing skills as part of the Paper 2

exam unit.

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.

Requirements

A minimum of one grade 6 and one grade 5 coming from the study of GCSE English Language and English Literature. At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5 or higher.

Recommended: Grade 6 or higher in both GCSE English Language and English Literature

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 Lead

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study English Language?

Do you like stories with interesting plots or characters, including Shakespeare's plays? Do you enjoy reading a variety of literary texts from different time periods and contexts? Are you interested in the ways writers create meanings in texts through a range of techniques? If you have answered 'yes' to these questions, then English Literature could be the A level for you.

Clearly to study English at A level, you can expect to undertake a fair amount of reading so an enjoyment of this is essential. An interest in analysing the way writers craft / shape narratives is also important. You will build on skills from GCSE – both analytical and essay writing – and study the way language and structural methods function in texts. In addition, you will develop an understanding of how and why writers conform to (or subvert) genre conventions, with a particular focus on the genres of crime and tragedy. You

will read, discuss, evaluate, analyse a range of Literature from novels to poetry to drama and the NEA component is a great opportunity to extend your knowledge and understanding in an area of your choice as well as gain a knowledge of critical literary theory.

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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least one grade 5 and one grade 6 (or higher) in either English Language and English Literature GCSE.

Recommended: Grade 6 or higher in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

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>

Film Studies

Examination Board: EDUQAS (WJEC)

Staff Lead

R Cohen, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Film Studies?

Do you enjoy watching movies - either for the action, the mystery or to follow the path of a character? Do you sometimes find yourself questioning the end of a story or criticising the plot in a film? If so, then Film Studies A level could be the perfect next step for you.

Film Studies is a lively and exciting course that is designed to introduce students to some of the key concepts that underpin the study of films. You will study a wide variety of films on the course, broadening your knowledge and appreciation of films and different styles and genres of film, including mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present, as well as more recent examples of world cinema. This course will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of film theory as well as the range of meanings and responses films can generate. You will enjoy debating or answering questions such as: *Why are films so important to audiences?* Or *The director is always the most important influence on a film—Discuss.* Or *Compare how far the two films you have studied reflect the times in which they were made.*

An ability to analyse a variety of film texts from a range of genres, formulate opinions and reason carefully are all key skills that this course will enable you to develop. You will

produce 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 a genuine interest in film and its various cultural and historical contexts. Knowledge of film theory and critical debates will also be tested. Finally, there is a practical element (NEA) which will involve a written component and use of ICT equipment for film editing / making or production of a digitally photographed storyboard. Therefore, a capacity for independent study and ICT skills are a definite advantage.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Film Studies provides a useful foundation for any Arts degree and provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: film making, set design, journalism, marketing, television, teaching and many others.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. A minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a grade 5 in GCSE Film Studies if studied at KS4. You do not have to have studied GCSE Film in order to take this subject at A level.

Recommended: GCSE English Language grade 6 or higher.

Module	A Level Content - What's Assessed?
Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking 2½ hour Written Paper 35% of the A Level	This exam paper assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films. Section A is a comparative question where students are required to discuss two Hollywood films, each from a different time period within the twentieth century. Section B requires the study of two more modern American film texts, from 2005 onwards. Section C requires the study of two British films released from 1995 onwards.
Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives 2½ hour Written Paper 35% of the A Level	This exam paper assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature-length films (or their equivalent) Section A requires the study of two global films, one European and one produced outside Europe. Section B requires the study of one documentary film. Section C requires the study of silent film or group of films Section D requires the study of film from 1960-2000 which are considered 'experimental' films
Component 3: Production Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) 30% of the A Level	Students create their own texts from a range of options outlined by AQA from a choice of production briefs, along with an accompanying written evaluation of their work as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay.• An evaluative written analysis of their production (1600-1800 words).

French

Examination Board: Edexcel

Staff Lead

Mrs R Kent, MA, PGCE

Why Study French?

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. During the course, there will be the opportunity to support the Year 7 Normandy trip as a Language Leader.

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.

“The A Level course is an amazing introduction and a real eye opener to the real life topics in current French society. It allows you to develop your skills both in and out of the classroom.”
Year 13 student

Career Paths & Degree Courses

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

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in GCSE French.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Year 12	Year 13
In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, for example the role of families, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-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.	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: Edexcel

Staff Lead

C Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Geography?

Geography is a subject which holds a key to our future. The study of Geography supports students to develop an enquiring mind and an interest in the environment and current affairs. Students are willing to explore new ideas and are able to communicate effectively. Students who study Geography develop the ability to think logically and to be able to understand a range of physical and human processes over space and time. You will learn to synthesise a range of information coherently and be able to develop clear arguments and problem solve. You will develop further aspects of graphicacy, including the interpretations of maps and diagrams, as well as clear data response.

Lessons take many different forms with an emphasis on encouraging student led learning. Fieldwork, research and practical work are all seen as a part of the wider investigation process with students undertaking four days of compulsory fieldwork during the course.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

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. Some A level subjects, including Geography, are known as 'facilitating subjects' because choosing them at advanced level leaves open a wide range of options for university study.

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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE with a minimum average GCSE point score of 4.5. A minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Geography.

Recommended: English and Maths GCSEs at grade 6 or above.

Assessment Overview	A Level
Paper One: Physical Geography Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks	Externally-assessed: Tectonic Processes and Hazards Landscape Systems, Processes and Change: Coastal Landscapes and Change The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
Paper Two: Human Geography Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks	Externally-assessed: Globalisation Superpowers Regenerating Places Global Development and Connections: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty
Paper Three: Issues Evaluation Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% of the qualification 70 marks	Based upon three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas: Players Attitudes and actions Futures and uncertainties
Non Examined Assessment 20% of the qualification 70 marks	Independent Investigation, based on fieldwork. Report must be 3000 - 4000 words.

German

Examination Board: Edexcel

Staff Lead

Mrs M Richards, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study German?

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 following German speaking social media.

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. During the course there will be the opportunity to support the German trip to Aachen and Cologne as a Language Leader.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

German can lead to a Higher Education language course including combined courses with most other subjects, including politics and business. Language skills are highly sought after in the business world. Specific careers involving German include: tourism, marketing, translating, teaching, engineering, fashion, politics, business and journalism.

“Through studying German I’ve grown my interests in the languages, the country and its culture. Learning German has given me the opportunity to develop my language skills and better understand what’s important in German society. I’ve been able to go to Germany and experience the topics first hand.”

Year 13 Student

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in GCSE German.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

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 Extended Certificate

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

L Dover, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Health & Social Care?

Health and Social is one of the largest employment sectors in the UK. This course promotes an understanding of many of the important issues faced within today's Health and Social care system. This course will help you develop independence and confidence in the skills relevant to the Health and Social care sector.

This course is a combination of academic study and applied learning where you will gain an understanding of how theory is applied to practice in health and social care settings.

You will also develop the following transferable skills that can be used in higher education and work situations:

- Communicating and collaborating effectively with individuals

- Creating and presenting/delivering information
- Independent learning
- Researching topics and referencing
- Recommending care and support for individuals
- Solving health and social care problems for others

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This course supports applications for further study in nursing, midwifery, social work and social sciences. The requirements of the qualifications enable students to develop a range of skills that are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. If you have studied Health & Social Care at Level 2 a minimum of a Level 2 Merit must be achieved.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Unit	Year 12	Unit	Year 13
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	Anatomy & Physiology This unit aims to introduce you to the basic structure and functions of the body systems involved in everyday activities and maintenance of health. Unfortunately, things do go wrong and each system has well-known diseases and disorders. Also, as individuals grow older, they are likely to be affected by malfunctions as a result of degeneration. You will understand the effects on individuals and what has to be done on a daily basis to enable them to lead as full and independent a life as possible.
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	Nutrition for Health As future practitioners, it is important to understand the impact of nutrition on well-being and health. Rising levels of obesity are leading to increases in heart conditions, diabetes and liver disease. This unit introduces nutritional health and the components of good nutrition. You will have the opportunity to scrutinise different foods, consider their health benefits and investigate how to support other people to impact their health and well-being.
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 10 Coursework Unit	Sexual health, reproduction and early development stages. You will learn about sexual health and the types of contraception that are available. You will develop an understanding of the importance of prenatal health and the factors that could have an impact on the health and development of the foetus. You will also study stages of pregnancy and an overview of care and development of the baby in the first year are also covered.

History

Examination Board: Edexcel

Staff Lead

A Withey, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study History?

Our A level course has been written to build upon the knowledge and skills students have developed and honed across KS3 and KS4 and to provide a context to the Twentieth and Twenty-First century world in which they will grow up in.

The content is modern and designed to provide you with a national and international breadth of understanding from the origins of the British Empire, through to modern British and early Twentieth Century US History.

Year 12 will see students studying the challenges faced by the two most powerful democracies of the century. Students will investigate British History from 1918 through until the election of Tony Blair's government in 1997, studying the huge social, political and economic changes within our own country and democratic system.

In parallel with this, students will additionally be studying a social, political and economic history of the USA from 1918 to 1955, looking at how a contrasting democratic system dealt with its dizzying rise to power, spectacular crash and subsequent emergence as a post WWII superpower.

Year 13 will see students studying Britain's rise as an

imperial power, looking at how Britain lost an empire in the New World and then reasserted itself to establish the world's largest empire bar-none by 1914. The course will be an economic, military and political study of the interacting forces that led Britain to acquire India, Australia, Canada and The Nile Valley having lost the Thirteen Colonies in 1781.

This will be studied in tandem, with a coursework unit where students can choose from a range of agreed historical debates.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

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

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in History.

Recommended - English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

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

Mathematics

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

K Marshall, BSc (Hons), PGCE
K Spreadborough LLB (Hons), PGCE, PGDip

Why Study MAThematics?

The A Level Mathematics assessments build further on the problem solving examined at GCSE.

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

- apply theory to solve mathematical problems in context
- 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

A level Mathematics provides students with a thorough grounding in the mathematical tools and techniques often needed in the workplace. The logic and reasoning skills developed by studying A level Mathematics ensures the qualification is widely respected even in non-mathematical arenas. 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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE.

Recommended - A grade 7 or above in Mathematics.

A Level

Mathematics (3 external examinations)
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics and Mechanics
Paper 3: Pure Mathematics and Statistics

Each examination is 2 hours long and worth one third of the qualification

Further Mathematics

Examination Board: OCR MEI (B)

Staff Lead

K Marshall, BSc (Hons), PGCE
K Spreadborough LLB (Hons), PGCE, PGDip

Why Study Further Mathematics?

The aims and objectives of this qualification are the same as for A Level Mathematics but to additionally enable students to:

- Understand mathematics and mathematical processes in ways that promote confidence and provide a strong foundation for progress to further study
- Extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques and further develop their problem solving skills
- Use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems which require them to decide on the solution strategy
- Recognise when mathematics can be used to analyse and solve a problem in context
- Represent situations mathematically and understand the relationship between problems in context and mathematical models that may be applied to solve them
- Make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions by using mathematical reasoning
- Generalise mathematically and construct proofs
- Take increasing responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Studying Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for university, especially if you wish to study any Mathematics-

related subject such as Engineering, Science, Computing or Technology, as well as Mathematics itself. Many universities now encourage students to take Further Mathematics qualifications to improve their mathematical preparation for degree courses. Further mathematics is also listed as useful for degree courses/careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics, but an 8 or 9 is preferred. You must also have enjoyed the mathematics you have studied so far.

Further Mathematics can only be taken if a student is studying A level Mathematics. It can be taken as a fourth A level or as one of your three subjects.

A Level	
Further Mathematics (3 external examinations)	
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics	Core Pure is 2 hours 40 minutes long and is worth 50%.
Paper 2 and 3: Either: Mechanics major & Statistics minor OR Statistics major & Mechanics minor	Each major paper is 2 hours 15 minutes long and worth $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ Each minor paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long and worth $16\frac{2}{3}\%$

Photography

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

O Hurd-Thomas, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE

Why Study Photography?

Because you have a desire to create exciting and visually interesting imagery.

Because you want to develop the ability to reflect upon images created and develop/improve them further.

Because you have a willingness to engage with, understand and write about how other photographers have used the photographic medium to communicate.

Because you have the ability to manage time/resources/workload to meet deadlines.

Because you are sensitive to the need to present work in a considered, clear and professional manner.

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.

Given the increasing emphasis on creative thinking as a core skill in the world's most successful companies, an arts-based Photography A level is an excellent counterpoint to a more academic set of A levels, and is widely considered to be valuable by employers.

Course Costs

All Year 12 and 13 Photographers are asked to pay an annual studio fee of £15 towards the costs of using the darkroom, of printing their final photographs and their folder.

Every year we try to organise a trip to visit galleries either in the city centre or further afield, in locations such as London or St Ives. If finance is an issue, we will always try and find ways to support students so that they can attend.

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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. A grade 6 or above at GCSE Photography. In exceptional circumstances students who have not achieved a 6 may be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Department. If they have not studied Photography for GCSE students must meet with Head of Department and show evidence of photography skills.

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

A Campbell, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Physical Education?

This A level will develop a number of skills due to the diverse nature of the course. Scientific knowledge from Biology will be extended when studying the challenging exercise physiology content during both years. An ability to analyse, discuss and argue is used and improved extensively 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, mathematical abilities can continue to be used and improved when undertaking the biomechanical requirement, studying areas such as Newton's Laws and Projectile Motion.

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. This can be in one of the following: Amateur boxing, association football, athletics, badminton, basketball, camogie, canoeing, cricket, cycling, dance, diving, equestrian, gaelic football, golf, gymnastics, handball, hockey, hurling, kayaking, lacrosse,

netball, rock climbing, rowing, rugby league, rugby union, sculling, skiing, snowboarding, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, trampolining and volleyball.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

A level Physical Education can be studied as part of a students wider A level programme or because there is an interest in a sport related career. The course provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including: Sport Sciences, Sports Management, Sports Coaching or Teaching, Leisure and Recreation, Sports Development and Sports Administration.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 6 at GCSE PE theory component. It is essential that students are currently participating at least at club level outside of school.

Theoretical Content	Practical Content
Applied anatomy and exercise physiology Sports psychology Sport and society and technology in sport Mechanics of movement Skill acquisition Written NEA Coursework (15%) (85% of total marks)	Students ability is assessed as a performer or coach in a fully competitive situation within a sport of their choice. (15% of total marks)

Physics

Examination Board: OCR A

Staff Lead

C Wilson, BEng (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Physics?

Physics is a difficult subject that opens many doors to your future. The A level course encompasses all aspects of the subject with many ideas and topics you will recognise from GCSE studied again in Year 12 giving you a chance to expand your knowledge of them and reach a much deeper level of understanding on some subjects you have previously only skimmed the surface of. In Year 13 you will meet new concepts and ideas such as the thermal properties of gases, how gravitational forces interact, meet quantum Physics for the first time and explore ideas relating to the beginning of the known Universe.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

The study of Physics at A level prepares students to progress onto 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 and it links well with Mathematics and Computing.

Students will often take Physics as a first step on the journey towards a career in a pure Science career such as studying Astrophysics or nuclear Physics or alternatively it may lead to engineering, making use of the wide variety of problem solving experience you will gain throughout the course. However, the skills you gain can also lead to many other paths. Students pursuing a career in Finance or Medicine can benefit greatly from the applied mathematical skills and knowledge involved in Physics. The practical skills studied throughout the two-year course can also be a useful experience for those looking to work in a more hands on career. As a top A Level, Physics is also well regarded for entry into a wide range of other careers due to the nature of the course and the advanced skill set any student passing the course would possess.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least 2 grade 6's in Science including 6 or above in Physics component. Mathematics GCSE at grade 6 or above.

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		Practical Endorsement in Physics (04)* Non Exam Assessment	Reported separately
Component 02 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6			
Component 03 assesses content from all modules (1 to 6)			

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and this course will stimulate passion and foster a curiosity of understanding of why we behave and think in the way that we do. Psychology will introduce you to a variety of viewpoints from some of the most influential psychologists throughout history. We study the impact that their work has had on society and encourage students to make links between what they have learned in class and real-life. Students will develop a deep awareness of the different psychological approaches and will develop a critical understanding of how these approaches view behaviour. Through the study of a broad range of topics such as mental illnesses, social influence, addiction, attachment, and relationships, you will develop tolerance, awareness, and respect towards other individuals.

Psychology creates critical thinkers. The ability to analyse, evaluate theories of human behaviour in light of evidence and question the validity of information is an essential skill; this course will give students the confidence and skills to be able to do this. We encourage students to go beyond their immediate experience and use evidence from research and theory to help explain the individual.

Psychology is assessed via three examination units which are two hours each and address a wide variety of topic areas. Each examination unit involves a series of short and extended writing questions and includes 16-mark essay questions.

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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 5 in Mathematics and 5-5 in Science.

Recommended - Mathematics GCSE grade 6 or above.

Psychology Modules

Paper 1	Memory: this explores theoretical models of memory, theories of forgetting and the inaccuracy of eyewitness testimony. Social influence: this involves looking at conformity, obedience, resistance to social influence and the mechanisms involved with social change. Attachment: this topic explores how babies form attachments with their primary attachment figure and the impact this can have on their later development. Psychopathology: explores characteristics, explanations and treatments of phobias, OCD & depression.
Paper 2	Approaches: involves studying the different theoretical viewpoints in psychology and exploring how they explain behavior. Biopsychology: explores the structure and function of the human brain. Research methods: focuses on how psychologists conduct research.
Paper 3	Issues and debates: looks at biases within psychological research and debates issues such as is behaviour the result of nature or nurture? Schizophrenia: investigates biological and psychological causes and treatment of schizophrenia. Relationships: explores factors affecting attraction in relationships and theories surrounding human romantic relationships. Addiction: looks at risk factors for addiction and investigates explanations for smoking and gambling addiction.

Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics

Examination Board: Eduqas

Staff Lead

L Partridge, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics?

If you love discussion and debate, have a sense of intrigue about what goes on in the world, then this is the course for you. We cover three subjects in this course: Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. Religious Studies encourages critical and systematic inquiry into fundamental questions of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, the meaning of life, and the nature of reality, knowledge and society. More than any other discipline, philosophy and ethics explores the core issues of the Western intellectual tradition. Within this subject you will develop your reasoning skills, develop coherent arguments and commit these to essay format. You will also develop the skill of critical thinking of religion, philosophical and ethical theories and the strengths and criticism of these.

Philosophy: This component provides students with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental themes, such as the nature and existence of God to the use of religious language to justify the existence of a supreme being. This is contrasted with arguments from the existence of evil and suffering and the psychological implications of the existence of religion through Freud and Jung.

Ethics: This component provides students with the opportunity to undertake discussions and debates about

ethical theories such as Situation Ethics, Natural Law and Implications of Free Will. These Ethical Theories are applied to current moral issues which affect our society such as Abortion, Euthanasia, Animal Testing and Capital Punishment.

Buddhism: This component allows students to undertake an in-depth study of the belief system of Buddhism. Students will cover a range of themes, from key teachings and practices that shape religious identity. Students will also study a range of different schools of Buddhism such as Zen, Pure Land, Theravada and Tibetan Buddhism, and the issues that affect them, such as challenges from Feminism, Science and Secularism.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Religious Studies provide a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including Religious and Theological Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Law, Sociology and Journalism. It also provides a good background for a large number of careers such as: Social Work, The Police Force, Armed Forces, Medicine, Legal System, Journalism and Education.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE with a minimum average grade of 4.5. At least a grade 6 in GCSE RS with a grade 5 in English. If you have not taken GCSE RS, a grade 6 or above in English is required.

Year 12	
Buddhism	Life of the Buddha, Key Beliefs and Teachings of Theravada Buddhism (Three Marks of Existence, Eightfold Path), Key Practices and Introduction to different schools of Buddhism.
Ethics	Virtue Ethics, Divine Command Theory, Ethical Egoism, Situation Ethics (applied to Polyamorous and Homosexual Relationships), Natural Law (applied to Abortion and Euthanasia) and Utilitarianism (applied to Nuclear Weapons as a deterrent and Animal Testing).
Philosophy	Teleological and Cosmological Argument, Ontological Argument, Arguments for Evil and Suffering, and Religious Experience (prayer, visions).
Year 13	
Buddhism	Buddhist texts and modern leaders, Japanese Buddhism (Zen, Pure Land), Buddhism and Ethical issues such as Feminism and Science. Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhism in the West.
Ethics	Free Will and Determinism, Natural Law (Finnis and Hoose - applied to Capital Punishment and Immigration), Ethical Thought (Naturalism, Emotivism and Intuitionism).
Philosophy	Religious Experience, Psychological implications of Religions (Freud and Jung), New Atheism, Religious Language.

Paper 1	Study of Religion - Buddhism	2 hours
Paper 2	Philosophy of Religion	2 hours
Paper 3	Religion and Ethics	2 hours

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

R Richardson, BSc (Hons), PGCE
C Varcoe BSc (Econ), PGCE

Why Study Sociology?

Sociology is present in everything we do. It is a topic that is relevant to your everyday lives. In our current world, society is changing rapidly. Sociology enables you to understand why these changes are happening and see what has led to those changes.

You will develop a detailed knowledge of key sociological theories, such as Marxism, Feminism and Functionalism. You will explore topics such as families and households, education, crime and deviance & beliefs in society. Within these topics you will assess the inequalities that exist within our society, with a focus on gender, ethnicity and social class. Research methods are an important part of the course and you will gain an understanding of how sociologists carry out sociological research.

Sociology provides you with a new skills set, through sociological language, theories and concepts. Using these

skills, you will be able to think critically about the world, the news, politics, research, debates and social change. You will develop and understanding of social power, control and inequality.

Sociology is assessed via three examination units which are two hours each. Each examination unit involves a series of extended writing questions and include 30-mark essay questions.

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.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. Grade 5, or above in either English Language or English Literature.

Sociology Modules

Paper 1 Education with methods in context (2 hours)	This includes the role and functions of the education system, differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity and the impact of globalisation on education. Research methods include an understanding of how sociologists carry out sociological research and includes the use of observations, experiments, questionnaires, and interviews. Methods in context looks at the strengths and limitations of using each method to study pupils, teachers, classrooms and schools.
Paper 2 Topics in sociology (2 hours)	Families and households explores gender roles within the family, the nature of childhood and how it has changed and changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation and divorce. Diversity of contemporary families and household structures are also explored. Beliefs in society looks at the role of religion in society according to sociological theory and explores religious organisations including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements.
Paper 3 Crime and deviance with theory and methods (2 hours)	Explores topics such as class, power and crime and looks at the links between both gender and ethnicity and crime. Globalisation, green crime and state crime are also explored along with sociological theories of criminality.

Sport & Physical Activity

Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

A Campbell, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Sport & Physical Activity?

This Cambridge Technical qualification will develop a number of skills due to the diverse nature of the course. It will strengthen your independent learning, organisation and time management skills when undertaking the three coursework modules. This discipline is essential when moving onto university as many of the undergraduate assignments will be in this format. At the end of two years you will not only be able to research subject areas effectively but also be able to synthesise information and present it in a range of methods to communicate your ideas. These skills are developed simultaneously alongside revision and exam technique to tackle the body systems and sports organisation exam units.

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 one 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

A qualification in Sport and Physical Activity has the same UCAS points tariff as all other A Levels. It may therefore be studied as part of a student's wider A Level programme or because there is an interest in a sport related career. The course provides a useful foundation for degree courses in a wide variety of subjects including: Sports Sciences, Sports management, Sports Coaching or Teaching, Leisure and Recreation, Sports Development and Sports Administration.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. A qualification in PE is not a prerequisite.

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 National Level 3 Extended Certificate

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Staff

V Ellis, BA (Hons), PGCE

Why Study Travel & Tourism?

Our vision is to open up the world of Travel and Tourism to our students. Through this vocational course we want students to experience and understand the travel and tourism industry, giving them an insight into the careers available and the employability skills needed to get there. We develop their knowledge of the industry and an understanding of the world around them both in the UK and further afield, allowing them to develop into well-rounded individuals, aware of the different cultures around the world.

By studying Travel and Tourism students will develop their communication skills and collaborative working. Students will evaluate factors that can influence global travel and tourism and analyse information about the industry. This course involves a study of the world of travel and tourism, marketing and influences on the industry. It is aimed at students wanting to improve their communication and analytical skills, as well as building confidence in communicating to others and presenting ideas.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

This qualification is designed to support students who are interested in learning about the travel and tourism industry alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses or employment, not necessarily related to travel and tourism.

In addition to the travel and tourism sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop transferrable skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. The qualification will give students transferable knowledge, understanding and broad skills such as communicating and presenting ideas.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with an average grade score of 4.5. If you have studied Travel and Tourism at Level 2, a minimum of a level 2 Merit must be achieved.

Recommended: English GCSE at grade 5 or above.

Unit	Detail	Year
1	Exam The World of Travel and Tourism This unit provides the foundation for learners to study other units in travel and tourism. They will explore the key components and scale of the industry, using data to analyse key trends and their impact.	12 & 13
2	External Synoptic (Coursework) Global Destinations Learners investigate and analyse information regarding the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations.	13
3	Internal (Coursework) Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism Learners investigate the use of marketing in travel and tourism organisations and how to meet customer expectations in order to inform a promotional campaign of their own design.	12
9	Internal (Coursework) Visitor Attractions Learners develop analytical skills as they investigate the nature and role of both built and natural visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience.	12

Optional Fourth Subjects

Mathematics (Core) Equivalent to AS

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

Examination Board: AQA

Staff Lead

K Spreadborough, LLBC(Hons), PGCE, PGDip

Why Core Mathematics?

Core Mathematics is a two year course with two assessments as external examinations taken at the end of Year 13. Both examinations are 1 hour and 30 minutes. Both papers are worth 50% each.

This course leads to a Level 3 qualification, accredited by Ofqual, and equivalent in size to an AS qualification. However, it is distinct from AS Mathematics as learners consolidate mathematical techniques that can be directly applied to real-life contexts.

The study of Core Mathematics enables students to learn mathematics in addition to three Level 3 subjects. Students develop competence in the selection and use of mathematical methods and techniques and develop confidence in representing and analysis authentic situations mathematically and in applying mathematics to address related question and issues.

The purposes of this qualification are to:

- consolidate and build on students' mathematical understanding, and develop further mathematical understanding and skills in the application of mathematics to authentic problems
- build a broader base of mathematical understanding and skills in order to support the mathematical content in other Level 3 qualifications, for example GCE A Level Biology, Business Studies, Economics, Computing, Geography, Psychology, BTEC Applied Science, Business,

Health and Social Care, IT

- provide evidence of students' achievements against demanding and fulfilling content, to give them the confidence that the mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding they will acquire during the course of their study are as good as that of the highest-performing jurisdictions in the world
- prepare students for the range of varied contexts that they are likely to encounter in vocational and academic study, future employment and life

The content areas covered in this qualification (across both papers) are:

- Analysis of data
- Personal finance
- Modelling
- Statistical analysis

The content of this qualification is drawn from a range of GCSE content areas predominantly: statistics, probability, algebra and ratio, proportion and rates of change, together with content drawn from beyond and above GCSE content.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. At least a grade 4 in Mathematics GCSE.

Grade	UCAS Points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Extended Project Qualification

Level 3

Examination Board: Pearson EdexcelAQA

Staff Lead

R Littler, BA (Hons)

The Level 3 Extended Project allows students to study a topic area which extends their learning in their chosen area of study, as a standalone qualification. Students select one of the four units, which may be completed over one or two years. They will select a project topic which expands their learning in their field of study, in a related area, or that is relevant to their own personal interests. Each of the four units offers a different type of project: 1) a dissertation, 2) an investigation/field study, 3) a performance or 4) an artefact. Learners will be assessed on their ability to plan, manage, complete and review their project. The project is assessed by the centre's tutor-assessor and externally moderated by the exam board. The qualification also attracts UCAS points for those applying to university.

This qualification will enable learners to:

- have significant input to the choice and design of their project and take responsibility for an individual task or a defined task within a group project
- develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision making and, where appropriate, problem solving skills
- extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- where appropriate, develop as e-confident learners and apply relevant technologies in their studies
- develop and apply skills, creatively demonstrating initiative and enterprise
- transfer skills developed as part of their project to other areas of study
- use their learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for further education and/or career development.

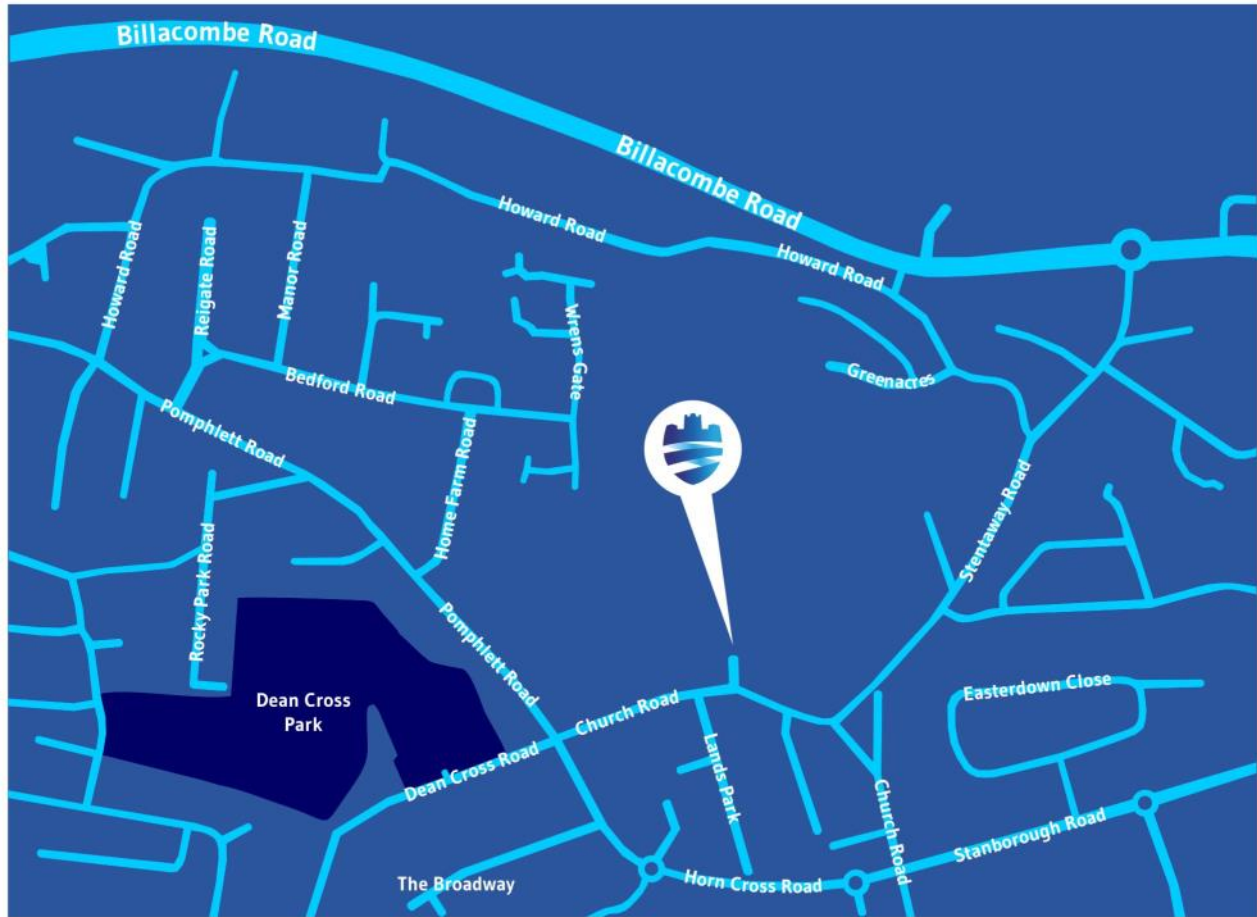
Students can decide in September 2024 if this is a qualification they would like to work towards.

Assessment Objective	Marks Available	Weighting
AO1 Manage: Identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.	9	17%
AO2 Use of Resources: Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.	12	22%
AO3 Develop and Realise: Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.	24	44%
AO4 Review: Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format.	9	17%
TOTAL:	54	100%

GCSE Mathematics and English Language Retake

Students who have not achieved a grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics or English Language will be required to re-sit these GCSEs in the Sixth Form.

Lessons for the GCSE Retakes are normally timetabled as twilight sessions (after school). Attendance to these lessons is compulsory.



Plymstock School

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