



# **Sixth Form**

# **Course Outlines**

# **2012**

## **Midsomer Norton Sixth Form**

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## Entry Requirements for the Sixth Form 2012/13

**Standard Entry Requirement:** 6 GCSEs or equivalent at Grades A\*-C, usually including English Language and Maths. If you do not have either of these subjects you will have to retake the GCSE during your first year Sixth Form.

Please note that a BTEC qualification cannot count for more than 2 of your 6 required. Please note that GCSE IT and PB are only short courses and so are only equivalent to half a GCSE each.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Essential including GCSE grades</b>
Applied Science	Grade C in GCSE Science
Art & Design	Grade C in Art
Biology	Grade BB in Additional Science
Business BTEC	6 A*-C grades or equivalent
Business & Personal Finance BTEC	6 A*-C grades or equivalent
Business Studies	Grade C in Business or English Language
Chemistry	Grade BB in Additional Science
Creative Media Production BTEC	Grade C in English Language and an interest in the media
Design Craft BTEC	Grade C or prior experience in Resistant Materials
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade C in English Language and interest in Performing Arts
Economics Pre-U	Grade Bs in English Language & Maths
English Language	Grade B in English Language
English Language and Literature	Grade C In English Language
English Literature	Grade B in English Language and Grade B in English Literature
Environmental Studies	Grade CC in Additional Science
Extended Project	Grade C in English Language
Fashion and Clothing BTEC	Grade C or above in Art, Textiles or another D&T subject.
Geography	Grade C in Geography or through discussion with Head of Geography if not studied Geography at GCSE
Global Perspectives & Research (GPR)	Grade B in English Language and Grade BB in Science
Graphics	Grade C or prior experience in Graphics
History	Grade C in History or if not studied History at GCSE a Grade C in English Language.
History Pre-U	Grade C in History or if not studied History at GCSE a Grade C in English Language.
Hospitality	Grade C or above in a food related course
ICT	Grade B or above in English and ICT
IT BTEC	Grade C in IT
Mathematics	Grade A in Maths (see specific subject description for more details)
Further Mathematics	Grade A* or A in Maths
Modern Languages	Grade A/A* in the selected language and successful entry test devised by Head of Subject
Music	Grade C in Music or above.
Music Performance BTEC	Grade C in GCSE Music or Grade 4 in Music
Music Technology	Grade C in Music or above or practical musical experience.
Physical Education	Grade B in GCSE PE as well as a minimum grade on the theory paper as directed by the Head of PE apart from in

Subject	Essential including GCSE grades
	exceptional circumstances.
Philosophy & Ethics	Grade B in Philosophy & Belief
Photography	A portfolio of work submitted to the photography department if not completed a creative subject at GCSE.
Physics	Grade BB in Additional Science. You should have studied GCSE Maths at higher tier level and ideally have achieved a Grade B or above
Politics	Grade C in English Language
Psychology	Grade Cs at English, Maths & GCSE Science
Public Services, Outdoor Leadership BTEC	Proactive nature and interest in the Public Services. Prior experience in KS4 of Public Services, PE or Geography would be a benefit.
Sociology	Grade C in English Language
Sport BTEC	Grade C in PE or if PE not taken at GCSE a Grade C in Science and subject to interview with Head of PE

# Applied Science

## What is the Course About?

The AQA Applied Science course will allow you to study how Science is applied in many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work.

During the course you will be given the opportunity to visit scientific workplaces and meet people who use science on a daily basis. You will also learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live.

The course is designed to allow you to spend a considerable amount of your time in the laboratory, working on the kind of practical projects that may be undertaken by employees working in science-based industries.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

The course that you choose to study will depend on your interests, strengths and preference for a particular style of learning as well as your future ambitions. You will need to work independently on a number of projects. The course is aimed at students who do not necessarily want to specialise in the separate Sciences at this stage.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

The GCE in Applied Science will prepare you for a career in the science industry or industries that use scientific knowledge and skills. It will also prepare you to take on learning and training in further and higher education. The types of courses include, for example, many science and paramedical degrees.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in GCSE Science

AQA	Applied Science	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Investigating Science at Work	Portfolio (ongoing)
Unit 2	Energy Transfer Systems	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Finding out about Substances	Portfolio (ongoing)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 7	Planning & Carrying out a Scientific Investigation	Portfolio (ongoing)
Unit 8	Medical Physics	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 16	Ecology, Recycling and Conservation	Portfolio (ongoing)

# Art & Design

## What is the Course About?

The AS and A2 courses both consist of one coursework unit and an externally set exam unit. The coursework unit is designed to re-establish skills and knowledge from GCSE level, and extend these into new areas and to a higher standard.

The AS course is teacher-directed initially, but as the course develops students take on increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work. In Year Thirteen students develop ideas and interests from AS and pursue individual themes, through one coursework unit, which has a larger written element. The course is completed through an externally set exam unit.

The department organises a series of visits to galleries and aims to introduce students to ways of working outside the classroom environment. Every other year there is a gallery trip to either Paris or Barcelona which, although not essential, is a wonderful experience leading to enhanced skills and contextual understanding.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who have gained at least grade B at GCSE who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

A-Level Art is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students study Art and Design subjects at degree or foundation level but study can lead to: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration and Advertising etc.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in GCSE Art.

AQA	Art & Design	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Object and environment/Figure and identity	Internally assessed
Unit 2	Examination	Internally marked Externally moderated
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Self-directed Unit (including Personal Study)	Internally assessed
Unit 4	Examination	Internally assessed Externally moderated

# Biology

## What is the Course About?

The course encompasses all areas of both Plant and Animal Biology. The course looks at the bio-chemistry of various organic and inorganic molecules e.g. carbohydrates, lipids and proteins and builds upon this in Year Thirteen to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the metabolic pathways occurring in both Photosynthesis and Respiration.

Human Physiology forms an important part of the course and students gain an insight into how each of the organ systems work.

Plant and Environmental Biology are also vital topics studied and these are becoming more relevant as the issues surrounding the future of the planet make their way up the political agenda. This is also true for the other political “hot potato” namely genetics. Students will look at many of the ground-breaking discoveries made in recent times and discuss the controversial ideas of where to go next.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students must have an inquisitive nature and show great enthusiasm for Biology in general. The ability to research independently will be essential as much background reading surrounding the topics will be expected. Students need to engage in practical work and adopt a methodical approach to improve their scientific skills.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

An A-Level in Biology can open doors to many courses at university. There are courses in Bio-chemistry, Cell Biology, Micro-Biology, Environmental Biology, Medicine, Bio-Medical Sciences, Nursing and many more. A degree in Science may also lead to professional jobs e.g. teaching, accountancy etc.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade BB in GCSE Core and Additional Science

OCR	Biology	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Cells	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Molecules, biodiversity, food and health	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Practical skills	Assessment during Year 12
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Communication, homeostasis and energy	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5	Control, genomes and environment	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	Practical skills	Assessment during Year 13

## Business (BTEC Level 3)

### What is BTEC Level 3?

BTEC Level 3 is an A-Level equivalent programme designed to provide specific work-related qualifications in business. They have been developed to prepare learners for employment and/or provide career development opportunities.

### What is the Course about?

The BTEC Level 3 in Business has been developed in the business sector to focus on:

- Education and training for students who are likely to work in administration, marketing, human resources, accounting, ICT and the legal and management areas of business
- Providing opportunities for employees working in administration, marketing, human resources, accounting, ICT and the legal and management areas of business to achieve a nationally recognised Level Three vocationally specific qualification
- Giving learners the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification to enter employment in the business sector or to progress to higher qualifications such as the BTEC Higher National in Business or related degree courses
- Giving learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have the “get up and go” to research independently and participate enthusiastically in presentations, role-plays, debates and in-depth research. This research may involve library resources, the internet, business visits and surveys.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The BTEC Level 3 in Business has been developed to provide a broad educational basis for further training, further education or for moving into appropriate employment within the business sector. The course has been designed to be delivered in a work-related context and to allow learners to develop an appreciation of the business sector.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

6 A\*-C grades or equivalent

AQA	Business (BTEC National)	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Exploring Business Activity	June (Year 12)
Unit 2	Investigating Business Resources	June (Year 12)
Unit 3	Introduction to Marketing	June (Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Effective People, Communication & Information	June (Year 13)
Unit 5	Understanding Financial Accounting	June (Year 13)
Unit 6	Investigating Internet Marketing	June (Year 13)

## Business Studies

### What is the Course About?

The main theme of the course is management and decision-making in organisations. Students study the world as it is now. The everyday triumphs and disasters of businesses form the basis of lessons and reading. By studying organisations as diverse as Nike, the BBC, Manchester United, Virgin and the Body Shop, students will be introduced into the main issues that concern a business.

The following concepts will be covered in detail:

- Investigating business behaviour from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customers, managers, creditors, owners/ shareholders and employees.
- Developing a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value
- Analysis of the external environment that will contribute significantly to the success or failure of a businesses

### Who Might the Course Suit?

The Advanced Level Business course provides a smooth transition from GCSE Business Studies, although this is not a pre-requisite for studying AS/A Level. Business Studies is complimentary to a number of other subjects e.g. Psychology as both subjects address the issue of motivation.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The Business Studies A-Level lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Business or other related courses in higher education. For example, this may include Economics, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Law and Finance. Studies have shown that Graduates in these subjects can expect a substantial premium on their starting salaries.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in Business or English Language

AQA	Business Studies	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Planning and Financing a Business	June (Year 12)
Unit 2	Managing a Business	June (Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Strategies for Success	June (Year 13)
Unit 4	The Business Environment and Managing Change	June (Year 13)

# Chemistry

## What is the Course About?

- What chemical reactions occur in the human body?
- Why do some substances react when others do not?
- What is the atmosphere made from and what causes the 'greenhouse effect'?
- How was the periodic table decided?
- How do we know so much about the atom when we can't see it?

These are just some of the questions that are answered in the A-Level Chemistry course.

Chemistry is a practical subject and there are many opportunities to develop your practical skills. In Year Twelve and Thirteen, you will be required to use these acquired skills and complete a range of different tasks, all supporting and using your understanding of Chemistry.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who have enjoyed GCSE Science and have a natural interest in Chemistry would be best suited to the course.

Students who are considering careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science should also take A-Level Chemistry. Well motivated and organised students will be the most successful. Extended writing skills are not essential.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

There are numerous job opportunities for students with Chemistry qualifications including Medicinal Chemistry, Veterinary, Forensic Science, Bio-medical Sciences, Pharmacy and Bio-chemistry. A-Level Chemistry is also highly regarded for non-scientific careers including Accountancy and Law.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade BB in GCSE Additional Science.

OCR	Chemistry	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Chemistry for Life	Exam (June) (15%)
Unit 2	Chemistry of Natural Resources	Exam (June) (25%)
Unit 3	Chemistry in Practice	Internal Assessment (throughout) (10%)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Chemistry of Materials	Exam (June) (15%)
Unit 5	Chemistry by Design	Exam (June) (20%)
Unit 6	Individual Investigation	Coursework (Jan-Easter) (15%)

## Creative Media Production (BTEC National)

### What is the Course About?

- This is an exciting course that will allow students to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of the television and film industries.
- Students will study the conventions before producing units of work.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys television and films and who is interested in learning about the production elements before putting them into practice. Students who want to develop a range of visual and practical skills will particularly enjoy the course as they can combine skills from diverse subjects such as Art, Drama, English and Music with the practical skills of using Media technology.

The two year course is equivalent to one A2 level.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The emphasis in this course is upon the development of understanding of television and films, as well as practical production skills. This makes it particularly relevant to candidates wanting to choose a career in the Media industry or study the Media at university. It can provide a useful taster for candidates considering more specialised vocational courses and careers in the Media. In addition, knowledge of the Media is increasingly valued and is becoming an important aspect of work in most institutions in an information society. This course should therefore be of value to candidates entering or studying for employment across a wide range of industries and professions.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

No previous qualification in Media Studies is necessary, but candidates must have a Grade C in GCSE English Language and have an interest in the media.

Creative Media Production		
	Unit Title	Breakdown of Credits (60)
Unit 1	Pre-Production Techniques for the Creative Media Industries	5
Unit 2	Communication Skills for Creative Media Production	5
Unit 3	Research Techniques for the Creative Media Industries	10
Unit 8	Understanding the Television and Film Industries	10
Unit 16	Film and Video Editing Techniques	10
Unit 29	Music Video Production	10
	Plus one other optional unit	10

## Design Craft (BTEC National)

### What is the Course About?

Design Craft will provide a practical, real world approach to learning alongside a theoretical background, giving learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for the workplace. It will help you develop personal learning and thinking skills. Along with functional skills which are key elements for success in learning, life and work.

It is important for students to learn about materials and processes so that they can develop a greater understanding of how products can be designed and manufactured. It moves you on from the traditional construction techniques and investigates industrial and commercial practices, and the importance of quality checks and the health and safety issues that have to be considered at all times.

This course enables students to:

- Undertake specialised studies directly relevant to the manufacturing industry in which learners intend to seek employment or further study.
- Develop an understanding of the skills required to develop careers within the design industry.
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life
- Achieve pathways into higher education or careers in a variety of related industries.

The coursework is broken down into small units of work and this will involve using CAD/CAM and traditional methods to produce fully functioning practical products.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

We are looking for students who have the capability to design products, students who want to understand how the whole process works, who are capable of using modern techniques to create modern products for a modern world. If you are keen to use up-to-date CAD and CAM to complement your existing skills, this course is for you.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

This course will allow you to pursue a number of pathways. You can progress straight into employment, it will allow access to design based or manufacturing based work. The BTEC National in Design Craft has the equivalence of one A Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC National qualifications give UCAS points for university applications. This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C or prior experience in Resistant Materials

Edexcel	Fashion and Clothing
<b>Core units</b>	
Visual recording	Folder work and practical outcomes
Materials, techniques and processes	
Ideas and concepts	
Visual communication	
<b>Specialist unit examples (2 units)</b>	
Exploring Resistant Materials	Folder work and practical outcomes
Extending Resistant Materials	

## Drama and Theatre Studies

### What is the Course About?

The course explores drama and theatre studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject. Students' creativity and understanding are developed through the active study of major play texts enhanced through practical drama exploration.

In the first year of the course the students are introduced to two selected play texts where they are encouraged to consider the fundamentals of drama study including plotting, character, meaning and context. Following Christmas in Year 12 the students will rehearse and perform an extended play extract to an invited audience, including an examiner. This fully mounted performance will include lighting, costume and props.

In the second year students take the lead in the course and become theatre practitioners. The first A2 module challenges the group to devise their own piece of unique drama, based on a stimulus introduced by the teacher. The students go on to adapt and perform play scenes, selected and directed by themselves. Final performances of the 'Devised' drama take place at 'the egg' Theatre, Bath.

In both years there are options for performance support candidates who may be interested in developing their skills as directors or technicians.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

It would be advantageous if the applicant has studied Drama to GCSE as the two courses are designed to ensure a progression in student skills. A student needs to be prepared to perform in front of an audience at some point throughout the two years of the course. Additionally, they will be expected to attend live theatre productions as a critical aspect of textual analysis.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The course would suit anyone interested in going into a career in the Arts such as actor, director or designer. It would also suit students interested in a career in arts administration. More specifically, it would be a valuable starting point for a student wishing to go to Drama School or University to study on a drama course.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in GCSE English Language plus an interest in Performing Arts

AQA		Drama and Theatre Studies
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Live Theatre Production & Prescribed Play	Written Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Presentation of an Extract from a Play	Performance (Spring Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Further Prescribed Plays including Pre-Twentieth Century	Written Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Devised Drama	Practical (Spring Year 13)

## Economics Pre-U

### What is the Pre-U?

Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16-19 year olds who want to go to university.

The qualification will equip students with the skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies:

- By possessing a solid and coherent grounding in Economics at an appropriate level;
- By undertaking independent and self directed learning of a variety of economic case studies, including the expansion of the EU and the role of China in the global economy;
- To understand the importance of cause, effect and interdependency within the world of economics.

### What is the Course About?

Economics enables students to:

- Gain a thorough and rigorous understanding of the theory that underpins the workings of a modern day economy
- Develop quantitative skills through the appreciation and use of various statistical methods
- Understand the causes of the current financial crisis or global credit crunch, both on a micro and a macro economic scale and develop an appreciation of how this crisis may be resolved

- Have a sound understanding of events, both internal and external that have influenced the UK economy over the past ten years
- Understand the risks, rewards and challenges to the UK and the global economy posed by the vast emerging markets of China and India.

### Who might the Course Suit?

Students who will enjoy this course will have a clear interest in the world around them; they will be curious about the causes and effects of the global financial crisis and have an interest in understanding the changes that are afoot within both the UK and global economies.

The course will also suit students who possess strong numerical and written skills which will enable them to carry out detailed research and analysis in the world of economics and global finance.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

Students studying Pre-U Economics will have a clear desire to pursue a degree course at University.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade Bs in both GCSE Maths and English Language.

Cambridge Pre-U Economics	
Units include:-	
Unit 1	Microeconomics
Unit 2	Macroeconomics and the National Economy
Unit 3	International Economics
Unit 4	Investigation Topics which will include the expansion of the EU and China's role in the Global Economy

# English Language

## What is the Course About?

The course is an in depth study into language and its uses. This A-Level begins with an exploration of language, looking at how it works and its various effects in society. Students will look at how language involves and affects everyone across genders, races and social classes. The coursework module encourages students to develop their own writing skills, producing writing in different genres and for different audiences and purposes.

In Year Thirteen the exam covers how we acquire language from an early age and how language has changed over the years. The coursework in Year 13 involves investigating an area of language that is of interest to the student.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

The course would suit those with enquiring minds, initiative and a genuine interest in communication between humans. Students will be involved in discussing a wide range of issues, carrying out research projects, analysing language closely and developing writing skills.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Those who complete the course will benefit from a better understanding of how our language operates and the skills to use it more effectively in everyday communication. It is a useful foundation for degrees in language, linguistics, socio-linguistics, media and journalism.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade B in GCSE English Language.

AQA	English Language	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Categorising Texts	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Creating Texts	Coursework (Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Developing Language	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Investigating Language	Coursework (Year 13)

# English Literature

## What is the Course About?

The course consists of four modules, two at AS level and two at A2. Module One explores aspects of narratives via the study of two novels and two poetry texts from 1800 – 1945. Module Two includes explaining the dramatic genre of tragedy through two different texts, culminating in a portfolio of written coursework. Module Three explores the gothic genre through a variety of texts from different periods. Module Four includes coursework focused on novels of choice and a chance for independent reading to take place.

Students of A-Level Literature study prose, poetry and drama from different historical periods and cultures. The course looks at writers' techniques, the contexts in which authors write and interpretations we make. Lessons involve creative and critical responses in the form of seminar discussions, group work and presentations. Students are expected to have a passion for reading and the desire to read independently and widely.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who enjoy reading texts, discussing ideas and exploring different interpretations and points of view will gain a great deal from this course. We expect our candidates to have a love of literature and a thirst to discover more about it!

## What Might the Course Lead To?

A-Level English Literature is highly regarded by employers and universities. It is well-established as an A-Level and demonstrates a student can interpret and analyse language as well as argue a case fluently. These are essential skills in many professions including journalism, law and publishing.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade B in GCSE English Language and a Grade B in GCSE English Literature.

AQA		English Literature
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Aspects of Narrative	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Dramatic Genres	Coursework (Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Texts and Genres	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Further and Independent Reading	Coursework (Year 13)

# English Literature Pre-U

## What is the Course About?

The Pre-U in English literature is a two year course that is fully compatible with A levels and can be taken in combination with them. At the end of the two years, students will be awarded with one qualification which carries an equivalent UCAS point score - from grades E to A\*- and beyond; the Pre-U qualification is actually unique in the fact that it provides scope for students to be awarded one grade above the A\* grading for standard A levels.

The Cambridge Pre-U is an exciting qualification for 16-19 year olds who want to go to university. It is accessible to all students (who meet the required level in GCSEs) and will enable those who aspire to attend a top Russell Group University the opportunity to show their capacity to achieve at the highest level.

## Course Specifics

The course is 100% externally assessed at the end of the two year period. There are three examinations, equally weighted and worth 75% of the qualification. The final 25% of the assessment is a 3000-3500 word comparative essay set by the course teacher but defined by the students' own literary interests. There are no re-sits allowed for this qualification.

This course would suit independent learners who enjoy reading because, unlike the standard A level in English Literature, there is a greater onus on wider reading and students will be expected to read well beyond the set texts.

Students will study a range of literary texts including poetry, prose and drama. The course requires students to study one pre 1900 (such as Jane Austen, DH Lawrence, Thomas Hardy) and one post 1900 text (such as Margaret Atwood, Ernest

Hemmingway and Pat Barker) from each of the literary forms listed above. As well as personally investigating two previously unstudied authors and being able to comment critically and analyse unseen passages from each of the three forms: poetry, prose, drama.

## Why choose a Pre-U course in English Literature?

The Pre-U course not only encourages wider reading and more independent learning it allows greater scope for more able students to distinguish themselves. Furthermore because it is studied over two years, with no final assessments in the first year, it allows for more time and support to be made available for students. This ensures that everyone achieves their potential. This factor also means that students have greater maturity at examination and final assessment time.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Studying English Literature provides more than a knowledge and understanding of classic and contemporary texts. It will ensure that each student has the essential skills required to think and write critically. As well as enabling them to form a secure appreciation of how language is used and ultimately how to be a fluent, succinct communicator – a fundamental skill not to be underestimated.

The undergraduate and job prospects for students with a highly esteemed qualification, such as this, is endless and would certainly include law, journalism and advertising.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade B in GCSE English Language and a Grade B in GCSE English Literature.

# Environmental Studies

## What is the Course About?

The specification provides an opportunity to study a wide range of engaging, thought provoking and controversial topics from a variety of subjects. There are aspects of Biology, Geography, Physics and Chemistry as well as the chance to consider the cultural and ethical consequences of some of the most important global issues.

The course looks at the interactions between living things and the planet, highlighting the major problems caused by human activity and poses questions relating to their solutions.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

This would be a good option for those wishing to apply scientific understanding to a broad range of ethical and environmental topics. An interest in current global issues and a willingness to keep up to date with developments is essential. There is an emphasis on independent learning and research skills are vital to success on this course.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Further university courses in Environmental Science and the other Earth Sciences such as Meteorology, Archaeology and Geology. There are opportunities in Biotic Resource Management (forestry, fisheries and farming), Environmental Health, Future Energy Resource Development and Politics.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade CC in GCSE Core and Additional Sciences

AQA Environmental Studies		
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	The Living Environment	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	The Physical Environment	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Energy Resources and Environmental Pollution	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Biological Resources and Sustainability	Exam (June Year 13)

## Extended Project (EPQ)

### What is the Course?

The Extended Project is a one year course which carries equivalent points for university entry as an AS level and is awarded Grades A-E. Some universities will accept it as part of an offer, but the top universities will not but have said that they would look favourably on students who opt to do it and others have said they would be willing to make lower offers because of it, eg Bristol.

### How is it assessed?

- Students record what they do in a production log.
- They produce an extended piece of work and make a presentation about it.
- They are assessed on the log, the project and the presentation.

### What can they look at?

- Students can choose to look at an area which is an extension to their current area of study or alternatively they can explore an area of personal interest or an activity outside the main programme of study.
- Students can opt to take an Extended Project in either a social science area, such as Psychology or Sociology or a Humanities area.

### What will students need to show that they can do to achieve a good grade?

- To choose an area of interest
- Draft a project title
- Draft aims of the project
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Provide evidence of all stages of project production
- Deliver a presentation to a specified audience.

### What are the Entry Requirements?

Grade C in English Language.

# Fashion & Clothing (BTEC National)

## What is the Course About?

This course enables students to:

- Undertake specialised studies directly relevant to the fashion/ textile and other creative professions in which learners intend to seek employment or further study.
- Develop an understanding of the skills required to develop careers within the fashion and related industries
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life
- Achieve pathways into higher education or careers in a variety of related industries.

The coursework is broken down into small units of work and this will involve using CAD/ CAM and traditional methods to produce practical samples, final outcomes such as garments and accessories and experiment with different techniques.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Anyone who enjoys Textile Design, Art, Fashion and is creative. This course will develop your practical, visualisation and CAD/ CAM skills and allow you to explore vocational possibilities. The structure of the course enables learners to identify their own areas of interest and select appropriate units. Unit examples: Fashion marketing/promotion, Fashion media, techniques and technology, Garment and accessory production and developing costume design.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

This course will allow you to pursue a number of pathways. You can progress straight into employment. There is a wide variety of prospective careers that you can explore, for example: Fashion/ clothing designer, tailor/dressmaker, multimedia designer, sales, marketing, buying and distributing, quality control, testing, researching or as a computer specialist. The BTEC National Award in Fashion and Clothing has the equivalence of one A Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC National qualifications give UCAS points for university applications. This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in Art, Textiles or another D&T subject.

Edexcel	Fashion and Clothing Award	
<b>Core Units</b>		
Visual recording Materials, techniques and processes Ideas and concepts Visual communication		Folder work and practical outcomes.
<b>Specialist unit examples (choose 2 units)</b>		
Garment and accessory production Fashion visualisation/presentation Fashion marketing/promotion Surface Pattern for Fashion and Clothing		Folder work and practical outcomes

# Geography

## What is the Course About?

- Why does there seem to be an increasing number of natural disasters around the world in recent years?
- Why is the gap between the wealth of rich and poor countries growing?
- What caused the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004?

These are some of the questions we will try to answer in A-Level Geography along with many more. The course content is divided between physical and human topics and includes climatic hazards, river flooding, population explosion and industrial development in the Far East. We look at the processes that cause change and the impacts of that change on human activity. Interpretation of geographical data and fieldwork are integral parts of the course. A residential visit to North Devon takes place in March of Year Twelve.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Anybody who has an interest in the earth and the effect of people and processes on it will enjoy A-Level Geography. Do **you** have concerns about the environment? Do **you** enjoy fieldwork and practical learning as geographers often enjoy the outdoors and will be inquisitive?

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Geography graduates are now some of the most employable in the workplace as they have such a wide range of skills including problem solving, decision making, teamwork and communication. Geographers work in diverse areas such as Business and Finance, Environmental Management and Education.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in GCSE Geography or through discussion with Head of Geography if not studied Geography at GCSE

AQA	Geography	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Physical & Human Geography	Exam (May Year 12)
Unit 2	Applied Geography	Exam (May Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Contemporary Geographical Issues	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Geography Fieldwork Investigation	Exam (Jan Year 13)

## Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research

### What is the Course About?

Global Perspectives is a core component of the Cambridge Pre-U Diploma which provides:

- An introduction to critical thinking skills
- A practical application of rigorous research skills
- A chance to explore connections between academic subjects
- A focus on real-world challenges and opportunities.

The course is built around a series of topics, each one representing a key global challenge that will face candidates as adults, wherever they live and work.

The topics are organised into broad generic themes: Ethics, Economics, Environment, Technology and Politics and Culture. Topics explored recently in GPR sessions have been as diverse as 'Organ Donation – a Gift or a Right?', 'Drugs – Just what the Doctor Ordered?', 'Intensive Farming', 'Darwin -vs- Creationism', 'Gun Control in America' and 'Bring back the death penalty'. Students also have the opportunity to debate and discuss topics that they feel passionately about.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

The Global Perspectives course helps students to explore the challenges that will face them as young people in the modern world – wherever they live and work. The emphasis is on giving students the tools to identify, evaluate and explore competing arguments and perspectives. Mastering these tools involves high level skills which are valued in all subjects and indeed employment.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

Cambridge Pre-U has been specifically designed to prepare students for university study. It develops both deep understanding and independent learning skills – so students should have a head start once they're at university, making it easier for them to achieve their academic goals.

### What are the Entry Requirements?

Grade B in English Language and Grade BB in Science.

### How is it Assessed?

In the first year students are assessed in three ways. Students complete an essay, a written exam and a 15 minute presentation on Critical Thinking skills. In the second year students will complete an independent research project on a subject of their choice.

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Pre-U Diploma Independent Research Report		
Principal Subject	Principal Subject	Principal Subject
Global Perspectives		

## Graphics

### What is the Course About?

Graphics covers a vast range of what you see around you in everyday life. We live in a world where, increasingly, the look and style of our materials, goods and possessions tells other people something about us. This reliance on a designer based environment has to be generated by someone, this course will explain how it is created and give you a chance to learn how to shape the products and look of tomorrow. Traditional graphical techniques will be enhanced with ICT work, investigations into industrial processes and modern manufacturing methods. To ensure we learn from history there is a strong theme of researching design periods, people and events.

- Who was Sir Alec Issigonis?
- What did Ettore Sottsass decide?
- How did Bel Geddes in the 1920s shape the products of today?

Graphic Products encompasses a wide range of disciplines but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. Products that are fit for purpose, satisfy wants and needs, enhance our day to day lives, and most importantly, give you the opportunity to demonstrate your design and technology capability.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

We are looking for students who are inquisitive, people who are curious about why things are like they are. Being good at drawing and graphics is not necessarily the most important skill; you need to be creative, imaginative and open minded. Students must be prepared to put in extra work to carry out research and coursework.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

Whether you complete the two years or just one, this course will prepare you for design courses which use a variety of materials and cover a large number of disciplines, it will give you an understanding of design which can be tailored to fit many creative studies.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C or prior experience in Graphics.

EDEXCEL Design Technology : Graphics with Materials		
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Product Development	Folder
Unit 2	Knowledge & Understanding of Product Design	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Further Study of Product Design	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	Commercial Product Development	Folder

# History

## What is the Course About?

- Why did the USA intervene in the disastrous Vietnam war?
- How close did the come to ending during the Cuban Missile crisis?
- Does Queen Mary I deserve the nickname “Bloody Mary”?
- What were the consequences of World War I for Britain?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by History students.

The History course covers aspects of British and European History.

In Year 12 students will complete two examined units which look at periods of history in depth. In Year 13 students will complete an examined unit which looks at a period in depth and the historical debates that surround it. They will also complete a personal study. This is an extended piece of written work focusing on one aspect, a number of aspects or the general development of a country’s history in a 100 year period

## Who Might the Course Suit?

History at this level is for those students who welcome a challenge, a debate or an argument and who want to develop all of the essential skills needed for the next step in education. These will be executed through presentation, wider reading, essay work and reporting, all of which are expected of the AS/A2 Historian.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

The list of occupations and prospects is endless. Studying History provides more than knowledge and understanding of the key events. It provides each student the essential skills required to succeed in any occupation, course or apprenticeship. Having a qualification in History at this level is regarded as prestigious and admirable.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in History or if not studied History at GCSE a Grade C in English Language.

## History Pre-U

### What is the Course About?

The Cambridge Pre-U in History is a new course introduced in September 2009 and which has been flourishing ever since. It provides the same skills, challenge and rigour as the existing A level in History and involves a similar amount of study/work time. The differences are that it is carried out over two years (with a final exam at the end of that period), and that the content is varied compared to the existing A level. Students opting for the Pre-U course will be studying the units outlined below as well as completing a Personal Study on a topic of their own choosing in Y13.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

This new course would suit the more independent learner as it involves wider reading and research. The course has been labelled as 'more difficult' or for the 'more able' but this is not the case. Where the AQA A level is graded at A\* - E, the Pre U is graded at Distinction - Pass which covers the A\* - E grade range at AQA. It is simply a different exam board with a different format. We are fortunate enough that History is popular enough to provide two very different 'A' levels to suit all learners.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The list of occupations and prospects is endless. Studying History provides more than knowledge and understanding of the key events. It provides each student the essential skills required to succeed in any occupation, course or apprenticeship. Having a qualification in History at this level is regarded as prestigious and admirable.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in History or if not studied History at GCSE a Grade C in English Language.

Cambridge Pre-U History		
<b>Essay Based Units</b>		
Unit 1	European History c. 1715 - 2000 Italy, Russia, Germany	Exam: June - Year 13.
Unit 2	African and Asian History c. 1750 - 2000 China, India	Exam: June - Year 13.
<b>Source Based Unit</b>		
Unit 3	The Reign of Charles 1, 1625 - 1649	Exam: June - Year 13.
Unit 4	Personal Investigation	Year 13.

# ICT

## What is the Course About?

The emphasis of this course is on developing an appreciation of the importance of Information and Communications Technology to individuals and organisations. This is an exciting qualification developed by WJEC and has a far greater practical emphasis than previous A-Levels in ICT.

The course aims to develop:

- an awareness of the effects of ICT on individuals, organisations and society
- the ability to analyse, appraise and make critical judgments about the use of ICT
- problem solving skills through the practical application of ICT
- an awareness of the role of ICT in the management, manipulation and distribution of information

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students with a good command of English will cope well with the comprehension of concepts and examination questions, some of which require essay-style answers. With a subject that is constantly changing and developing students need to be willing to 'read around' the subject and be constantly aware of new developments. During Year 13, students are required to create their own ICT system. Students who are self motivated and have the ability to persevere in order to solve complex problems will be at an advantage.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

ICT is relevant to careers in business and commerce, retail, medicine, manufacturing, education and many more and can complement any subject combination. The course would allow progression into Higher Education and would build an excellent foundation for degrees such as Business or IT.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

GCSE English Grade B or above and Merit or above in OCR Nationals

WJEC	Information and Communications Technology	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	ICT1 – Information Systems	Exam (Jun Y12)
Unit 2	ICT2 – Presenting Information Task	Internally Assessed Coursework
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	ICT3 – Use and Impact of ICT	Exam (Jun Y13)
Unit 4	ICT4 – Relational Database Project	Internally Assessed Coursework

## IT (BTEC National)

### What is the Course About?

The BTEC in IT is equivalent to an A-Level and is an exciting new qualification that has a very practical emphasis to it. In year 12 students will learn how to be IT professionals in an organisation. Students will learn about team working, communication, presentation skills and how to use common business applications. Students will learn how to create digital graphics and learn about the graphic design industry.

In Y13 students learn about 3D Game Design to allow them to make games similar to the latest video games on the market today. They will also study advanced database design and will make a working database for a real client. Students will also learn how to repair and build computers using our brand new networking room.

Students will learn how to set up a network, install operating systems such as windows and set up applications, security and peripherals.

The BTEC in IT has been designed to prepare students for a career in the IT industry. The course allows students to learn about the latest applications that are being used in the ever changing world of Information Technology.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who are interested in computers and enjoy the practical side of ICT will thrive on this course. Those students who have completed the iMedia course in years 10 and 11 would be at an advantage, however this is not a requirement.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

Careers in Game design, project management, graphic design, multimedia product design, database development, IT Maintenance, Website Design and network management are all possibilities. The BTEC can also allow students to study a related course at university.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Pass or above in OCR Nationals

Unit	Principal Learning Units	Assessment
1	Communication and Employability Skills for IT	Coursework
2	Computer Systems	Coursework
3	Digital Graphics	Coursework
4	Database Design	Coursework
5	Maintaining Computer Systems	Coursework
6	Computer Game Design	Coursework

# Mathematics

## What is the Course About?

The A-Level course studies six modules of Mathematics: four Pure Maths Modules and two Applied Maths Modules.

The Pure Mathematics Modules are the Core of the course and extend the study of Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry and introduce Calculus. The course supports A-Level subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Business Studies.

The Applied Mathematics Modules include Mechanics (using Maths to solve Physics problems), Statistics (using Maths to analyse data) and Decision Maths (using Maths to solve business problems using networks).

Three modules (two Pure and one Applied) are taken in each of Year Twelve and Year Thirteen. This means that students dropping Maths at the end of Year Twelve have completed an AS level.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students wishing to take this course must enjoy Maths. They will have a target grade of at least A at GCSE. They will be expected to have a good foundation in Trigonometry and Algebra and enjoy the challenge of solving problems. The syllabus will be invaluable to students studying Sciences, especially Physics

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Mathematics is an important A-Level because it is valued by the admissions officers of many University Faculties. Applicants for Degree courses in Maths, Science and Engineering would be expected to have studied the subject to A-Level. It is interesting to note that Mathematics graduates have high first job salaries and low levels of unemployment.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade A in Maths. Entry is at the discretion of the Head of Maths.

EDEXCEL	Mathematics	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Core Mathematics C1	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Core Mathematics C2	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Mechanics M1 or Decision D1	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Core Mathematics C3	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5	Core Mathematics C4	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	Mechanics M2 or Statistics S1	Exam (January Year 13)

## Further Mathematics

### What is the Course About?

This course is an additional A-Level for those who wish to take the study of Mathematics to a higher level. The A-Level Further Maths Course studies a further six modules: three Further Pure Maths Modules and three more Applied Maths Modules

The Further Pure Maths Modules extend the study to include a variety of topics such as Matrices, Complex Numbers and Differential Equations. Applied Maths is also studied in greater depth.

Much of the course is studied after school so as to avoid conflict with other subjects and thus to make the option available to a greater number of students. Three modules are taken in each of Year Twelve and Year Thirteen. Students wishing to take the subject for one year only will have completed the course for Further Maths AS-Level.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at students who wish to specialize in Mathematics, including those who might study the subject at university. The course is suitable for those who achieve Grade A or A\* in GCSE Maths.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

Universities and employers alike are impressed by students who can demonstrate the ability to succeed in Mathematics at this level. Some of the most prestigious universities prefer their Maths applicants to have studied Further Maths.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade A\* or A in Maths.

EDEXCEL		Further Mathematics	
<b>AS</b>			
Unit 1	Further Pure Maths FP1	Exam (June Year 12)	
Unit 2	Statistics S1	Exam (June Year 12)	
Unit 3	Decision Maths D1	Exam (June Year 12)	
<b>A2</b>			
Unit 4	Three from: Further Pure Maths FP2, Further Pure Maths FP3, Statistics S2 and Mechanics M3	Exam (January Year 13)	
Unit 5		Exam (June Year 13)	
Unit 6		Exam (June Year 13)	

# Modern Languages : French/German/Spanish

## What is the Course About?

Work will continue at Sixth Form Level on the four skills of listening speaking, reading and writing. A more in-depth study of grammatical structures will be undertaken, leading to a greater ability to manipulate the language for the purpose of self expression. Classes are conducted mainly in the foreign language and students are encouraged to contribute as much as possible to discussions. A variety of contemporary topics such as Media, Travel and Food are studied as an introduction to aspects of the culture of the target language country. Students choose their own topic for oral discussion in Years Twelve and Thirteen. We organise a two-week work experience exchange with Biarritz for French students and a week's German exchange with the possibility of work experience in Weil der Stadt, near Stuttgart. There is also the possibility of attending a two week intensive language course in Córdoba at the end of Year 11 for those who wish to take up the opportunity to study Spanish.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Applications are welcome from candidates who have shown an aptitude for understanding language structures in the course of their KS3 and KS4 studies and who want to build on these foundations to study the language in greater depth. Emphasis will be placed on building up the fluency of the spoken language.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

The Modern Languages courses are focused on the future needs of candidates in terms of employment and entrance requirements to Higher Education.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

A/A\* in French/German/Spanish and successful entry test devised by Head of Subject.

EDEXCEL		Modern Languages
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Students are rewarded for their ability to converse in on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance.	
Unit 2	Students are required to understand and convey their understanding of the foreign language texts and recordings. Students will also need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the foreign language in continuous writing.	
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Students are required to demonstrate the effectiveness of their foreign language skills through presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice.	
Unit 4	Students are required to demonstrate skills in the foreign language at an Advanced Level; writing and translation from English into the foreign language. Students are also required to demonstrate evidence of independent, Advanced-Level language reading and research, linked to an area of particular interest and the culture of a country where the foreign language is spoken.	

# Music

## What is the Course About?

- Understanding how music has changed and developed from 1700 to the present day.
- Studying set works so that an understanding of how sounds are organised and music in context is developed.
- Studying a specific style, genre or tradition of music over a significant period of change and development.
- Working with four/two part harmony to complete set briefs.
- Free composition.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

This course will appeal to a student who really enjoys being involved in music. This will mean that they enjoy playing in different musical groups, that they enjoy listening to a very wide variety of musical styles and that they have the means to express themselves when talking, or writing about music.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

This A-Level could lead to a performance or music history based course in higher education. There are also many careers that are associated with music; these include theatre or recording work, music journalism, music therapy, music teaching, work within the pop industry or freelance performing. It is very useful for music technologists who need knowledge that will help them in studio recording situations.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

GCSE Grade C in Music.

AQA	Music	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Music in context	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Creating Musical Ideas	Coursework (May Year 12)
Unit 3	Performing: Solo/Ensemble/Technology based	Coursework (May Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Music in Context	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 5	Creating Musical Ideas	Coursework (May Year 13)
Unit 6	Performance (Solo Programme) Technology Based	Recital (March Year 13)

## Music Performance (BTEC National)

### What is the Course About?

The Edexcel BTEC National in Music Performance is aimed at Sixth Form students who are enthusiastic performers. The aim of the course is to provide students with a core focus (performing) completing three core units and three specialist units over two years.

### Course Content:

#### The three core units are:

Music Performance Techniques  
Solo Music Performing Skills  
Working and developing as a Musical Ensemble

#### The specialist unit choices are:

Aural Perception Skills  
Music Project  
Improvising Music  
Modern Music in practice  
Musical Theatre Performance  
Pop Music in practice  
Singing techniques and performance  
Composing

### Who Might the Course Suit?

The course will suit musicians who have a passion for performing and who are interested in developing their musical skills. The course provides students with the opportunity to develop their performance skills through:

- Developing effective instrumental or vocal technique through a structured practice routine, learning a range of

appropriate repertoire for a solo performance and ensemble performance.

- Learning and understanding the different roles in the live music industry. Developing their organisation skills to manage a project, preparing financial records and taking responsibility to oversee the project and evaluate a successful live event.
- Preparing for a live event, working as a member of a team and contributing to a performance to a technically acceptable level.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The completion of six units will be assessed against a set of outcomes, which is an ongoing process enabling students to analyse and improve their own performance throughout the course. The units are graded as a Pass, Merit or a Distinction, which is equivalent to an E Grade, C Grade and an A\*/A Grade. The BTEC National Subsidiary in Music Performance is a nationally recognised vocational qualification aimed at developing student's performance skills to progress into higher education and pursuing a career in music.

### Specific Entry Requirements:

C Grade or above at GCSE Music or equivalent Music performing evidence, such as graded exams or equivalent standard to grade 4.

Music Performance		
Core Units		Level
Music Performance Techniques	Coursework / Practical	3
Solo Music Performing Skills	Coursework / Practical	3
Music Project	Coursework / Practical	3
<b>Specialist Units</b>		
The specialist units are: (A choice of 3) Aural Perception Skills, Classical Music in Practice, Improvising Music, Improvising Music in a Jazz Style, Listening Skills for Musicians, Modern Music in Practice, Music Performance Session Styles, Musical Theatre Performance, Pop Music in Practice, Singing Techniques and Performance, Working and Developing a Musical Ensemble and Composing.		

# Music Technology

## What is the Course About?

The aim of the course is to lead students towards an understanding of the use, capabilities and limitations of equipment which is encountered in Music Technology. The two computer programmes used are Logic Pro (Sequencing) and Sibelius (Score Writing).

The emphasis is on the creative potential of this technology and how an understanding of this equipment leads to the solution of problems in music recording, including such issues as acoustics in studios. There is a wide range of practical work.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Anyone who is interested in both Music and Technology. Musical skills such as aural awareness, arranging and composing and good vocabulary knowledge are needed. This is alongside an interest in recording and manipulating sound with technology.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Any of the following careers: session musician, television, radio broadcasting, arranging and compositing for advertising, the pop industry, recording companies, teaching, technical music assistant, theatre productions, electronics and computer generated music.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Music Grade C or above or practical music experience.

EDEXCEL	Music Technology	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Music Technology Portfolio 1	Coursework (May Year 12)
Unit 2	Listening and Analysing	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Music Technology Portfolio 2	Coursework (May Year 13)
Unit 4	Analysing and Producing	Exam (June Year 13)

# Physical Education

## What is the Course About?

- How does the provision of sport differ in this country compared with sport in America and Australia?
- Why is the energy continuum a useful concept for coaches and performers?
- What important role does the mind have, prior to, during and after sports performance?
- What changes have occurred in history to influence the development and spread of sport throughout the world?

The A-Level candidates will research and understand a wide variety of aspects relating to sport, including the questions above. They will develop an understanding of both the physical and mental aspects that can affect our performances, as well as many of the factors in society that influence sport such as media, discrimination and drugs. In addition to reading and written work, the students are assessed in their practical performance of two sports activities and an oral assessment. This requires students to apply theory knowledge and comment on performance.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

To have studied GCSE PE is highly recommended. An interest in the theoretical aspects of the GCSE is essential as the A-Level is largely theory based. If GCSE PE has not been studied it is recommended that the candidate has gained a Grade C or above in Biology/ Science at GCSE Level.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

This specification relates well to Advanced Courses in Social and Natural Sciences and to some unit components of GNVQ, particularly in the vocational fields of Leisure and Tourism, Health and Social Care and Business Studies. An A-Level qualification is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study in PE and Sport Studies in Higher Education and it is also a suitable qualification for other areas of study, e.g. Physiotherapy.

The syllabus provides an excellent foundation for students intending to pursue careers in Teaching and Coaching, the Leisure Industry, Recreational Management, the Health and Fitness Industry and Professional Sport. Much of the knowledge gained will also improve an individual's life skills.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade B in GCSE PE as well as a minimum grade on the theory paper as directed by the Head of PE apart from in exceptional circumstances.

AQA		Physical Education	
<b>AS</b>			
G451	Anatomy and Physiology Acquiring Movement Skills Social-Cultural Studies Relating to Participation in Physical Activity	Examination	60%
G452	Practical Performance Evaluating & planning for the Improvement of Performance	Practical Moderation	40%
<b>A2</b>			
G453	Comparative Studies Sports Psychology Exercise & Sports Physiology Historical Studies	Examination	70%
G454	Practical Performance Evaluation, Appreciation & the Improvement of Performance	Practical Moderation	30%

# Philosophy & Ethics

## What is the Course About?

- How can we know how to live a good life?
- Are some actions always right or wrong, or does it depend on the circumstances?
- How can a theist justify the existence of God in the face of human suffering?
- Is there life after death?

This course engages students with the questions that human beings have asked since the time of the ancient Greek philosophers. The Philosophy section of the course examines such things as arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, philosophical debates about miracles and whether there is such a thing as life after death. The Ethics course is a study of ethical theories, the relationship between religion and morality and applied ethics, such as when is it morally right to go to war.

At some point during the two years of study, there will be the opportunity to spend a week in the international community of Taizé.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys asking questions and does not mind not getting a straight answer! Each module of the course is assessed through essay questions in an exam. However, some of these are based on the material studied, some on the student's own investigations and some on the student's ability to critically engage with texts. Therefore students will need to be able to develop their arguments in written form as well as through class discussion.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

The study of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics enables students to develop transferable skills such as communication, empathy, reason, logic, analysis and critical thinking, which are key skills that employers and universities look for. It combines well with almost all other humanities subjects and will give a broad-based education which will enable you to enter higher education.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

GCSE Grade B in Philosophy & Belief.

EDEXCEL		Philosophy & Ethics
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Foundations	Exam June
Unit 2	Investigations	Exam June
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Developments	Exam June
Unit 4	Implications	Exam June

# Photography

## What is the Course About?

The Art Department offers Photography at Advanced Level.

At present the course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set examination in both AS and the A2 courses.

In Year Twelve students are introduced to the materials, techniques and processes of photography, both traditional and digital. The course is teacher-directed initially, but students take on an increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work as the course develops.

In Year Thirteen students develop ideas and interests from their AS studies and pursue individual themes. There is an increased written element to the course, in which students are required to research and analyse photographic and other visual work in more depth.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

Students who have gained at least grade B at GCSE Art, who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought. It is beneficial, though not essential, for students to be studying other visual, creative and expressive subjects.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

A-Level Photography is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students study Art and Design subjects at degree or foundation level but study can lead to: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration, Journalism and Advertising etc.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

The student could submit a portfolio of work to the photography department if they have not completed a creative subject at GCSE level.

AQA	Photography	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Teacher Directed Unit	Internally assessed
Unit 2	Examination	Internally marked Externally moderated
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Self-directed Unit (including Personal Study)	Internally assessed
Unit 4	Examination	Internally assessed Externally moderated

# Physics

## What is the Course About?

Advancing Physics is an innovative A level course, reflecting Physics as it is practised and used today. At the end of the course candidates should have a greater understanding of Physics and its place in the world. The units covered at AS are:

- Physics of Communication: Signals and Imaging
- Designer Materials
- Waves and Quantum Behaviour
- Space, Time and Motion
- Quality of Measurement
- Physics in Use

For example in the unit Designer materials we look at the properties of materials so that the usefulness of new materials can be assessed for different purposes such as joint replacements, or perhaps stronger and lighter materials which could be used to facilitate space flight.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

If you have an enquiring mind, always asking why things happen, then Physics will help you find the answers. It forms the basis of most modern technologies and holds the key to the future for global well-being.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Physics is at the heart of everything and is a highly rewarding discipline to study at school, university and beyond. Above all Physics opens doors to a wide variety of careers. Employers see a Physics qualification as an indication of someone who will immediately be an asset to the organisation.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade BB in Additional Science. You should have studied GCSE Maths at higher tier level and have ideally achieved a grade B or above.

OCR	Physics B (Advancing Physics)	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Physics in Action	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Understanding Processes	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 3	Physics in Practice	Coursework (ongoing)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 5	Field and Particle Pictures	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 6	Researching Physics	Coursework (ongoing)

# Politics

## What is the Course About?

- Is the Prime Minister too powerful?
- What influence does the media have on government?
- Do protests by the people ever make a difference?
- Who really makes the decisions in Britain?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Politics students. As well as studying the ideas that are the basis of our political system, we investigate how effective the institutions of government really are, using events from the news to illustrate the academic theories.

In addition to reading and written work, research and presentations are regular features of the course. There is also a good deal of discussion and argument!

## Who Might the Course Suit?

A willingness to engage in the discussion of political issues is essential. Students are expected to keep up to date with political events by reading the papers and following relevant radio and television programmes. In addition, students will be expected to read formal texts and develop their essay writing skills.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Studying politics does *not* mean you have to become a politician! A knowledge of how the country is run would benefit anybody with an interest in law, the media, government and a wide variety of other occupations. Universities and employers will always be impressed by candidates with a good knowledge of current affairs.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in English Language

AQA	Politics	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	People, Politics & Participation	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Governing Modern Britain	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Ideologies	Exam (June Year 13)
Unit 4	The Government of the USA	Exam (June Year 13)

# Psychology

## What is the Course About?

Psychology is one of the fastest growing courses both at A-Level and at Degree-Level, perhaps in part due to the wide range of jobs that use the subject in depth.

Psychology is essentially the study of human behaviour and the human mind – it seeks to help us understand and explain why people behave in the way that they do. In one sense, everyone is a psychologist – we constantly discuss our behaviour and the behaviour of others. The course looks at some of the most important aspects of human life – relationships, stress, memory, emotion, motivation, aggression, leadership and obedience, crowd behaviour, mate selection, sleep and dreams, thinking and intelligence, child development, parent-child relationships, learning difficulties and disorders such as depression, phobias or anorexia.

## Who Might the Course Suit?

It is naturally best suited to those who have an interest in people (and indeed non-human animals) and who want to understand more about the causes of human behaviour. Given the competing explanations of why people “do what they do” the best students are those with an “open mind” and a willingness to read around the “key issues” being discussed.

## What Might the Course Lead To?

Yes – there are professionally trained clinical, educational, occupational and forensic Psychologists – but Psychology features in many degree courses (nursing and health care, marketing and advertising, education, criminology) and in jobs including health care, police work, management, teaching, personnel work, workplace design, retailing, advertising and even zoology.

## What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade Cs or above in English Language, Mathematics and GCSE Science.

AQA	Psychology	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Memory, Attachment and Research Methods	Exam (June Year 12)
Unit 2	Stress, Abnormality and Social Influence	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 3	Eating behaviour, aggression and relationships.	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 4	Psychological disorders (e.g. schizophrenia) and the appropriate treatment. The influence of media on behaviour. Research Methods.	Exam (June Year 13)

## Public Services BTEC Level 3

### What is the Course About?

The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services is a six-unit qualification with three core and three specialist units. Once complete, the Subsidiary Diploma is broadly equivalent to a single A Level.

The qualification provides:

- The opportunity to gain educational accreditation for practical expedition experience.
- Help candidates to develop key skills, such as improving own learning, working with others and problem solving skills.
- A realistic insight into what the military and emergency services are like.
- Help candidates understand the demands and benefits of a career in the public services.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

- Those who enjoy practical, team based and outdoor activities.
- Students who feel they worry about exams.
- Those who work hard on coursework assignments and are always on top of homework.
- Students that are interested in a career in the Army, Navy, RAF, Police, Fire or Ambulance Service.
- You do not have to want to join the public services to do this course.

This option is 100% coursework, **there are no external exams.**

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Public Services is designed to equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in current and future employment, or for progression to university level study.

Many of the independent research, extended essay and project based skills gained on the BTEC will transfer directly to any given Higher Education course. Public Services would contribute well toward further study in Law, Politics, Military Studies, History, Geography or even Archaeology.

The expedition element of the course will prepare students very well indeed for future employment within an outward bound or event planning role in the leisure industry.

Future employment applications to the armed forces or emergency services would be greatly strengthened by the knowledge and bearing gained from this course.

### What are the Entrance Requirements?

Students will need to have an active interest in the military or emergency services.

It is assumed that students applying to do this course are keen and able to take part in outdoor expeditions. Experience of the Ten Tors or Duke of Edinburgh's Award schemes would be beneficial, but not essential.

Prior experience in KS4 of Public Services, PE, Geography or History would also be of benefit.

EDEXCEL	BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma - Structure
<b>Core Units</b>	
Unit 1	Government, Policies and the Public Services
Unit 2	Leadership and Teamwork in the Public Services
Unit 3	Citizenship, Diversity and the Public Services
<b>Specialist Units</b>	
Unit 8	Understand the Impact of War, Conflict and Terrorism on the Public Services
Unit 9	Outdoor and Adventurous Expeditions
Unit 17	Police Powers in the Public Services

## Sociology

### What is the Course About?

Sociology is the study of the relationship between the individual and society.

Have you ever wondered .....

- How does being poor affect school life & education?
- Why do 1 in 4 marriages end in divorce?
- Why do women suffer an average of 33 domestic violence attacks before going to the police?
- Why are we obsessed with fashion labels?
- Why are black males 7 times more likely to be stopped and searched?
- What is 'chav culture'?

What we take for granted about societies - what might seem obvious - is usually challenged by the sociological imagination.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experience. It will help you develop skills to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on careful consideration of evidence. Students should be interested in contemporary social issues and will be expected to be well informed in political and social debates.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

Sociology is a highly valued course and prepares students for a variety of courses at higher education. Areas that are particularly relevant are law, academic research, advertising, criminology, social policy planning, teaching, journalism and social work.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade B in English Language and Grade C in Maths and a Science.

AQA	Sociology	
<b>AS</b>		
Unit 1	Family and Households	Exam (January Year 12)
Unit 2	Education & Research Methods	Exam (June Year 12)
<b>A2</b>		
Unit 4	Religion	Exam (January Year 13)
Unit 6	Crime & Deviance & Theory & Methods	Exam (June Year 13)

## Sport (BTEC National)

### What is the Course About?

The course was introduced to capitalise on a very highly motivated group of students within core Physical Education with the intention of offering the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification that can be used when applying either for higher education or employment. It is intended that the course will use each student's skill and enthusiasm in sport to develop an awareness and interest in science technology, which underpins much of the sporting industry. The course is student centred. Students learn through investigation and active involvement taking a large responsibility for their own learning. The seven units are taught through 'learning outcomes' and each assignment will concentrate on testing and extending the students knowledge in one or more of the outcomes. The tutor will act as a learning resource for the students, offering advice and guidance as to how to approach the work.

### Who Might the Course Suit?

Students with an interest in sport and coaching who may wish to seek employment in those fields. The course relies on assignments, presentations and practical work as its means of assessment and these elements may be seen as a valid factor in its favour.

### What Might the Course Lead To?

The course should provide a sound and sufficiently broad educational base to enable each individual to progress either to a HND or Degree Level Course in Higher Education or to employment in the Sports and Leisure Industry. The course can be studied as a vocationally based alternative to A-Level P.E.

### What are the Specific Entry Requirements?

Grade C in PE or if PE not taken at GCSE a Grade C in Science and subject to interview with Head of PE

EDEXCEL		National Sport Award
<b>Year 12</b>		
Year 1	Unit 1: Principles of Anatomy & Physiology in Sport	Coursework (October/November/December/January)
Year 1	Unit 2: The Physiology of Fitness	Coursework (March/June)
Year 1	Unit 3: Assessing Risk in Sport	Coursework (December/February/June)
Year 1	Unit 5: Sports Coaching	Coursework (December/March/May)
<b>Year 13</b>		
Year 2	Unit 4: Training & Programming	Coursework (October/January/April)
Year 2	Unit 7: Fitness Testing for Sport and Exercise	Coursework (December/February/ April)
Year 2	Unit 8: Practical Team Sports	Coursework (July/January/April)