



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership
The Sixth Form

MSN Sixth Form

Course Details for the MSN Sixth Form
campus

Course combinations for MSN Sixth

Students take three options and they can combine BTEC/ Applied options with A Levels. Students also have the option of taking enrichment options, such as Core Maths.

Details of the entry criteria are available in Pathway Guidance booklet.

A level options

Art and design	Chemistry	Economics	EPQ	History	Music	Physics	Psychology
Biology	Computing	English Language and Literature	Further Maths	Maths	Philosophy and Ethics	Physical Education	Sociology
Business Studies	Drama and Theatre	English	Geography	Modern Languages (French, Spanish)	Photography	Politics	Product Design

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BTEC/Applied options

Applied Science BTEC	Applied Law BTEC	Health and Social Care BTEC
Criminology Level 3 Diploma	Sports BTEC	IT BTEC

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Enrichment

Core Maths
Extended Project
Further Maths

Applied Law (BTEC)

What is the course about?

How are laws made? How are negligence cases dealt with? What are the aspects of a crime? What is the difference between theft and robbery or murder and manslaughter? These are the sorts of questions you will consider in BTEC Applied Law.

The BTEC Level 3 in Applied Law offers students the opportunity to understand the civil and criminal court structure, the ways in which laws are enacted and key aspects of offences and negligence. This qualification is equivalent to one A Level and enables students to display their knowledge and understanding through assignments, examinations and controlled assessment tasks. This course will help students to understand the practical impact of legal rules.

Year 12 - Dispute solving in Civil Law

Investigating aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal system

Year 13 - Applying the Law (mandatory unit)

Aspects of Family Law (optional unit)

What might the course lead to?

The BTEC in Applied Law is designed to appeal to those who are interested in a career in law, criminology, social work or other related subjects requiring a high level of evidenced based judgement. You may wish to pursue a career in legal services for example as a police officer or paralegal. Alternatively it will prepare you well for a career in any of the public services, in teaching, social work, business management, journalism or the civil services.

Who might the course suit?

The BTEC in Applied Law is designed to appeal to those who are interested in a career in law. The course is aimed at anyone who is interested discussions, asking questions and understanding the legal aspect of society.

Applied Science (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The Applied Science course is a two year course which will allow you to study how science is used 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.

You will 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.

You will complete core units on the fundamentals of science, working in the science industry and scientific techniques. You will then have the opportunity to investigate the three science disciplines in a practical aspect as well as an in-depth look at human physiology.

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 BTEC 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.

Art (A Level)

What is the course about?

The A level course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set exam unit. The coursework unit is designed to build on skills and knowledge gained at GCSE level, and to extend these into new areas and to a much higher standard. The course is teacher-directed initially, but as the course develops students take on increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work. The coursework unit contains a separate written element, consisting of an essay investigating artists and art works linked to the student's practical work.

For the externally set exam unit students select one question from the exam paper and develop a practical creative response. This is self-directed, and demonstrates the student's level of skill in a chosen range of media. The department organises a series of visits to galleries and aims to introduce students to ways of working outside the classroom environment. Every year there is a gallery trip to either Paris, Barcelona or London which students are expected to take part in, which is designed to enhance skills and contextual understanding.

A thirst for experiencing and engaging with the Arts is vital if students are to develop their skills and understanding, and we expect students to be open and enthusiastic towards any experiences that might develop their knowledge and experience of the world around them, and the Arts in particular.

Who might the course suit?

Students 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 Art is acceptable as an A-Level for most university courses. Many students go on to study some aspect of Art and Design at foundation level, before progressing to a degree in areas such as: Architecture, Fashion, Television, Film, Photography, Animation, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Art History, Museum work, Illustration and Advertising etc.

Biology (A Level)

What is the course about

The course explains the molecular and cellular bases of life and then uses this grounding to explain the key processes that life entails, including transport, defence, ecology, evolution and a comprehensive understanding of the metabolic pathways in photosynthesis and respiration.

Human physiology forms an important part of the course and students gain an insight into how the main organ systems work. Genetics and cellular control are also vital topics studied, and students have the opportunity to get hands-on with a field trip.

Practical skills are a key part of biology and students will build up their laboratory skills in lessons, including dissection, research skills, biological drawing and microscopy.

Who might the course suit?

Students must have an inquisitive nature and show great enthusiasm for biology. Organised students who work hard will be successful on this course. Self-reliance is an important quality as independent background reading will be essential. Students need to engage in all aspects of practical work and adopt a methodical approach to improve their scientific skills.

What might the course lead to?

Biology can open doors to many different courses at university. There are courses in Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Microbiology, Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing and many more for which Biology A-Level is either essential or strongly advised. Many students who go on to secure places at university to read Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Sciences choose Biology to complement a Chemistry A-Level

Biology – Topics Studied

Practical Skills in Biology, Foundations in Biology
Exchange and Transport, Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease
Communication, Homeostasis and Energy Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

Business Studies (A Level)

What is the course about?

Students will study business in a variety of contexts (eg large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing) and consider:

- How businesses develop a source of continued competitive advantage
- the competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate
- the factors that might determine whether a decision is successful eg the quality of data and the degree of uncertainty
- how technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete
- use of non-quantitative and quantitative data in decision making (including the interpretation of index numbers and calculations such as ratios and percentages).
- the impact of technology on strategic decision making
- the influences of Corporate Social Responsibility, ethical and environmental issues on strategic decisions
- the difficulties in forecasting future trends
- the importance of assessing feasibility and risk when making strategic decisions.

What might the course lead to?

Entrepreneurship, careers in marketing, finance, IT, operations management and human resource management. Accountancy and many other related areas.

Who might the course suit?

Students who wish to have a better understanding of the world around them. In particular, a grasp of how the financial world works and how economies determine their priorities. You are likely to be inquisitive, analytical and happy working with numbers.

Chemistry (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course aims to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject,
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods,
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills,
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject,
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works').

The Practical Endorsement:

The practical endorsement accompanies the A level qualification. It requires a minimum of 12 practical activities to be completed over the 2 year course.

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 or Veterinary Science should also take Chemistry. Well-motivated and organised students will be the most successful. This course also relies on Maths skills and therefore an interest in Maths is also desirable. An A-Level in Maths would compliment this course but this is not essential. 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, Forensic Science, Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacy and Biochemistry. A Level Chemistry is also highly regarded for non-scientific careers including Accountancy and Law.

Computing (A Level)

What is the course about?

Computer Science is a practical subject that combines invention with creativity to understand the power and limits of both human and machine intelligence. Students complete three units, two are external exams with the final unit being an internally assessed project.

Unit 1 focuses on all the elements of how computers function. Students will learn about the intricacies of object-oriented programming, computer architecture, artificial intelligence, networking, forensic encryption and the latest in web technologies.

Unit 2 focuses on algorithms and programming. Push your problem solving skills to the limits and apply your understanding from Unit 1 to solve complex computational problems using a range of abstract thinking methods

Unit 3 is where creativity flourishes in the programming project. Apply the principles of computational thinking to develop solutions to a practical coding problem. Learn how to develop using agile methods and produce professional grade software built for the real world to defacto industry standards.

Who might the course suit?

Students who are interested in computers and problem solving will thrive on this highly engaging and rewarding course.

What might the course lead to?

Computing is the perfect stepping stone to further education as well as a career in Computer Science in all aspects including software engineering, robotics, network administration, game design and more. Students who study Computer Science can use their computational thinking to enhance a career in Business, Engineering, Medicine or any type of science, IT and Computing related career path.

Core Maths (Level 3 Certificate)

What is the course about?

Core Maths is an AS Level equivalent, post-16 qualification that is specifically designed for students who wish to continue developing their Mathematics and problem solving expertise, but do not wish to study Mathematics A Level.

Core Maths focuses on how students can apply the Mathematics they already know from GCSE to solve extended real-world problems, whilst also introducing them to some of the applied concepts from the Mathematics A Level course. Amongst the learning of some new Mathematical formulae and techniques, the course focuses on investigating real-world scenarios, testing hypotheses, making suggestions and improvements and using technology to further investigate problems and support conclusions.

Core Maths is a Level 3 qualification studied over two years alongside your three other choices.

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at students who want to develop their problem solving skills and learn some new Mathematics. It is suitable for students who enjoy Mathematics and wish to further their understanding. It also supports the study of other post 16 qualifications in subjects such as Geography, Business, Psychology and the Sciences.

What might the course lead to?

Universities are keen for students to be more Mathematically savvy, regardless of the discipline they wish to study, therefore Core Maths will be an excellent qualification to enhance your university application and prepare you for any higher education and career.

Criminology (Level 3 Diploma)

What is the course about?

The Level 3 Diploma in Criminology offers students the opportunity to understand crime and deviance in society. This qualification is equivalent to one A Level and enables students to display their knowledge and understanding through one assignment per year (50% of final grade) and one external examination (50% of final grade). The topics the course covers includes:

- Types and consequences of under-reported crime. These include domestic violence, hate crime and e-crime.
- Theoretical explanations for criminal behaviour including Psychological, Biological and Sociological perspectives
- The role the media plays in our perception of crime
- The effectiveness of crime prevention strategies and campaigns

Who might the course suit?

The Diploma is designed to appeal to those who are interested in a career in the Criminal Justice system such as Policing, Law, Social and probation work. It is also suitable to those who are interested in either Sociology or Psychology- an interest in current issues is a must. The course is aimed at anyone who is interested in discussions, asking questions and understanding the criminal justice system.

What might the course lead to?

You may go to University to read Law, Criminology, Social Work or other related subjects requiring a high level of evidenced based judgement. You may wish to pursue a career in the Criminal Justice System as either a Police Officer, Legal Executive, Social Worker or Probation Officer.

Drama and Theatre (A Level)

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 play texts: one theatre performance and one 'set' text. Pupils will engage in a practical exploration of two modern play extracts leading to an assessed performance. The students also have to compete a portfolio of evidence including analysis and evaluation of the process.

In the second year devise their own piece of unique drama, adapting and perform play scenes, selected and directed by themselves. Towards the end of the A-level the students will undertake a practical exploration of three key play extracts with a final performance assessed by an external examiner.

Who might the course suit?

A student needs to be prepared to perform in front of an audience at some point throughout the one/two years of the course. Additionally, they will be expected to attend live theatre productions as a critical aspect of textual analysis.

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

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 or theatre based course. Universities and employers are looking for students who are creative; therefore A Level Drama and Theatre will be an excellent qualification to enhance your university application and prepare you for any career.

Economics (A Level)

What is the course about?

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices. One of the most interesting areas of economics lies in studying the economic problems facing governments and the economic policies that governments use to try to get rid of or reduce the problems. Economic problems can be microeconomics or macroeconomic, though some have both micro and macro elements.

At the micro level, the main problems like in the field of market failure. Market failure occurs whenever markets do not perform very well – and in extreme cases fail to perform at all. Perhaps the best-known recent and current market failure stems from environmental pollution and subsequent global warming. We shall be examining a number of different government policies aimed at correcting market failures. These include taxation, subsidies and the use of regulations. We shall also explain how government failure results when government policies are ineffective or even downright damaging.

At the macro level, the main economic problems are unemployment, a failure to achieve and sustain a satisfactory rate of economic growth inflation and an unsatisfactory trading and balance of payments position. We shall explore how fiscal policy, monetary policy and supply-side policy are used to try to tackle these problems.

Who might the course suit?

Economics is a current-affairs subject, so it will help if you can become interested in what is going on in the country you live in, and also in the wider world.

How much maths do I need to know?

For A-level economics, you do not need to learn any more maths skills over and above those that you learnt at GCSE, but you do need to develop analytical and quantitative skills in economics when 'selecting, interpreting and using appropriate data from a range of sources'. Assessment of quantitative skills make up about 20% of the overall A-level.

What might the course lead to?

Economists are employed by a wide range of different employers – you could work in the financial sector, for a tech company, an economic consultancy, or the government.

Most students who take an Economics A-Level and then go on to do an Economics based degree do not work as economists. Instead, they use their skills in a diverse range of careers: Analysis (financial, market, data), Public policy, Consulting, Accountancy, Research, Charity/development, Market regulation. Economics students are amongst the highest earners when they graduate. The three sectors most needing economics skills are the public sector, tech (think Amazon and Google) and health. The biggest recruiter of students with economics skills isn't a bank – it's the NHS.

English Language and Literature (A Level)

What is the course about?

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by English Language and Literature students:

- How can I manipulate different features of language in my own creative writing?
- What are the differences between written and spoken English?
- What are the different ways in which people manipulate language to present their views, prejudices and feelings?
- How do writers create fictional and fantasy worlds?

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at anyone who enjoys creative writing and reading literary and non-fiction texts. Lesson time is often spent talking and writing about texts so you will need to enjoy forensic analysis of language. The course will develop your skills as a critical reader, your ability to listen attentively to the views of others, and establish your own critical viewpoints through speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will have the chance to flex your creative muscle as well as evaluating your own creative writing in detail through a written commentary.

What might the course lead to?

English is one of the most popular degrees at University; nearly every University in the country offers a wide range of courses in the subject. Often students who take an English A Level and then go on to do an English based degree will enjoy careers in print journalism, advertising, public relations and teaching. It is highly regarded by both employers and higher educational establishments because of the way it helps students to develop analytical skills and their powers of communication and persuasion.

What are the texts studied?

- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- The poetry of Seamus Heaney
- *Paris Anthology* - a collection of non-fiction texts written in or about the city of Paris.

English Literature (A Level)

What is the course about?

English Literature A-Level continues the development of literary analysis skills from GCSE. English Literature enables students to study a wide range of literary texts across genres and time periods, enabling students to understand how literature has changed over time. English Literature encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a particular genre or context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives.

Assessment Method

There are two final written examinations at A Level. This is supported by the *Texts Across Time* NEA (a comparative essay) which makes up 20% of the course. For this essay, students will study the novel *Frankenstein* as a class and then compare an element of *Frankenstein* with a text of their choice. Students work closely with their teacher on the text and title for their NEA and receive one to one mentoring.

Who might the course suit?

Students who genuinely enjoy reading literary 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 universities in the UK and across the globe – including Oxbridge and the Ivy League universities in the States. It is well-established and demonstrates that a student can interpret and analyse language as well as argue a case fluently. These are essential skills in many professions including journalism, law, publishing and teaching.

What are the texts studied?

- *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *Feminine Gospels* by Carol Ann Duffy
- *Love Across the Ages* - a collection of pre-1900 poetry
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

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, e.g. 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 have taken the opportunity to examine a wide variety of subjects from Radiography, cubist artwork to devising a training plan for a hockey team.

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.

Further Maths (A Level)

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 Pure Mathematics in greater depth as well as covering further applications of Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics problems.

The Further Core Pure components introduce Matrices, Complex Numbers, Methods of Proof and Differential Equations. In the applied component, students will study how to model more complicated Mechanics problems and probability distributions.

Further Mathematics lessons take place after school to avoid conflict with other subjects and make the option available to a greater number of students.

Further Mathematics is **only** available to students already opting for A-Level Mathematics.

Who might the course suit?

The course is aimed at students who wish to specialise in Mathematics. It is particularly suitable for those who might study Mathematics or a heavily mathematical discipline such as Engineering, Physics or Economics at university.

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. Many of the most prestigious universities prefer, or require, their Mathematics applicants to have studied Further Maths.

Geography (A Level)

What is the course about?

1. **Dynamic Landscapes:** tectonic hazards, landscape systems, processes and change. Coastal Landscapes as a field trip.
2. **Dynamic Places:** globalisation of the world over time. Shaping urban areas through regenerating them as a field trip.
3. **Physical System and Sustainability:** water insecurity, energy security, life cycles and future climate change.
4. **Human Systems and Geopolitics:** superpowers, global development, global health and human rights.

These are some of the topics we'll cover in Geography A-Level. The course content is divided between physical and human topics and is supported with field trips and extra-curricular university conference visits. 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.

Who might the course suit?

Anybody who has an interest in what is happening in the world 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 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, engineering, medicine, politics and education.

Often our students go on to study Geography or subjects related at university and others also move on to work with companies and charities with a more geopolitical view.

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The course will give you an introduction to the Health and Social Care sector and its associated careers. You will explore the skills needed to care for people with a range of specific needs and medical conditions. You will explore the different physiological conditions that are common in this field of work and will develop an understanding of the career opportunities available.

Who might the course suit?

The course is ideal for those who are unsure of their specific future pathway in Health and Social Care as it provides an insight and broader understanding of the sector. It consists of four units completed over two years and is based on the **person-centred approach** and **care values** needed to work in the health and social care sector.

The mandatory units in year 12 focus on:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

What might the course lead to?

This will enable you to progress to higher education and in previous years students have pursued study in midwifery, nursing and adolescent mental health. For those wishing to enter the world of work this course provides a springboard into employment and apprenticeships in a variety of health and social care fields.

History (A Level)

What is the course about?

The A-level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The qualification will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to them throughout the course will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-level historians. Students will study three components throughout the course: Germany 1918-1945, the British Empire 1857-1967 and the NEA (non-examined assessments).

Who might the course suit?

This course would suit the more independent learner as it involves wider reading and research. History combines well with almost any other subject because it requires both the empirical skills of science and the creative imagination of the arts.

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. Many of our pupils go on to study History at undergraduate level, but some will opt for related disciplines such as Law or PPE. Even those moving into unrelated areas will find the skills fostered by History, the ability to analyse, explore and communicate in a clear and interesting way, will be profoundly useful.

IT (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The course is practical based and has a far more technical emphasis than the previous BTEC in IT. Students complete four units, two in Y12 and the other two in Y13.

Unit 1 focuses on how IT impacts the world in which we live. Students will learn about digital devices, computer software, emerging technologies, connectivity, networks, online systems, online communities and IT security issues. This unit is assessed by a written examination and is completed in Y13.

Unit 2 is a practical exam completed in Y12 where students are asked to build an IT system from scratch. Students will learn how to construct relational databases which are at the heart of almost every modern business today.

Unit 3 is completed in year 12 and revolves around a Social Media coursework project. Learners explore how businesses use social media such as Facebook® and Twitter™ to promote their products and services.

Unit 4 is the final unit of the course where students design an interactive eCommerce based website. Students will learn about cutting edge web technologies and web programming languages such as JavaScript, HTML5 and wordpress.

Who might the course suit?

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. Students who have a genuine passion for ICT and are interested in technology would thrive on this course.

What might the course lead to?

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

Mathematics (A Level)

What is the course about?

The A-Level course consists of a Pure Mathematics component and two Applied Mathematics components: Mechanics and Statistics.

Pure Mathematics is the core of the course and extends the study of Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry from GCSE and introduces Calculus.

Mechanics is the study of how physical objects behave when acted upon by different forces. You will learn how to model objects and predict their motion.

There is a strong relationship with concepts in Physics and Engineering, but since all concepts are introduced from first principles it is not necessary to study Physics in order to be successful in this part of the course.

Statistics is the study of how to analyse data and calculate probability. Statistics is absolutely fundamental to scientific process and in this component of the course you will learn how scientists distinguish results that back up their hypotheses from random noise. Concepts from statistics will help with the study of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Medicine, Psychology, Sociology and Business at A-Level and beyond.

Who this course might suit?

Students wishing to take this course must enjoy mathematics and problem solving. They must have a strong work ethic, since this is a very demanding course. Students will be expected to have strong foundation in Algebra and Trigonometry. A-Level Mathematics is an invaluable companion course for Science A-Levels and for anyone intending to study the sciences, Medicine or Engineering at University.

What might the course lead to?

Mathematics is described by university admissions tutors as a facilitating subject, this means it is often a stipulated or preferred pre-requisite for many university courses. Additionally Mathematics A-Level is recognised internationally as a proof of a student's intelligence, tenacity and work ethic. If you have the ability you can't afford to miss out on the huge boost Mathematics A-Level will give to your future options and prospects?

Modern Languages - French, Spanish (A Level)

What is the course about?

Work will continue at sixth form level on the four key 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 topic areas make up the basis of the course.

Critical and independent thinking are developed through the study of literary and non-literary texts. Learners articulate their understanding and justify opinions both in the foreign language and in English, gaining essential critical tools and writing skills required for further study, as well as for the workplace. Grammatical competence and the ability to manipulate language accurately and appropriately are a prerequisite for study in higher education and are developed and rewarded through the mode of assessment.

Who might the course suit?

Applications are welcome from students who have shown an aptitude for understanding language structures at GCSE level and who want to build on these foundations to study the language in greater depth.

What might the course lead to?

Each year, a number of our students go on to pursue their language studies at university, either as the main focus of their degree or as a supplementary subject.

Assessment Units (AQA exam board, 100% final exam):

- A Level Paper 1 (50%) – Listening, reading and writing (aspects of French/German society, current trends, artistic culture, aspects of political life in the target language country).
- A Level Paper 2 (20%) – Writing (based on an in-depth study of two books, or a book and a film).
- A Level Paper 3 (30%) – Speaking (20 minutes, discussion of prepared themes, and unprepared discussion based on a stimulus).

Music (A Level)

Who might the course suit?

- Are you passionate about music?
- Do you ever create your own original music?
- Spend your free time singing, playing an instrument or creating tracks using music technology software?
- Loved GCSE Music and don't want it to end?
- Didn't do GCSE Music, regret it and have spent the last 2 years playing music?

What is the course about?

Listening and Evaluating:

The exam section of the course requires you to be familiar with a variety of styles of music:

- The Baroque Concerto
- Mozart's Operas
- Romantic Piano Music
- Pop Music
- Music for Media (film and gaming)

Composing:

You will create 2 compositions; one in a style of your choice, the other to a brief set by the examiner, which could include lyrics, a chord pattern or the outline of a scene from a film.

Performing:

You will choose from several performance tasks, which include performing as a soloist, as part of an ensemble on an instrument of your choice and through music technology, resulting in a 10 minute recording at the end of year 13.

What subjects does Music goes well with?

Honestly? All of them! It is both a Science and an Art. Students may combine Music with other traditional Arts subjects such as English Literature, History, Drama and Art, but it is also often studied alongside Sciences and Maths. Music is a language, so it can also be a good addition to modern foreign languages.

What might the course lead to?

- Anything! Music is a recognised academic subject and will provide you with transferable skills attractive to universities and employers.
- Possible careers: Theatre/session musician, Sound Engineer, Music journalism, Composing, Music therapy, Teaching.

Philosophy & Ethics (A Level)

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.

In the first year the Philosophy section includes philosophical issues and questions; religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering. The ethics unit includes issues or debates in religion and ethics. The Buddhism section includes Buddhist beliefs, values and teachings; Sources of wisdom and authority; Practices that shape and express religious identity. In the second year The Philosophy section includes Philosophical issues and questions; The nature and influence of religious experience; Problems of evil and suffering; The Religion and Ethics section includes Significant concepts in issues or debates in religion and ethics; A study of three ethical theories; Application of ethical theories to issues of importance; Medical ethics: beginning and end of life.

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 style questions in an exam. However, some of these are based on the material studied, some on the student's own research 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 and presentations.

What might the course lead to?

- The study of Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Buddhism 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.

Photography (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set examination. At the start of the course 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.

There is written element to the course, in which students are required to research and analyse photographic and other visual work in more depth, and produce a written essay of 3000 words.

For the externally set exam unit students select one question and develop a practical creative response, which is self-directed.

Who might the course suit?

- Students 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 go on to study some aspect of Art and Design at foundation level, before progressing to a degree in areas such as: 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?

- All students should submit a portfolio of work to the Art & Photography department. Also students will need to have their own camera to complete this course. Places on this course will be allocated following an interview with the Head of Art.

Physics (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course covers all the key concepts of Physics. As learners progress through the course they will build on their knowledge of the laws of Physics, applying their understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe.

The course aims to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- develop interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the Sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society (as exemplified in 'How Science Works').
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Assessment is by 3 terminal exams.

The Practical Endorsement accompanies the A level qualification. It requires a minimum of 12 practical activities to be completed over the 2 year course. It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for the qualification.

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.
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Physical Education (A Level)

What is the course about?

A-level Physical Education allow students to play to their strengths and gain dynamic theoretical and practical skills for further education or work. They'll be familiar with some of the content from GCSE, yet they will study it in more depth, acquiring new knowledge along the way.

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society
- Biomechanical Movement

Practical Module:

Students will be required to perform in one physical activity. They will be required to demonstrate their skills in this sport and should be already performing at a high level with the intent to continue participation in their sport.

Performance Analysis and Evaluation:

Students must complete a Performance Analysis and Evaluation based on their performance or the performance of another sports person.

Who might the course suit?

An interest in the theoretical aspects of Physical Education and Sports Science is essential as the A-Level is majority theory based. To have studied GCSE PE is highly recommended

What might the course lead to?

The specification prepares students well for further study in various fields, for example, social and natural sciences, teaching, sports science, leisure and tourism. An A Level qualification is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study in PE and Sport Science in Higher Education and is also a desirable qualification for other areas of study, including physiotherapy, nutrition and teaching.

Politics (A Level)

What is the course about?

Government and Politics attempts to analyse, understand and explain the relationship between the political ideas, institutions and processes. The A Level focus is on: parliament, government and the people, representative democracy; participation; the structures of authority and power; the rights and responsibilities of individuals; engagement with contemporary politics in the UK; current political debates; and the links between political ideologies and political action.

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 the ever-changing world of current affairs to illustrate the academic theories. In addition to reading and written work, research and presentations are regular features of the course.

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, economics and a wide variety of other occupations. Universities and employers will always be impressed by candidates with a good knowledge of current affairs and the social political and economic ideas that shape the world.

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. This course is a perfect accompaniment to any student taking Economics, Business, History, Sociology or English Literature.

Product Design (A Level)

What is the course about?

The Product Design A Level is a creative qualification that supports the development of both practical skills and theoretical knowledge, providing students with the confidence to succeed in a number of careers.

Students will investigate a range of influences on Design and Technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing a range of exciting projects. The 2-year course is linear, with the exams (worth 50% of the qualification) and the NEA (coursework- worth 50%) completed in Year 2.

Who might the course suit?

This course would be suitable for students who enjoy being creative and problem solving to create functional prototypes.

This course will develop your practical, problem solving, CAD/ CAM and theoretical skills. The structure of the course enables learners to identify their own areas of interest and produce appropriate work.

Taught Modules:

Paper 1

- Materials, characteristics & uses
- Advanced materials
- Enhancements, processes and finishes
- Industry, requirements & standards
- Feasibility, design, manufacture & use

Paper 2

- Design methods, influences & issues
- Design processes & evaluation
- Manufacturing
- Wider issues & standards

What might the course lead to?

This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level.

Careers that you can explore include; architect, graphic designer, 3D product designer, web design, engineer and many more.

Psychology (A Level)

What is the course about?

Psychology is concerned with all aspects of behaviour and with the thoughts, feelings and motivations underlying that behaviour. Psychology is a science and psychologists study human behaviour by observing, measuring and testing, then arriving at conclusions that are rooted in sound scientific methodology. The course looks at important aspects of human life; relationships, stress, memory, aggression, obedience and mental health issues such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety.

Who might the course suit?

It is naturally suited to those who have an interest in people and who want to understand more about the causes of 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” discussed.

What might the course lead to?

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). It also prepares students for jobs including health care, police work, management, teaching, personnel work, workplace design, retailing and advertising.

Sociology (A Level)

What is the course about?

Sociology is the study of society. It aims to explain how institutions (for example the family, education, religion and the media) within society make people behave the way that they do.

Have you ever wondered ...

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

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 in higher education. Particularly relevant areas are law, academic research, advertising, criminology, social policy planning, teaching, journalism and social work.

Sport (BTEC)

What is the course about?

The Level 3 Sport BTEC course examines various components of sport, including how the body systems respond during exercise, different careers in the sporting sector and how to construct a health and fitness programme for a client with specific needs.

There are four units in total across the 2 years:

Unit 1 - Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Fitness and Well-Being

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 7 - Practical Sports Performance

Each unit is unique in its content. Some of the material builds on previously acquired knowledge from KS4 (GCSE PE or Health and Fitness), but students are also introduced to new knowledge, concepts and skills across the course of study.

There are various methods of assessments for students to complete, including external exams, internally marked coursework and practical performance. This makes the course suitable for a variety of different learners.

- Who might the course suit?

- Students with an interest in pursuing a careers in the sports industry or health and fitness sector, or those who wish to continue studying PE/Sport at a higher level. The course is also appropriate for students who wish to be challenged across a range of assessment methods, including exams, coursework and practical work.

- What might the course lead to?

- Studying this course can lead Higher Education courses or directly into employment. Many of our students have progressed onto the following progression routes:
- Sports Coaching, Sports Development Officer, Fitness Professional, Sports Events Management, Teaching and Physiotherapy.