



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership
The Sixth Form

Course Details for the Writhlington Sixth Form Campus

Course combinations for Writhlington 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 the Extended Project.

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management or T Level Digital Production which is a full time course and includes work placements.

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

Course combinations for Writhlington Sixth

BTEC/Applied options

Criminology Level 3 Diploma
Business BTEC
Food and Nutrition Level 3 Diploma
Media: Digital Film& Video Production BTEC
Performing Arts BTEC
Sport BTEC

Enrichment Options

Extended Project
Further Maths

A Level Options

Art and design	Chemistry	History	Physical Education	Psychology
Biology	English Literature	Maths	Physics	Sociology
Business	Geography	Philosophy and Ethics	Politics	

T Level Options

T Level Digital Production
T Level Business Management & Administration

Art (A Level)

What is the course about?

Art at this level is a challenging but rewarding subject that combines the intellectual with the practical and requires a high level of energy and commitment.

You will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within art. You will also gain the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using art, craft and design by building on your imaginative and creative powers and your experimental, analytical and documenting skills. By understanding specialist vocabulary and developing your working knowledge you will understand the place of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary society.

What might the course lead to?

Teaching, fashion, gallery/museum management, architecture, interior design, graphics, film and television
Design, jewellery design, theatre and set design and production, TV and film, art directing, artist or art technician.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results. There is one 15 hour exam at A level and your portfolio will also be assessed and count towards your award.

Taught Modules

Year 12: Practical skills based learning and development of critical understanding of art history together with concepts. You will begin to develop depth of understanding and learn how to respond to the visual word in both practical and written forms.

Year 13: Component 1 (assessed portfolio): produce a collection of work exemplifying aspects of their developing knowledge, skills and understanding. It should provide evidence of research, the development of ideas, making skills and critical/contextual understanding.

Component 2 (exam): respond to a stimulus, produce work which evidences your ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Biology (A Level)

What is the course about?

Although we know a lot (but not everything) about individual organisms, these do not exist in isolation and understanding how these communities work is one of the forefronts of Biological research.

At A level you will learn how scientific models are developed, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make decisions.

What might the course lead to?

Medicine, scientific research (including biotechnology, systems biology, biofuels, stem cells; genetics), sports science, food safety and development, zoology, veterinary science, agriculture, building and industry, ecology, conservation, oceanography, forestry, environmental health, etc.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are three final written examinations at A level, two of which are 2 hours 15 minutes long and the third is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Practical skills will be tested in the exams and you will be awarded a pass on your certificate, if you successfully complete the practicals and laboratory books.

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Module 1: Practical skills are developed through a range of guided practical activities

Module 2: Understand how sub-cellular structures and biochemistry interact to allow cells in living organisms to function effectively

Module 3: Study the structure and function of gas exchange and transport systems in a range of animals and in terrestrial plants.

Module 4: Learn about the biodiversity of organisms, their classification and the ways in which biodiversity can be measured as well as evolution and phylogeny.

Year 13

Module 5: Develop an understanding of how organisms respond to stimuli by using chemical and/or electrical carriers.

Module 6: Investigate the role of genes in regulating and controlling cell function and development together with associated ethical considerations.

Business Studies (A Level)

What is the course about?

Learn about marketing and people, managing business activities, decisions and strategy and global business. This course combines theory with current world topics and allows you to understand what is happening in the economic world and how businesses, and you, are affected through a holistic understanding of business in a range of contexts. You will develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants and be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals. This course also allows you to acquire a range of transferable skills, including; decision making, problem solving, numeracy skills and the ability to challenge assumptions.

What might the course lead to?

This course enables you to go into any future career with confidence as you will understand how the business you are working for operates and the external environment that will affect your chosen career path. Possible specific business career choices however include; Advertising and Marketing, PR, Market Researcher, Research Analyst, Recruitment, Banking, Finance, Accountancy, Industry buyer, Retail, Distribution Management, Human Resource Management, Sales, Stockbroker, Systems analyst.

Taught Modules

Year 12: You will learn how to meet customer needs, about business markets and marketing strategy, how people are managed and about entrepreneurs and leaders. Learn how to raise finance, financial planning and management together and how external influences can affect business.

Year 13: Building on previous studies you will look at business objectives and strategy, studying business growth, decision-making techniques and how these are influenced, assessing competitiveness and managing change. Finally you will develop your knowledge by looking at the impact of globalisation, market expansion, global marketing, industries and companies as well as multinational corporations.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results. Formative and Summative assessments will be sat throughout Year 12 and Year 13.

There are 3 final written examinations at the end of Year 13, which are 2 hours long each.

Business (BTEC)

What is the course about?

Business employers value employees who are able to communicate effectively both verbally and using electronic communication methods.

BTEC Business Extended Certificate provides opportunities for you to develop your communication skills as you progress through the course. This can be both through presentations and discussions in which they have the opportunity to express their opinions.

Taught Modules

Year 12: Learn about personal and business finance, develop a marketing campaign as you prepare for the external exam and an externally marked portfolio which are completed in Year 12.

Year 13: Explore business and learn to manage an event, as you complete your internally assessed portfolio.

Assessment Method

You will sit two written examinations, ideally during Year 12. You will prepare four units including a portfolio which is marked externally, the remaining two units of work will complete an internally assessed portfolio.

What will this course lead to?

Relevant job areas include- Advertising and Marketing, PR, Market Researcher, Research Analyst, Recruitment, Banking, Finance, Accountancy, Industry buyer, Retail, Distribution Management, Human Resource Management, Sales, Stockbroker, Systems Analyst.

Business Management & Administration

(T Level - equivalent to three A Levels)

What is the course about?

The **Management & Administration T level** is ideal for anyone planning to pursue a career in Business or Management. Throughout the course, you will engage with the world of business through the context of current business developments and real business situations. You will learn how management, leadership and decision-making can improve performance in marketing, operations, finance and human resources.

You will be given the opportunity to put everything you learn into practice, with a substantial local industry placement averaging 45 days. Build your network and open future doors by working while you study with an employer.

You will also explore the interrelated nature of business activities at a local, national and global scale, with case studies focusing on different sectors such as services or manufacturing. Students will develop valuable knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions.

How is it assessed?

Core component: Grades A* to E are based on combined scores from written examinations and an employer-set project. Occupational specialism component: distinction/merit/pass grades are based on coursework assignments.

You will develop an understanding of a broad range of issues relevant to the sector, including:

- Business context – an overview of organisational cultures and values, different types of internal and external stakeholder, different forms of governance and the impact of organisations on society and the environment
- Project and change management – an understanding of the common change management theories and models and how to support and improve projects
- Business behaviours – the importance of good communication and adapting social communication styles to professional standards and according to purpose, medium and audience
- Quality and compliance – the importance of maintaining and improving quality in all aspects of public and private sector organisations

You will then choose a specialist module to support your interests such as:

- Business support
- Business improvement
- Team leadership and management

What might the course lead to?

You could progress to higher education in courses such as a Bsc (Hons) degree in Business and Management. Career options might include working as a business improvement coordinator, team leader or project support, management, administration and business support roles.

Chemistry (A Level)

What is the course about?

You will study a variety of topics which deal with the substances that make up our universe. Learn about the way that elements can be combined in a seemingly limitless number of ways to give countless millions of different materials. Study how atoms link together to form larger structures such as molecules and the mechanisms by which molecules can be reshaped and adapted. Chemistry occupies a central position between physics, mathematics and engineering on the one hand, and biology, earth science and medicine on the other.

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Module 1: Practical skills are developed through a range of guided practical activities.

Module 2: Develop your understanding of atomic structure, types of bonding and quantitative chemistry.

Module 3: Further study of Group 7 halogens, comparing their reactions with those of Group 2.

Module 4: Study the varied chemistry of carbon and discover ideas of modern analytical techniques.

Year 13:

Module 5: Deal with the practical realities of the chemical industry in a quantitative way. It provides in-depth study of transition metals and their role.

Module 6: More reactions that can be done by carbon, develop problem solving skills and study advanced analysis in settings such as drug testing in sport.

What might the course lead to?

Pharmacy, food science, chemical engineering, metallurgy, environmental protection, medicine and other healthcare courses, forensic science, agriculture, business, industrial management and education.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are three final written examinations at A level, two of which are 2 hours 15 minutes long and the third is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Practical skills will be tested in the exams and you will be awarded a pass on your certificate if you successfully complete the practicals and laboratory books.

Media: Digital Film & Video Production (BTEC)

What is the course about?

You will develop the skills and knowledge to succeed in the Media industries. You will learn how to succeed in the contemporary creative work place by developing a range of key skills such as screenwriting, pre-production, film, editing, camera work, lighting and sound recording. You will develop your abilities to research, budget, communicate, work in teams, project manage and think as an entrepreneur.

Taught elements:

Unit 3: Digital Media Skills: This unit allows you to demonstrate, through constructing a digital media product, the skills you have developed in media **production across other units.**

Film Production – Fiction: You will investigate how conventions of narrative storytelling are used by filmmakers, looking at formats and generic conventions. You will then prepare for a film production by creating and gathering the materials and preparing the cast and crew

Single Camera Techniques: You will focus on the techniques of using a single camera to capture high-quality footage to create a narrative production. You will investigate manual functions of a camera as well as the compositions and support or movement of camera shots.

Film Editing: You will learn about the development of different editing purposes, conventions and techniques. You will explore how the pioneers of film editing have used editing techniques and how they have developed more sophisticated applications. You will develop skills in digital editing techniques and create a final, edited sequence for a specific purpose.

What might the course lead to?

We aim to give you a starting point from which you can go on to either work in the advertising or marketing or film/TV industry as a skilled practitioner. Increasingly the skills you will learn are essential to succeed in the Media industries as a creative worker. You will also be able to use this qualification as a start off point for a wide range of university courses.

Assessment Method

Assessment is largely internal. Your work will be assessed by your course tutors. You will sit one examination which will involve you responding to a brief. This will allow you to demonstrate the skills and techniques you have learned on the course.

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.

Digital Production

(T Level - equivalent to three A Levels)

Overview

As the world becomes more digital, having knowledge in this area will be hugely beneficial for your employability, and is perfect for anyone wanting to pursue a career in software production and design. **The course will give you an understanding of:**

- The ethical and moral implications of digital technology
- Using data in software design
- Using digital technologies to analyse and solve problems
- Digital environments, including physical, virtual and cloud environments
- Emerging technical trends, such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial
- Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Blockchain, 3D printing
- Legal and regulatory obligations relating to digital technologies
- The technical, physical and human aspects of internet security

Assessment Method

You will be assessed through a number of exams and project work throughout the programme. You will need to complete all elements to achieve the overall T Level.

Who might the course suit?

This course is suited to students who want the benefits of an industrial placement. The T Level is designed and developed in collaboration with employers, this programme is a mixture of classroom and work-based learning to give you the technical skills and workplace experience to kick-start your career into the digital arena. You will complete a core technical qualification and digital specialism, and an industry placement of at least 45 days.

What might the course lead to?

This T Level opens up many opportunities while your industry placement highlights your commitment to the digital industry. You will have opportunities to progress to university degrees, degree apprenticeships or directly to the workplace. The course is a perfect starting point for progressing into roles such as: web developer or designer, software developer, computer games tester or developer, E-Learning developer, or user experience designer.

English Literature (A Level)

Overview

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 shared 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 NEA (coursework) which makes up 20% of the course.

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.

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 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.

Food Science and Nutrition (Level 3 Diploma)

What is the course about?

Food Science and Nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. You will explore the relationship between food, nutrition and health. Making use of creative, investigative and analytical study methods you will learn and demonstrate an understanding of the science of nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts. The ongoing practical sessions enable you to gain a wide range of high level skills to produce quality food items and meet the needs of individuals.

Working on a selection of optional units over the duration of the course, you will be able to tailor your studies towards your area of interest in developing and problem solving in food production, food science and nutrition.

This course is suitable for students who have taken the L2 Hospitality and Catering or Food Preparation and Nutrition, but can also be accessed by students with an interest in Science.

What might the course lead to?

Global opportunities in hotels and restaurants, nutritionists, sports coaches, fitness instructor, care provider, food manufacturer, environmental health, teaching, higher education.

Assessment methods

The course is split over multiple modules which range from food safety, to nutrition and finishing with the analysis of a range of different diets.

You will sit a written exam in Year 12 as well as completing an internally marked assignment, which includes a practical assessment.

In Year 13 you will carry out a 9 hour externally marked assessment and submit internally assessed coursework which will focus on a food issue which interests you. These will contribute towards your final results.

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?

Geography gives students a view on issues facing the planet, such as physical world topics; managing coastal landscapes (fieldwork), water and carbon cycles, climate change and hazardous earth. Additionally students understand the complex challenges of the human world involving the study of local and global issues including; understanding human environments (fieldwork), identity of places, social inequality, rebranding and regeneration, disease dilemmas and the future of food.

Geography develops a sophisticated understanding of the connections between the physical and human issues our planet faces, while equipping students with decision making and problem solving skills and a love and appreciation for the incredible natural world around us.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams; these will not count towards your final results. You will also undertake regular termly and half termly assessments with your class teachers.

There will be one non-exam assessment, a written investigation planned and conducted independently by the students.

There are three final written examinations at A level which are taken at the end of Year 13

What might the course lead to?

Environmental protection/conservation, education, law, politics, town planning, tourism, journalism, coastal or hazard management, mapping, weather and humanitarian work (aid, hazard response and migration etc).

Taught Modules

Year 12:

- Coastal Landscapes (including fieldwork)
- Changing places: Making spaces (including fieldwork)
- Geographical debates: Hazardous Earth.
- Fieldwork Investigation: planning, fieldwork and consultation sessions.
- Written investigation for completion Dec 2020

Year 13:

- Earth's Life Support Systems: Carbon and Water cycle
- Geographical debates: Future of food
- Global Connections: 'Global Migration' and 'Power and borders'

History (A Level)

What is the course about?

Studying history will help you understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. History allows students to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. You will examine a **breadth study** and a **depth study** in addition to completing an historical enquiry.

Assessment Method

There are two written examinations at A level, one for each main topic. These are each worth 40% of your grade. A 3,000-4,500 word historical investigation accounts for 20% of your mark.

What might the course lead to?

Politics, civil service, journalism, media, teaching, law, academia, broadcasting, consultancy, business and intelligence.

Taught Modules:

Year 12:

The British Empire Part One: *The High Water Mark of the British Empire, c1857–1914*

- The development of Imperialism, c1857– c1890
- Imperial consolidation and Liberal rule, c1890–1914

The Birth of the USA - Part One: *The Origins of the American Revolution, 1760–1776*

- Britain and the American Colonies, 1760–1763
- Enforcing the Colonial Relationship, 1763–1774
- Ending the Colonial Relationship, 1774–1776

Year 13:

The British Empire - Part Two: *Imperial Retreat, 1914–1967*

- Imperialism challenged, 1914–1947
- The winds of change, 1947–1967

The Birth of the USA - Part Two: *Establishing the Nation, 1776–1801*

- The War of Independence, 1776–1783
- Founding the Republic, 1776–1789
- Washington and Adams, 1789–1801

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 extended 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.

All three components are interrelated and there will a strong emphasis in learning to solve problems in one component using concepts from another.

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?

Performing Arts (BTEC)

What is the course about?

Three Units make up this qualification. Students cover a range of Performing Arts disciplines in Unit 2, from Classical Acting and the use of Stanislavski's approach, Musical Theatre, Ensemble Movement and Physical Theatre. Unit 1 requires students to carry out an in-depth research project on a Performing Arts practitioner of their choice. Unit 3 combines the broad range of students' skills in a Group performance Workshop whereby students create a Devised piece of Theatre.

We recommend the following text:
'An Actor Prepares' by Stanislavski.

Assessment Method

You will carry out a research project in controlled conditions and develop a practical performance and evaluative skills log, which will be assessed. Performances will undergo internal and external assessments. All performances will be assessed in the Dragonfly Theatre in front of Live audiences.

What might the course lead to?

Performing Arts can be beneficial to youth work, general teaching, marketing, PR, and advertising and a whole host of careers. Performing Arts at A Level supports university study in English Language, Literature and Law.

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners Work
Unit 2: Developing Skills for Live Performance

Year 13:

Unit 2: Developing Skills for Live Performance
Unit 12: Musical Theatre Techniques

Philosophy & Ethics (A Level)

What is the course about?

Two year A level course studying Philosophy of Religion (Philosophy = the study of ideas) and Ethics (beliefs about right and wrong) and the study of one religion.

Tackle some of life's most interesting 'Big Questions':

- Is God real, and how can we tell? What might God be like?
- Are the soul and the afterlife real? What about miracles?
- How can we be sure what right and wrong are? And what does it mean to be a good person?
- Do we have a responsibility to care for the environment?
- Is War ever justified?
- What makes a relationship ethical?

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are three final written examinations at the end of Year 13.

What might the course lead to?

Law, Political science, Bioethics, Teaching and Lecturing, Social work, Care work. Police service etc

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Philosophy: The design argument, The cosmological argument, Ontological argument, The problem of evil and religious experience.
Ethics: Situation ethics, Utilitarianism, Natural law, Equality, Environmental ethics, Sexual ethics and peace and conflict.
Christianity: The nature of God, The Trinity, The nature of the church, Key moral principles. Sources of wisdom and authority. The Early Church, The reformation, The role of music in Christianity

Year 13:

Philosophy: Philosophy of language, Life after death, the soul and science and religion.
Ethics: Ethical language, Deontology and medical ethics
Christianity: Practices, Social and Historical developments - Science, Feminist theology, Liberation theology, Religion and society - Equality and discrimination, New religious movements

Physics (A Level)

What is the course about?

We'd be a bit lost without physics. All the gadgets that we take for granted like laptops and mobile phones wouldn't be here.

Physicists have recently shown that teleportation is possible – who knows what that will lead to in a few years' time?

At A level you will start to see how forces, energy, waves, radioactivity, electricity and magnetism work together, and begin to grasp the universal principles that apply to everything from the smallest atoms to the largest galaxies.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are three final written examinations at A level, two of which are 2 hours 15 minutes long and the third is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Practical skills will be tested in the exams and you will be awarded a pass on your certificate if you successfully complete the practicals and laboratory books.

What might the course lead to?

Astronomy, education, engineering, medicine, meteorology, music, nanotechnology, oil & gas, renewable energy, scientific research, space exploration, telecommunications, transport, banking, insurance, accountancy, law, software, computing, etc.

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Module 1: Practical skills are developed through a range of guided practical activities.

Module 2: An introduction to important conventions and ideas that permeate the fabric of physics.

Module 3: Learn how to model the motion of objects using mathematics, understand the effect forces have on objects, the important connection between force and energy, appreciate how forces cause deformation and understand the importance of Newton's laws of motion.

Module 4: Introduction to the key ideas of quantum physics.

Year 13:

Module 5: Learn about thermal physics, circular motion, oscillations, gravitational field, astrophysics and cosmology.

Module 6: Learn about capacitors, electric field, electromagnetism, nuclear physics, particle physics and medical imaging.

Physical Education (A Level)

What is the course about?

The A Level Physical Education course is a detailed study of Sports Science, Sports Psychology and Sport in the Society. The course has a great deal of variety within its content, which allows students to gain experience and understanding in all areas of Physical Education. The majority of the course is classroom based as pupils prepare for two examinations at the end of their studies. An A Level Physical Education student will also be assessed in their ability to perform and analyse themselves in one sport, so playing at least one sport regularly is essential for acceptance onto this course.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are two final written examinations at A level each of which are 2 hours long. There is also an assessment where students are assessed as a performer or a coach in a full sided version of one activity. Pupils also analyse their performance in a written piece of work.

What might the course lead to?

Fitness Instructor, Personal Training, Physiotherapy, Nutritionist, roles within the Leisure Industry, Sports Coaching, PE Teaching, working for national and international Sport organisations, Sport Science.

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Applied Anatomy & Physiology
Skill Acquisition
Sport & Society

Year 13:

Exercise Physiology & Biomechanics
Sport Psychology; Sports & Society
Technology in Sport

Politics (A Level)

What is the course about?

The course focuses on governance, politics and ideologies in the UK and USA. It aims to give students a clear understanding of the political set up and current affairs on both sides of the Atlantic and compare the two systems. It also looks at political ideologies, such as conservatism, socialism and feminism and relates these to current and historical situations in both countries. It links very well to Geography and History and provides a solid foundation for many higher education and employment settings, that require an understanding of the wider world in which we live.

Assessment Method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are three final exams at the end of year 13, each 2 hours long and equally weighted:

- Government and Politics of the UK
- Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative politics
- Political Ideas

What might the course lead to?

Directly this could lead on to further study at university or a career in local, regional or national government as well as employment in the civil service. Journalism and jobs in the media would also look upon this qualification favourably, as would the armed forces and public services. It would also be very useful for employment in any transnational corporation that works directly and indirectly with the UK, US and other governments. Non government organisations, such as the UN, global charities, WHO, IMF and World Bank would also look for candidates with good political understanding and knowledge.

Taught Modules

Year 12: Government and Politics of the UK
Political ideas

Year 13: Political ideas
Government and Politics of the USA
Comparative Politics

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.

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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?

BTEC Sport is aimed at students with an interest in sport, exercise and health and includes a range of practical and theory based lessons in order to give students an insight into a variety of sports based careers or further study.

Assessment Method

You will sit one written examination during Year 12. You will prepare one task which is marked externally, the remaining two units of work will complete an internally assessed portfolio during Year 13

What might the course lead to?

Fitness Instructor, Personal Training, roles within the Leisure Industry, Sports Coaching and PE Teaching.

Taught Modules

Year 12:

Unit 1: Anatomy & Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Year 13:

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Unit 4: Sports Leadership