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BTEC Level 3

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* These courses may also offer a 2 A level equivalence, if there is demand.

Each page will have a description of the course, examples of topics that are covered, the examination style and the future pathways that you can access. There will also be the minimum grade requirement to study each subject.

At the end of the booklet you will find a list of choices for our 'employability development course'. Please select from one of the following:

[Extended Project Qualification \(EPQ\) – ½ A level equivalent](#)

[BTEC Higher Sports Leadership – BTEC Merit equivalent](#)

Core PE

Work experience – to be confirmed upon interview

School leadership

A level – Art

Subject level and board	AQA Fine Art A Level
Subject overview	<p>The Fine Art course at A level provides students with the opportunity to learn and develop a range of skills in relation to drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media. This is taught through teacher-led workshops at the beginning of year 12 and then through a personal study. In year 13 students produce their personal study and an externally set assignment provided by the exam board.</p> <p>Students produce a body of work for all units, following the art process from initial research and starting points, through development and experimentation towards a final response in the form of a finished piece. Alongside their development work, students research a range of relevant artists to gain inspiration for their own creative ideas and themes.</p>
Curriculum topics	Architecture Portraiture Distortion Personal study – project set by student Externally set assignment
Assessment	Coursework (personal study) – 60% Externally set assignment – 40%
Future pathways	<p>Having an A level in a creative subject is an essential starting point if students want to pursue art and design. After completing their A levels, students can apply to do a one year post A level art and design foundation diploma, or apply directly onto higher level degree courses.</p> <p>Having this qualification will enable students to progress to a more specialist area within art and design such as animation, advertising, fashion design, graphic design, illustration, special effects for cinema, photography, 3D design, sculpture, textiles and more.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5.

A level – Art: Photography

Subject level and board	AQA Photography A Level
Subject overview	<p>Photography provides you with an opportunity to engage with the world and the people in it through expressing yourself and your ideas.</p> <p>You will be taught a variety of creative techniques and processes in photography. Coursework will include the use of camera equipment, studio work, computer software skills, building a portfolio and sketchbook of creative ideas, presentations and personal project work.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>Introduction to dark room and digital photography techniques A variety of teacher-led themes (for example, portraiture, landscape, surrealism) Personal study – set by the student Externally set assignment</p>
Assessment	<p>Coursework (personal study) – 60% Externally set assignment – 40%</p>
Future pathways	<p>After completing their A levels, students can apply to do a one year post A level art and design foundation diploma or apply directly onto higher level degree courses.</p> <p>Having this photography qualification will enable students to progress to a more specialist area within photography such as animation, advertising, graphic design, illustration, special effects for cinema and photography.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a related course.

A level – Biology

Subject level and board	Edexcel (Salters-Nuffield) Biology A Level
Subject overview	<p>The new AS and A level Biology qualifications, will engage and inspire the scientists of the future. We've worked with all parts of the science education community and used the opportunity of curriculum change to design courses that will encourage students to develop as scientists, and give them the skills to succeed in their chosen pathway.</p> <p>Work in class involves a blend of independent and group based tasks, both student and teacher led. The course is broad, relevant and challenging and requires significant study outside of taught lessons. Students are encouraged to read current publications, both in the library and online.</p> <p>Practical skills are integral to the course. Students have the opportunity to carry out investigations both with guided methods and of their own design and to develop their analytical and evaluative skills.</p>
Curriculum topics	Students study the core topics of cell and molecular biology, physiology, genetics, ecology and biodiversity. At higher level, students go on to study these subject areas in greater depth together with further topics such as plant biology, ecology and neurobiology.
Assessment	Students will take three formal exams at the end of the course. There will also be a teacher assessment of practical competency which will be reported on the exam certificate.
Future pathways	Biology A level can act as a springboard for University or apprenticeship level study of sciences, engineering, medicine and business.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in dual science or in biology (triple).

A level – Chemistry

Subject level and board	Edexcel (Salters-Nuffield) Chemistry B A Level
Subject overview	Our A level chemistry B (Salters) qualification engages students by presenting chemical ideas and practical skills in a variety of contexts, relating modern-day applications of chemistry and current research to the concepts needed for the study of chemistry at A level.
Curriculum topics	<p>Storyline modules introduce a range of relevant chemical ideas in structured and engaging contexts to illustrate the role of chemistry in our daily life and in understanding the world around us. In the exams students will be expected to apply their learning to unfamiliar contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elements of life; • developing fuels; • elements from the sea; • the ozone story; • what's in a medicine? • The chemical industry; • polymers and life; • oceans; • developing metals; • colour by design. <p><u>Chemical literacy</u> 'Chemical literacy' is the ability to understand a passage of text, extract information from it and use this information, e.g. in a calculation or to construct an argument. Students are expected to be able to answer questions logically and with due regard to the correct use of technical terms. Students gain practical skills as they work through the storyline modules, which are assessed in the practical endorsement (component 04).</p>
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement • Practical skills assessed in a written examination <p>Three written exams: <u>Fundamentals of chemistry</u> <u>Scientific literacy in chemistry</u> <u>Practical skills in chemistry</u></p>
Future pathways	Chemistry-A level can act as a springboard for University or apprenticeship level study of medicine/engineering.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in dual science or in chemistry (triple).

A level – Design Technology: Product Design

Subject level and board	AQA Design Technology: Product Design A Level
Subject overview	Product design is a creative and thought-provoking qualification that gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.
Curriculum topics	Example topics covered are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- materials and their applications;- performance characteristics of materials;- forming, redistribution and addition processes;- modern industrial and commercial practice;- digital design and manufacture;- design theory.
Assessment	Written Exam 1 – Technical principles 2hr 30min (30%) Written Exam 2 – Designing and making principles 1hr 30mins (20%) Non-Exam Assessment (50%)
Future pathways	This course will give students the opportunity to work in the design, engineering and architecture industries. Students would be able to continue studying this at degree or apprenticeship level.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a related course or mathematics.

A level – English Language

Subject level and Board	Edexcel English Language A Level
Subject overview	In this course you are encouraged to enjoy and investigate language. We hope to instil in our students a life-long curiosity about the power of language as you explore how writers express themselves in speech and writing with increasing competence and sophistication. By learning about concepts and linguistic frameworks for the study of language, students are able to investigate their own and others' use of speech and writing.
Curriculum topics	<p><u>Component 1: Language Variation</u> You will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How language varies depending on mode, field, function and audience. • How language choice can create personal identities. • Language variation in English from c1550 to the present day. <p><u>Component 2: Child Language</u> You will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoken language acquisition and how children learn to write from birth to eight years old. • The relationship between spoken language acquisition and literacy skills that children are taught, including the beginnings of reading. • Appropriate theories of children's language development. <p><u>Component 3: Investigating Language</u> You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a research focus from one of five topic areas. • Develop your research and investigation skills. • Develop your personal language specialism. <p><u>Coursework Component</u> You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write two pieces of original writing from the same genre, differentiated by function and/or audience. • Demonstrate your skills as writers, crafting texts for different audiences and/or purposes. • Reflect on your research and writing in an accompanying commentary.
Assessment	Examinations (three papers) 80% Non-Examination Assessment 20%
Future pathways	<p>English language is often regarded as a 'facilitating subject' by universities. That means that it is a discipline that opens up a wide range of courses for you to study at undergraduate level and is certainly a helpful and worthwhile stepping stone.</p> <p>Students may progress to a number of careers, including advertising, media, journalism, publishing, teaching and management.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in either English language and/or English literature are minimum requirements; students with Grade 5 may be considered, with the support of their English teacher..

A level – English Literature

Subject level and Board	Edexcel English Literature A Level
Subject overview	English literature is the perfect choice of A-level for someone who has a passion for reading and talking about literature. Lessons are discussion-based and require students to share and develop informed personal responses and criticisms of literary texts. The Edexcel course is an excitingly modern approach to the study of poetry in particular, with enthralling texts. Alongside the course, the department will run regular visits to theatres in order to give students the opportunity to see performances of plays they are studying.
Curriculum topics	<p><u>Component 1: Drama</u> Section A: Shakespeare – one question from a choice of two on a Shakespearian tragedy play. Section B: Other drama – one question from a choice of two on a chosen play.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Prose</u> One comparative essay from the choice of two on the studied prose texts.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Poetry</u> Section A: Contemporary poetry – one comparative essay from a choice of two on an unseen poem written post-2000 and a named poem from the studied collection, <i>Poems of the Decade; an Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry</i> Section B: Poetry collections – one question from a choice of two on the studied poetry period.</p> <p><u>Component 4: Coursework</u> One extended comparative essay of 2,500-3,000 words referring to two texts linked by theme, movement, period or author. Texts may include poetry, prose, drama or literary non-fiction and are chosen by your class teachers.</p>
Assessment	Examinations (three papers) 80% Non-Examination Assessment 20%
Future pathways	<p>English language is often regarded as a 'facilitating subject' by universities. That means that it is a discipline that opens up a wide range of courses for you to study at undergraduate level and is certainly a helpful and worthwhile stepping stone.</p> <p>Students may progress to a number of careers, including advertising, media, journalism, publishing, teaching and management.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in either English Language and/or English Literature are minimum requirements; students with Grade 5 may be considered, with the support of their English teacher.

A level – Film Studies

Subject level and board	WJEC Eduqas Film Studies A Level
Subject overview	<p>Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective. Film studies consequently makes an important contribution to the curriculum, offering the opportunity to investigate how film works both as a medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium.</p> <p>The WJEC Eduqas specification is designed to introduce A level learners to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. This specification therefore offers opportunities to study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent films and global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range of film represented in those films is extended by the study of silent film and significant film movements so that learners can gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future. Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience.</p> <p>Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting. This is intended to enable learners to create high quality film and screenplay work as well as provide an informed filmmaker's perspective on their own study of film.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>Section A: Hollywood 1930 - 1990 (comparative study) Section B: American film since 2005 (two-film study) Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study)</p> <p>Section A: Global film (two-film study) Section B: Documentary film Section C: Film movements - Silent cinema Section D: Film movements - Experimental film (1960-2000)</p>
Assessment	<p>Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking Written examination: 2½ hours 35% of qualification</p> <p>Component 2: Global filmmaking perspectives Written examination: 2½ hours 35% of qualification</p> <p>Component 3: Production Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification</p>
Future pathways	<p>Film and television (directing/editing/set design), acting, journalism, education and much, much more!</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a related course and English.

A level – French

Subject level and board	AQA French A Level
Subject overview	This course enables students to develop effective written and spoken communication skills in French. Students will study not only the language but also the culture of France and Francophone countries. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of French in a broader context.
Curriculum topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends;• aspects of French-speaking society: current issues;• artistic culture in the French-speaking world;• aspects of political life in the French-speaking world;• grammar;• one French language text;• one French language film.
Assessment	This is a linear course with all exams at the end of year 13. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing• Paper 2: Writing (literature/film)• Paper 3: Speaking<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Part 1 – discussion of sub-theme◦ Part 2 – presentation and discussion of independent research project.
Future pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• French (and/or another language) at university• Careers using languages: translation, interpreting, working for a multinational company, working abroad, diplomacy, non-governmental organizations, charities• Transferable skills: ability to speak another language, communication, understanding of different cultures, creativity, critical thinking, analytical skills.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6.

A level – Further Mathematics

Subject level and board	AQA Further Mathematics A Level
Subject overview	<p>Further mathematics is not necessarily ‘harder’ maths, but rather ‘more’. Studying further mathematics will enable you to develop your mathematical skills as outlined in the A level mathematics course, but across a much broader range of disciplines.</p> <p>It will be essential that students study A level mathematics alongside the further mathematics qualification. The level of mathematics covered on the course means that you must have a passion for and enjoy maths.</p> <p>The course suits people who like to think logically and seek a challenge. As is the case with the mathematics A level, the ability to work independently is essential.</p> <p>A level further mathematics students must show exemplary initiative, as they are required to come along and ask questions when necessary. Students who do this course are highly motivated and possess good problem solving skills.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>A level further mathematics is studied alongside A level mathematics. All further mathematics students must also study A level mathematics. The course will include topics of: proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, Polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations, trigonometry and numerical methods.</p>
Assessment	<p>Three equally weighted 2 hour papers.</p> <p>A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.</p>
Future pathways	<p>A level further mathematics is one of the most highly respected A levels. It is highly desired by top universities and employers, especially in fields with significant mathematics content such as engineering and physics.</p> <p>Although most universities will accept students to study degree level mathematics who have achieved a high grade in their mathematics A level, students who have also chosen to study further mathematics have a distinct advantage at the start of the degree course.</p>

Required grade to study course – Interview only.

A level – Geography

Subject level and board	AQA Geography A Level
Subject overview	Geography is the study of our world, both its nature and our impact on it. Through studying geography, you are able to understand the many issues of our time, including political issues, migration, climate change and changing landscapes. Through evidence and practice-based enquiry, students of geography learn to effectively use and find data to answer questions on many different topics. The A level challenges students' perceptions and will stimulate their investigative and analytical skills.
Curriculum topics	<p>The curriculum is split into physical and human geography. Physical geography focuses on natural processes, including water cycles, different ecosystems and landscapes as well as the impact of natural hazards on the world. With such hazards and challenges to global ecosystems never far from the news, these studies open students' minds to a greater understanding of topical events.</p> <p>Human geography concerns the impact the planet has on human life, as well as human impacts on the planet. Topics include globalisation, migration, urbanisation and resource security. Through engaging with this curriculum, students will gain a greater understanding of current global issues as well as insight on how to tackle future global crises.</p> <p>The final part of the curriculum comprises of a fieldwork investigation. Students are able to design and complete their own fieldwork, learning and applying the principles of good research, which will serve them in both further education and any future career.</p>
Assessment	<p>Paper 1 – Physical geography – 40%</p> <p>Paper 2 – Human geography – 40%</p> <p>Geographical fieldwork investigation – 20%</p>
Future pathways	<p>Geography is regarded as a highly respected A Level which includes transferable skills applicable to a number of careers and degree courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • geography degree; • town planning and urban development; • anthropology;; • oceanography; • environmental Studies; • estate management .

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5.

A level – History

Subject level and board	Edexcel History A Level
Subject overview	<p>History opens our eyes to help understand why our world is the way it is. It examines the social, economic, political and cultural issues of different eras and cultures. In history A level you will study a diverse range of topics, challenge our accepted understanding of the past and develop your own enquiries. In these deeply political times, the study of history will enable you to both understand current world issues, and to make informed judgements.</p> <p>Work in class centres around significant independent learning. A level students will be encouraged to read widely around the units and to bring their own arguments to class. History is an essay based subject focused on the ability to develop a rational and compelling argument. Through analysis of evidence and evaluation of existing arguments, students will undertake to develop their own perspectives on a variety of topics. The skills of debate learnt through historical enquiry will help students develop into persuasive individuals, able to successfully challenge ideas and justify their arguments.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>The curriculum provides opportunity for pupils to study a wide range of history. Students will engage in study of two revolutionary periods in early modern history. One will focus on the changes in Britain between 1625 and 1701, considering the decline of the Stuart dynasty through to the Civil War and eventual Glorious Revolution. Students will also focus on the French Revolution from 1774-1799, often seen as the birth place of the modern world through the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity.</p> <p>Considering a longer and more modern period, students will also study the changing race relation in the USA between 1850 and 2009. This will include the impact of the American civil war, the introduction of Jim Crow Laws and the fight for rights through the second half of the 20th century all the way up to the eventual election of Barack Obama in 2008. Finally, students will have the opportunity to undertake their own historical enquiry into any historical controversy that they have a particular interest in, allowing them to tailor the course to suit themselves.</p>
Assessment	<p>Paper 1 – Britain 1625-1701: Conflict, revolution and settlement (30%) Paper 2 – France in Revolution 1774-99 (20%) Paper 3 – Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850-2009 (30%) Coursework – historical enquiry (20%)</p>
Future pathways	<p>History is a well-respected course, due to its intensity, and is accepted by most universities for almost any degree course. In particular, history provides a clear route to the following career paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • law; • politics/civil service; • journalism; • working overseas; • education; • economics.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5.

A level – Mathematics

Subject level and board	AQA Mathematics A Level
Subject overview	<p>A level mathematics is designed to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• further develop previously studied mathematical skills in order to solve more complex problems;• use mathematics as a means to communicate through logic and reasoning.• recognise how situations can be represented mathematically and understand relations between ‘real world’ problems and mathematical models. <p>Due to the nature of the subject, students are expected to work at a fast pace and effectively manage their time. The studying of mathematics at advanced levels requires the ability to work independently on private study outside of lessons. Students who take this course are highly motivated and enjoy the study of mathematics. Students will have the opportunity to learn new theorems, delve into the world of calculus, learn new techniques for problem solving, but most importantly, develop a true love for mathematics.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>A level mathematics is a 2 year course which is examined entirely at the end of year 13.</p> <p>The course includes a variety of core maths topics in three key areas.</p> <p>Core skills: calculus, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, proof, numerical methods, polynomials</p> <p>Statistics: hypothesis testing, probability, normal and binomial distributions</p> <p>Mechanics: kinematics in 1 and 2 dimensions, Newton’s law and forces .</p>
Assessment	Three equally weighted 2 hour papers.
Future pathways	Your options are wide open with a mathematics A level. The highly developed problem solving skills you will develop over the two years make you an extremely attractive option for employers. Further education courses in mathematics, statistics, engineering, physics, accountancy and computer science habitually list mathematics as an entry criteria; but it’s also a highly desirable extra for courses in geography, psychology, sociology, medicine, chemistry, biology, business administration, sports science and earth sciences.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 7.

AS level – Mathematics (Core)

Subject level and board	AQA Core Mathematics Certificate level 3 Mathematical Studies
Subject overview	<p>Core maths is a new level 3 course for students who have achieved a good pass at GCSE mathematics.</p> <p>It is designed to better prepare students for the mathematical demands of work, study and life. The course's aim is to build upon and strengthen existing skills and it focusses on using and applying mathematics to solve problems relevant to everyday life, including managing personal finance and statistical modelling which is a valuable skill for many further study and employment opportunities.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>The course covers: statistics and algebra, probability and estimation, data analysis and modelling, sequences and growth, financial planning and management, problem solving approaches and techniques as well as developing the use of technology and spreadsheets.</p> <p>Most importantly, all these concepts and techniques are designed to provide students with the skills and confidence to tackle everyday demands they are likely to encounter in their working lives.</p>
Assessment	<p>Two 90 minute papers at the end of the course.</p> <p>Paper 1 will assess analysis of data, maths for personal finance and estimation.</p> <p>Paper 2 will assess either statistical techniques, critical path and risk Analysis or graphical techniques.</p>
Future pathways	<p>Core mathematics is designed to be taken alongside your chosen A levels or BTEC subjects and is worth the equivalent UCAS points as an AS level qualification.</p> <p>The course helps to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking and supports courses such as psychology, sciences and geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5.

A level – Physical Education

Subject level and board	OCR Physical Education A Level		
Subject overview	<p>Students will learn about sport from a holistic approach, with consideration of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How does sport affect the body: students will gain a deeper understanding of the body systems and how they may react to diet and exercise. In addition they will learn the impact and effect of force and motion on the body (biomechanics); How does sport affect the mind: students will gain a depth of understanding in how the mind can affect physical training and performance. This will be through the consideration of psychological theories; How sport can affect society: this unit looks back on how society and culture has developed and effected sport over time. This is through creation, influence and change. Students will look at the impact of hosting global events, like the Olympics and how technology and spectators can impact sport in the modern day; Practical Performance: students can be assessed as a coach or as a performer in one practical activity. Students are also expected to Evaluate and Analyse Performance for Improvement (EAP) – this involves working with a peer to improve their performance and logging it in coursework style. 		
Curriculum topics	<p>Key topics of study over the four components are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applied anatomy and physiology; • exercise physiology; • biomechanics; • skill acquisition; • sports psychology; • sport and society; • contemporary issues in physical activity and sport. 		
Assessment	Component/Unit	Assessment	Weighting
	1. Physical factors affecting performance.	2 hour exam 90 marks	30%
	2. Psychological factors affecting performance	1 hour exam 60 marks	20%
	3. Socio-cultural issues physical activity and sport	1 hour exam 60 marks	20%
	4. Performance in physical issues.	Practical	30%
Future pathways	<p>Opportunity to study sport at university in a range of courses, teaching, coaching, sports development, sports science, sports nutrition, sports physiotherapy and more. Starting point to progress into a career for a personal trainer or a coach.</p>		

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 or above in PE and biology (equivalent from vocational study would be a MERIT). Must be an active member of a sports team.

A level – Physics

Subject level and board	Edexcel Salters Horners Advanced Physics (SHAP) A Level
Subject overview	Salters Horners Advanced Physics is a context-led course placing students' learning in the environment and in situations in which physics is met in real life. In total there are eleven context areas through which the physics is developed. The examinations, and indeed the course materials, point to other places in which the same physics is used. Edexcel examines SHAP as the context-led approach within the Edexcel GCE Physics specification..
Curriculum topics	Topics covered in the course each start with a context storyline or contemporary issue that is related to the modern world and the application of physics. Developing a deep subject understanding SHAP uses real-life contexts to engage students and make learning relevant. Principles of physics are introduced as required in each situation, with the whole course carefully designed to develop ideas across contexts, building on these to consolidate and extend learning to provide a thorough understanding of the concepts that underpin physics today. Revisiting ideas in this way allows connections to be made between them, and supports a synoptic approach, particularly valuable with the changes to a linear qualification and exams at the end of the two-year course.
Assessment	The assessment of core practical skills through written questions in exams and teacher assessment of techniques and competency that will count towards the practical endorsement at A level.
Future pathways	Physics A level can act as a springboard for university or apprenticeship level study of sciences, engineering and business courses.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in dual science or in physics (triple).

A level – Psychology

Subject level and board	AQA Psychology A Level
	Psychology is a fascinating subject. The word psychology is derived from two Greek words: psyche (mind or spirit) and logos (discourse or study) which, when put together, produce “study of the mind”. A level psychology will give you the opportunity to develop critical skills such as analysis, interpretation and evaluation as you explore how psychology has contributed to an understanding of individual, society and different cultures. This is the knowledge one needs to acquire not just for A level, but for the entire life.
Curriculum topics	During the course you will study the following units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• social Influence;• memory;• attachment;• psychopathology;• biopsychology;• relationships;• schizophrenia;• forensic psychology;• approaches in psychology;• research methods.
Assessment	3 examinations at the end of the 2 year course.
Future pathways	A qualification in psychology opens up opportunities in a diverse range of careers such as management, marketing, law and the media. It also offers the possibility of continued study in forensic or legal psychology, counselling, industrial/occupational, psychology, educational psychology and applied research.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in English and mathematics.

A level – Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics

Subject level and board	Edexcel Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics A Level
Subject overview	<p>By taking religious studies: philosophy & ethics students will examine some of the most profound questions to have been raised over the last 2000 years. Religious studies: philosophy & ethics can lead to many exciting career opportunities. Its academic skills are valued in university courses such as journalism, law, history and medicine as well as the more obvious philosophy, politics and social sciences. It is similarly appealing to a wide range of employers, from the world of finance to management and science - anything that involves expressing yourself clearly and articulately.</p> <p>Students do not need to believe in God; that is not what religious studies: philosophy & ethics is about! They need to be prepared to participate in debate and discussion focussed on current issues, and explain how these relate to different areas of philosophical and ethical theories.</p> <p>Lessons are delivered in a wide range of ways; the nature of the course means that there is a lot of discussion, debate and extended writing, but we also include opportunities for active learning.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>Students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three normative ethical theories such as deontological, teleological or character based ethics (at least two of which must be religious approaches); • the application of ethical theory to two personal, societal or global issues of importance; • issues raised by the question of whether humans are truly free, the use of ethical language, conscience and developments in religious moral codes. <p>Students will be studying philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief as well as challenges to religious belief such as the problems of evil and suffering philosophical language and thought.</p> <p>Students will question the attributes of God - 'if God knows your future, are you free?', and study the works of two scholars in the development of philosophical thinking.</p>
Assessment	<p>Philosophy of religion (2 hour exam) Ethics (2 hour exam) Development of religious thoughts (2 hour exam)</p>
Future pathways	<p>Students often go on to study similar and related subjects at university.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a related course and English.

A level – Spanish

Subject level and board	AQA Spanish A Level
Subject overview	After taking this course, you will be able to discuss current issues with Spanish speakers and communicate your opinions on the most pressing matters. The coursework encourages the development of analytical and critical skills transferable to any given context. Being able to speak Spanish and English will make it possible for you to understand around 80% of the people on the planet!
Curriculum topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspects of Spanish-speaking society: current trends;• aspects of Spanish-speaking society: current issues;• artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world;• aspects of political life in the Spanish-speaking world;• grammar;• one Spanish language text;• one Spanish language film.
Assessment	This is a linear course with all exams at the end of year 13. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing• Paper 2: Writing (literature/film)• Paper 3: Speaking<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Part 1 – discussion of sub-theme○ Part 2 – presentation and discussion of independent research project.
Future pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spanish (and/or another language) at university;• careers using languages: translation, interpreting, working for a multinational company, working abroad, diplomacy, multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, charities;• transferable skills: ability to speak another language, communication, understanding of different cultures, creativity, critical thinking, analytical skills, ability to relocate to Spanish-speaking countries.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in Spanish.

BTEC level 3 – Business Studies

Subject level and board	BTEC Business Studies – this may be extended to a 2 A Level equivalence, if there is demand.
Subject overview	The BTEC qualifications in this specification have been developed in the business sector to: provide education and training for employees in the business sector, provide business employees opportunities to achieve a nationally recognised level 3 vocationally-specific qualification, provide full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in the business sector or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Business, provide learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.
Curriculum topics	Mandatory units: The Business Environment, Business Resources, Introduction to Marketing and Business Communication. Additional extra units that can be taken fall under the titles of: Accounting, Marketing, Human Resources, Management, Law, Administration, Retail and logistics
Assessment	All units are internally assessed at pass, merit and distinction levels.
Future pathways	Students who study this course will be able to take their studies further at university or apprenticeship. Students typically enjoy being able to use their knowledge gained on these courses to enter careers in accounting, finance and marketing.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a related course and English.

BTEC level 3 – Computing

Subject level and board	BTEC Extended Certificate in Computing (equivalent to 1 A Level) BTEC National Diploma in Computing (equivalent to 2 A Levels)
Subject overview	<p>Young people taking their first steps towards a new career need the right blend of technical and academic skills in order to become the highly skilled, work-ready individuals' employers and universities look for.</p> <p>BTEC level 3 Nationals are vocational qualifications designed to help learners succeed. They have been developed in collaboration with over 5,000 universities, employers and professional bodies with employability at the heart, so students can develop the skills and confidence they will need to step into their future.</p> <p>Work in class involves a blend of independent, group based and individual tasks, both student and teacher led. The course is broad, relevant and challenging and requires significant study outside of taught lessons. Students are encouraged to read current publications, both in the library and online.</p> <p>The course offer flexibility for students to progress to larger-size qualifications or specialise and an opportunity for students to showcase their skills through practical assessments. It also provide the learner with underpinning knowledge and skills needed to meet industry requirements</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>Students study the core topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of computer science – external examination; • fundamentals of computer systems – external examination;; • planning and management of computing projects – Exam board-set assignment • IT systems security and encryption; • business applications of social media; • the impact of computing; • digital graphics and animation; • website development.
Assessment	External assessment (45%), internal assessment (55%)
Future pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University degree in various subjects: computing, animation, IT, networking, cyber security, game design; • apprenticeship; • employment.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in a Computing course and a 5+ in Mathematics.

BTEC level 3 – Food Science and Nutrition

Subject level and board	Eduqas level 3 Food Science and Nutrition
Subject overview	<p>This qualification is the only food/catering qualification on the DfE 2020 performance tables for post-16 learners.</p> <p>Work in class focuses on key areas relating to food and food science, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring food is safe to eat; • current issues within food science and nutrition; • meeting nutritional needs of specific groups.
Curriculum topics	<p>Unit 1 – Understanding nutritional needs of specific groups. You will plan and cook high skilled dishes to meet nutritional needs.</p> <p>Unit 2 – Ensuring food is safe to eat. You will be able to identify hazards and risks in the food environment, from storage, preparation and cooking of food. You will look at the roles of environmental health officers and the control measures they put in place to ensure food is prepared safely.</p> <p>Unit 3 – Current Issues in food science and nutrition. You will carry out experiments, or practical work. This work is presented as an assignment. The results from this work will be used to propose options to solve food production problems.</p>
Assessment	<p>Unit 1 – meeting nutritional needs of specific groups – internally and externally assessed – 90 minute examination; plus 15 minutes reading time.</p> <p>Unit 2 – ensuring food is safe to eat. This is an 8 hour controlled assessment, learning about hazards and risks in relation to storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks.</p> <p>Unit 3 – current issues in food science and nutrition. Theory and experimental/practical work. Controlled assessment: students need to understand the properties of food, and plan and carry out experiments or practical work to show this. They will use these results to propose options to solve food production problems.</p>
Future pathways	<p>Higher education: Combined with other level 3 /A levels in science, will equip you with the knowledge for courses such as BSc food and nutrition, human nutrition.</p> <p>Exciting and interesting experiences linked to the food production industry leads to many employment opportunities within this field. Examples include: nutritionists, coaches, hotel/restaurant jobs, product development, healthy eating policy development.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 or level 2 pass in a related course.

BTEC level 3 – Health and Social Care

Subject level and board	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care – this may be extended to a 2 A Level equivalence, if there is demand.
Subject overview	The certificate has been designed to support progression to a range of job roles within the health and social care sector. Completion of this qualification is achieved through classroom based learning and supported by placement in a real work environment. You will be required to undertake structured placement in a real work environment to support your learning and develop knowledge and skills relevant to the qualification. Work placements in health and care settings are essential to the course and provide valuable links between theory and practice. There is a minimum requirement of 75 placement hours.
Curriculum topics	3 mandatory units (for level 3 National Extended Certificate): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- human lifespan development;- working in health and social care;- meeting individual care and support needs; Along with an optional unit available. The 2 A level equivalence replicates this pattern.
Assessment	2x controlled assessments 2x 1hr 30minute exams on unit 1 and 2.
Future pathways	Students who undertake this course will be able to pursue careers in social care and nursing. This also includes any of the relevant university courses.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 or level 2 pass in a related course.

BTEC level 3 – Music (Performance)

Subject level and board	BTEC level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music (Performance)
Subject overview	<p>The music BTEC is designed to engage and inspire future musicians. The course has been created with units carefully selected to broaden students' experience and skills in solo and ensemble performing and includes workshops in techniques associated with live performance.</p> <p>Practical skills in both rehearsal and performance are integral to the course. Students have the opportunity to perform at a variety of live events and will be encouraged to engage in musical activities outside of school as well as extra-curricular classes. Written work is combined with the practical to develop students understanding of instrumental and vocal techniques as well as the workings of the music industry and events.</p>
Curriculum topics	<p>Students study a mandatory unit on developing music performance techniques. One unit covers the planning and delivery of a programme of solo music pieces. Students continue to study a further 4 units in a range of areas such as: music in the community, music session styles, marketing and promotion, and finally a subject specialist investigation. Units may vary depending on cohort and students' interests.</p>
Assessment	<p>Students will be examined at the end of the unit delivery and this will be internally assessed and externally moderated at the end of each year. There will be various formative assessments throughout each unit giving students the opportunity to receive detailed feedback on the work completed so far.</p> <p>Unit grades will be a combination of rehearsal marks, performance marks and written coursework marks.</p>
Future pathways	<p>The music BTEC is ideal for anyone wishing to study music further and is widely recognised by Higher Education establishments offering degree, diploma and professional training programmes.</p>

Required grade to study course – GCSE 6 in a related course plus interview performance.

BTEC level 3 – Performing Arts (Acting)

Subject level and board	Edexcel BTEC level 3 Performing Arts - Acting – this may be extended to a 2 A Level equivalence, if there is demand.
Subject overview	<p>The BTEC in performing arts with an acting approach is for performers who have a serious interest in developing a wide range of performance skills. The course combines major performance areas of acting, voice and movement. Emphasis is on development of high-level performance skills, supported by relevant theory as well as gaining an understanding of business skills. It is a predominantly practical course and provides numerous opportunities for live performances.</p> <p>There are opportunities for theatre visits/ trips/workshops throughout the year and we invite in professional practitioners to inspire and give industry advice. There is considerable emphasis on group work and collaboration, so all students are expected to be committed to the group and to the discipline of rehearsal and performance.</p>
Curriculum topics	All performing arts courses consist of practical sessions, workshops and performances covering a range of skills and include core and specialist elements. Units may consist of; principles of acting, performing to an audience, developing voice for the actor, the healthy performer, storytelling and auditions for actors.
Assessment	<p>Students will be examined at the end of the unit delivery and this will be internally assessed and externally moderated at the end of each year. There will be various formative assessments throughout each unit giving students the opportunity to receive detailed feedback on the work completed so far.</p> <p>Unit grades will be a combination of rehearsal marks, performance marks and written coursework marks.</p>
Future pathways	The BTEC in acting is ideal for anyone wishing to study acting and/or performance further and is widely recognised by Higher Education establishments offering degree, diploma and professional training programmes.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a related course.

Cambridge National level 3 – Physical Education

Subject level and board	OCR Cambridge Technical in Sports & Physical Activity
Subject overview	<p>Students will learn about sport from a holistic approach, with consideration of:</p> <p>Mandatory units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. how does sport affect the body: students will gain a deeper understanding of the systems of the body to include the cardiovascular system; muscular system; skeletal system; respiratory system and energy systems; 2. sports coaching & activity leadership: students will consider the roles and responsibilities of a coach, the key principles for coaching, the methods to improve skill, how to plan and lead activity sessions, how to prepare sports environments, how to deliver activity sessions & review activity sessions; 3. sports organisation & development: students will learn about the critical sports organisations in the UK. Students will consider the impact and need for sports development, how to measure sports development & what sports development looks like in practice; <p>Optional units:</p> <p>Students will learn in detail any of the below topics. The teacher, in consideration of the cohort, will select between two and three of the below topics to make up a total of 120 guided learning hours. Bold indicates likely optional units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance analysis in sport and physical activity – 60 hours; • organisation of sports events – 60 hours; • biomechanics & movement analysis – 60 hours; • physical activity for specific groups – 30 hours; • nutrition & diet for sport & exercise – 30 hours; • sports injuries & rehabilitation – 60 hours; • practical skills in sport & physical activity – 60 hours; • sport & exercise psychology – 60 hours; • sport & exercise sociology – 60 hours.
Curriculum topics	Detailed above and dependent on optional units.
Assessment	<p>Body systems and the effects of physical activity – 1.5 hour examination.</p> <p>Sports coaching and activity leadership – written portfolio.</p> <p>Sports organisation and development – 1 hour exam.</p>
Future pathways	Opportunity to study sport at university in a range of courses, teaching, coaching, sports development, sports science, sports nutrition, sports physiotherapy and more. Starting point to progress into a career for a personal trainer or a coach.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in a PE related subject.

BTEC level 3 – Travel and Tourism

Subject level and board	BTEC Travel and Tourism
Subject overview	This is a vocational course which will help equip you with essential knowledge, understanding and skills required for working in the travel and tourism sector as well as hospitality. Through the BTEC, you will develop many skills which are important in the modern workplace, from team-working and presentations to marketing and management. The course links directly to the workplace and is ideal for anyone interested in pursuing a career in this global industry.
Curriculum topics	There are a range of pathways available, from the National Diploma (equivalent to 2 A levels) to the Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A level). In either course, you will study units such as an introduction to travel and tourism and global destinations, with further options to study visitor attractions or events and exhibitions. If undertaking the diploma, this expands to include a greater focus on marketing and management, as well as a larger array of options including a focus on the airport experience or sustainable tourism.
Assessment	The assessment is carried out in a variety of ways, including examination, completion of set tasks, and practical demonstration of learning.
Future pathways	Travel and tourism is an excellent starting point for anyone looking to progress in any of the following careers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- travel agency;- airline work;- cabin crew;- hospitality;- hotel management;- cruise Industry;- marketing.

Required grade to study course – GCSE 5 in English and maths.

Employability Development Course

Please choose one of the pathways below.

	Description
EPQ	<p>This qualification helps students develop and demonstrate their project management skills and provides opportunities for extended writing, both of which are highly valued for progression to higher education and employment.</p> <p>Students can tailor their project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations with the agreement of their centre.</p> <p>The outcome of the project can be a design, performance, report, dissertation or artefact.</p>
BTEC Higher Sports Leadership	<p>Students will learn and develop the key skills of sports leadership, including how to plan, organise and review events of leadership for a range of differing groups of performers. Students will be expected to change their method and style of delivery to engage the various performers. Students will be required to volunteer their leadership skills in order to achieve the number of required hours for certification.</p>
Core PE	<p>Students will take part in an active PE session once a week. This will enable students to have an active session during their week to unwind from their academic studies.</p>
Work Experience	<p>Students may actively seek work experience in the industry or field they would like to enter after their studies in sixth form. This must be agreed upon interview and the placement must be in place for the start of the academic year.</p>
School Leadership	<p>Students will have the opportunity to help departments in the school. This may include working with students in younger year groups, helping create and make resources, helping to set-up experiments or projects and will contribute to the student's CV or personal statement.</p>