



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership  
The Sixth Form

# Course Outline booklet 2022-23

# 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 Core Maths.

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management which is a full time course and includes work placements. More details can be found in the T Level Information leaflet.

See pages 8-33 for specific details of the course on the MSN Sixth site.

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

## A level options

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

# 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 Core Maths.

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management which is a full time course and includes work placements. More details can be found in the T Level Information leaflet.

See pages 8-33 for specific details of the course on the MSN Sixth site.

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

## BTEC/Applied options

Applied Science BTEC	Creative media BTEC
Criminology Level 3 Diploma	Performing Arts BTEC
Business BTEC	Sport BTEC
Food and Nutrition Level 3 Diploma	

## Enrichment

Core Maths
EPQ
Further Maths

# Course combinations for MSS Sixth Form

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

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management which is a full time course and includes work placements. More details can be found in the T Level Information leaflet.

See pages 34-32 for specific details of the course on the MSN Sixth site.

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

## A level option

Product Design

## Enrichment

Extended Project

## T level options

Healthcare Science

Science

## BTEC/ Applied Options

Applied Human Biology (Single Option)	Forensic and Criminal Investigation (Double Option)
Engineering (Double Option)	
Diploma in Childcare and Education (Equivalent to three options)	

# Course combinations for MSN Sixth

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

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management which is a full time course and includes work placements. More details can be found in the T Level Information leaflet.

See pages 43-75 for specific details of the course on the MSN Sixth site.

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

## A level options

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

# Course combinations for MSN Sixth

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

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management which is a full time course and includes work placements. More details can be found in the T Level Information leaflet.

See pages 43-75 for specific details of the course on the MSN Sixth site.

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

## BTEC/Applied options

Applied Science BTEC	Graphics and 3D product design BTEC	Health and Social Care BTEC
Criminology Level 3 Diploma	Performing Arts BTEC	IT BTEC
Applied Law BTEC	Sport BTEC	
T Level Business Management		

# Course combinations for MSN Sixth

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

Students also have the option of taking a T Level in Business Management which is a full time course and includes work placements. More details can be found in the T Level Information leaflet.

See pages 43-75 for specific details of the course on the MSN Sixth site.

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

## Enrichment

Core Maths
EPQ
Further Maths



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership  
The Sixth Form

# Course Details for the Writhlington Sixth Form Campus

# Applied Science (Level 3 Certificate)

## What is the course about?

You will develop an understanding of key concepts relating to Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Through a range of experimental techniques you will continue to develop your practical skills, develop critical thinking skills and understand how to communicate scientific ideas and theories.

The course will provide you with opportunities to explore some of the diverse occupations available in science such as those relating to the human body, the role of the research scientist and microbiologists in the biotechnology industries.

## Taught Modules

### Year 12:

**Unit 1:** Key concepts in science

**Unit 2:** Applied experimental techniques

**Unit 3:** Science in the modern world

### Year 13

**Unit 4:** The human body

**Unit 5:** Investigating science

**Unit 6a:** Microbiology

## What might the course lead to?

Nursing, laboratory work, forensic analysis, primary teaching, sport.

## Assessment Method

You will sit two written exams in Year 12. One on Biology, Chemistry and Physics theory, the second will be pre-release material on science in the modern world. You will sit one exam in Year 13.

You will also undertake and submit coursework which will contribute towards your final results.

# 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 (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 Studies (A Level)

## What is the course about?

Learn about marketing and people, managing business activities, decisions and strategy and global business.

## 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.

## What might the course lead to?

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

## 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.

# 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.

# Core Maths (Level 3 Certificate)

## **What is the course about?**

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

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

# Creative Media (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.**

**10 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

**20 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.

**21 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.

# Design and Technology (A Level)

## What is the course about?

Design & Technology offers a unique opportunity for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. It encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and other's' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

## Assessment Method

This A level is assessed over the course of two years. You will sit one written exam at the end of Year 13. At the end of Year 12, your Design and Make Task will be assessed, and your Major Project will be assessed in Year 13. All pieces contribute to your final A level award.

## What might the course lead to?

Engineering, product design, architecture.

## Taught Modules

### Year 12:

**Design Task:** students will design and make a product based on a brief developed by the student.

**Theory:** the characteristics and working properties of materials relevant to product design and manufacture, including metals, woods, polymers, textiles, composites, smart and modern materials. The application of smart and modern materials. Production processes including moulding, extrusion, laminating, milling, turning, casting, stamping, and forming; the use of ICT, prototyping, jigs and fixtures; the use of adhesives, permanent, and semi-permanent fixings.

### Year 13:

**Design task:** Students will design and make a product based on a brief which is chosen from 8 design briefs which are given by the exam board.

**Theory:** industrial and commercial practice including manufacturing processes and systems, product manufacture and maintenance, production scales, and quality control in relation to manufacturing and the design industries. Modular/cell production systems, just-in-time manufacturing, bought-in parts and components and the use of standardised parts. Rapid prototyping.

# English Language and Literature (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# 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.

## **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**

You will sit a written exam in Year 12 as well as completing an internally marked assignment.

In Year 13 you will carry out a 9 hour externally marked assessment and submit internally assessed coursework. 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

# 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.

## Who might the course suit?

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experience. It will help you develop skills to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on careful consideration of evidence.

Students should be interested in contemporary social issues and will be expected to be well informed in political and social debates.

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Sport (BTEC)

## **What is the course about?**

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 7: Practical Sports Performance



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership  
The Sixth Form

# Course details for the MSS - Mendip Sixth Form Campus

# T Level Healthcare Science

## What is the course about?

You will develop a general understanding of health and science:

- working within the health and science sector
- health, safety and environmental regulations
- managing information and data
- principles of good scientific and clinical practice
- core science concepts including the structure of cells, tissues and large molecules, genetics, microbiology and immunology

You will also learn about topics specific to healthcare science:

- understanding the healthcare science sector
- further knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, diseases and disorders, genomics and medical physics
- providing person-centred care
- infection prevention and control
- good scientific practice

## How is it assessed?

Core component: Grades A\* to E are based on combines scores from written examinations and an employer-set project

Occupational specialism component: distinction/merit/pass grades are based on coursework assignments.

## Why choose T levels?

T Levels are ideal if an individual wants to:

- Develop practical skills, knowledge and behaviours that show occupational competence
- Apply theory in real workplace settings
- Combine classroom learning (80%) with on-the-job employment experience (20%)
- Pursue a high-quality technical route into skilled employment, further study or higher/ degree apprenticeships
- Develop maths, English and digital skills within the qualification framework

## What might the course lead to?

You could progress to higher education, apprenticeship or employment starting in an entry level role in the healthcare science sector or a job as a pharmacy technician, nurse or clinical healthcare scientist.

# T Level Science

## What is the course about?

T Level Science at Mendip Studio School offers an opportunity to study level 3 Science with exciting industry placements.

T Level Science is a two-year technical qualification, equivalent to three A levels, which has been developed in collaboration with science employers to ensure that individuals have the knowledge, skills and behaviours to progress directly into industry.

The core element of a T Level in Science will boost your knowledge in a range of topics such as the principles of good scientific and clinical practice, as well as fundamental scientific concepts.

Then you'll be able to put everything you learn into practice, with a substantial local industry placement of around 45 days. Giving you an amazing opportunity to work with an employer while you study

## How is it assessed?

Core component: Grades A\* to E are based on combines scores from written examinations and an employer-set project

Occupational specialism component: distinction/merit/pass grades are based on coursework assignments.

## Where could the course take me?

Following a T Level, you could progress straight into a skilled profession or continue your studies with a degree or higher apprenticeship.

## Why choose T Levels?

T Levels are ideal if an individual wants to:

- Develop practical skills, knowledge and behaviours that show occupational competence
- Apply theory in real workplace settings
- Combine classroom learning (80%) with on-the-job employment experience (20%)
- Pursue a high-quality technical route into skilled employment, further study or higher/ degree apprenticeships
- Develop maths, English and digital skills within the qualification framework

# Applied Human Biology (Level 3)

## What is the course about?

The Applied Human Biology BTEC Level 3 is an Extended Certificate, worth one A Level. This brand new Mendip offer includes in-depth development of scientific understanding in:

- Principles of Applied Human Anatomy
- Practical microbiology & Infectious Diseases
- Human Biology
- Diseases, disorders, treatments and therapies
- Genetics and genetic engineering
- Biomedical Sciences

## How is the course assessed?

Examinations: 58% Coursework Assignment: 42% This ensures rigorous coverage of key concepts, and the ability for students to show the depth of their understanding through portfolio work.

## What might the course lead to?

The health sector in the UK currently has more than 100,000 vacancies and this course equips learners with the tools to develop a range of careers in this sector, including Occupational Therapy, Nursing, clinical biomedical sciences, radiography and Midwifery

# NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare & Education

## (Early Years Educator)

### What is the course about?

You will study a variety of different units during this two year course including child development, play, learning, understanding children with additional needs, observation techniques, assessment and planning. A placement for one day a week and block weeks when you are there for a whole week, including nurseries, primary schools and pre-schools.

### Year 12

- Unit 1: Child development for conception to seven years
- Unit 2: Children's health and well being
- Unit 3: Providing safe environments for children
- Unit 4: Child health
- Unit 5: Play and learning
- Unit 6: Children's additional needs
- Unit 7: Observation, assessment and planning
- Unit 16: Professional Practice Portfolio

### Year 13

- Unit 8: Emergent literacy
- Unit 9: Emergent mathematics
- Unit 10: Preparing for school readiness
- Unit 11: International perspectives on childcare and education
- Unit 12: Reflective practice for professional development
- Unit 13: Professional partnerships in early years
- Unit 16: Professional Practice Portfolio

### How is the course assessed?

All units are internally assessed using a range of methods including written work, posters, leaflets and observations. All units are marked A\*-D. There are two externally marked assessments

### What might the course lead to?

This qualification will lead to roles within the childcare sector including an Early Years Educator in a day nursery, school or a pre-school. The course can give you up to 168 UCAS points to enable you to go on and study at university. Learners have gone on to study primary education, social work and a degrees in childhood studies.

[Before starting the course, the school will carry a DBS](#)

# Product Design (A Level)

## What is the course about?

Product Design is a very wide ranging subject. Once completed, a student can use it to gain an advantage in other fields, or as a career in its own right. It connects other subjects together in a meaningful and practical way that teaches you how to 'solve problems' of almost any kind.

Your objective is to design and create a physical product that solves a problem of your choosing. The Product Design A level is proudly delivered only by specialist Technology and Engineering staff with Degrees or higher in the field. The Design technology course 'style' is defined by the equipment a school has available. We run 16 3D printers and 3 large scale laser cutters. This means we approach design from a CAD perspective (Autodesk Inventor) over hammers and chisels. Our methods are unusual, but cutting edge.

## What might the course lead to?

Future career paths may include:

- Design (All forms of product)
- Sciences pure sciences, forensic science, and environmental science,
- Engineering: Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical, CAD, CAM, CNC, Aeronautical, Nuclear, Renewables, Vehicle, Building, underground etc.
- Art

## How is the course assessed?

Examinations: 50%

Coursework: 50%

Although the overall programme is 50% for coursework and 50% for exam, in truth it is 70% coursework as much of the examined component is learned through the coursework journey.

# Engineering Level 3 BTEC Diploma

## What is the course about?

Engineering has many wide ranging careers within it that are almost too numerous to describe.

- Engineering, Product Design and Manufacture
- Applied Commercial Engineering
- Specialist Engineering project
- Delivery of Engineering processes safely
- Engineering principles

For example: your objective is to prove you can have a strong understanding of the basics and apply this to make complex things.

- Shapes using CAD (inventor)
- Use a range of materials and their properties (metals, composites etc)
- Design and make products with high precision using machinery like CNC lathes, CNC laser cutters and CNC millers.
- Identify a range of processes and be able to explain their advantages and disadvantages. (For example: a robot welding machine vs welding by hand.)
- Basic maths of area and geometry

## How is the course assessed?

Examinations: 50%

Coursework: 50% (25% written/25% practical)

## The value of Engineering

Engineering is hard to describe. It's a secretive world where problem solvers try to find ways of gaining a technical advantage in something using practical maths, and practical science, and then selling the service or product to customers. However: Before you do this you will need to know the rules of the game. In this course you learn the fundamental rules of applied Maths, Physics, Technology and Electronics.

## What might the course lead to?

Once you have mastered the basics of engineering by completing this course, you can go on to specialise in the almost infinite field of engineering either through university or Apprenticeship. For example: Mechanical, Aeronautical, Nuclear, Chemical, Renewables, Electrical, Vehicle (boats,cars,bikes),CAD, CAM, CNC, Buildings, Design and build robotics.

# Forensic and Criminal Investigation (BTEC Diploma)

## What is the course about?

Designed as a two-year, full-time course that meets entry requirements in its own right for learners who want to progress to higher education courses in the forensic and criminal investigation sector before entering employment.

The course will have the following mandatory units:

- Principles and Applications of Science & Investigation Skills
  - Forensic Investigation Procedures in Practice
  - Aspects of Criminology
  - Criminal Investigation Procedures in Practice
- A three further modules will be taken:
- Physiology of Human Body Systems
  - Environmental Forensics
  - Forensic Fire Investigation
  - Forensic Traffic Collision Investigation
  - Forensic Photography
  - Forensic Genetics

## How are you assessed?

Each assessment is taken under specified conditions, then marked by Pearson and a grade awarded. The styles of external assessment used for qualifications are:

- examinations: 46% is externally assessed
- coursework assignments: 54%

For example, learners will take part in a mock courtroom trial, as an expert witness. This will perform part of their assessed work.

## What might the course lead to?

Higher Education, Employment within the Police Force, science laboratories, teaching, microbiology, environmental sciences, Medical Officer, Probation service

# 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 which can be an academic report or an artefact supported by a report, 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 such as technological innovation, music, alternative technology, disability issues, and forensics.

## 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.

# MSN Sixth Form

Course Details for the MSN Sixth Form  
campus

# Applied Law (BTEC)

## What is the course about?

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

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

**Year 12** - Dispute solving in Civil Law  
Investigating aspects of Criminal Law and the Legal system

**Year 13** - Applying the Law (mandatory unit)  
Aspects of Family Law (optional unit)

## What might the course lead to?

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

# Applied Science (BTEC)

## **What is the course about?**

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

You will learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live.

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

# Art (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

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

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

Students who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought. It is beneficial, though not essential, for students to be studying other visual, creative and expressive subjects.

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

# Biology (A Level)

## **What is the course about**

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

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

## **Biology – Topics Studied**

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

# T-Level Business Management & Administration

## What is a T-Level?

T Levels are a brand new qualification designed to give you a head start towards the future you want. They follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A Levels. The 2-year T Level qualification brings classroom and work placement together on a course designed with employers and businesses. You'll spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% on a 45-day placement to give you the skills and knowledge employers are looking for. Your T Level will help you to step straight into your chosen career, an apprenticeship or a degree.

## What is the course about?

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 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 the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions - all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

## Who might the course suit?

T-levels will be a great choice for students who:

- Aspire to achieve an advanced level of technical excellence in a chosen career pathway.
- Value the opportunity to develop their technical skills within both the classroom and the workplace.
- Are keen to experience the world of work and develop their employability skills.

## What might the course lead to?

T-levels provide the skills and knowledge needed to progress to university level study, employment, higher technical qualifications or higher/degree apprenticeships. Business is a great choice for anyone interested in the world of commerce and entrepreneurship. It's a great way to prepare for university courses in the fields of business and management, and to equip yourself with the know-how to start up your own business or follow a career in accounting, marketing or management post university.

# Business Studies (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

# Chemistry (A Level)

## What is the course about?

The course aims to:

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

## The Practical Endorsement:

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

## Who might the course suit?

Students who have enjoyed GCSE Science and have a natural interest in Chemistry would be best suited to the course. Students who are considering careers in Medicine or Veterinary Science should also take Chemistry. Well-motivated and organised students will be the most successful. This course also relies on Maths skills and therefore an interest in Maths is also desirable. An A-Level in Maths would compliment this course but this is not essential. Extended writing skills are not essential.

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Computing (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

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

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Core Maths (Level 3 Certificate)

## **What is the course about?**

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

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

# Criminology (Level 3 Diploma)

## What is the course about?

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

The topics the course covers includes:

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Drama and Theatre (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

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

## What might the course lead to?

The course would suit anyone interested in going into a career in the Arts such as actor, director or designer. It would also suit students interested in a career in arts administration. More specifically, it would be a valuable starting point for a student wishing to go to Drama School or University to study on a drama or theatre based course. Universities and employers are looking for students who are creative; therefore A Level Drama and Theatre will be an excellent qualification to enhance your university application and prepare you for any career.

# Economics (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## How much maths do I need to know?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

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

# English Language and Literature (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# English Literature (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

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

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

# Further Maths (A Level)

## What is the course about?

This course is an additional A-Level for those who wish to take the study of Mathematics to a higher level. The A-Level Further Maths Course studies Pure Mathematics in greater depth as well as covering further applications of Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics problems.

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

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

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Geography (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

These are some of the topics we'll cover in Geography A-Level. The course content is divided between physical and human topics and is supported with field trips and extra-curricular university conference visits. We look at the processes that cause change and the impacts of that change on human activity. Interpretation of geographical data and fieldwork are integral parts of the course.

## Who might the course suit?

Anybody who has an interest in what is happening in the world will enjoy A-Level Geography. Do you have concerns about the environment? Do you enjoy fieldwork and practical learning as geographers often enjoy the outdoors and will be inquisitive?

## What might the course lead to?

Geography graduates are now some of the most employable as they have such a wide range of skills including problem solving, decision making, teamwork and communication. Geographers work in diverse areas such as business and finance, environmental management, engineering, medicine, politics and education.

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

# Graphics and 3D Product Design (BTEC)

## What is the course about?

This course enables students to:

- Undertake specialised studies directly relevant to graphics, 3D product design and other creative professions in which learners intend to seek employment or further study.
- Develop an understanding of the skills required to develop careers within graphics and related industries
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life

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

## Taught Modules:

**Visual recording** - Design and develop a product based on a theme given by the exam board.

**Critical and contextual studies** - Looking at an artist or designer given by the exam board as well as a designer of your choice

**The creative Process** - A design and make task based on a designer of your choice

## What might the course lead to?

You can progress straight into employment. The BTEC in Graphics is equivalent to one A Level, and it is possible for you to progress further into higher education, as successful BTEC qualifications give UCAS points for university applications. This qualification will help you to access a number of university courses at foundation or degree level. Careers that you can explore include; architect, graphic designer, 3D product designer, web design, engineer and more.

## Who might the course suit?

Anyone who enjoys Graphics, Resistant Materials, Art and is creative. This course will develop your practical, visualisation and CAD/ CAM skills and allow you to explore vocational possibilities.

# Health and Social Care (BTEC)

## What is the course about?

The course will give you an introduction to the Health and Social Care sector.

## Who might the course suit?

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

The mandatory units in year 12 focus on:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

## What might the course lead to?

This will enable you to progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the Health and Social Care sector or future employment in this sector. This course focuses on employment opportunities and trains you to take on a responsible role in this sector.

# History (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

The A-level History qualification has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The qualification will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to them throughout the course will provide them with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed as A-level historians.

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

The list of occupations and prospects is endless. Studying History provides more than knowledge and understanding of the key events. It provides each student the essential skills required to succeed in any occupation, course or apprenticeship. Having a qualification in History at this level is regarded as prestigious and admirable. Many of our pupils go on to study History at undergraduate level, but some will opt for related disciplines such as Law or PPE. Even those moving into unrelated areas will find the skills fostered by History, the ability to analyse, explore and communicate in a clear and interesting way, will be profoundly useful.

# IT (BTEC)

## **What is the course about?**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

The BTEC in IT has been designed to prepare students for a career in the IT industry. The course allows students to learn about the latest applications that are being used in the ever changing world of Information Technology. Students who have a genuine passion for ICT and are interested in technology would thrive on this course.

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

# Mathematics (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Who this course might suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

# Modern Languages - French, German (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

Work will continue at sixth form level on the four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. A more in-depth study of grammatical structures will be undertaken, leading to a greater ability to manipulate the language for the purpose of self-expression. Classes are conducted mainly in the foreign language and students are encouraged to contribute as much as possible to discussions. A variety of contemporary topic areas make up the basis of the course.

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

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

A Level Paper 1 (50%) – Listening, reading and writing (aspects of French/German society, current trends, artistic culture, aspects of political life in the target language country).

A Level Paper 2 (20%) – Writing (based on an in-depth study of two books, or a book and a film).

A Level Paper 3 (30%) – Speaking (20 minutes, discussion of prepared themes, and unprepared discussion based on a stimulus).

# Music (A Level)

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What is the course about?

- *Listening and Evaluating*

- *Performing*

- *Composing*

*Listening and Evaluating:*

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

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

## **Composing:**

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

## **Performing:**

You will choose from several performance tasks, which include performing as a soloist, as part of an ensemble on an instrument of your choice and through music technology.

## **What subjects does Music goes well with?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

- Theatre/session musician, Sound Engineer, Music journalism, Performing, Music therapy, Teaching

# Philosophy & Ethics (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

This course engages students with the questions that human beings have asked since the time of the ancient Greek philosophers.

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Photography (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

The Art Department offers Advanced Level Photography.

The course consists of one coursework unit and an externally set examination. At the start of the course students are introduced to the materials, techniques and processes of photography, both traditional and digital. The course is teacher-directed initially, but students take on an increased responsibility for the direction and progress of their work as the course develops.

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

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

- Students who are well-motivated and capable of independent thought. It is beneficial, though not essential, for students to be studying other visual, creative and expressive subjects.

## **What might the course lead to?**

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

## **What are the specific entry requirements?**

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

# Physics (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

The course aims to:

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

**Assessment is by 3 terminal exams.**

**The Practical Endorsement** accompanies the A level

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

## Who might the course suit?

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

## What might the course lead to?

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

# Physical Education (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

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

## Practical Module:

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

## Performance Analysis and Evaluation:

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

- Who might the course suit?
- An interest in the theoretical aspects of Physical Education and Sports Science is essential as the A-Level is majority theory based. To have studied GCSE PE is highly recommended
- What might the course lead to?
- The specification prepares students well for further study in various fields, for example, social and natural sciences, teaching, sports science, leisure and tourism. An A Level qualification is rapidly becoming essential for specialist study in PE and Sport Science in Higher Education and is also a desirable qualification for other areas of study, including physiotherapy, nutrition and teaching.

# Politics (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

These are just some of the questions that might be discussed by Politics students. As well as studying the ideas that are the basis of our political system, we investigate how effective the institutions of government really are, using the ever-changing world of current affairs to illustrate the academic theories. In addition to reading and written work, research and presentations are regular features of the course.

## What might the course lead to?

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

## Who might the course suit?

A willingness to engage in the discussion of political issues is essential. Students are expected to keep up to date with political events by reading the papers and following relevant radio and television programmes. In addition, students will be expected to read formal texts and develop their essay writing skills. This course is a perfect accompaniment to any student taking Economics, Business, History, Sociology or English Literature.

# Psychology (A Level)

## **What is the course about?**

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

## **Who might the course suit?**

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

## **What might the course lead to?**

There are professionally trained clinical, educational, occupational and forensic Psychologists – but Psychology features in many degree courses (nursing and health care, marketing and advertising, education, criminology). It also prepares students for jobs including health care, police work, management, teaching, personnel work, workplace design, retailing and advertising.

# Sociology (A Level)

## What is the course about?

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

Have you ever wondered ...

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

## Who might the course suit?

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experience. It will help you develop skills to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on careful consideration of evidence.

- Students should be interested in contemporary social issues and will be expected to be well informed in political and social debates.

## What might the course lead to?

- Sociology is a highly valued course and prepares students for a variety of courses in higher education. Particularly relevant areas are law, academic research, advertising, criminology, social policy planning, teaching, journalism and social work.

# Sport (BTEC)

## **What is the course about?**

BTEC Sport is suitable for students who have an enthusiasm for studying sport and improving sporting performance.

It is intended that the course will use each student's skill and enthusiasm in sport to develop an awareness and interest in science technology, which underpins much of the sporting industry. The course is student centred.

Students learn through investigation and active involvement taking a large responsibility for their own learning. The four units are taught through 'learning outcomes' and each assignment will concentrate on testing and extending the students' knowledge in one or more of the outcomes. The tutor will act as a learning resource for the students, offering advice and guidance as to how to approach the work.

## - **Who might the course suit?**

- Students with an interest in sport and coaching who may wish to either study the subjects to a higher level at University or seek employment in those fields. The course relies on assignments, presentations and practical work as its means of assessment.

## - **What might the course lead to?**

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