

Which Course?



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Sixth Form Courses

Introduction

This introduction explains what is involved in the A Level, Applied GCE courses and OCR National we offer. We hope it will help you make informed choices regarding the subjects you will be opting for next year.

GCE A Level

The GCE A Level course is now divided into two stages: after one year of study the student takes an advanced Subsidiary (AS) level examination in the subject. Universities and employers recognise this qualification, and take it into account when considering applications for courses and jobs.

An AS certificate counts as half an A Level. To get the full A Level Students must continue the course for a second year. The full certificate awarded at the end of the second year is known as an A2.

In the majority of subjects students will do tests both during and at the end of the course to obtain their certificates.

So: AS + A2 = A Level

Applied A Levels:

Applied A Levels introduce students to vocational areas of learning, offering work-related situations in which to apply knowledge learned. There is also more emphasis on coursework and assignments than traditional A levels.

The full applied award is equivalent to either 1 or 2 A Levels

OCR Nationals Level 2

OCR Nationals Level 2 are suited to Year 12 students who might not have achieved the grades they need to be enrolled onto AS courses, especially those who are not quite sure what path they would like their career to take.

If they see their skills and interests as suited to one of the two specialist areas covered, Health and Social Care and Business, an OCR Level 2 National allows them to make a broad sector choice without necessarily needing to specialise.

It will provide the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to start work, or progress to further study. All OCR Nationals help students develop their personal skills in areas applicable to any workplace, such as team working, communication and problem solving. The courses have been designed to accredit learners' achievements and ability to carry out tasks in a way that is relevant to the workplace.

How Many Courses?

Students may still follow one year and two year courses, which will all include ALAN and INGOTS (an ICT based qualification) certification. There will also be limited opportunities to combine OCR National and AS and A2 courses.

Students wishing to follow two year advanced courses will need to have obtained a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade A* to C, or their equivalent.



Most students will be expected in their **first** year to follow courses in:

- 3 or 4 A/S Level or Applied A Level subjects;
- Adult Literacy and/or Numeracy depending on GCSE results.

In their **second** year they will, in most cases, continue with 3 of their AS subjects or Applied A Level to completion.

In some circumstances we may advise students to study less than four AS subjects. This would be a matter for discussion and mutual agreement.

You may also need to consider re-taking GCSE English and Mathematics if you have gained less than a grade C in each.

What About Me ?

If you wish to be considered for entry to our Sixth Form you must:

- complete an application form.
- attend for interview.

At the interview we will discuss with you:

- your career aspiration – if you have one.
- your prospects at GCSE and/or OCR National Level 2
- a 'package' from the courses we offer that may suit you.
- your attitudes to work and study.

If we feel that you could be a successful sixth form student here we will then send you a conditional offer of a place.

If you accept the offer we will await your examination results. Your place will be guaranteed if you have met the conditions of our offer but you must bring in your results slip and enrol as soon as possible.

If you have not met our conditions you are most welcome to come and talk to us. We may be able to offer you an alternative course. If we have nothing suitable for you we will help you to get any advice or help that you may need.

What Can I Do With The Qualifications I Obtain ?

After one year your OCR National Level 2 or AS levels will qualify you for courses of further study or for a job which will offer advancement with 'built in' training.

After two years, your more advanced qualifications will also qualify you for employment with training or for entry to a degree course at a university or college. The minimum entry requirements for a degree course are: GCSE English and Mathematics at Grade C or above and 2 A Levels (AS + A2 or their equivalent in Applied GCE).

You must realise, however, that many universities and colleges require much more than the minimum. We are able to help you check the entry requirements at various institutions for the kind of course you wish to follow.



A Level: Basic Skills – Adult Literacy and Adult Numeracy

Entry Requirements

All students in Year 12 will be given the opportunity to undertake the Adult Literacy and Adult Numeracy courses at Level 1 or 2, except for those who have obtained a GCSE grade 'C' in English and/or Mathematics who will be exempt from the online tests.

What will I learn?

Students will be taught how to enhance the basic skills of Literacy and Numeracy and how such skills can help improve their standards on other Post 16 courses they have chosen.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will involve sitting online multiple-choice tests which can be taken anytime throughout the academic year.

Where will it lead?

Basic skills qualifications are important 'benchmarks' which demonstrate competence in literacy and numeracy. The acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills are regarded as highly desirable by employers and institutions of higher education.

Which Course?

GCSE English

Entry requirements:

Students who have not yet obtained a grade C will be required to sit this course.

Where will it lead?

The object of the course is to enable students to gain a GCSE grade C.

What will I learn?

The course covers:

- Shakespeare
- Prose study
- Media
- Original Writing

How will I be assessed?

This is a one year course.
Assessment is by external examinations in June.

The terminal examination counts for 60% of the final mark and the coursework a further 40% comprising of both speaking, listening and written coursework.



GCSE Mathematics:

Entry requirements:

Students who have obtained a grade D will be required to take this course.

What will I learn?

The Students will complete the course at Higher or Foundation level. The four strands of Algebra, Number, Shape and Space and Data handling will be covered.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be by examinations in November, March and June, split into calculator and non-calculator papers.

Where will it lead?

The objective of the course is to enable students to gain a GCSE target grade of grade A to C.

Which Course?

OCR National Level 2 in Business

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade E or above including **English** and **Mathematics**.

Length of Course:

One Year. This includes one day a week work experience at a local business.

Achievement

Pass is equivalent to 4 GCSEs at grade C,
Merit is equivalent to 4 GCSEs at grade B,
Distinction is equivalent to 4 GCSEs
at grade A.

What will I learn?

- How businesses work and develop in the public and private sectors.
- How businesses are financed.
- To prepare for employment or self-employment.
- To develop interpersonal and problem solving skills through team work and work experience.
- Business experience.
- Customer services.
- How to organise time and work to meet deadlines.

How will it be assessed?

You will need to produce course work for 6 units. There are no exams. Your teacher will assess your work for all units and this will be moderated by the exam board.

Where will it lead?

Applied GCE, A Level, trainee apprenticeships in the world of business and commerce.



OCR National Level 2 in Health and Social Care

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade E or above, including a grade D in either English or Mathematics.

Length of Course:

One year. The course includes a compulsory one day a week work experience placement at a Health or Social Care establishment.

Achievement

On successful completion of the course, the student will gain the equivalent of GCSEs at Pass, Merit or Distinction.

What will I learn?

Students will learn to develop the skills necessary to work with service users in the context of Health and Social Care establishments.

Students will gain experience in working with a chosen service provider through the weekly work experience placement.

The units studied will be

- Preparing to give quality care
- Communicating with service users in care settings
- Practical caring
- Hygiene and safety in care settings
- Development and care of young children
- Preparing to work with young children

How will I be assessed?

Students must complete the six units to a Pass standard to obtain the full qualification. There are no external examinations or tests. Students have to produce individual portfolio evidence which is regularly assessed by the class tutor and this work is then externally moderated by the OCR examinations board. The portfolio evidence demands a great deal of role play and requires the use of I.C.T skills but there are also lots of opportunities for the students to use their creativity in deciding on a format for presenting their evidence.

Students can complete 3 compulsory units to be accredited for half the qualification - they will achieve a certificate for each unit passed.

Where will it lead?

The course will provide the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to start work either in the Health and Social Care sector or to progress on to further study and is therefore suited to individuals aged 16+. It will provide the student with a good basis for further training to enable them to move on to NVQs or modern apprenticeships.

A Level: Art and Design.

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at Grade C or above. Art and English preferred.

The best foundation for success in AS and A Level Art is a good grade at GCSE. However, if you have an aptitude for the subject, if you are creative or 'good at drawing', you may have the basic skills to succeed. If you do not have GCSE Art, you may be asked to take a drawing test at the start of the course.

Length of Course:

You will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within art, together with the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using art, craft and design. You will also develop critical/contextual understanding of the subject.

How will I be assessed?

Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

Two units must be completed. All work produced is assessed and entered.

Unit1: Art and Design Coursework – including critical/contextual studies. 60% of the AS or 30% of the A Level.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment, 40% of AS, including critical contextual studies, 20% of A Level.

This is the first half of the A Level course.

If you and your teacher agree that it is best for you, you can take the AS Level on its own. Or you can decide at the end of the AS course to continue in order to achieve the full A Level qualification.

Advanced Level (A2)

The full A Level qualification is made up of the two AS units as above, plus two more units studied at a higher level.

Unit 3: Art and Design coursework (practical work and personal study) 30% of A Level.

Unit 4: Externally set assignment (exploratory studies and personal study) 30% of A Level.

Where will it lead?

There are many careers in art, craft and design. Most of these require further study at an art school, further education college or university. At present most students wishing to take art, craft or design further will go on to do a one year Foundation course at an art college or college of further education, before applying to degree courses in more specialist areas of art and design, e.g. fine art, media, fashion, graphics, illustration, advertising, product design, animation and many more.



A Level: Biology

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at Grade C or above to include modular, balanced or separate sciences including Biology. Students must have Maths and English Grade C.

What will I learn?

Biology at AS and A Level will enable you to acquire a systematic body of biological knowledge and an appreciation of its significance. It can provide you with enjoyment and respect for all living things. It visits exciting areas of contemporary Biology such as the influence of genes, environmental issues and aspects of human health. It is hoped that this course will help you to gain some understanding of the dynamic and exciting nature of Biology today.

Examination Board:

OCR

Areas of Study:

The syllabus is divided into 4 sections. Two units will be studied in Year 12 (AS level) and two in Year 13 (A2 content leading to a full A Level).

AS topics include:

Cells, Exchange and Transports – includes cell structure, cell division, enzymes and transport systems in animals and plants.

Molecules, Biodiversity and Human Interactions - looks at biological molecules, enzymes, classification, variation and adaptation and human interactions.

A2 topics include:

Communication, Homeostasis and Energy looks in detail at photosynthesis, respiration, communication, excretion and hormones.

Control, Genomes and Environment includes cellular control, biotechnology, ecosystems and responding to the environment.

How will I be assessed?

The four units (two at AS and two at A2) are externally assessed through written examinations.

Two practical skills assessments (one at AS and one at A2) are internally assessed.

Exams will be taken in January and June for both AS and A Level.

Where will it lead?

A Level biology is accepted as a qualifying subject for entry into degree courses specialising in pure and applied science and more vocational courses leading to a career in medicine, veterinary science, animal health, horticulture, agriculture, pharmacy, environmental sciences and many more.

Advanced GCE: Applied Business

Entry Requirements:

Advanced

4 GCSEs at grade C or above in English, Mathematics and two others.

Length of Course:

A level Single Award – two years
AS Single Award – one year

Achievement

Advanced GCE (Single Award) –
equivalent to 1 A level at grade A-E
AS (Single Award) –
equivalent to 1 AS level at grade A-E

What will I learn?

- How businesses are organised, structured, financed and operated
- The nature of competitive business environment
- Develop ICT skills and understand the impact of ICT on businesses
- To develop interpersonal and problem solving skills through team work
- Human resources and recruitment and selection processes for job applications
- How businesses use marketing

How will it be assessed?

Advanced GCE (Single Award) (6 units) – Produce coursework for 4 units. Two further units will be externally tested.

AS (Single Award) (3 units) – Produce coursework for Units 1 & 2 and Units 3 is externally tested.

Where will it lead?

The course may serve as an entry to continued study of Business at university level, or as a preparation for a career in management, administration, marketing and similar occupations.



A Level: Business Studies

A/AS Level:

Business Studies

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at a grade C or above in English, Mathematics and two others.

Length of Course:

AS - one year
A2 – one year

Achievement:

You can achieve from A*-E

What will I learn?

AS level Business Studies cover the following areas:

1. The nature and dimension of business activity
2. The elements of business activity
3. Structure and internal organisation of business activity
4. External influences on business activity
5. The management of business activity.

How will I be assessed?

AS level

1 hour exam for unit 1=20%
2 hour exam for Unit 2=30%

A2 level

2 hour exam for optional Unit=20%
2 hour final paper=30%

Where will it lead?

Both A/AS courses may serve as an entry to continued study of business at university level, or as a preparation for a career in management, administration, marketing and similar occupations.

A Level: Chemistry

Entry Requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements, GCSE grades A-C in English Language and Mathematics and 2Cs in GCSE Double Science or a C grade in Chemistry are required to study AS Chemistry. To proceed onto the A2 course, you will need to attain at least an overall grade E in the AS units.

What will I learn?

You will gain an insight into the many ways Chemistry is used and the work that chemists do. This will involve looking into new and exciting developments such as the replacement of petrol with hydrogen to fuel cars and the production of new medicines. We frequently attend lectures organised by the West Midlands Chemistry Teachers' Centre at Birmingham University. Some students attend the Medlink residential workshops ...at Nottingham University for prospective medical students.

What will I study?

The following units will be studied in the AS year:

F331: Chemistry of Life

- The Elements of Life
- Developing Fuels

F332: Chemistry of Natural Resources

- Elements from the Sea
- The Atmosphere
- The Polymer Revolution

The following units will be studied in the A2 year:

F334: Chemistry in Materials

- What is Medicine?
- The Materials Revolution
- The Thread of Life
- The Steel Story

F335: Chemistry by Design

- Agriculture and Industry
- Colour by Design
- The Oceans
- Medicines by Design

How will I be assessed?

AS

Assessment will consist of two written papers, including an advanced notification question and an internal assessment of five skills over a range of different practical skills.

A2

Assessment will consist of two written papers and an individual investigation.

What qualification will I get?

AS Chemistry Salters (OCR) after the first year of study, A level Chemistry after the second year of study.

What can I do after the course?

Most of our A level students progress to Higher Education, although there is an option to choose employment directly on leaving our sixth form.



A Level: Design & Technology - Product Design

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at Grade C or above including English, Maths, Design and Technology plus one other subject.

What will I learn?

The course is designed to allow students to study, propose and make prototype solutions to design problems closely linked to the real world of Product Design and Manufacture in range of different material areas.

Students are encouraged to:

- initiate design solution, develop, test and trial working models and prototypes;
- develop and sustain imagination, innovation and flair when working with concepts and materials;
- develop an understanding of contemporary design and consider the use of new technologies and modern materials;
- develop thinking skills, financial capability, enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

How will I be assessed?

AS (Year 12) - 2 Units

Unit F521: Advanced Innovation Challenge - students take part in a timed challenge based on a pre-released theme under exam conditions. A written reflection paper is completed at a later date. The challenge and reflection paper are marked externally by the exam board.

(40% of AS or 20% of total A level)

Unit F522: Product Study -

students undertake an in-depth Product Analysis resulting in suggestions for improvement to a product of the students' own choice. This is a coursework component that is marked by the teacher and externally moderated by the exam board.

(60% of AS or 30% of total A level)

A2 (Year 13) - 2 Units

Unit F523: Design, Make & Evaluate -

students produce a design portfolio and make a product to solve a specific design problem. This is a coursework component that is marked by the teacher and externally moderated by the exam board.

(30% of total A level)

Unit F524: Product Design -

this is a written exam paper consisting of two components. Students have a choice of questions and marked externally by the exam board.

(20% of total A level)

Where could it lead?

Design and Technology: Product Design is a qualifying subject for a whole range of Degree Courses at Universities including Product Design, 3D Design, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Manufacturing, Teaching and many more.

Its is also widely accepted and valued by many employers who understand that the skills needed for this A-Level are essential in many other careers and industries.

A Level: English Literature (WJEC)

Entry Requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above with a grade B in both English and English Literature preferred. Candidates with grade Cs will be considered.

What will I learn?

LT1: Introduction to Poetry and Drama
LT2: Prose Study & Creative Reading
LT3: Period and Genre Study
LT4: Shakespeare and Poetry in Context

How will I be assessed?

Year 1

LT1 30% 2 1/2 hour Written Paper (open text)
75 marks (120 UMS)
Introduction to Poetry and Drama
Section A: Poetry post-1900
Two texts: choice of 1 from 2 questions
(50 marks)
Section B: Drama post-1990
One text: choice of 1 from 2 questions
(25 marks)

LT2 20% Internal Assessment
100 marks (80 UMS)
Prose Study & Creative Reading
Section A: Prose Study 1800-1945
Two texts: one piece of extended writing
(75 marks)
Section B: Creative Reading
One text: one piece of extended creative writing in response to any literary genre
(25 marks)

Year 2

LT3 20% Internal Assessment
50 marks (80 UMS)
Period and Genre Study
3 texts: one piece of extended writing on texts from different periods and genres, including poetry and prose (50 marks)

LT4 30% 2 1/2 hour Written Paper (closed text)
75 marks (120 UMS)
Shakespeare and Poetry in Context
Section A: Shakespeare and Related Drama
Two texts: choice of 1 from 2 questions
(50 marks)
Section B: Poetry pre-1800
One text: choice of 1 from 2 questions
(25 marks)

Where will it lead?

A Level English Literature is accepted as a qualifying subject for many degree courses and would be of relevance to many courses including Law and Business, the media and the caring industry, e.g. social work and probation services.



A level: Design & Technology: Food Product Design OCR

(This course is being provisionally advertised and in the first instance AS level only will be offered.)

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above which must include Maths, English, Food Technology and one other subject.

What will I learn?

The course will broaden candidates' knowledge of designing, generating ideas, planning, product development, manufacture, environmental issues, nutrition and health and safety.

Core

Marking skills will be advanced in addition to learning about manufacturing systems – testing, evaluating and industrial and commercial practices. The course also addresses methods of ICT and opportunities for key skills, the use of digital technology in designing and manufacturing processes, commercial practice, legislation and the Health and Safety of designers, makers and the public.

Food

Nutrients, sensory characteristics of food, working characteristics of a range of materials and components will be studied, as will the principles of preparation and prolonging the shelf life of food products.

How will I be assessed?

From September 2008 the OCR AS GCE is made up of TWO mandatory units which form 50% of the corresponding FOUR unit Advanced GCE.

Unit one – 8 hour design challenge.
Unit two – Project coursework.

Where will it lead?

The course covers many diverse topics that lead to a wide variety of careers and degrees. It is particularly useful for anyone hoping to work in environmental services, health services, food industry, advertising and education.

The University College Birmingham offers degree courses enabling students to do a PGCE and teach, alternatively students might enter industry in food marketing, hotel management or work for a major supermarket in product development.

N.B. Please note the course content may change for September 2008 as other new syllabi are currently being reviewed.

A Level: Geography

Entry Requirements:

Students will need to have obtained 4 GCSEs at grade C or above to include Geography.

What will I learn?

Students will develop:

- A greater knowledge and understanding of the rapidly changing world around them.
- An appreciation of the dynamic nature of geography both in time and space.
- A knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts, theories and principles.
- An awareness of the role of values and attitudes in geographical decision making processes.
- A variety of skills and techniques for the analysis and interpretation of data.
- An appreciation of environmental issues and the interactions between human activity and the physical environment.
- Opportunity to conduct fieldwork during both residential and non-residential visits.

How will I be assessed?

For examination in 2010

AS level = 2 examination papers (Physical and Human Geography, Applied Geography)

A2 = 2 examination paper (Contemporary Geographical Issues, Fieldwork Investigation)

Exams can be taken in January or June.

Where will it lead?

A Geography A Level is highly regarded by universities for students who wish to study: law, business/marketing and sales management, environmental sciences, social sciences. Geography is a respected subject for students wanting to pursue careers in environmental management, housing/town planning, social work, teaching, armed forces, local authority work, emergency services, local government, civil service and many others.



Which Course?

A Level: History

Entry requirements:

4 GCSE - grade C or above including English.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: The expansion and Challenge of Nationalism

The Collapse of the Liberal State and the Triumph of Fascism in Italy, 1896-1943

- Weaknesses of the political system and attempts to stabilise it from 1903 under Giolitti; social discontent and political disorder, 1896-1912.
- The impact of World War 1 on Italy and its impact on the Liberal state, 1918-23: Mussolini and the message and appeal of Fascism, 1919-22.
- Power and control in Fascist Italy: propaganda; terror; the PNF (Partito Nazionale Fascista); the relationship of the regime with the Church and the old elites.
- Building the new Roman Empire: Abyssinia, Spain and Italy's diplomatic and military preparations for war, 1933-41

The Middle East, 1945-2001: The State of Israel and Arab Nationalism

- The situation in Palestine in 1945: the impact of Jewish guerrilla and terrorist groups; the end of the British mandate; UN plans for separate Arab and Israeli states; the foundation of an independent Israel in 1948.
- The significance of Arab reaction to the establishment of an independent Israel and to immigration into Israel to 1973: reasons for, and outcomes of Arab-Israeli conflicts to 1973.
- The rise of Nationalism in Egypt and Syria: the role of Nasser establishment of a United Arab Republic and reasons for its failure; tensions within and between Arab States; secular modernisers versus militant Islam; Shia and Sunni Muslims; the growth of militant Islam in Iran; the significance of the Iranian Revolution in 1979.
- Arab Nationalism in the 1980s and 1990s: reasons for, and outcomes of, the Iraq-Iran and Gulf Wars; reasons for, and significance of, the growth in Islamic Fundamentalism.

Unit 2: The British Empire Challenge Britain and Ireland, 1867-1922

- The challenge of nationalism, 1867-85: agricultural depression; land reform; violence; the roles and importance of Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart

Parnell; land registration and the response to Nationalist activity.

- Home Rule objectives and unionist response in Britain, 1886-1914: Gladstone's conversion to Home Rule and impact of Home Rule on UK politics; Parnell's leadership and fall; impact of Home Rule on British politics, 1903-14.
- Divisions within Ireland on Home Rule and independence, 1886-1914: the emergence and significance of Sinn Fein and Unionism; the roles of Arthur Griffith and Edward Carson.
- The parting of the ways, 1916-22: Irish response to the First World War: the Easter Rising; proposals for independence and the division of Ireland; the roles of Lloyd George, Michael Collins and Eamonn De Valera; the Government of Ireland Act of 1922 and the creation of the Irish Free State.

A2 History

A2 History is divided into two units:

Unit 3: The Challenge of Fascism From Kaiser to Führer: Germany, 1900-45

- The Second Reich – society and government in Germany, c 1900-1919: economic expansion; political and social tensions; the impact of World War 1.
- The democratic experiment, 1919-29: crises and survival 1919-24; Stresemann and recovery; the 'Golden Years' of the Weimar Republic; Weimar culture.
- The rise of the Nazis: origins to 1928; impact of the slump in town and country, 1928-33 growing support coming to power.
- Life in wartime Germany 1939-45: opposition and conformity; persecution of the Jews and the development of the idea of the 'Final Solution'; the efficiency of the war economy.

Associated Controversies

- To what extent was Germany responsible for the outbreak of the First World War?
- How popular and efficient was the Nazi regime in the years 1933-39?

Unit 4: Coursework Medieval Medicine, c1000-c1650

Where will it lead?

History is a subject which develops skills of communication, research and analysis which can be put to use in a wide variety of careers. It is highly regarded as a qualification for entry into degree courses. History combines well with options in Languages, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, English, Law and Sociology.

ICT Practitioners BTEC National Award

The BTEC Level 3 National Award, Certificates and Diplomas for IT Practitioners are designed to provide a springboard to a university degree in an appropriate vocational discipline, or - for those working in the sector - to BTEC Higher National Qualification (HNCs and HNDs) or Foundation Degrees, or to employment.

School/Department:

Small Health Sixth Form Centre/ICT

Study Mode: Full time

Course Level: Level 3

Course Duration: Two years

Course Description?

The BTEC National Award for IT Practitioners Level 3 provides a full time course of study for those who wish to prepare for entry into employment, or apply for a place at university to study for a degree, Foundation Degree or HND. The course is equivalent to one A level.

What will I learn?

Students are required to study 6 units over two years, three in the first year and three in the second.

Core Units (2):

Communication and Employability Skills for IT
Computer Systems

Specialist Units (4):

Advanced Spreadsheet Skills
Website Production and Management
Digital Graphics and Computers
e-Commerce

For more detail about the unit specification, see the Edexcel website
www.edexcel.org.uk

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above including Maths and English or an equivalent Level 2 qualification (BTEC First Diploma).

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by coursework assignments, internally marked and externally moderated. Students are set deadlines for completion of coursework.

Where will it lead?

Academic Progression:

Study for a degree or a Foundation Degree at university.

Career Progression:

Obtain a job in computing or business IT. A wide range of employment and career opportunities exists within the industry, including networking, software development, product management, programming and telematics.



Applied A Level: Information and Communication Technology

Entry Requirements:

Students will need to have:

- A minimum of 4 GCSEs – grade C or above including English and Maths.
- The ability to read independently for many hours.
- An interest in ICT with good word processing and modelling/spreadsheet skills.

What will I learn?

This Course is very demanding and requires good time management. It offers you the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding which prepare you for higher education or employment in many ICT-related fields. You will develop a broad background in ICT as the units are very diverse.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of 6 units in total, three units in the first year and three units in the second year. Two of the units in the first year are internally assessed and one is externally assessed.

Where will it lead?

The programme allows you to gain practical skills in ICT in preparation for employment or further study such as Higher National Diplomas and degrees. This qualification attracts UCAS points in the same way as other A Levels.

Which Course?

A Level: Mathematics

Entry requirements:

Students should have a grade B or higher at GCSE level.

What will I learn?

You will be taught a variety of mathematical techniques, e.g. calculus, applied mathematics, geometry and trigonometry.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by six formal examinations. There will be three module exams during the first year. One of these modules, statistics, may have an element of coursework.

Three further modules will be taken in the second year, including mechanics which may have a coursework element.

Where will it lead?

An A Level qualification in Mathematics is very adaptable. You can go on to university to study Mathematics or other applied Mathematical disciplines, e.g. engineering, statistics, medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

Equally, some employers recruit A Level mathematics students because of their potential to apply their problem solving skills in industry.

It is a little known fact that mathematics graduates are the highest paid graduates.



A Level: Media Studies

Entry Requirements:

Grade C in English Language GCSE, and preferably a grade C in English Literature GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Two units at AS Level (Examination and practical production/coursework)
Two units at A2 level

AS Level

Unit 1: MS1 25% (50%) External Assessment: 2 - hours Written Paper Media Representations and Responses

Three compulsory questions, including one question on unseen audio-visual or print-based material (digital media will be presented as print-based) (40, 30 & 30).

Unit 2: MS2 25% (50%) Internal Assessment Media Production Processes

Three components: one pre-production (20); one production which develops from the preproduction (40); and one report on the production process (40) (Group work permitted for audio-visual productions only.)

A2 Level

Unit 3: MS3 25% Internal Assessment Media Investigation & Production

Three components: a written investigation into media text(s) based on one or more of the key media concepts – genre, narrative and/or representation (45); a media production (45); and an evaluation into how the production is informed by the investigative research (10). (Group work permitted for audio-visual productions only.)

Unit 4: MS4 25% External Assessment: 2 - hour Written Paper Media – Text, Industry and Audience

Three compulsory questions (30 marks per question). Candidates must answer each question on a different media industry.

Where will it lead?

A Level Media Studies is accepted as a qualifying subject for many degree courses and would be of relevance to students seeking a career in the media and creative arts industries.

A Level: Modern Languages Bengali, French, Urdu

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above, preferably with at least grade B in the chosen language.

What will I learn?

A range of practical skills to enable you to understand and communicate in written and spoken language. You will also develop an understanding and awareness of the cultural, social, economic, commercial and political background of countries where the language is spoken.

How will I be assessed?

After one year for AS level and then after a second year at A2 Level:

By an oral paper and written papers in reading, writing and listening skills where, as far as possible, only the target language is used to assess the quality of communication, accuracy and content.

Visits to the Target Language Country could also be part of your learning.

Where will I it lead?

Your training to be a better communicator will make you a valuable asset in all sorts of careers which are not necessarily or obviously connected with using foreign languages. You might choose to capitalise on your skills and look for employment after your A levels or you might choose to follow a degree course. An A Level modern language is accepted as a qualifying subject for a wide range of degree courses.

A modern languages degree can lead to a successful career in such professions as: translator/interpreter, teaching, business executive.

Employers will often be willing to pay 20% more for your language skills.



A Level: Physics

Entry Requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above, at least 2 of which must be in Modular Science or Separate Science. It is recommended that students also have Maths and English to GCSE grade C standard, although grade B in Science and Maths are preferable. Some of the skills and subject content are also covered in A level Mathematics and it would benefit students greatly to choose both subjects together, though this is not compulsory.

Choosing Physics?

Physics is a demanding subject, which should not be chosen lightly. While the rewards of passing are very valuable, consistent personal study will be required throughout the course to complement the lessons

What will I learn?

As in the new GCSE, the advanced level course offers a variety of learning styles to suit all pupils. The context approach allows students to learn about advanced Physics through studying the operation of sports science, satellite technology, digital communications, astrophysics and avionics, for example. The course is designed to follow on from the Edexcel GCSE scheme which the school is now teaching.

There will be plenty of opportunity for practical work, web-based research and individual support as well as class centred learning. By studying Physics in the context of modern technology, the course can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all.

How will I be assessed?

This two-year course is grouped into 6 units: Physics on the Go, Physics at Work, Exploring Physics, Physics on the Move, Physics from Creation to Collapse and Experimental Physics.

Advanced level Physics is a valuable qualification for many professions, including engineering, electronics, radiography, music technology and more.

The subject is continuously assessed, with half the marks being gained in the first year (AS level) and half in the second year (A2). The two examinations in each year are assessed externally, making up 80% of the marks but the remaining 20% for practical work is assessed internally, 10% in each year.

Where will it lead?

Physics and Mathematics are excellent combination for students interested in studying engineering, accountancy, astronomy and other physical sciences. Physics & Chemistry is a good combination for students wishing to study Materials Science and modern Atomic/Particle Physics courses. Physics and Biology is a very useful combination for students wishing to enter Medicine, Radiography or Sports Science.

A Level: Psychology

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above. One of these must be in Mathematics because statistics are involved in the A2 course.

What will I learn?

You will analyse human and animal behaviour to find out why people act in certain ways.

AS Topics that will be covered include:

Unit 1:

- Cognitive Psychology – memory & eyewitness testimony
- Development Psychology – early social development, attachment & day care
- Research methods – in context of topic areas

Unit 2:

- Biological Psychology – stress, factors influencing stress & coping with stress
- Social Psychology – majority & minority influence, obedience & behaviour

A2 Topics that will be covered include:

Unit 3

- Relationships
- Aggression
- Eating behaviour

Unit 4

- Psychopathology - knowledge and understanding of models, classification, diagnoses and therapies in relation to schizophrenia.
- Psychology in action - contemporary issue: Media psychology

How will I be assessed?

A/S – 2 written papers.
A2 – 2 written papers.

Where will I it lead?

It is particularly valued by employers such as the police force, education, medicine, advertising, social work, sports psychology, counselling and personnel management.



Which Course?

A Level: Religious Studies

Entry Requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above. Religious Studies GCSE is preferable but not essential

What will I learn?

Religious Studies includes an in depth study of Islam, including the history, beliefs and practices and how they affect the way modern Muslims lead their lives. There is also some Qu'ranic study. For the second area of assessment students will be able to study Religious Ethics which examines how we decide what is right and wrong and how religious beliefs affect these decisions. Those decisions will then be applied to actual situations.

How will I be assessed?

Candidates will take two units for AS level followed by a further two units at A2 if they are seeking a full A level certificate. Assessment is by written examination for each unit.

Where will it lead?

Religious Studies is accepted by Universities on an equal basis with any other subject. It is particularly useful for anyone hoping to work in a multi-cultural environment e.g. nursing, teaching, childcare, social work, psychology, personnel management, police and media.

A Level: Sociology

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above. It is preferred if one of these is a humanities subject. English Language is necessary as a great deal reading and essay writing is required.

What will I learn?

You will learn how and why individuals behave in relation to social institutions in society.

A/S Topics that will be covered include:

Unit 1

- Explaining structural changes within the family
- Theoretical views on the family
- The social construction of childhood & gender roles within the family

Unit 2

- The role of education in post industrial society
- Theoretical views on education
- Explaining educational achievements of various social groups
- Research methods and methodology

A2 Topics that will be covered include:

Unit 3

- Beliefs in society
- The nature of religious beliefs in post industrial society
- The secularisation debate
- Cults, sects and new religious movements

Unit 4:

- Crime and deviance
- Are criminals born or made?
- The role of crime and deviance in contemporary society
- Crime, social class, gender and ethnicity
- Suicide

How will I be assessed?

A/S – Papers: 2 written papers.

A2 – Papers: 2 written papers.

Where will I it lead?

A Level Sociology is accepted as a qualifying subject for many degree courses. Sociology is valued by a range of employers including: advertising, police force, teaching, local government, social work, marketing, human resources and personnel management.



Which Course?

A Level: Statistics

Entry Requirements:

Students will need a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade C or above, which must include Mathematics

What will I learn?

A variety of statistical techniques and presentation of data will be covered. Probability is a large part of the course.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a combination of 6 modules and examinations.

The first 3 will be after one year at AS Level. The first module has a coursework element.

In order to obtain the full A level you will need to complete the A2 course consisting of a further 3 modules.

Where will it lead?

An A level in Statistics is very adaptable. Most degree courses involve the use of statistics. It is very useful for sociology and biology.

Statistics is also very useful in industry, as students with a background in statistics are valued for their ability to apply their skills to problems encountered in the workplace.

In the 21st century, data and information and their use can be very powerful.

Which Course?

A Level: Art & Design Textiles

Entry requirements:

4 GCSEs at grade C or above to include English and Art and Textiles Technology.

The best foundation for success in A Level Art/Textiles is a good grade at GCSE level. However, if you have a passion for the subject and enjoy working independently you may have the potential to succeed. You will have to provide evidence of your abilities.

What will I learn?

Students will explore a range of stimulating media, covering surface manipulation, embroidery and printed textiles. Students will also develop skills to express their ideas through a textile medium.

How will I be assessed?

AS

Unit 1: Thematic Project.

Exam: 8 hours of unaided work

A2

Unit 2: Expressive Study

Unit 3: Untextual Study

Exam: 12 hours of unaided work

Where will it lead?

There are many different job opportunities available through completing this course. They range from: interior textile designer, fashion designer, buyer for fashion and interior fabrics, trend predictor, colour forecaster, fabric printer, constructed designer, theatrical designer, textile engineering, material technology, marketing of textiles, computer aided design, shop management. Most of these job opportunities will require further study at an art school or university.

Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for the creative and enthusiastic student.

