Salvatorian Sixth Form

Course Guide

"Students across the sixth form make excellent progress through the curriculum from their starting points. They access a wide range of experiences, including sports, enrichment and work experience, which strengthens their confidence and readiness for the future."
Ofsted 2026

Welcome

It is my great privilege, as Head of Sixth Form, to welcome you to this exciting stage of your educational journey. Sixth Form is about far more than choosing subjects and preparing for examinations. It is a time of personal growth, where you will develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed at university, in apprenticeships and beyond. It is also an opportunity to discover your strengths, embrace new challenges and prepare for your future.

At the heart of our Sixth Form is a commitment to academic excellence, personal development and our Catholic values. We strive to create an environment where every young man is known, valued and encouraged to achieve his full potential. Inspired by the Gospel, we seek to nurture young men of integrity, compassion, resilience and service.

Our students are encouraged to aim high in everything they do. Alongside outstanding teaching and a wide range of A Level and vocational courses, we offer opportunities to develop leadership, participate in enrichment activities and contribute to the wider school community.

As senior members of the school, Sixth Form students are role models for younger pupils. We expect them to lead by example, showing respect, kindness and maturity while helping to strengthen the sense of community that defines our school.

Our dedicated Sixth Form team is committed to supporting every student. Through personalised guidance, excellent pastoral care and expert careers advice, we help each young man achieve his ambitions, whatever pathway he chooses after Sixth Form.

This course guide will help you explore the opportunities available and make informed choices about your future. I encourage you to choose subjects that both inspire and challenge you, opening doors to the future you wish to create.

We look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form community and supporting you as you grow academically, spiritually and personally. Together, we will help you fulfil your potential and become the young man God calls you to be.

I wish you every success as you begin this exciting chapter.

Mrs D Williams

Entry Requirements

A Level

For progression to A Level from GCSE, students should have a minimum of five 9-4 grades at GCSE in five different subjects including English Language and Mathematics. Those who are yet to achieve a grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Mathematics will need to retake these subjects.

COURSE	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
ART AND DESIGN	Grade 5 in Art. Candidates may also be considered on the basis of a strong portfolio
BIOLOGY	Grade 6 in two sciences and Grade 6 in Mathematics
BUSINESS STUDIES	Grade 5 in Mathematics. Business Studies desirable
CHEMISTRY	Grade 6 in two sciences and Grade 6 in Mathematics
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Grade 6 in Mathematics. Grade 7 in Computer Science is desirable
DESIGN: 3D STUDIES	Grade 5 in 3D. Candidates may also be considered on the basis of a strong portfolio
DRAMA	Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 4 in English Literature. Drama desirable
ECONOMICS	Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature
EPQ	Grade 5 in English Language and Maths. Grade 5 average GCSE grade
FRENCH	Grade 6 in French
GEOGRAPHY	Grade 6 in Geography and Grade 4 in English Language
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Grade 5 in Graphics. Candidates may also be considered on the basis of a strong portfolio
HISTORY	Grade 5 in History and Grade 4 in English Language
MATHEMATICS	Grade 7 in Mathematics
MATHS, FURTHER	Grade 8 in Mathematics
MEDIA STUDIES	Grade 5 in English Language
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Grade 5 in Physical Education
PHYSICS	Grade 6 in two sciences and Grade 6 in Mathematics
POLITICS	Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics.
PSYCHOLOGY	Grade 5 in Mathematics and two sciences
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Grade 5 in RE. Grade 4 in English Language
SOCIOLOGY	Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics
SPANISH	Grade 6 in Spanish

Level 3 Vocational Courses

For progression to BTEC Level 3 Vocational Courses from GCSE, students must have a minimum of four 9-4 grades at GCSE or passes at BTEC Level 2. Those who are yet to achieve a grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Mathematics will need to retake these subjects.

COURSE	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
MEDICAL SCIENCE BTEC	Grade 4 in Science, English and Mathematics
BUSINESS STUDIES BTEC	Grade 4 in English Language or Mathematics
MUSIC BTEC	Equivalent of grade 3 in performing their instrument. Music desirable
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BTEC	Grade 4 in English Language or Mathematics

Art & Design: Fine Art

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

The course content gives support and opportunities to develop your independence and creativity. The curriculum is designed to support students wishing to study creative courses after Sixth Form, on to high level professional status in the Creative Arts.

At the end of your A Level you are prepared for university-style education. You will gain independence, knowledge, confidence and a strong range of transferable skills including:

- Research – collecting, analysing and using materials.
- Problem solving – taking risks to solve problems in creative ways.
- Communication – communicating ideas through drawing, painting, sculpture, writing and presentations.
- Independence – self-motivation, self-expression, coming up with you own ideas.
- Organisation – keeping focused on task, persevering and meeting deadlines.
- Evaluation – reflecting on work, learning from criticisms and thinking about how to improve.
- Teamwork – collaborating with others on projects.
- Creative Thinking – being imaginative, original and open to new ideas.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE Art.

Course description

Component 1:

- Personal Investigation
- 96 marks, 60% of the A Level

For component 1, students are required to conduct a practical investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Component 2:

- Externally-set Assignment
- 96 marks, 40% of the A Level

For component 2, students will select their own starting point from a list of 8 possible options, and then develop preparatory work that culminates in 15 hours of supervised time to produce a finished outcome.

Enrichment opportunities

Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to attend exhibitions, external Art and Design workshops and events and prospects to work with our creative partners and external agents such as the National Saturday School programme, Westminster Creative Collective, Saatchi Gallery, Arts Emergency Mentoring Programme and Arts in Action events, to enrich knowledge of the diversity and range of the subject area and allow for collaboration.

Future pathways

Careers using creative skills include animation, fine art, fashion design, graphic design, illustration, photography, print making, architecture, interior design, game design and product design, arts administration, art teacher, art/fashion critique, art journalism, museum or gallery curator, photography, photojournalism and textiles.

Design: 3-Dimensional Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

Everything we see, touch and interact with has been designed. Play a role in shaping the future of mankind. You will be involved in designing, creating, and solving problems in order to meet functional and aesthetic needs. The emphasis is on learning how and why products are designed and made, and how you as a designer can make improvements.

If you like the idea of designing using freehand drawing as well as computer-generated techniques, and you want to make products using a variety of resistant materials then this is the course for you.

In your first year, you will develop your designing, sketching, CAD, and making capabilities through a series of short projects and activities culminating in your own personal projects.

In your first term you will rotate through a variety of short projects, each developing your skills and techniques in the following areas:

- Sketching/Drawing, CAD Software, Workshop, Designing, Modelling and Prototyping, Research In your second term, you will move on to your own extended project work. You will undertake a personal study of designers or design movements, as well as complete a series of short projects, together with an extended project of your own choosing. In your final period, you will also complete a project set by the exam board in response to their theme.

If you enjoy working with resistant materials such as wood, metals, and plastics and have an interest in architecture, Product and furniture design then this is the course for you!

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 or above in GCSE 3D Design/ Design Technology. Fine Art applicants may be considered with a strong portfolio.

Course description

This is a 100% coursework-assessed A Level subject, which prepares you degree level learning in similar design degrees.

Component	Assessment Method	%
Coursework	Own projects, Personal study	60%
Exam project	Externally-set assignment, External set component, Own project choice	40%

Enrichment opportunities

In 3D Design, you will enjoy University of the Arts webinars, and portfolio support for interview. There will be trips to the Design Museum and to Architectural hotspots across the city of London. There will be a workshop with the Design Museum and a day of drawing day at the Victoria & Albert Museum. There will also be opportunities to connect and work with Architectural firms and product designers. We also have links with UAL, University of the Arts London, and Mr James is happy to help you with your UCAS application, portfolio review and interview practice.

Future pathways

This course is highly regarded by the universities as an excellent foundation for degree study in any design field. However, it is particularly useful to those of you considering architecture, engineering, furniture, interior design, theatre design, industrial and product design.

Many students who complete this course nationally have gone onto study Product Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Engineering, Architectural and Interface Design at University.

Biology

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

- Strong exams focus so you learn how to apply your knowledge to the context of the question. ·
- The opportunity to attend lectures and trips with selective focuses.
- Detailed and diagnostic feedback for your work.
- Revision sessions to further aid your understanding over topics with a focus on exam techniques.
- Excellent resources available: a range of textbooks and revision guides.
- Support and guidance for medicine / UCAS applicants.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 66 in Combined GCSE Science, and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Course description

In AS year, you will cover the core principles of the course, starting with the biological molecules essential for life, cells and cellular transport, exchange systems, genetics, DNA and biodiversity.

In A2 you extend it further, studying the principles of energy transfers in organisms, how the nervous system functions, how muscles work, genetics and inheritance, cancer, stem cells and genetic technologies.

Interwoven within the lesson sequences are core required practical's that allow you the opportunity to develop your laboratory skills and enjoy investigating the principles that you have studied. Some of the practical topics covered include osmosis, diffusion, dissections of hearts, fish and insects, photosynthesis, respiration, animal behaviour, sampling populations, bacterial growth, glucose urine levels, as well as many more.

You will be taught key numerical and working scientifically skills to prepare for the exam. Students are given lots of exam practice.

Enrichment opportunities

You will get to go on several biology-focused trips to leading research institutions including the Francis Crick Institute and the Welcome Collection. As part of the course, you are enrolled onto an online lecture series delivered by Royal Holloway University.

Future pathways

Biology would be needed for further study or careers in the fields of zoology, botany, veterinary work, physiotherapy, nursing, environmental science, genetics and Medicine. Other career pathways include research at a university and industry or careers in healthcare and many more. The study of Biology can also lead to a variety of other careers, not necessarily involving further study of science.

Business Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

Throughout the two-year A Level course, you will learn many different topics related to the business industry. These topics will enhance understanding of how businesses operate and is suitable to those who wish to study Business at university or pursue a related career. There are many related degrees such as Law, Economics, Accounting and Finance.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English.

Course description

This is a two-year course with examinations taking place at the end of the second year. You will complete assessments at the end of each topic. Students will learn about:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership, and decision making
- Decision-making to improve marketing performance
- Decision-making to improve operational performance
- Decision-making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve HR performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change.

Enrichment opportunities

You will have the opportunity to enter the nationally renowned Young Enterprise Award. You will also be exposed to a range of professional speakers from industry. There is Trip to Deloitte to see innovative tech in use in the workplace.

Future pathways

Possible career choices with A Level business studies include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.

Chemistry

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

- Excellent opportunities to carry out practicals and experiments.
- Strong exams focus so you learn how to apply your knowledge to the context of the question.
- Detailed and diagnostic feedback for your work.
- Excellent resources available: a range of textbooks and revision guides

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 66 in Combined GCSE Science, and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Course description

In AS year, you will be introduced to the principles of Chemistry, these revolve around 3 main areas; physical, inorganic and organic Chemistry. These cover Chemical bonding, energetics, equilibria, Halogens, Molecular reactions and pathways and Organic Analysis.

In A2, you will enhance your knowledge from AS, adding in new topics such as Born-Haber Cycles, Transition metals, Aromatic Chemistry, Biochemistry and much more.

You will have hands on experience in practicals to develop laboratory skills and enjoy investigating the principles you have studied. Practical's cover a wide range of the course, looking at synthesis organic products, testing for inorganic and organic substances, purifying substances, redox and acid titrations, as well as many more.

Enrichment opportunities

Multiple enrichment opportunities are provided, which link to the research world and industrial chemistry. You will visit the Royal Institute to attend lectures delivered by expert chemists, alongside the opportunity to attend a L'Oréal chemistry event to learn about chemistry in action.

Future pathways

This course is essential for entry into Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical courses. An A Level in Chemistry is also incredibly valuable for a wide range of other science and engineering courses and is widely accepted for entry into most degrees. Future careers could also involve those in research and industry.

Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

Why study the course?

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of computer science principles, including programming, algorithms and software development. Students gain practical programming experience, enhancing their coding skills and problem-solving abilities. It is highly valued by universities, making it a solid foundation for further study in computer science or related fields. Additionally, the course equips students with transferable skills such as logical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork, which are valuable in various professions.

Moreover, this course encourages creativity, innovation, and exploration of emerging technologies. It prepares students for the ever-evolving field of technology while fostering critical thinking and analytical reasoning, which are highly valuable skills in today's world.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 7 in Computer Science GCSE, Grade 6 in Maths GCSE and Grade 4 in English GCSE.

Course description

During this course, you will need to demonstrate the ability to research different topics and gather and present information to your peers. You will learn how to use a range of software applications effectively including a scripting language and demonstrate the skills needed to participate in the operation and development of real ICT organisations.

Topics covered are:

- Components of a computer
- Data structures
- Systems software
- Boolean algebra
- Software development
- Programming techniques
- Exchanging data.

Enrichment opportunities

The opportunity for online CPD from Isaac Computer Science. You will also be entered for externally provided competitions, for example the prestigious Solve for Tomorrow run by Samsung. You will be guided towards university pathway programmes like Pathway to Bath. All students will have the chance to build their own computer in school and read book beyond the school curriculum like Algorithmic Puzzles by Anany and Maria Levitin.

Future pathways

Many students choose to continue their studies by pursuing a computer science or related degree at a university or college. Students can directly enter the job market in various entry-level positions in the IT industry. Some students may choose to pursue apprenticeship programs, which offer a combination of work-based training and academic study. With all the skills and knowledge gained from this course, it can be used to start one's own tech-related business or venture.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

The Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre Studies course is designed for students with a passion for theatre and performance. It develops critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication – key skills valuable across various careers. This course offers the opportunity to explore the theory and practice of drama, exploring renowned plays, devising original performances, and analysing live theatre. Drama and Theatre Studies not only enriches cultural understanding and self-expression but also builds resilience and adaptability, which are vital life skills.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Course description

The Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre Studies course provides a balance between theoretical analysis and practical performance. It includes three core components:

1. Component 1: Devising (40%)

Students create an original performance piece, inspired by a practitioner or a specific play, reflecting their own ideas and creativity. Alongside the performance, they develop a portfolio documenting their process, which is assessed for creativity, reflection, and evaluation.

2. Component 2: Text in Performance (20%)

Focusing on interpreting plays, students perform both a group scene and a monologue or duologue. This component sharpens acting and directing skills, as well as the understanding of textual analysis and character development.

3. Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

In this written exam, students demonstrate their understanding of a set play text, analyse the artistic choices in a live performance they've attended, and develop ideas for a practical production of a given text. This component emphasises the critical analysis and theoretical understanding needed to interpret plays effectively.

Through these components, students learn the essentials of acting, directing, and staging, while gaining a deeper appreciation for various theatrical styles and practitioners.

Enrichment opportunities

The Drama and Theatre Studies course offers numerous enrichment opportunities that deepen students' learning and engagement:

- Workshops with Professional Practitioners: Gain insights from professional actors, directors, and stage designers through workshops and performances
- Live Theatre Visits: Students attend a variety of live performances, from traditional to experimental theatre, to broaden their understanding of stagecraft, audience engagement and creativity.

Future pathways

Completing the Edexcel A Level Drama and Theatre Studies opens doors to multiple academic and career pathways, including:

- University Degrees in Theatre, Drama, and Performing Arts: Many students pursue further studies in theatre, performance, or drama at leading universities or drama schools, with courses covering acting, directing, playwriting, and production management.
- Careers in Theatre and Film: This A Level can be a stepping stone to careers in acting, directing, stage management, costume and set design, and even film production. Drama students also develop skills that are valuable in media, event planning, and production roles.
- Related Careers: Communication, Education, and Psychology: The skills developed in this course—confidence in presentation, empathy, collaboration, and critical thinking—are also valued in fields such as teaching, psychology, marketing, and public relations.

Studying A Level Drama and Theatre is not only for aspiring actors but also for those seeking a versatile skill set and creative mindset applicable in many industries.

Economics

Exam Board: Pearson

Why study the course?

Economics is fundamentally a social science and not simply all about numbers. It is the study of the world around us from a social, financial and cultural perspective, gaining an understanding of economic theories and interrelationships between macro and micro economic issues. Economics is a highly regarded academic subject which can provide the underpinning knowledge, awareness and skills to progress to a wide range of further studies and professions, not only that, but it is also incredibly relevant given the current state of the world economy.

You will cover a wide range of topics, broadening understanding of economic issues, from understanding supply and demand and the difference between economies and diseconomies of scale through to differing market structure and the price mechanism. Other topics include AD/AS analysis, aggregate demand, fluctuations in economic activity and economic growth, inflation, monetary and fiscal policy, how and why governments intervene in markets and why, and the labour market.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Course description

The Edexcel Economics course is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers. You will build knowledge and understanding of core economic models and concepts in Themes 1 and 2, and further develop this and apply knowledge to more complex concepts and models in Themes 3 and 4. You will need to apply knowledge and understanding to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts in the assessments and demonstrate an awareness of current economic events and policies.

- Theme 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure
- Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies
- Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective

Enrichment opportunities

You will have the opportunity to enter the nationally renowned Young Enterprise Award. You will also be exposed to a range of professional speakers from industry. There is a trip to Deloitte to see innovative tech in use in the workplace.

Future pathways

Economics can lead to a wide range of careers in Economics and Finance-related professions, but more importantly the skills that you will learn are widely transferable to other industries. Some potential careers might include accountant, data analyst, consultant, diplomat, economist, government and political careers, finance and banking, financial risk analyst, investment analyst, stockbroker etc.

English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

Studying English allows you to articulate your thoughts, argue your opinions in an organised and convincing way, critically examine the world around you, be endlessly creative, and explore the deepest recesses of your imagination!

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature.

Course description

The course aims to expose students to a wide range of challenging texts. It is of course important that students read broadsheet newspapers and quality fiction at home as well – reading lists will be supplied.

Whole texts studied on the course include The Great Gatsby, The Handmaid's Tale, Atonement, Othello, The Feminine Gospels, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Bloody Chamber. You will also analyse a variety of shorter extracts from writers such as Zadie Smith and James Baldwin, and critical pieces by intellectuals such as Germaine Greer and Chinua Achebe; and study an anthology of poetry looking at the development of verse throughout history, from the fifteenth century to the modern day.

Assessment takes place in class throughout the year and given regular feedback to ensure good progress. The final assessment consists of a mix of coursework (25% of the final mark) and regular examinations in which essays are written in response to texts both studied and unseen.

Enrichment opportunities

The English Department will organise regular trips, including visits to popular productions, workshops, masterclasses and guest speakers. We offer subscriptions for all students to the online lecture series Massolit, which provides access to hundreds of university level lectures on a range of texts. We also provide students with access to critical library JSTOR. We promote our students' own authorship through The Salvatorian and various competitions like the recent Poetry for Power and a Keats House writing workshop.

Future pathways

English Literature is a highly valued A Level, with both employers and Universities recognising the variety of ways in which its study enriches the mind and character of students. It is a facilitating subject and highly respected by universities.

Studying the subject also provides students with some of the most transferrable skills in the modern jobs market. People who study English go on to be lawyers, novelists, playwrights, filmmakers, social media managers, politicians, producers, journalists, activists, bankers, teachers, business owners, charity sector workers, marketers, editors, historians, psychologists, translators, publishers, doctors and many more.

French

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

Over the two years, you will develop knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and language skills. This is achieved by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

You will develop language knowledge, understanding and skills through: using language spontaneously to initiate communication; ask and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; analyse and evaluate in speech and writing, including interaction with speakers of French. Applying knowledge of pronunciation, morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently, using a range of expression – including the list of grammar.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE French.

Course description

A two-year linear course, with exams taking place at the end of Year 13 including a listening, reading and writing exam, writing exam and oral exam.

Units studied include:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Works: Literary texts and films

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Paper 3: Speaking

Enrichment opportunities

Cultural Capital is embedded in our MFL Schemes of work and teachers include these guidelines to provide Cultural Capital opportunities within their lessons. Opportunities include:

- University lectures: we will use these university lectures on a regular basis to extend students' knowledge of their set literature and films. This is a way to enhance their knowledge of further higher education studies in French.
- Virtual tours: we will take our students into virtual tours of the most iconic places in the French speaking world. For example, a tour of the Palace of Versailles in France.
- Trips: We will make the most of the language and cultural opportunities that London offers. Trips to the French Institute to watch French films and documentaries; day visits to the BFI Southbank on topics related to the specification.

Future pathways

Some of the careers open to French A Level graduates include law, education, translator, interpreter, language analyst and journalism.

Geography

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

Geography is a broad-based subject that is highly valued by all courses at university and is considered one of the best subjects by universities and employers. It combines well with both arts and science subjects. You will develop a range of skills which will equip you for a range of subjects at university. It develops your ability to think critically, research skills, data analysis and essay writing skills.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in Geography GCSE and Grade 4 in Maths and English GCSE.

Course description

This geography course is designed to show how to apply geographical knowledge to contemporary issues. We look at how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment.

At AS and A2 Geography, there are options for studying a wide range of human and physical geography modules. Topics covered include:

Physical Geography:

- Carbon cycle
- Water cycle
- Coastal environments
- Hazards

Human Geography:

- Globalisation
- Diverse Places
- Superpowers
- Health, human rights and intervention

You will also complete an individual investigation of 3,000–4,000 words that will make up 20% of your overall grade and will involve fieldwork. This is referred to as your NEA.

Enrichment opportunities

There are a range of both human and physical fieldtrips planned over the two-year course and a wealth of opportunities to attend lectures at local universities.

Future pathways

Geography provides you with a number of different skills and combines well with both arts and science subjects. It can be a facilitating subject – that is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses.

There is a wide range of career possibilities that you could do, such as conservation officer, climate change analyst, managing the risk of hazards, aid worker, disaster manager, refugee advisor, tourism officer, environmental consultant and many more.

Graphic Communication (Graphic Design)

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

Graphic Design is everywhere we look. It is a major industry with worldwide links and is universal in its nature. The course offers hands-on practical experience in the role of a Graphic Designer and sets up students for an exciting career in any field of design. The course content gives you opportunities to develop your independence, creativity, and technical skills using industry-standard software and techniques. The curriculum is designed to support students who wish to study creative courses after Sixth Form or progress to high-level professional roles in the Creative and Digital Arts.

At the end of your A Level, you are prepared for university-style education and careers in graphic design and related fields. You will gain independence, knowledge, confidence, and skills in areas including:

- Digital Design – Using Adobe Creative Suite software, including Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign.
- Problem Solving – Tackling real-world design challenges and visual communication issues.
- Research and Development – Analysing professional work and creating innovative ideas.
- Creative Thinking – Developing ideas using drawing, mixed media, and digital manipulation.
- Time Management – Working to deadlines and managing projects effectively.
- Presentation Skills – Communicating ideas visually and verbally through portfolios and critiques.
- Teamwork and Collaboration – Working effectively with peers to solve creative briefs.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE Art or GCSE Graphic Design. A grade 6 is preferable. Candidates with a strong portfolio may be considered.

Course description

Component 1: Personal Investigation

- 96 marks, 60% of the A Level

For Component 1, students are required to conduct a practical investigation into an idea, issue, or theme of their choice, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be informed independently by the student and lead to a finalised outcome or a series of related outcomes that utilise digital and traditional graphic design methods.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

- 96 marks, 40% of the A Level

For Component 2, students will select their own starting point from a list of options set by the exam board and then develop preparatory work that culminates in 15 hours of supervised time to produce a finalised outcome.

Enrichment opportunities

Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to attend exhibitions, external graphic design workshops, and industry-related events. You will work with our creative partners and external experts such as the National Saturday Club, engage in national design competitions, undertake workshops at the V&A, and visit local design studios to enrich your understanding of the subject and prepare for future pathways.

Future pathways

Careers using these skills include graphic designer, digital artist, brand designer, motion graphics specialist, UX/UI designer, illustrator, advertising creative, art director, and many more roles in the creative and digital industries. This course also serves as a foundation for further studies in graphic communication, design, and media at university.

History

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

Studying History at A Level can provide you with a rich understanding of important historical events, developments and themes. It is a well-respected subject by universities so will help you in any application for many subjects. Studying A Level History will equip you with a broad knowledge base, analytical skills, and a nuanced understanding of historical events and their significance. It will also help you develop critical thinking, research and communication skills that are valuable in most academic and professional settings.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in History GCSE and Grade 4 in both Maths and English GCSE.

Course description

Paper 1: The British Empire 1857–1967

This module explores the growth and decline of the British Empire from 1857 to 1967, examining key factors like economic motivations, cultural attitudes, and the influence of prominent individuals. It covers the height of imperial expansion, including Britain's control in Africa, India, and the Middle East, as well as the administrative and trade structures that sustained it. The final section addresses the Empire's contraction, decolonization, and the lasting impact on post-colonial political, cultural, and economic ties.

Paper 2: The American Dream: Reality and Illusion, 1945–1980

This option provides for a study in depth of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American dream' but the prosperity was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states' rights. It also encourages students to reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media.

Coursework: Non-Exam Assessment

In year 13 students will also complete coursework which is currently on the causes of the French Revolution. This coursework is worth 20% of their overall grade and requires students to write a 3,500-4,000 word long essay including the views of historians and primary sources.

Enrichment opportunities

To support learning, the History department offers visits and trips including the National Army Museum, workshops and additional online learning materials.

Future pathways

History A Level can lead directly to various careers including: journalism, law, management, politics, civil service, historian, archivist, museum curator, teacher or professor, writer, public policy analyst, heritage management, public relations and research and analysis roles. The skills gained in critical thinking, research, analysis and communication make history students suitable for a diverse range of professions.

Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

Many universities consider mathematics to be one of the most valuable A Levels. It is a prerequisite for some of the following courses: Physics, Accountancy, Mathematics and Statistics.

Some of the skills you will learn:

- Construct rigorous mathematical arguments
- Assess the validity of mathematical arguments and explain your reasoning
- Translate problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts into mathematical processes
- Translate situations in context into mathematical models, evaluate the outcomes of modelling in context, recognise the limitations of models and, where appropriate, explain how to refine them.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Maths.

Course description

Paper 1 and Paper 2 Pure Mathematics

Topics include; Proof, Algebra and Functions, Co-ordinate Geometry in the (x,y) plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Vectors, Sequences and Series, Binomial Expansion, Differentiation, Integration and Numerical Methods.

Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics

Topics include; Data Presentation and Interpretation, Correlation and Regression, Binomial Distribution, Normal Distribution and Statistical Hypothesis Testing, Probability, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws, Moments, Static Rigid Bodies, Projectiles, Application and Further Kinematics.

Enrichment opportunities

You will have opportunities to attend workshops at top universities and other trips to financial institutions in the City of London and speakers from industry.

Future pathways

Mathematics is a prerequisite for some degree courses; Physics, Accountancy, Mathematics and Statistics, Engineering, Economics. With a mathematics degree graduates can seek employment in the business, science or technology sectors.

Mathematics, Further

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

If you are considering a career around mathematics, Further Mathematics at A Level would certainly be advantageous. Further Mathematics qualifications are highly regarded by universities. Students who take Further Mathematics are demonstrating a strong desire for their mathematics studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematically rich degree.

Some of the skills you will learn:

- Construct rigorous mathematical arguments.
- Assess the validity of mathematical arguments and explain your reasoning.
- Translate problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts into mathematical processes.
- Translate situations in context into mathematical models, evaluate the outcomes of modelling in context, recognise the limitations of models and, where appropriate, explain how to refine them.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 8 in GCSE Maths.

Course description

Paper 1 and 2 Core Mathematics

Topics include; Complex Numbers, Series, Roots of Polynomials, Volumes of Revolution, Matrices, Linear Transformations, Proof by Induction, Vectors, Methods in Calculus, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions, Methods in Differential Equations and Modelling with Differential Equations

Paper 3 and 4 Further Pure Mathematics

Topics include; Inequalities, Vectors, Conic Sections, Taylor Series, Methods in Calculus, Numerical Methods, Reducible Differential Equations, Number Theory, Groups, Recurrence Relations, Matrix Algebra and Integration Techniques.

Enrichment opportunities

You will have opportunities to attend workshops at top universities and other trips to financial institutions in the City of London and speakers from industry.

Future pathways

Mathematics is a pre-requisite for some degree courses; Physics, Accountancy, Mathematics and Statistics, Engineering, Economics. With a mathematics degree graduates can seek employment in the business, science or technology sectors.

Media Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas

Why study the course?

Media Studies is the study of a variety of media forms using the media analytical framework: audience, representation, media language and institutions. You will analyse how media influences, defines and shapes us whilst developing excellent critical thinking skills and a detailed understanding of how the media works.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in English Literature and Language.

Course description

The A-Level Media Studies course is a dynamic program that explores media's role in contemporary culture, society, and politics. Students study diverse media forms, including television, advertising, online platforms, music videos, and newspapers, using a theoretical framework focused on media language, representation, industries, and audiences. This approach enables critical analysis of how media products are created and consumed within various cultural, historical, and social contexts.

The course also emphasises practical skills through a cross-media production project, where students create media products in response to specific briefs. By combining critical thinking, debate, and creativity, the programme prepares students for further studies in media and related fields, while providing a strong foundation for careers in the media industry

The course is graded A*–E.

Enrichment opportunities

A Level Media Studies students will enrich their learning through industry visits (e.g. media organisations or studio), and external workshops on media and journalism. Exploring cultural museums, exhibits, and landmarks offers insights into media representation and history. Students can further enhance their skills by entering media-related competitions and engaging with industry professionals who share career experiences and discuss media trends.

Future pathways

Media Studies complements a range of career options. These include Advertising & Marketing, Art & Design, Film and Television, Journalism, Business, I.T, Web Contents management, Events Management and PR.

Physical Education

Exam Board: OCR

Why study the course?

The sports industry is one of the fastest growing in the world, with the various elements of performance on and off the field being placed under a microscopic lens. Whether it's the physiological or psychological, sport is affected in many ways.

You will look at how performance is affected by various factors, whilst also taking a trip on a timeline into the history of sport in the UK and the impact that sport has had sociologically throughout time. This subject will cover the widest breadth of information, so you will be able to learn about all the different facets of sport.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science or Biology and Physical Education.

Course description

Component 01: Physiological factors affecting performance

In this unit, we will look to develop the learner's knowledge of the science behind physical activity.

Component 02: Psychological factors affecting performance

In this unit, we will focus on psychological factors that affect learning and performance in physical activities and sports.

Component 03: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

In this unit, we will educate the learning on sociological and contemporary issues that influence and affect physical activity and sport for both audience and the performer and how sport affects society.

Practical Performance

Learners will be assessed in the role of performer OR coach in one activity according to the guidelines in the approved sports. Learners must demonstrate effective performance, use of tactics or techniques and the ability to observe the rules and conventions under applied conditions.

Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement

Learners will observe a LIVE or RECORDED performance by a peer in either their own assessed performance activity or another sport from the list. An oral responses will be produced to critically analyse and evaluate the peer's performance.

Enrichment opportunities

You will have the opportunity to participate in volunteering and gain coaching experience, valuable to your CV, and dependent on the sport, participate in the Level 1 Coaching Qualification.

There are opportunities to volunteer across a range of sports taught in the school and helping students to take part in regional and even national competitions. You will be encouraged to set up and run your own after-school clubs. The yearly Sports Awards will allow you the chance to win but also to meet celebrity and inspirational guest speakers who attend.

Future pathways

Physical education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. For example, did you know that many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in PE? Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include sports scientist, PE teacher, physiotherapist, professional athlete/sportsperson, sports policy at local and national level, diet and fitness instructor, personal trainer and sports advertising.

Physics

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

Studying physics at A Level opens doors to diverse career opportunities and equips you with essential problem-solving skills and a strong scientific foundation. In AS, you'll deepen math and physics knowledge, covering forces, energy, electricity, waves, quantum, and particle physics. In A2, the focus expands to thermal physics, advanced mechanics, nuclear physics, and fields. You'll choose an options module like astrophysics.

Practicals throughout the course boost lab skills, covering topics such as radioactive materials, magnetic and gravitational fields, and laser-based wave behaviour.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grade 66 in Combined GCSE Science, and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Course description

The AS and A Level courses core content are:

1. Measurements and Errors – Ongoing study of physics fundamentals.
2. Particles and Radiation – Explores matter properties, electromagnetic radiation, and quantum phenomena.
3. Waves – Covers refraction, diffraction, superposition, and interference.
4. Mechanics and Materials – Introduces vectors, forces, energy, momentum, and material properties.
5. Electricity – Builds on GCSE knowledge, emphasizes practical skills and electrical applications.
6. Further Mechanics & Thermal Physics (A Level) – Explores circular motion, harmonic oscillation, and thermal properties.
7. Fields and Their Consequences (A Level) – Unifies concepts of gravitation, electrostatics, and magnetic fields.
8. Nuclear Physics (A Level) – Links nucleus properties to nuclear energy production and societal impact.

Optional A Level Modules:

Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics, Electronics

Physics is an experimental subject offering practical experiences to bridge theory with reality, equipping students with vital skills.

Enrichment opportunities

Opportunities include:

- Lectures and trips with selective focuses, featuring talks from current PhD students and researchers.
- A trip to the Royal Observatory, including planetarium visits and discussions with astrophysicists on astronomy, physics, planetary geology, and space exploration.
- STEM sessions at the Wellington Trust, immersing you in real-world situations that challenge your knowledge application.
- Detailed diagnostic feedback for your work.
- Revision sessions to enhance understanding, with a primary emphasis on exam techniques.
- Access to excellent resources, including a variety of textbooks and revision guides.

Future pathways

Studying physics offers diverse future prospects, with various university degree options such as physics, engineering, and physical chemistry. Additionally, physics is a valuable A Level qualification for fields like business, finance, economics, and other science disciplines.

Having an A Level in physics is highly regarded and enhances your CV, particularly when applying for scientific, business, or finance-related positions.

Politics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

We live in a tumultuous era of politics, and it is impacting young people more and more. This course will allow you to understand and access these tricky issues. Many students pick politics not knowing much about it, and then enjoy it so much they go on to study it at university. All recognise it is a fun and important subject to understand. Unlike every other subject, the content is always changing, which makes it truly unique.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Maths.

Course description

Politics is the study of Politics in the UK, USA and of the key ideologies that have dominated the last century:

UK Politics:

- Democracy and Representation
- Political Parties
- Electoral Systems
- Voting Behaviour

UK Government:

- Constitution
- Parliament
- Executive and PM
- Supreme Court

Ideologies:

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Feminism

US Politics and Government:

- Constitution and Federalism
- Congress
- President
- Supreme Court
- Democracy and Representation

Enrichment opportunities

Throughout the course, you will have the opportunity to embark on a number of trips, including to the Houses of Parliament and The Supreme Court, alongside regular guest speaker events and workshops with MPs and Lords.

Future pathways

Politics A Level is seen as an attractive and desirable academic A Level, which can lead to careers in management consultancy, journalism, the civil service, public relations, marketing, banking and insurance and politics.

Pyschology

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to psychology. It builds on skills developed in the sciences and humanities and enables progression into a wide range of other subjects. You will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and Grade 4 in GCSE English.

Course description

These qualifications are linear; with all the AS exams at the end of the AS course and all the A Level exams at the end of the A Level course. The AS exams do not therefore count towards the final A Level grades.

Subject content: (topics 1–7 are taught in Year 12, topics 8–11 are taught in Year 13)

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Psychopathology
5. Approaches in psychology
6. Biopsychology
7. Research methods
8. Issues and debates in psychology
9. Gender
10. Schizophrenia
11. Aggression

The broad range of topics affords the experience of an interesting, diverse and coherent course of study, complementing a range of combinations with other A Levels, depending on student interest.

Enrichment opportunities

Students could go on several trips throughout the duration of study, including visits to the Freud Museum, Bethlem Royal Hospital Museum of the Mind, The Science Museum, The Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museum, and The Institute of Psychoanalysis. All students receive a weekly email from the British Psychological Society's Research Digest, which is a summary of the latest peer-reviewed articles from across the broad field of psychology.

Future pathways

Studying for an undergraduate degree in psychology typically leads to careers including business and economic related fields, the legal profession, human resources and teaching. Following undergraduate study, many psychologists choose to complete a master's level qualification in a specialist area, which can then lead to a career in a related field. These typically include forensic and educational psychology, neuroscience or clinical psychology, counselling or therapy training and sports psychology.

Religious Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

Studying A Level Religious Studies offers students valuable opportunities for personal and intellectual growth.

Explore Big Questions: Engage with profound questions about reality, existence, and the role of religion, deepening your understanding of what shapes worldviews.

Develop Critical Skills: Build valuable skills in explanation, analysis, evaluation, and debate—learning to think critically and express ideas clearly.

Understand Diverse Perspectives: Gain insight into different cultures and belief systems, fostering empathy and open-mindedness in a multicultural world.

Learn from Key Thinkers: Study influential philosophers and theologians to see how major ideas and beliefs have developed over time.

Enhance Writing Ability: Improve your ability to present clear, structured, and reasoned arguments—vital for any academic or professional path.

A Level Religious Studies not only enriches students' understanding of religion and philosophy but also equips them with skills that are essential for lifelong learning and success in a wide range of fields.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE English and RE

Course description

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

33.33% 1hr (AS), 2hrs (A Level)

Content overview

- Philosophical issues regarding the existence of God.
- Nature and influence of religious experience.
- Problems of evil and suffering.
- Philosophical language.

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

33.33% 1hr (AS), 2hrs (A Level)

Content overview

- Significant concepts in issues and debates, e.g. equality and environment
- Study of ethical theories e.g. Utilitarianism
- Application of ethical theories, including war and medical ethics.

Paper 3: Study of Religion

33.33% 1hr (AS), 2hrs (A Level)

Content overview

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings.
- Sources of wisdom and authority.
- Practices express religious identity.
- Social and historical developments.
- Works of scholars.

Enrichment opportunities

Philosophy and Theology Conferences: Participate in regional or national conferences.

Documentary and Film Screenings: Host screenings of documentaries and films on religious and philosophical themes, followed by discussions to explore the issues presented.

Essay Competitions and Philosophy Olympiads: Encourage students to enter competitions to develop their argumentation and writing skills, and gain recognition.

Future Pathways

Career routes include medical ethicists, education, social work, marketing, law, journalism, politics, policy making, public relations, human rights advocate, police, youth worker, human resources and so much more.

Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

Why study the course?

Sociology helps you make sense of the society we live in – how it works, why inequalities exist and how our lives are shaped by social institutions such as family, education and the media. It encourages you to think critically about social issues, question assumptions, and develop skills in analysis, evaluation and written communication.

If you are curious about people, culture and current affairs, Sociology offers fascinating insights into the world around you.

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English.

Course description

AQA A Level Sociology explores key aspects of social life through three main areas of study:

- Education with Theory and Methods – Investigates how the education system affects individuals and groups, alongside sociological research methods.
- Families and Households – Examines the changing nature of family life, gender roles and demographic trends.
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – Analyses why people commit crime, how society responds, and how social theory explains deviance.

You'll learn to apply key sociological theories (Marxism, Functionalism, Feminism, Interactionism) and evaluate real-world evidence to form well-argued conclusions.

Assessment

All assessment is through written exams at the end of Year 13. There is no coursework.

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

- 2 hours written exam – 33.3% of A Level
- Topics: Education, Methods in Context, and Theory & Methods
- Includes short-answer questions, data response, and extended essay-style questions

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

- 2 hours written exam – 33.3% of A Level
- Topics: Families and Households, and Beliefs in Society
- Each topic assessed through a mixture of short and extended questions

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- 2 hours written exam – 33.3% of A Level
- Topics: Crime and Deviance, Theory & Methods
- Includes application of sociological theory, evaluation and research methods questions.

Enrichment opportunities

- Guest speakers from the fields of law, education and social research
- Visits to Parliament, the Old Bailey and local community organisations
- Visit to the Church of Scientology to explore new religious movements and beliefs in society
- Support sessions on essay writing, critical thinking and exam technique.

Future Pathways

Sociology is an excellent foundation for degrees and careers in Criminology, Law, Social Work, Politics, Psychology, Education, Public Policy and Journalism.

It develops highly transferable skills in research, analysis, communication and argumentation, valued by employers and universities alike.

Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

Spanish A Level builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained during GCSE. It is a well-rounded course of study with the focus on language, culture, and society. It fosters transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking, research, and creativity and is suitable for those who wish to progress to either employment or further study, particularly a modern languages degree.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.

Course description

You will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken and their language skills by using authentic spoken and written sources in Spanish. Language knowledge, understanding and skills will be developed through: using language spontaneously to initiate communication; ask and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; and analyse and evaluate in speech and writing, including interaction with speakers of Spanish. Applying knowledge of pronunciation, morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently, using a range of expression. Topics studied including social issues and trends, political and artistic culture and grammar with an option of literary texts.

Enrichment opportunities

Cultural Capital is embedded in our MFL Schemes of work and teachers include these guidelines to provide Cultural Capital opportunities within their lessons. Opportunities include:

- University lectures: we will use these university lectures on a regular basis to extend students' knowledge of their set literature and films. This is a way to enhance their knowledge of further higher education studies in French.
- Virtual tours: we will take our students into virtual tours of the most iconic places in the French speaking world. For example, a tour of the Palace of Versailles in France.
- Trips: we will make the most of the language and cultural opportunities that London offers. Trips to the French Institute to watch French films and documentaries, and day visits to the BFI Southbank on topics related to the specification.

Future pathways

An A Level or degree in Spanish can lead to a career as a language teacher, translator, interpreter, language analyst, broadcast journalist and many more.

Applied Business Studies

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Why study the course?

The BTEC Business course will allow you to really dive into the 'real-world' of business. You will have to research businesses of your choice to better understand how they make decisions and achieve success.

You will have to critically assess how businesses could improve or amend their strategy. The course provides transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression to university such as: the ability to learn independently, the ability to research actively and methodically, being able to give presentations and being active group members.

BTEC Nationals provide a vocational context in which learners can develop the knowledge and skills required for future learning. These skills include effective writing, analytical skills, creative development preparation for assessment methods used in degrees.

Entry requirements

Minimum Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English.

Course description

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. The course is the equivalent in size to one A Level. Four units of which two are external exams and two are internal coursework submissions:

- Unit 1: Exploring Business (Internal)
- Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (External)
- Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (External)
- Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process (Internal).

Enrichment opportunities

You will have the opportunity to enter the nationally renowned Young Enterprise Award. You will also be exposed to a range of professional speakers from industry. There is a trip to Deloitte to see innovative tech in use in the workplace.

Future pathways

The knowledge and skills gained on this course can be utilised in a huge range of business and management fields and do not limit students to just one type of career. The skills are transferable across many areas of study and professions and can also be used to improve your personal decision-making, planning and finances. Careers may include options such as: Business, management, administration, accounting and finance, consulting, marketing, recruitment, banking, business planning, logistics etc.

Medical Science

BTEC Level 3 Extended Qualification

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study the course?

The BTEC Level 3 Medical Science course is designed for students who are passionate about health, biology, and the workings of the human body. It provides a strong foundation in the key scientific principles that underpin the medical and healthcare sectors. This course is ideal for learners who aspire to careers in biomedical science, healthcare practice, nursing, or medical research.

Unlike purely theoretical courses, Medical Science combines academic knowledge with hands-on, practical learning. Students will develop laboratory, analytical, and investigative skills that are highly valued by employers and universities alike.

Through applied learning, learners will explore how science is used to diagnose, treat, and prevent disease while understanding the ethical and technological advances shaping modern medicine.

Entry Requirements

- Minimum of Grade 4 in Science, English, and Maths.
- A strong interest in biology, health, and medical research.

Course Description

Learners will study a range of scientific and medical topics across biology, chemistry and health science, including:

- Human physiology and the structure and function of body systems
- Health and disease, including infection control and medical testing
- Biomedical science techniques and data analysis
- Medical research methods and ethical considerations
- Diagnostic and treatment procedures

Assessment is through a combination of internally assessed coursework, practical assignments and externally assessed units.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Work Experience Placements: Gain experience in hospitals, clinics, or laboratories.
- Guest Speakers: Meet professionals from healthcare, medical research and allied health fields.
- Field Visits: Trips to universities, NHS facilities or science museums.
- STEM Events: Participate in health and science-related competitions and workshops.

Future Pathways

Higher Education

This qualification supports progression to university degrees, such as:

- Biomedical Science
- Health and Social Care
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Pharmacology
- Physiotherapy
- Radiography

Employment and Apprenticeships

- Healthcare Science Assistant
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Radiography Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Clinical Support Worker

This course provides a stepping stone into a wide range of healthcare and science-based careers in both the public and private sectors.

Music

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Why study the course?

The BTEC Level 3 Music Performance course is a dynamic and practical qualification for learners who are passionate about performing, composing, and developing as musicians. The course focuses on refining musical and technical skills through live performance, rehearsal and creative projects.

Learners will develop confidence, discipline, and professionalism as they work individually and collaboratively to prepare and deliver performances across a range of genres and contexts. The qualification is ideal for aspiring performers, session musicians, songwriters, or those wishing to progress into the wider music and creative industries.

Entry Requirements

- Grade 3 standard or above on an instrument or voice.
- GCSE Music preferred but not essential.
- A passion for performance and collaboration.

Course Description

Students will develop their skills in performance, musicianship, and creative interpretation through units such as:

- Music Performance Skills Development – refining instrumental and ensemble performance techniques.
- Music Performance Project – working collaboratively to plan, rehearse, and deliver a live performance.
- Professional Practice in the Music Industry – learning how to promote yourself and build a sustainable career.
- Music Theory and Analysis – understanding how musical elements contribute to style and expression.

Assessment is through practical performance tasks, rehearsal diaries, project work and written reflection.

Enrichment Opportunities

- Access to instrumental and vocal lessons.
- Regular performance showcases and concerts.
- Recording sessions and studio-based projects.
- Workshops and webinars with industry professionals.
- Opportunities to perform at local and school events.

Future Pathways

Higher Education:

- BA (Hons) in Music, Popular Music or Music Performance
- Degrees in Songwriting, Sound Engineering or Music Production

Apprenticeships and Careers

- Performing Musician or Vocalist
- Session Musician
- Live Sound Engineer
- Songwriter or Composer
- Music Teacher or Tutor
- Events Coordinator or Promoter

This course provides the practical skills, creative understanding and industry knowledge needed to succeed in the modern music industry.

Information Technology

BTEC Level 3 Extended Qualification

Exam Board: Pearson

Why study the course?

Information Technology (IT) is at the heart of modern life and every industry – from business and media to healthcare and engineering – relies on it. This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical, hands-on learning and want to develop real-world skills in computing, data management and digital communication.

You'll learn how technology supports organisations, how data is managed securely, and how to design and create IT solutions for real clients.

Entry Requirements

Minimum Grade 4 in GCSE English or Mathematics.

Course description

The BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Information Technology is equivalent to 1.5 A Levels and is assessed through a combination of coursework and externally set assignments.

It provides an excellent balance of theoretical understanding and practical application, preparing you for further study or employment in the IT and digital sectors.

Core units include:

- Information Technology Systems – Understanding how hardware, software, networks and data systems support businesses.
- Creating Systems to Manage Information – Designing and building databases to solve real-world problems.
- Using social media in Business – Exploring how organisations use social media to promote products and engage customers.
- Programming – Developing coding skills to design and test software applications.
- Website Development – Designing and building functional, user-friendly websites.
- Data Modelling – Using spreadsheets and other tools to analyse and present data effectively.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a mix of externally set tasks and internally assessed coursework:

Approximately 2/3 coursework and 1/3 controlled assessment.

You'll complete assignments based on realistic workplace scenarios, allowing you to demonstrate both technical and creative skills.

Enrichment opportunities

- Guest speakers from the IT industry and higher education
- Coding and web design workshops
- Opportunities to support whole-school digital projects
- Preparation for university and apprenticeship applications

Future Pathways

The course provides a strong foundation for progression to:

- Higher Education in fields such as Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Software Development, Digital Media or Business IT.
- Apprenticeships in IT support, network management or digital marketing.
- Careers in systems analysis, web design, programming, data analytics or project management.

BTEC IT is recognised by universities and employers alike for developing problem-solving, communication, and technical skills essential in the modern digital economy.