



# **NEI2** **SIXTH** **FORM**

Longbenton High School and  
George Stephenson High School

**Prospectus**



# NE12 Sixth Form: two campuses, one great experience.

We look forward to welcoming you to NE12 Sixth Form.



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# NE12 Sixth Form is Unique...

## NE12 Sixth Form: two campuses, one great experience.

A close, long-standing partnership between George Stephenson High School and Longbenton High School means that students benefit greatly from exceptional teaching and learning as well as care, guidance and support which are second to none.

Our team of highly dedicated staff are fully committed to ensuring each and every one of our students achieves their full potential. With a proven track record of success, our students progress to universities both locally and further afield, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, as well as following other chosen pathways into work.

We have an excellent relationship with our local universities who attend our advice and guidance sessions and provide hands-on experience and bespoke opportunities to help our students progress successfully to university, should this be their chosen option. We also arrange university visits further afield such as Cambridge, Leeds, Edinburgh and York. Our careers advice and guidance for other pathways into employment run in parallel with university preparation for those students who wish to enter the workplace more immediately.

Both George Stephenson High School and Longbenton High School are members of North Tyneside Learning Trust, which enhances our links with local and global employers and provides significant advantage to our students in relation to the support which they are able to receive in their preparations for the future.

We recognise that employers and universities are now looking for much more than just academic or vocational qualifications. Therefore, we offer an extensive range of enrichment opportunities which will not only enhance the quality of their CV or UCAS applications, but will also equip them with vital skills such as teamwork, leadership and independence.

We hope you enjoy reading our prospectus and invite you to come and see what we have to offer. You can be assured of a warm welcome.



**Rebecca Ronan**  
Head of Sixth Form at  
George Stephenson  
High School



**Ian Williams**  
Head of Sixth Form  
at Longbenton  
High School



**Kelly Holbrook**  
Headteacher  
at Longbenton  
High School



**Ian Wilkinson**  
Headteacher at  
George Stephenson  
High School

## Our Post 16 Curriculum

During the Spring Term we will be working hard to ensure that each of you chooses the best route in education or employment/training following the end of Year 11. Many of you will wish to enrol at NE12 Sixth Form. It is important that we work closely with you and your parents to select courses that are right for you.

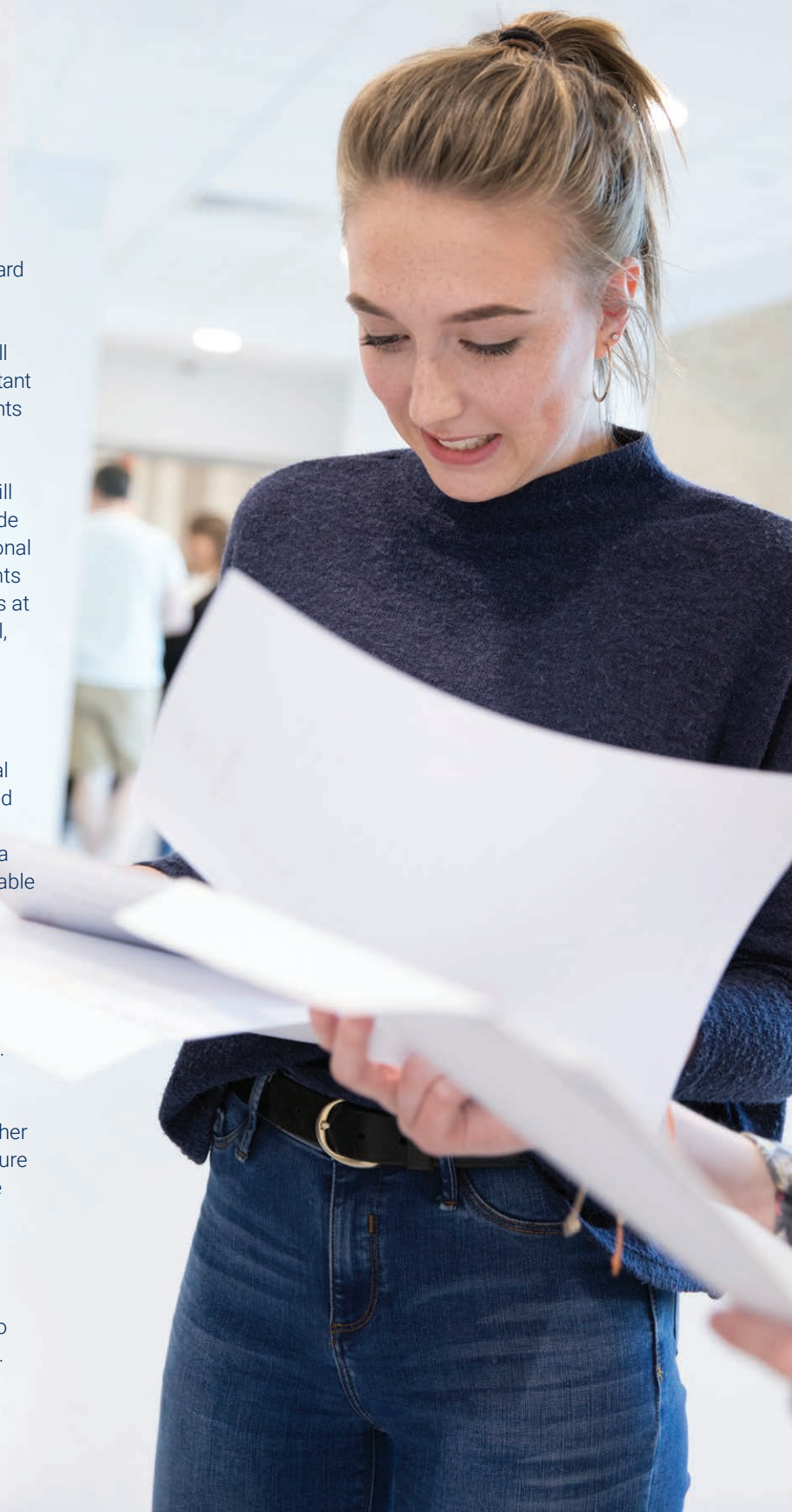
We know from experience that students will need at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent at grade 9-4 to be successful in many of our traditional A Level courses. We also know that students achieving 5 grades at 9-4 with most grades at 5 or 4 will benefit from a mixture of A Level, vocational or applied courses.

Students will need to select three subjects to study. All three subjects will be studied in both Year 12 and Year 13. (In exceptional circumstances where a student is predicted the highest grades in all GCSE subjects undertaken and with close guidance from a pathways advisor, some students may be able to select four subjects for study.)

Students who enrol in our Sixth Form who have not yet achieved a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and/or GCSE Maths are required to attend re-sit lessons. This is compulsory.

Please note that students may require further discussions with sixth form leaders to ensure that all expectations have been met before a final decision is made about the most appropriate programme of study.

If you start sixth form at a North Tyneside school in September, you may be eligible to qualify for up to £1,200 per year in funding. You will receive information in your GCSE results pack.





# Enrichment

**MOOCs**

These are Massive Open Online Courses in absolutely anything! They are a fantastic way to broaden your studies in sixth form.

**Volunteering**

Use your enrichment time to volunteer in school or in the wider community and develop the skills universities and employers are looking for.

**Employability**

Our exciting tutorial programme provides practical advice on how to write an effective application and how to succeed at interviews.

**Mock Interviews**

Students have the opportunity to experience a mock interview with an employer and receive feedback, further preparing them for university and the world of work.

**Charity Work**

Students use their enrichment time to volunteer with local charities to provide support, gain skills and enhance their CV/applications.

**Fundraising**

NE12 Sixth Form play a vital role in raising funds for local charities such as St Oswald’s Hospice and Luke’s Life Legacy.

**Employer visits**

Many employers volunteer their time to come and work with students to give them an insight into careers within their sector, including health, business and finance representatives.

**Villiers Park**

A two year programme of mentoring, masterclasses and residential events, which supports students to fulfil their potential and gain places at top universities.

**Think Law**

Students explore careers in the legal sector through engagement with employers, masterclasses, work place visits and mentoring interventions.

**Engineering Education Scheme**

Links a team of students with local companies where they work on real, scientific, engineering and technology projects.

**University Workshops**

Student reps from a range of universities deliver workshops with students to prepare them for Sixth Form study and applications to university.



# Subject Entry Requirements

## Arts and Design

| Course   | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|--|------|---|
| Art and Design (A Level)                           | 8    | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 5 in Art.                               |
| Drama and Theatre Studies (A Level)                | 9    | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Level 2 pass in Performing Arts is desirable. |
| Media (A Level)                                    | 10   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language.   |
| Music (A Level)                                    | 11   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 5 in Music.                             |
| Music (BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate) | 12   | Level 2 music pass is desirable, if not discussion and/or audition.                           |
| Photography (A Level)                              | 14   | Grade 5 GCSE in a creative subject.   |
| Product Design (3D Design) (A Level)               | 15   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. Grade 5 in a DT subject.    |

## Business

| Course                                  | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|---|------|---|
| Business Studies (A Level)              | 16   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. |
| Business (Level 3 Extended Certificate) | 17   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. |

## Childcare

| Course  | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|---|------|---|
| Child Learning, Play and Development (BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate) | 18   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. |

## Humanities

| Course   | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|--|------|---|
| English Language (A Level)                                       | 19   | Grade 6 GCSE in English Language and Literature.  |
| English Literature (A Level)                                     | 20   | Grade 6 GCSE in English Language and Literature.  |
| Geography (A Level)  | 21   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. Grade 5 in Geography. |
| Government and Politics (A Level)                                | 22   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. GCSE History is desirable.              |
| History  | 23   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. GCSE History is desirable.              |
| Health and Social Care (Cambridge Technical Certificate/Diploma) | 24   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths.                       |
| Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (A Level)                        | 26   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language.   |

## Humanities Continued

| Course              | Page | Entry Requirements                              |
|---------------------|------|---|
| Sociology (A Level) | 27   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. |

## ICT

| Course                         | Page | Entry Requirements   |
|--------------------------------|------|--|
| Computer Science (A Level GCE) | 28   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 6 in Maths. Grade 6 in Computer Science. |
| ICT (Applied A Level)          | 29   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths.                              |

## Mathematics

| Course                        | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|-------------------------------|------|---|
| Further Mathematics (A Level) | 30   | Grade 7 in Maths.   |
| Mathematics (A Level)         | 31   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 7 in Maths. (A strong grade 6 in Maths may be considered after discussions with staff). |

## Modern Foreign Languages

| Course            | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|-------------------|------|---|
| French (A Level)  | 32   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 6 in French.  |
| Spanish (A Level) | 33   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 6 in Spanish. |

## Physical Education

| Course                                      | Page | Entry Requirements   |
|---|------|--|
| Physical Education (A Level)                | 34   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. Grade 5 in a Science subject.    |
| BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport | 35   | Grade 4 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 4 in Maths. Grade 5 in English is desirable. |

## Science

| Course  | Page | Entry Requirements  |
|---|------|---|
| Biology (A Level)                             | 36   | Grade 6 in Maths. Grade 6 in Biology or 66 combined science.  |
| Chemistry (A Level)                           | 37   | Grade 6 in Maths. Grade 6 in Biology or 66 combined science.  |
| Medical Science (Level 3 Applied Diploma)     | 38   | 55 combined science or 5 in Biology and one other science in separate science subject.  |
| Physics (A Level)                             | 39   | Grade 6 in Maths. Grade 6 in Biology or 66 combined science.  |
| Psychology (A Level)                          | 40   | Grade 5 GCSE in English Literature or Language. Grade 5 in Maths. 6 in a science subject or 66 combined science (a strong grade 5 may be considered after discussion with staff). |
| Science and Nutrition Level 3 Diploma in Food | 41   | GCSE grade 4 or above in English Language. A Level 2 in Hospitality and Catering or GCSE in a Home Economics/ Food related subject is desirable.                                  |



# Art, Craft and Design

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

**How will I be assessed?**

Each unit is assessed by a display of the completed assignment including preparation, analysis, developmental work and final outcome. Students may work in the art rooms at any time during school hours. Visits to galleries and artistic sites are an integral part of the course and a fundamental requirement.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

The work produced during the A Level Art course would form the portfolio content for admission to further education in Art. There are many opportunities for future study at further education colleges and universities in areas of Art and Design such as: Fine Art; Graphic Design; Illustration; Three Dimensional Design; Textiles; Ceramics; Fashion; Jewellery; Photography; Video; Interior Design; Television/Theatre Set Design; Display; Landscape Architecture; Architecture; Conservation of Artefacts; Art Therapy; Art Education.

For further information on the course, visit the AQA website at [www.AQA.org.uk](http://www.AQA.org.uk) and follow the subject link.



# Drama and Theatre Studies

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

This subject is suitable for you if you have an interest in theatre, drama, stories, ideas, the past, culture, people, power and society. You will have the opportunity to explore practically the theoretical elements of drama, theatre and theatrical convention. This is a demanding subject that requires in depth research, attendance to live theatre and critical and evaluative skills. You will also be required to rehearse outside of the college timetable prior to practical examinations.

**How will I be assessed**

The subject content for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is divided into three components:

**1. Drama and Theatre**

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre through the study of two set play texts and the analysis and evaluation of live theatre. This component is assessed through a 3 hour written exam and is worth 40% of the A Level.

**2. Creating Original Drama**

You will create and perform a piece of devised drama, influenced by the work and methodologies of a drama and theatre practitioner. You will also complete an accompanying workbook, evidencing your process as well as your analysis and evaluation of the final performance. This is worth 30% of your final A Level mark.

**3. Making Theatre**

You will undertake the practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts, each taken from a different play. You will apply the methodology of a theatre practitioner to the third extract which you will perform to a visiting moderator. You will also complete an accompanying reflective report, evidencing your analysis and evaluation of your interpretation of all three extracts. This will make up the final 30% of the A Level.

**Progression and Career Opportunities**

You could choose to continue studying drama at college or university.

The communication and interpersonal skills acquired through drama are becoming increasingly sought after by employers. The skills you will build working with others are transferable to any work or study context. You might also like to consider a career in the creative industries or join the teaching profession with this subject.



# Media

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: WJEC

**What will I learn?**

The media is an area that affects all of us everyday, from finding out about the world, laughing at a new sitcom, chatting with friends on social media to exploring new worlds in video games. Why does this happen? How far can the media influence our lives and how responsible are media companies for changing our views and opinions? Everyone should study the media as it has the single most powerful impact on society.

**What will I learn?**

Students will explore the key concepts of media including audience, representation, institution and language. They will then be able to effectively analyse and investigate a range of different media texts such as TV opening sequences, film trailers, advertisements, music videos, video games, print advertising and websites. There will be two sections that will be examined on. Paper 1: This will look at six media products in relation to the key concepts above. Paper 2: This looks at three media products (TV, magazines and online media) in depth. Suggested products are Sherlock, Humans and The Jinx as well as a range of current magazines and YouTube blogs such as PewDiePie and Zoella.

**How will I be assessed?**

Coursework is worth 30% of A Level and involves producing two cross media products for an intended audience (this could be in print, e-media or broadcast form).

Coursework and an exam (two sections).

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

A Level Media is an excellent basis for further study at degree level and there are many exciting career opportunities in film, script writing, journalism and broadcasting.

**Further information**

Mediaedu, IMDB and Mediaknowitall are all really useful websites.



# Music

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

The subject content for A Level Music is divided into three areas:

**How will I be assessed**

**Component 1: Appraising**

This unit is assessed by an externally set written exam worth 40% of A Level Music. Students will study a range of styles within the Western Classical Tradition including the Baroque Concerto, Mozart Opera and Romantic Piano Music. In addition, two areas of study are selected from a choice including Pop Music, Musical Theatre, Art Music and Jazz. Students will be required to answer questions on these pieces in response to short listening extracts as well as a number of extended writing questions. Students will also respond to pieces of music that relate to the set pieces but that have not been formally studied in class.

**Component 2: Performance**

Students are required to perform a programme of at least 10 minutes in length. It can be a solo and/or ensemble programme. The programme does not have to be performed on just one instrument if the candidate has multiple instruments. Grade 7-8 ABRSM/Rock School/Trinity/London College performance exam pieces are the standard required for A Level Music. The recital is recorded in school but is assessed externally. This unit is worth 35% of the A Level Music course.

**Component 3: Composition**

Students are required to write two compositions totalling 4 minutes 30 seconds in length. One composition is to be written in response to a set brief and the second is a free composition. The compositions are assessed externally. This unit is worth 25% of A Level Music. The composition in response to a brief involves a series of short pastiche technical studies in the style of the Bach Chorale.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

The specification supports progression to higher education in Music and related subjects. In an increasingly popular field, there are music careers to fit all aspirations, in creative, business and technical areas.

**Further information**

It is highly beneficial for students to have private instrumental/singing lessons to support the performance aspect of the course. In addition, weekly attendance at a departmental extra-curricular ensemble such as Senior Choir, Guitar Legends or Orchestra would be valuable. Grade 5 standard music theory is also a significant advantage.

# Music

BTEC Level 3

Exam Board: Pearson

**What will I learn?**

There are four units that make up the qualification; three mandatory and a further optional unit to choose from. The optional unit will be selected based on the individual cohort each year, with students having some input into their preferred option.

**Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony (Mandatory)**

In this unit, learners will develop knowledge and understanding of music theory and harmony, and apply their understanding in practical scenarios. You will understand a range of traditional and alternative musical notations, compositional techniques and music harmony.

You will be assessed on your understanding and ability to practically demonstrate on your chosen instrument what you have learnt.



**Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry (Mandatory)**

In this unit, you will gain an understanding of what is meant by the term ‘professional practice’ as well as what it means to be a freelancer working in the music industry. You will understand the professional skills that are important in the industry and learn the importance of financial management, effective interpersonal skills and working with others.

The unit emphasises the importance of continual self-development in a rapidly-changing sector and how essential it is to communicate clearly to give you the best chance when competing for roles in the industry. Taking a professional approach to working in the industry is as essential as having a good product to market.

This unit outlines the qualities that industry professionals expect of people working with them in order to progress, whether to employment or higher education.

**Ensemble Music Performance (Mandatory)**

Live performance in front of an audience is an important part of the music industry that has become a growth area with an increasing use of technology. Musicians rarely work in isolation and the ability to perform as part of an ensemble is an essential skill for any musician, regardless of style. Whether you are part of a pop group or a large symphony orchestra, the skills of teamwork and communication are vital.

In this unit, you will become part of a musical group and will develop your ensemble skills by taking part in rehearsals.

**Range of optional units include:**

- Composing music
- Session styles
- Solo performance
- Improvising

**How will I be assessed?**

**Unit 1: Internally assessed**  
**Unit 2: Externally assessed**

During a supervised assessment period, learners will be asked to create a project plan, budget, rationale and presentation in response to music industry scenarios which musicians might reasonably find themselves bidding for. These scenarios will vary each series and be taken from the range of freelance opportunities available within the music industry, for example, performance events, community projects and creative enterprises.

The exam board sets and marks the task.

**Unit 3: Externally assessed**

As an ensemble, you will be given a list of songs from the exam board, from which you must choose three. You will then learn, rehearse and perform these songs to an audience. You will also provide

a presentation on how you used different techniques, stylistic and musical elements in the musical parts you performed.

To complete the assessment task within this unit, you will need to select and apply learning from across your programme.

**Optional units: All internally assessed**

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

The Music BTEC qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level. Like an A Level, it will support progression to higher education alongside other BTEC or A Level qualifications.

It is a valuable qualification as it covers a broad range of topics within music, with a particular focus on performance, musical technique, music theory and professional practice in the music industry. Students will be given regular performance opportunities both inside and outside of school.





# Photography

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

**Year 12**

In Year 12 you will follow a course of study which allows you to become proficient in using a variety of digital photography equipment, media and techniques. Learners will have the opportunity to pursue independent projects exploring location and studio photography. Learners will explore tungsten and studio flash and use light meters, reflectors, tripods and speed lights.

Digital image manipulation plays a key role within photography; therefore students will learn how to edit images using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom on our PCs.

Students will find inspiration from the work of other artists, photographers and designers, and there will be opportunities for students to visit photographic studios and galleries.

You will be expected to record the world around you in drawn form as well as digital media.

**Year 13**

In Year 13 you will build upon the level of skills, knowledge and understanding developed in Year 12. During the year you will produce a self-devised practical assignment, accompanied by a written component of 1,000-3,000 words and an externally set assignment.

**How will I be assessed?**

Each unit is assessed by a display of the completed assignment, including preparation, analysis, developmental work and final outcome. Students may work in the photography studio during and after school hours. Visits to galleries and artistic sites are an integral part of the course and a fundamental requirement.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

It will enable learners to progress to a wide range of degree programmes in photography, visual arts, commercial photography and art and design as well as provide the skills required to work in the industry as a freelance photographer.

**Further Information**

We would prefer students to have a digital 35mm camera, although cameras will be available to rent. Students are required to provide their own AA batteries, card reader and external hard drive. Students will also need to contribute towards their final show printing costs.



# Product Design (3D Design)

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

This specification requires students to cover design and technology skills and knowledge as set out below. These have been separated into:

- Core technical principles
- Core designing and making principles
- Additional specialist knowledge

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing products of their choice.



**How will I be assessed?**

Students will sit two written exams:

- Paper 1  
Written exam: 2 hours, 100 marks, 25% of A Level.  
This covers core technical principles and designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge. It includes a mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.
- Paper 2  
Written exam: 2 hours, 25% of A Level.  
This covers specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles. It includes a mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions including product analysis and commercial manufacture.
- Non-exam assessment  
Substantial design and make task: 45 hours, 100 marks, 50% of A Level.

This covers the practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge. It includes a written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

# Business

Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: OCR

### What will I learn?

There are five units that make up the qualification; three are mandatory and two have a range of options to choose from.

#### Unit 1: The Business environment

The business environment, will give learners an understanding of the wider external contexts in which businesses operate and of internal business functions and their interdependencies. The unit will allow them to appreciate how legal, financial, ethical and resource constraints can affect business behaviour and the influence that different stakeholders can have and how businesses must respond.

#### Unit 2: Working in Business

Working in business, will give them an understanding of the type of critical skills needed when working in business, such as organisation, prioritisation and effective communication. The unit will allow them to learn how to use different business documents and about organisational protocols that most businesses would expect employees to follow.

#### Unit 3: Customers and Communication

Customers and communication, will allow learners to appreciate how vital customers are to the success of a business. It will give them an understanding of how important it is for businesses to know their customers and what influences customer behaviour. In this unit, they will understand how to communicate with customers.

#### Units 4 and 5

The optional units cover a wide range of topics to give them the opportunity to take a unit that is relevant to a specific aspect of business; for example marketing, accounting, human resources or business planning.

### How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1: The Business Environment. Externally assessed exam
- Unit 2: Working in Business. Externally assessed exam
- Unit 3: Customer and Communication. Externally assessed exam
- Unit 4: Internally assessed
- Unit 5: Internally assessed

### Further information

This qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level. Like an A Level, it will support progression to higher education alongside other BTEC or A Level qualifications.

It will provide learners with the opportunity through applied learning to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the business sector.

# Business Studies

A Level GCE

Exam Board: OCR

### What will I learn?

- Business objectives and strategic decisions
- External influences facing businesses
- Marketing and marketing strategies
- Operational strategy
- Human resources
- Accounting and financial considerations
- The global environment of business

### How will I be assessed?

- Operating in a local business environment (01\*) – 2 hours written, 80 marks, 33.33% of A Level
- The UK business environment (02\*) – 2 hours written, 80 marks, 33.33% of A Level
- The global business environment (03\*) – 2 hours written, 80 marks, 33.33% of A Level

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

The main areas of study in the OCR A Level in Business include accounting and finance, external influences, marketing, operations and people in organisations. The required depth of study has been amplified within topics such as marketing (the marketing mix, digital and international marketing, service marketing), human resources (recruitment, selection and training, workforce planning, appraisals), operations management (research and development, stock control and logistics/supply chain solutions) and accounting and finance (final accounts, including the calculation of profit).

The OCR A Level in Business will provide learners with the ability to apply basic business concepts to a wider range of contexts, understand and apply sophisticated concepts and techniques, analyse, interpret and evaluate complex business information and take a more strategic view of business opportunities, problems and issues.

It will develop skills such as data analysis, problem solving and essay writing. These transferable skills can be used within any subsequent course of study. They can also be applied by any learner progressing into a managerial role within any organisation. It is important that the content of this specification is seen as a whole and not as a series of discrete elements, as the content listed in one section may be assessed in any context.



# Child Learning, Play and Development

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board: OCR

**What will I learn?**

**Work experience**

Learners will complete 50 hours of work experience in an early years setting. They will work with children between the ages of birth to seven years. This will be arranged by teachers for you.

**Course content**

- Children’s development from birth to seven years
- Communication and numeracy
- Play and learning

**Who is this qualification for?**

It supports access to a range of higher education courses, possibly but not exclusively in the early years sector, including Primary Education. You do not have to have studied CACHE or any other Child Care course at Level 2.

**Progression and Careers heading**

It will enable learners to progress to a wide range of degree programmes. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. It can be taken alongside, for example:

- A Levels in Biology and Psychology which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Paediatric Nursing

- A Levels in English and Psychology, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education
- A Levels in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education

This qualification is primarily designed to support progression to employment via higher education. However this qualification will also be relevant for those who choose to progress directly to employment through an Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.

- The ability to learn independently
- The ability to research actively and methodically
- To be able to give presentations and be active group members



# English Language

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

**Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society**

This unit will introduce students to language study, exploring textual variety and children’s language development. Students will explore how context can influence language choice as well as how children learn language and the processes by which they begin to understand and express themselves through language.

**Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change**

The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore language diversity and change over time. Students will study the key concepts of audience, purpose, genre and mode and will explore language in its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They will explore processes of language change. This part of the subject content also requires students to study social attitudes to and debates about language diversity and change.

**Coursework: Language in Action**

The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore and analyse language data independently and develop and reflect upon their own writing expertise. It requires students to carry out two different kinds of individual research:

- A language investigation (2,000 words excluding data)

- A piece of original writing and commentary (750 words each)

Students can choose to pursue a study of spoken, written or multimodal data, or a mixture of text types, demonstrating knowledge in areas of individual interest.

**How will I be assessed?**

Students will sit two written exams:

- Paper 1  
2 hours 30 minutes, 100 marks, 40% of A Level
- Paper 2  
2 hours 30 minutes, 100 marks, 40% of A Level
- Non-exam assessment  
Total word count 3,500, 100 marks, 20% of A Level, assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

A Level English Language is a challenging and engaging subject but it is very different to GCSE English Language. To find out more about this fascinating subject have a look at the following website: [www.universalteacher.org.uk](http://www.universalteacher.org.uk) or ask your English teacher for more advice.

This course is a perfect choice for students who are working towards a career where linguistic skills are valued. Progression routes to higher education include further study in English, Journalism, Law, Psychology and the Humanities.



# English Literature

A Level GCE Spec B

Exam Board: AQA

### What will I learn?

#### Paper 1: Literary Genres: Tragedy

Paper 1 focuses on Aspects of Tragedy. Students study three texts: one Shakespeare text; a second drama text and one further text, of which one must be pre-1900. Students will answer three questions in the examination.

#### Paper 2: Elements of Crime Writing

Students will study Elements of Crime Writing. They will study three texts: one post-2000 prose text, one poetry and one further text, one of which must be pre-1900. The exam will include an unseen passage.

### How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two written exams:

- Paper 1  
2 hours 30 minutes, closed book, 75 marks, 40% of A Level
- Paper 2  
3 hours, open book, 75 marks, 40% of A Level

Non-exam assessment (coursework):

- Study of two texts, one poetry and one prose text, informed by a study of the Critical Anthology
- Two essays of 1,250-1,500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to an aspect of the Critical Anthology (20% of A Level)

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

This course will allow students to read widely and independently, engage critically and creatively with set texts and wider reading, develop and apply own knowledge and explore the contexts of texts and different interpretations of them.

Please speak to your English teacher for more information about the course and to have any further questions you may have answered. They will also be able to recommend background reading that you should embark on prior to starting the course.

A Level English Literature is a challenging and academic subject and students will be expected to read widely and regularly outside of lessons.

Many English A Level students choose to continue their studies at University. Those who choose to follow other disciplines benefit from the development of skills in analytical essay writing. The study of English Literature is a perfect choice for students working towards a career which requires strong communication skills.

# Geography

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

### What will I learn

The A Level Geography course is challenging but highly relevant for the world we live in. The course addresses contemporary world problems from a variety of perspectives and aims to help develop an understanding of the relationship between people and their environments, of the challenges faced and the range of possible solutions.

#### Physical Geography

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hot desert environments and their margins
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards
- Ecosystems under stress
- Cold environments

#### Human Geography

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments
- Population and the environment
- Resource security

#### Geography Investigation

Students complete a 3,000-4,000 individual investigation worth 20% of the A Level.

### How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the second year. This will include both a Physical Geography paper and a Human Geography paper. Each examination will be 2 hours 30 minutes in length and account for 40% of the Geography A Level.

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

Geography contributes strongly to employability as it will develop a wide range of sought after skills, and is relevant to the following fields: media, army and the law, location analysis, event management, conservation, town planning and banking, along with many others. Many of the skills you will learn in Geography are transferable to other A Level subjects.



# Government and Politics

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK

Politics affects everything we do in life and the Government and Politics course at A Level takes a look at the major functions of government and politics in Britain and beyond. The political aspect covers the major components of the democratic process: parties, pressure groups and elections. The government aspect focuses specifically on how a country is run and the various arms of government: executive, legislature and judiciary, as well as the study of the UK constitution. Politics is a topical A Level which means staying up to date with recent and current issues and case studies; for example, the power of the Prime Minister and Cabinet since 1945 is covered alongside recent debates regarding ‘Brexit’ and the role of Europe.

Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA

This is a comparative unit which looks at the political systems in place in the USA in contrast to the UK. Students will study the nature and significance of the US constitution; the structure, roles and power of Congress; presidential power and the Supreme Court. This paper also looks at the electoral process and democratic systems in the USA: presidential election campaigns (including the recent 2016 race); voting behaviour and the variables that affect the decisions people make; why there is such two-party dominance in US politics and how pressure groups work.

Paper 3: Political Ideas

In this unit students will study the history and main ideas behind three core political ideologies that have shaped modern politics: liberalism, conservatism and socialism. In addition, students will have the option to study the core ideas and principles of feminism, nationalism, multiculturalism, anarchism and ecologism.

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1  
2 hours, 77 marks, 33% of A Level, a mixture of medium length ‘explain’ and essay style questions
- Papers 2 and 3  
As above

Progression and Careers Opportunities

This course is designed to develop critical thinking skills and enhance students’ ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics. The course enables students to develop a wide range of skills valued by universities and employers, including the ability to synthesise, analyse and evaluate as well as debate, construct and communicate arguments clearly and coherently. A Level Politics can lead to university degree courses in Politics, Sociology, Ethics, Philosophy, Advertising, Media Studies, Cinema Studies and Journalism amongst others, and is highly regarded in industries including politics, international organisations, the media and the civil service.

# History

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

What will I learn?

Year 12

- **Component 1: Breadth Study**  
The study of historical developments over a period of about 100 years. You will study 50% of this component in Year 12.
- **Component 2: Depth Study**  
The study of a major historical change or development. You will study the majority of the content of this component in Year 13.

Year 13

- **Component 1: Breadth Study**  
The study of historical developments over a period of about 100 years. You will study the second 50% of this component in Year 13.
- **Component 2: Depth Study**  
The study of a major historical change or development. You will complete the content of this component in Year 13.
- **Component 3: Historical Investigation**  
A personal study in the form of a question which spans approximately 100 years.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two written exams:

- **Component 1**  
2 hours 30 minutes in two sections including the evaluation of historical interpretations, 40% of A Level

- **Component 2**  
2 hours 30 minutes including evaluation of primary sources, 40% of A Level
- **Component 3**  
3,000 to 3,500 word essay marked by teachers and moderated by AQA, 20% of A Level

What topics will I study?

Component 1

- Topics at Longbenton – The Tudors: England, 1485-1603 (this is a study of Tudor England from the reign of Henry VII to the end of the reign of Elizabeth I)
- Topics at George Stephenson – The Making of a Superpower: USA, 1865-1975

Component 2

- Topics at Longbenton – Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1917-1953 (this is a study of Russia from the revolution in 1917 to the end of the rule of Stalin)
- Topics at George Stephenson – Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906-1957

Component 3

- Topics at Longbenton – Spain, 1469-1598
- Topics at George Stephenson – Spain, 1469-1598

Progression and Careers Opportunities

A Level History demonstrates high literacy levels and the ability to analyse and assess information or evidence. Skills involved in studying History can be used in higher education or the workplace.

# Health and Social Care

Level 3 Cambridge Nationals Health and Social Care

Exam Board: OCR

### What will I learn

The Level 3 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care provides a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or employment. It is also fully recognised for UCAS tariff points. The new qualification is the product of extensive collaboration between universities, employees, and industry specialists.

The well established and well resourced Health and Social Care Department is based at George Stephenson High School. It has built a reputation for offering extensive support to students and for producing successful results. Most students go on to study courses at university in areas such as nursing, midwifery, social work and primary teaching.



### The department will be offering two qualifications:

#### Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (Single 6 Unit Health)

- One A Level, takes up one option block
- Six units of work over two years (one exam and two coursework units per year)
- Suited to a student who may want to study some Health and Social Care alongside other subjects e.g. someone who wants to eventually go into primary teaching

#### Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma (Double 12 Unit Health)

- Two A Levels, takes up two option blocks
- Twelve units of work over two years (two exams and four coursework units per year)
- Suited to someone who seriously wants to pursue a H&SC specific career such as nursing, midwifery or social work

### Qualification units

#### Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (Single Health)

##### Units studied in Year 12:

- Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care – exam unit
- Building Positive Relationships in Health and Social Care – coursework unit
- Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care – exam unit

##### Units studied in Year 13:

- Anatomy and Physiology in Health and Social Care – exam unit
- Infection Control – coursework unit
- Psychology in Health and Social Care – coursework unit

#### Cambridge Technical Diploma (Double Health)

##### Units studied in Year 12:

- Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care – exam unit
- Building Positive Relationships in Health and Social Care – coursework unit
- Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care – exam unit
- Safeguarding – exam unit
- Supporting People with Mental Health Conditions – coursework unit
- Promote Positive Behaviour – coursework unit

##### Units studied in Year 13:

- Anatomy and Physiology in Health and Social Care – exam unit
- Infection Control – coursework unit
- Psychology in Health and Social Care – coursework unit
- The Impact of Long-Term Physiological Conditions – coursework unit
- Supporting People with Dementia – coursework unit
- Personalisation and a Person-Centred Approach to Care – exam unit

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

Please note that more details on the units will be made available at the Year 11 options evening.





# Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

A Level GCE

Exam Board: OCR

### What will I learn?

In Religion, Philosophy and Ethics you will have the opportunity to explore some of the big questions which fascinate us all. It is one of the fastest growing A Level subjects and you will study the OCR Religious Studies specification for this award.

### Year 12

Within Philosophy you will begin by considering how it is possible to know anything and what makes a person a person before considering issues regarding the existence of God, religious experiences and the problem of evil. Within Ethics you will examine different ethical perspectives such as Natural Law and Utilitarianism whilst considering what should be a person's key moral principles. You will then examine how these theories can be applied to real life topics relating to life such as euthanasia. For the Religion topic, students will study Christianity and have the opportunity to consider the differences between natural and revealed theology and consider different ideas about life after death.

### Year 13

In Ethics, you will consider debates that are the background to all ethical discussions such as 'What is a conscience?' You will also investigate religion and identity, including different sexual identities as well as religious pluralism. In Philosophy you will think about the meaningfulness of religious language and consider the issues with different

attributes of God. You will also look at the growth of secularism and the impact of this on Christianity and society.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment is essay based and you will be taught how to create and sustain an argument before coming to a reasoned and justified conclusion. At A Level, you will sit three papers lasting 2 hours each.

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

This a relevant course for students who are considering any role which involves working with other people. The study of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics will help to develop the ability to be empathetic, analytic and reflective and can lead to careers in education, youth work and journalism, as well as roles within the police service.



# Sociology

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

### What will I learn?

Sociology is the study of society and looks at how human behaviour is influenced by different social institutions. It is about understanding why people do as they do and considers how society has changed and the impact of such changes on human behaviour and thought.

### Year 12

In Year 12 students will cover three topics: Families and Households, Education and Methods. As part of the Families and Households unit you will learn about the trends within family life in the UK, different theoretical perspectives on the family and about the emergence of childhood. Within the Education module you will undertake the study of education and how it has changed. You will also examine why some social groups do better than others within education. You will study research methods sociologists use and the strengths and limitations of such techniques.

### Year 13

In Year 13 students will study three topics again. They are Crime and Deviance, Sociological Theories and either Beliefs in Society.

Within the Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods unit, you will learn about theories relating to which social groups are most likely to commit crimes and examine media representations

of crime. You will also learn more about sociological theories and evaluate their significance for the study of society today and consider questions such as, 'Is Sociology a science?' and 'Can sociological research ever be value free?'

### How will I be assessed?

Students will sit three exams which comprise of a series of short and longer essay style questions. The exams are each 2 hours long and of equal weighting.

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

The study of Sociology is an excellent choice for students who are planning to follow a career which requires an understanding of how society operates. The study of this subject at A Level and also to degree level can lead to rewarding careers in areas such as social work, family support, housing, education and human resources as well as roles within the police service.



# Computer Science

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: OCR

**What will I learn?**

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

There is also a programming project which covers:

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation

**How will I be assessed?**

- Exam 1: 2 hours and 30 minutes 40% of A Level
- Exam 2: 2 hours and 30 minutes 40% of A Level
- Programming Project\*: 20% of A Level

*\* the programming language supported will be Python*

It is worth noting that Mathematical skills are embedded throughout the course and will be assessed in the written papers. A good grade in GCSE mathematics is recommended.

**Progression and Careers Opportunity**

Computer Science involves a high level of computer programming and also mathematical skills. It aims to give students:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Mathematical skills.

During the course learners will develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. You will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The project approach is a vital component of ‘post-school’ life and is of particular relevance to Further Education, Higher Education and the workplace. Each student is able to tailor their project to fit their individual needs, choices and aspirations.

There is a wide range of computing related degree courses on offer. It is worth noting that some universities require A level Mathematics as an entry requirement.

# ICT

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate  
Exam Board: OCR

**What will I learn?**

This qualification is designed for learners 16 years old or over who want to continue their education through applied learning by developing their knowledge and understanding of the principles of IT and global information systems.

Learners will take five units to achieve this qualification. There are three mandatory units that are externally assessed. These are the Fundamentals of IT, Global Information and Cyber Security. The first two mandatory units provide learners with an insight into the IT sector as you investigate the pace of technological change, IT infrastructure, the flow of information on a global scale and important legal and security considerations. The third mandatory unit reflects an important development in the sector around information security and requires learners to consider how data should be protected and the response of the IT sector to emerging threats such as cyber terrorism.

Learners must then take two of the four optional units that are centre-assessed and moderated by OCR. The optional units include project management, product development, systems analysis and design and the Internet of Everything.

All units assist in the development of transferable skills such as communication and problem solving. The optional units encourage the development of time management, research and analytical skills

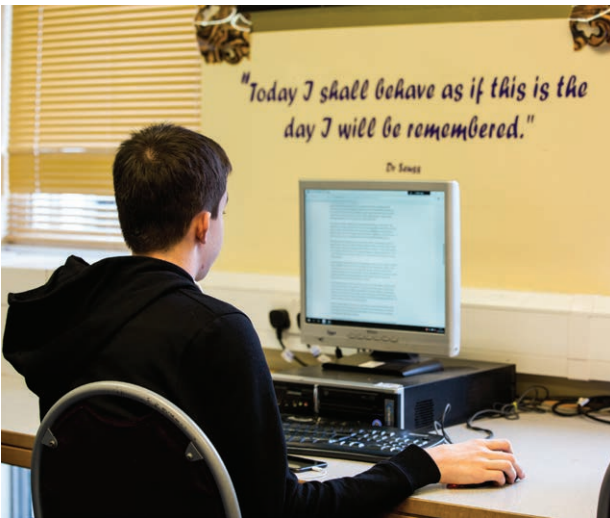
as well as emphasising the need for good written and verbal communication skills.

**How will I be assessed?**

The units are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction. The qualification is graded P, M, D, D\*.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

Achievement of this qualification can support progression to go on and study relevant IT degrees in a Higher Education institution such as Computing and IT, Computing Science, Software Developments, Software Engineering, ICT and Computer Networks or Business Information Systems. It will also support applications for other degree subjects.



# Further Mathematics

A Level GCE

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What will I learn?**

A Level Further Mathematics is linear in structure and has 50% compulsory content.

The teaching of A Level Further Mathematics should develop students’ knowledge and skills in three overarching themes:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling

**Year 12**

Year 12 Further Mathematics is a very useful qualification. It broadens and reinforces the content of A Level Mathematics, introduces complex numbers and matrices and gives students the opportunity to extend their knowledge in applied mathematics and logical reasoning. This breadth and depth of study is very valuable for supporting the transition to degree level work and employment in mathematical disciplines.

**Year 13**

The qualification is both deeper and broader than A Level Mathematics. A Level Further Mathematics builds from GCSE level and A Level Mathematics. As well as building on algebra and calculus introduced in A Level Mathematics, the A Level Further Mathematics core content introduces complex numbers and matrices, fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in

mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. The non-core content includes different options that can enable students to specialise in areas of mathematics that are particularly relevant to their interests and future aspirations. A Level Further Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

**How will I be assessed?**

A Level Further Mathematics will be assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

- Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience.
- For someone who enjoys mathematics, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.
- It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market.
- Some prestigious university courses will only accept students with Further Mathematics qualifications.

# Mathematics

A Level GCE

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What will I learn?**

A Level Mathematics is linear in structure and has 100% compulsory core content.

**Overarching themes**

The subject content is divided into three areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

The teaching of A Level Mathematics should develop students’ knowledge and skills in three overarching themes:

- Mathematical argument, language and proof
- Mathematical problem solving
- Mathematical modelling

**Use of technology**

It is assumed that learners will have access to appropriate technology when studying this course such as mathematical and statistical graphing tools and spreadsheets. The primary use of technology at this level is to offload computation and visualisation, to enable learners to investigate and generalise from patterns. Learners are not expected to be familiar with any particular software, but they are expected to be able to use their calculator for any function it can perform when appropriate.

**How will I be assessed?**

A Level Mathematics will be assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13.

**Year 12**

Year 12 Mathematics consolidates and develops GCSE Mathematics and supports transition to higher education or employment in any of the many disciplines that make use of quantitative analysis, including those involving calculus.

**Year 13**

A Level Mathematics builds from GCSE Mathematics and introduces calculus and its applications. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how mathematics can be applied to model situations mathematically using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. It prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

The study of Mathematics can open the doors to many careers including medicine, accountancy, software design, pharmacology, dentistry, teaching and engineering to name but a few.

Mathematics A Level is a pre-requisite of many degree courses which include Computer Science, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Accountancy and Economics.



# French

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

A Level French aims to develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and use the language learned in a wide range of different contexts. Students will be able to gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect upon aspects of contemporary society. Through studying A Level French students will have the opportunity to enhance their employmentprospects, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic abilities.

- Study for the A2 course is based on four broad themes:
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
  - Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
  - Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
  - Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

At A Level the speaking assessment is a discussion on one of the A Level themes and the presentation and discussion on an individual research project. Students will also study a book and film or two books from a set texts/works list and analyse these on the writing paper.

Students will follow a course book and will also use authentic and up to date material from the media (internet, newspapers, radio, television). Knowledge and application of grammar will be examined on all papers.

**How will I be assessed?**

French is spoken around the world, ‘Le monde francophone’ comprising forty countries. Speaking another language is a huge factor in how successful we are in the future. Graduates with languages are very employable. Employers recognise linguists’ skills beyond pure language ability, such as communication, organisation, cultural awareness and independence. In fact, graduates with knowledge of a foreign language are likely to earn more than graduates from other sectors. At higher education level, it is possible to study a degree purely in languages or you can opt to combine a language with a different subject, such as Politics or Business. Both options will involve spending a period of time abroad, either working or studying.

Choosing a language as part of your course will not only develop your expertise and linguistic ability, but you will also have some great experiences along the way! Languages are not just required for careers in translation and interpreting or teaching. They can also be used in a wide variety of job sectors, such as creative and media, event management, health and social care, law, manufacturing, retail, travel and tourism, marketing, technology and computer gaming. For more information on careers with languages, visit the website [www.languageswork.org.uk](http://www.languageswork.org.uk).

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

- One speaking exam
- One exam covering listening, reading and writing
- One further writing exam

# Spanish

A Level GCE  
Exam Board: AQA

**What will I learn?**

**Who is this course for?**

This course will appeal to students who are interested in delving into the depths of the Hispanic world’s histories, language, literature and popular culture. An A Level qualification in Spanish will open doors to a vast number of career opportunities. At the end of the course, some students choose to do degree courses in languages; others pursue a higher education course in another subject, but study a language option alongside it. Having a language qualification will improve your employability, whatever your chosen path and can lead to a career in business, travel and tourism, journalism, media as well as complementing humanities, science and music-related degrees.

**What will I learn?**

Students will be introduced to a selection of film and written material of great Hispanic writers, poets and film directors. You will enjoy discussion and analysis of both topics and texts and expressing sophisticated opinions. You will be looking forward to extending your knowledge of grammatical and linguistic structures and expressing your ideas logically and clearly in target language. You will enjoy debating issues and understanding the Hispanic world in the global context.

**Year 12**

- Aspects of Spanish speaking society: current trends
- Artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world
- Grammar
- One text or one film

**Year 13**

- One text and one film or two texts
- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

- One speaking exam
- One exam covering listening, reading and writing
- One further writing exam



# Physical Education

A Level GCE

Exam Board: OCR

**What will I learn?**

The physiological factors studied look at developing the learner's knowledge of the science behind physical activity. This includes the structure and function of key systems in the human body, the forces that act upon us and the adaptations we make to our bodies through diet and training regimes. Through the study of this component, learners will gain a deeper understanding of key systems in the body and how they react to changes in diet and exercise. They will also study the effects of force and motion on the body and how these effects can be used in physical activities to our advantage.

The psychological factors looked into include models and theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities, how different methods of training and feedback work and why their effectiveness differs from person to person. It also includes psychological factors affecting group dynamics and the effects of leadership and stress on performers.

The socio-cultural section looks at the influence and effect of physical activity and sport for both the audience and the performer and how sport affects society. It includes the emergence and evolution of modern sport and how social and cultural factors shaped the characteristics of sports and pastimes in pre-industrial and post-industrial Britain. The impact of the modern Olympic Games will be understood as well as the impact on society of hosting global sporting events. The ever-evolving modern

technology and its influence on sport performers and spectators will be understood and practical examples will be used by learners to show the effect of modern technology.

**How will I be assessed?**

You will sit three exams for A Level PE at the end of Year 13: A 90 mark physiology paper lasting 2 hours and accounting for 30% of your final mark. You will also sit two, 1 hour, 60 mark exams in sports psychology and socio-cultural issues in sport which will each account for 20% of your final mark. The remaining 30% will be assessed through your performance in a chosen practical activity and your ability to perform a verbal analysis of someone's performance in a chosen activity.

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

This course is an excellent foundation for further study of PE and Sport and there are many exciting careers available in this sector such as education, coaching, physiotherapy and sports development.



# Sport

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What will I learn?**

The course covers a breadth of topics including; anatomy and physiology, risk assessment, fitness testing, sports nutrition, psychology of sport, sports coaching, exercise and health, sports injuries, sport and exercise massage, officiating in sport, organising sports events and laboratory testing in sport science.

The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is an Applied General qualification for Post 16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the sport sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector. Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Learners will also choose one optional unit from a range which has been designed to support choices in progression to sport courses in higher education, and to link with relevant occupational areas.

**How will I be assessed?**

- Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed
- Unit 3 and the optional unit are internally assessed

**Progression and Careers Opportunities**

This course is an excellent foundation for further study of PE and Sport and there are many exciting careers available in this sector such as education, coaching, physiotherapy and sports development.



# Biology

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

## What will I learn?

### Year 12

Firstly we will look at how digestive and gas exchange systems may be affected by communicable and non-communicable diseases, how knowledge of basic biology allows us to understand the symptoms of disease and interpret data relating to risk factors. We then move on to look at the influence of genetic and environmental factors on intraspecific variation and how the variety of life is reflected in similarities and differences in its biochemical basis and cellular organisation. The course also includes study of how size and metabolic rate affect an organism's requirements and gives rise to adaptations.

### Year 13

This year we look at how living organisms form ecosystems through which energy is transferred and chemical elements cycled, how human activity affects ecological balance in a variety of ways and how genetic variation and isolation may lead to the formation of new species. We then move on to look at: stimulus and responses; the biology of the nervous systems; homeostasis and the maintenance of a constant internal environment; genes and genetic expression.

## How will I be assessed?

The course will consist of three 2 hour exams in the summer term of Year 13 and 12 assessed practical skills throughout the year.

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

Students not taking a mathematical A Level, may need to take some Maths support lessons. There is a Field Study in Year 12.

We use the AQA endorsed text book written by Glenn Toole and Susan Toole, published by Nelson Thorne.



# Chemistry

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

## What will I learn?

The new A Level Chemistry course is organised between the three main disciplines of Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry. They are studied at different times during the two years according to the level of difficulty and prior knowledge required.

### Year 12

#### Inorganic Chemistry

Periodicity, and the properties and reactions of elements in groups two and seven of the periodic table.

#### Organic Chemistry

An introduction to organic chemistry focussing on the alkanes, haloalkanes and alcohols.

#### Physical Chemistry

Atomic structure, bonding, kinetics and chemical equilibria.

### Year 13

#### Inorganic Chemistry

The properties and reactions of elements in period three of the periodic table, and the transition metals.

#### Organic Chemistry

Understanding more complex organic molecules such as esters and aromatic compounds, and organic synthesis.

## Physical Chemistry

Acids and bases, thermodynamics and rates of reaction.

## How will I be assessed?

Knowledge and understanding of the three disciplines, as well as relevant practical skills, are assessed across three exams at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1: Inorganic Chemistry, relevant Physical Chemistry topics and relevant practical skills
- Paper 2: Organic Chemistry, relevant Physical Chemistry topics and relevant practical skills
- Paper 3: Any content and practical skills from across the specification

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

Chemistry students learn to see the world differently. You will gain an insight into the important roles chemists play in the modern world and be able to make informed input into scientific debate and discussion. The course helps you to think logically and develop problem solving skills.

You are encouraged to apply your knowledge to unfamiliar situations, perform practical techniques competently, make appropriate use of ICT, use your own initiative and show you are a good team member. A sound grasp of Maths and the ability to work with precision and accuracy is important, as is a good imagination to enable you to picture the abstract concepts we will study.



# Medical Sciences

Level 3 Applied Diploma

Exam Board: WJEC

## What will I learn?

Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of diseases. The Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are vital in the diagnosis of disease, determining the effectiveness of treatments and searching for new cures.

In order to achieve the Level 3 Applied Diploma in Medical Science learners are required to complete six units:

- Human health and disease
- Physiological measurement techniques
- Medical Science research methods
- Medicines and treatment of disease
- Clinical laboratory techniques
- Medical case study

Each unit has a clear medical science purpose, which focuses the learning of scientific knowledge, understanding and skills into a meaningful context.

## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through a mixture of assessment types. The units Physiological measurement techniques, Medical Science research methods, Medicines and treatment of disease are assessed internally through assignment work.

The other units are assessed through a more traditional examination.

## Progression and careers opportunities

This qualification equips learners with scientific knowledge and understanding, as well as practical skills that would support progression to a range of job roles within health care. Job roles such as those within the areas of life sciences, i.e. carrying out a range of laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of disease, this could include microscopic examination of tissue samples, analysis of blood cells to investigate anaemia or analysis of samples to identify the cause of an infection. Alternatively, there would also be opportunities to progress to job roles within the physiological sciences, working directly with patients, measuring and evaluating particular organ and systems, such as scientists working in neurophysiology recording the electrical activity in the brain.



# Physics

A Level GCE

Exam Board: OCR

## What will I learn?

### Year 12

The key mechanical engineering principles of motion, forces in action, work and energy, and materials. This is then followed by a thorough exploration of the core principles of electrical engineering; electric charge and current, energy, power and resistance and electrical circuits. Finally, you will be presented with an opportunity to study the bizarre and fascinating world of quantum mechanics and wave particle duality. As Neils Bohr famously said, "If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet." Throughout Year 12 practical aspects of physics will be a key focus and you will develop some of the essential skills of scientific investigation: planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.

### Year 13

The scientific principles laid down five hundred years ago by the greatest scientist who has ever lived, Sir Isaac Newton. You will become expert in the use of and application of Newton's Laws of Gravitation, Circular Motion and Oscillations.

You will then learn about the Physics of George Stephenson and the Industrial Revolution in the Thermal Physics topic, followed by electric fields, magnetic fields and capacitors. Probably the most exciting topics on the A Level course are

left until the end. You will have your mind blown by the Nuclear/particle Physics, Medical Imaging and Astrophysics units. Again, practical skills are an essential common thread running throughout Year 13 Physics. These will build upon the skills acquired in the previous year of study.

## How will I be assessed?

In Year 13 the course is divided into three modules, each one assessed by an exam. All exams are synoptic and will assess students on the practical skills and scientific theory covered in Year 12 and Year 13. Papers 1 and 2 use a mixture of multiple choice and structured questions to assess understanding. In addition to these final exams, students will also be assessed on theory performance across a series of key practical activities carried out periodically during both years of study. This will allow students to pass the practical endorsement for Physics element of their qualification.



# Psychology

A Level GCE

Exam Board: AQA

### What will I learn?

#### Year 12

During the first year of study you will learn about a number of topics in Psychology which will give you a good understanding of psychology and issues relating to it.

You will study the different approaches that psychologists take to the study of the mind and the research methods they use to do this. You will also study memory, social influence and attachment as well as psychopathology.

#### Year 13

The second year of Psychology gives you the opportunity to learn about different approaches to Psychology, including Biopsychology and allows you more freedom to apply your psychological knowledge. The applied topics studied in Year 13 are Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology and Cognition. In addition to this you will study some of the key questions within Psychology such as, 'Are we really free?'

### How will I be assessed?

There are three papers which are of equal weighting and the papers are made up of a combination of multiple choice questions as well as short and longer essay style questions. Each exam is 2 hours long.

### Progression and Careers Opportunities

A Level Psychology provides an excellent grounding for further study of this topic at degree level as well as leading to rewarding careers in fields such as clinical, educational or forensic psychology, education, research and roles within the police force.



# Food Science and Nutrition

Level 3

Exam Board: WJEC

### What will I learn?

Food Science and Nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionist in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches, food manufacturers and government agencies.

This course explores the relationship between food, nutrition and health and offers the opportunity for creative, investigative and analytical study.

#### Unit 1: meeting nutritional needs of specific groups

- Understand the importance of food safety
- Understand the properties of nutrients
- Understand the relationship between nutrients and the human body
- Be able to plan for different peoples nutritional requirements

#### Internal Assessment titles example:

- 1) A personal trainer introduces the student to one of their clients and the student would calculate their requirements and then prepare and cook the dishes
- 2) Students provided with information on a group of people in a care environment. Students then create a daily menu that includes all the vital nutrients. Students then make the dishes then residents of the care home taste test and provide feedback

**Unit 2 Ensuring food is Safe to Eat** is an eight hour timed assignment over three weeks that is externally assessed.

The aim of this unit is to develop and understanding of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks.

Students have the choice of completing Unit 3 or Unit 4.

**Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems.** Internally assessed. The aim of this unit is to use understand the properties of food in order to plan and carry out experiments.

**Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition.** This unit students will carry out research on current issues relating to food science and nutrition.

### How will I be Assessed?

Year 12 has both 50% coursework plus 50% exam. External Assessment is a 90 minute examination with three sections out of 90 marks.

### Progression from this Qualifications

The specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of academic or vocational courses in higher education, including careers in Food Technology, Nutritional Science, Sports Science and Diet, Consumer Protection, and Food retail and manufacture.

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition is accepted for university entry especially on courses such as BSc Human Nutrition, BSc (Hons) Public Health and Nutrition or BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology.

#### Complementary courses

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition complements other A Level courses such as Biology, Physical Education, CPLD and Health and Social Care.

# Alumni

**“ The standard of teaching at sixth form level, as well as the fact that I remained in a familiar environment, allowed me to push myself in my studies.”**

Joshua  
Studied: A-level Maths, Further Maths and Physics  
Studying: Mathematics at Leeds Uni

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**“ Sixth Form is full of amazing opportunities which can help massively. For example. The Think Law programme, which really opened doors for me and for my career. Make the most of every opportunity that comes your way, you won't know how helpful it will be unless you try it.”**

Victoria  
Studied: A-Level Physics, History and English Literature  
Studying: Law at Northumbria University

**“ Sixth Form gives you all the benefits of a really great school with more independence and a real chance to flourish with the support of your teaching staff.”**

James  
Studied: A-Level Physics, Photography and Geography  
Studying: Geospacial Engineering at Newcastle University

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**“ Sixth Form gave me a window of opportunity in order to become a student nurse. The teachers not only encouraged me but some went out of their way to help me achieve my grades. My overall experience was really good and set me in good stead for university, the friendly atmosphere made the stress of exams a little easier!”**

Amy  
Studied: A Level Health and Social Care, Media Studies and Psychology  
Studying: Nursing (Adult) at Northumbria University









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