

Sixth Form

Subject Profiles



YOUR **future** BEGINS HERE...



ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INCORPORATING
WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC
SIXTH FORM CENTRE

**Sixth
Form**
@ ST BENEDICT'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



“The staff at Sixth Form are really supportive”
Lexia - Year 13

“Sixth Form is an infectious environment of positivity, helping us grow in confidence”
Frankie - Head Boy



“Sixth Form gives you amazing opportunities like visiting Oxford University”
Amiee - Year 13



“An excellent institute of learning”
Jack - Year 12



“Sixth Form feels like one big family”
Anezka - Head Girl



“Sixth Form has all the resources I need”
Jeric - Year 13



“You get much more independence”
Mycha - Year 12





ST BENEDICT'S SIXTH FORM OUR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



Our Post 16 curriculum is designed to give students the highest academic qualifications, which will allow them to pursue university, degree level study or higher-level apprenticeship study. The process of careers information, advice and guidance begins early and continues throughout Year 11 to help students understand the entry requirements for A Level study and to help them make informed choices.

Our **minimum** entry requirement is for a student to have at least **five** GCSE passes at Grade 5 or equivalent. However, for all our subjects, we do have **specific** entry requirements.

Students enter St Benedict's Sixth Form at 16 and pursue a two-year course leaving at 18. In rare instances, a student with particular circumstances may be admitted to the Sixth Form at 17, to complete a two-year course of study, as long as all entry requirements are met. In such cases, decisions will be made on an individual basis.

To enrol as a full time student, applicants must enrol for study pathways which incorporate a minimum of 540 guided learning hours each year. Usually, this involves studying four A Levels in Year 12 or 3 A Levels, combined with other qualifications, which may include resit GCSE Maths or English, Extended Project, or Core Maths. In Year 13, most students continue with a minimum of three A Levels.

Any student who has an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), which names St Benedict's, will be admitted, provided they meet the minimum entry requirements outlined above. Applications are welcome for students from Year 11 in St Benedict's, from St Joseph's, our partner school in Workington, and from all other local schools.

**To apply to our Sixth Form, please complete the online application form via our website.
The deadline for all completed application forms is Monday 19th February 2024**

On GCSE results day, a team of staff from St Benedict's is available to provide guidance and to formalise entry into the Sixth Form, if the entry requirements have been met. Further details will be provided in the due course.

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

incorporating

WEST CUMBRIA CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM CENTRE



Sixth Form Entry Requirements 2024

Subject	Entry Requirements	Other requirements/information
Applied Science	At least a Grade 6 in any science.	Grade 5 in English and Maths.
Art, Craft & Design	At least Grade 5 in GCSE Art.	If not studied, students may need to attend an interview with their portfolio.
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or at least a Grade 6 in Combined Science, with a Grade 6 in the Biology component.	Grade 5 in English and Maths.
Business Studies	At least Grade 5 in GCSE Business or a Merit grade if studied BTEC Business/Enterprise.	If not studied, Grade 5 in English Language/ English Literature and preferably a Grade 5 in Maths.
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or at least a Grade 6 in Combined Science, with a Grade 6 in the Chemistry component.	Grade 5 in English and Maths.
Computer Science	Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science.	
Design Technology (Product Design)	At least Grade 5 in GCSE Design Technology or an L2 Merit in Engineering.	Minimum Grade 5 GCSE Maths. It is not essential that you have studied DT at KS4 but this will be at the discretion of the Subject Leader.
English Language	At least Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.	
English Literature	At least Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.	
French	At least Grade 6 in GCSE French.	

Subject	Entry Requirements	Other requirements/information
Geography	At least Grade 5 in GCSE Geography.	If not studied, Grade 5 in English and Maths, plus permission from the subject leader.
German	At least Grade 6 in GCSE German.	
Health & Social Care	At least an L2 Merit Grade in GCSE Health and Social Care.	If not studied, Grade 5 in English and preferably Grade 5 in Science.
History	At least Grade 5 in GCSE History.	If not studied, Grade 5 in English and permission of the Subject Leader.
Information Technology	Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science or IT based qualification.	If not studied, Grade 6 in Maths.
Core Maths (Level 3 Certificate)	At least Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	This subject must be taken alongside three other subjects.
Maths	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths.	
Further Maths	At least Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths.	Students taking Further Maths should also be studying Maths A Level.
Performing Arts	At least an L2 Merit Grade in BTEC Performing Arts.	
Physics	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or at least a Grade 6 in Combined Science, with a Grade 6 in the Physics component.	Grade 5 in English and Maths and (as per the Institute of Physics) we recommend you also take a Level 3 Maths qualification.
Politics	At least Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.	This is an essay-based subject; students must be prepared for extended writing.
Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)	At least Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies.	If not studied, at least Grade 5 in another extended writing subject.
Sociology	At least Grade 5 in English Language or Literature.	This is an essay-based subject; students must be prepared for extended writing.
Spanish	At least Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.	
Sports Science	Students should have achieved either a MERIT level or above at Level 2 BTEC Sport, or Grade 5 in Science.	Play sport to a high level.



APPLIED SCIENCE

LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE AND EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024



AQA Applied General Science (1776)
Level 3 extended certificate in Applied Science (1777)

Subject description and course outline:

The course is the AQA Level 3 Applied Science. This gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. The qualification provides clear pathways for career development and progression opportunities to higher education and degrees.

The course consists of 6 units:

- Unit 1 – Key concepts in Science
- Unit 2 – Applied experimental techniques
- Unit 3 – Science in the modern world
- Unit 4 – The human body
- Unit 5 – Investigating Science
- Unit 6 – Microbiology

We want students who:

Have a real interest in Science, especially how it is used. The course is aimed at those students who may not want to follow a pure A Level but want a more hands on course with a coursework element. We want students who are motivated, hardworking, inquisitive and committed, as they will have to work independently and meet deadlines.

How will the students be assessed?

Units 1 and 3 have an external exam and Unit 2 is portfolio based.
Unit 4 has an exam and Units 5 and 6 are portfolio based.

What other courses does it complement?

Level 3 Applied Science complements Biology and Chemistry A Levels on the medical side, Physics and Engineering on the engineering side, Sports Science for sports related courses and Catering for careers in the food industry. It also supports courses that are vocational where students are thinking of taking an apprenticeship.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Level 3 Applied Science is very valuable as it demonstrates to employers and universities alike, an ability to handle information in a practical context. Apprenticeship providers are very keen on this as a qualification, as are firms that employ laboratory technicians. Applied Science is a useful subject for students who want to pursue a career in the health service, such as nursing or midwifery.



ART, CRAFT & DESIGN A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam Board AQA entry code 7201

Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:

www.aqa.org.uk/artanddesign



Subject description and course outline:

Students choose one of the options below for study throughout the course:

- Art, craft and design
- Fine art
- Graphic communication
- Textile design
- Three-dimensional design
- Photography

We want students who:

- have an interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoy art, craft and design,
- want to push their intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities, investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement,
- are independent of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes.

How will students be assessed?

1. *Personal investigation (60% of your mark)*

- The emphasis of this component will be for the students to choose an artist, issue, concept or theme supported by 2500 - 3000 words.
- This component is project based.

2. *Externally set assignment (40% of your mark)*

- Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time.
- Three quarters of the marks for this component are completed in the preparatory period that is around 10 weeks.

What other courses does it complement?

Most students who choose A Level Art, Craft and Design have chosen one of the practical subjects because they want to keep their options open and want to be seen as creative.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

The website www.studentartguide.com gives a list of 150 art related career paths, leading to employment including; Advertising, Web Designers, Computer Games Designers, Fashion Designers, Illustrators, Architects, Teaching, Product Graphic Designers, Interior Designers etc.



BIOLOGY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Edexcel Advanced (Code 9B10)



Subject description and course outline:

Biology A Level gives students the skills to make connections and associations with all the living things around them. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, students are bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

A Level

1. Biological molecules:
2. Cells and Viruses, reproduction of living things
3. Classification
4. Exchange and Transport
5. Energy for biological processes
6. Microbiology and Pathogens
7. Modern Genetics
8. Origins of Genetic Variation
9. Control Systems
10. Ecosystems

We want students who:

Are prepared to ask difficult questions. Students will have to learn a lot of detailed facts and apply them in an intelligent manner. If a student is inquisitive about the world, they will love Biology.

Biology is one of the top 'facilitator subjects' required to enter good courses at outstanding universities (Russell Group). Universities are becoming increasingly aware of Biology as an indicator of analytical skill. Biology is a logical prerequisite for Medicine and Veterinary Science and the growing world of Biotechnology and Pharmacology.

How will students be assessed?

- Paper 1: Advanced Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics Topics 1-7 / 90 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Paper 2: Advanced Physiology, Evolution and Ecology Topics 1-4 and Topics 8-10 / 90 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Biology, Topics 1-10 / 120 marks, 2 hours 30 minutes. This paper is synoptic, assessing knowledge from any of the 10 topics along with practical skills obtained from 16 core practical's, carried out during the 2-year course.

Other appropriate practical work is carried out besides the core practicals.

A 2-day fieldtrip is also undertaken to a local beach and river to gain experience of Ecological fieldwork and collect data for analysis for 2 core practicals.

What other courses does it complement?

Students who take Biology study from a wide range of subjects, including Psychology, Sociology, PE, Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Science, Health & Social Care, History and Geography.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Possible degree options: Biology, Psychology, Sport Science, Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Biochemistry, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Pharmacy, Law and Chemistry.

Possible career options: Clinical molecular geneticist, Nature conservation officer, Pharmacologist, Research scientist, Higher education lecturer, Secondary school teacher, Dentist/Doctor.



BUSINESS STUDIES

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024



Exam board: Pearson **Type of vocational pathway:** Applied General

Specification A-level equivalent:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business (360 GLH) 601/7159/5

Subject description and course outline:

Sixth Form Business Studies at St Benedict's offers a BTEC Level 3 qualification, which is the equivalent to one A Level. The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business Studies from the exam board Pearson, aims to encourage students to develop key skills in:

- Business organisations and how they operate
- The environment that businesses operate in such as the UK economy
- Innovation and Enterprise
- Marketing and Promotion
- Personal and Business Finance
- Human Resources

More specifically students will develop skills giving them:

- an understanding of how marketing, research and planning and the marketing mix are used by all organisations;
- a knowledge of a range of business organisations, and the many factors that shape the nature of organisations operating in an increasingly complex business world;
- a knowledge of the range of human, physical, technological and financial resources required in an organisation, and how the management of these resources can impact on business performance;
- an understanding of business and personal finance;
- the ability to determine the importance of the human resources in any organisation.

We want students who:

- are motivated and willing to work hard and have an interest in business based issues,
- are willing to complete independent tasks in study time in school and at home.

How will students be assessed?

The course is split into mandatory and optional portfolio units. The mandatory units are:

- Personal and Business Finance - written 2-hour exam.
- Exploring Business - internally assessed portfolio.
- Developing a Marketing Campaign - a task set and marked by the exam board, completed under supervised conditions. Students will be provided with a case study 2 weeks beforehand to research and then have 3 hours to write up the task.

There is one additional unit:

- Recruitment and Selection - internally assessed portfolio.

What other courses does it complement?

The course will complement a wide range of subjects, including English, Psychology, Maths, Travel and Tourism, Law, Government and Politics and many more.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

This course will allow you to access a wide range of further education courses at University, including degrees in Business, Management, Finance, Human Resources and Marketing. The BTEC qualification in Business also provides a route to employment into the many diverse areas of business. These include roles in specialist areas such as management, marketing, finance, customer service or human resources in large organisations or a more generic role in a small local business. A number of students gain higher level / degree level apprenticeships in areas such as Project Management.



CHEMISTRY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 AQA (7405)



Subject description and course outline:

Chemistry is for thinkers, dreamers and doers! Students who like to think and solve problems will love the challenge of this course. Those who dream of making new discoveries or of changing the world by solving the energy crisis or synthesising a new drug to treat cancer will love the scope of this course.

Year 12 - Physical Chemistry

Atomic structure, Amount of substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle, Oxidation, reduction and redox equations.

Year 12 - Inorganic Chemistry

Periodicity, Group 2, the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17), the halogens.

Year 12 - Organic Chemistry

Introduction to organic chemistry, Alkanes, Halogenoalkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols, Organic analysis.

The full A level examines all the above and in Year 13 we study:

Physical Chemistry

Thermodynamics, Rate equations, Equilibrium constant K_c for homogeneous systems, Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, Acids and bases.

Inorganic chemistry

Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, Transition metals, Reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

Organic chemistry

Optical isomerism, Aldehydes and ketones, Carboxylic acids and derivatives, Aromatic chemistry, Amines, Polymers, Amino acids, proteins and DNA, Organic synthesis, Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Chromatography.

We want students who:

Can cope with a challenging course and who have an interest in Chemistry. We want students who can work independently and can absorb detailed information. Students will need to be resilient and highly motivated.

How will the students be assessed?

There will be three two-hour papers, worth one hundred and five marks for the first two papers and ninety for the third, to assess the two years content. There is no coursework but practical understanding will be assessed in the papers and during 12 required practical activities.

What other courses does it complement?

Chemistry A Level complements Biology on the medical side, Physics and Engineering on the engineering side, Sports Science for sports related courses and Catering for careers in the food industry. Why doesn't the icing sugar on a cake dissolve when it's in the box? Ask a chemist.

Next steps – what this course can lead to:

The places that A Level Chemistry can take you are legion. Here are a few: doctor, vet, pathologist, forensic scientist, brewer, nanotechnologist, chemical engineer, cheese maker, systems analyst, the nuclear industry and plastics designer.



COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam board: OCR

A-level: A Level in Computer Science (H446)



Subject description and course outline:

A Level Computer Science from the exam board OCR, aims to build on students' computing skills gained at Key Stage 4. Specifically, it aims to encourage students to develop:

- an understanding of, 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 for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically;
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science;
- mathematical skills;
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

We want students who:

- Are motivated and willing to work hard.
- Are willing to complete independent tasks in study time, in school, and at home.
- Have an interest in ICT/computing based issues.

How will students be assessed?

The course is split into a number of units:

Year 12 and 13 - A-level Level (All units externally assessed at the end of Year 13)

- Unit 1 will be a written examination theory paper and will focus on computing principles - 40%
- Unit 2 will be a written paper that will focus on algorithms and problem solving - 40%
- Unit 3 will be coursework and will focus on developing a programming project - 20%

In addition to these externally assessed pieces of work, students will receive on-going assessment and feedback through project mark sheets for the coursework topics to feedback on their exam skills from written questions.

What other courses does it complement?

The course will complement a wide range of subjects, including Mathematics, Technology/Engineering and Science.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

The course will allow you to access a wide range of further education courses at University including a degree in Computer Science; Computing or ICT which could lead to a career in Application analysis; Applications development; Cyber security analysis; Data analysis; Forensic computer analysis; Game design; Games developer; Machine learning engineer as well as more general careers in Business Management, Engineering, Graphic Design and Mathematics.



CORE MATHEMATICS FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 AQA - Level 3 Certificate



Subject Description and course outline:

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills, to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. As well as providing a qualification in its own right, this course will consolidate students' mathematical understanding, build their confidence and competence in applying mathematical techniques to solve a range of problems and introduce them to new techniques and concepts that will prepare them for further study and future employment within a broad range of academic, professional and technical fields. The course has a compulsory element covering Data, Maths for personal finance and Estimation and an option element that will be chosen to best suit the cohort of students.

Students will study:

- **Analysis of Data** - including different types of data, collecting and sampling, representing data numerically, representing data diagrammatically and communicating findings through logical and reasoned arguments.
- **Maths for personal finance** - numerical calculations, percentages, interest rates, repayments and the cost of credit, taxation and solutions to financial problems.
- **Estimation** - the modelling cycle and Fermi estimation.

The option modules include:

- Statistical techniques
- Critical path and risk analysis
- Graphical techniques

How will students be assessed?

This course is externally assessed and is 100% exam.

At the end of the course there are two exams:

	Content	Duration	Marks available	Weighting
Paper 1	Compulsory content	90 minutes	60 marks	50%
Paper 2	Option content	90 minutes	60 marks	50%

We want students who:

Are motivated and enthusiastic about the magic of Mathematics and who aspire to discover more of its secrets.

What other courses does it complement?

It is the natural complement to numerate and scientific subjects, such as Physics and Chemistry, and can be useful to study alongside subjects with a statistical component such as Psychology and Geography.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Mathematical studies aim to prepare students for the mathematical demands of higher education and work where there is a distinct mathematical, or statistical element, but where the mathematical demands do not stretch to a requirement for A-level Mathematics.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 AQA 7702



Subject description and course outline:

The AQA English Language A Level, aims to build on skills gained at Key Stage 4. Specifically, it aims to encourage students to:

- develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of language;
- explore data and examples of language in use;
- engage creatively and critically with a varied programme for the study of English;
- develop their skills as producers and interpreters of language.

We want students who:

Are like language detectives, probing and investigating spoken and written texts, to understand how the language they have spoken and written from a very young age, is constructed.

In addition to this, to be successful, students should:

- have a genuine curiosity about the English language;
- have the ability to write clearly and accurately in different forms;
- enjoy classroom discussion and be willing to voice an opinion and listen to others;
- be able to work independently, researching areas of linguistic interest.

How will students be assessed?

This course is split into 3 teaching units:

- Paper 1 will be a written examination - Language, the Individual and Society (A Level).
- Paper 2 will be a written examination - Language Diversity and Change (A Level).
- NEA: Language in Action.

In addition to these externally assessed pieces of work, students will receive on-going assessment and feedback during the course.

What other courses does it complement?

The course will complement a wide range of subjects, including English Literature, History and Philosophy and Ethics.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

English is a universal qualification, which will equip students for any career involving written and/or spoken communication. It is a universally recognised qualification for entry into college/university courses, particularly in the field of Arts and Humanities. Past students with this qualification have gone on to study Law, Linguistics, Journalism, Media and Education, amongst other courses.



ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam Board: AQA 7717AA



Subject description and course outline:

A Level English Literature, from the exam board AQA, aims to build on skills gained at Key Stage 4. Specifically, it aims to encourage students to:

- read widely and independently, both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves;
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them;
- develop, and effectively apply, their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation;
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretation of them.

During the course, students will complete three units of study:

- Literary Genres: Tragedy - A Shakespeare play, a second drama text and one further text pre-1900;
- Texts and Genres: Elements of Crime Writing - a post-2000 novel, one collection of poetry and one further text pre-1900;
- Non-Exam Assessment: two essays of 1,250-1,500 each, on a different text - one poetry and one prose.

We want students who:

Are passionate about reading and love literature; who are prepared to explore brave new worlds of ideas, approaches and ways of thinking; who will listen to, build on and challenge, other people's ideas; who will read around the subject, the author and the concepts discussed in lessons.

In addition to this, to be successful, students should:

- have the ability to write clearly, accurately and fluently about texts;
- enjoy classroom discussion and be prepared to voice and defend their opinions;
- be able to work independently, researching linguistic areas of interest.

How will students be assessed?

This course is split into 3 examination units:

- Paper 1 will be a written examination - Literary Genres. 2 hours 30 minutes, closed book, 40% of A Level.
- Paper 2 will be a written examination - Texts and Genres. 3 hours, open book, 40% of A Level.
- Non Examined Assessment: Theory and Independence. 20% of A Level.

In addition to these externally assessed pieces of work, students will receive on-going assessment and feedback during the course.

What other courses does it complement?

The course will complement a wide range of subjects, including English Language, History, and Philosophy and Ethics.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

English Literature is a universal qualification, which will equip students for any career involving written and/or spoken communication. It is a universally recognised qualification for entry into college/university courses, particularly in the field of Arts and Humanities. Past students with this qualification have gone on to study English Literature, Creative Writing, Law, Linguistics, Journalism, Media and Education, amongst other courses.



LEVEL 3 EXTENDED PROJECT FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 Exam Board - Edexcel



EXTENDED PROJECT (EPQ)

An EPQ is an excellent taster of university-style learning as it is effectively an independent research project which can, but does not have to, relate to an A Level subject that is being studied. It is important therefore that students choose topics that they are interested in and curious about and, ideally, relate to further study so they are motivated to complete it. For example, an aspiring medic could write a research article analysing the difficulties associated with management of the NHS. This could help students substantiate evidence for their desire to study a specific degree course.

Assessment can be either by a written report of 5,000 words (that is around 10 typed pages) or by creating a “product”, this could be hosting an event or making a physical item, or “artefact”, such as a piece of art accompanied by a 1,000 word report. The latter is very useful if a student is applying to study a course with a vocational or practical element as the “product” created could be something that is included in a portfolio to demonstrate a certain skill. Every student also has to write a production log, which outlines their plans for their project, advice and support from their mentors (every student has a specific mentor assigned to them). Students also have to reflect on each stage they undertake whilst completing their projects and consider possible ways to improve with hindsight. The third and final component of the EPQ is an oral presentation, which involves answering questions from an invited audience at the end to test understanding. The whole process from start to finish takes about 120 hours.

Students taking an EPQ are also taught a series of lessons, which cover the requirements of the qualification and how to go about conducting and recording research.

What are the benefits of completing an EPQ?

An EPQ provides further academic stretch and challenge alongside A Level studies and also helps to evidence a genuine interest in a specific area (which is useful for UCAS university applications). An EPQ also carries UCAS points and is valued at 50% of a full A Level in the UCAS tariff.

Completing an EPQ helps students develop a number of different skills, which are vital for university. It requires excellent organisational skills: planning the project over a 20-week period and making sure that each stage is completed on time is essential to creating a high-quality end product and attracting the highest assessment marks in the process. Students also develop good time-management skills because it is not part of the normal school curriculum. Students therefore have to assign their own time to complete the project each week, while juggling the demands of A Levels.

Students, above all, are required to be independently motivated. The marking criteria severely penalises students who are not. EPQ mentors are specifically not permitted to interfere with a students' progress, especially in terms of meeting deadlines or completion of the project itself.



FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 EDEXCEL 9MF0 - A Level



Subject description and course outline:

If students really enjoy Mathematics and are successful at it, then Further Mathematics may be for them. It extends the A Level Mathematics content and can involve an extra application, Decision Mathematics, that looks at how to decide on the best approach to solve problems.

In addition to the A level Maths content, students will study:

Further Pure Mathematics - Proof; Complex numbers; Matrices; Further algebra and functions; Further calculus; Further vectors; Polar coordinates; Hyperbolic functions; Differential equations.

There is then a choice between more Pure Maths, Mechanics, Statistics or Decision. Some of the content covered in the different areas is shown below.

- **Decision Mathematics** - Algorithms and graph theory; Algorithms on graphs; Algorithms on graphs II; Critical path analysis; Linear programming.
- **Mechanics** - Momentum and impulse; Collisions; Centres of mass; Work and energy; Elastic strings and springs.
- **Probability and Statistics** - Linear regression; Statistical distributions (discrete); Statistical distributions (continuous); Correlation; Hypothesis testing; Chi squared tests.

We want students who:

Are motivated and enthusiastic about the magic of Mathematics and who aspire to discover more of its secrets by studying it at a higher level. If students really enjoy Mathematics and are interested in studying Mathematics, or a related subject such as Physics or Engineering, at university, then Further Mathematics is an excellent choice.

How will students be assessed?

The course is assessed externally and is 100% exam.

At end of Year 13, there are four exams:

	Content	Duration	Marks available	Weighting
Paper 1	Pure Maths	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%
Paper 2	Pure Maths	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%
Paper 3	Applied Maths option 1	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%
Paper 4	Applied Maths option 2	1 hour 30 minutes	75 marks	25%

What other courses does it complement?

It is the natural complement to numerate and scientific subjects, such as Physics and Chemistry and can be useful to study alongside subjects with a statistical component, such as Psychology and Geography.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Further Mathematics is an advantage for many university courses (including Oxford and Cambridge). It is often a prerequisite for Mathematics degree courses. It is also very useful for many engineering, business, management and teaching courses.



GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 EDEXCEL (9GE0)



Subject description and course outline:

A Level Geography offers a natural progression from GCSE. We ask students to look at contemporary and topical issues, challenging them to consider their place in the world.

This engaging and flexible course gives students the opportunity to:

- study the relationship between human populations with their physical environment at a variety of scales, from the local to the global;
- consider their own role, in relation to themes and issues being studied, and the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision makers.

The specification follows an **issues and impacts** approach to contemporary Geography that is suitable for all students. Topics range from Tectonic Processes and Change to Globalisation; from Glaciation to Superpowers and Health; Human Rights and Intervention.

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin

We want students who:

Show a genuine appreciation of our changing world and use a wide range of skills, which they can apply to a variety of situations; can work independently on a task or take an active role in a small group. Students should enjoy lively debate and appreciate how we, as individuals, can influence the future of our planet. Geographers should be competent in using ICT.

There are a mandatory 4 days of fieldwork as part of the A-level specification, which will be undertaken during the two-year course; previous trips include a day in Carlisle looking at perception of place, peat-bog assessment on Cold Fell, impacts of glaciation in the Borrowdale Valley and a trip to a large urban area for the diverse places topic.

How will students be assessed?

A Level: 3 written exams and 1 non-examined assessment

- Paper 1: Physical Geography: Tectonic Processes, Glaciation, Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, the Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity (30%, 2 hour exam).
- Paper 2: Human Geography: Globalisation, Superpowers, Regenerating Places and Health, Human Rights and Intervention (30%, 2-hour exam).
- Paper 3: Synoptic Investigation: Resources on a geographical issue (20%, 1¾ hour exam).
- Coursework: Independent Investigation - Non-examined assessment (20%, 3-4000 words).

What other courses does it complement?

Geography complements a wide range of other subjects in both the arts and sciences faculties. Examples range from Biology and Mathematics, to English, Modern Foreign Languages and Government and Politics.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Geography can lead to further study at degree level or be a supportive qualification for either a science or an arts degree. Career prospects are wide ranging and include: the travel & tourism industry, retail, transport, local government and politics, teaching, the Environment Agency, military, project management, mapping and planning to name but a few.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 Exam Board: OCR



Subject description and course outline:

Health and Social Care could be a new subject to many students. It is a broad range subject and encapsulates this through a variety of units such as effective communication, an individual's rights and needs, cultural diversity, safeguarding adults, caring for children and young people. This course will prepare students for further study and is an ideal foundation for students entering the modern workplace, providing them with a theoretical background reinforced with practical skills. This course also develops research, evaluation and problem-solving skills.

There are three units that are assessed in Year 12.

These are:

- Unit 1 - Building Positive Relationships in Health, Social and Child Care. (Coursework)
- Unit 2 - Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care. (External exam)
- Unit 3 - Health, safety and security in health and social care. (External exam)

Additionally, there are a further three units in Year 13 that make up the Extended Certificate. These are:

- Unit 4 - Anatomy and physiology for health and social care. (External exam)
- Unit 17 - Supporting people with mental health conditions. (Coursework)
- Unit 24 - Public health. (Coursework)

We want students who:

May want to try something new or want to develop their knowledge and understanding of health and social care in Britain today. Students who take this subject need to be highly organised, hard-working and committed to completing coursework. It is also important that students can work independently as well as in groups.

How will students be assessed?

This is a two-year course. Assessment will be through coursework/portfolios of work, which will be assessed by your teacher and moderated by an OCR visiting moderator and also by external examination at key points during the year.

What other courses does it complement?

Health and Social Care compliments Applied Science, Biology and Sociology.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

A qualification in Health and Social Care will provide relevant experiences to allow students to move to a career in Health, Social Care and Early Years but it is also a respected starting point for other careers. It will allow students to progress into further education, higher level apprenticeship or employment. Career opportunities include Childhood and Youth Studies, Nutrition and Health, all areas of Nursing, Midwifery, Counselling, Paramedic and Ambulance Roles, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Local Authority Services, Education Welfare and Complementary Therapies.



HISTORY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

A Level with AQA: Code 7042



Subject description and course outline:

The History department aims to fire students' curiosity about the past and to equip our young people with the skills to reach their potential throughout their lives.

In A Level History, our students will complete three papers:

- Paper One focuses on the Tudors between 1485 and 1603. As well as studying the reigns of King Henry VII and King Henry VIII, students will decide whether or not the reign of the boy-king Edward VI deserves to be labelled as a 'mid-Tudor crisis'. Students will also examine whether or not Mary I deserves to be called 'Bloody Mary' and we know they will want to find out more about the most intriguing monarch, Queen Elizabeth I.
- Paper Two focuses on the USA between 1945 and 1980. Students will explore the impact of different Presidents including Johnson and Nixon. The themes of the Cold War, civil rights and the changing American economy will be investigated and we know they will want to investigate the infamous Watergate Affair.
- Paper Three is a 'historical study', which students will investigate and research before writing up their findings.

We want students who:

Are enthusiastic and committed to studying History. The ability to use their initiative and be organised is crucial.

How will students be assessed?

A Level with AQA: Code 7042. Exams to be completed at the end of Year 13.

- Paper One C: One exam lasting 2 hours 30 minutes. This paper is worth 40% of the A Level.
- Paper Two Q: One exam lasting 2 hours 30 minutes. This paper is worth 40% of the A Level.
- Paper Three (NEA): An essay of 3000-3500 words. This paper is worth 20% of the A Level.

What other courses does it complement?

History A Level complements a wide range of other courses as a result of the variety of skills developed. The ability to analyse is tested in a range of other subjects including the sciences, Geography and Psychology. The communication skills developed, connect to subjects such as English Language, English Literature and Philosophy.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

In the past, well-motivated students have earned excellent grades and have gone on to study History, Law and Engineering. Other students have used their A Level History to support a wide range of further education courses, at university or college. The training in logic, deduction, listening, researching and evidential skills have allowed graduates to enter industrial middle management, archive and museum work, publishing and journalism, politics and teaching.



BTEC L3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam board: PEARSON

Qualification number: 601/7574/6

Subject description and course outline:

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology is the equivalent in size to one A Level. You will study 4 units of work. 3 are mandatory which you must study and there is a choice of 1 other unit which is an externally marked unit.

The course is split into 4 units:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems – Written examination set and marked by Pearson

Information technology (IT) systems have a significant role in the world around us and plays a part in almost everything we do. Having a sound understanding of how to effectively select and use appropriate IT systems will benefit you personally and professionally. You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, and the way that systems work individually and together, as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that they have on organisations and individuals.

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information – A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions

In order to produce information to support many business processes as well as our social lives, relational databases are widely used to manage and process data. From the smallest in-house systems to stock control systems for large online retailers, databases are repositories of information that are a significant part of organisational operating requirements. You will examine the structure of data and its origins, and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test your solution to ensure that it works correctly. Finally, you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business – An assignment marked internally and verified by Pearson

Social media websites are a popular way for people to communicate and share information with friends and family. People spend a lot of time on social media websites, and they give businesses opportunities to interact with people, for example to promote their business, to encourage people to visit their e-commerce site and buy, to provide customer service. You may be familiar with social media for personal use and in this unit, you will discover how it can be used in a business context. You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the business use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts. Understanding how to use social media for business purposes is useful for employment in information technology and in a variety of business sectors. Also, social media skills are closely linked with web and mobile applications development. This unit gives you a starting point for progression to roles such as social media specialist, content developer and web developer.

Unit 6 – Website Development - An assignment marked internally and verified by Pearson

In this unit, you will review existing websites – commenting on their overall design and effectiveness. You will use scripting languages such as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and JavaScript® and a simple text editor, or rapid application development tools. Finally, you will reflect on the website design and functionality using a testing and review process. Many software developers, database experts and systems managers need web-client development skills as an integral part of their overall portfolio of expertise. This unit will prepare you for employment as a website developer or as a website development apprenticeship.

We want students who:

- Are motivated and willing to work hard.
- Are willing to complete independent tasks in study time, in school, and at home.
- Have an interest in ICT/computing-based issues.

What other courses does it complement?

The course will complement a wide range of subjects, including Business, Mathematics, Technology/Engineering and Science.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

The course will allow you to access a wide range of employment opportunities and further education courses at university including a degree in Computing or ICT which could lead to a career in Website Development; Social Media Specialist; Content Developer; Application analysis; Applications development; as well as more general careers in Business Management, Engineering, Graphic Design and Mathematics.

For further information please contact:

Mr P Charlton – Subject Leader for Computer Science and Business



MATHEMATICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 EDEXCEL 9MA0 - A level



Subject Description and course outline:

Mathematics is one of the fundamental building blocks of the universe and is used to describe nearly everything within it. Study at A Level enables students to explore the world of Mathematics in greater depth, looking at Mathematics, both for its own sake, and its applications in the real world. The course is split into two areas - Core Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Core Mathematics looks at what Maths is all about, including the rules and patterns that everything is built upon, and consists of four units. Applied Mathematics looks at how Maths can be applied to real situations, in particular the use of data (Statistics) and motion of objects (Mechanics).

Students will study:

- **Pure Mathematics** including Proof; Algebra and Functions; Coordinate Geometry in the (x,y); Sequences and Series; Trigonometry; Exponentials and Logarithms; Differentiation; Integration; Numerical Methods.
- **Probability and Statistics** - Statistical Sampling; Data Presentation and Interpretation; Probability; Statistical Distributions; Statistical Hypothesis Testing.
- **Mechanics 1** - Quantities and Units in Mechanics; Kinematics; Forces and Newton's Laws; Moments.

How will students be assessed?

The course is assessed externally and is 100% exam.

At the end of Year 13 there are three exams:

	Content	Duration	Marks available	Weighting
Paper 1	Pure Maths	2 hours	100 marks	$33\frac{1}{3}\%$
Paper 2	Pure Maths	2 hours	100 marks	$33\frac{1}{3}\%$
Paper 3	Applied Maths (Mechanics and Statistics)	2 hours	100 marks	$33\frac{1}{3}\%$

We want students who:

Are motivated and enthusiastic about the magic of Mathematics and who aspire to discover more of its secrets. If students really enjoy Mathematics and are interested in studying Mathematics, or a related subject such as Physics or Engineering, at university, then Further Mathematics is an excellent choice.

What other courses does it complement?

It is the natural complement to numerate and scientific subjects, such as Physics and Chemistry, and can be useful to study alongside subjects with a statistical component, such as Psychology and Geography.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Mathematics A Level is a highly regarded qualification, both within Further Education and in employment. It is also considered a challenging, though enjoyable, subject to study.

A Level Mathematics can be a requirement for many degree courses eg, Accountancy, all fields of Engineering, Computer Science, Medicine and any Mathematics related subject. It is also very useful for many business, management and teaching courses.



**MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES:
FRENCH / GERMAN / SPANISH
A LEVEL
FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024**
Exam Board AQA
French A Level (7652)
German A Level (7662)
Spanish A Level (7692)



Subject description and course outline:

Year 12

The course will cover:

1. Aspects of French/German/Spanish - speaking society
2. Artistic culture in the French/German/Spanish - speaking world
3. Grammar
4. A literary text or a film

Year 13

The course will cover:

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar
4. Literary texts and films

We want students who:

Have a genuine interest in developing their comprehension and communication skills in a Foreign Language beyond GCSE; students who will be proactive in using media and internet resources to develop their language abilities and who are interested in gaining an understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French / German or Spanish is spoken.

How will students be assessed?

A Level Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of A Level, 2 hours 30 minutes)

Candidates will answer a range of questions based on listening material and on a selection of written stimulus texts about aspects of French/German/Spanish-speaking society, artistic culture in the French/German/ Spanish - speaking world, and aspects of political life in the French/German/Spanish-speaking - society.

Candidates will also complete a translation into English and a translation into French/German /Spanish.

A Level Paper 2: Writing (20% of A Level, 2 hours)

Candidates will answer one question in French/German/Spanish on a set text + one question in French/German/Spanish on a set film **or** 2 questions on set texts (approximately 300 words per essay).

A Level Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A Level, 21 - 23 minutes, including preparation time)

Candidates will discuss a sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5 - 6 minutes) and give a presentation with discussion (9 - 10 minutes) on an individual research project.

What other courses does it complement?

Due to the current global economic climate, knowledge of a second language such as French, German or Spanish no longer a luxury, but desirable. An A Level in French/German/Spanish complements a wide variety of other A Level subjects such as English, the Sciences and the Humanities.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Numerous opportunities including Teaching, Interpreting, Tourism, Business, Translating, and Bilingual Secretarial/PA work. A qualification in a European language is increasingly seen as a useful, additional qualification in a variety of careers eg, Law, Accountancy, Business Studies and Science. There are more courses in Further Education which enable you to study a language as an addition to another qualification.



PERFORMING ARTS
BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED
CERTIFICATE FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024
Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson - 601/7233/2



Subject description and course outline:

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is an Applied General qualification for post 16 students who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education, and ultimately to employment, possibly in the performing arts sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level, and it has been designed as part of a two-year programme. Students wishing to take this BTEC will have successfully completed a Level 2 programme of learning, with GCSEs or vocational learning. The course consists of 4 units taught across 360 guided learning hours. Three of the units are mandatory and one is an optional unit which is decided upon based on the individual strengths of each student. The four units are split across two years of study:

Year 1

Unit 1 - Investigating Practitioners' Work (External Assessment)

Unit 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance (Internal Assessment)

Year 2

Unit 3 - Group Performance Workshop (External Assessment)

Optional Unit – based on performance strengths e.g. dance, musical theatre or acting (Internal Assessment)

We want students who:

Aspire to work in an industry where creative, imaginative and independent skills are essential. Students should prefer creative project style work and investigating real situations. Students need to be able to work as part of a group and communicate their ideas through performances.

How will students be assessed?

Students will produce a portfolio of evidence for each unit which will be internally assessed. The two externally assessed units will be recorded and sent to a moderator for final assessment.

What other courses does it complement?

This qualification complements many courses, as it helps to develop essential life skills that are transferable to any career path. It can help with building confidence, communication, public speaking and working as part of a team.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

The course can allow students to go on to study Performing Arts, Dance, Music or Drama at university. It could also be the first step to a career in the Performing Arts industry either as a performer or the production side of the industry. Most employment industries now seek employees who are creative, imaginative and inventive and these transferable skills are developed in this subject. In addition to sector specific content, students develop the transferable and higher order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers. For example, in Group Performance Workshop unit, students acquire transferable skills such as teamwork, collaboration, planning, time management, communication, self-motivation, decision making, self-awareness and interpersonal skills.



PHYSICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024 AQA (7408)



Subject description and course outline:

A Level Physics is an exciting subject enabling students to appreciate how fundamental Science works and to study the history of the key developments influencing Physics.

Year 12

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and Radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and Materials
- Electricity

Year 13

- The full A Level examines all of the above and:
- Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear Physics
- Option module: Turning points in Physics

We want students who:

Are motivated, hardworking, inquisitive, independent and resilient with a love of Physics. You will ideally have studied GCSE Physics.

How will students be assessed?

Year 12 internal exams - there will be two ninety minute papers worth 70 marks each, to assess the AS. There is no coursework but practical understanding will be assessed in the papers. Both papers assess the full Year 12 content. Paper 1 has 70 marks of short and long answer questions, split by topic. Paper 2 is split into three sections. Section A: 20 marks of short and long answer questions on practical skills and data analysis. Section B: 20 marks of short and long answer questions from across all areas of AS content. Section C: 30 multiple choice questions.

A Level - there will be three two hour papers of 85 marks for Papers 1 and 2 and 80 for the Paper 3. Paper 1 and Paper 2 have 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions on content. Paper 3 has 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis. There are 35 marks of short and long answer questions on the Turning Points in Physics topic.

What other courses does it complement?

Physics is a very versatile A Level, which can open many doors in the future. It complements several other A Levels including Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Engineering, Product Design and Geography. The Institute of Physics strongly recommends that you study at least Year 12 Mathematics alongside A level Physics.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Studying A Level Physics can open up many diverse career opportunities for students and prepare them for some of the more challenging degree courses in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These can include the medical sciences, becoming a research scientist, all forms of engineering, financial careers such as accountants and stockbrokers, working in the oil and gas industry, architects, sports scientists and many aspects of the nuclear and energy industry.



POLITICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam Board: Edexcel (9PLO)



Subject Description and Outline:

The A Level course in Politics covers a range of political issues and how countries are governed. Students will undertake 3 modules for their A Level course. Students will study the following:

- UK Government and Political Ideas
- UK Politics and Political Ideas
- Comparative Politics - The Politics of the USA

Within these topic areas, students will assess key issues such as voting behaviour and political participation, as well as the British Constitution and Parliament. Students will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the political system and ideologies throughout the 2 year course.

We want students who:

Who are interested in politics and the world around them. Students need to have a keen interest in political issues as well as how countries are governed. We want students who are independent thinkers and are able to follow key issues of the day through newspapers and the televised media. We also want students who have good writing skills and are analytical. Politics covers a broad range of topics and we want students who can demonstrate high level thinking skills in order to get the best out of the course.

How will students be assessed?

A Level - Component 1, 2 and 3

Students will be assessed by three examinations of 2 hours each, consisting of source based and structured questions for their A Level.

What other courses does it complement?

Politics links well with other Humanities based subjects such as History. It also links with English, Sociology and Religious Studies, as these subjects are also essay based.

Next steps - what does this course lead to:

Students go on to a wide range of further education courses at university or college. It is particularly useful for those interested in careers in Law, Journalism and of course Politics. Students have also gone on to careers in teaching law as well as a variety of graduate entry jobs and the analytical skills developed are also useful for a wide range of apprenticeships.



PRODUCT DESIGN A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

AQA Design and Technology; Product Design 7552



Subject description and course outline:

Product Design is a creative and practical subject where students make the decisions about what they design and make. In Year 12, they experience a range of short, focused design and practical activities. In Year 13, students select a major project and make a full size working prototype, the choice is wide and varied and could include anything from furniture to engineered products.

We want students who:

Are creative and enjoy designing. If a student is the sort of person who looks at a product and wonders how it is made or thinks about how it could be improved, then Product Design might be for them. If they take things apart to see how they work, then they might have the sort of enquiring mind which would suit this course.

Students would not need to have studied GCSE Product Design or Engineering to access this course.

How will students be assessed?

AQA Design and Technology; Product Design 7552

This is a linear course, which means that candidates will be assessed at the end of Year 13. They will take three papers.

Paper One is a mixture of short, multiple choice, and extended questions based on core design and technology knowledge, and is worth 25% of the A-Level.

Paper Two is a mixture of short, multiple choice, and extended questions based on specialist knowledge, technical designing and making principles, and is worth 25% of the A-Level.

Paper Three is the non-examination assessment. This is an extended design and make project, which allows candidates to demonstrate their research and analytical skills as well as their creative designing and making skills. This section is worth 50% of the A-Level.

What other courses does it complement?

Product Design matches well with sciences, Maths and Art.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

There are many career opportunities including creative design, for example Product Design, Graphic Design, Theatre or Stage Design, Publishing, Television, Film or Radio Software, Games Design and Design Architecture. There are also a variety of pathways available in Engineering; these include Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic, Civil, Marine, Production, Design and many more.



A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND CHRISTIANITY FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024



Exam Board: EDUQAS (Course Code A120PA)

Subject description and course outline:

Philosophy and Ethics offers a great insight into complex aspects of our existence, what makes up the human character, what is the nature of our reality, how we come to make correct moral decisions and how we come to understand greater concepts such as the existence of God.

There are three components to this course:

Component 1 - Philosophy

Philosophy includes a consideration of ultimate questions such as the existence of God, life after death, the problem of evil and the nature of the debate between science and religion. Philosophy will challenge your thinking of the everyday!

Component 2 - Ethics

Ethics involves studying different approaches to how people view morality. Does morality originate with God? Do we act out of duty? Is this the same as doing what is right? Can we define good as anything other than good?

Component 3 - A Study of Religion – Christianity

The study of Christianity asks the following questions:

Who is Jesus? Did he really exist? Should we believe the Bible? Can you be rich and a Christian? What is Feminism? Are men and women the same? Christianity will take you beyond your understanding so far and look at how the faith developed into what we know today.

We want students who:

Are not afraid to discuss and debate their opinions; are not afraid to try and are resilient; are hard-working and dedicated with good essay writing skills; and who want to be challenged to think beyond the everyday.

How will students be assessed?

A Level

3 written exams:

- Paper 1: Christianity - 2 hour exam
- Paper 2: Philosophy - 2 hour exam
- Paper 3: Ethics - 2 hour exam

For each paper, students will be expected to answer one question from Section A out of a choice of two and one question from Section B out of a choice of three.

All components have equal weighting.

What other courses does it complement?

Religious Studies combines well with both arts-based subjects like English, History, Sociology, Geography, Art as well as science-based subjects like Physics, Maths, Chemistry and Biology.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that an A Level in Philosophy and Ethics provides 'suitable preparation for university generally'. This is due to the skills developed during the course, preparing them for higher education or the world of work.

Employers see it as an interesting subject that develops the critical thinking skills required for the modern work place.

Philosophy and Ethics students have gone on to study a wide variety of subjects at university; these include, Law, Medicine, Physics, Biology, English, Midwifery, Criminology, nursing, social work and teaching.



SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam Board: AQA (7192)



Subject description and course outline:

Sociology is a popular subject at A Level. It focuses on how people behave in groups and covers a wide range of topics including crime and deviance and education. Lessons involve a mix of individual, paired and group work, with plenty of opportunity for discussion as well as a focus on developing exam skills, including essay writing.

In Year 12, students will study the following compulsory units:

- Education
- Methods in Context
- Research Methods

...and:

- Families and households

For the full A level, compulsory units are Education, with theory and methods, and Crime and Deviance, with theory and methods. Optional topics include Families and Households and the Media.

We want students who:

Have an interest in how contemporary society works. They will need to be able to develop critical and reflective thinking skills. A respect for social diversity is crucial to enable students to develop their own sociological awareness, through active engagement with the social world around them. Students will often need to be able to question their own values and beliefs and must be open-minded in their approach to this subject.

How will students be assessed?

Students will be assessed at the end of their two years. For the full A level, there are three exams at the end of Year 13.

What other courses does it complement?

Its focus on the study of human social behaviour means that Sociology goes well with subjects such as History, Geography, Health & Social Care and Psychology.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

Sociology is very useful for any job role involving working with people, such as social work, nursing, teaching, the police or human resources.



SPORTS SCIENCE BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2024

Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson 601/7218/6



Subject description and course outline:

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is a 360 guided learning hour (GLH) qualification that consists of four units. Three of the units are mandatory. It offers an engaging programme for those who are clear about sport being part of their future career. The four units are split across two years of study:

Year 1

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology (External Exam)

Unit 5 – Optional unit – Application of fitness Testing or

Year 2

Unit 2 – Fitness Training & Programming for Health, Sport & Well-Being (External Assessment)

Unit 7 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry

We want students who:

Are passionate about sport and keep up to date with current sporting issues. Students must be good independent learners who are willing to voice their opinions on sporting issues. A sound scientific knowledge base and active involvement in sports is also essential to success.

How will students be assessed?

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificates in Sport units are assessed through project and assignment work as well as an external exam. Each unit is graded Pass, Merit or Distinction and then an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* is awarded on completion.

Students are assessed continuously throughout the course. National standards are laid down for each unit, in which students must show they are competent. Teachers ensure that students are given opportunities to do this through projects, assignments, case studies and problem-solving situations. Every time students provide evidence that they are competent in a particular area, it is recorded on tracking sheets until they have completed the full set of units that add up to the correct number of credits for that course.

What other courses does it complement?

This course complements any areas of study that requires independent work. It would also work well along-side science-based subjects, especially Biology.

Next steps - what this course can lead to:

The course gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. The qualification also provides career development opportunities and progression opportunities to higher education, degree and professional development programmes within the sports industry.

“There is more freedom in sixth form that you don’t get in secondary school”

Isabella - Year 12



“Sixth form is a place to not only learn academically, but also life skills”

Eden - Year 12



“Sixth Form has allowed me to develop strong relationships with other students and staff”

Mya - Year 12



“Great community”

Ella - Year 13



“It’s great to be able to select your own subjects”

Aaron - Year 12



“Sixth Form is a friendly environment”

Ruth - Year 13

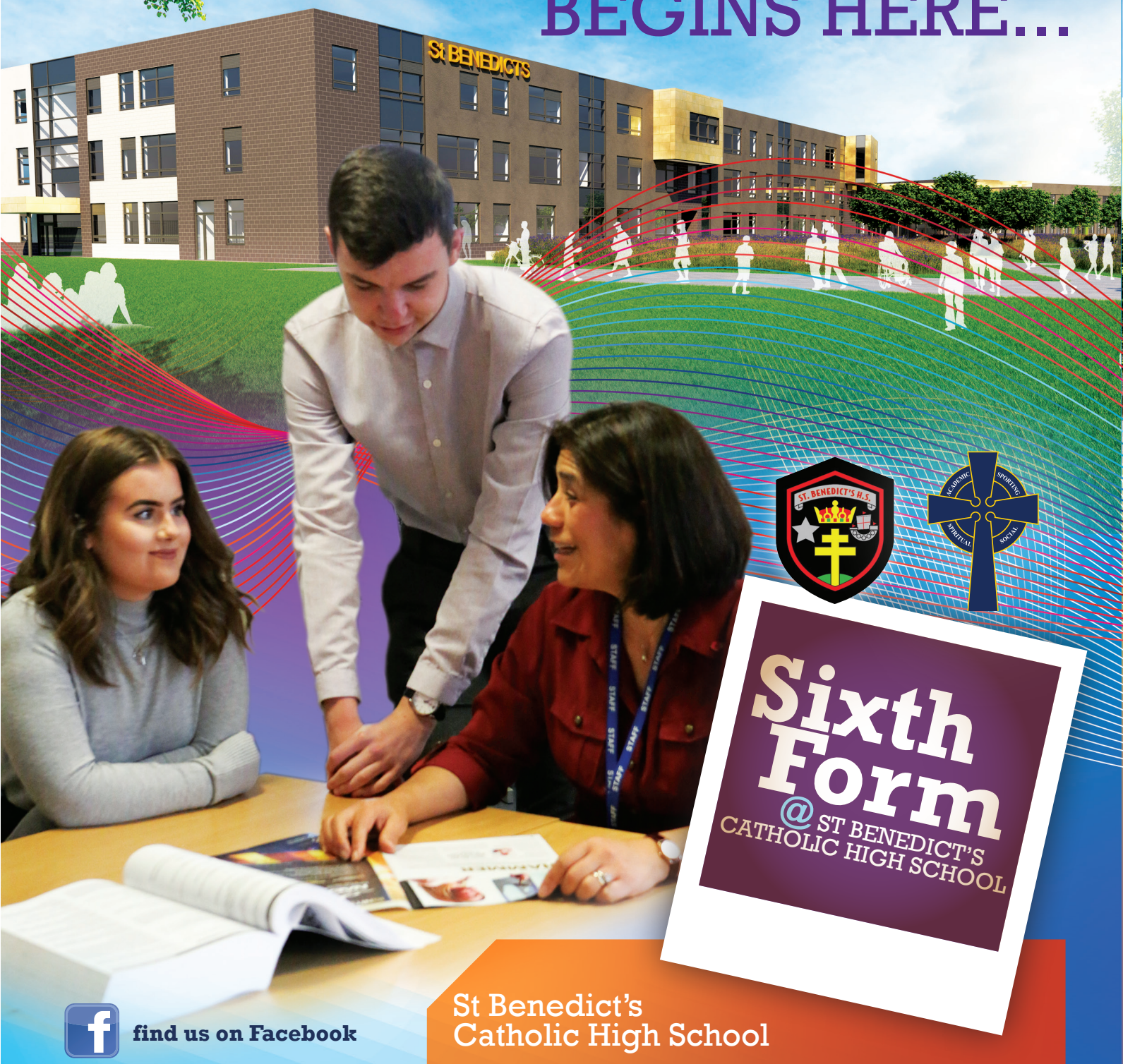


“Sixth Form is one gateway to propel you into the working world”

Evan - Year 13



YOUR **future** BEGINS HERE...



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follow us on Twitter

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