



St Benedict's
Catholic High
School

1971

SIXTH FORM SUBJECT PROFILES 2026-2027



Through love of Christ, delight in Virtue

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 4 or equivalent. However, for all our subjects, we do have **specific** entry requirements.

Students enter West Cumbria Catholic 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 3 A Levels, combined with other qualifications, which may include resit GCSE Maths or English, Extended Project, Core Maths, or Further Maths.

To apply to our Sixth Form, please complete the online application form via our website.

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.



SIXTH FORM ENTRY REQUIRMENTS 2026

5 KS4 QUALIFICATIONS AT GRADE 4 EQUIVALENT

Subject	Entry Requirments
Art, Craft & Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Art
Biology	Grade 6 in Biology or 66 in Combined Science Grade 5 in Maths
Business Studies	Grade 5 in Business Studies or L2 Merit in BTEC or OCR Grade 4 in English
Chemistry	Grade 6 in Chemistry or 66 in Combined Science Grade 6 in Maths
Computer Science	Grade 5 in Computer Science Grade 5 in Maths
English Language	Grade 5 in English Language
English Literature	Grade 5 in English Literature
Extended Project	Grade 5 in English Language/Literature
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French
Geography	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography
German	Grade 6 in GCSE German
Health & Social Care	L2M in Health & Social Care Grade 4 in English
History	Grade 5 in GCSE History
Information Technology	Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science or L2M in IT/Creative Media
Maths	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Core Maths	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths
Further Maths	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Music Performance	Grade 5 in GCSE Music or L2M in Performing Arts
Performing Arts	L2M in BTEC Performing Arts Grade 4 in English
Physics	Grade 6 in Physics or 66 in combined Science Grade 6 in Maths
Philosophy, Ethics & Christianity	Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies
Politics	Grade 5 in English Language/Literature
Product Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Design technology or L2M in engineering Grade 5 in Maths
Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language/Literature
Sports Science	L2M in BTEC Sport or Grade 55 in Science Grade 4 in English

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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 will study Art, craft and design, this includes:

- 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 2026

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 2026

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 2026 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 2026

Exam Board: OCR

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%
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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.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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:

- Analyse texts and link them to their wider contexts
- Evaluate opinions and beliefs about linguistic issues
- Produce journalistic writing
- Produce creative writing

We want students who:

- 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 interest.
- are interested in popular culture and current affairs

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, Sociology 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. Many of our English Language students have gone on to complete higher level apprenticeships in Project Management.

ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

Exam Board: OCR H472

Subject description and course outline:

A Level English Literature, from the exam board OCR, 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:

- Component 1 - Content of Drama and Poetry pre-1900: A Shakespeare play, a second pre-1900 drama text and one pre-1900 poetry text;
- Component 2 - Comparative and contextual study: Choose one topic and study at least two whole texts in the chosen topic area;
- Non-Exam Assessment: Study of three literature texts – one prose, one poetry and one drama. At least one text must be post-1900 and one must be post-2000.

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 – Drama and Poetry pre-1900. 2 hours 30 minutes, closed book, 40% of A Level.
- Paper 2 will be a written examination – Comparative and Contextual Study. 2 hours 30 minutes, closed 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 2026

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.

GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026 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.
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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 Exam: Physical Geography: Tectonic Processes, Glaciation, Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, the Carbon Cycle and Energy Insecurity (30%, 2 hour 15 minutes)
- Paper 2 Exam: Human Geography: Globalisation, Superpowers, Diverse Places and Health, Human Rights and Intervention (30%, 2 hour 15 minutes)
- Paper 3 Exam: Synoptic Investigation: Resources on a geographical issue (20%, 2 hour 15 minute)
- Coursework (NEA): Independent Investigation - Non-examined assessment (20%, 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 & SOCIAL CARE LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONAL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

Exam Board: OCR

Subject description and course outline:

This course has been designed to develop key knowledge, understanding and skills, relevant to the subject. As a coursework-based exam subject, it offers students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and showcase their abilities through continuous assessment across the course. This encourages consistent effort, deeper learning, and the development of practical, research, and analytical skills. Furthermore, it will develop independence and confidence in applying their knowledge and skills which are vital for progression to HE, working in relevant roles in the health and social care sector and more widely.

There are three units that are assessed in Year 12.

These are:

- F090 – Principles of health and social care. (External exam)
- F092 – Person-centred approach to care. (NEA coursework)
- F093 – Supporting people with mental health conditions. (NEA coursework)

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

- F091 – Anatomy and physiology for health and social care. (External exam)
- F094 – Supporting people with long term physiological conditions. (NEA coursework)
- F097 – Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles. (NEA coursework)

Note – Optional unit F094 may be subject to change depending on student interest.

We want students who:

May want to try something new or want to develop their knowledge and understanding of health and social care to progress into working in one of the care sectors. Students who take this subject need to be organised, hard-working and committed to completing coursework to deadlines. 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 NEA coursework, these will be based on tasks set by the exam board, assessed by the class teacher and moderated by an OCR moderator. Assessment will also be by external examination at key points during the year, with the opportunity to resit if necessary.

What other courses does it complement?

Health and Social Care can complement many other courses and in particular, Biology, English 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 Care or Social Care, but it is also a respected starting point for other careers, such as Primary Education. It will allow students to progress into further education, a higher-level apprenticeship or employment. Career opportunities include 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 2026

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 2026

Exam Board: Pearson
Qualification number: 601/7574/6

Subject description and course outline:

The BTEC National Information Technology (AAQ) is the equivalent in size to one A Level. You will study 4 units of work which are all mandatory.

The four units you will study:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems – External 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: Cyber Security and Incident Management – External examination set and marked by Pearson

In this unit, you will examine the many types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and the techniques that can be used to defend an organisation's networked systems. You will examine scenarios and explain appropriate protection measures for networked systems. You will also look at the forensic methods used to investigate cyber security incidents and analyse the suitability of those methods for a given scenario.

Unit 3: Website Development – An assignment marked internally and verified by Pearson

In this unit, you will explore how existing websites use the principles of website development to appeal to their intended audience and meet their specific purpose. You will plan, design and develop a website in response to a client brief by applying website development tools, techniques and processes. You will also reflect on the usability, functionality and fitness for purpose of the website using a testing and review process.

Unit 4: Relational Database Development – An assignment marked internally and verified by Pearson

In this unit, you will examine the structure of data and how an efficient data design follows through into an effective, useful database. You will investigate database management systems (DBMS) and apply practical skills in designing and developing a database within a given DBMS.

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

Email: computing@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk

MATHEMATICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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 – Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Pure Mathematics looks at what Maths is all about, including the rules and patterns that everything is built upon. 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 & 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 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 Biology, Geography, Business, Sociology, Sports Science and Health & Social Care.

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.

CORE MATHEMATICS

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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	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 Biology, Geography, Business, Sociology, Sports Science and Health & Social Care.

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.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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 the end of Year 13, there will be 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 Biology, Geography, Business, Sociology, Sports Science and Health & Social Care.

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.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH & GERMAN FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

Exam Board AQA

French A Level (7652)/German A Level (7662)

Subject description and course outline:

Year 12

The course will cover:

- 1.Aspects of French/German -speaking society
- 2.Artistic culture in the French/German - 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 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 -speaking society, artistic culture in the French/German - speaking world, and aspects of political life in the French/German speaking society.

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

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 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 is no longer a luxury, but desirable. An A Level in French/German 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.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL CERTIFICATE

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

Exam Board: Pearson – 601/7090/6

Subject description and course outline:

Students will study Music Performance, this includes:

- Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- Professional Practice in the Music Industry
- Ensemble Music Performance

We want students who:

- Have an interest in, enthusiasm for music.
- Are keen to develop their own musicianship through practical workshops
- Are curious in working within the music industry, developing an understanding on different roles and responsibilities in their chosen field.
- Want to become independent in developing, refining, performing and critically evaluating their own ideas and intentions
- Want to support the music industry in the future.

How will this be assessed?

Students will undergo and complete three mandatory units:

Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony

Learners develop knowledge and understanding of music theory and harmony and apply their understanding in practical scenarios. This unit is internally assessed.

Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry

Learners explore what it is that makes someone a professional in the music industry and how to put forward a bid to work. This unit is externally assessed.

Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance

Learners work as part of an ensemble and develop their skills and techniques in rehearsal and performance. This unit is externally assessed.

Students will get a choice to complete one optional unit from the following:

Unit 4: Composing Music

Unit 5: Music Performance Session Styles

Unit 6: Solo Performance

Unit 7: Improvising Music

What other courses does it complement?

Most students who choose a Music Performance qualification also study practical subjects. It allows them to be as creative as possible. Students who have chosen this subject have also chosen subjects which are more coursework based because they have similar approaches in achieving grades.

Next Step – What this course can lead to:

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC National or A Levels. The programme gives a broad overview of the sector, with a focus on performance, including musical skills development and professional practice.

Entry Requirements: At least 5 Grade 5s at GCSE or equivalent

PERFORMING ARTS

BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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.

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS & CHRISTIANITY A LEVEL

FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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.

PHYSICS A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026 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 2026

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 2026

AQA Design & Technology: Product Design 7552

Subject description and 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, 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, 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, Art & Geography.

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.

SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

Exam Board: AQA (7192)

Subject description and 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.

Students will study the following compulsory units:

- Education
- Crime and Deviance
- Theory and Methods

At St Benedict's the optional units that student's study are:

- Families and households
- 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 Politics.

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 2026

Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson 601/7218/6

Subject description and 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 7 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Year 2

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

Unit 5 – Optional unit – Application of Fitness Testing

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.



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE:

www.st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk/sixthform

TELEPHONE:

01946 692275

EMAIL:

6thform@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk

ADDRESS:

St Benedict's Catholic High School
Campus Whitehaven
Red Lonning
Whitehaven
Cumbria
CA28 8UG

