



Sixth Form

Course Options Guide

For Year 12 Students
Academic Year 2019/20



Welcome

We are delighted that you are considering Sixth Form at The Buckingham School for the next stage of your education.

We offer continuity for those students who decide to stay with us and a fresh start within a supportive, caring and friendly environment for those who join us in the Sixth Form.

We have designed a varied and innovative curriculum to meet the needs of all students. This means that you can choose to follow a traditional academic A Level programme, or you can take a more vocational path, choosing courses which build your practical skills at the same time as developing your academic abilities. What is crucial is to make sure that the courses which you choose are right for your interests, skills and ambitions and our admissions process will help you in doing this.

We are very proud of the fantastic enrichment opportunities which our students enjoy. These include taking on leadership roles within the School; participating in clubs, activities and trips, work experience, fundraising and volunteering.

What makes The Buckingham School's Sixth Form different is the opportunity that it provides to pursue academic and/or vocational subjects, within a caring and supportive environment. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that all students achieve their full potential by equipping them with the right qualifications, experience and attitude.

If you choose to come to The Buckingham School we will help you take the next step to achieving your dreams.

Mrs S Pykett
Director of Sixth Form

Your future is coming!

Curriculum

We offer a wide range of both traditional academic A Levels and vocational BTEC qualifications, including Extended Project and Sports Leadership Awards – detailed course information can be found in this booklet.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant and exciting learning environment, providing breadth of knowledge, creativity and enrichment opportunities, both within and beyond the classroom.

Students

Our ethos is of care and challenge pervades all aspects of school life. We all thrive in a highly inclusive, supportive, mutually respectful and tolerant environment. Everyone belongs and everyone is valued.

Sixth Form students are treated as young adults preparing them for either apprenticeships, university life or the world of employment.

We have a strong and enthusiastic specialist teaching team to support you throughout your Sixth Form education with us.

Facilities

The facilities are fantastic after a £1.8m Local Authority investment. They are bright, modern and state of the art having been completely renovated, including new teaching rooms, a purpose built common room, IT room, Art and Photography studios and Science laboratories.

All Sixth Form students can take advantage of the school's extensive facilities including a dance studio with sprung floor, two drama rooms, music room, astro-pitches, extensive sporting fields, tennis courts and the use of the Swan Leisure Centre.

“Sixth Form students have been commended for being very good role models for younger students and contribute much to school life.”

Enrichment

We are proud of the enrichment opportunities offered to our students and these are very much part of everyday life. We expect our students to work hard and to contribute to the life of the school and Sixth Form community.

Our enrichment opportunities have Student Voice and Student Leadership at their heart—both areas in which the school excels. Student Voice in the school is a key factor in helping students to make informed decisions and we believe that every student should be able to have their say.

Other opportunities which we offer to all our Sixth Form students include:

- Head Boy, Head Girl and Senior Student Leadership positions
- University Open day visits
- Safe Drive, Stay Alive
- Extra Curricular clubs
- Main School Show
- Subject and mentoring support programme
- Charitable fundraising activities
- Trips and visits, subject related and overseas
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- Community service work including work with younger students and at local primary schools

Preparing for the future

We prepare all our students for life after the Sixth Form. Students research university courses and institutions and learn how to write an effective personal statement. Students who plan to go into employment, explore and research employment and apprenticeship opportunities and learn how to write an effective CV and application letter. We have good links with local employers who help with work experience opportunities and interview practice.

100% of students go on to meaningful careers, higher education, training or employment. For the cohort leaving the Sixth Form for the academic year 2017/18, 44% of Year 13 leavers are at University (including the Russell Group) with nearly all students obtaining their first choice, and a further 18% of students expected to join them on completion of their gap year. We are seeing an increasing number of students embarking on Apprenticeship placements including blue chip companies and large organisations such as Jaguar Landrover, Buckingham University and The Curve HR Management Consultancy Group. Apprenticeship placements are a fantastic alternative to university allowing aspiring young people to start building the foundations of a strong career.

The 2016 Ofsted Inspection reported on the many strengths of our Sixth Form, including good and effective careers advice given and this is reflected in our students' Post A Level education, employment and training pathways.

What our students say

Caroline Lloyd: The culture has enabled me to have a positive experience in all of my years of study at the school. I felt as though I fitted in and the school understood my needs and ambitions and that played a huge part in my decision to stay on and study in the Sixth Form.

My top subjects at GCSE were History, Chemistry and Philosophy and Ethics. I kept myself extremely organised investing my time wisely into preparing for my exams. Coming to the realisation that I'd have a great summer off if I put in the hard work in before the exams.

When choosing my Sixth Form subjects I decided to pursue History for a further two years, along with Health and Social Care and Media studies. Staying at The Buckingham School allowed me to continue to be familiar with my surroundings and people, while also meeting new people that joined the school. I rose to the new challenges and responsibilities I had to fulfil as a Sixth Form student whilst enjoying the new rights and freedoms I had gained access to.

Being treated like an adult whilst receiving tailored support to match my needs from my extremely supportive teachers has enabled me to thrive. I have gained important life skills; such as juggling a part time job paired with the large workload that comes studying with A Levels and BTECs. Ultimately, I have to be organised and know where I am with my work. I have received high quality support in planning the next steps in my career and finding the right opportunities for me. The qualifications that I achieve will enable me to go onto to do an Apprenticeship.

Henry Judge: At GCSE level my top three subjects were Science, English and Business. I really enjoyed these subjects and knew that they would give me a good foundation for studying anything in the future.

I decided to stay at The Buckingham School Sixth Form because it offered the subjects I wanted to study and I felt comfortable in the environment this school offers.

Also the enrichment opportunities this school offers are exceptional. From things like trips to developing key skills for the future like soft skills workshops, interview skills, CV writing workshops - just a couple of examples of what this school can offer. The subjects I am studying, include Business and Applied Science; I have a real passion for business and the day to day running of a business, and I have explored this further by running a business myself alongside my Sixth Form studies.

And finally my plans for next year - I plan on going to university to study Law and currently in the process of choosing my top two universities from the offers I have received.

Lucy Wescombe: The school's support system is second to none, even helping students with plans post Sixth Form; through the aid of teachers I have had several work experience opportunities and also been put in contact with a QC Barrister, which is what I want to do after University.

The reason I chose to stay on at The Buckingham School for Sixth Form is because I knew I would be able to reach my full potential here and be guaranteed the support and help necessary. The teachers at the school go above and beyond for the students here, staying late most days after school to help with revision, and going out of their way to make sure you really are doing your best.

It really is clear that all the teachers here have the student's best interest at heart and it makes you proud to be a student here at The Buckingham School.

Our Courses

Our curriculum is designed to offer choice and breadth of opportunities as well as traditional subjects.

We offer a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, including traditional A levels and BTEC qualifications. Brief details of the courses offered are included in this booklet.

More detailed information about each course, the subject content and how it is assessed and taught are available on request. If you require further information please contact Claire Hubner Admissions Officer on 01280 812206 ext: 282 or email chubner@buckingshamschool.org

We will endeavour to offer all the courses described, however, this could be subject to change.

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How to apply

Please find enclosed in the Application Pack a copy of our Application Form together with 'Instructions for Completing the Application Form' and 'Guidance on Completing the Supporting Statement'.

Also enclosed is a list of available courses for 2019/2020 entry, shown in their Option Blocks.

Students are advised to choose three subjects, one from each Option Block, plus an additional Enrichment Subject, should they be interested in taking one. English and Maths Retake may also be selected, in addition to the three subject options. The relevant section of the Application Form must be completed. Please speak to a member of staff should you need further assistance with this.

All students who apply to join the Sixth Form are interviewed and their subject choices discussed in detail to ensure that they reflect both their interests and abilities and their chosen career pathway.

We will review students' subject choices after their GCSE results are known, as well as at the start of Year 12.

To gain entry to the Sixth Form, students need to attain 5 GCSE (or equivalent) at Grade 9 to 4, Distinction to Pass grades. In addition to this, each subject has clear entry criteria identified in the course information, please refer to this when selecting individual subjects.

Course Options 2019/20

Courses

Art A Level

Biology A Level

Business Studies BTEC National Extended Certificate

Criminology Applied Diploma WJEC

Enrichment Activities

English Literature A Level

Extended Project

Geography A Level

Financial Studies

Health & Social Care BTEC

Sports Leadership

History A Level

Work Experience

Mathematics A Level

Performing Arts

Media A Level

Photography A Level

Enablers

Psychology A Level

Retake English

Sport BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Retake Maths

*GCSE Maths and English Language retake classes will be mandatory for any student who has not achieved a grade 4 or higher in these subjects.

***The Extended Project Qualification provides students with the opportunity to carry out their own research project. This can take the form of a Dissertation (extended writing), Investigation, Performance or Artefact. Students can tailor their project to suit the skills they already have or new ones that they want to develop.*

Course Option Blocks for 2019/20

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Enrichment
Art A Level	Biology A Level	English Literature A Level	Criminology WJEC	Extended Project
Business Studies BTEC	Criminology WJEC	Health and Social Care BTEC	Mathematics A Level	Financial Studies Level 3
Psychology A Level	Geography A Level	Photography A Level	Media A Level	Performing Arts BTEC
	History A Level	Psychology A Level		Sport Leadership
		Sport (Single) (BTEC)		Work Experience

Students are requested to choose three courses and one enrichment. Please be aware that, due to timetabling constraints, it is only possible to choose one course per Option Block.

Students wishing to retake Maths and/or English GCSE, should make this known and the lessons will be timetabled accordingly.

Art

A Level

This Course

This course will develop your intellectual, imaginative and creative skills. You will work with many different and creative media to develop your experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills. A Level Art disciplines include painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and alternative media.

In Sixth Form, students study the full A Level in Year 12 and 13. In this time students complete Component 1 -A practical investigation supported by written material. In this students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. A Level Art is a clear progression route from GCSE. The marking criteria is very similar allowing students to fully engage with the subject and they are able to plan their work more effectively.

Why Art?

You will have the opportunity to work with a broad range of media, both traditional and new. You will visit galleries and studios and develop your knowledge of art, craft and design in contemporary and past societies. Please be aware that Art is heavily coursework based and is very time consuming.

What's expected from me?

When studying A Level Art students are expected to utilise their free time effectively to ensure all work is completed. We have a Sixth Form area within the department for students to use during their study periods. Students are expected to meet deadlines and ensure the work they produce is to a consistently high standard. Students that do well in Art tend to be creative and generally artistic.

Entry requirements for A Level Art: Students should have achieved at least a Grade 4 for Art GCSE.

Biology

A Level

This Course

Biology is a very popular choice after GCSE. It is both interesting and challenging, stimulating students into developing a wider interest in the subject.

In the first year of the course, students will learn about biological molecules, expand their knowledge about cells and how organism exchange substances with their environment, genes, variation and relationships in an ecosystem. In the second year of the course topics taught concern energy transfers in and between organisms, how organisms respond to changes in their environment, as well as genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems, with a final topic on control of gene expression.

Alongside the study of these units, students are also assessed on their practical skills. This is a compulsory requirement of the course. It will appear on all students' certificates as a separately reported results, alongside the overall grade for the qualification.

The written examinations will consist of three exams with the duration of two hours each, at the end of Year 13.

Why Biology?

Studying Biology in the Sixth Form is a pathway to a wide variety of degrees, higher qualifications at universities and other institutions.

Biology students may like to consider the following courses among others: anatomy, animal behavior, biological sciences, biomedical sciences, biotechnology, marine biology, botany, microbiology, dentistry, toxicology, food studies, genetics, medicine, midwifery, neurosciences, nursing, pharmacology, physiotherapy, psychology, sports and exercise science, or veterinary science. The transferable skills gained from a degree in science subjects are highly valued in the corporate world.

What's expected from me?

We expect enthusiasm, personal organisation and dedication. Students need to demonstrate that they are keen to learn, to make progress and to be actively involved in all aspects of the course. They will need to plan ahead to meet deadlines, be independent in expanding the breadth and depth of their knowledge and be pro-active in identifying areas for development.

Entry requirements for A Level Biology: students should have a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Biology and another science, or 7-7 in GCSE Combined Science. A Grade 6 or better in GCSE Maths is also required, as well as a Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Business Studies

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

This Course

A two year course Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.

Mandatory Units are

Exploring Business (Coursework)

Developing a Marketing Campaign (External Exam)

Personal & Business Finance (External Exam)

One further Coursework Unit (To be determined)

The Extended Certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

BTEC qualification results for the 2017/18 academic were outstanding, with students averaging a Distinction grade. Our excellence in vocational BTEC courses continues to be a real strength of the school.

Entry requirements for Business Studies: students should have achieved a Grade 4 or above in English.

Criminology

Applied Diploma WJEC

This Course

Studying this course gives students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification from which they can progress to employment or higher education.

Unit 1 will enable the learner to demonstrate understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported. (Coursework)

Unit 2 will allow learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1. (Exam)

Unit 3 will provide an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. (Coursework)

In the final unit, learners will apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy. (Exam)

Why Criminology?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology as it is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities.

It is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university. It has been designed to offer exciting and interesting or employment within the sector either directly or through the apprenticeship route.

What's expected from me?

You would be expected to research and have a proactive attitude and independent style of learning. You should also have good time management and organisation, meet deadlines and apply theory to given situations.

Entry requirements for Criminology BTEC Grade 3: students should have achieved a Grade 4 or above in English.

English Literature

A Level

This Course

This challenging course will develop students' knowledge and understanding of English Literature through the study of novels, plays and poetry. The course encourages students to develop an interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them. You will explore alternative views about texts and come to more convincing interpretations as a result. The course will develop your skills in constructing logical and coherent arguments.

Course Content:

Paper 1: Love through the Ages

Study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play.

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

Option 2A: World War I and its aftermath

Study of three texts: one prose, one poetry and one drama, of which one must be written post 2000.

Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study; texts across time

Comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of them must have been written pre-1900

Why English Literature?

English Literature A level provides an excellent foundation for degree level study in almost any field. The study of English Literature is considered a strong and respected course, grounding students and preparing them for a wide range of careers. Employers recognise the immense value of a literary education and opportunities exist in careers ranging from diplomacy to law and accountancy to the caring professions.

The A-Level History curriculum can support A Level English Literature as the course requires students to have a detailed understanding of historical contexts and literary periods. Media can also work alongside this course as both courses focus on skills of analysis and interpretation.

What's expected from me?

When studying A Level English Literature, students will be provided with a reading list and are expected to complete extensive wider reading in their own time and to keep a reading journal.

Entry requirements for A Level English Literature: students should have achieved a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

Geography

A Level

This Course

After Science and Maths, students who study Geography are the most employable due to their subject knowledge and transferrable skills. You will be offered many enrichment opportunities whilst studying geography A level including; Geography conferences, field trips, participation in national awards/ competitions and access to Russell group universities.

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on geographical skills along with knowledge and understanding. The subject offers competitive transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and scientific understanding, which are valuable to the rapidly changing world of employment.

You will study:

Physical geography

1. Water and carbon cycles
2. Hot desert systems and landscapes
3. Coastal systems and landscapes
4. Glacial systems and landscapes
5. Hazards
6. Ecosystems under stress

Human geography

1. Global systems and global governance
2. Changing places
3. Contemporary urban environments
4. Population and the environment
5. Resource security

Geography fieldwork investigation

Cross curricular themes within the course include; politics, history, business and economics and mathematics.

Why Geography?

The world is rapidly changing and geography has never been so relevant. We will equip you with the knowledge, skills and necessary work experience to achieve well in the sixth form. So that you go on to thrive in employment, university or an apprenticeship.

What's expected from me?

You should have a passion for learning geography and be interested in exploring different landscape environments, changes in culture and society and learn new geographical skills through classroom and fieldwork based learning. You should have a background knowledge of the Geography.

You will be expected to have a proactive attitude, an independent learner, good time management and organisation skills as being able to meet deadlines.

Entry requirements for A Geography: Students should have achieved at least a Grade 4 or above in Geography GCSE.

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 3

This Course

Health and Social Care will develop your understanding of a wide range of issues. You will develop practical communication skills as well as gaining a broad academic understanding of the sometimes controversial issues within Health and Social Care. As part of the course you will participate in a regular work placement so that you can apply what you learn in a setting of your choice.

This course can be chosen as a single or double award. Please talk to the subject leader for further details.

Why Health & Social Care?

This work related qualification will give students an insight into what it means to work in health, social care or early years. You will develop a range of skills, techniques, understanding, personal qualities and attitudes essential for this type of work.

The course is suited for learners wanting to progress to university or employment either directly or through the apprenticeship route.

Health and Social Care combines well with science based subjects, such as, applied science and psychology.

What's expected from me?

You will need to have a genuine interest in health and well-being, to be motivated and able to work independently. You must be able to investigate data and learn how to develop coherent arguments when presenting your views. The ability to organize your time and meet deadlines is essential.

Entry requirements for Health & Social Care BTEC Grade 3: students should have achieved 5 GCSEs at A*- C (Grades 9-4) including a Grade 4 or above in English and Maths.

History

A Level

This Course

The study of History provides a sense of the past, an awareness of the development of differing values, systems and societies and a better understanding of the world we live in. During this course you will study a variety of complex topics covering the later Tudors, Germany, 1919-1963 and the 'witchcraze' of the 16th and 17th centuries. You will be challenged to make sense of the past and to critically evaluate views of it using a variety of sources and interpretations.

Why History?

Studying History will help you to develop skills in the modern world. The analytical skills learnt by studying History at A Level are of particular importance in today's global, social-media orientated society, as they allow people to discern facts from 'fake news'. History A Level complements many other subjects and students could find careers in Journalism, Tourism, Research, Archiving, Architecture, Politics, the Armed Forces, Marketing, Advertising and Law, to name but a few.

What's expected from me?

This demanding course will suit students who are prepared to put in maximum effort inside and outside the classroom. You will be well supported by your teachers, but you must be prepared to ask for and follow advice. You must be highly motivated, well organised and enjoy finding answers to tough questions.

You will be expected to form your own opinions and produce focused explanations based on a close analysis of the evidence available. You will be assessed on your ability to use a wide range of specific knowledge to produce extended written answers and on your independent research skills.

Entry requirements for A Level History: students should have achieved a Grade 4 or above in GCSE History.

Mathematics

A Level

This Course

Are you enjoying Maths at school? Do you enjoy solving problems? If so, you should seriously consider Level Mathematics.

A level Mathematics is an interesting and challenging course which goes beyond the methods and concepts learned at GCSE. These include applications of Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics Mathematics.

The Pure Mathematics topics include algebra, co-ordinate geometry, polynomials, trigonometry, calculus, differentiation and integration techniques, partial fractions, vectors and differential equations.

In Statistics you will learn to collect and analyse data and use it to make predictions about future events. Many subjects make use of statistical information and techniques. An understanding of probability and risk is important in careers like insurance, medicine, engineering and the sciences.

In Mechanics, you learn to model and analyse the physical world around us, including the study of forces and motion. Mechanics is particularly useful to students studying physics and engineering.

This is a two-year linear course which has a total of three exams at two hours each.

Why Maths?

A Level Mathematics is a challenging subject, but it is also one that is extremely rewarding if you are prepared to put in the time and effort. It is about applying different concepts altogether and thinking outside of the box in solving problems. Maths is used in a wide range in industry such as architecture, business, finance, science, technology and many others. A Mathematics qualification can lead to excellent career choices. In fact, there is currently a national shortage of qualified mathematicians and so this course will give you a competitive edge with future employers. Employers are constantly on the lookout for people who are competent in mathematics and are good problem solvers. This course will give you a solid grounding in these skills and will give you that extra edge in the competitive job market.

Throughout the course you will gain:

- an understanding of the mathematics that underpin many aspects of our lives
- the ability to apply a range of mathematical skills to different situations
- acute logical thinking and problem-solving abilities
- the ability to process, interpret and analyse information.

What's expected from me?

You should have a passion for Mathematics, be resilient and open minded when developing your understanding of the concepts in the course. You need to be proactive, have good time management along with good organisational skills to meet deadlines.

After Sixth Form

Many students go on to pursue careers in medicine, research and development, engineering, statistics, operational research, computing, accountancy, actuarial work, business management, insurance and teaching. If you are hoping to pursue a course in science, mathematics or engineering at university, Maths is compulsory.

Entry requirements: Students should have achieved a grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Media

A Level

This Course

Whether we know it or not, like it or not; the modern world is dominated by the media. Every waking moment we are being bombarded with adverts for everything from soap products to charities and films. Newspaper moguls control what we read, the way we vote and even the way we think. Social Media and the online world keep us addicted and absorbed to the point where it is possible to live our lives without leaving a computer or phone screen.

So how did we get here?

The Media acts as a curtain, hiding the real world from view while using its own language to construct their own reality so we only see the version that is presented to us. As Media students we explore how the media has become increasingly powerful over the last 70 years and examine how accurate these versions of reality really are.

Why Media?

Media students are being trained to question the world as it is being presented to them. You will learn how to read the language used and interpret the meaning so that you can comment on the accuracy of the representations and the reasons behind them.

You will also delve into the world of the media industries and explore how Film, TV and Newspapers find and appeal to their audiences.

What's expected from me?

If you are happy to accept the world as it is presented to you in the media - a world in which women are just objects of desire for men, ethnic minorities are treated as inferior because of the colour of their skin and Donald Trump is the savour of the world - then this isn't the course for you.

But...

If you take media be prepared to peak behind the curtain with an open mind to explore how and why the media controls ideas and manipulates the truth. You will be expected to challenge and comment; criticise and praise and enjoy exploring the industries at the heart of our society.

Entry requirements for A Level Media Studies: students should have achieved a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Photography

A Level

This Course

This course will develop your intellectual, imaginative and creative skills. You will work with many different creative media to develop your experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills. A Level Photography disciplines include film based photography and digital photography.

In Sixth Form, students study the full A level in Year 12 and 13. In this time students complete Component 1 - A practical investigation supported by written material. In this students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Students will be provided with examination papers (externally set assignment – unit 2) on 1 February in Year 13. Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one and produce a practical investigation.

Why Photography?

You will have the opportunity to work with a broad range of media, including traditional and new technologies. You will visit galleries and studios and develop your knowledge of Photography in contemporary and past societies. Please be aware that Photography is coursework based and requires a lot of time and dedication. Many of our Photography students also study Media, the two subjects work well together.

What's expected from me?

When studying A Level Photography students are expected to utilise their free time effectively to ensure all work is completed. We have a Sixth Form area within the department for students to use during their study periods. Students are expected to meet deadlines and ensure the work they produce is to a consistently high standard.

Entry requirements for A Level Photography: students should have achieved at least average Grade 4 grades at GCSE.

Psychology

A Level

This Course

This interesting and challenging course allows students to develop a clear and scientific understanding of why humans behave as they do. You will explore human behaviours and functions such as memory, criminal behaviour, mental disorders and social influence, from both psychological and biological perspectives. You will learn how to design, conduct and report scientific research studies and explore the limits of such studies.

Why Psychology?

A Level Psychology combines well with any other science A level as well as Health and Social Care, PE, Business Studies, Media Studies, Film Studies, Criminology and English Literature. It is a useful subject to study for a broad range of career options and would be valuable in any career which involves working with people.

What's expected from me?

We expect students to actively participate in class discussions, to have an open and enquiring mind and to work and think independently at all times.

Students should be prepared to take part in group work and in research studies. They will need to utilise their free time effectively to ensure that all work is completed. We want you to challenge each other and members of staff.

Entry requirements for A Level Psychology: students should have achieved at least a Grade 5 or above in Mathematics, English and two sciences. A GCSE in Psychology is not required to be successful in this subject at A Level.

Sport

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport

This Course

A broad basis of study for the sport sector. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. The Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport is an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment in the sport sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level, and it has been designed as a full two-year programme when studied alongside a further two Level 3 qualifications.

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

You will study the following units:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

What could this qualification lead to?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study. It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines (depending on the subjects taken alongside).

Entry requirements for Sport BTEC Level 3

Extended Certificate: students should have achieved a GCSE Physical Education Grade 4 and a Grade 4 in Maths, English and Science.

For learners who wish to study an aspect of sport in higher education, opportunities include:

- BA (Hons) in Sport Studies and Business, if taken alongside A Levels in Business and Maths
- BSc (Hons) in Sport Psychology, if taken alongside a BTEC National Extended Certificate in Applied Science and A Level in Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Sports Education and Special and Inclusive Education, if taken alongside an A Level in English Language and a BTEC National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, if taken alongside a BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science.

What's expected from me?

- You need to be passionate about Anatomy and Physiology, health, fitness, training, sport activities, practical sport.
- You will need to be self-motivated and good at meeting deadlines.
- This course has a substantial amount of independent study.
- You will be required to play two sports as part of unit 7.
- You will also be expected to take the Level 2 Sports Leadership award alongside this qualification.

Qualification structure

Unit No.	Unit Title	How assessed
1	Anatomy and Physiology	Written examination set and marked by Pearson. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.5 hours.• 80 marks.
2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being	A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Part A, learners will be given a case study one week before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out preparation.• In Part B, the supervised assessment period is 2.5 hours as timetabled by Pearson.• Written submission.• 60 marks.
3	Professional Development in the Sports Industry	Coursework
7	Practical Sports Performance	Coursework

Extended Project

This Course

The Extended Project is a single piece of work requiring a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working. The students' choice of topic is free, although they must show that it is academically useful, either related to their current course of study, or their future career. It takes the form of a dissertation and will require a detailed preparation/planning stage, the production of the report and a presentation that sums up the report. It has been praised by universities for guiding students into higher education and carries UCAS points.

Why Extended Project?

Extended projects can help students to develop and demonstrate a range of valuable skills through pursuing their interests and investigating topics in more depth.

What will it develop:

- Research skills
- Proactive attitude
- Independent style of learning
- Good time management
- Organisation skills
- Ability to meet deadlines.

Financial Studies

Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS)

This Course

The course encourages students to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers and to appreciate the need for financial planning throughout their life.

Unit 1: Financial Capacity for the Immediate and Short Term

Students will gain an appreciation of why money is important through focusing on what money is; attitudes to it; and how it can affect life choices. The unit introduces students to the financial services industry by focusing on the interaction between money, personal finance and the financial market place. They will also learn about:

- The characteristics of financial products for managing money
- The impact of poor decision making and unforeseen circumstances
- Impact of legislation and regulation on earnings and the key features of income tax and National Insurance.
- How individual's financial needs change through the various life stages

Unit 2: Financial Capacity for the Medium and Long Term

Students will have the ability to plan and manage their financial needs in the medium and long-term, with particular reference to the importance of the need to budget for future aspirations and life events. Learners will consider the changing priorities attached to the needs, wants and aspirations as individuals progress through the personal life cycle and the role of financial services in assisting lifelong financial planning.

If the course is popular and successful it will lead to a full Diploma in Financial Services.

Entry requirements for Financial Studies: students should have achieved a Grade 4 or above in English.

Sports Leadership

Level 2 & Level 3

This Course

These courses will help you to develop your organisation, motivation and communication skills. In Year 12 The Level 2 Community Sports Leadership Award will help you to become a positive role model in Sport, to learn how to mentor others and to use your leadership skills in a variety of different ways.

Achieving the nationally recognised Level 3 Higher Sports Leadership Award in Year 13 enables you to lead unsupervised groups of people in sport and recreational activities. It teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport.

Why Sports Leadership?

These courses will suit students who have a passion for sport and who may be interested in pursuing a career in sports management or leadership.

They combine well with Physical Education. They are fun and practical courses, with no entrance requirements or final examinations to sit.

What's expected from me?

To begin the Level 2 Award, you may have already gained your Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership or this may be your first step on the volunteering pathway.

The Level 3 Award builds upon the skills and experience gained through the Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership and the Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership.

We expect students to be actively involved in sport outside school, to be enthusiastic and to be committed. Ideally students will be participating at a club level or above as a competitor, leader or as an official.

Students will need to complete 10 hours for Level 2 and 30 hours for Level 3 of Leadership in the community

Work Experience

Why Work Experience?

Work experience offers an opportunity to get experience in a chosen career, to gain skill and knowledge in the working environment.

In some work experience placements, you will be able to try a particular job. At other times, you might move around a company learning about a variety of different roles.

If you are not sure of the sort of job you want to do, then work experience can help you explore what is out there. Maybe you have thought, "I want to work in the media" – well, a placement might focus you on a particular area or role. It is a chance to see real work in a real working environment. It is also a great way to put theory into practice and can help you gain actual skills, such as using a piece of equipment or software.

Work experience also helps you to:

- improve your knowledge of yourself
- build your confidence by working with others
- evidence your ability to take on a challenge and succeed
- bridge the gap school and the world of work
- gain valuable advice from professionals working in the field and hear their stories
- obtain references for any job applications that you make in the future.
- help you to understand how organisations work from an internal perspective.
- It also allows you to establish a clearer picture of what kind of working environment may suit you.

Performing Arts

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

This Course

This exciting course will suit students who enjoy performing, working together and developing ideas and concepts. You will develop a range of skills relating to dancing, acting and singing. The course provides opportunities to develop skills in creativity and performance, audition preparation and professional training in each discipline. The course is defined through a variety of unit options, enabling students to develop, both practical and theoretical skills in each discipline. You will be expected to take a two-hour theory exam using research you have collated about different practitioners (concentrating on your specialism – Acting/Dance or Musical Theatre) You will also be expected to produce and perform in a minimum of two external performance including the whole school show and a straight play or dance performance. You can choose from the following pathways; Dance, Drama or Musical Theatre.

This year we have looked at:

- Acting Styles
- Performing in different texts
- Musical theatre
- Choreography for live performance
- Contemporary dance technique
- Group performance work (devised)
- Physical theatre techniques
- Community theatre.

Why Performing Arts?

The Performing Arts BTEC is a very useful qualification as it prepares students for degrees in Drama, English, Humanities and any Performing Arts course. In the past we have students successfully audition for Acting courses, Dance courses and also theatre technician courses.

Students tend to be good communicators and the course helps to refine and develop these skills, which are useful in all walks of life. Performing Arts is useful for a career in Teaching, Business, Marketing, Law, Advertising and also Health and Social Care.

What's expected from me?

Students need to be interested in all aspects of Performing Arts. Excellent time management skills are essential and you must be confident performing in front of an audience.

Entry requirements for Performing Arts: Students should have achieved a minimum of a Grade 4 in at least one Performing Arts subject, plus a minimum of a Grade 4 in GCSE English.

Retake English

GCSE

This Course

This course is mandatory for students who achieved less than a grade 4 in their English GCSE. Students will spend at least the same amount of time on homework as they spend in the classroom. The focus is on revision and exam style questions. This course covers the same material as the GCSE English course studied in years 9, 10 and 11 and is condensed to fit into two-and-a-half terms.

Why Retake English?

It will help students in their Sixth Form courses and achieving a level 4 or above and will enable them to access courses at university.

What's expected from me?

- 100% attendance
- Completing all class work and home work
- Proactive attitude
- Independent style of learning
- Good time management
- A passion for English

Entry requirements for English Retake: a mandatory requirement for any students who have not achieved a grade 4 or higher in English.

Retake Maths

GCSE

This Course

This course is mandatory for students who achieved below a grade 4 in their Maths GCSE. Students are expected to spend their lesson time and an additional 3 hours outside of class studying the areas of Mathematics that will support them gain at least a level 4 or above in the GCSE examination. The focus is on revision and exam style questions. This course covers the same material as the GCSE mathematics course studied in years 9, 10 and 11 and is condensed to fit into two-and-a-half terms.

Why Retake Maths?

It will help students in their Sixth Form courses and achieving a grade 4, or better, will enable them to access courses at university.

What's expected from me?

- 100% attendance
- Completing all class work and home work
- Proactive attitude
- Independent style of learning
- Good time management

Entry requirements for Maths Retake: a mandatory requirement for any students who have not achieved a grade 4 or higher in Maths.



YOUR FUTURE IS COMING!

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