

# Advanced Mathematics

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mr M Iyol

**Entrance criteria:** Maths 7 (for Advanced Maths 8-9)

Mathematics at Advanced Level builds upon the higher topics studied at GCSE. You may be surprised to hear that this is by no means just about your GCSE grade. It is more important for you to reflect on the fact that you need to become fluent with algebra to be successful at A level Maths, algebra being the language of the subject at this level to show how Maths can model the real world using more equations that are complex. The applied modules extend the basic concepts found in Higher GCSE to a level that is used practically by other subjects.

**Year 12:** A level maths is a full two year course. All students study the same core and applied mathematical content, which extends techniques covered at GCSE and introduces new methods and concepts. A level Further Mathematics is fun and rewarding. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking. You will be introduced to interesting new areas of pure mathematics such as complex numbers and apply mathematics in a wider range of contexts.

**Year 13:** The students continue to explore pure and applied mathematics at a much deeper level for both A level mathematics and Further mathematics. The students will sit for examination at the end of the two-year course by three separate two-hour papers and each paper has equally weighted. The new Advanced level mathematics is assess once in two years. Assessment objective weighting is two-thirds pure content and the remaining applied modules: use and apply standard techniques, reason, interpret and communicate mathematically and solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts.

**Goes well with:** Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, PE, Economics, ICT.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Essential: Accountancy; Actuarial Studies; Aeronautical Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry (occasionally); Computing (for some courses); Dentistry (for some courses); Economics (usually); Electrical/Electronic Engineering; Engineering; Management Studies (sometimes); Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; and Physics. Useful: Architecture; Biochemistry; Biology; Biomedical Sciences; Business Studies; Geography; Management Studies; Pharmacy; Philosophy; Physiotherapy; and Psychology.

"What excited me the most was the wide range of subjects you could learn about and contribute to using statistics; anything from sport to environmental issues and from medicine to finance"

Jennifer Lannon Principal Statistician, NHSBT

# Applied Law BTEC

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** Pearson

**Course Leader:** Ms V Edwards

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5

Applied Law is a learner-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied in project-based assessments. They focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

Employers are looking for recruits with a thorough grounding in the latest industry requirements and work-ready skills such as teamwork. Higher education needs students who have experience of research, extended writing and meeting deadline.

**Year 12:** You will study how civil disputes are settled and where to seek advice when things go wrong: The law of negligence and the way in which claims, such as damage or losses resulting from a car crash or causing injury to another person, are dealt with in English law. You will also learn about the courts that deal with civil law disputes; alternative methods of resolution. You will develop the skills to investigate and research how different laws are made both inside and outside Parliament and then interpreted in courts. Using these research skills will enable you to investigate the way in which the law is developed and applied and develop an understanding of who decides the outcome of criminal cases and where advice and representation can be obtained and how it can be paid for. You will learn about non-fatal offences and gain an understanding of the way the criminal justice system works in the United Kingdom. It will provide the opportunity to develop decision-making, communication, presentation and critical thinking skills. Your assessment is part external and part internal.

**Year 13:** You will build upon skills and knowledge gained in Y12 and progress to apply those skills and knowledge to the study of Murder, including involuntary manslaughter, property offences, general defences: You will also study police powers: Family law, marriage and cohabitation, distribution of money, child maintenance: Contract law, formation of a contract, terms of a contract, validity of contract, discharge and remedies. Your assessment is part external and part internal.

**Goes well with:** Business studies, History, English, Sociology, Psychology.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Applied law develops skills you will need to read law at university or the study of other subject areas with similar disciplines. Previous students have gone on to study law at university.

“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst” Aristotle

# Applied Science L3 BTEC

**Exam Board:** EDEXCEL/ PEARSON

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Course Leader:** Ms J Bashford

**Entrance criteria:** Science 5, English 5, Maths, 5

There's a major skills shortage in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) sectors, with an estimated 40,000 jobs remaining unfilled in the UK each year. With a BTEC National in Applied Science, you could be well on your way to getting one of these roles. Developed in collaboration with teachers, employers and higher education institutions, BTEC Nationals in Applied Science will provide you with up-to-date industry knowledge and the practical, research and behavioural skills you'll need to progress in higher education and your career. Applied Science provides a broad base to the study of Science. Equivalent to one and a half A levels you will study the practical scientific procedures along with scientific theory. It is taught by specialist teachers with a wide variety of experiences. Applied Science covers all three science with the emphasis on practical application. The mix of external and internal assessment provides the balance to ensuring you are successful in your studies.

**Year 12:** what you'll study: Principles and Applications of Science (externally assessed exam); Laboratory techniques and their applications (marked internally); (physiology of human body systems.

**Year 13:** what you'll study: Science Investigation Skills (marked externally); human regulation and reproduction.

**Goes well with:** Sports Science; Biology; Health and Social care; English; Psychology; Sociology.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Coupled with A level Biology students can access biochemistry courses and other medical affiliated courses at university. A BTEC in Applied science will also allow access to some sports science courses, but is an excellent choice for a wide range of courses as the skills in research, analysis and production of coursework are easily transferable. 4 out of 5 of BTEC students go on to receive a 1st or 2nd class degree. In 2015, over 25% of the students entering university in England did so with a BTEC and 90% of students with a BTEC are employed full time after graduating. In addition, a BTEC qualification provides an excellent skill set when applying for apprenticeships.

62% of large companies have recruited employees with a BTEC qualification and 4 out of 5 BTEC students in employment consider their BTEC as an important step towards their desired job.

# Art and Design

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Miss A Morrall

**Entrance criteria:** Art & Design 5 along with a personal directed sketchbook / portfolio.

Art and Design is the study of a creative response. It is taught by specialist Art and Design teachers with a wide variety of experiences. Art and Design is seen all around us on a daily basis; it is the starting point for many creative careers. Art and Design opens doors to a wide range of careers both within and outside of the Art and Design field. Art and Design not only aids the development of creativity, igniting a passion for experimentation and evolving movements; but it further develops skills such as time management, research, deeper thinking, social awareness and a greater understanding of the world around us. Art and Design allows pupils to make connections between artists, techniques, materials and their own further interests.

**Year 12:** You will study a variety of techniques and recording processes, whilst considering the influences of theme, artists and self-discovery. In year 12, you will study two units of work, the first 'Organic Forms' and the second a unit based around student feedback and interest. The units will be marked against four assessment objectives that allow for a well-rounded portfolio.

**Year 13:** You will apply your understanding and further developed skills to produce a personal investigation of your own choice. You will devise your own brief, focusing on a chosen theme, developing research, experimentations, and recordings leading to a final realized intention. You will develop a portfolio of practical application alongside a written case study.

**Goes well with:** Drama, Dance, Music, Textiles, Psychology, Media, Health and Social.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past students have pursued routes into further education and teaching, fashion apprenticeships, architecture, book illustration, media, trend and buying careers for companies such as Dunelm and Joules and many more careers. Students have started up their own small businesses selling their own work and expanding to be represented in various retailers.

*“Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known”* Oscar Wilde

# Biology

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Course Leader:** Mrs L Watton

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Maths 5, Biology 6, Chemistry 5 (or trilogy 6)

Biology is the study of all living things. It is taught by specialist Biology teachers with a wide variety of experiences. Biology is highly relevant to everyday life: from your own health, to the country's food supply and control of disease. It opens doors to a wide range of careers both within and outside the field of Science. A qualification in Biology also equips you with skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness, and an ability to make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

**Year 12:** You will study a variety of biological concepts building on ideas and understanding from GCSE. In year 12 you will study Module 1: Development of Practical Skills, Module 2: Foundations in Biology, Module 3: Exchange and transport and Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease.

**Year 13:** You will apply your understanding to consideration of control mechanisms developing an understanding of the ways in which organisms and cells control their activities. You will study Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy and Module 6: Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems, as well as consolidating areas of Module 1. Examination takes place at the end of year 13 with 3 written examinations.

**Goes well with:** Chemistry, Physics, Maths, PE, Psychology, Health and Social Care.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past students have pursued routes into medicine, pharmacy, nursing, physiotherapy, dentistry, teaching, forensic science, optometry, veterinary sciences, occupational health, radiography and clinical research.

*“Biology is now bigger than Physics, as measured by the size of budgets, by the size of the workforce, or by the output of major discoveries; and Biology is likely to remain the biggest part of science through the twenty first century”*

Freeman Dyson

# Business Studies

**Exam Board:** Eduqas

**Course Leader:** Miss Ewing

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 4, Maths 4

Business Studies is the in-depth study of a range of specialties such as Accountancy, Human Resources, Marketing, Economics and Management. Business is one of the most relevant subject areas in today's society and opens doors to a vast range of careers in Business and the world of work. Business students are more likely to progress quicker in commercial employment and develop transferable skills in many different areas. A qualification in Business Studies also equips you with literacy, numeracy and strategic thinking skills.

**Year 12:** Content in year 12 will give you an understanding of the important role small businesses play in the economy and the opportunities that exist for entrepreneurs, as well as the importance of established businesses and not-for-profit organisations in providing goods and services.

**Year 13:** You will build on the theory introduced in year 12. The focus for content is on understanding and using analytical techniques and developing appropriate business strategies. You will develop analytical skills to investigate business opportunities and problems in a number of different contexts and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data to suggest possible strategic responses from businesses. Year 13 also focuses on how businesses adapt to succeed in a dynamic external environment.

**Goes well with:** Media Studies, English, Mathematics, Psychology, Computer Science, IT.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past students have gone onto University to study Business, Marketing, Accountancy, Business Management and Economics. Students have also gone into apprenticeships in Accountancy and Business Management. Studying business strikes a balance between theoretical and practical work. If graduates choose to follow an alternative path all together, they can rest assured that the transferable skills a business qualification develops are in high demand. Skills include understanding how an organisation operates, communication, decision making, numeracy and presenting – just to name a few. Business graduates have a wide variety of career choices and have the aptitude required to work in any industry.

“Before you can become a millionaire, you must learn to think like one. You must learn how to motivate yourself to counter fear with courage. Making critical decisions about your career, business, investments and other resources conjures up fear, fear that is part of the process of becoming a financial success” Thomas J Stanley

# Chemistry

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Miss P Grewal

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Maths 6, Chemistry (or trilogy) 6

Chemistry is a study of the modern world. Taught by specialist Chemistry teachers it builds upon concepts encountered in 'How Science Works' and this ensures relevance of contemporary issues. If chosen as a career students will have the potential to help solve all sorts of problems such as the development of new drugs for cancer, new materials or technologies for the developing world. Throughout the course students will develop research, investigative, analytical and problem solving skills as well as teamwork and communication skills.

**Year 12:** You will study a variety of Chemistry topics, building on ideas and understanding from GCSE: Physical Chemistry - Atomic structure, Amount of substance, Bonding, Energetics, Kinetics, Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and Kc and Oxidation, reduction and redox equations. Inorganic Chemistry - Periodicity, Group 2, the alkaline earth metals and Group 7 (17), the halogens. Organic Chemistry - Introduction to organic chemistry, Alkanes, Halogenoalkanes, Alkenes, Alcohols and Organic analysis

**Year 13:** You will further build on ideas and understanding from Year 12 by studying: Physical Chemistry – Thermodynamics, Rate equations, Equilibrium constant Kp for homogeneous systems, Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells and Acids and bases. Inorganic Chemistry - Properties of Period 3 elements and oxides, Transition metals and 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, NMR spectroscopy and Chromatography

**Goes well with:** Physics, mathematics, Biology and Geography.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past student have pursued routes into Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Veterinary Sciences, Pharmacy, Optometry, Dentistry, Forensic Science, Environmental and careers in chemical engineering, Medicine, Toxicologist, Chartered accountant, pharmacologist etc...

"It is the great beauty of our science, chemistry, that advancement in it, whether in a degree great or small. Instead of exhausting the subjects of research, open the doors to further and more abundant knowledge, overflowing with beauty and utility"  
Michael Faraday

# Computer Science

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Course Leader:** Mr Ali

**Entrance criteria:** Computer Science 5, English 5, Maths 5

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop: An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, and logic, algorithms and data representation. The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so. The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science and Mathematical skills.

**Year 12:** This academic year, Year 12 Computer Science students will be beginning the OCR AS Computer Science. We will be covering three topics this year; Component 1: Computer Systems covering; The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices, Software and software development, Exchanging data, Data types, data structures and algorithms, Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issue. For component 2: Algorithms and programming, the topics that will be studied are: Elements of computational thinking, Problem solving and programming, Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithm.

**Year 13:** This academic year, Year 13 A2 Computer Science will be preparing for the end of year examination. The topics we will be studying include: Component 1: Computer Systems covering; The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices, Software and software development, Exchanging data, Data types, data structures and algorithms, Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issue, Algorithms and programming, the topics that will be studied are: Elements of computational thinking, Problem solving and programming, Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithm. Each of these topics will have an end of topic test and there are three mock exams papers students will sit in December, February and April.

**Goes well with:** Mathematics, Physics, Information Technology, Chemistry and Business Studies.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past Students have pursued routes into teaching, software engineering, programming, and web developer and computer games designer.

"A computer would deserve to be called intelligent if it could deceive a human into believing that it was human"  
Alan Turing

# Drama and Theatre

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Course Leader:** Mrs M Hunt

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5

OCR's A Level in Drama and Theatre has been designed to be a practical, engaging and creative specification for you to study. It will provide you with opportunities to interrogate drama and the work of others, to explore a range of drama as a practical art form, and to work independently to create your own drama performances making informed artistic choices. It will also prepare you for the further study of Drama or Performing Arts courses in Higher Education as well as developing transferable skills desired by all sectors of the industry. Through your love of the subject and passion for theatre you will develop skills as independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make you stand out as you progress through your education and into employment. OCR's A Level in Drama and Theatre provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage learners' creativity, passion and interests.

**Year 12:** You will study 3 components and all of the set texts for the whole course. This year will be used to fully prepare students for the demands of the full course. You will research and practically explore practitioners and the work of others within Theatre. You will explore one performance text and do performances of another two performance texts on a chosen theme. You will be able to visit the theatre and analyse and evaluate that live theatre performance. The course is highly practical with the assessment taking the form of portfolio work and final written examinations, which we will prepare for in this year.

**Year 13:** In this year you will complete 4 components. Practitioners in Practice is a Devising unit based on the work of two established theatre practitioners. Exploring and performing Texts is a unit which you will perform to an external examiner a play a section of a play chosen by yourself. Analysing Performance will assess your understanding of the two performance texts you explored in Yr12 and Deconstructing texts is a written examination that will place you 'in role' as the director of a production of 'The Crucible' which you will have explored in depth in the yr12 devising unit.

"Great Theatre is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to"

Willem Dafoe

**Goes well with:** Dance, Music, English, Media, Psychology, Sociology and Law.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Routes and careers you may choose to take are: Actor, Director, Teacher, Lawyer, Social Worker or any career that involves collaboration and negotiation.

# English Language and Literature

**Exam Board:** AQA

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Course Leader:** Miss Z Morgans

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 6, English Literature 6

English Language and Literature is a unified course for students who wish to study a combination of language and literature. The course provides the opportunity for you to study prose, poetry and drama, with a focus on the forms and functions of language as well as literary concepts. There is also the opportunity to study contemporary written and spoken language in use. As well as increasing your awareness of powerful, political, creative and emotive writing of highly regarded and iconic writers, the A level will develop your analytical and interpretative skills. Your experience of discussion and debate, writing for different audiences and responding to texts of different types will develop your communication skills.

**Year 12:** You'll study: Frankenstein, poetry by Carol Ann Duffy and an anthology on Paris.

**Year 13:** You'll study: The Kite Runner, A Streetcar Named Desire and an independent critical study on making connections. There are two exams, Paper 1 (3hrs) and Paper 2 (2hrs).

**Goes well with:** History, Media, Sociology, Psychology and Drama.

**Careers and Higher Education:** A qualification in English Literature equips a student for careers in business, journalism, teaching, media, human resources and law; it opens a wide range of professional opportunities.

"Language is the key to the heart of people" Ahmed Deedat

# English Literature

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Miss Z Morgans

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 6, English Literature 6

English Literature is a stimulating and exciting A level to study. This course is for you, if you enjoy reading a variety of books, being involved in exploring and analysing texts, and if you are prepared to question and debate ideas about literature, society and culture. During the course, you will read and explore a variety of texts that are centrally concerned with issues of love over time, using unseen material and set texts. The course offers a unique opportunity to extend and develop your interpretative and analytical skills through the study of a range of literary texts and poems about love over time.

**Year 12:** You'll study: Othello, Unseen Poetry, Comparative Love Poetry and The Great Gatsby.

**Year 13:** You'll study: Handmaids Tale, Streetcar Named Desire, Feminine Gospel and write one extended essay (2,500). There are two exams, Paper 1 (3hrs) and Paper 2 (2hrs).

**Goes well with:** History, Media, Sociology, Psychology and Drama.

**Careers and Higher Education:** A qualification in English Literature equips a student for careers in business, journalism, teaching, media, human resources and law; it opens a wide range of professional opportunities.

"Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth but the truth of the tale, of the imagination and of the Heart" Salman Rushdie

# Environmental Sciences

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mr Bourne/ Ms J Bashford

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Maths 5, Geography 5, Sciences 5

## The Course Topic:

- The living environment
- The physical environment
- Energy resources
- Pollution
- Biological resources
- Sustainability
- Research methods

## Course Features:

- Environmental Science has a multi-disciplinary approach to learning.
- This subject is a great accompaniment to A-levels in Geography, Geology, Biology, Physics and Maths.
- Develop key skills including communication, teamwork and critical thinking.
- Engaging and thought-provoking topics.
- Clear assessment structure. Extensive practical experiences and fieldwork.
- Equips you with the skills required for roles in a range of careers

**Goes well with:** Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Degree level Environmental Science enables students to develop the scientific understanding and practical skills needed to tackle many of the world's major environmental (and societal) problems such as climate change, food security, water resources, pollution and conservation.

Environmental scientists work in applied fields and interdisciplinary settings analysing the effects that humans have on our environment and the plants and animals that populate it. From agriculture to healthcare to industry, environmental scientists teach, research, and work in business to help humans understand our work. Students could find themselves in a range of careers including environmental planning/research, environmental law, microbiology, ecology, horticulture, pollution control, conservation, water management. It is one of the fastest growing areas of employment.

Environmental Science is a holistic subject with many interconnected systems and processes. A change to one process can affect many other processes over different spatial and temporal scales. Consideration of environmental issues and the conclusions reached should be based on reliable evidence-based information and quantitative data. Students will develop an understanding of how human society relies upon natural systems for resources and life support systems. If you want to make a difference and change the future of the world in which we live for the better, and if you are inspired by the natural environment and its myriad of interconnections and feedbacks, then Environmental Science is the subject for you."

# Environmental Sciences

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mr Bourne/ Ms J Bashford

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Maths 5

"A law is valuable, not  
because it is a law,  
but because there is  
right in it"

Henry Ward Beecher

# Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mrs C Hill

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5

Our popular Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students to extend their studies beyond the usual Level Three curriculum and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A-level (maximum 28 UCAS points). Students have an (almost) free choice of topics. The student has to:

- Choose an area of interest;
- Draft a project title;
- Draft the aims of the project;
- Plan, research and carry out the project;
- Usually write an essay of around 5,000 words; • Provide evidence of all stages of the project production;
- Deliver a presentation on the project.

**Year 12:** This is a one year option, which can be studied in either Year 12 or Year 13.

**Year 13:** There is also an option to enter the EPQ in November of Year 13.

**Goes well with:** Fits well with academic studies of all kinds due to the open-ended nature of the research.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Many universities highly value the EPQ. The skills that it helps develop are ones that directly feed into university level study.

"The EPQ was really hard, I really pushed myself though and got loads of support - in the end, although it was hard, I was so glad I completed it Former Student

# Food Science and Nutrition

**Exam Board:** WJEC

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Course Leader:** Miss D Rowe

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Food Technology 5

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition has been designed to provide learners with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training in the food industry. It offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for 16-19 years old through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the food production industry. If you're interested in building a career within the food industry this course will be the first stepping stone to guide you into the relevant programmes of study in food. This will give students the opportunity to look at industries and jobs such as nutritionists in hospitals, hotels and restaurants management, food manufacturing and Government agencies and policies that support healthy eating initiatives.

*"Our food should be our medicine and our medicine should be our food"* Hippocrates

**Year 12:** students will study the Level 3 Certificate which will comprise of an: Internal portfolio based on Meeting the Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups and an external exam which is also based on the needs meeting the Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups. Qualification gained in AS only

**Year 13:** students will study the Level 3 Diploma which will comprise of an: External Assignment which will look at ensuring food is safe to eat and one further unit look at food production of current issues in food and nutrition. Qualification gained A2.

**Goes well with:** Biology, PE, Health and Social Care and Sociology.

**Careers and Higher Education:** These qualifications could also support learners' progression into employment within the food and drink sectors of: Hospitality and catering, Food production and Food retail.

# Geography

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** EDEXCEL

**Course Leader:** Mr D Bourne

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Maths 5, Geography 5

Geography at A Level aims to build upon and further develop the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE. A Level Geography involves studying both human and physical aspects of the topic. You will study the dynamic nature of our world through natural hazards and the impacts on our future. You will study the powerful human influences in the world and the impact they have across the globe. You will study the important issues faced in the world today and how as Geographers these can be managed to make our future sustainable. There is a requirement for 4 days of fieldwork where you will study both human and physical systems. It enables you to develop a wide range of skills and introduces you to some of the most exciting and most relevant Geography of the 21st Century!

**Year 12:** In Year 12 you will study four topics, two human geography and two physical. Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Landscape Systems, Processes and Change including coastal landscapes, Globalisation, Shaping Places and Regenerating Places. You will also be required to attend a five day residential fieldwork course, during term time. There is a cost involved with this part of the course. There are no external exams however, there will be frequent internal examinations of knowledge and skills gained. There will be an end of year 12 internal exam.

**Year 13:** In Year 13 you will study four topics, two human and two physical. The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity and the Carbon Cycle and Energy Security. Global Superpowers and Health, Human Rights and Intervention. You will also be required to write a coursework project using data collected during the fieldwork course in year 12. There are three examinations in the summer of year 13. A human paper, a physical paper and a synoptic paper. Exams are 2 hours long. The three examinations and the coursework make up the final A Level grade.

**Goes well with:** History, Law, Biology, Chemistry, and Maths.

**Careers and Higher Education:** By studying Geography at A Level you are opening a diverse range of career and further education opportunities, Geography is a subject that can be studied at most Universities. Geography can open doorways into many diverse careers including, researcher, media, travel Writing, town planning, airline staff, pilot, Diplomat, politics, estate agency, storm chaser, marketing, teaching and social work.

“A Level Geography is hard work but worth the effort as the subjects covered are interesting and relevant to our current world. The teachers are dedicated and enthusiastic, so motivate and push you to your best ability” Former Student

# Health and Social Care CTEC Extended Qualification

**Exam Board:** OCR

**VOCATIONAL SUBJECT**

**Course Leader:** Ms J Phillips- who is an experienced lead marker for OCR and part of the development team for this qualification

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 4

The Extended Certificate is an Applied General qualification and takes 360 guided learning hours to deliver which means it is equivalent to one A Level. This qualification is designed to be taken as part of a study programme alongside other Vocational Qualifications or A levels. There are 6 units of study and each will be assessed as a separate entity. The course is 50% portfolio and 50% examination.

**Year 12:** In this first year you will be studying for the external examinations. In January 2020 you will be taking examinations in Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care (Unit 2) and Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care (Unit 3). In June 2020 you will be taking an examination in Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care (Unit 4). You are allowed to take each examination twice so any retakes will take place in either June or January. It is a requirement of the qualification that you gain passes in all three examined units.

**Year 13:** In this year you will be completing all of the units which are assessed through the completion of a portfolio. These units are:  
Building Positive Relationships in Health and Social Care, the impact of Long Term Physiological Conditions; Sexual Health, Reproduction and Early Developments, Public Health

**Goes well with:** Psychology, Biology, Sociology.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Many students will choose to progress onto a health and social care related programme at University such as Nursing, Health Studies, Midwifery, Social Work, Teaching or Early Childhood Studies.

*Health and Social care is a great subject as it teaches you the right skills needed to support people. It is interesting and I never get bored*

Former Student

# History

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mr R Marsland

**Entrance criteria:** History 5 English Language/ Literature 5 if History not taken at GCSE

History at A Level will enable you to acquire valuable skills that can be applied to all professions and career paths in your future. You will learn and practice skills of analysis and criticism whilst studying British, European and World History giving you a broad knowledge base of the world around you. Everything studied over the two years will help you to appreciate the world you live in and how the modern world is a product of its past. As an academic subject, History enables you to develop practical and critical skills, demonstrating the ability to learn, synthesise and apply new ideas and theories. History is considered by many employers to be good preparation for the everyday challenges of team work, analysis and planning and a large number of the FTSE 100 Managing Directors have History to at least A Level

**Year 12:** Students will study three topics in Y12. Russia in the Age of Peter the Great 1682-1725, Modern British History 1951-1979. Both units cover social, economic, politics and foreign relations and are building towards the Y13 examinations. The third topic is the American Civil Rights Movement 1865-1968, this topic will form the knowledge required for their Coursework Essay.

**Year 13:** Students will again study three topics in Y13. Russia in the Age of the Epoch of the Palace Coups and Catherine the Great 1725-1796, Modern British History 1979-2007. Both units will be assessed in the end of course examinations. Students will also complete an extended coursework essay on the American Civil Rights movement.

**Goes well with:** Anything and Everything!

**Careers and Higher Education:** By studying History at A level you are opening up a diverse range of career and further education opportunities including: Advertising, Marketing and PR, Journalism and Communications, Accountancy and Business, Political, Social and Business Analysis, Police and the Law, Research for private companies, government departments and universities.

"Historians have an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present information and opinions. This is a very useful quality in life and careers... History is an excellent preparation for very many other jobs"  
Which? Magazine

# BTEC L3 Information Technology

**Exam Board:** BTEC Nationals

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Course Leader:** Mr Ali

**Entrance criteria:** English 5, Maths 5, GCSE IT not a requirement

BTEC Level 3 in Information Technology is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business and using IT to communicate and share information.

**Year 12:** This academic year, Year 12 BTEC Nationals in Information Technology students will be beginning the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology. The BTEC Nationals in Information Technology provide you with a wide range of qualification sizes to choose from. Each has a clear purpose, and is designed to ensure progression to higher education or into employment. The units to be studied on the "IT" course in this academic year are as follows: Unit 2 – Creating Systems to manage Information (Coursework) and Unit 3 – Using Social Media in Business (controlled assessment). It is crucial that your child begins preparing from September 2020 in order to give themselves the best opportunity to be successful in the April 2021, 5 hours controlled assessment.

**Year 13:** During the second academic year of this course. Students will need to complete 2 additional units to gain the full award. Unit 1 – Information Technology Systems is a 2 hour externally assessed examination which will be taken in the January of year 2. This exam looks at the following areas; digital devices, peripheral devices and media, computer software in an IT system, emerging technologies, choosing IT systems, transmitting data, operating online, protecting data and information, impact of IT systems and legal issues that surround IT. Pupils will also take an additional piece of coursework which will be decided on in year 2. Pupils can either study Unit 5 – Data Modelling or Unit 6 – Website Development.

**Goes well with:** Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Media and Business Studies

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past Students have pursued routes into teaching, software engineering, programming, and web developer and computer games designer.

"Anyone who has lost track of time when using a computer knows the propensity to dream, the urge to make dreams come true and the tendency to miss lunch"

Tim Berners Lee

# Law

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Ms V Edwards

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, Maths 5

This is an engaging course. The content has been designed to inspire, nurture and develop your understanding. It will foster your interest and enjoyment in law. The qualification is designed to develop knowledge and skills for the further study of law, and related subjects, such as business. You will develop knowledge of the law in England, and an awareness of law in a European and global context. The course will enable you to understand the changing nature of law and the interaction between law, morals, justice, society and technology. You will learn through taught lessons, role play exercises and mooting.

**Year 12:** You will study the legal system: Civil courts and other forms of dispute resolution; Legal personnel; Access to justice Criminal courts and lay people: and criminal law; Rules and theory; General elements of criminal liability; Fatal offences against the person; Non-fatal offences against the person; Offences against property; Mental capacity defences; General defences; Preliminary offences.

**Year 13:** You will study Law Making: Parliamentary law making; Delegated legislation; Statutory interpretation; Judicial precedent; Law reform; European Union law. Law of Tort: Rules and theory: Liability in negligence; Occupiers' liability; Torts connected to land; Vicarious liability; Defences; Remedies: You will also study Further law; the nature of law and human rights law as extended response questions.

**Goes well with:** Business studies, History, English, Sociology, Psychology

**Careers and Higher Education:** A level law develops skills you will need to read law at university or the study of other subject areas with similar disciplines. Previous students have entered various professions including; barristers, solicitor, police officer's, teachers and in the world of commerce and business

"A law is valuable, not because it is a law, but because there is right in it"

Henry Ward Beecher

# Media Studies

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mr T Allcroft

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5, English Literature 5

Media candidates will investigate the media landscape, at a micro level within individual products and at a macro level in terms of technologies. It is the study of advertising, film, television, news, radio and the ever-growing platform of social media and its role in daily life. Pupils will engage with both academic analysis and practical production in order to refine their practice and understand how the media has shaped and influenced the world we live in today.

**Year 12:** You'll study how Media Industries are represented through the form of radio, newspapers, music videos, advertising and films.

**Year 13:** You'll study in-depth media forms of television, magazines and online, social and participatory media/video games. You will also be required to complete one extended essay.

**Goes well with:** History, English, IT, Sociology, Psychology and Drama.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Studying Media Studies you are opening a diverse range of career and further education opportunities including: Print Journalism, Electronic Journalism, Film Production Courses, Advertising, Promotional & Marketing degree courses and careers, Communications and Media courses, Radio Journalism, Business & Media at BCU and Newman, Digital Media courses, Photography and photojournalism, Graphic Design courses.

"Technology and social media have brought power back to the people"  
Mark McKinnon

# Modern Foreign Languages

## French, Spanish and German

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mrs A Flores

**Entrance criteria:** Level 6 in specified language

Mastering another language enables you to become acquainted with another way of thinking and another culture. Apart from the purely practical benefits for business, social life and leisure, having another language is a personally enriching one. Over the two years of the course, you will develop your ability to speak and write in French/Spanish, as well as to understand the spoken and written forms of the language. You will also develop your cultural knowledge of the countries in which the language is spoken, and have an opportunity to discuss topical issues relevant to these countries.

**Year 12:** The three-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak with accurate grammar and syntax for a range of purposes and to understand written or spoken French/German/Spanish in a variety of contexts and genres.

**Year 13:** these skills are built upon in year 13 and examined in three exams at the end of year 13. The exams cover Unit 1 Listening, Reading and Writing, Unit 2 Written exam and Unit 3 Speaking exam.

**Goes well with:** English, History, Law. The list goes on! Previous students have studied a wide variety of other subjects. MFL is a sound academic subject and provides a good basis for going on to university to study a whole range of disciplines.

**Careers and Higher Education:** By studying French/German/ Spanish at A Level, you are opening the door to a diverse range of career and further education opportunities which include: Careers in Business – a language A level makes you more attractive to future employers, Translation, Interpreting, Working abroad, Working for airlines and Teaching.

"Technology and social media have brought power back to the people"

Mark McKinnon

# PE BTEC

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** EDEXCEL

**Course Leader:** Ms C Hayes

**Entrance criteria:** PE GCSE 5, trilogy Science or Biology 5

PE is the study of how our body works. We use the PE staffs' expertise to ensure each topic is being taught by a specialist in that subject area. PE is paramount in everyday life to explain how our bodies work in both the physical capacities as well as the psychological and mental capacities and how in turn we can influence/coach and adapt our body to our surroundings. A qualification in PE can help propel you into many environments of work and gives you many skills to help achieve such as social awareness, teamwork, literacy, numeracy, physical capabilities as well as how to manage stress.

**Year 12:** You will study 4 Units, 3 of which are examined and one which is coursework based. The units are Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology (examined), Unit 2 – Functional Anatomy (examined), Unit 3 – Psychology (examined/seen scenario), Unit 7 – Biomechanics in Sport (coursework)

**Year 13:** will see you study 4 more coursework based units. Unit 4 – Field and Laboratory based fitness testing, Unit 5 – Applied research methods in Sport, Unit 6 – Coaching for performance and fitness, Unit 12 – sociocultural Issues in sport and exercise.

**Goes well with:** Biology, Psychology, Media, Business.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Routes and careers you may choose to take are: Teaching, Coaching, Physiotherapy, Business, Personal Training, Nutritionist, Media, Sports Development, and Marketing.

“There may be people that have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do”

Derek Jeter

# Performing Arts (Dance and Music)

## CTEC

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Course Leader:** Miss K Tucker

**Entrance criteria:** Science 5, English 5, Maths, 5

Dance and Music are taught within the Performing Arts Faculty. Throughout this course you will study current issues in the industry as well as creating and performing your own original work. In year 13 you will opt for either a Dance or Music pathway. You will study and perform classical repertoire as well as current leading practitioners. You will analyse current rehearsal and creative techniques as well as working with each other to create a performance for a specific target audience. A qualification in the Performing Arts can help to equip you into a number of job roles within the industry and provide you with numerous skills for any area of work, such as: teamwork, social awareness, confidence, motivation, independent thinking, literacy and public speaking.

**Year 12:** You will study 3 externally assessed units, through coursework and practical exploration. Unit 1 - prepare to work in the Performing Arts sector, Unit 2 - Proposal for a commissioning brief. Unit 3 - Influential performance practice.

**Year 13:** Study 3 more units, this time internally assessed. Dance pathway: Unit 13 - Dance technique, Unit 14 - Dance performance. Unit 15 - Dance choreography. Music pathway: Unit 23 - Create music to perform. Unit 25 Music performance. Unit 29 - Musicianship.

**Goes well with:** Drama, Music, English, PE, Biology, Media.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Routes and careers you may choose to take are: Performer, Choreographer, Music Producer, and Researcher. Dance Therapist, Dance Journalism, Teacher.

"The truest  
expression of a  
person is in their  
Dance and in  
their Music.  
Bodies never lie"  
Agnes de Mille

# Philosophy

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Course Leader:** Mrs L Simpson

**Entrance criteria:** English 5 (RS at GCSE not required)

A Level Philosophy explores some of the big questions known to man such as, what is knowledge. And what do good, bad, right and wrong really mean? During the course you will study how Philosophy relates to the wider world, developing critical and reflective thinking as well as your skills of enquiry. Within the course you will be given the opportunity to develop, express and reflect upon your own personal values, opinions and beliefs as well as exploring those of others. Through research, insight and practical application you will gain the skills of analysis, reasoning and critical evaluation. A qualification in Philosophy will not only develop you as a person and thinker but provide you with lifelong skills ready for university and the work place. Year 12 & 13: You will study for 2 different exam papers over the course that run alongside each other for the entire 2 years. The 2 exam papers studied are:

**Philosophy and Moral Philosophy** – This intriguing module will encourage you to develop your critical thinking as you explore questions such as what is knowledge? How can we define what is meant by good, bad, right and wrong? You will explore these questions by studying some of the greatest philosophers of our time and discussing ethical theories such as Utilitarianism and virtue ethics. You will then consider how this is applied to eating animals, stealing, telling lies and simulated killing when playing video games.

**The Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of Mind:** This fascinating module explores the concept and nature of God through the study of different philosophical arguments such as the teleological and ontological arguments. You will also question how the problem of evil can still allow for people to consider God as all loving and omnipotent. An opportunity to develop your philosophical mind. **Assessment:** There are 2 separate exam papers which will be taken at the end of the 2 year course in year 13. Each exam is equally weighted and worth 50%. Students are expected to answer a variety of question styles from simple recall of knowledge to an in depth analysis of the key questions you will have studied throughout the course. Each paper is to be completed within 3 hours.

**Goes well with:** English literature and combined, Law, History, Geography, Psychology, Business, Sociology, Health and Social Care and EPQ.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past students have gone on to study degrees in Theology, English & Philosophy, social care and education and taken career paths into teaching, social work, the police force, National Health care service. It will also help to provide you with a sturdy basis for essay writing which will be beneficial for all students going on to study at degree level.

"To know nothing of  
what happened  
before you were born,  
is to forever remain a  
child"

Cicero (Stoic Philosopher)

# Physics

FACILITATING SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mr B Moore

**Entrance criteria:** Physics 6 (or trilogy 6), Maths 6, English 5

Physics is the study of everything in the Universe. It is taught by specialist Physics teachers with a wide variety of experiences. Physics is the study from the Quantum world to the vast openness of space. It opens doors to a wide range of careers both within and outside the field of Science. A qualification in Physics also equips you with skills in literacy, numeracy and an ability to problem solve.

**Year 12:** You will study a variety of Physical concepts building on ideas and understanding from GCSE. In year 12 you will study Section 1: Particles and Radiation, Section 2: Waves and Optics, Section 3: Mechanics and Materials, Section 4: Electricity, Section 5: Skills in Physics

**Year 13:** You will apply your understanding to the bigger questions in Physics and link it to the Physical world and ultimately the Universe. You will study Section 6: Further mechanics and Thermal Physics, Section 7: Fields, Section 8: Nuclear Physics, Section 9: Astrophysics, Section 10: Further skills in Physics.

Examination takes place at the end of year 13 with 3 written examinations.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Past students have pursued routes degrees in Physics, Engineering, Aerospace engineering, Biomedical science and medicine. Jobs in law, accountancy, education, media and healthcare are also popular

"All of Physics is either impossible or trivial. Impossible until you understand it, and then it becomes trivial"  
Ernest Rutherford

# Psychology

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Miss R Hedderley

**Entrance criteria:** Maths 5, English Language 5

These qualifications offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. You will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. The course is assessed via 3 separate examinations lasting two hours each, which are sat at the end of the two year course. The course leader, R Hedderley, is an experienced examiner marking on both paper 1 and paper 3. As a result you will experience quality teaching tailored to suit the AQA examinations.

**Year 12:** In the first year you will study a wide range of topics ready for your external examination, including: approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology, attachment, memory, issues / debates and research methods.

**Year 13:** In the second year you will study a wide range of topics including: Schizophrenia, relationships, and social Psychology, aggression and research methods.

**Careers and Higher Education:** The course opens a wide range of careers both within and outside the field of Psychology including social work; marketing and advertising, teaching, counselling, clinical Psychologists, the Health sector and many more.

**Extra-curricular opportunities:** As part of the course we offer a range of additional opportunities to enhance your skills, including an exam booster workshop, visits to universities including Psychology workshops, as well as guest speakers joining us in school where you will have the opportunity to see a real brain.

*“Psychology is an intriguing subject in which we are encouraged to challenge out knowledge of human behaviour. We are allowed the freedom to be inquisitive and express our passion*  
Former Student

# Sociology

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course Leader:** Mrs H Hall

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 5

Sociology is the study of human societies, in all sorts of contexts- it is in fact a very broad discipline. Sociology is classed as a social science, but its status as a science is under scrutiny, often from sociologists themselves which makes it a very interesting subject to study. A qualification in Sociology will assist you in any career path you choose to take. This is because it involves examining the world around you, the interactions between individuals, groups and institutions, thus creating an awareness of cultural, ethnic, class and gender differences etc. which in turn can be applied to any field of work. Within the Sociology team we have the experience of an A level Sociology examiner who embeds her expertise into the Sociology curriculum to enable students to advance in their examination technique.

**Year 12:** In the first year you will be studying topics in preparation for the external examinations which are taken at the end of year 2. These include Sociological Theories, Research Methods, Families and Households and Education. The learning approach used in year 1 includes taught lessons, independent work, collaborative group work, flipped learning with exam preparation at the heart of what we do.

**Year 13:** During year 2, you will be building upon knowledge gained in year 1 by re-visiting topics and undergoing further exam-style question practice. You will also be studying two more topics in preparation for your external examinations at the end of year 2. These include Mass Media and Crime and Deviance. There are opportunities for learning outside of the classroom across both years of this course with conferences and workshop visits being offered.

**Goes well with:** Psychology, Law, History and Health and Social Care.

**Careers and Higher Education:** Many students will choose to progress onto University to study Sociology at a higher level, Criminology, Law, Social Work or even courses such as Nursing or Medicine. They may also engage with higher apprenticeship programmes in the public service sector, for example in the police, probation or prison service.

*“Sociology has changed the way I think about the world, it allows you to express your opinions and examine issues in the world critically. I have really enjoyed studying this course*  
Former Student

# Travel and Tourism

VOCATIONAL SUBJECT

**Exam Board:** Pearson

**Course Leader:** Mrs K Bennett

**Entrance criteria:** English Language 4, Travel and Tourism L2 Pass, Geography 4

The objective of the qualification is to support progression to higher education. The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education providers to ensure that it supports this progression. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice.

This qualification includes three mandatory units covering the following content areas:

- The travel and tourism industry – the travel and tourism industry in the UK is growing and is of major importance to the economy. Learners will develop the skills needed to examine, interpret and analyse a variety of statistics that measure the importance of tourism to the UK.
- Different types of destinations and their importance – learners will investigate the features and appeal of global destinations.
- Principles of marketing in travel and tourism – learners will explore how to develop a successful marketing plan for use by travel and tourism organisations to attract and engage with customers using research data. Learners select one optional unit to support their progression to travel and tourism and other courses in higher education.

**Goes well with:** English language and other vocational qualifications.

**Careers and Higher Education:** In addition to the travel and tourism sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean that learners develop transferable skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. The qualification will give learners transferable knowledge, understanding and broad skills such as communicating and presenting ideas.

“The main reason to study hospitality, travel and tourism is to **work in the field**. Hotels, airlines, destination, attractions, transportation, cruises, events, activity providers, shopping centres, tourist services, travel agents, tour operators and many others together form together a huge industry.”

“The beauty of Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation & Tourism is that no matter where you are in the world, the industry has a place. Whether you choose to **work in hotels, events, attractions or elsewhere in the sector**, there are always jobs available.”