



# Sixth Form Courses

## 2021



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# APPLICATION TIMELINE

When?	What happens?	More information
18 November 2020	<b>Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening</b>	<p>A chance to find out more about the opportunities on offer at The Spires College Sixth Form.</p> <p>Explore courses that you might be interested in and get expert advice about the right Study Programme for you.</p>
November & December 2020	<b>Year 11 Careers Meetings</b> <b>Course Taster Sessions</b>	<p>Advice and Guidance sessions for students from The Spires College.</p> <p>Opportunities to find out more about courses and qualifications you might be interested in.</p>
15 January 2021	<b>Applications Deadline</b>	<p>Your completed Application Form must be returned to the Sixth Form Centre by this date.</p>
January & February 2021	<b>Sixth Form Applicants' Meetings</b>	<p>Applicants are invited to meet with the Sixth Form Team. This is an opportunity for us to get to know you and for you to ask any remaining questions that you might have.</p> <p>Your personal Study Programme will be discussed and agreed.</p>
May & June 2021	<b>GCSE Examinations</b>	
July 2021	<b>Sixth Form Induction Day</b>	<p>All applicants are expected to attend the Induction Day.</p> <p>This is a great opportunity for you to meet with your tutor and your course teachers.</p> <p>You will also collect the Induction Tasks that you will need to complete before joining the Sixth Form.</p>
27 August 2021	<b>GCSE Results Day</b>	<p>The Sixth Form Team will be available for advice, guidance and support.</p>
7 September 2021	<b>Start of Term</b>	<b>Welcome to the Sixth Form!</b>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What are the entry requirements for The Spires College Sixth Form?**

Your Study Programme will be personal to you and, so, it is difficult to specify general entry requirements. Whatever the courses you choose, the most important requirements are:

- ▲ an enthusiastic and positive approach to your studies
- ▲ a commitment to being part of The Spires College community and meeting the high expectations we have of our students
- ▲ excellent attendance and punctuality

Each pathway has its own entry requirements and many of the courses within each pathway have further, specific entry requirements. You will need to meet both the pathway and course specific entry requirements. It is important that you check the course details carefully. If you haven't got a Grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths when you join the Sixth Form, you will be required to continue your studies in these subjects and resit these qualifications.

## **How many courses should I choose?**

Your Study Programme in the Sixth Form is about much more than just the courses you choose. Your Programme is personal to you and will be made up of examination courses, tutorial, the opportunity to develop important skills for learning and life and a variety of other activities. We aim to provide you with a Programme which meets your individual needs and will provide you with the qualifications, skills and experiences to enable you to progress to Higher Education, employment or further training, as well as developing your personal interests. The Sixth Form Team will advise you carefully about the right number and types of courses for you. As a guide, most students choose three Level 3 courses.

## **Can you guarantee that all the courses that I choose will be available?**

The courses in this brochure are our 'offer'. Whilst we would love to run all of the courses, sometimes we are not able to. Decisions about whether to run courses will depend on the number of students who opt for them. If we are not able to run a particular course for any reason, we will let you know in good time and advise you on choosing a different course.

## **How do I apply to The Spires College Sixth Form?**

Simply complete the application form in your Prospectus or visit our website to download an application form. Application forms should be posted or handed into the Sixth Form Centre. The deadline for receipt of applications is 10 January 2020. See the Application Timeline for more information.

## **Will I have to come for an interview?**

We meet with all applicants. This isn't really an interview; it's an opportunity to discuss your Study Programme and make sure that your Study Programme is exactly right for you. It's really important that you attend this meeting. Parents and carers are welcome to come, too.

## **What will happen at my Applicant's Meeting? Do I need to bring anything with me?**

If you're not already a student at The Spires College, you will need to bring a recent school report with you. Your letter will tell you exactly what you need to bring. Applicants' Meetings will be held throughout January and February. Your meeting will be with a member of the Sixth Form Team. Your meeting is an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you might have and for us to advise you about the right courses and activities for your personalised Study Programme. At the end of your meeting you will be given an 'offer' confirming your Study Programme and the grades you will need to get to be able to do those courses.

## Where can I get advice about which courses to choose?

A number of factors might influence your choice of Study Programme:

- ▲ you might have enjoyed or been good at a subject at GCSE
- ▲ you might need a particular subject for your chosen career path or university course

In addition to these factors, you should also bear the following in mind:

- ▲ some subjects are much harder at Level 3 than at GCSE
- ▲ research carefully which Level 3 subjects and qualifications you need for your future plans. Check with university admissions if you are unsure or visit the UCAS website
- ▲ do your homework about what particular subjects involve at Level 3. Speak to current students and attend Drop Ins and Taster Sessions so you can meet teachers and get honest and informed advice and guidance

Entry onto Level 3 courses is based on whether you have the right qualifications at GCSE to be able to cope with the demands of the subject at Level 3. Each course has a different entry requirement, so you need to check carefully. The decisions you make now will affect the university courses open to you and, in an increasingly competitive market for places, your choices really do matter.

Universities need to know that students are well prepared for the academic rigour required to study at degree level. Some universities will require you to have studied a particular subject at A Level and many prefer that students have included at least one 'facilitating' subject as part of their Study Programme. These are:

English ▲ Mathematics ▲ Biology ▲ Chemistry ▲ Physics ▲ History ▲ Geography ▲ Languages

By choosing one or more of these subjects, you are keeping as many options open as possible.

We know that it can all seem a bit overwhelming but there is plenty of support available to help you to make the right choices. You can attend 'drop in' sessions and Taster Sessions. We will let you know when they are via your tutor. If you are not a student at The Spires College, or if you are and need advice when there are no 'drop ins', simply give us a call on 01803 408852 or email [sixthform@thespirescollege.com](mailto:sixthform@thespirescollege.com). Someone will give you a call or arrange for you to come in for a chat.

## Can I study part-time?

All of our Level 3 programmes are full-time, two year programmes. We do not offer part-time or one year programmes in the Sixth Form.

## What happens if I change my mind about what I want to study?

You just need to let the Sixth Form Team know what you would like to change to. If it is a major change, we may ask you to come in for another meeting.

## What happens if I don't get my predicted grades?

The most important thing is that you are studying on the right courses at the right level. Our admissions process takes place the day after your GCSE results are available. Every student will have an admissions interview and, if you haven't got the grades that you need, we will work with you to look at the options available to you. This might mean changing course. The Sixth Form Team will also be available for advice on GCSE results day or you can contact our Helpline. Full details will be on the website.

# LEVEL 3 COURSE REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

<b>Applied Science</b> BTEC National	Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science <b>or</b> Grade 5 in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry <b>and</b> GCSE Physics	<b>History</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE History <b>or</b> Grade 6 or above in GCSE English
<b>Art &amp; Design (Fine Art)</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art	<b>Information Technology</b> BTEC National	Merit or above in Level 2 IT (if studied)
<b>Art &amp; Design (Photography)</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art <b>or</b> GCSE Photography	<b>Mathematics</b> Advanced Level	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics
<b>Biology</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology <b>and</b> Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry <b>or</b> GCSE Physics	<b>Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)</b> Level 3 Certificate	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics
<b>Business</b> BTEC National	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Business Studies (if studied)	<b>Music</b> BTEC National	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music <b>or</b> Merit or above in Level 2 RSL or Level 2 BTEC Music
<b>Chemistry</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry <b>and</b> Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology <b>or</b> GCSE Physics	<b>Performing Arts</b> BTEC National	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Drama <b>or</b> Merit or above in BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts
<b>English Literature</b> Advanced Level	Grades 6 or above in GCSE English Language <b>and</b> GCSE English Literature	<b>Philosophy</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE English
<b>Extended Project Qualification</b>	No course specific entry requirements	<b>Physical Education</b> Advanced Level	Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE <b>and</b> Grades 5 or above in GCSE Science
<b>Film Studies</b> Advanced Level	Grades 6 or above in GCSE English Language <b>and</b> GCSE English Literature	<b>Physics</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics <b>and</b> Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology <b>or</b> GCSE Chemistry
<b>Food Science &amp; Nutrition</b> WJEC Level 3 Diploma	Merit or above in Level 2 Hospitality & Catering (if studied)	<b>Psychology</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Psychology (if studied)
<b>Geography</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography	<b>Spanish</b> Advanced Level	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish



# LEVEL 3 ACADEMIC

In order to succeed on our **Academic Pathway**, you will have at least **five GCSEs**, including English and Maths, at **Grade 5** or above.

Most of our Academic Pathway qualifications have **course specific entry requirements**, too, and you will need to meet these as well as the Academic Pathway entry requirements.

If you choose Academic Pathway courses, you are likely to be planning to progress onto further study at **university**.

We will advise you on the right number and choice of Academic Pathway courses for you, depending on both your GCSE results and your future plans.

## ART & DESIGN (FINE ART) Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art & Design

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art

### Overview

Advanced Level Art and Design (Fine Art) is an exciting and dynamic course, fuelled by the study of contemporary as well as historical works of art. You will develop your skills in working with various media and processes and will enjoy full access to our fantastic print making and clay work facilities. You will investigate changes in processes and how this alters a piece, as well as learning how to deconstruct and analyse both your own artwork and that of others. You will produce projects resulting in final outcomes based on a stimulus to which you will respond with increasing individuality and independence. You will produce a personal portfolio of work in response to your stimulus and will also produce a body of work for a stimulus set by the exam board. You will also write a short supporting essay to contextualise, deepen and refine your knowledge.

### What will I learn?

The A Level course is assessed through two components.

#### ▲ **Personal Investigation** (60% of A Level marks)

The A Level Personal Investigation is student led and gives you the chance to focus on something that you are passionate about, be it politics, social change, changes in landscapes or investigating the role of historical art in the development of art today. The focus of the investigation is entirely determined by you. The portfolio again results in a final outcome being made and is supported by an essay of 1000- 3000 words of continuous prose. Your essay can be presented in any format.

#### ▲ **Externally Set Assignment** (40% of A Level marks)

You will produce a body of work in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. This will be determined in January of the final year, producing supporting work during lessons and at home before producing the final outcome in a 15 hour examination.

### How will I learn?

A Level Art and Design is a practical subject with lessons designed to maximise your understanding through active participation. You will create work based on investigation of contemporary and historical art sources and will document this journey through the use of a sketchbook. You will be encouraged to become active in understanding the development of art in real time by responding to news articles and events. You will learn by producing work using a variety of skills and processes such as printing, painting, drawing and use of digital media.

### Where could it lead?

As one of the fastest growing industries globally, opportunities for employment and experience in the creative arts are vast. You will develop the independent working skills and experience required to succeed both at university level and in employment in areas such as illustration, game design, graphic design and architecture. For students seeking to take their studies in Art & Design further, the usual route after A Level is to take a one-year Foundation course, although some students progress straight onto degree courses.

## ART & DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY) Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art & Design

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art **or** GCSE Photography **or** a portfolio of relevant work. Access to a digital SLR camera is recommended but not essential

### Overview

Advanced Level Photography is an exciting subject which is beneficial to many different career routes. You will develop your knowledge of visual communication and create imagery through a range of different traditional and digital media. You will have access to a large darkroom and fully equipped studio space as well as a modern computer suite with the full Adobe editing suite. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences, exploring a range of photographic processes and techniques. Your work will develop through both practical and critical/contextual approaches, exploring a combination of the following areas of study: portraiture; commercial photography; still-life photography; documentary photography; experimental imagery; editorial photography; photographic installation; photographic process and landscape photography.

### What will I learn?

The A Level course is assessed through two components.

#### ▲ **Personal Investigation** (60% of A Level marks)

The A Level Personal Investigation is a digital portfolio of practical work responding to a personally set starting point, theme or scenario. You will also undertake a written study which complements any practical work.

#### ▲ **Externally Set Assignment** (40% of A Level marks)

You will produce a body of work in response to a task issued by the exam board on 1st February of your final year. You will create a digital blog of development work before sitting a 15 hour exam in May in which a final response is created.

### How will I learn?

You will be required to work both independently and collaboratively to create a personal investigation into a particular area of photography. Initially, you will be introduced to a wide range of different genres and techniques before deciding upon the direction you would like to focus upon. Support is given through regular teacher feedback and group critiques.

### Where could it lead?

Photography is particularly valuable for careers in the arts, design, fashion, print and web-based journalism, merchandising, archaeology, forensics, conservation, pathology, advertising, marketing and many more. In a world where digital imagery, the internet and social media are integral vehicles in selling and promoting products, lifestyles and communicating visual messages, employers are always keen to employ people with a creative outlook and skills. This A Level is a well-respected and rigorously assessed course, valued highly by universities (including those in the Russell Group).

## BIOLOGY Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology **and** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry **or** GCSE Physics. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required

### Overview

- ▲ How can two metres of DNA be crammed into a nucleus with a diameter of one hundredth of a millimetre?
- ▲ What does the inside of an eyeball look like?
- ▲ How does the heart pump blood in a perfect one-way system?

These are just some of the many fascinating questions which form part of the study of Biology – life and living processes – and which make this subject one of the most popular at The Spires College.

Advanced Level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that will help you to develop the knowledge and skills required for Higher Education and for a successful career.

### What will I learn?

In the **first year** of the course you will study:

- ▲ Biological molecules
- ▲ Cells
- ▲ How organisms exchange substances with their environment
- ▲ Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

In the **second year**, you will learn about:

- ▲ Energy transfers in and between organisms
- ▲ How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- ▲ Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- ▲ The control of gene expression

The eight topics are assessed via three written examinations at the end of the course. Each examination lasts two hours. Papers 1 and 2 consist of both short and long answer questions as well as comprehension questions. Paper 3 comprises structured questions, critical analysis and an essay question.

### *Practical Skills Endorsement*

This qualification will give you opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. To achieve a pass, you must demonstrate that you are competent in all of the practical skills listed in the subject content requirements. You will demonstrate your practical competency by completing a series of core practicals throughout the course. This does not form part of your overall A Level grade.

### How will I learn?

Your lessons will take many forms and will involve a range of interactive teaching and learning strategies. There may be lectures, seminars, discussion groups or practical work. You will be expected to read journals, engage in debate and to take an active part in your own learning.

### Where could it lead?

Biology offers a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities. It is a broad science which allows you to study a range of topics which are traditional yet relevant to today's research. Biology is going through a period of great expansion and interest. It offers great opportunities and is well placed to become the science of the new millennium.

## CHEMISTRY Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry **and** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or GCSE Physics. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required

### Overview

Advanced Level Chemistry is divided into two strands:

- ▲ The **academic strand** covers all aspects of physical, inorganic and organic chemistry, all three of which develop in complexity over the two years of the course.
- ▲ The **practical strand** will involve a minimum of 12 assessed practical activities. At the end of two years, three written examinations will be taken, one of which will cover practical techniques and skills.

### What will I learn?

#### ▲ Paper 1 **Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry**

You will study a range of Physical Chemistry topics as well as practical skills and Inorganic Chemistry. You will develop and practise practical skills linked to the course. Your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam comprising both short and long answer questions. This exam contributes 35% of the A Level marks.

#### ▲ Paper 2 **Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry**

You will study a range of Physical Chemistry topics as well as with practical skills and Organic Chemistry. Like Paper 1, your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam comprising both short and long answer questions. Paper 2 contributes 35% of the A Level marks.

#### ▲ Paper 3 **All Topics and Practical Techniques**

This paper assesses all aspects of the course as well as the practical techniques acquired during two years of A Level study. Your learning will be assessed via a two-hour exam which contributes 30% of the A Level marks.

### *Practical Skills Endorsement*

This qualification will give you opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. Advanced Level Chemistry requires many interesting and specialist practical techniques which demand a range of core skills and competencies. There is a minimum of 12 assessed practicals, providing a certificate of practical competency which is particularly valued by universities, especially for those pursuing Chemistry at degree level.

### How will I learn?

Lessons demand high levels of participation and you will be encouraged to discuss and critique your work as a valuable tool to help your progress. Reading and re-writing of notes is essential and homework is frequent. The course content is very diverse and, while demanding, it is an incredibly interesting and rewarding branch of scientific study.

### Where could it lead?

A Level Chemistry is an essential or preferred qualification for a wide variety of science related courses at university but it is also viewed very favourably by the business and financial sector. It is commonplace for chemistry graduates to move into other areas of science. As a result, many doors are open to Chemistry graduates and career opportunities are very diverse. Chemistry is also a wise choice for students studying subjects mainly in the Arts or Humanities but who wish to maintain breadth and diversity in their studies. A Chemistry qualification shows that you have qualities important to many non-scientific careers, as well as scientific ones: that's why you'll find chemists in everything from food to finance!

## ENGLISH LITERATURE Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature

### Overview

Advanced Level English Literature involves students in the study of a range of literary texts from a variety of genres and contexts. You will develop new approaches to the ways in which texts are analysed, interpreted and explored and will examine the ways in which authors' methods shape complex meanings and ideas. You will develop your ability to analyse the structure and language of a range of poetry, drama texts and prose as well as exploring the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they are set in order to make connections across literary genres. You will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the course. You will also complete a non-examined component that requires you to explore texts of your own choosing, both creatively and analytically.

### What will I learn?

- ▲ **Paper 1 Love through the Ages:** you will study a Shakespeare play focussing on the ways in which the theme of love is explored through language and dramatic technique. You will also study one prose and one poetry text, one of which will have been written pre-1900 and one post-1900. The exam will ask you to relate a printed extract from your studied play to the play as a whole. You will learn to respond to unseen poetry and to compare prose and poetry texts. Both these skills will be tested in the exam.
- ▲ **Paper 2 Texts in Shared Contexts:** you will study three texts – one prose, one poetry and one drama - exploring aspects of literature connected through a period of time. The exam will test your ability to compare texts and to respond to unseen texts, as well as responding to an individual text in detail. There are two periods of time from which to choose:
  - ▲ **WW1 and its Aftermath** explores literature arising out of World War 1, but extends this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. It considers the impact on combatants, non-combatants and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal and literary legacies.
  - ▲ **Modern Times** takes the end of World War 2 as its historical starting point and explores both modern and contemporary literature's engagement with some of the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st century.
- ▲ **Non-examined assessment Texts across Time:** you will undertake an independent, comparative, critical study of two texts. With teacher guidance, you will be encouraged to read widely and, in this component, can choose texts that you find particularly stimulating and engaging to focus. You will receive regular support and feedback but will be expected to explore ideas and interpretations entirely of your own choosing in order to produce an essay of 2500 words together with a supporting bibliography.

### How will I learn?

Lessons are designed to encourage active participation. Discussion and group or individual presentations are regular features and you will often be expected to lead learning. Lessons will teach you to develop reading, writing and thinking skills; beyond the classroom, learning is consolidated and supplemented by independent reading, research and engagement with relevant social and historical texts.

### Where could it lead?

English Literature is valued both by universities and in the workplace. Literature students are highly competent in analysing texts, thinking creatively and writing coherently, skills essential in many professions including law, journalism, education, public relations, management, media and the arts.

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

**Qualification** Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** This one year course **must** form part of a Study Programme comprising at least three other two-year, Level 3 qualifications

### Overview

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of your study areas or from an area of personal interest or activity outside of your Study Programme. It will be based on a topic chosen by you and agreed by your supervisor.

The Extended Project Qualification offers opportunities for you to:

- ▲ make a significant contribution to the choice and design of an extended project and take responsibility either for an individual task or for a defined task within a group project
- ▲ develop and improve your own learning and performance as a critical, reflective and independent student
- ▲ develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- ▲ extend your planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- ▲ develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise
- ▲ use your learning experiences to support your aspirations for Higher Education
- ▲ transfer skills developed as part of your extended project to other areas of study

### What will I learn?

You will be required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- ▲ choose an area of interest
- ▲ draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval
- ▲ plan, research and carry out the project
- ▲ deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- ▲ provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

In order to achieve these outcomes, you will be taught:

- ▲ research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information in your chosen subject area
- ▲ any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of your project which are not part of your Study Programme, for example safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines or research methodology
- ▲ ICT skills that will enhance the production of your report and the development of your project
- ▲ project management skills including time, resource and task management
- ▲ the format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report
- ▲ referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism
- ▲ presentation skills

### How will I learn?

You will be taught the necessary skills to undertake your project but this qualification demands extended autonomous work.

### Where could it lead?

The Extended Project Qualification attracts UCAS points as a qualification in its own right. However, taken alongside other subjects, it is highly regarded by Higher Education institutions. Writing about your EPQ in your UCAS personal statement shows university admissions that you have the passion, skills and determination to carry out research and it distinguishes you from other students. It also helps develop skills that employers value in the workplace.

## FILM STUDIES Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Film Studies

**Exam Board** Eduqas

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature

### Overview

Film Studies is an extremely enjoyable and worthwhile subject to study. Not only will it change the way you watch films, but more importantly it will challenge you to think in new ways and question or change your perspective on a whole host of issues, for example, representation of race or gender. Studying film allows you to understand important issues and developments within history, society and culture, using film as the medium with which to gain a greater insight into these areas. From silent cinema to contemporary Hollywood, the films on this course have fantastic critical reputations. They are films of depth and substance which have been purposefully chosen to offer rich and interesting analysis.

The study of film is highly regarded. Film Studies has been an academic discipline within universities for over 50 years and is regarded as an academic subject in its own right. Oxford and Cambridge are now offering Masters and PhD courses in Film Studies and Screen Arts. Russell Group universities accept Film Studies as an appropriate A level qualification when prospective students apply to study a humanities or arts related discipline.

### What will I learn?

Advanced Level Film Studies is assessed through three components:

- ▲ **Component 1 Varieties of Film and Filmmaking:** you will study classic Hollywood through Hitchcock's work, American blockbusters and independent cinema, and British films such as *Trainspotting* or *Shaun of the Dead*.
- ▲ **Component 2 Global Filmmaking Perspectives:** you will study the work of Guillermo del Toro, documentary and silent film, and experimental cinema through films such as *Pulp Fiction*.
- ▲ **Component 3 Creative Production** This unit assesses your ability to apply your knowledge of film in a creative task, either by filming and editing your own short film or writing a screenplay.

### How will I learn?

There is so much more to Film Studies than simply watching films. When watching a film, we might regard it as relaxation or escapism. However, the in-depth study of film involves coming from a very different starting point. As well as gaining an appreciation of film as an art form in terms of its visual storytelling, studying film can enhance your understanding of the world in terms of competing values, attitudes and beliefs. We will explore the 'language' used by filmmakers to create meaning for audiences as well as the contexts surrounding a film's production. The exams challenge students to analyse films in detail, writing academic essays that explore these topics.

### Where could it lead?

Film is one of the most relevant subjects today. The development of deeper critical and creative thinking gained by studying films can enhance many different career paths and is a much sought after transferable skill in both employment and further study. Employment in the screen industries has grown by over 20% since 2009. Career paths for students of Film may, of course, include practical avenues such as film-making, directing, producing and editing but a qualification in Film Studies also allows you to move into more theoretical pathways such as film criticism, journalism or education.

## GEOGRAPHY Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography

### Overview

Advanced Level Geography incorporates a wide range of contemporary global issues that are of great importance to modern society. The focus of the course is the interaction between people and the environment as well as the major global challenges that face the world's population.

### What will I learn?

Advanced Level Geography comprises **four** areas of study:

#### ▲ Dynamic Landscapes

- ▲ Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- ▲ Landscape Systems, Processes and Change

#### ▲ Dynamic Places

- ▲ Globalisation
- ▲ Shaping Places

#### ▲ Physical Systems and Sustainability

- ▲ The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- ▲ The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

#### ▲ Human Systems and Geopolitics

- ▲ Superpowers
- ▲ Global Development and Connections

Your learning will be assessed via three external examinations taken at the end of the course (80% of the total A Level marks) and an Independent Investigation worth 20% of the total A Level marks. The Independent Investigation takes the form of a written report of 3000-4000 words.

Fieldwork, research and practical work are all part of the wider investigation process. They form an intrinsic part of each area of study and are central to your Independent Investigation. You will undertake a minimum of four days of fieldwork during the course; this will inform your independent investigation task.

### How will I learn?

A Level Geography demands an enquiring approach and an interest in the world around you. Wide background reading of quality newspapers and magazines is essential. Lessons will be a mixture of research, presentations, geographical field work skills, and investigations using the internet, texts, journals and DVDs. You will learn to collect, present and interpret data; to analyse information; to produce coherent, well-argued essays and reports; and to empathise and develop an understanding of values and opinions.

### Where could it lead?

Geography is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences. The subject will enable you to have access to a wide range of possible career and Higher Education opportunities. You will learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities as being of great value. The subject also has one of the best employment records with only 5.8% of Geography graduates still job-hunting six months after they graduated, against an average of 7.3%.

## HISTORY Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in History

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE History **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature. It is not necessary to have studied History at GCSE

### Overview

History is a well-respected subject which would suit both those students who wish to specialise in history as a career and those who wish to create a 'well balanced' academic profile.

### What will I learn?

#### ▲ *Component 1* **Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1975**

From Lincoln to Nixon, from the Civil War to the Cold War, this unit covers the sweeping history of America from the bitter divisions of the mid-19th century to its position as a dominant world superpower in the 20th century. It looks at the issues that blighted Black people from the Ku Klux Klan to the Civil Rights Movement. It looks at the Boom and Bust of the 1920s and prohibition, the Great Depression and the New Deal in the 1930s. A sweeping story of possibly the most powerful and yet most divided nation on earth.

#### ▲ *Component 2* **The Wars of the Roses: 1450-1499**

This unit looks at the bitter conflict over who should be monarch that ripped Britain apart in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. From the feeble mutterings of Henry VI to Henry VII, The Winter King, the Wars of the Roses were a time of blood, murder and intrigue. You will discover that the dramatic fiction written by the likes of Philippa Gregory are based on historical events: dynastic intrigue between cousins; schemes of power by powerful women; the murder of the Princes in the Tower and more villains than you can shake a stick at! This unit really has it all! You will chart the conflicts between the House of York and the House of Lancaster before seeing the ultimate triumph of the Tudors.

#### ▲ *Component 3* **Coursework**

This non-examined assessment covers different aspects of the British Empire and Politics, 1815 -1967. You will be taught a series of lessons on this topic and will then be able to choose from a selection of essay titles. The coursework comprises an essay of between 3,500 - 4,500 words and you will be able to complete your own research and investigate one aspect of the British Empire or Politics from this period. Essay titles focus on a range of topics, including the reasons for the growth of empire, relations with indigenous groups, Anglo-Irish relations, the growth of socialism and the impact of key individuals such as Gandhi. You will have the chance to assess the utility of primary sources and the views of historians to support your arguments.

### How will I learn?

You will be given the opportunity to acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history; develop understanding of historical terms and concepts; explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history; understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation; develop your understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented and develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, history.

### Where could it lead?

History deals in-depth with the ideas, dreams and actions of the most fascinating creature on the planet: humans! By studying History, you will develop key skills in researching, analysing and synthesising information from a range of sources and producing substantiated and reasoned conclusions. Vital skills for life! Advanced Level History is highly regarded by universities. Many prominent lawyers, politicians and professionals in a wide variety of fields have enjoyed an academic historical training which has been beneficial to their careers. This course is ideal for both students who are considering specialising in History at degree level as well as those students following different paths who want to show a well-rounded education and well developed skills in debate. An understanding of history is an essential prerequisite to an understanding of the human condition. For many it becomes a lifelong interest and pastime.

## MATHEMATICS Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics

### Overview

Advanced Level Mathematics develops the mathematical concepts you will have learned at GCSE level whilst enriching your understanding of how mathematics can be applied to realistic situations. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how mathematics can be applied to model situations using algebra and other representations, to help make sense of data, to understand the physical world and to solve problems in a variety of contexts, including social sciences and business. Advanced Level Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics as well as supporting your mathematical needs across a broad range of other subjects at this level. The A Level course is assessed through three equally-weighted written papers:

▲ **Paper 1:** Pure Mathematics

▲ **Paper 2:** Pure Mathematics and Mechanics

▲ **Paper 3:** Pure Mathematics and Statistics

All exam papers are calculator based, and you will need to obtain a graphical calculator at the start of the course.

### What will I learn?

Advanced Level Mathematics has three over-arching themes:

- ▲ Mathematical argument and proof
- ▲ Mathematical problem-solving
- ▲ Mathematical modeling

It is divided into three branches:

- ▲ **Pure Mathematics:** proof ▲ algebra and functions ▲ coordinate geometry ▲ sequences and series ▲ trigonometry ▲ exponentials and logarithms ▲ calculus ▲ numerical methods for solving equations ▲ vectors
- ▲ **Statistics:** statistical sampling ▲ data presentation and interpretation ▲ probability ▲ statistical distributions ▲ statistical hypothesis testing
- ▲ **Mechanics:** quantities and units ▲ kinematics ▲ forces ▲ Newton's laws ▲ moments

### How will I learn?

During lessons, you will be encouraged to discuss and evaluate mathematical concepts, sometimes in small groups, sometimes as a whole class. Your studies will take an investigative approach to develop your reasoning and problem-solving skills. You will also be expected to take notes and practise key concepts in class. Some topics will be taught using graphical calculators and computers. Advanced Level Mathematics requires a lot of dedication: you will be required to practise the skills you have learned in class with extensive work at home and during your study periods in College. Help and support from your mathematics teachers will be available after College and during lunch times.

### Where could it lead?

Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well-respected by employers and is regarded as a 'facilitating' subject for entry to Higher Education by the Russell Group of Universities. Careers for people with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid – recent research suggests that those who have a Maths A Level earn an average 10% higher income – but they are also interesting and rewarding. Mathematics can lead to a variety of fulfilling careers from engineering, design and architecture to philosophy, geography and even careers in music and media.

## PHILOSOPHY Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Philosophy

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language **or** GCSE English Literature

### Overview

Philosophy literally translates as 'The Love of Wisdom'. As 'wisdom' comes from an earnest and honest analysis of life and the human experience, Philosophy addresses major questions about what it means to be human, the meaning and purpose of existence, and how we can 'best' live this life. Through studying and analysing concepts of Philosophers from a range of contexts, you will seek to not only understand these complex ideas but, in turn, to develop your own perspectives and answers to life's biggest questions. You will have the opportunity to engage with big questions in a purely secular context.

You will be assessed through two examinations at the end of the course. Each exam consists of two sections. This is a very heavily essay based course and so strong essay skills writing are highly recommended.

### What will I learn?

#### ▲ Paper 1 **Epistemology and Moral Philosophy**

- ▲ **Epistemology:** you will explore the nature of 'knowledge' by addressing questions such as ▲ What 'is' knowledge? ▲ How do we 'know' anything? ▲ Is there such a thing as real 'truth'? ▲ To what extent can we trust our sense perception in order to give us knowledge of the world? ▲ How reliable is 'reason' as a source of knowledge?
- ▲ **Moral Philosophy:** you will explore questions about what it means for something to be 'right' or 'wrong'/'good' or 'bad'. You will explore questions such as ▲ What makes something 'right' or 'wrong'? ▲ Does the will of the majority override the will of the minority? ▲ Do the consequences of an action make the action justified or are some things just always wrong? ▲ What does it mean to be a 'good' human being? You will also explore applied ethical issues including ▲ stealing ▲ simulated killing (for example, within computer games, plays and films) ▲ eating animals ▲ telling lies

#### ▲ Paper 2 **Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind**

- ▲ **Metaphysics of God:** you will explore the concept of God by asking questions such as ▲ What 'is' god? ▲ What are the arguments for and against the existence of God? ▲ Does it make sense to talk about 'God'? ▲ If God does exist why is there so much suffering in the world?
- ▲ **Metaphysics of Mind:** you will explore the nature and purpose of 'the mind' and explore questions such as ▲ Is there a distinction between the mind and body or the mind and brain? ▲ Can machines be said to have minds? ▲ Are human beings any more than material objects? ▲ Is there anything beyond the physical?

### How will I learn?

Lessons are designed to encourage active participation and are similar in style to those you might find in university seminars. Discussion is essential to all lessons. You will be encouraged to think for yourself beyond the 'taught' content. Lessons will also encourage you to develop reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

### Where could it lead?

Philosophy is highly valued by universities and in the workplace because it shows deep, critical level of thought. It has been called 'the ultimate transferrable work skill' with its emphasis on reason and argumentation. A qualification in Philosophy can, therefore, be highly desirable in a vast range of professions. Many who study go onto careers in law, medicine, journalism, politics, economics, business, teaching, International Aid, media to name but a few.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physical Education

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE **and** Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology

### Overview

This practical and engaging course has been developed to allow learners to study Physical Education in an academic setting, enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

### What will I learn?

Theory makes up 70% of your overall mark and is examined in seven different areas, applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, exercise physiology, biomechanical movement, sport psychology and the role of technology in sport.

The second part of the course is the non-examined assessment and this makes up the other 30% of the course. This section allows you to explore one sport in detail as a performer or coach, chosen from a wide variety of sporting activities. Learners will also analyse and evaluate performance in that chosen activity as part of their NEA.

Throughout the two year course you will:

- ▲ develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- ▲ understand how physiological and psychological states affect performance
- ▲ understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport
- ▲ understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport
- ▲ refine your ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- ▲ develop your ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance
- ▲ understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and fitness
- ▲ improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds

### How will I learn?

The bulk of the course is studied in the classroom. There will be some practical activity but you will be expected to be taking part, regularly, in sport. When we do have practical lessons you will be expected to take an active role even if it is not your chosen sport.

### Where could it lead?

This course will prepare you for the further study of PE or Sports Science courses at university, as well as other related subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Biology. You will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand from employers in all sectors of industry. The career opportunities that this course can lead to include PE teaching, sports science, sports psychology, sports coaching, physiotherapy and personal training.

## PHYSICS Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grades 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physics **and** Grade 6 or above in in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Biology. You must also achieve Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics

### Overview

A Level Physics is a challenging and rewarding course that gives you the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas to develop descriptions of the physical universe. You will explore how our understanding of Universe has changed over time, from being able to predict the motion of planets and stars, to understanding the quantum behaviour of the atom and light, leading to advances in modern computing. If you are interested in the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between this is the subject for you. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

### What will I learn?

▲ **Paper 1** Particles and quantum phenomena ▲ Waves ▲ Mechanics and materials ▲ Electricity

▲ **Paper 2** Thermal physics ▲ Fields and their consequences ▲ Nuclear physics

▲ **Paper 3** Practical skills ▲ Astrophysics

The whole of the A Level Physics course is examined at the end of the full course. There are three theory papers and a practical skills assessment. Your grade is determined by how well you do on the theory papers. Your result in the practical is noted as an endorsement alongside your A Level grade.

### Practical Skills Endorsement

As with all three sciences at A Level, you will be given the opportunity to use relevant apparatus and techniques in order to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. There are twelve experiments over the two years of the course, with each experiment focussing on different skills. To receive the practical skills endorsement you must demonstrate competence in all of the skills. These will also be assessed in Paper 3.

### How will I learn?

A Level Physics is a mixture of highly conceptual thinking and very practical applications. You need to be able to think about abstract ideas such as fields and also be able to apply those ideas. This will mean that learning will take many different forms involving interactive and responsive teaching. There will also be many opportunities to develop your mathematical skills because mathematics is the language of Physics.

### Where could it lead?

Physics is a highly respected A Level and demonstrates to an employer that you have analytical and mathematical skills that you can apply to real life situations. There are many possible career paths that it could create for you, including engineering, medicine, forensic science, astronomy, cosmology, electronics, power generation, finance and many more.

If you want to find out more, why not try

- ▲ *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- ▲ *Why don't penguins' feet freeze?* by New Scientist
- ▲ *The Quantum Universe: Everything that can happen does happen* by Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw.

Good websites for Physicists include [www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org) and [www.physicsworld.com](http://www.physicsworld.com)

## PSYCHOLOGY Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Psychology (if studied) **or** Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language. You must also achieve Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics **and** Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 5 in GCSE Biology

### Overview

Advanced Level Psychology involves you learning to develop an analytical and critical approach to the study of the human mind and behaviour, leading to a sound understanding of the multiple applications of Psychology in the wider society. You will consider biological make-up, learned experiences, cognitive (thought) processes and past experiences. You will learn to analyse theories by evaluating the studies that support them, and you will be taught the skills required to draw out the strengths, weaknesses and the psychological issues and debates with each. You will also learn how to examine and analyse the methodologies which underpin psychological theories; for example, questionnaires, laboratory experiments and case studies. The course is 100% examination based, with three examination papers to be taken at the end of the course.

### What will I learn?

You will be assessed via three written examinations of two hours each, all taken at the end of the course. Each paper will include multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing. Learning is focussed around three main assessment objectives which are emphasised and embedded throughout the taught duration of the course.

- ▲ **Paper 1 Introductory topics in Psychology:** you will study social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology.
- ▲ **Paper 2 Psychology in Context:** you will study the approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.
- ▲ **Paper 3 Issues and Options in Psychology:** you will study issues and debates in Psychology plus three additional topics: relationships ▲ schizophrenia ▲ aggression

### How will I learn?

Through learning about human behaviour, you will develop strong communication, leadership and team-working skills. Lessons are designed to promote higher-level and analytical thinking through a variety of learning methods, including data collection, debates, presentations and essay writing. To be most successful, you will be expected to read around the topics covered in lessons, looking at additional research examples to broaden your evaluative viewpoint on psychological research and applications in society. In addition to your taught lessons, you will be expected to undertake a significant amount of independent study.

### Where could it lead?

Advanced Level Psychology offers the opportunity for students to develop approaches to critical thinking and analysis of human behaviour through use of discussions, evaluative writing, research, applied statistics and data analysis. It is, therefore, considered an asset to all areas of Higher Education, including business, education, research, social work, medicine and healthcare. Furthermore, students who wish to become psychologists could work in a range of roles such as teaching, counselling and therapy, sport, human resources and the prison service.

## SPANISH Advanced Level

**Qualification** Level 3 Advanced GCE in Spanish

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish

### Overview

A Level Spanish builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE level or equivalent. The course constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society.

### What will I learn?

- ▲ Social issues and trends
- ▲ Political and artistic culture
- ▲ Grammar
- ▲ Literary texts and films
- ▲ Individual research project

### How will I learn?

A range of teaching styles will be employed to enhance students' linguistic skills, alongside individual study, which is particularly important for the societal and cultural elements of the course. The course promotes and develops students' capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken.

Students will be encouraged to develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language.

### Where could it lead?

An A Level in Spanish is a prized possession both in the world of business and academia.

Students often follow career paths, both in the home country and abroad, in fields as diverse as education, journalism, translation and interpreting, marketing and business.

Students with an A Level in Spanish demonstrate the necessary critical thinking skills and independence of thought to thrive at university and careers in the above fields often follow study at a higher level.

# LEVEL 3 APPLIED

In order to succeed on our **Applied Pathway**, you will have at least **five GCSEs**, including English and Maths, at **Grade 4** or above.

Many of our Applied Pathway qualifications have **course specific entry requirements**, too, and you will need to meet these as well as the Applied Pathway entry requirements.

Following this pathway will allow you to progress to **further study** in your chosen subjects, or lead you directly into an **apprenticeship** or **employment**.

We will advise you on the right number and choice of Applied Pathway courses for you, depending on both your GCSE results and your future plans.

**Qualification** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grades 5-5 or above in GCSE Combined Science **or** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry **and** GCSE Physics

### Overview

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science is a practical based course of study which will develop your skills and confidence in the laboratory as well as teaching you the theory required to succeed. The course consists of four units, of which three are mandatory and two are externally assessed. Completion of all four units is required in order to qualify for certification.

### What will I learn?

In the **first year** of the course you will study:

- ▲ **Principles and Applications of Science** (*externally examined unit*)
- ▲ **Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques** (*internally assessed portfolio*)

In the **second year**, you will learn about:

- ▲ **Science Investigation Skills** (*externally assessed practical skills assessment*)

You will also study a choice of **one unit** from the following (*internally assessed portfolio*)

- ▲ Physiology of Human Body Systems
- ▲ Human Regulation and Reproduction
- ▲ Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways
- ▲ Genetics and Genetic Engineering
- ▲ Diseases and Infections
- ▲ Applications of Inorganic Chemistry
- ▲ Applications of Organic Chemistry
- ▲ Electrical Circuits and their Application
- ▲ Astronomy and Space Science
- ▲ Microbiology and Microbiological Techniques

### How will I learn?

Your lessons will take many forms, with a heavy emphasis on practical skills, and will involve a range of interactive teaching and learning strategies. There may be lectures, seminars, discussion groups in addition to the practical work. You will be expected to read journals, engage in debate and to take an active part in your own learning.

### Where could it lead?

The natural progression from this qualification is to Higher Education, Further Education or employment. Former students have gone on to study nursing, midwifery, social work and sport sciences. YouGov research reveals that 62% of large companies have recruited employees with BTEC qualifications. What's more, well over 100,000 BTEC students apply to UK universities every year and their BTEC Nationals are accepted by over 150 UK universities and Higher Education institutions for relevant degree programmes either on their own or in combination with A Levels.

**Qualification** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** If you study GCSE Business Studies, you must achieve a Grade 5 or above. It is not necessary to have studied Business at Level 2

### Overview

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is designed to sit alongside other Level 3 courses, either academic or applied, as part of your Study Programme. It is aimed at those students who have an interest in business and learning more about the business sector. It provides opportunities to investigate real life scenarios and contexts, enabling you to tailor the course to your individual areas of interest. As with other BTEC courses, you will be required to study a number of mandatory units in addition to an optional unit which is selected on the basis of students' areas of interest.

### What will I learn?

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business is comprised of four units. Three are mandatory units, two of which are assessed externally, and the final unit allows for a degree of student choice.

The **mandatory** units are:

- ▲ Exploring Business
- ▲ Developing a Marketing Campaign
- ▲ Personal and Business Finance

Possible **optional** units are varied and include:

- ▲ Recruitment and Selection
- ▲ Investigating Customer Service
- ▲ Market Research
- ▲ The English Legal System
- ▲ Work Experience in Business

### How will I learn?

Lessons will reflect the varied style and nature of the assessment of the BTEC course. You will be required to apply what you have learned in the classroom to a range of business contexts. Investigation into the business world will be a key element of this course, with students exploring approaches used by different firms to achieve their aims. You will need to take an active role in your learning, involving yourself in discussion and debate as well as presenting your ideas to the class on occasions. A keen interest in the world around you and, specifically, the business world, is essential.

### Where could it lead?

The course content has been developed in collaboration with both universities and leading organisations in order to ensure progression both for those students wishing to enter Higher Education and for those who want to move directly into employment in the business sector. Business and business related courses at Higher Education are diverse and highly sought after. This course will equip you with the independence of learning and resilience required for degree courses at university. Equally, the course modules are recognisable to employers, who were consulted in the development stage to ensure the programme of study provides high calibre employees of the future.

**Qualification** Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

**Exam Board** WJEC

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** If you study Food Preparation and Nutrition or Hospitality and Catering, at Level 2, you must achieve a Grade 5 or above **or** a Merit or above. However, it is not necessary to have studied these subjects at Level 2

### Overview

This qualification offers you the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding through purposeful, work-related contexts linked to the food production industry and leads to many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition. An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives.

### What will I learn?

▲ **Unit 1 Meeting the Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups** (*internally and externally assessed*)

The purpose of this unit is for you to develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of specific target groups and plan and cook complex dishes to meet their nutritional needs. It will enable you to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts.

▲ **Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat** (*externally assessed*)

You will develop an understanding of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks. From this understanding, you will be able to recommend the control measures that need to be in place, in different environments, to ensure that food is safe to eat.

▲ **Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production** (*internally assessed*)

The aim of this unit is for you to use your understanding of the properties of food in order to plan and carry out experiments. The results of the experiments would be used to propose options to solve food production problems

▲ **Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition** (*externally assessed*)

Through this unit, you will develop the skills needed to plan, carry out and present a research project on current issues linked to issues related to food science and nutrition. This could be from the perspective of a consumer, food manufacturer, caterer and/or policy-making perspective

### How will I learn?

Practical and theoretical sessions will support the development of your theoretical knowledge and ensure learning is a tactile experience. Regular practical sessions will allow you to gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals. The two optional units will allow you to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to you, building on previous learning and experiences. The applied purpose of each unit requires you to consider the application of your learning on yourself, other individuals, employers, society and the environment. It requires you to develop independent learning skills, problem solving skills, presentation skills and project based research skills. The fundamental ability to work alongside other students, in a professional environment, will be central to how you learn on this course.

### Where could it lead?

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition has been designed to provide you with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training. Together with other relevant qualifications at Level 3, you will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as degrees in Food and Nutrition, Human Nutrition, Public Health Nutrition and Food Science and Technology.

**Qualification** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** If you study Information Technology at Level 2, you must achieve a Merit or above. However, It is not necessary to have studied Information Technology at Level 2

### Overview

We live in a digital world. Understanding how the technology that runs our world works will give you the advantage in whichever job sector you decide to work. BTEC Level 3 Information Technology is an extremely versatile subject to choose and provides a progression route to many Higher Education courses. This new and exciting course has been developed in collaboration with employers, representatives from Higher Education and relevant professional bodies to ensure the content is current and relevant and to ensure that you are well equipped when you leave the course and continue onto your next pathway.

### What will I learn?

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology comprises of four units of work completed over two years:

#### ▲ **Information Technology Systems** (*externally assessed examination*)

You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, and the way that systems work individually and together, as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that they have on organisations and individuals.

#### ▲ **Creating Systems to Manage Information** (*externally assessment of work carried out under supervision*)

You will examine the structure of data and its origins, and how an efficient data design follows through to an effective and useful database. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system. You will then test your solution to ensure that it works correctly. Finally, you will evaluate each stage of the development process and the effectiveness of your database solution.

#### ▲ **Social Media in Business** (*internally assessed coursework*)

You may be familiar with social media for personal use and in this unit you will discover how it can be used in a business context. You will explore different social media websites, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them for business purposes. You will develop a plan to use social media strategies for business purposes to achieve specific aims and objectives. You will then implement the plan, developing and posting content and interacting with others. Finally, you will collect data on the business use of social media and review the effectiveness of your efforts.

#### ▲ Optional Unit: **Data Modelling** or **Website Development** (*internally assessed coursework*)

### How will I learn?

You will be expected to contribute your opinions and work collaboratively with your peers. An interest in technology is required and an enthusiasm to learn about how the digital world works is essential. You will enjoy a hands on approach to learning where you can put into practice the knowledge you are learning. A mixture of theory and practical lessons will make for a rich and stimulating learning environment.

### Where could it lead?

Careers for those with qualifications in IT are diverse and the course forms a solid grounding for both further study and a range of careers. The skills and knowledge you will develop whilst following the IT course will enhance your application into any sector of employment. Higher Education welcomes IT as a qualification that can enhance a range of other subjects. IT based higher education courses are hugely diverse: you could go on to study Computer Science, Games Design, Web design, the list is huge! Apprenticeships in IT are another option and this qualification shows potential employers that you have a broad range of skills.

## MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (CORE MATHS) Level 3 Certificate

**Qualification** Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies

**Exam Board** AQA

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics. This one year course **must** form part of a Study Programme comprising at least three other two-year, Level 3 qualifications. You will need a scientific calculator throughout the course

### Overview

Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a one year Level 3 Mathematics course for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above but are not taking Advanced Level Mathematics. The aim is for you to retain, deepen and extend your mathematical understanding through solving meaningful and relevant problems, building upon your understanding at GCSE level. It is anticipated that this course will be particularly beneficial to you if you require a good level of mathematical skill for concurrent and future courses. The course sets out to use a problem solving approach to teach applied areas such as data handling (relevant to Geography, Psychology, Business and Sciences), decision maths (relevant to many business related subjects and computing), personal finance (including calculating income tax and National Insurance), and critically analysing statistics and graphs often used in the media. This course will give you confidence with numerical techniques required at degree level or in future employment. Taken alongside a Tech Level subject and Extended Project, it contributes to achievement of the Technical Baccalaureate.

### What will I learn?

Approximately 75% of the course is based on elements of the new GCSE course, with emphasis on real life application. New mathematical content that you will learn includes:

- ▲ Modelling
- ▲ Financial problem solving
- ▲ Critical maths

The course is assessed through two written papers at the end of the year. **Paper 1** assesses compulsory content including Financial Mathematics and Data Analysis, whilst **Paper 2** will focus on critical analysis, probability and decision maths.

### How will I learn?

Core Maths builds on GCSE Maths with sharper focus on problem solving skills by considering and tackling mathematics in meaningful contexts. These meaningful contexts may take the form of projects that run over a series of lessons and will be driven, as much as possible, by the interests of the students themselves. The mathematical content required for examination will therefore often be taught within the context of the projects. There will be opportunities to develop your IT skills using spreadsheets and Excel.

### Where could it lead?

This is a problem solving course and hence will form the bedrock of many careers and different types of employment (many of which might not yet exist!) as a supporting subject. The course will also prepare you for the mathematical demands of many degree courses, such as Geography and Psychology, for which the mathematical understanding required is high, but not as substantial as in Advanced Level Mathematics.

**Qualification** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music **or** Merit or above in Level 2 RSL or BTEC Music **or** Grade 4 standard in any instrument

### Overview

This course is designed to give you the practical skills and knowledge you will need to succeed in the challenging and competitive world of Music. The programme covers a broad basis of study for the music sector with a focus on performance, personal instrumental technique development, music theory and professional practice. This BTEC level 3 will be of particular interest to students who play a musical instrument and are interested in furthering their performance skills. In addition, there will be an opportunity to study composing in a variety of genres.

### What will I learn?

There are four units:

- ▲ **Practical Music Theory and Harmony:** explore music theory through a range of practical and theoretical tasks to improve your musicianship.
- ▲ **Ensemble Music Performance:** you will develop your group performance skills and improve your own instrumental technique through rehearsals, workshops, recording and live performance.
- ▲ **Professional Practice in the Music Industry:** you will learn the key skills required to work in the UK's most successful industry. Learners will have the opportunity to plan, organise and lead on performances and recording sessions.
- ▲ **Optional solo or composition unit:** you will be given the freedom to choose your creative pathway and work on an individual project that is suited towards your musical strengths.

### How will I learn?

You will work independently and collaboratively on musical performances and research into the industry. You will be given the opportunity to perform as a soloist and a member of the group and are expected to rehearse your chosen instrument regularly. You will have access to the Mac suite where you will compose using Sibelius and Logic music software.

### Where could it lead?

The BTEC Music qualification could lead you to a range of careers in the ever-growing music Industry and develop transferable and higher order skills that are valued by Higher Education and employers.

**Qualification** BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

**Exam Board** Pearson Edexcel

**Course Specific Entry Requirements** Grade 5 or above in GCSE Drama **or** Merit or above in Level 2 Performing Arts **or** a wide experience of performing in public.

### Overview

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts qualification provides students with the opportunity to develop and enhance their knowledge and understanding of Drama and Movement through a range of units that provide a vocational setting to the work. The Extended Certificate is worth the equivalent of one A Level. All lessons are delivered by subject specialists and will prepare students for a possible future in the Performing Arts industry. The choice of qualification allows students to select a Performing Arts pathway that reflects their intention beyond the Sixth Form.

### What will I learn?

In this course you will study **four** units, all related to an aspect of Theatre:

- ▲ Investigating Practitioners' Work
- ▲ Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- ▲ Group Performance Workshop
- ▲ Acting Styles

### How will I learn?

All units have a predominantly practical and vocational focus. Each term will culminate in a public performance of the work created, with the additional opportunity to be part of the whole College show. Chances to develop as a performer are abundant! Performing Arts students are also given the opportunity to help co-ordinate and run Drama Clubs for younger students. This is an excellent opportunity which provides great experience for any students thinking about a career in education.

### Where could it lead?

A qualification in Performing Arts opens many doors. Whether you are planning to progress to Higher Education, an apprenticeship or employment, with Performing Arts now one of the fastest growing industries in the United Kingdom, there has never been a better time to study the arts.

# VOCATIONAL

We offer **highly-personalised, vocational pathways** for students whose GCSE results indicate that progression onto a Level 3 Academic or Applied Pathway wouldn't be the right route for them.

Our vocational pathways are, initially, **Level 1** or **Level 2** one-year, **full-time programmes** but many of our pathways offer students the opportunity to progress up to Level 3.

If you think that this would be the right pathway for you, speak to the Sixth Form team who will be able to put together a personalised programme for you.

