Art & Design

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. So as well as developing your creativity and learning to express yourself visually, art can open the door to exciting career opportunities.

Year 12

Students study 1 component that allows them to investigate a range of methods, exploring a variety of media to produce a coursework portfolio that reflects their own interests. They will also investigate a range of artists that have influenced and inspired their work. This year gives them a great opportunity to experiment thoroughly with media and ideas.

Year 13

Students will develop their interests further as part of a specialist project that reflects their own interests which is supported by a personal, written and illustrated study of about 3000 words. They will also complete an externally set assignment.

Component 1

- No time Limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of A-Level

Component 2

- Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of A-Level

Opportunities

On completing this course, students may choose to follow an Arts Foundation course before entering university or they may go straight into an arts based degree. The subject provides a great basis for those aiming to join the world of advertising, become graphic designers, illustrators, typographers or painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers or photographers to name just a few.

Biology

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either...

The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya, 350people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms.

Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology...and the work they do is vital to all of us.

Students who take biology often also study a wide range of subjects including psychology, sociology, PE, chemistry, physics, health and social care and environmental studies.

A Level Year 1: Year 12

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

A Level Year 2: Year 13

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.
- The control of gene expression

Assessed by AQA 3x2 hour papers

Opportunities

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science.

GCE Business

The business studies A Level course gives you an incredibly powerful start to launch you on to becoming a business person. All the key topics of starting and running a business are covered, with the course helping you to develop the fundamental skills that you'll need to succeed.

Themes 1 & 2: Year 12

Themes 1 & 2 cover the activities that an entrepreneur, or existing business, may be involved in when managing their business, such as promoting a new business idea, deciding how much stock of a new product the business will have, how many staff will be needed and how much money they will need to finance the new business idea.

Themes 3 & 4: Year 13

Themes 3 & 4 introduce you to what businesses need to consider if they were to trade internationally, such as which countries to sell their product in, and why some companies sell their products worldwide. It will also enable you to assess the current competitiveness of a business using various indicators. You will look at the causes and effects of change on a business and how a company can manage risk effectively and move forward.

Opportunities

This course can open the door to an array of business degrees, degrees in accountancy, economics and many more.

The study of business can help you on a variety of career paths in almost any sector of industry, from banking to fashion, every company needs business minded individuals.

Level 3 BTEC Business

The complex and ever changing world of business challenges learners to go beyond the ideas to think about strategies and how decisions can impact on a wide range of stakeholders and their aims.

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

Units within the BTEC Business Course

Exploring Business – Internally Assessed
In this unit, you will gain an overview of the key ingredients for business success, how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate, and how this shapes them and their activities. You will also look at the importance of innovation and enterprise to the success and survival of businesses, with the associated risks and benefits.

Developing a Marketing Campaign – Controlled Assessment Marked by Pearson.
Developing a marketing campaign, you are provided with a case study two weeks before being assessed during a three hour supervised period. You are required to prepare a marketing campaign for a given product or service, that was presented to you in the case study.

Personal and Business Finance – External Examination.
Unit 3: Personal and business finance, you are to
sit a two-hour exam that has 80 marks available, the exam is split into 2 sections. Section A is based on personal finance content and is worth one third of the marks. While, Section B contains questions based on business finance and is worth two thirds of the available marks.

Opportunities

The study of business can help you on a variety of career paths in almost any sector of industry, from banking to fashion, every company needs business minded individuals.

Computer Science

We all take the internet and computer games for granted, but at some point someone who studied computer science was involved in creating them. All around us is evidence of expertise in computing, not just in terms of how computers and programming work but the higher-level analytical skills required.

Computer science is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing.

This course will focus on programming, building on GCSE computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. There is an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.

Computational thinking is at the core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.

A Level units studied

- Computer systems (written paper – 2 hours 30 minutes – 40%)
- Algorithms and programming (written paper – 2 hours 30 minutes – 40%)
- Programming project (controlled assessment – 20%)

Assessed in year 13.
Assessed by exam and externally moderated project.

This course will give suitable course opportunities at university such as:

- BSc Computer Science
- BSc Computing
- BSc Multimedia Computing

Opportunities

A Level computer science is for students who are looking for a career in program development, systems analysis and network management.

Chemistry

An appreciation of the world is hardly possible without a working knowledge of the nature and behaviour of the many materials of which it is made.

The aim of the course is to stimulate and sustain the students' interest in chemistry and to develop their skills in practical work. Students are encouraged to work logically and systematically so conclusions can be drawn from experimental results.

The skills developed on this course are as important as the subject knowledge accrued.

Units: Year 12

- Physical chemistry: Atomic structure, bonding, reaction profiles
- Organic chemistry: Nomenclature, reaction mechanisms
- Inorganic chemistry: Classification, periodicity

Units: Year 13

- Further organic chemistry: Complex reaction mechanisms, aromatic chemistry
- Further inorganic chemistry: Complex ions, transition metals
- Further physical chemistry: Bond enthalpy, acid – base reactions

Assessed in summer of year 13.
Assessed by AQA.

Opportunities

An A Level in chemistry is highly desirable for the study of medicine, pharmacy, biochemistry and genetics although students who study chemistry often have highly lucrative and interesting careers in the less predictable food, ecology, agriculture, wine, materials and cosmetic industries. It is also interesting to note that many lawyers, accountants, financiers, economists and barristers take science A Levels prior to specialising at degree level.

Engineering

Engineering is the field that is constantly changing the world with inventions and solutions that affect everyone's lives.

Offered as a single award qualification, pupils undertake three compulsory modules and an optional unit covering a range of technical skills and industrial practices.

Compulsory units

Unit 1 is a two-hour examination. The 80mark paper is made up of a mixture of mathematics and physics questions which focus on engineering principles and their applications within given design scenarios.

Unit 2 is an internally assessed project based team engineering task. Learners must work together, communicating effectively to complete the design and manufacture of a specified product considering effective people management, health and safety and appropriate material and process selection.

Unit 3 is externally assessed through a set task completed under supervised conditions. Learners are given a case study to prepare one week in advance before a supervised period of eleven hours where they will follow a standard development process interpreting a design brief, generating initial ideas, preparing a design proposal and evaluating it against appropriate design and engineering requirements.

Optional units

A range of optional units are available and are selected in order to focus the needs of the cohort undertaking the course. Areas which can be covered include undertaking a specialised engineering work placement where the learner chooses a field of specific interest related to their chosen career pathway, computer aided design and manufacture, welding, machining processes and fabrication.

Opportunities

The breadth of this course means that the full range of engineering career options are available to learners including telecommunications, aerospace, space technology and exploration, civil engineering, architecture, robotics, automotive design, construction, marine engineering and many more.

English Language

A-Level English Language is the study of real-life language in action. There are no novels, plays or poems to read and no authors to study – instead, you will examine the language you see and use every day. You will examine everything from shoe adverts and shower gel, to tweets and toddler talk. As a result, you will develop your ability to critically examine any information presented to you, decoding the representations and messages subliminally being sent and received.

Units of study

Paper 1
Meanings and representations: in this unit you will analyse how both written and spoken texts create meanings, engage their audiences and achieve their purposes. This could range from advertisements, marketing, fictional and internet texts.

Child language acquisition: this examines the ways in which we have all learnt to speak, read and write as children. You will explore theories and case studies, then apply this to data.

Paper 2
Language diversity: within this you will explore real life language and how it is diversifying. You get a change to explore regional language, the language of power, law and business, language of social groups and gendered language.

Language change: here we explore how language has changed over time: from the Anglo-Saxons through to 'selfies', we examine how, and more importantly why, our language changes.

NEA: Language investigation and creative writing

20% of your overall grade will be based on a coursework portfolio. In this, you get to investigate an area of language of your choosing and create your own piece of writing.

Opportunities

A qualification in English Language opens a vast range of opportunities for both employment and further study. Whilst it naturally can lead to the further study of English, it is also an essential qualification for students who wish to pursue degrees or careers in journalism, teaching, law, marketing, business, speech therapy, childhood studies, creative writing and public relations.

English Literature

Studying A-Level English Literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills and allow you to understand the world through other people's eyes. If you can take a text and draw out themes and ideas, plus connect it with productions, theories and historical events, you demonstrate that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context. In each year of the course, you will study a play, a novel and a set of poems, as well as tacking unseen texts from the same era or topic. If you enjoy reading a wide range of texts, from Renaissance poetry to post-modern American prose, then this course allows you to do just that, and beyond.

Units of study

Year 12: Paper 1 – Love Through the Ages
In this unit you will study texts that are unified by the theme of love – or in many cases, the absence of it – and what lengths people will go to in order to get what they desire. As well as unseen poetry about love, you will study:

Play: William Shakespeare's Othello
Prose: F Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby
Poetry: AQA Anthology: Love Through The Ages

Year 13: Paper 2 – Literature of Modern Times
In this unit you will study modern texts that explore contemporary themes of identity, gender, inequality, disillusionment and race, amongst many others. As well as unseen prose from the era, you will study:

Play: Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire
Prose: Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale
Poetry: Carol Ann Duffy's Feminine Gospels

Please be aware that the texts above may change dependent on class and teacher preference.

NEA: Comparison of texts two texts

20% of your overall grade will be based on a comparative essay of two texts of your choosing. One must be written pre-1900 but they can be plays, novels or poetry collections.

Opportunities

A qualification in English Literature opens a vast range of opportunities for both employment and further study. Whilst it naturally can lead to the further study of English, it is also an essential qualification for students who wish to pursue degrees or careers in journalism, teaching, law, writing for stage or screen, library sciences, copy writing and editing.

MFL

Choosing an A Level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and is a lot of fun along the way.

A2 Level studied

At A Level you study a range of topics (such as current trends in the society of French/ Spanish speaking countries, politics, history and culture) as well as studying a book and a film in the target language.

You will also be given the opportunity to complete an individual research project into an area of French/Hispanic society that interests you most.

You will be assessed in June of year 13 in all four key skill areas:

- reading
- listening
- speaking
- writing

Opportunities

By studying a language at A Level you can continue at degree level either as a main subject or in addition to one and experience a year abroad as part of your degree (no matter what your degree is in). Speakers of a modern foreign language are in increasing demand. Being able to speak a language will give you a cutting edge over your competitors, proving you have communication, memory and organisational skills and demonstrating a broad cultural awareness in an increasingly diverse job market.

Further Maths

As well as being a fascinating subject in itself that will help you unlock the mysteries of science, technology and statistics, studying mathematics offers higher earning potential, exciting career opportunities and a grounding in important life skills.A Level further mathematics is fun and rewarding. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking.

Further mathematics is a subject tailored to suit the needs of people who are hoping to study mathematics to a high level. It is a course which will only be offered to the most able students.

Year 12

In Year 12 further maths students are introduced to the mechanics as well as the study of complex number and series.

Year 13

In Year 13 further maths students explore the ideas normally reserved for university study such as; curvature, multi-variable calculus and circular motion.

Opportunities

Further maths is studied alongside maths A Level by those students wishing to study maths, physics or engineering at university. It is also well regarded as training for the mind by employers.

Geography

Geography at A Level excites students' minds, challenges perceptions and stimulates investigative and analytical skills.It is highly recognised by universities and employers due to the vast number of transferrable skills acquired during the course and the deepening understanding of worldwide contexts.

Geography is the perfect complement to subjects from both the humanities and science fields such as English, biology and physics.

Studying geography will encourage students to find the link between the human and physical environments and understand the complex interactions of processes that shape the world. Students learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS, data analysis, field work, investigations and report/essay writing.

Component 1 - Changing physical and human landscapes

- Section A: Physical geography: Coastal Landscapes
- Section B: Human geography: Changing Places

Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (82 Marks 20.5% of A Level)

Component 2 - Global Systems and Global Governance

- Section A: Physical Geography: Water and Carbon Cycles
- Section B: Human Geography: Global Governance: Change and Challenges
- Section C: 21st Century Challenges

Written Exam: 2 hours (110 Marks 27.5% of A Level)

Component 3 - Contemporary Themes in Geography

- Section A: Tectonic Hazards
- Section B: Two optional themes from: Ecosystems, Economic Growth and Challenge: India OR China or Development in an African Context, Energy Challenges and Dilemmas, Weather and Climate

Written Exam: 2 hours 15 minutes (128 Marks 32% of A Level)

Component 4 - NEA Independent Investigation

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specific content. 3,000– 4,000words: 60marks 20% of A Level marked by teachers and moderated by Eduqas.

Field Trip

Blencathra, Lake District and requires students to pay a contribution of £100.00 towards the cost.

Opportunities

Geography is a facilitating subject and opens doors to other degrees such as business and administrative studies, law, engineering and technology, and the other social physical sciences. A geography degree can lead to a number of jobs such as environmental consultant, landscape architecture, town planner, market researcher and even an international aid/development worker.

BTEC Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (1A Level Equivalent)

Health and social care teaches valuable skills which are transferable to a whole range of settings.

Unit 1

Lifespan Development - Exam
Health and social care practitioners need to develop a knowledge base for working with people in every stage of their lives, and they need to know how their own experiences relate to health and wellbeing. This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development. You will explore the key aspects of growth and development, and the experience of health and wellbeing. In this unit, you will explore the impact of both predictable and unpredictable life events, and recognise how they impact on individuals. You will study the interaction between the physical and psychological factors of the ageing process, and how this affects confidence and self-esteem.

Unit 2

Working in HSC - Exam
This unit will help you to understand what it is like to work in the health and social care sector. When working for an organisation in this sector, you will have important responsibilities that you need to understand and carry out. These include maintaining the safety of and safeguarding individuals with health and social care needs, making sure that you properly handle their personal information and preventing discrimination towards them. You will need to understand how you will be accountable both to these individuals and the regulatory bodies that represent people who work in the health and social care sector.

Unit 5

Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs - Coursework
For you to be able to provide the care and support that individuals need, it is important that you have a good understanding of the principles behind providing quality care and support. This unit introduces you to the values and issues that need to be considered when planning care and support that meet the needs of an individual in a health and social care environment. In this unit, you will learn about the values and principles of meeting care and support needs, looking at some of the ethical issues that when providing personalised care.

Opportunities

Studying health and social care covers a broad range of issues and helps you develop the skills to follow a career in health, social care, leisure or education.

BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care (2 A level equivalent)

This is a two year course which is designed to prepare you for work in a variety of health and social care settings. This enables you to apply what you learn in the classroom into working in a real care setting.

The units of work will be the same as the Extended Certificate plus the following units.

Unit 4

Enquiries into Current Research - Exam
There are many reasons why research is carried out into contemporary health and social care issues, for example to explore the effect of diet on health and wellbeing or the provision and impact of addiction centres in the local community. As a health and social care professional you will need to understand the purpose of research, how it is carried out and the importance of research for improving the wellbeing of those using health and social care services. Effective research skills will help you to progress to employment in the health and social care sector and to a variety of higher education programmes, where research often forms part of the programme.

Unit 12

Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs - Coursework
This unit will help you to understand the range of additional needs that people in society can have and how they can be supported with them. You will undertake research to understand how additional needs are diagnosed and look into the qualifications of those who conduct the diagnostic testing, a great insight into careers in health and social care. The unit will also allow you to consider how additional needs impact not only the individual but also their families and wider society, concluding by looking at how adaptations and provisions can be put in place to support individuals with additional needs.

Unit 7

Principles of safe practice in HSC - Coursework
When working in health and social care you must have a clear understanding of the duty of care and safe working practices and procedures, and how to promote the safety and wellbeing of service users. Safe working practice is a priority in health and social care. This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of the key principles relating to safeguarding vulnerable individuals, promoting health and safety, and responding to different situations and emergency incidents in health and social care settings.

History

History is recognised by universities and employers as an academically rigorous subject with high standards and superb transferable skills.

History is the perfect complement to subjects such as English and theology as it demands the same skills of research and articulation.

Studying history will not only encourage students to express their own ideas in an articulate fashion, critically analyse hypotheses and interpretations, but also allow them to develop a range of skills that are valued by employers in diverse fields.

Component 1 – The Tudors: England, 1485-1603 (Breadth Study)
Students study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period covering Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (80 marks 40% of A Level)

Component 2 - Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953 (Depth Study)
Students study in depth of the coming and practice of communism in Russia. They will explore concepts such as Marxism, communism, Leninism, and Stalinism, ideological control and dictatorship. This also enables students to consider issues of political authority, the power of individuals and the inter-relationship of governmental and economic and social change.
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (80 marks 40% of A Level)

Component 3 – Historical investigation (non-exam assessment)
This is a 3500 word independently researched piece of coursework on the topic of African American Civil Rights from 1865-1968. This gives students the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and historical understanding acquired through the study of the examined components of the specification.
Coursework (40 marks 20% of A Level)

Opportunities

History students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university. Naturally, many students go on to study for a history degree, but history is also a recommended A Level subject for many other degrees such as law, politics and English. Employers value the research, analytical, teamwork and communication skills that history students develop throughout their studies. A history degree can lead to a number of jobs such as an archivist, museum curator, archaeologist, academic historian or media researcher.

ICT

ICT is one of the most popular vocational qualifications subjects offered. Working in this sector will mean you're at the forefront of one of the most dynamic, fast moving innovative sectors where individuals can make a huge impact.

Those who work in ICT will be working with technologies that are going to be even more transformational than the amazing changes we have already seen in the way we live, and at last, truly enable the information society. ICT is at the heart of everyday life, at home, work and in our leisure time from computer graphics and control systems to communications and problem-solving, ICT has an ever increasing role to play.

This course includes practical based units that enable you to learn, develop and review transferable skills suitable for the workplace or future studies such as:

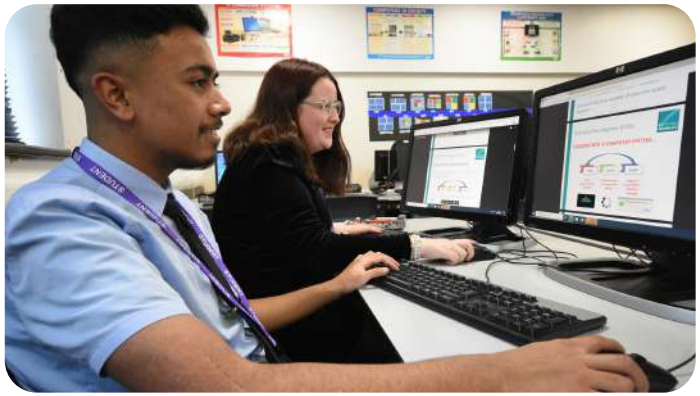
- **BSc Multimedia Computing**
- **BSc Forensic Computing**
- **BSc (Hons) Software Engineering**
- **BSc (Hons) Business Computing**

Units Studied

Single

- Unit 1: Fundamentals of IT(Exam)
- Unit 2: Global Information (Exam)
- Unit 9: Product Development (Coursework)

This course is a single award and is equivalent to one A Level



Units Studied

Single

- Unit 3: Cyber Security (Exam)
- Unit 17: internet of Everything (Coursework)

Assessed in year 13.

Opportunities

Careers in ICT encompass a broad number of areas from business consulting, development and sales to technical roles. In addition, ICT professionals work in a variety of sectors including finance, property and business services, as well as the primary ICT sector.

Maths

As well as being a fascinating subject in itself that will help you unlock the mysteries of science, technology and statistics, studying mathematics offers higher earning potential, exciting career opportunities and a grounding in important life skills.

Students will now study a linear A Level course and will take 3 examinations at the end of year 13.

Students will deepen their understanding of mathematics from GCSE and study the topics of algebra, calculus and trigonometry.

Students will have to deal with applying their knowledge to the domains of simple mechanics and statistics and will be expected to prove and use a range of results.

Mathematics at A Level has returned to its purest form and students should consider this course if they have a proven passion for the subject.

Opportunities

A Level mathematics is essential for any numerate discipline at university; e.g. physical sciences, engineering and medicine. It is also well regarded as training for the mind by employers.

Music

Music is a multifaceted subject, allowing students to develop the interdependent skills of performance, composition, analysis and listening. The diverse requirements of the course allows those who love music to develop their musicianship while cultivating a lifelong love of music.

The course and how you are assessed.

Component 1: Performing

- Non-examined assessment: externally assessed
- 30% of the qualification
- 60 marks

Component 2: Composing

- Non-examined assessment: externally assessed
- 30% of the qualification
- 60 marks

Component 3: Appraising

- Written examination: 2 hours 10 minutes
- 40% of the qualification
- 100 marks

Opportunities

Music A Level is a vital subject for any student who aspires to perform professionally and/or teach and work in the arts, music industry, education, events or arts coordination, arts administration and music technology. It is also a valuable fourth subject for the application into medicine, enabling the applicant to stand out from the crowd and demonstrate a wealth of complementary skills.

Philosophy & Ethics

A Level philosophy and ethics provides students with an exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of world religions, and explore philosophy of religion and religious ethics.

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that religious studies A Level provides 'suitable preparation for university generally'. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis and the construction of balanced, informed arguments within the context of a religious, philosophical and ethical awareness.

At A Level we study religious studies using the OCR examinations board. Students study three components, philosophy of religion, religion and ethics and developments in Christian thought over a two year period.

Topics we study

Philosophy of Religion

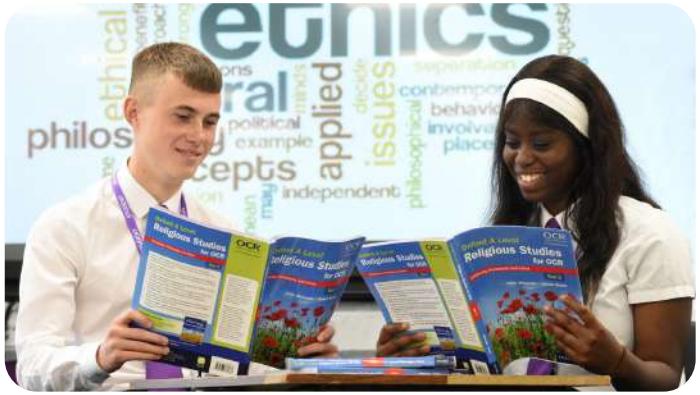
- Ancient philosophical influences • Soul, mind and body
- Arguments based on observation • Arguments based on reason
- The problem of evil
- Religious experience

Religion and ethics

- Natural law
- Situation ethics • Kantian ethics
- Utilitarianism
- Euthanasia
- Business ethics

Developments in Christian thought

- Augustine's teaching on human nature • Death and the afterlife
- Knowledge of God's existence
- The person of Jesus Christ
- Christian moral principles
- Christian moral action



Opportunities

Philosophy teaches you how to think for yourself and how to analyse and communicate ideas clearly and logically. These versatile skills provide a basis for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

Physics

Physics is an exciting and varied subject where you study and model the makeup of reality. It is viewed very highly by universities and can open doors to a variety of careers.

Physics is an amazing and varied subject where you get to answer the big questions of the universe. From studying the smallest particles and fundamental forces that make up the fabric of our very existence to modelling the structure of galactic superclusters that are so large as to defy the scale of human comprehension, physics allows us to unravel why the universe is as we perceive it.

At the cutting edge of science, physicists are using mathematical modelling to unravel the secrets of the universe and apply these to improve people's lives. Using general relativity to allow GPS signals to accurately pinpoint where you are on the planet, quantum mechanics to create the next generation of computers that can perform calculations at previously unimaginable speeds and developing fusion power stations which will create in inexhaustible supply of green energy from seawater. By studying A-level physics you too can one day contribute to the incredible advancements we are making.

Physics is an excellent subject to study for anyone with a logical mathematical mind and a desire to tackle the mysteries of the universe.

When choosing to study Physics students must take Maths as one of their options, in exceptional cases pupils that study Physics without Maths will need to take an additional Maths lesson.

A Level Studied

Particle physics, quantum phenomena, waves, mechanics & materials, electricity, further mechanics, thermal physics, fields & their consequences, nuclear physics, astrophysics.

Assessed in June.

Assessed by

- Paper 1: Particle physics, quantum phenomena, waves, mechanics & materials, electricity
- Paper 2: Further mechanics, thermal physics, fields & their consequences, nuclear physics
- Paper 3: Practical skills, data analysis & astrophysics

Opportunities

An A Level in physics is invaluable as it proves that you are can solve problems in the real world. The mathematical, modelling, computational and logic skills you will develop in physics are highly valued in a wide range of fields such as engineering, computer gaming, medical research and banking and many more.

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It is a deeply fascinating and highly applicable subject that will help you to understand many concepts such as gender identity, schemas, self-esteem, how to conduct healthy relationships and the avoidance of prejudice and discrimination.

This course is for those individuals who have a genuine passion and interest in the causes of human behaviour and want to begin or further their journey on gaining a deep understanding of the human condition. Students will have the opportunity to understand a range of factors and processes that govern behaviour as well as looking at the causes and treatments of mental health conditions through the study of Psychopathology. In addition to this, they will learn how early attachment formation links to later adult behaviours as well as the causes of criminal and deviant behaviour and the possible prevention of such behaviours in the topic of Forensics. Students will also learn the fundamentals of Psychology and develop skills necessary for higher education study such as critical analysis, research skills and independent thinking. This course is also suitable for those who wish to pursue a career in mental health or other public services due to the nature of the real-world application of the subject. By the end of the course, our students will be scientifically literate and be able to articulate their knowledge and thinking in different ways.

Year 12

Paper 1

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Year 13

- Issues and Debates
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensics

Assessment

Written exam: 2 hours

Each paper is worth 33% of A-level

Opportunities

Many students who opt to study Psychology do so with the intention of becoming Chartered Psychologists or Psychiatrists or possibly working in mental health in some way whether that be through charitable work or possibly becoming mental health nurses. Psychology forms the foundation to many professions that involve working in the public sector and is particularly useful in careers such as the police, social working, teaching, HR and law.

Extended Certificate in Sport (1A Level Equivalent – 360Guided Learning Hours)

Sport and exercise is a huge and rapidly expanding global industry, whilst levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda.

A Level units studied

- Unit 2: Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being(120GLH)
- Unit 3: Professional development in the sports industry (60GLH)
- Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology (120GLH)
- Unit 4: Sports leadership (60GLH)

Assessed in

- Units 1 and 2 are examination units
- Remaining units are controlled coursework units

Assessed by

- Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed examinations
- Remaining units are internally assessed via PE staff and moderated accordingly

Opportunities

This qualification will give students access to university degree courses such as: BSC sport science; sport management; sport and exercise development; sport exercise, health and fitness; sports development; sports coaching or sports marketing, as well as college courses and employment in similar areas.

This course is a must if you are thinking about a career in the sporting industry e.g. PE teaching, coaching, physiotherapist, nutritionist, fitness instructor, sports development officer, sports management etc.

Diploma in Sport (2A Level Equivalent – 720 Guided Learning Hours)

Sport and exercise is a huge and rapidly expanding global industry, whilst levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda.

A Level units studied

- Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology (120GLH)
- Unit 2: Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being(120GLH)
- Unit 3: Professional development in the sports industry (60GLH)
- Unit 4: Sports leadership (60GLH)
- Unit 5: Application of fitness testing (60GLH)
- Unit 6: Sports psychology (60GLH)
- Unit 7: Practical sports performance (60GLH)
- Unit 22: Investigating business in sport and the active leisure industry (90GLH)
- Unit 23: Skill acquisition in sport (90GLH)

Assessed in

- Units 1, 2 and 22 are examination units
- Remaining units are controlled coursework units

Assessed by

- Units 1, 2 and 22 are externally assessed examinations
- Remaining units are internally assessed via PE staff and moderated accordingly

Opportunities

This qualification will give students access to university degree courses such as: BSC sport science; sport management; sport and exercise development; sport exercise, health and fitness; sports development; sports coaching or sports marketing, as well as college courses and employment in similar areas.

This course is a must if you are thinking about a career in the sporting industry e.g. PE teaching, coaching, physiotherapist, nutritionist, fitness instructor, sports development officer, sports management etc.

Law

The study of A Level law is a complete course in itself and is designed for all students, whether or not they intend to take the subject further. Law is fascinating; a constantly changing subject that shapes and impacts our everyday lives.

The skills gained from A Level Law are transferable across many subjects as well as being needed for further study, the workplace and life generally. All we ask is that you have a keen and active mind with the capacity for independent thinking. Study Law – learn about life!

Course content

Component 1 – Studied until Easter in Year 12, this component covers the English Legal System, with aspects of both criminal and civil law. From how laws are made to how a person can sue another to what happens when a person is given bail, this component covers a wide area of interesting legal topics culminating in an exam of 90 minutes at the end of Year 13. To aid the study of this subject, we take all Law students to Newcastle Crown Court to observe the workings of a real court and watch trials in action.

Components 2 and 3 – Studied from Easter in Year 12 until the end of Year 13, these components cover three areas of law: Criminal Law, Tort Law and Contract Law. All quite different but all equally as fascinating, these three topics are also studied on most Law Degrees, giving those who want to study Law at a higher level the added bonus of an excellent foundation of knowledge in those areas. These three topics lead to two 135 minutes exams. The Component 2 exam is where students are faced with scenarios and put themselves in the position of a lawyer to advise their client in the scenario. The Component 3 exam is essay based where students show their skills of analysis and evaluation around the law in the three topics studied.

Careers/Higher Education pathways

Law is an A Level which is fully accepted by all universities in the country for points towards higher education entry in any subject. It gives a great foundation for students to work towards a career in one of the many areas of law, alongside the obvious careers such as a solicitor, a barrister, a legal executive or a police officer.

Furthermore, the skills learned are fully transferable across a wide range of careers, not just in the law itself.

Photography

Photography is an art form, it's a creative outlet, a way of seeing and interpreting the world around you. Photography is probably one of the only forms of communication that is truly universal, crossing social and cultural boundaries and interweaving itself seamlessly with so many aspects of our lives.

The Art Department is a flourishing hub for the development of the visual arts which provides students with opportunities to learn to produce work at a professional standard, at the same time encouraging the exploration of photography as an artistic medium.

Our teachers are committed, inspirational, demanding and fun and students are given individual attention and appropriate levels of support and guidance to enable them to produce high quality outcomes. Our programme of study is a blend of practical projects and relevant theory so that students can explore photography as a key.

Course content

Coursework Portfolio:
For this unit you are expected to produce a wide range of digital images working from the theme of structures and that every picture tells a story. In classroom based work you will be provided with opportunities to explore the basic principles of photography, learn how to use a digital camera and develop your skill of digital techniques/manipulation. This approach emphasises the manipulation and presentation of imagery within a computer.

Higher Education/Career Prospects

This course can lead on to a wide range of higher education courses including: Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography, Film and Animation, History of Art, Design and Film. There are a range of career opportunities including, art and design, fashion, film industry, museum and gallery work, photography, printing, publishing, teaching, television and radio, and theatre.

Personal Investigation:
You will need to gather resource material for a project based on two separate genres of photography. You must develop a creative response to your selected genres in a digital sketchbook. In this project you must produce a portfolio of work, based on your observations, further research and the development of your ideas. In addition you are required to produce a related well illustrated personal study of approximately 1,000 -3,000 words. This should be a detailed study based on a particular genre of photography you have become interested in during the course. It is expected that you will approach this study in a more focused and analytical way. Controlled Assignment: The Controlled Test consists of a range of questions set by the examination board to be used to a successful conclusion.

Politics

A common saying from people is that they don't do politics; however, everyone certainly has an opinion on how the country is run, from huge issues like Brexit to smaller day to day issues.

Politics is always in the news and, no matter your political leaning, the study of how our country works is crucial for any young adult with an eye on their future and on making a difference. A Level Politics is a complete course in itself and doesn't require an intention to study the subject further; the skills gained across the two years will be valuable to anyone, whether they intend to study at university, go into employment or other education. Study Politics – learn about life!

Course content

Paper 1 covers the Government and Politics of the UK and is studied in Year 12. This topic covers most areas of how the government in this country is organised, how it works and what it does, culminating in a 2 hours long exam at the end of Year 13.

Paper 2 covers the Government and Politics of the USA and is studied in Year 13. This topic covers most areas of the government in the USA is organised, how it works and what it does. It also gives the opportunity for comparison between the UK and the USA systems in the 2 hours long exam at the end of Year 13.

Paper 3 covers Political Ideas and is studied in Year 12. This topic covers many political ideas and beliefs and allows students to study the development of these beliefs as well as looking at the key people within them. This also culminates in a 2 hours long exam at the end of Year 13.

Careers/Higher Education pathways

Politics is an A Level which is fully accepted by all universities in the country for points towards higher education entry in any subject. It gives a great foundation for students to work towards a career in any field as the skills learned are fully transferable across a wide range of careers.

Sociology

Politics is an A Level which is fully accepted by all universities in the country for points towards higher education entry in any subject. It gives a great foundation for students to work towards a career in any field as the skills learned are fully transferable across a wide range of careers.

Sociology is a popular subject at A-level. The skills and knowledge you can acquire from the study of Sociology will equip you with a life-long understanding of the society in which we live. More than once during the course you will find yourself asking 'Why?' 'Why is there so much inequality?' or 'Why is knife crime such a big problem among young people?' By the end of the course you will have the knowledge to be able to explain some of these social issues and others that exist in society today.

Year 12

We will study 3 components:

- Family
- Education
- Research Methods

Education. We will examine sociological explanations for the role of education in society and study the ways in which social class, gender and ethnicity influence achievement.

Families and Households. We will look at sociological explanations of the family and issues including family diversity, patterns of marriage and divorce, gender roles in the home and childhood.

Higher Education and Career Prospects:

Sociology is a subject which is valued by universities and employers. Students who study Sociology will develop skills such as, reasoning, evaluation and analysis, as well as a better understanding of people and the world around them. It is an ideal foundation for a career in law, police, journalism, media, research, marketing, social work and many more.

Year 13

We will study 3 components:

- Beliefs in Society
- Crime & Deviance
- Sociological Theory

Beliefs in Society: We will study sociological explanations of religion, science and ideology. This includes the relationship between social change and religious beliefs, practices and organisations, as well as the rise in cults, sects and denominations. The relationship between religion and the factors of class, gender and ethnicity will also be explored.

Crime and Deviance: We analyse and evaluate a range of explanations for many types of crime. Factors that influence people to commit crime are also studied including explanations such as, gender, class, age and the influence of the media.

Applied Science

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science is intended as an Applied General qualification for post-16 students who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the applied science sector.

The Pearson BTEC level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied science is equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%). It aims to give a coherent introduction to study of the applied science sector. This includes Nursing, Forensics and Engineering.

Unit 1

Principles and Applications of science
This is a written exam based on scientific theory and application in areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Unit 2

Practical scientific procedures and Techniques
This an internally assessed Unit in which students are introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, calibration, chromatography, calorimetry and laboratory safety, which are relevant to the chemical and life science industries.

Unit 3

Science investigation skills
Students will cover the stages involved and the skills needed in planning a scientific investigation: how to record, interpret, draw scientific conclusions and evaluate.

Unit 4

Optional Unit
This is externally assessed and there are a range of topics to choose from - this is to be decided.

BTEC Applied Science is an alternative to A-Level Science subjects for courses that require some Science at Key Stage 5. This can include Nursing, Midwifery and other health-based career pathways (check with your chosen University). It also complements other non Science subjects that you may study at A-Level.

Extended Diploma in Sport (3 A Level Equivalent)

Sport and exercise is a huge and rapidly expanding global industry, whilst levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda.

Year 12

- Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (exam)
- Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry.
- Unit 4 – Sports Leadership.
- Unit 5 – Application of Fitness Testing -Learners gain an understanding of the requirements of fitness testing and learn how to safely conduct a range of fitness tests for different components of fitness.
- Unit 10 - Sports Event Organisation
- Unit 22 – Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry - Learners investigate how business operates in the sport and active leisure industry and how it responds to trends and other influences to meet the needs of clients and to benefit the business (exam)
- Unit 25 – Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport

Year 13

- Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology (exam)
- Unit 6 – Sports Psychology - This unit covers the psychological dimensions of sport, and introduces psychological techniques that can be used to enhance performance.
- Unit 7 – Practical Sports Performance - Learners study the skills, techniques, tactics and rules of selected sports through active participation in individual/team sports.
- Unit 8 – Coaching for Performance
- Unit 9 – Research Methods in Sport
- Unit 19 – Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity (exam)
- Unit 23 – Skill Acquisition in Sport - Learners study the factors that contribute to a skilled performance in sport and examine how sports performers learn and develop their skills.

Progression opportunities/careers this subject can lead on to

BTEC Extended Certificate in travel and tourism

This is an exciting course which consists of 4 units of study. It is an ideal progression from BTEC Tech Travel in Tourism Level 2. However, it is also suitable for any student who has not studied travel and tourism before. It is ideally suited to anyone who has a passion for the industry or who is considering a future career in this ever-growing sector. This subject is equivalent to one A level.

Year 12

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism: This unit provides the foundation for learners to study other units in travel and tourism. They will explore the key components and scale of the industry, using data to analyse key trends and their impact. This unit is assessed by a written examination.

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing: Learners investigate the powerful tool of marketing in travel and tourism organisations and how to meet customer expectations in order to inform a promotional campaign of their own design. This is assessed in the form of a written assignment.

Year 13

Unit 2: Global Destinations: Learners investigate and analyse information regarding the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations. This unit is assessed under supervised conditions. Learners will be given information two weeks before a supervised assessment period to carry out research.

Unit 9: Visitor Attractions: Learners develop analytical skills as they investigate the nature and role of both built and natural visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience. Students will have the opportunity to investigate one visitor attraction in detail.

Opportunities

This course will prepare students who wish to study travel and tourism management degrees at University. Furthermore, it will equip students to work in one of the many travel and tourism sectors such as travel agents, tour operators, visitor attractions, accommodation and transport operators.

Film Studies

Film Studies is a course for students who enjoy analysing and discussing texts. This course offers students the chance to examine what it means to be a spectator of film and to consider the range of methods employed by directors to create messages and meaning in films. Through the close analysis of mise en scene, cinematography, sound and other film methods, students will develop their understanding of a range of different genres and forms of film. This is an academic A Level that allows students to develop their knowledge around a familiar medium by considering how context, history and directorial intent can change our reading of a film. This is a thought provoking and challenging A Level which will see students examine a range of films from different genres, directors and different languages. Film Studies is an exciting opportunity for students to be creative as there is an NEA component to the course where students will work independently to create their own screenplay or produce their own short film.

Students will begin the course by learning how to analyse films and consider what it means to be a spectator. You will be introduced to the specific terminology used when analysing films and will learn what it means to be a film student, critic and part of an audience. Students will develop their understanding of the global film market and the differences between industries around the world. As the course develops, students will examine the difference between independent and mainstream films, classic British and American films, the history of the film industry, movements such as German Expressionism as well as the typical features of experimental films alongside other film forms like documentary.

Year 12

- **Module 1: Introduction to film analysis, single Global Film study**
- **Module 2: British Film- two text study, Documentary Film Form**
- **Module 3: Introduction to NEA and American Film.**

Year 13

- **Module 1: Comparative Hollywood Study**
- **Module 2: Experimental Film plus NEA**
- **Module 3: Preparation for Examinations**

Students will be expected to write analytical and critical essays about the films they are studying. Lessons will include regular film screenings with the expectation that students make detailed notes about the specialist study areas. Independent analysis work will be set as well as wider reading around the contexts of our selected exam texts.

Opportunities

Film Studies is an essay-based subject and can therefore help to prepare you for the academic rigour of degree level study. Additionally, the course can help to prepare you for a career in within the ever-growing film and television industry. Students with an interest in film may choose to go on to study Media, Film or Television at degree level.

BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation

The forensic and criminology sector is diverse and wide-ranging including, for example, forensic science, forensic psychology, and forensic criminology. There is a wide range of occupations this links to, including those in forensic laboratories, the police force and the probation service.

This qualification is equivalent in size to 1.5 A-levels, and has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Units studied include:

Unit 1 – Principles and Applications of Science – externally assessed in January of Year 1
Unit 2 – Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques – internally assessed in Year 1
Unit 3 – Science Investigation Skills – externally assessed in January of Year 2
Unit 4 – Forensic Investigation Procedures in Practice – internally assessed in Year 1
Unit 8 – Physiology of Human Body Systems – internally assessed in Year 2
Unit 10 – Forensic fire Investigation – internally assessed in Year 2

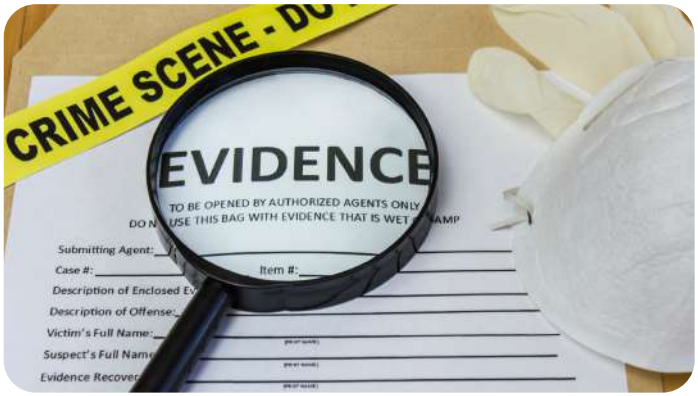
Opportunities

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers. Taken alongside other qualifications, it will prepare students to progress to a wider range of degree programmes. For example, if taken alongside:

• A levels in Psychology and Sociology, to progress to criminal psychology or criminology degree courses

• A level in Computer Science, to progress to criminology degree courses with a focus on cybercrime

• A levels in Chemistry and Biology, to progress to forensic science degree courses



This qualification can also support students who choose to progress directly to employment, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful students an advantage when applying for a range of entry-level industry training programmes and apprenticeships in areas such as laboratory technician or forensic technician.