



SIXTH FORM COURSE GUIDE

2019-2021

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



St Martin's Sixth Form provides a supportive working environment, excellent teaching and highly motivated and well-qualified teaching staff as well as a range of courses and the opportunity for you to develop as mature independent learners who will work towards realising your ambitions.

As part of the South London Sixth (SL6) we are able to offer even more subjects to our students whilst still being based at St Martin's.

Admission to Year 12

Our range of courses provides a sixth form education for young people aged 16-19. We are pleased to accept applications from Year 11 students at St Martin's from September 2019. All A Level courses will be linear, examined only at the end of the second year in Summer 2021.

Progression to Year 13

Students are expected to demonstrate significant progress towards their target grade (e.g. one grade below target) in Year 12 summer examinations. Students are expected to continue with three courses in Year 13.

CONTENTS

ART	3
BUSINESS STUDIES	4
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	5
ENGLISH LITERATURE	6
EXTENDED PROJECT	8
GEOGRAPHY	9
HISTORY	10
MATHEMATICS	11
MFL - FRENCH	12
MFL - SPANISH.....	14
POLITICS.....	15
PSYCHOLOGY	16
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	17
SCIENCE - BIOLOGY.....	18
SCIENCE - CHEMISTRY.....	20
SCIENCE - PHYSICS.....	22
SOCIOLOGY	23
TECHNICAL MEDIA DIPLOMA.....	24
BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE.....	25
CACHE CHILD DEVELOPMENT.....	26
BTEC ENTERPRICE.....	27
BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE.....	28
BTEC MUSIC.....	29
GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.....	30
GCSE MATHEMATICS.....	31

A-LEVEL FINE ART

Exam Board:

Entry Requirements

GCSE **Level 4** or above in Art, Textiles, Photography or an associated creative subject e.g. Media Studies **OR** candidates who are able to present an 'Art Portfolio' of suitable and worthy 'Art & Design' work will also be given consideration for interview and entry.

What is A-Level Art?

Students will be introduced to a variety of exciting and engaging 'art experiences', that explore a range of fine art media, processes and techniques. Students will be free to work with; both traditional and new techniques, media and mediums. Furthermore, students will have the chance to explore an exciting **range** of resources relating to a range of art, craft and design starting points; from the past to the present, with an emphasis on the study of more contemporary and relevant art and artists. Students will be supported throughout their artistic journey but will also have the opportunity to work independently - exploring their own personal responses to the work of artists' studied; that showcase both the students' understanding of different styles, genres and traditions, as well as their own creative ideas .

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed on 'how successfully' they have achieved the following **Assessment Objectives** set out by the AQA Examination Board. These are as follows:

- **AO1:** Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- **AO2:** Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.

- **AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
- **AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other element

What will I study?

You will study two units of work over the course of your AS studies: the **Personal Project Unit** and **Externally Set Examination Unit**. The **Personal Project** is an extended collection of work developed by each student that reflects aspects of their 'own' developing knowledge, skills and understanding. This Unit will provide the opportunities for students to demonstrate their ability to develop work from 'their own' initial starting point and work towards a 'final idea' or 'range of final ideas'. In the **Examination Unit**, students respond to a 'starting point', provided by AQA, producing work which shows their ability to research and develop ideas and to make clear the link between their own and others' work within a given period of time. Students will have the opportunity to work in **one or more** area(s) of Fine Art, such as Drawing and Painting, Mixed-Media, Sculpture, Ceramics, Installation Art, Printmaking, Film & Photography

Where will it lead?

A Level Fine Art has clear and established pathways into HE at Foundation Level (Art & Design), which will support and facilitate entry into an Art related Degree Course; these may include Architecture, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Product Design, Photography and Textiles Based Degree Courses such as Fashion and Costume Design.

On successfully completing an Art Based Degree Course, students will have opportunities to follow a range of diverse career pathways that include Advertising, Industrial Design, Fine Art, Interior Design, Printing, Animation, Product Design, Architecture, Production Design, Art Therapy, Photography, Textile Design, Digital Design, Teaching, Web Design, Set Design, Costume Design, Multimedia Design and Visual Merchandising.

A-LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

Level 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English. and a C or above GCSE Business Studies (if taken at GCSE)

What is A-Level Business Studies?

This A-Level course encourages you to:

- Develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. This should involve consideration of the internal workings and management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment;
- Be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customer, manager, creditor, owner/ shareholder and employee. In addition, students should be aware of the economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues associated with business activity. Students should understand that Business Studies draws on a variety of perspectives and disciplines, and that these perspectives and disciplines are interrelated;
- Acquire a range of skills including decision making and. problem solving in the light of evaluation and, where appropriate, the quantification and management of information.

How will I be assessed?

100% externally assessed Examination

Where will it lead?

This course will prepare students for entry into employment in the business sector or further business education courses.

What will I study?

The main areas covered are as follows:

- What managers do
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Marketing and Operations Management
- Decision making to improve Financial performance
- Human Resource Management
- Market Research
- Pricing Strategies
- Business Failure
- Quantitative Sales Forecasting
- Global Business
- Niche Market
- Business Ethics

Including these additional topics:

- Managing strategic change
- Analysing the strategic position of a Business
- Investigating Business
- Marketing Plan
- Business Aims and Objectives
- Business Planning
- Choosing Strategic direction

A-LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

5 ,9—4 grades at GCSE, achieving an A or B in Drama or related subject and a level 5 in English

What is A-level Drama & Theatre Studies?

The new Drama and Theatre Studies A level from Edexcel offers an exciting range of opportunities to approach drama and theatre studies as a practical, intellectual and artistic subject.

How will I be assessed?

Component one is internally assessed and externally moderated. It is worth 80 marks and AO1, AO2 and AO4 are assessed. There are two parts to the assessment. 1) A portfolio containing evidence of: 0 interpreting, creating and developing a devised piece from one key extract from a performance text and applying the methods of a practitioner (AO1) analysing and evaluating the creative process and the devised performance (AO4). 2) A recording of the group devised performance (AO2).

Component two is externally assessed by a visiting examiner. It is worth 60 marks and AO2 is assessed. The monologue or duologue performance/design realisation is worth 24 marks. AO2 is assessed. The group performance/design realisation is worth 36 marks. AO2 is assessed. A realisation of each design candidate's work must be seen and assessed in both performances.

Component three Students must answer one extended response question on the performance they have seen in Section A, of the exam. For Section B in the exam they answer two questions related to an unseen extract from the performance text they have studied. In Section C they have one question based on an unseen named section of the complete performance text and practitioner they have chosen.

What will I study?

Year 12:

You will be studying plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. You will also be developing a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop their performing and analytical skills.

Year 13:

This section of the course aims to extend the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in the year 12 by enabling students to apply what they have learned in their own creative work. Students devise an original piece of drama for an audience, complete an in-depth study of a play which culminates in a performance of an appropriate scene or montage of scenes, and a written paper on two prescribed plays.

Where will it lead?

The A level course provides an excellent qualification route into higher education and degree programmes in Performing Arts, Drama and Arts Administration to name a few. The Edexcel qualification has the support of higher education institutions as a specialist qualification for drama and theatre related courses but equally it provides a worthwhile experience for students wishing to use it as part of the entry requirements into other subject areas. It is also a useful qualification for students wishing to pursue a career that involves communication and people-orientated skills.

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in English Language and English Literature GCSE

What is A-level English Literature?

Do you enjoy exploring the texts you read and working out what motivates characters? Do you like thinking about the ideas a writer is exploring? Do you enjoy debating issues related to texts? Do you enjoy research and writing up your findings? Are you expecting to achieve B grades or above for GCSE English and Literature? If the answer is yes to these questions, English is definitely the subject for you to study at AS level.

Through the study of English Literature at KS5, you will become an independent and discerning reader. Learning to argue in favour of a point of view, analysing how writers achieve their effects and developing formal essay writing techniques are central to the course. Moreover, these skills are vital for many subjects at advanced and degree level. So, by selecting this subject, you are signalling that you are an effective communicator who has vital transferable skills.

Many lessons are taught like university seminars involving analysis and discussion of your reading. Group work and presentations commonly feature in our lessons while Independent learning is encouraged in all lessons.

How will I be assessed?

During each unit, you will be tested on a combination of the assessment objectives outlined below. You will therefore focus on different skills and types of question as you prepare for the end of year examinations.

You will need to demonstrate that you can:

- A01 Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
- A02 Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
- A03 Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
- A04 Explore connections across literary texts.
- A05 Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.

A-LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE (cont.)

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

What will I study?

Unit 1: Shakespeare and Poetry pre-1900. Students will write an analytical essay on a Shakespeare play (Measure for Measure) Students will write an analytical essay on one poem given in the exam, relating it to others in the collection studied. Texts are not allowed in the examination.

Unit 2 Drama and Prose post-1900. Students will write an analytical essay on a contemporary play (Jerusalem) and will compare a prose text with an unseen text on the topic of "The Immigrant Experience." Texts are not allowed in the examination.

Where will it lead?

You need English for a wide variety of careers including journalism, the media and law. It is a particularly useful preparation for any degree involving essay writing, particularly Arts, Humanities or languages courses. Success in English can lead into a range of career options, including:

- Reviewer / Critic
- Radio / TV Journalist
- Television Presenter
- Judge / Barrister
- Secondary School Teacher
- Website Administrator
- Magazine Editor
- Interpreter
- Speech Language Therapist
- Legal Executive
- The civil service
- Politics
- Teaching

EXTENDED PROJECT

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade C and above in English are the minimum requirements. This course has been designed to support a range of students and their chosen qualifications. It is open to all.

What is an Extended Project?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is equivalent in size to half an A-level and is available as a standalone qualification. It is a single piece of work of a student's choosing that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research and independent learning. The piece of work could be:

- A research based written report
- A production (e.g. a fashion show or charity event) and accompanying written report
- An artefact (e.g. a piece of music, art or product) and accompanying written report

Undertaking this kind of work considerably improves students' skills in time management, academic writing, referencing, and critical analysis, amongst others. For this reason the EPQ is valued by Russell Group universities and some may include it as part of an offer made to a student (for example in place of a fourth AS-level).

You should check university websites for degree entry requirements. Even if not included in formal offers, taking an EPQ can be viewed favourably by Russell Group universities. You can talk about it in your application and at interview to demonstrate interest and aptitude for your chosen degree course; if your EPQ topic is not obviously linked to the degree you're applying for make sure you explain how the skills you've

What will I study?

You will attend two lessons per week. These sessions are known as the Taught Elements. You will develop skills and knowledge in a range of skills including:

- Planning your project
- How to do research
- Time management
- Working under ethical guidelines
- Plagiarism
- Harvard Referencing
- How to do effective presentations

How will I be assessed?

This is a coursework based qualification. You are assessed on submitting a completed project. This could be a 5000 word written report OR something that you have made (an artefact) along with a 1000 word written commentary. You will also complete a logbook and deliver a 20 minute presentation on your chosen topic.

Assessment Objectives: The Extended Project Qualification is broken down into the 4 main objectives.

- A01: Manage
- A02: Use Resources
- A03: Manage and Realise
- A04: Review

Where will it lead?

- This unique qualification allows you to stand out from the crowd.
- It prepares you for University level work (research and creative thinking skills)
- It shows employers that you are able to be self-motivated and work independently
- It gives you a real focus on what your interests are and your curiosities about the world

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above at GCSE.

What is A-level Geography?

This is a stimulating and demanding course, which in its broadest sense is a study of the interrelationships between people and the environment.

You will be expected to complete a minimum of 4 days of Fieldwork, therefore expect to go on a residential trip. This will most likely be in Norfolk

How will I be assessed?

This is a linear course
Paper 1 - 30% 2hr and 15 mins
Paper 2 - 30% 2hr and 15 mins
Paper 3 - 20% 2hr and 15 mins
Investigation - internally assessed 20%

Where will it lead?

A level Geography is well regarded by universities as part of the entrance requirements for degree courses. As with any worthwhile achievement, success in the course requires diligence and commitment.

Geographers can go on to follow a variety of interesting careers from actually teaching the subject to business, finance, geology, journalism, meteorology, town planning, travel and tourism to name a few.

What will I study?

The course aims to:

- explore the challenges and opportunities which face people in a variety of different places
- highlight the dynamic nature of geography as demonstrated by human response to changing issues and environments
- increase the understanding of how decisions are made concerning the management of resources
- help students develop their own values and attitudes and to develop their critical thinking in relation to geographical questions
- equip students with a range of transferable skills.

Such a framework provides an excellent basis for understanding the world around us.

You will be studying:-

Paper 1:

Tectonic processes and hazards
Landscape processes and features including coastal change

The water cycle

The carbon cycle

Paper 2:

Globalisation

Shaping places including diverse places

Superpowers

Global development including migration

Paper 3:

Synoptic themes: players, attitudes and futures

Investigation - based on a Fieldwork study

A-LEVEL HISTORY

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

At least a Grade 6 in GCSE English is needed if full benefit is to be gained from the course. Grade 5 or above in GCSE History is advisable.

What is A-level History?

History is a fascinating and exciting subject. It is also challenging and demanding. Advanced level study rewards students with a unique perspective from which to view the world and with which to make sense of many apparently confusing issues.

By the end of the course the successful student will have gained new knowledge and understanding and will have learned how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate effectively. The student will be used to dealing with complex ideas. These are skills which are much valued by employers and universities.

What will I study?

We study the theme of revolutions from early to more modern times. We follow Pearson's Edexcel specification:

Paper 1: Option 1C: Britain 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement

Paper 2: 2C.2: Russia in revolution, 1894–1924

Paper 3: Option 37.2: Germany, 1871–1990: united, divided and reunited.

Coursework on either the cold war or Nazi Germany.

How will I be assessed?

The course is a two year A-Level with 3 exams at the end of the summer in your second year.

Paper 1 and 3: 2hrs and 15 mins

Paper 2 : 1hr 30 mins

20% of the course is awarded to one coursework interpretations essay

Throughout the 2 years though there will be essays, timed essays, assessments and mock examinations to help us keep track of your progress across the 2 years.

Where will it lead?

A level History is an excellent preparation for further study in a range of subjects at degree level. History graduates often become lawyers, teachers, data analysts, journalists or enter the world of business.. History is versatile, it is highly academic and as it isn't subject specific it opens many doors to careers and opportunities.

A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 7 - 9 are preferred. Students may be considered with a 6 in exceptional circumstances.

What is A-level Mathematics?

Mathematics at AS and Advanced GCE is a course worth studying not only as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences, but in its own right. It is challenging but interesting. It builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves new ideas that some of the greatest minds of the millennium have produced. It serves as a very useful support for many other qualifications as well as being a sought-after qualification for the workplace and higher education courses.

How will I be assessed?

In order to get an AS (Advanced Subsidiary) you will need to take three units. If you want a full Advanced GCE you will need to take a further three units. Each unit is equally weighted and has a 1 hour 30 minute examination paper.

What will I study?

While studying Mathematics you will be expected to:

- use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- solve quite complicated problems by using mathematical arguments and logic.
- understand and demonstrate what is meant by proof in mathematics
- simplify real-life situations so that you can use mathematics to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances
- use the mathematics that you learn to solve problems that are given to you in a real-life context
- use calculator technology and other resources (such as formulae booklets or statistical tables) effectively and appropriately; understand calculator limitations and when it is inappropriate to use such technology.

Mathematics at AS and Advanced GCE is modular in structure. There are 6 units. These are divided into the three branches of Mathematics:

- Pure Mathematics = C1, C2, C3, C4
- Mechanics = M1
- Statistics = S1

Where will it lead?

Higher Education courses or careers that either require Advanced GCE Mathematics or are strongly related include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, environmental studies, computing, information and communication technology. If you wanted to continue your study of mathematics after Advanced GCE you could follow a course in mathematics at degree level or even continue further as a postgraduate and get involved in mathematical research.

A-LEVEL

MFL - FRENCH

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

In order to study French at AS/A Level, candidates should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to GCSE at Higher Tier (grades 6+ to 9)

What is A-level French?

This qualification is linear, which means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The A level exam consists of three exams taken after two years of study. Papers 1 and 3 are focused on four central themes:

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

The aim of this course is to:

- enhance your linguistic skills and promote and develop your capacity for critical thinking on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where French is spoken

- 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
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where French is spoken
- increase your sensitivity to language and language learning and develop further positive attitudes to foreign language learning
- equip you with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable you to proceed to further study or to employment.

Why study French in the Sixth Form?

- A qualification in a language is becoming increasingly important as careers opportunities in the European Union become widely available.
- A huge number of college and university courses offer a language with Subjects such as Business Studies, Accountancy, Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics, Politics, History of Art and Information Technology.
- AS or A level French combine well with a variety of other subjects allowing you to remain flexible when it comes to choosing a career.
- Competence in a foreign language can distinguish you from another candidate with similar qualifications and experience.

A-LEVEL

MFL - FRENCH (cont.)

Exam Board: AQA

What will I study?

You will cover a wide variety of topics with a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, you will study aspects of the social context, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. In the second year you will cover further aspects of the social background, this time focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. You will also study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations. Teenagers and the extent to which they are politically engaged looks towards the future of political life in French-speaking society. Throughout your studies, you will learn the language in the context of French-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and films and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Where will it lead?

AS and A level courses in French provide a suitable foundation for further study and a sufficient basis for the further study of French at degree level, whilst allowing also for a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who may not wish to progress to further study in this subject.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What is assessed

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

Paper 2: Writing

What is assessed

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Paper 3: Speaking

What is assessed

- Individual research project
- One of the four themes

How it is assessed

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

A-LEVEL

MFL - SPANISH

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

In order to study Spanish at AS/A2 level, candidates should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to GCSE at Higher Tier (grades A*/A or B)

What is A-level Spanish?

The aim of this course is to develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of Spanish from a variety of registers. You will learn to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Spanish through both the spoken and written word, using increasingly accurate, complex and varied language. You will increase your sensitivity to language and language learning and develop further positive attitudes to foreign language learning.

Why study Spanish in the Sixth Form?

- A qualification in a language is becoming increasingly important as careers opportunities in the European Union become widely available.
- A huge number of college and university courses offer a language with
- Subjects such as Business Studies, Accountancy, Science, Engineering,
- Law, Mathematics, Politics, History of Art and Information Technology.
- AS or A level Spanish combine well with a variety of other subjects allowing
- you to remain flexible when it comes to choosing a career.
- Competence in a foreign language can distinguish you from another
- candidate with similar qualifications and experience.

What will I study?

The AS units in Year 12 represent 50% of the A level. You will cover a wide variety of topics including youth issues, health, media, sport and the Arts. In Year 13, you will develop interpreting and translating skills, and will also be required to study topics in greater depth and produce longer pieces of written work about society or literature.

How will I be assessed?

AS Assessment Units

Listening, Reading & Writing

Unit 1 Written paper 2 hours

35% of the total A level mark 140 marks

Unit 2 Speaking Test 35 Minutes

15% of the total A level mark 60 marks

A2 Assessment Units Written Paper

Unit 3 (Listening, Reading, Writing) 2 hours

30 minutes 35% of the total A level mark 140 marks

Unit 4 Speaking Test 35 Minutes

15% of the total A level mark 60 marks

The Advanced level Subsidiary and Advanced level Criteria state that A level specifications must include synoptic assessment (representing at least 20% of the total A level marks).

Where will it lead?

AS and A level courses in Spanish provide a suitable foundation for further study and a sufficient basis for the further study of Spanish at degree level, whilst allowing also for a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who may not wish to progress to further study in this subject.

A-LEVEL POLITICS

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

You are not expected to have studied Politics previously. You will need to meet the general requirements of 5 Grade 9—5 at GCSE, or equivalent including a Grade 5 in Maths and English. Politics demands a high level of literacy: priority will be given to students with a grade 6 in English.

What is A-level Politics?

Politics suits students who have an interest in the world and how it is run. A good Politics student will be able to articulate their arguments clearly and will recognise that their viewpoint is not the only one. You also need to have good writing skills; Politics is an essay based subject. Students will study participation in political life especially in British political institutions, the UK Government, three core political ideologies and one contemporary ideology.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 exams at the end of the second year. Each of two hours and worth 33 ¹/₃ % of the course.

What will I study?

Component 1: UK Politics

1. Political Participation, students will study: Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
2. Core Political Ideas, students will study: Conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2: UK Government

1. UK Government, students will study: The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
2. Non-core political ideas, students will study: One idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Component 3: Comparative Politics

For Global (3B) students will study: Sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories

It is recommended that all students read the politics and comment sections of a quality national newspaper (“The Guardian”, “The Times”, “The Telegraph”, “The Independent”) on a regular basis. Weekly magazines such as, “The Economist”, “The New Statesman” and, “The Spectator” are good sources of information.

Where will it lead?

Success in a Politics “A” Level is proof of your ability to develop awareness of contemporary issues and to write analytically about them. It is good preparation for many degrees, including Politics, Law, Modern History and Economics. Many journalists, civil servants, lawyers, public relations executives, management consultants and campaigners will have studied Politics at some stage.

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Level 6 or above in English and Math.
Grade 6 or above in Science and level 5 or above in Psychology (if taken at GCSE)

What is A-level Psychology?

The mind is something intangible that exists within our brain; an unseen process of enzymes, chemicals and electric currents. But why is it that some people suffer from stress or mental illness? Or that others are considered abnormal for deviating from social norms? Psychology looks at questions like these and more. It's a fascinating science with cutting edge research that has real world applications that you are bound to find interesting

How will I be assessed?

At A -Level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-Level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

What will I study?

In the first year of A-level you will study

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Approaches in psychology
- Biopsychology
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

In the second year you will study

- Issues and debates in psychology
- Gender
- Schizophrenia
- Aggression
- Research methods

This course will help you develop a number of skills:

- how to view the world around you from different perspectives
- how to plan and conduct scientific investigations
- how to analyse and interpret data
- critical reasoning skills
- how to put across your point of view fluently

Where will it lead?

Psychology is relevant to many occupations involving interaction with others including mental health, human resources, education, research and law enforcement. Many careers directly related to psychology require education beyond your BSc degree, individuals find work in various psychology sub disciplines such as child and family psychologists, clinical psychologist, educational psychologist and many more

A-LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Level 6 or above in English . Level 6 or above in RS if taken

What is A-level Religious Studies?

Religious Studies gives you the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked about life: why are we here, how should we behave and what happens to us when we die? For the new specification, the students are required to focus particularly on the skills of evaluation and critical analysis.

How will I be assessed?

Each component is assessed by examination. Each examination is 2 hours. Paper 1(Philosophy and Ethics) has four questions and you will be expected to answer them all. Paper 2 (Christianity) has 6 questions and you will be expected to answer 4.

All GCE units are awarded A-E. The Advanced Subsidiary GCE is awarded A-E. The Advanced GCE is awarded on the scale A-E with access to A*. In order to be awarded an A*, candidates will need to achieve a grade A on their full A level qualification and an A* on the aggregate of their A2 units.

Where will it lead?

Many other subjects would go well with Religious Studies: for example, English, History, Sociology, Geography, Psychology and Politics. Religious Studies can also be a useful complement to science subjects, particularly for those who wish to follow a career in medicine. With a qualification in Religious Studies, you could go on to Higher Education, at college or university. The skills developed in Religious Studies could be particularly useful for careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media.

What will I study?

This course involves you learning about the Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and the study of one faith (Christianity).

To get a certificate at the end of the first year (Advanced Subsidiary), you will be assessed on your performance in the three AS components. To gain a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in the three AS components AND the three A2 components. This is an examination based course; there is no coursework.

For the AS examination, you will study the following units:

AS Philosophy of Religion

Ancient Greek influences on philosophy of religion; Judaeo-Christian influences on philosophy of religion; Traditional arguments for the existence of God; Challenges to religious belief.

AS Religious Ethics

Ethical Theories; Applied ethics topics

Christianity: Sources of wisdom and authority; God; self death and afterlife; expressions of religious identity.

For the A2 examination, you will study the following units:

A2 Philosophy of Religion

Religious language; Experience and religion; Nature of God; Life and death; Miracle.

A2 Religious Ethics

Christianity:

Gender and sexuality; Christianity and science; Christianity and the challenge of secularisation; Christianity, migration and pluralism.

A detailed content of the syllabus will be displayed in the appropriate room.

A-LEVEL SCIENCE - BIOLOGY

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Minimum 6 grade in Biology GCSE or 6 in Double Science (with min grade 6 in English and Mathematics)

What is A-level 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. Biology at A level will enable you to acquire a systematic body of biological knowledge and develop an appreciation of its significance. It will sustain and develop your enjoyment of, and interest in, biology. The course develops many of the topics you have already studied and will help you gain an insight of the dynamic and exciting nature of biology today. You will realise how an understanding of many of today's contemporary issues requires the knowledge and understanding of underpinning biological principles. Biology is a practical science so you will develop experimental skills and further understanding of the scientific method. Teaching is based around practical and tutorial sessions. Problem solving and communication skills are developed through class and independent study. Students are expected to analyse factual information and communicate their ideas in writing.

What will I study?

The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed through the written papers. For A Level only, the Practical Endorsement will also support the development of practical skills. Biology A is split into six teaching modules: Modules 1 to 4 constitute the stand-alone AS Level qualification; Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module can be assessed within written examinations and (for A Level only) within the Practical Endorsement.

Module 2: Foundations in biology – covering key concepts required throughout the remaining modules. To include Biological molecules, Cell division, Cell Membranes and Cellular organization

Modules 3 and 4: AS Level topics— Exchange and transport; Biodiversity, evolution and disease.

Modules 5 and 6: A Level only topics— Communication, homeostasis, and energy; Genetics, evolution and ecosystems.

A-LEVEL SCIENCE - BIOLOGY (cont.)

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

At AS Level:

AS Papers 1 and 2 can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4.

Paper 1—Multiple choice questions covering theory and practical skills (50%);

Paper 2—Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (50%)

At A Level:

A Level Paper 1 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

A Level Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

A Level Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6. Unified Biology— Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (26%)

Non-exam assessment—Practical Endorsement for Biology

(Not all students will be entered for AS)
A Level (Years 12 & 13) - 3 exams. Each of two hours. Assessing all five units

Where will it lead?

Medicine or science based degree courses including, biomedicine, biodiversity, ecology, biology, forensics, genetics, biochemistry, pharmacology and zoology which can then lead to law, accountancy.

A-LEVEL SCIENCE - CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above in Chemistry or Double Science (6 for English and Maths)

What is A-level Chemistry?

The study of A level Chemistry will enable you to develop essential knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Chemistry, and the skills needed for the use of these in new and changing situations. It will sustain and develop your enjoyment of, and interest in, Chemistry. The course develops topics that you have already studied. It will help you gain an appreciation of the contributions of chemistry to society and the responsible use of scientific knowledge and evidence. Practical work is an important part of the course and you will develop your understanding of the link between theory and experiment.

Where will it lead?

Medicine or science based degree courses, which can then lead to law, accountancy or any other graduate course, as well as science - based careers. It is also excellent companion to any traditional A Level to go on and study a degree course at a top Russell Group University.

What will I study?

The course is split into six modules: Modules 1 to 4 constitute the stand-alone AS Level qualification; Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

Module 1: Development of practical skills

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

Module 4: Core organic chemistry

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis

A-LEVEL SCIENCE - CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

AS Chemistry A (H032) - to be examined June 2016					
Paper		Marks	Duration	Weighting	
Paper 1	Breadth in Chemistry		70	1 hour 30 minutes	50%
	Section A	Multiple choice	20		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills	50		
Paper 2	Depth in Chemistry		70	1 hour 30 minutes	50%
	Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills		70		

A level Chemistry A (H432) - to be examined June 2017					
Paper		Marks	Duration	Weighting	
Paper 1	Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry		100	2 hours 15 minutes	37%
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills	85		
Paper 2	Synthesis and analytical techniques		100	2 hours 15 minutes	37%
	Section A	Multiple choice	15		
	Section B	Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills	85		
Paper 3	Unified Chemistry		70	1 hour 30 minutes	26%
	Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills		70		
Non-examination assessment	Practical skills: Teacher-assessed component		0	Non-exam assessment	Reported separately
	Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance reported separately to the A Level grade		0		

A-LEVEL SCIENCE - PHYSICS

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Physics GCSE or 6 in Double Science and 6 in Mathematics

What is A-level Physics?

Physics is a core discipline in science and is a great way to understand and explore the universe that we live in. Physics is both significant and influential science, in part because advances in its understanding often translate into new technologies, but also because new ideas in physics often resonate with other sciences, mathematics and philosophy.

The course is designed to explore the link between Physics and other STEM subjects and there will be a major field trip at the end of year 12 to help students fully appreciate the impact of the subject.

What will I study?

The A-Level units are:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics

Module 2 – Foundations of physics

Module 3 – Forces and motion

Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons

Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics

Module 6 – Particles and medical physics

How will I be assessed?

At AS Level:

Papers 1 (Breadth in Physics) - Multiple choice questions covering theory and practical skills (50%);

Paper 2 (Depth in Physics) can assess any content from Modules 1 to 4- Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (50%).

At A Level:

- Paper 1 (Modelling physics) assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5; Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

- Paper 2 (Exploring physics) assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6; Multiple choice questions and Structured and extended questions covering theory and practical skills (37%)

- Paper 3 (Unified physics) assesses content from Modules 1 to 6; Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (26%)

Practical endorsement – Ongoing practical work will be recorded and marked in lessons through your lab book to count towards the practical skills qualification (reported separately to the A-level).

Where will it lead?

Physics can lead to a range of exciting and vibrant careers.

A Physics 'A' level will show admissions offers or employers of a rigorous academic background in both science and maths. It is favoured by a huge range of or sometimes surprising courses such as Physics, Maths, Engineering, Veterinary science, Law, Accountancy, Design and Creative Media.

The reason that it is so highly regarded as a subject is because of the focus on key skills that span all aspects of modern life; with a focus on; problem solving, taking an analytical/scientific approach and strong background in numerical methods. It is also an excellent companion to any traditional 'A' level to go on and study a degree course at a top Russell Group University.

A-LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Level 5 or above in English Language or a B or above in a Humanities subject.

What is A-level Sociology?

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question, "why has society developed like this? with poverty, ignorance, crime and injustice."

How will I be assessed?

At A level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-Level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

What will I study?

Education and methods in context:

You'll consider the role of education in society. For example as part of your studies you'll look into gender and ethnicity differences in school achievement. You'll also learn how to apply your own sociology research methods to the study of education.

Research methods:

You'll learn how to conduct your own sociological research, from interviews to reviewing documents and official statistics.

Crime and deviance with theory and methods:

You'll learn about criminal and deviant behaviour, including factors that might lead a person to follow this path in life and how the media portrays them

You will also study:

- Beliefs in society
- Families and households

Where will it lead?

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. But the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like marketing, advertising, PR, Journalism, law or teaching.

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A-Level in sociology are: sociology, psychology, English Studies, Business Studies, Law and teaching.

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL MEDIA INTRO DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3)

Exam Board: OCR Cambridge Technical

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Level 5. Drama and/ or Music are not prerequisites for Media but will be considered in support of your application.

What is Level 3 Cambridge Technical Media?

The Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Media offers a wide range of units to reflect the range of opportunities available within the Media sector. It is an ideal foundation for students, providing them with understanding of Media through engagement with media products, production processes and technologies

How will I be assessed?

100% coursework.
There are 6 units, each worth 10 credits.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Script writing for media products (compulsory unit)

You will be required to design a homepage and related webpages based on a scenario provided

Unit 33: Social media products:

Be able to plan and design for the development of a new social media website

Unit 44: Visual effects for TV and film

You will be learning about visual effects techniques and their application in audio-visual media products. You will also be producing footage, containing planned visual effects, for a 2-3 minute audio-visual sequence.

Unit 51: UK Media studies

You will be looking at the work of UK bands/artists, and how they promote themselves. Be able to deliver and evaluate an effective pitch or presentation for a new live UK music event.

Unit 53: UK radio Broadcasting

In this unit you will learn understand the structure and organisation of UK radio broadcasting. You will deliver an effective pitch or presentation for a new UK radio programme and evaluate the potential success of the planned new UK radio programme, based on feedback gained

Where will it lead?

This course leads to practical and creative skills that transfer easily into the workplace.

BTEC LEVEL 3 APPLIED SCIENCE

Exam Board: EDEXCEL (Pearson)

Entry Requirements

Entry requirements: GCSE grade 5 or above for Science, English and Mathematics

What is BTEC LEVEL 3 Applied Science?

BTEC is a Vocational Qualification, with externally assessed units and units with assignments that are assessed internally. Students study a set of compulsory and optional units. The BTEC Level 3 Applied Science Extended Certificate will be equivalent to one A level.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 3 are externally assessed, with Unit 1 having a written examination.

The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the Applied Science suite are:

- examinations – all students take the same assessment at the same time, normally with a written outcome
- set tasks – students take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

Some external assessments include a period of preparation using set information. External assessments are available twice a year.

Unit 2 is internally assessed and are subject to external standards verification. There are four assignments to complete under strict time conditions.

What will I study?

Students will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I
- Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills.

There is a choice of one optional unit which has been designed to support choices in progression to applied science courses in higher education.

Optional units include:

- Unit 8: Physiology of Human Body Systems
- Unit 10: Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways
- Unit 13: Applications of Inorganic Chemistry
- Unit 15: Electrical Circuits and their Application

Where will it lead?

The BTEC Applied Science course will prepare students for University courses and careers in: Applied Science, Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacy services, Psychology, Laboratory Technicians in schools, hospitals, and Pharmaceutical companies, Biology, Physiology, Teaching, Radiology, Phlebotomy and can be used as UCAS points towards applicable courses.

CACHE CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE LEVEL 3

Exam Board: CACHE

Entry Requirements

A minimum of a level 4 in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language. Students do not need to have studied Health and Social Care or child development background.

What is Child Development?

Child development refers to the way a child masters the necessary skills to help keep pace as growing takes place. In general terms, the average child will develop in specific stages at specific times/ages. These are often known as 'milestones'. Often, children will need to reach a specific milestone before their bodies and brains have the building blocks to move on the next one.

Pupils pursuing Level 3 in Child Development and Care need to bear in mind that this is equivalent to one (1) A Level Course and is completed over a 2 year period.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification consists of several units

- Units graded A* - D by Assessed Tasks
- Work placement in a Child Care Setting
- One Extended Assessment (externally set, externally marked).

What will I study?

This qualification will enable learners to develop significant transferable knowledge and study skills that will support progression including:

- an awareness of learning styles
- an introduction into working with children in a variety of settings
- an understanding of roles and responsibilities when working in a setting
- an understanding of equality and diversity within a childcare setting
- a basic understanding of the stages and sequence of child development
- an introduction to observing children and how it supports development
- an introduction to the influences that affect holistic development
- an introduction to everyday care routines and the types of activities that can support the development of independence

Where will it lead?

Upon achievement of this qualification, learners will gain their licence to practise and it is intended that learners will be able to enter the workforce as Early Years Educators or progress to higher education.

Learners can progress into various job roles in the statutory, voluntary or private sectors such as:

- practitioner in day nurseries
- practitioner in nursery schools
- practitioner in reception classes in primary schools
- pre-school worker

BTEC LEVEL 3 ENTERPRISE

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

Level 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English, and a 4 or above in GCSE Business Studies (if taken at GCSE).

BTEC LEVEL 3 National Certificate in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

This BTEC course encourages you:

- Start up and run your own business
- Develop a critical understand of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. This involves the internal workings and management of organisations and the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment.
- Be aware of business behaviour from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders including customer, manager, creditor, owner/shareholder and employee. In addition, students should be aware of the economic, environmental, ethical, government, legal social and technological issues associated with business activity. Students should understand that Enterprise and Entrepreneurship draws on a variety of perspectives and disciplines are interrelated.
- Acquire a range of skills including decision making and problem solving in the light of evaluation and, where appropriate, the quantification and management of information.
- Managing budgets, promotions and financial money.

How will I be assessed?

50% externally assessed examination
50% coursework with a synoptic element

Size and Structure

180 GLH (240 TQT) equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. 2 units, both mandatory, of which 1 is external. Mandatory content (100%). External assessment (50%).

What will I study?

The main areas covered are as follows:

What managers do

Decision making to improve marketing performance

Marketing and Operations Management

Decision making to improve financial performance

Human Resource Management

Market Research

Pricing strategies

Business failure

Quantitative sales forecasting

Global business

Niche market

Business ethics

Where will it lead?

The certificate offers an introduction to a vocational sector through applied learning. It supports progression to higher education as part of a programme of study that includes other vocational or general qualifications for learners for whom an element of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship would be complementary.

BTEC LEVEL 3 HEALTH & SOC CARE

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

Level 5 in English . Merit or above in GCSE Health and Social care

What is BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care?

This course is the BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health & Social Care.

BTEC have been a recognised awarding body for many years. They are well known by employers, industry and educational establishments.

Take the qualification either

- On its own
- With an additional AS Level (Good complementary subjects include Sociology, Psychology, English)

How will I be assessed?

The BTEC diploma is a practical work-related course and is equivalent to **TWO** A levels. It now entails two exam units and one task based unit, in addition to optional units

Where will it lead?

Possible careers in the health or care industry such as social work, teaching, nursing, early years.

What will I study?

Over the two year period you will study the following units:

- Human Lifespan Development*
- Working in Health and Social Care*
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
- Physiological Disorders and their Care
- Caring for Individuals with Dementia

You will also take additional units. These are :

- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Work Experience in Health and Social Care
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- Nutritional Health

Work experience placements, work shadowing and practical activities form an integral part of the course.

You will be visiting organisations such as hospitals, nurseries and health clinics and will get the opportunity to meet and work with professionals from different care sectors. You will also carry out extended projects and assignments.

BTEC MUSIC

Exam Board: EDEXCEL

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or above for Music GCSE, or by audition.

Grade 5 or above in English

What is BTEC Music?

BTEC music is a course designed to give you the skills to succeed in the music industry. The course has a mixture of practical work and written work and is suitable for anyone who wants to work in music or the creative arts sector. It is equivalent in size to an A-Level and designed to be taken alongside other A Levels and BTECs

How will I be assessed?

Three of the four units are assessed internally and moderated externally in a similar way to GCSE coursework. One of the 4 units will be an externally assessed exam. Assessment can take the form of recordings, performances and written work.

What will I study?

Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units, which provide an essential introduction to the skills and knowledge required to be successful in music, covering the following topics:

- ensemble performance techniques
- professional practice in the music industry
- creating a music product.

You will also choose one option unit. The option units have been designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas such as composition, business, technology and performance. Many students choose the solo performance unit as this compliments the other units well.

Where will it lead?

BTECs carry UCAS points and can be used to support an application to university. In addition to the music sector-specific degrees and jobs, the requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by universities and employers. For example, performance techniques, communication skills, team working, and an opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/ instrumental technique. This qualification has a strong focus on performance, one of the key skills for progression to higher education.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Language level 1, 2, or 3. Students can carry forward their spoken language endorsement result, including those sat with another exam board.

What is GCSE English?

Paper 1 Section A: Reading one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2 Section A: Reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing writing to present a viewpoint

How will I be assessed?

See 'What will I study?'

What will I study?

Paper 1 Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%) 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2 Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%) 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Where will it lead?

A pass at GCSE English is a requirement for the vast majority of jobs and further courses of study. Many employers and colleges require a high level 4 or above.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Below GCSE grade 4.

What is GCSE Mathematics?

The course aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts, together with their ability to apply the knowledge in a variety of contexts.

What will I study?

The course covers the content of the National Curriculum in Mathematics, including numbers, algebra, shape, space and measure, and data handling.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% examination, with three examinations in May and June. Paper 1 is calculator; paper 2 is non-calculator and paper 3 is calculator. Duration for each paper: 1 Hour and 30 mins

Where will it lead?

A GCSE in mathematics is a valuable qualification for all courses in further education and for employment, and is often an essential requirement.



Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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