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MANSHEAD SIXTH FORM APPLICATION FORM	

Dear Students,

Thank you for considering Manshead School's Sixth Form for the next stage of your education.

This prospectus contains details of all the courses on offer at Manshead from September 2010. We have a well established and very successful Sixth Form collaboration with Queensbury School to increase the number of subjects available to our students as well as increasing the possible combinations of subjects. We are very pleased with the outcomes of this development and the joint planning and delivery of subjects between the schools has undoubtedly improved the provision in both schools.

For the vast majority of students this arrangement will not involve any travelling between sites but where this is required transport will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you at our Open Evening on Wednesday, 20th January, where you will receive more information about life in Manshead Sixth Form as well as the opportunity to speak to staff and students about Sixth Form courses.

Jim Parker
Headteacher

FOR STUDENTS

Do you know what you are going to do next year?

- Get a job?
- Start a Modern Apprenticeship?
- Go on a college course?
- Stay on at Manshead to do a one or two year course?

You may already have made your decision to leave school or you may be unsure what to do. In either case, it is well worth looking at what Manshead Sixth Form has to offer.

You could be working and learning for the next fifty years. It will be important to be adaptable, open to new ideas and challenges if you are to be successful in your life. Qualifications are an important part of this process - and all Sixth Formers must aim at, and work hard to achieve results of the highest quality - but there is more to being in the Sixth Form than this. The future is what you make of it, and good results only provide a key to opportunities. You need to know about people and how to work with them, about possible options and how you decide which ones to take.

Some points worth considering:

- (a) The Government is committed to increasing participation in Higher Education. DCFS targets for 2013 include
- 90% of 19 year olds will have at least 5 GCSE passes
 - 50% of students entering Higher Education
- (b) You may take 'A' levels in 2012. This means that a larger proportion of students will be following courses at university or colleges of Higher Education so competition will be greater. If you wish to enter University or a College of Higher Education to study for a degree or a diploma, you must have 'A' levels or equivalent qualifications. Do read the notes on Choosing 'A' Levels on page 13.
- (c) Many professions now demand 'A' levels, or will allow you to enter at a much higher level with better promotion prospects than the 16+ entrants.
- (d) Unfortunately, your GCSE results may not be what you wanted, or expected! You may want to return to school to continue your studies with three BTEC First Certificates (each certificate is equivalent to two GCSE at grades A*-C). This may allow you to start 'A' level courses the following year.
- (e) Your present subject teachers, Learning Guide and Director of Standards 16-19 will be consulted about your choice of course: occasionally students make choices which aren't the wisest. Your interview with a Senior Teacher will help you resolve any problems.
- (f) The Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) has made it financially more attractive for many students to stay in education.

If we are to provide courses that meet your needs, the sooner we know what your intentions are for next year the better. If you decide to return to school you will find all the information you need in this booklet. If you still have questions, talk to your Learning Guide, Head of College or myself, or with any members of staff who can help you. It will also be useful to talk to current Sixth Form students about the demands of studying in Years 12 and 13.

Think hard - talk to the many people in school who can help - and if you decide to join us -
WELCOME.

Mrs D Chivers
Director of Standards 16-19
January 2010

FOR PARENTS

The end of Year 11 in schools is often much awaited by students. It, of course, marks the end of compulsory schooling and the possible beginning of a set of new educational experiences. Some students will be keen to advance further up the academic ladder, to enter a University or College of Higher Education. The most common route to this is via a three or four 'A' level course. 'A' levels also provide those seeking employment at eighteen with greatly increased prospects and wider choices.

Some students fail to do themselves justice in their Year 11 examinations. They may be late developers who will flourish in the new environment and be able to obtain the qualifications and experience increasingly demanded by employers. The Sixth Form gives these students the opportunity to prepare themselves for work or further education.

Life in the Sixth Form marks a change for all students. They have to learn to work more independently and to make good use of private study time. Teaching groups are smaller. It is essential to have a good working relationship with staff, and to seek help and guidance from them. The continuity provided by moving to Sixth Form studies at Manshead helps to smooth this transition. We are already familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of students and students may know subject staff. But perhaps above all we attract the vast majority of our best Year 11 students and they create a social and working environment in which all can thrive.

Glossary of terms

AS Level or **Advanced Supplementary Level** qualifications are the equivalent to half an 'A' level and are usually studied in Year 12. They usually consist of two modules (three in the case of some subjects). At the end of Year 12, these modules can either be "cashed in" to give an Advanced Supplementary qualification or used with two (or three) further modules to gain an 'A' level qualification. They are graded A* – E (passes) or U (fail).

'A' levels or **Advanced Levels** are a continuation of an AS Level. To complete this qualification students study two (or three) A2 modules in Year 13 which they combine with their AS modules from Year 12. In total, therefore, they consist of four (or six) modules. Suitable 'A' levels qualifications enable students to progress to university and other institutions of higher education. They are also required for certain levels of employment in business and professions. They are graded A* – E or U (fail).

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diplomas and **Level 3 OCR National** qualifications are more vocationally based but are equivalent to 'A' levels. There are 100% coursework and are graded Distinction, Merit and Pass (A, C, E).

BTEC First Certificates provide an alternative route for students to GCSE and 'A' levels. They are one year courses, focusing on a particular vocational area and are equivalent to two GCSEs (grade A* - C).

TIMETABLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE SIXTH FORM

Date	Event or deadline
January 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospectus and Option forms issued. • Students and parents study the prospectus and make initial subject choices. • Advice available from Connexions, Subject Staff, Learning Guides, Heads of College, Sixth Form students and Mrs Chivers.
Friday, 8th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Mock Results published
Wednesday, 20th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixth Form Option Evening • Opportunity to discuss subject choices with teachers
Friday, 5th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option forms returned to Learning Guides
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with Senior Staff to discuss student's chosen courses • Options finalised. There must be a minimum of 8 students for most subjects.
May – June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Examinations
Monday 28 th June and Tuesday 29 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixth Form Induction Course • A chance to sample Sixth Form life
Tuesday 24th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination results • Staff available for advice on options
Tuesday 31 st August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrol for courses
Thursday 2nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS / BTEC courses start

SIXTH FORM COURSES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Although students study fewer courses in the Sixth Form they are studied to a greater depth. Students also have to work more independently and with less supervision than in Year 11.

Although the main entry requirements are in terms of GCSE grades, we would also expect students to have a proven track record of submitting homework on time, showing effort in class and meeting coursework deadlines.

Advanced Level Courses

The best predictor of performance at Advanced Level is the **average GCSE points score** of the student's best 8 GCSE grades. This is produced by scoring each GCSE grade on the following scale G = 1, F = 2, E = 3, D = 4, C = 5, B = 6, A = 7, A* = 8 : adding up the points in their best eight subjects and dividing by eight.

The minimum entry requirement for Advanced Level courses is **5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A* - C in at least four different subjects** and an **average GCSE points score of at least 4.5**.

We will then use the following guidelines to recommend the number of subjects a student studies.

Average GCSE Points Score	Year 12	Year 13
Greater than 5.5	4 AS levels + General Studies	3/4 'A' levels + General Studies
Between 4.5 and 5.5	3 AS levels + General Studies	2/3 'A' levels + General Studies
Less than 4.5	BTEC First Certificates	Start Advanced level courses
Less than 5 A*-C	BTEC First Certificates	Start Advanced level courses

BTEC First Certificates

Although there are no entry requirements in terms of GCSE grades, students must have shown the ability to make a significant effort throughout GCSE courses and not have shown a negative attitude towards their school studies. Any student with an average GCSE points score below 3.5 is likely to struggle with the demands of the course and would be advised to consider alternative courses. Students will study three BTEC First Certificates.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR 'A' LEVEL COURSES

As well as meeting the general entry requirement, students need to meet the subject specific entry requirements outlined below. Further, if the chosen subject has been studied at GCSE, students will need to have achieved a grade C or better in their GCSE examination in that subject.

Subject	Entry Requirements
Accounting	Maths GCSE Grade C or better
Art and Design (Endorsed and Unendorsed)	No specific entry requirements
Applied Art and Design	No specific entry requirements
Applied Science BTEC	Science GCSE or BTEC in Applied Science (Merit)
Biology	Two Sciences and Maths GCSE grade C or better
Business Studies	No specific entry requirements
Chemistry	Two Sciences and Maths GCSE grade C or better
Dance	English Language GCSE grade C or better
Drama	English Language GCSE grade C or better
Economics	English Language and Maths GCSE grade C or better
English Lang. and Lit.	English Language grade C or better
English Literature	English Language grade C or better
Food Technology	No specific entry requirements
French	French GCSE grade B or better
Geography	English Language and Maths GCSE grade C or better
German	German GCSE grade B or better
Government and Politics	English Language grade C or better
Health and Social Care	English Language grade C or better
History	English Language grade C or better
Information Technology	A pass or better in ICT OCR National
Law	English Language GCSE grade C or better
Mathematics	Maths GCSE grade B or better
Further Mathematics	Maths GCSE Grade A or better
Use of Maths	Maths GCSE grade C or better
Media Studies	English Language GCSE grade C or better
Music	Music GCSE grade C or better and the ability to play a musical instrument to Grade Five standard
Music Technology	No specific entry requirements
Photography	No specific entry requirements
Physical Education	Science GCSE grade C or better
Physics	Two Sciences and Maths GCSE grade C or better
Product Design: 3D	No specific entry requirements
Textiles	No specific entry requirements
Graphics Products	No specific entry requirements
Psychology	English Language and Maths GCSE grade C or better
Public Services	No specific entry requirements
Religious Studies	English Language GCSE grade C or better
Sociology	English Language GCSE grade C or better
Spanish	Spanish GCSE grade B or better
Travel and Tourism	No specific entry requirements

A STUDENT'S VIEW OF LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

The main difference is with work - and the attitudes you are expected to have for it. The change is immediate - as if over the summer holidays a magic switch has been pulled and you've become hardened Sixth Formers, experienced in mountainous amounts of homework and self-motivation.

Self-motivation - that's a word you're going to hear constantly in the first weeks in the Sixth Form. Basically, it means that if you can't muster up enough discipline to get down to doing your work in class, or if you can't be bothered to start your homework in the private study periods then you haven't really got what it takes to be a sixth former. Although it's hard to get used to at first it soon becomes second nature to be scribbling notes whilst eating your lunch, or any spare time you have.

"It's much harder than the Year 11 - the homework seems to spread out for ever."

"There's a lot of homework, but you're given plenty of opportunities to do it - and lots of time."

"The classes are usually a lot smaller, so it's easier to learn. It brings you out of yourself in lessons - you're not worried that someone will laugh at you."

"The teachers seem much more like people in the Sixth - they're actually interested in your ideas as a person, rather than in a joint opinion of the class."

The Sixth Form may now be becoming less rosy in your eyes, but be reassured it is not "all work and no play". The social life is one of the most attractive features of our Sixth Form. During breaks and lunchtime there are various places where you can go for different social and recreational activities. The major place for chatting during these times is the newly refurbished Sixth Form area. During private study periods, the main area is used for work involving discussion, but the Library and a number of rooms around the school provide a quiet atmosphere, the library has a dedicated suite of computers for sixth form only.

People in the Sixth Form play a large part in the life of the school. Whether it is through inter-college activities, music or drama or sport, Sixth Formers often lead the way. We also have the chance to help others through charity collections and sponsored events. A number of Sixth Formers work to support students lower down the school. In the previous two years sixth formers from both Year 12 and 13 have been involved in a peer listening and a peer mentoring programme.

Some comments on the social life:

"Although it's hard work in the Sixth, it's worth it for the great spirit at social events and the friendships which you make".

"You can see that the teachers actually are human - and they've got a sense of humour too".

Finally, I think it's fair to say that the Sixth Form, although hard work, is an enjoyable, and very valuable experience for all its students. Why not join us?

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Although we operate a vertical tutor group system further down the school, Year 12 and 13 are in their own Learning Guide groups. Year 12 will remain within their college but will have a dedicated sixth form learning guide who will form close relationships with those in the group. They will monitor every student's progress and will be available for information and guidance on all aspects of their studying.

Reports are sent home twice in the autumn term and once in the spring term following three key assessment points, where student performance will be monitored against their Indicator Grades. A Parents Information Evening is held in September, containing information and guidance about 'A' levels as a course of study, then a sixth form Parent Consultation Afternoon will be held in January for parents of both Year 12 and Year 13.

Any students who are 'at risk' of not fulfilling their potential are counselled and parents informed. They will be expected to remain on site all day in order to benefit from the school's resources during their study times.

Year 12 are expected to be in school full time between September and October half term, at which point the outcomes of the October assessment will be used to determine whether each student is able to have Study Flex. Study Flex allows the students in Year 12 to come in later and leave earlier when they have no lessons. This time should be used for home study.

THE LEARNING CENTRE / LIBRARY

Moving into the Sixth Form will place different demands on studying for many students. They will be expected to become more independent and responsible in their approach to their work, and to this end they are given a fair amount of private study time, where they will be expected to work independently.

The Library has recently been refurbished and upgraded and has re-opened as an extremely well equipped Learning Centre. The Learning Centre houses several computers designated for Sixth Form private study and are installed with all the necessary software for specialised study. It also contains a large collection of fiction, non-fiction and reference books, as well as DVDs and a large selection of magazines. The school takes two daily national newspapers and one local newspaper.

The Learning Centre is open from 8.30 – 4.30 Monday to Thursday
and from 8.30 – 4.00 on Friday.

NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Colleges, universities and employers pay considerable attention to the other activities students take part in while in the Sixth Form. We believe that it is important that all students lead a balanced life, which includes recreational activities, contribution to the community and experience of the world of work. Most students gain at least some of these experiences outside school. We will do what we can to provide a balanced experience for all students especially those who are studying a reduced number of courses and have more time available within school.

All students have the opportunity to play a full part in enrichment activities. Some Year 12 students take responsibility in leadership roles organising activities with younger students and others mentor students in Years 10 and 11, both academically and socially, while others have volunteered to work with younger students in Middle and Lower Schools where they are teaching Maths, English, ICT and French.

Our Year 12 and 13 students also play an important role in providing mentoring for individual students in Years 11 and 12, offering support, advice and guidance. Further they take on leadership roles in organising the Inter-College events and the very successful College Cabaret.

Many of our Sixth Form students participate fully in Music and Drama events. In Music they play a leading role in the band, orchestra and choir with several public performances throughout the year, both within school and at community events in the town. The annual school production is a major event and it provides Sixth Form students the opportunity to take lead roles and demonstrate their acting, singing, dancing and organisational skills.

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to continue their sporting interest within the school and compete in local and national events in individual and team events. Also they have the opportunity to further develop their coaching and organisational roles through completing the Sports Leader qualification.

This is just a flavour of some of the activities available to Sixth form students and there are many more one-off events, such as Innovation Days and Enterprise Days which would not be as successful as they are without the enthusiasm and leadership of our Sixth Form students. Academic achievement is important but we also feel it is our duty to provide a rich variety of opportunities that both challenge and enthuse our Sixth Form students. We think this is a strength of the Sixth Form at Manshead.

SOME ADVICE ON CHOOSING 'A' LEVELS FOR UNIVERSITY

While these notes are meant as a guide for future University applicants, much of the advice offered applies equally to those intending to seek employment in the top professions, civil service, banking etc.

Careful choice of 'A' levels improves your chance of securing a place at University or embarking upon a worthwhile career. Read carefully the 'A' level subject descriptions in this prospectus. Talk with your Learning Guide and ask questions of subject teachers. Look at University Entrance: the Official Guide to find preferred or required entrance qualifications - there is a bewildering array of courses and course requirements so read carefully. The choice of 'A' levels is equally varied, so follow these simple guidelines:

1. Combinations of "standard" academic subjects lead to the widest range of possibilities.
2. Think of appropriate combinations: choose at least two supportive subjects, wherever possible, as this will make studying easier and more effective. Do not be tempted to go for a broad range of subjects unless you are very able and have a good reason for this.
3. The best combination for keeping your options open in Science-based courses is Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Further Mathematics and Biology are acceptable alternatives.
4. University departments prefer applicants for Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to have some grounding in Natural Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology). You must have Advanced Level Chemistry to study Medicine.
5. It is best not to choose only 'A' level subjects which involve predominantly practical skills, unless you are certain that you wish to pursue a career in a related area.
6. Don't base subject choices on the teachers you think might teach you.
7. Many of the Russell Group Universities (the self appointed "top" 20 universities) are now only accepting one "soft option" 'A' level for entry on to their more academic courses. Definition of what constitutes a soft option varies between these universities and some of them have listed the subjects they consider to be soft options on their websites. It is worth taking this issue into account if you may consider applying to one of these universities.

Remember, University Admission Tutors look for enthusiasm, success and high grades in at least two 'A' levels. Their basic concern is that you will make a success of your University course. Mrs Chivers will be prepared to speak to University or College admissions tutors on your behalf to seek their advice on combinations of 'A' level subjects.

Finally, consult the University Entrance Guide or visit www.ucas.com and read individual University prospectuses. Mrs Cordt, Chris Green (the Connexions adviser), Mrs Chivers or your Learning Guide can help you with this. Make sure you ask for a Connexions interview if you need help.

GOOD LUCK!

ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES

The following pages give information about the courses on offer. For further subject specific information see the following members of staff, or visit the examination board's website.

Subject	Contact
Accounting	Miss L Hunton (Queensbury)
Art	Mrs C Williams
Biology	Mrs E Norton
Business Studies	Mrs K Beeton
Chemistry	Mr J Maple
Dance	Mr T Hooper
Design Technology (3D, Food, Graphics, Textiles)	Mrs T Malster
Drama and Theatre Studies	Mr K Bumstead
Economics	Mrs D Chivers
English Language and Literature English Literature	Mrs R Fletcher
Geography	Miss T Hennessy
Government and Politics	Mr T Darby
Health, Social and Childcare	Mr T Cooksey
History	Mrs Z Foster
ICT	Mrs J Knox
Law	Ms M Hart (Queensbury)
Mathematics Further Mathematics Use of Mathematics	Mr N Shilvock
Media Studies	Mr D Howell
Modern Languages: French German Spanish	Mr Y Le Coguic Mrs Guest Mrs Head
Music	Mrs D Owen
Music Technology	Mrs D Owen
Photography	Mrs C Williams
Physical Education	Mrs H Sides
Physics	Mr R Seldon
Psychology	Mrs S Little
Public Services	Mr T Cooksey
RE (Philosophy and Ethics)	Mr. C Sides
Science BTEC	Mr S McIntyre
Sociology	Mrs K Cordt
Travel and Tourism	Mrs K Beeton
BTEC First Certificates	Mr T Cooksey

ACCOUNTING

Exam Board - AQA 1121/2121

Course Summary

Through this course students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of the purpose of accounting, its concepts and techniques, as well as an appreciation of the effects of legal and technological change on accounting. Students will be able to answer questions, eg: How do businesses record transactions? What is the difference between financial and management accounting? How well has a company performed financially this year?

Modules to be Studied

The course is divided into 4 modules, with 2 covered in year 12 for the AS and then 2 more completed in year 13 for the full 'A' level.

Year 12 (AS)

Unit 1 - Introduction to Financial Accounting

Unit 2 - Financial and Management Accounting

Year 13 (A2)

Unit 3 - Further Aspects of Financial Accounting

Unit 4 - Further Aspects of Management Accounting

Assessment Arrangements

All units are externally assessed.

Each exam paper consists of 4 compulsory questions. These will require a mix of written and calculation based answers.

Entry Requirements

Students will be expected to have achieved a grade C or better at GCSE level in Maths.

Career Links

Accounting can be studied successfully alongside many other subjects and, as a result, career opportunities open to those who have studied the subject can be wide ranging. Students can follow degree-based courses as well as entering into training within the industry.

BTEC NATIONAL SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Course Summary

This course is suitable for anyone who is planning to enter work directly or wishes to proceed to Higher Education. After completing the course, students can pursue careers in areas such as hospital laboratory work, food science, scientific research, and health-related professions.

This two year course is a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to 1 A* - E grade at A –Level.

The teaching for the course will involve a mixture of lecturing, practical work, personal research, group research, discussion, and visits to local businesses. The course consists of an even mix of biology, chemistry, and physics topics.

Course Structure

Six core units which provide a general understanding of the main areas of chemistry physics and biology and help you to develop a range of practical skills through experimental work.

Units to be studied

- Fundamentals of Science
- Working in the Science Industry
- Scientific Practical Techniques
- Physiology of Human Body Systems
- Energy Changes Sources and Applications
- Chemical Laboratory Techniques

Assessment Arrangements

The course is 100% internally assessed, through a combination of practical and written coursework.

Entry Requirements

The entry criteria for BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science is five C's (or equivalent) at GCSE including Science or a merit at BTEC First Certificate in Applied Science.

ART AND DESIGN (UNENDORSED)

Course Summary

Unendorsed allows you to work in any materials you wish. You are required to cover at least two different aspects of art and design. This course leads on easily from GCSE Art. The opportunity to work in a range of materials remains. Themes will be set and preparation developed by the student into a final conclusion whether in paint, three dimensions sculpture ceramics, printmaking paper or textiles, photography or illustration, or graphics. Students will have the opportunity to be imaginative and creative as well as acquiring a range of skills including photography, etching-printing, ICT and mixed media. Students are encouraged to discover their own strengths. Included in the course is the study of other arts, designers and craftspeople along with artists and craft of other cultures.

Results in this subject are above average and quite a number of students go on to related degree courses. Many Year 11 students intending to take this 'A' level go on the county organised visit to Paris in the July of Year 11. This is an excellent start to the course. During the course visits to a range of galleries are arranged, as well as opportunities to draw from life.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Exam board: EDEXCEL			
AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1: Art and Design coursework	Internally set and marked Externally moderated.	Unit 3: Art and Design Coursework: Practical Work and Personal Study	Internally set and marked Externally moderated
Unit 2: Art and Design	Internally set and marked Externally moderated	Unit 4: Art and Design. Externally set assignment	Externally set Internally marked Externally moderated

Entry Requirements

Grade C or better in Art and Design if studied at GCSE.

Career Links

Careers in these areas are part of the fastest growth industries available.

ART AND DESIGN: FINE ART (ENDORSED)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

The Fine Art course at AS and A2 will demonstrate your use of the formal elements and creative skills. It focuses on work based on your personal experience, rather than that which is created for a practical function or corresponds to a prescribed brief.

Modules Studied

You will complete a coursework unit and externally set assignment in each year. You will generate ideas, experimenting with a range of processes and media. You will develop and refine your ideas towards a personal outcome. In addition, in the second year, you will produce an in-depth critical study, including a piece of extended writing on a topic of art of your choice, which will further help you to deepen your artistic identity.

Assessment Arrangements

All work will be assessed internally and externally moderated.

AS: 60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment (including an 8 hour timed exam and supporting prep work)

A2: 60% coursework (including contextual study)/ 40% ESA (including 12 hour timed exam and supporting prep work)

Entry Requirements

Grade C or better in Art and Design if studied at GCSE

Career Links

Art is a fantastic subject to take in higher education. Students generally go on to do a foundation course before progressing to the full degree course. This is further an opportunity to try a wide range of processes, before deciding on your area of specialism.

Studying Art can lead to a huge range of careers including fine artist, gallery curator, graphic artist, illustrator, interior designer, advertising and marketing, photography, fashion and jewellery design, window dresser, art historian, teacher, architect, theatre, costume and set design, model maker, computer graphics designer... to mention just a few.

APPLIED ART AND DESIGN (DOUBLE AWARD)

Exam Board – Edexcel

Units are interconnected and evidence is found in the exam for all of the units.

Course Summary

Applied Art and Design will help students to:

- Acquire the skills and language (including techniques and processes) needed to create, develop and present quality work
- Understand methods and principles involved in art and design
- Identify and utilise primary and secondary sources
- See how different creative areas are inter-related and influence each other
- Explore working methods linked to industry practice

By selecting Applied Art students will achieve two 'A' levels but only take one exam. Throughout, activities reflect current employment practices and the issues facing professionals working within the art and design sector. So that they develop their own skills, students gain insights into the nature of the industry. It covers all aspects of art and design.

Modules Studied and Assessment Arrangements

The qualification encourages creativity by emphasising a practical approach, with no written exams or assessments. Instead, to correspond with industry working practices, students are required to complete an externally set project brief to a deadline. An external moderator carries out an on-site review of students' work on a sampling basis.

The qualification has an AS/A2 structure.

A Double Award AS GCE (6 units)

A Double Award Advanced GCE (12 units)

The applied course allows students to have a portfolio of work similar to one they would create on a foundation course thus enabling them the opportunity to save a year of study.

Entry Requirements

Grade C or better in Art and Design if studied at GCSE.

Career Links

Careers in these areas are part of the fastest growth industries available.

BIOLOGY

Exam Board – Edexcel

Course Summary

The Biology course for AS and A2 is taught through real-life biology. Students will study a particular scenario e.g. - two people, one who has suffered a stroke, another who has suffered a heart attack and, through developing an understanding of these conditions, students develop their knowledge of a range of biological topics.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1 Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes	Unit 4 The Natural Environment and Species Survival	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
Unit 2 Development, Plants and the Environment	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes	Unit 5 Energy, Exercise and Coordination	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
Unit 3 Practical Biology and Research Skills	Internal assessment: a. Written report – marked by the teacher b. Practical skills – assessed by the teacher	Unit 6 Practical Biology and Investigative Skills	Internal assessment: An individual practical investigation, marked by the teacher

Entry Requirements

Two Sciences and Maths GCSE grade C or better.

Career Links

An 'A' level in Biology opens doors to courses in a wide variety of careers ranging from medicine and dentistry to environmental science and exercise physiology. Whatever your career plans, an AS or 'A' level in Biology shows you can think analytically and work methodically to solve problems; skills which are useful in most jobs, whether or not you go on to higher education.

BTEC NATIONAL SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS

Exam Board - Edexcel

Course Summary

The BTEC National Subsidiary Diploma is 'A' level 3 qualification. Successful students will achieve either a Pass, Merit or Distinction. These are equivalent to 'A' level grades A - E. This course consists of six units.

Unit 1 The Business Environment

On completion of this unit a learner should know the range of different businesses and their ownership, understand how businesses are organised to achieve their purposes, know the impact of the economic environment on businesses and know how political, legal and social factors impact on business.

Unit 2 Business Resources

On completion of this unit a learner should know how human resources are managed, know the purpose of managing physical and technological resources, know how to access sources of finance and be able to interpret financial statements.

Unit 3 Introduction to Marketing

On completion of this unit a learner should know the role of marketing in organisations, be able to use marketing research and marketing planning, understand how and why customer groups are marketed and be able to develop a coherent marketing mix.

Unit 4 Business Communications

On completion of this unit a learner should understand different types of business information, be able to present business information effectively, understand the issues and constraints in relation to the use of business information in organisations and know how to communicate business information using appropriate methods.

Unit 9 Creative Product Promotion

On completion of this unit a learner should know the constituents of the promotional mix, understand the role of promotion within the marketing mix, understand the role of advertising agencies and the media and be able to create a simple promotional campaign.

Unit 13 Recruitment and Selection in Business

On completion of this unit a learner should know the processes involved in recruitment planning, understand the implications of the regulatory framework for the process of recruitment and selection, be able to prepare documentation involved in the selection and recruitment process and be able to participate in a selection interview.

Assessment Arrangements

Each module will be assessed internally. Each student will complete a portfolio of work to match stated criteria. Each assignment work will consist of a series of smaller tasks that match fixed criteria.

There are no subject specific entry requirements.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board – AQA (2130)

Course Summary

Through this course students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of all aspects of business activity from the business plan to its impact on the UK and other economies. At AS students will develop an understanding of every aspect of setting up, running and growing a business and will have a sound knowledge of the main functional departments within a business – Accounting and Finance, Human Resources, Operations Management and Marketing. At A2, students will develop this knowledge further to gain a greater understanding of external influences, objective setting, decision-making, business strategy and change management.

Modules to be studied and assessment arrangements

AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1: Planning and financing a business	1 hour externally assessed paper, which includes multiple choice, data response and short answers	Unit 3: Strategies for success	1½ hour externally assessed exam with 5 questions based around an unseen case study
Unit 2: Managing a business	1½ hour externally assessed exam with 2 data response questions	Unit 4: The Business environment and change (synoptic)	1½ hour externally assessed exam in 2 parts. Part A has questions based on prior student research and part B involves writing 1 essay from a choice of 3

Entry Requirements

There is no requirement to have studied a Business/Economics related subject at GCSE to study the subject at 'A' level. If Business has not been studied previously, students will require at least a grade C in Mathematics and English.

Career Links

Business Studies can be studied successfully alongside many other subjects and, as a result, career opportunities open to those who have studied the subject can be wide ranging. Students can follow many degree-based courses or alternatively they may choose business apprenticeships or enter advertising, banking, accounting and marketing, amongst other careers.

CHEMISTRY

Examination Board – OCR (A)

Course Summary

The Chemistry course for AS and A2 students covers a variety of topics ranging from traditional chemistry ideas such as rates of reaction and bonding; to ideas of how chemistry is relevant to everyday life through topics such as biodegradable plastics and doping control in sport.

Chemistry is a blend of the theoretical and the experimental and its study is both challenging and rewarding. The course will provide students with ample opportunity to cultivate problem solving, intellectual and practical skills.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Exam Board: OCR A			
AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1 Atoms, Bonds and Groups	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour	Unit 4 Rings, Polymers and Analysis	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour
Unit 2 Chains, Energy and Resources	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	Unit 5 Equilibria, Energetics and Elements	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
Unit 3 Practical skills in Chemistry 1	Internal assessment 3 practical tasks set by OCR and assessed by the teacher	Unit 6 Practical skills in Chemistry 2	Internal assessment 3 practical tasks set by OCR and assessed by the teacher

Entry Requirements

Two Sciences and Maths GCSE grade C or better.

Career Links

Chemistry is a prerequisite for many university courses e.g. medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, pharmacy, biochemistry, physiotherapy, forensic science, biotechnology, environmental science and other physical science courses. Chemists can also pursue careers in law, business, accountancy and industry. If you want any science-based career, then Chemistry keeps your options open. Chemistry AS, in itself, is certain to be a very useful qualification.

DANCE

Exam Board – AQA

Course Summary

An accessible and highly creative course that encourages and develops students' ability to create, analyse and perform. Therefore students should demonstrate a keen interest in dance, show creativity and be able to perform in a variety of situations, including solo and group work. Students will develop analytical skills for their written studies and be encouraged to be articulate in justifying their views.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS Unit 1: Understanding Dance (Written Paper: 1.5 hours- 40% of total AS marks/ 20% of total 'A' level marks). This unit aims to develop the students' knowledge and understanding in the craft and process of choreographing dance. There will be two essay style questions based on the dancer as performer, choreography and the significance of dance.

AS Unit 2: Choreography and Performance (Practical Coursework- 60% of total AS marks/ 30% of total 'A' level marks) The students will look at solo choreography, the skills that relate to solo choreography and finally performance skills in a duo/group context.

A2 Unit 3: Appreciation- Content and Context (Written Paper: 1.5 hours- 25% of total 'A' level marks) This section of the course allows students to gain an in-depth knowledge of the history of dance. Students will then have to investigate one genre within ballet, modern dance or jazz. They will be assessed on their responses to the genre and one set work from that genre.

A2 Unit 4: Group Choreography and Solo Performance (Practical Coursework- 25% of total 'A' level marks) The final unit of the course looks at developing skills from unit 2. They will investigate and research ideas about group choreography - the choreographer will not perform in this dance. Then they will look at their performance skills in a solo work taken from the area of dance they looked at during unit 3.

Entry Requirements

To gain a place on this course students are required to have achieved at least a C grade at GCSE in English Language.

Are there any special requirements that I need to be aware of?

It is important to be aware that this course is not a course in street or hip-hop dance. The course will look at a variety of dance styles (mainly from the 20th century and 'contemporary' dance will be the main dance studied).

Career Links

This qualification is recognised by universities and within the workplace. It is partnered well with Art, Drama, Media, Music and Textiles. You may go on to work in the field of theatre, performance, choreography, visual arts, journalism, arts admin/ management, dance therapy and teaching.

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN (3D DESIGN or TEXTILES)

Exam Board: AQA (2550 / 2560)

Course Summary

The specification has been designed to encourage candidates to take a broad view of technology and design, to develop their capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Two material areas are given in the Subject Content, 3D Design and Textiles.

3D Design is intended to reflect the wide-ranging activities of professional designers and covers a wide range of materials.

Textiles provides wide opportunities ranging from fashion and aesthetics to industrial uses of textiles and from creative and individual work to aspects of manufacturing and industrial and commercial practice.

The Modules are as follows: -

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Unit 1: Materials, Components and Application (PROD1)

A written paper which is 50% of the total AS marks

This paper is based primarily on Materials and Components.

Unit 2: Learning Through Designing and Making (PROD2)

This is a coursework module which is 50% of the total AS marks

It is approximately 50 hours of individual study

Unit 3: Design and Manufacture (PROD3)

This is a two-hour written paper worth 25% of the total 'A' level marks

This paper is based primarily on Design and Manufacture

Unit 4: Design and Making Practice (PROD4)

This is a coursework module consisting of approximately 60 hours of individual study.

Students have to complete a design folder of a manufactures outcome.

Entry requirements

A Grade C or better at GCSE in Resistant Materials or Textiles if it was studied at GCSE. If the subject has not been studied previously, students will require at least a grade C in Mathematics and English.

Career Links

This course prepares students for careers in a wide range of areas including careers in design, the Arts, media, marketing, building and construction, ICT, advertising, printing, engineering, manufacturing and production.

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY - FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Exam Board – AQA (2540)

Course Summary

At AS, candidates will have the opportunity to study nutrition and design and making in the human context. Knowledge of food science and a wide range of materials and components used in the making of food products will be developed. Candidates will be given the opportunity to develop and solve a problem relating to food design and making. They will gain an understanding of industrial and commercial practices within the area of Food Technology.

At A2, the specification offers candidates the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and practical skills from AS. Candidates will continue to develop design work alongside an understanding of food science, processes and commercial food manufacture.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

The AS specification has 2 units:

Unit 1: Assessment: 2 hour written exam; 50% of total AS

Unit 2: Coursework: Approx 50 hours; 50% of total AS

The A2 specification has 2 units:

Unit 3: Assessment: 2 hour written exam; 25% of total 'A' level marks

Unit 4: Coursework: Approx 60 hours; 25% of total 'A' level marks

Entry requirements

A Grade C or better at GCSE in Food Technology if it was studied at GCSE. If the subject has not been studied previously, students will require at least a grade C in Mathematics and English.

Other Information

This course will require the student to bring in ingredients from home and therefore a financial commitment from the parent or guardian will be necessary.

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN: GRAPHICS PRODUCTS

Board: Edexcel (9080)

Course Summary

Design and technology course seeks to develop a student's knowledge, understanding, skills and application for designing Graphic Products. It encompasses a wide range of disciplines, but is firmly rooted in the skills required to design and make high quality products. Products that are fit for purpose, satisfy wants or needs, enhance our daily lives and most importantly give students the opportunity to demonstrate their design and technology ability. We all want students to explore ideas of originality and value, to question and challenge, to envisage what could be, but equally we need them to achieve the results that will progress their careers. This new structure allows students to develop a range of skills and outcomes at AS which demonstrates their creativity and apply these to a design and make project at A2. The course will be assessed by both externally set examinations and internal assessment.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS units

Unit 1: Portfolio of Creative Skills (60% of total AS mark)

Internally set and marked by the centre and externally moderated by Edexcel
Students produce **one** portfolio that contains evidence of product investigation, product design and product manufacture. Photographic evidence must be supplied for the product(s) they have made.

Unit 2: Design and Technology in Practice (40% of total AS mark)

Externally set paper

A2 units

Unit 3: Designing for the Future (40% of total A2)

Externally assessed examination

Unit 4: Commercial Design (60% of total A2 mark)

Students design and make a product. This is evidenced in their design folder with photographic evidence of them making the product and of the final product itself.

Entry Requirements

A Grade C or better in Graphic Products, if the subject was studied at GCSE. If the subject has not been studied previously, students will require at least a grade C in Mathematics and English.

Career Links

This qualifications links with a wide variety of careers including Graphic Design, work in the Arts and Media, Advertising and Printing, Theatre Design, Product design and development, Architecture and Product Manufacture.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

Exam Board - Edexcel

Course Summary

This course will help students become well-rounded performers, with a balance of experiences and knowledge of a variety of different styles, practitioners and genres of theatre. The course will enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre, as well as develop their performing and analytical skills. Students will perform in devised, as well as scripted, pieces and study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Unit 1: Explore Drama and Theatre: 20% of the 'A' level

This unit introduces students to the content of plays written for the theatre. They will learn how to analyse plays so that they become familiar with the way written plays can be interpreted for performance. Both the practical work and the written coursework is marked internally and moderated externally.

Unit 2: Theatre Text in Performance: 30% of the 'A' level

This unit offers the students the chance to demonstrate skills in a performance environment. Students will take part in a performance of a scripted play and in a monologue or duologue. Students have the option to choose either stage design or acting for the scripted performance.

Unit 3: Exploration of Dramatic Performance: 20% of the 'A' level

This unit requires students to devise their own performances. They will be required to undertake an assessed performance in front of an audience, along with a piece of coursework showing development of the devising process.

Unit 4: Theatre Text in Context: 30% of the 'A' level

This unit requires the students to examine a set text and a historical text through practical work and through the point of view of a director. The reflections and evaluations of this work are assessed by a written examination.

Entry Requirements

English Language GCSE grade C or better and a grade C or better in Drama if studied at GCSE.

Career Links

Can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies or Performing Arts at Universities or Higher Education Colleges. Also compliments a range of subjects and is useful in building confidence, improving presentation skills and developing an awareness of the world around us, which are all vital skills in the modern work place.

ECONOMICS

Exam Board - AQA 1141/2141

Course Summary

Through this course students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories, through critical consideration of current economic issues, so as to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real world events.

At AS students will develop an understanding of, and an insight into, micro and macro economics. At A2, students will study the impact of globalisation on UK economic performance and the effect of European Union membership and economic policy on the UK economy.

Modules to be Studied

The course is divided into 4 modules with 2 covered in year 12 for the AS and then 2 more completed in Year 13 for the full 'A' level.

Unit 1 - Markets and Market Failure

Unit 2 - The National Economy

Unit 3 - Business Economics and the Distribution of Income

Unit 4 - The National and International Economy

Assessment Arrangements

All units are externally assessed.

Units 1 and 2 each involve 25 multiple-choice questions. This is followed in each case by 2 data response questions, from which students choose 1 on each paper.

Units 3 and 4 each involve 2 data response questions, from which students choose 1 on each paper. These questions will relate to the global context and the EU context. This is followed in each case by 3 essay questions, from which students choose 1 on each paper.

Entry Requirements

A grade C or better at GCSE level in both English Language and Maths.

Career Links

As a social science, Economics can be studied successfully alongside many other subjects and, as a result, career opportunities open to those who have studied the subject can be wide ranging. Students can follow degree-based courses as well as entering into advertising, banking, the police force and marketing, among other careers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Exam Board - AQA (B)

Course Summary

If you enjoy reading, but would also like to develop your knowledge and understanding of English Language, as well as your skills of analysis and creative writing, then this course is a good option.

We study a range of texts from both classic and modern literature including plays, poetry and fiction. We also look at spoken language in both fiction and non-fiction, comparing the differences between speech and writing.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

The course is made up of four units, two are studied at AS and two at A2.

Unit 1 – An Introduction to Language and Literature Study (Written Paper, 1 hour 30 minutes) – you will learn a variety of techniques and technical terms associated with the analysis of English Language, including sentence structure and grammar; applying them to a range of spoken and written texts in an Anthology on the same theme.

Unit 2 – Themes in Language and Literature (Coursework) – you will study two texts*, written at least one hundred years apart, to analyse how language changes over time. You will then complete two assignments.

Unit 3 – Talk in Life and Literature (Written Paper 2 hours) – we look at how everyday talk differs from dialogue in stories and plays. There are two questions in the exam.

Unit 4 – Text Transformation (Coursework) – you will be given the opportunity to show your knowledge of how texts work by transforming two literary (poetry, prose or drama) works from a prescribed list into a different genre.

Entry Requirements

Students should have achieved a grade C at GCSE in English Language.

Career Links

All careers welcome English as a subject, which develops communication skills. It is a particularly useful subject to study if you have an interest in following a career in journalism, the media, the law, writing, publishing or teaching.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board – AQA (A)

Course Summary

An accessible and inspiring course that encourages students to both enjoy and learn from the variety and richness of texts available to us in English Literature. The course consists of four units, two at AS and two at A2.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

At AS level you will study six texts - three in detail (one of each genre) and three texts for wider reading and contextual support, delivered mainly through extracts.

AS Unit 1: Texts in Context (Written Paper: 2 hours/open book exam.) There are three alternative areas of study. Option A – Victorian Literature: Option B – World War1 Literature. Option C - The Struggle for identity in Modern Literature. One poetry set text to be studied from a choice of three, plus wider reading.

AS Unit 2: Creative Study (coursework 2000 words) This will be linked to the chosen area of study in unit 1. One set prose and one set drama text to be studied from a varied selection. The coursework folder will contain two pieces of writing, one on the selected prose text and one on the selected drama text.

A2 Unit 3 : Reading for Meaning (Written Paper 2 hours /closed book exam containing unprepared passages for close study, comparison and critical commentary) This final examination paper combines the skills and learning of the whole course. The topic for this unit is **Love through the Ages** and students will read the equivalent of three texts (using whole texts and extracts). Candidates will have the opportunity to read : the three genres of prose, poetry and drama; Literature written by both men and women; Literature through time (from Chaucer to the present day); Some non-fiction.

A2 Unit 4 : Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study (coursework 3000 to 4000 words) This will form an appropriate foundation for the work in unit 3.

Three texts will be studied, the first a Shakespeare play, the other two will be of any genre. The coursework folder will contain two pieces of writing: An extended essay comparing two texts a shorter response to a chosen extract from the Shakespeare play.

Entry Requirements

To be accepted on this course students are required to have achieved at least a C grade at GCSE in English Language.

Career Links

A versatile qualification recognised by all universities for its rigour and relevance to the skills required in the workplace.

GENERAL STUDIES

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

All students will study 'A' level General Studies in Years 12 and 13 and take the examinations at the end of each year. The specifications aim to give candidates the opportunity to extend their interest to a wide range of disciplines; recognise the interdependence of different areas of study and experience; think critically and logically; develop skills of study, analysis and evaluation of chosen issues, and provide clear, accurate and effective communication of information and evaluation.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1: Challenges for Society	1 ½ hour examination, including multiple choice, data response and short essay questions	Unit 3: Change and Progress	1 ½ hour examination, including data response and essay questions
Unit 2: Individual in Society	1 ½ hour examination, including multiple choice, data response and short essay questions	Unit 4: Beliefs Values and Responsibilities	1 ½ hour examination, including data response and essay questions

GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board – Edexcel

Course Summary

The Geography course covers a range of both human and physical Geography units. It focuses upon the Geographical issues that are shaping our world today and developing the research skills needed to understand and manage these issues successfully. It is expected that students choosing this course will attend a residential fieldtrip in Dorset to help with the fieldwork investigative skills needed for unit 2.

Modules to be studied and Assessment Arrangements

At AS level students study Units 1 and 2 and at 'A' level Units 3 and 4.

Unit 1 : Global Challenges: 1.5 hour exam - 30% of 'A' level

2 sections: The World at Risk, which includes Global Hazards and Climate Change. Going Global, which includes the human issues related to Globalisation eg Migration, Global Companies and Sustainable Cities.

Unit 2 : Geographical Investigations: 1 hour exam - 20% of 'A' level

Fieldwork and research activities focussing on: Crowded coasts, looking at coastal management and impacts of coastal flooding. Re-branding places, studying the re-imaging and regeneration of both rural and urban areas.

Unit 3 : Contested Planet: 2.5 hour exam - 30% of 'A' level

The second section of the exam is based on pre-released information and expects students to draw together their geographical understanding to analyse issues and offer management solutions.

Unit 4 : Geographical research: 1.5 hour exam - 20% of 'A' level. This includes a pre-released research focus made available to students four weeks in advance of their exam and which would focus on a wide range of topics.

Entry Requirements

GCSE at C grade or better in Maths and English Language. If students have studied Geography they need to have achieved a grade C or better.

Career Links

Geography is an excellent subject to take in higher education. Students who study Geography are recognised as being capable of skilled data analysis and presentation coupled with effective communication skills. Geography students often find employment in Advertising, Education, Environmental Management, Financial Services, Law, Marketing, Retailing, Sales or the Social and Health Services.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Exam board-Edexcel

<u>AS Unit 1 and 2 (compulsory)</u>	<u>A2 Optional Units 1, 2, 3 and 4</u>
Unit 1 - People and Politics Unit 2 - Governing the UK	Unit 3 - Global structures Unit 4 - Global Political Issues

Course Summary;

At AS – In Units 1 and 2 students will learn about: the nature of democracy and political participation in the UK, political ideas, elections, the constitution, Parliament, the roles of the prime minister, cabinet, judicial independence, civil liberties and the role of pressure groups in the political process.

At A2 - In Unit 3 students will learn about: state sovereignty, globalisation of the economy and politics, global governance (UN, IMF), the role of the EU and world order. This is extended in Unit 4 to include wider global issues such as: sources of global conflict, the war on terror, problems of nuclear proliferation, neo-colonialism, the global poverty divide, corruption in governments, global warming and global environmental threats, the fundamentals of international law and human rights issues.

Assessment.

Unit 1 - 80 min written exam, consisting of 2 questions from a choice of 4.

Unit 2 - 80 min written exam, consisting of 2 questions from a choice of 4.

Unit 3 - 90 min written exam 3 short answer questions from a choice of 5.

Unit 4 - 90 min written exam 3 short answer questions from a choice of 5.

Entry Requirements

The minimum requirement for this course will be an English Language GCSE at grade C.

Career Links

Government and Politics is an excellent choice for a wide range of careers. An 'A' level in this subject will equip you for careers not just in politics but also in management, retail, accountancy, banking, and other professions. Its natural partner subjects are History, Philosophy and Ethics, Citizenship, Law and English

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (SINGLE AWARD)

Exam Board - Edexcel (6938/01)

Course Summary

Health, Social and early years care is a vast and expanding area with a very wide range of opportunities for employment and further study. This course will give you a very good grounding in some of the major aspects of HSC. It will involve independent research of case studies, practical research skills, work experience / shadowing and give you a broad introduction to the health, social care and early years' sectors.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

The AS Course consists of three modules : Human Growth and Development (Exam); Communication and Values (Portfolio); Positive Care Environments (Portfolio). The AS Module 1 is a study of a human life from birth until old age and all the various factors that impact upon the way in which the body develops, physically and mentally, as it passes through each of the life stages. Module 2 considers the communication skills necessary to work with people in care and the importance of making the right communication with service users. Module 3 investigates the factors required to set up a positive care environment and using a vocational placement the student considers how the placement follows and interprets national legislation.

The A2 Course consists of three Modules : (1) Meeting Individual Needs (Exam); (assesses your knowledge and understanding of how health and social care services are structured and provided in the UK and how they meet individual needs). (2) Promoting Health and Wellbeing (Portfolio) (learning about health promotion campaigns, you will plan, organise and carry out your own small-scale promotion and present it as a portfolio of coursework); (3) Investigating Disease (Portfolio) (investigates concepts of health and disease, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the spread of disease. A report of chosen diseases is produced as a portfolio).

Entry Requirements

The minimum requirement for this course will be an English Language GCSE at grade C.

Career Links

This qualification can lead to a variety of careers that involve various levels of caring, health and wellbeing of people, eg physiotherapist, paramedic, nurse, child carer, occupational therapist, neurologist, radiologist.

HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE (DOUBLE AWARD)

Exam Board – Edexcel

Course Summary

Health, Social and early years care is a vast and expanding area with a very wide range of opportunities for employment and further study. This course will give you a very good grounding in some of the major aspects of HSC. It will involve independent research of case studies, practical research skills, work experience / shadowing and give you a broad introduction to the health, social care and early years' sector.

Modules to be Studied

The Double Award consists of 12 units :

In the AS units you will learn about:

Unit 1 Human Growth and Development (exam)
Unit 2 Communication and Values
Unit 3 Positive Care Environments
Unit 4 Social Aspects and Lifestyle Choices (exam)
Unit 5 Activities for Health and Wellbeing
Unit 6 Public Health

In the A2 units you will learn about:

Unit 7 Meeting Individual Needs (exam)
Unit 8 Promoting Health and Wellbeing
Unit 9 Investigating Disease
Unit 10 Using and Understanding Research
Unit 11 Social Issues and Welfare Needs
Unit 12 Understanding Human Behaviour (exam)

Assessment Arrangements

- One third of the course is assessed by examination - 1½ hour papers.
- Two thirds of the course is assessed by portfolio coursework involving case studies, activities and individual research/visits, etc.
- You will learn to become a more independent and flexible learner with good IT and research skills.

Entry Requirements

You need a C grade or better in GCSE English Language.

Career Links

You could move on to study for a degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma in related subjects, or you could go on to relevant employment within health and social care services. This is an excellent course for students looking to a career in nursing, medicine, teaching, social work, early years careers, paramedics, etc. The course links well with 'A' level Psychology, Sociology, Biology, PE, Humanities, English, Media, ICT.

HISTORY

Exam Board – Edexcel

Course Summary

The History course for AS and A2 students covers a variety of topics ranging from the middle ages through to the modern world. Students will study two British units and two world units that will be assessed through a combination of external exams and internal coursework.

Modules to be studied

At AS level students will study two units:

Unit 1 : Pursuing Life and Liberty: Equality in the USA 1945-68 and Ideology, Conflict and Retreat: The USA in Asia 1950-73.

Unit 2 : Britain 1860-1930 – The changing role of women and the Suffrage question.

At A2 students will also study two units:

Unit 3 : Britain and the Challenge of Fascism: Saving Europe at a cost?, 1925-60.

Unit 4 : Rebellion and Disorder in Tudor England, 1485-1587.

Assessment Arrangements

The four modules studied are assessed through a combination of internal and external methods. Both units 1 and 2 are externally assessed through an exam lasting 1 hour and 20 minutes per paper. Unit 3 is also externally assessed with an exam lasting 2 hours. Unit 4 is an internally assessed piece of coursework.

Entry Requirements

To study History students are required to have a GCSE at C grade or better in English.

Career Links

History is an excellent subject to take in higher education. Students who study History are recognised as being capable of detailed analysis and effective communication, skills required in most employment. Direct employment from History is limited to teaching, archaeology and archive work but journalism, the legal profession, the police and many caring professions welcome History specialists.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board – OCR

Course Summary

The ICT department offer the OCR Level 3 National Certificate in ICT. The course provides an in-depth look at ICT in the modern workplace through ongoing learning and assessment of the practical skills and knowledge required to succeed in ICT-related careers or courses.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Unit 1 – Digital Business Communication

Students develop knowledge and understanding of communication in the business context, and learn the effective use of ICT in business communications. The unit includes: document and computer security in the workplace, the role and contribution of communication technology to business, the application of a house style to document creation and using spreadsheets to store and analyse data.

Unit 2 – Collaborative Working

This unit focuses on the knowledge and understanding required for collaborative working on an ICT project. Skills covered include: planning as part of a group, investigating the use of ICT tools to support collaborative working and research for a group project.

Unit 3 – Problem Solving

Students develop skills and knowledge which enable them to use various techniques to analyse and interpret numerical data. Some of the key skills taught here are defining statistical problems, collecting data, using spreadsheets to store and analyse data, and methods of data presentation.

Unit 4 – Creating a Digital Showcase

Students develop knowledge, skills and understanding to develop an interactive multimedia product to showcase an event or situation. In doing so students specify requirements, design solutions and author an interactive multimedia product.

Two further units are selected from: Unit 5 – Advanced Spreadsheets, Unit 6 – Advanced Databases, Unit 7 – Desktop Publishing, OR alternative units from the specialist pathways.

Assessment

There are six equally weighted units graded as Pass (equivalent to E), Merit (equivalent to C) or Distinction (equivalent to A). Assessment is by coursework, there are no examinations.

LAW

Exam Board - OCR AS/2 Law (H134 and H534)

Course Summary

You will study the legal system in England and Wales, as well as seeing how law changes over time. It is a stimulating and challenging course that will equip you with the skills of logic and reasoning and also give you an understanding of the way in which the Law influences our everyday lives.

Modules to be Studied

You will cover **four** units, divided equally over the two years:

AS Level : English Legal System: You will gain an overview of how both the civil and the criminal courts work and learn about the role played by both legal and lay personnel.

Sources of Law: You will look at how laws are created. This will include parliament's legislation, as well as the European Union and the role of the courts in creating law through judicial precedent.

A2 Level : Criminal Law: You will study a range of different offences, including offences against the person, principles of criminal liability, general defences (including insanity, duress and intoxication) and offences against property. **Criminal Law Special Study:** This will focus on a single theme from the English Legal System and relate it to one area of criminal law. The current topic is the defence and necessity. This will be pre-released to allow you and your teacher to explore it in class.

Assessment Arrangements

The course is assessed purely through **examination**. There will be a mixture of essay questions and problem questions.

Entry Requirements

You will require a grade C or better in English Language GCSE.

Career Links

Law is an excellent choice for a wide range of careers because of the emphasis on providing clear, analytical argument. Naturally it provides an excellent foundation for those wishing to follow careers in law, as well as many other professions. It is particularly useful for subjects like Criminology, Sociology, History and Business - related degrees, as well as more diverse professions such as Social Work or the Probation service. It is very widely accepted by universities.

MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: OCR Specification: AS – 3890 / A2 – 7890

Course Summary

For some the study of Mathematics is an essential pre-requisite for Higher Education, for others it is a subject they have always enjoyed and excelled at. One key aim of the course will be to encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of Mathematics, to promote confidence and foster enjoyment of the subject for its own intrinsic value. It will develop students' ability to reason logically, to generalise and to develop mathematical models.

Modules to be Studied

Year 12 : Core 1, Core 2, Mechanics 1

Year 13 : Core 3, Core 4, Statistics 1

Module	Overview
Core 1	Begins by developing familiar topics from GCSE, such as equations of lines, quadratics, and circles then extending these ideas to include calculus.
Core 2	Develops the student's knowledge of trigonometry, sequences and integration to include series and area under a curve.
Core 3	Explores functions, trigonometry and numerical methods and develops differentiation and integration techniques.
Core 4	This module explores differentiation and integration further and includes the practical application of differential equations that occur at 'A' Level physics.
Mechanics 1	This module studies forces and Newton's laws of motion, kinematics of moving particles, linear momentum and equilibrium of a particle.
Probability and Statistics 1	This involves probability, representation of data, random variables and bivariate data.

Assessment Arrangements

All modules are assessed through a written examination.

Entry Requirements

Students will be expected to have a minimum of GCSE grade B, following the higher tier. Students who achieve a grade C following the higher tier will be considered for the course but will be required to attend an interview with the Head of Mathematics, having completed the work from the induction course over the summer.

Career Links

If you are considering university courses 'A' level Mathematics is essential for some degree options such as Physics, Computing and Engineering. Other students may feel the Mathematics would complement other 'A' level subjects such as the Sciences, Geography, Social Sciences.

MATHEMATICS (FURTHER)

Exam Board: OCR Specification: AS – 3892 A2 – 7892

Course Summary

This is a course for students who are fascinated by Mathematics. Generally it develops the ideas studied at 'A' level Mathematics to a higher level. It can be a very useful course for students considering mathematics or the physical sciences at a top university.

Modules to be Studied

Module	Overview
Decision 1	A relatively new discipline in Mathematics, but nonetheless has its uses in modelling real life situations. This includes graph theory, networks and algorithms and linear programming.
Decision 2	This module extends the work completed in Decision 1 and extends to include game theory, flows in networks, matchings and allocation problems, critical path analysis and dynamic programming.
Further Pure 1	This module lays the foundation for degree courses. It includes complex numbers, matrices and series.
Further Pure 2	This module covers polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and further techniques of differentiation and integration.
Further Pure 3	This module explores differential equations, vectors and complex numbers in greater depth and introduces group theory.
Probability and Statistics 2	This module builds on the work completed in Probability and Statistics 1 and extends to include continuous random variables, the normal and Poisson distributions and hypothesis testing.
Mechanics 2	This module builds on the work completed in Mechanics 1 and extends to include projectile motion, collisions, centre of mass, motion in a circle and energy, work and power.

Assessment Arrangements

All modules are assessed through a written examination.

Entry Requirements

Students will be expected to have a minimum of GCSE grade A, students who achieve a grade B will be considered for the course but will be required to attend an interview with the Head of Mathematics, having completed the work from the induction course in the summer term.

MATHS - USE OF MATHEMATICS (AS Qualification only)

Exam Board - AQA

Course Summary

The applications of Mathematics and statistics are key components of a wide range of subject disciplines both at 'A' level and degree level. The ability to understand, evaluate and interpret data is essential in many vocational areas. This course is designed to develop these skills without getting into the more abstract area of Mathematics. A key objective of the course is to develop mathematical models of real life situations and then use these models to interpret situations and make predictions. The course has been developed to cater for students wishing to study some Mathematics at Advanced level for whom the ability to critically analyse data will be of value.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Working with Algebraic and Graphical Techniques			
Coursework Portfolio		50% of Assessment	
Written Paper with short and extended answer questions		50% of Assessment 1 hour 30 minutes	
+			
EITHER		OR	
Using and Applying Statistics		Modelling with Calculus	
Coursework Portfolio	50% of Assessment	Coursework Portfolio	50% of Assessment
Written Paper with short and extended answer questions	50% of Assessment 1 hour 30 minutes	Written Paper with short and extended answer questions	50% of Assessment 1 hour 30 minutes
+			
Applying Mathematics			
Written Paper comprehension		30% of Assessment 1 hour	
Written Paper with short and extended answer questions		70% of Assessment 1 hour 30 minutes	

Entry Requirements

Students are expected to have achieved at least grade C in GCSE Mathematics.

Career Links

It is likely to prove attractive and useful to a wide range of students considering careers related to Physics, Social Sciences, Humanities, Business, Psychology, Health and Social Care and Leisure and Tourism.

MEDIA STUDIES

Exam Board - OCR

Specifications: H140 (AS); H540 (A2)

Course Summary

The course enables students to become involved in research, theories and ideas relating to the media; show evidence of independent study; and communicate effectively using media technology.

Modules to be Studied

The A2 course is delivered through four modules.

The course involves two **Practical Production** units, the **Foundation Portfolio** in Year 12, and the **Advanced Portfolio** in Year 13, which account for 50% of the final marks. The other units, accounting for the remaining 50% of marks, are **Key Media Concepts** in Year 12 and **Critical Perspectives in Media** in Year 13. As with GCSE, there is a good deal of 'hands on' activity, but students are also expected to produce in-depth analytical work.

Entry Requirements

You require a grade C or better in English Language at GCSE.

The course is specifically designed to ensure progression from GCSE but it is not necessary to have taken GCSE Media Studies to be eligible for this course (although, of course, it is an advantage). If you have taken Media Studies at GCSE you will be expected to have achieved a grade C or above to begin the 'A' level course.

Career Links

Students who have studied Media Studies in the past have progressed on to higher and further education courses in broadcasting, film production and many other areas.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH)

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Summary

At AS and 'A' level all four language skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) have to be developed and are of equal importance. Studying French involves learning vocabulary and grammar and individual conversation classes with our Foreign Language Assistant. There will be interactive learning, doing presentations, responding to texts, debates, arguing your point of view in the foreign language, responding to films and recordings from French television, radio or the internet. You will read British and foreign newspapers and become aware of current affairs issues in Europe and of recent European history. In the spring of Year 12, we offer a work experience placement in France, during which students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture and thought processes via the language.

Students will develop their ability to learn independently, to research on the internet and to use other foreign language resources. The opportunity exists in the coursework for students to pursue their own interests in the foreign language whether in scientific developments, the arts or historical events.

Modules to be Studied

AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1: Speaking	Conducted by teacher and externally marked	Unit 4: Speaking	Conducted and marked by visiting examiner
Unit 2: Listening and Responding	Examination	Unit 5: Cultural Studies	Coursework
Unit 3: Reading and Responding	Examination	Unit 6: Listening, Reading and Responding	Examination

Entry Requirements

Students need to have achieved at least a grade B in French at GCSE.

Career Links

The study of a language beyond GCSE opens up many possibilities. The most obvious opportunity is that of working abroad. Similarly, many companies in Great Britain now require knowledge of a European language as a condition of employment. Former students have gone on to employment in marketing, journalism, tourism, scientific research, medicine, teaching, law, the leisure industry and many more.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (GERMAN)

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Summary

At AS and 'A' level all four language skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) have to be developed and are of equal importance. What will studying a language beyond GCSE be like? It will involve vocabulary and grammar learning and individual conversation classes with our Foreign Language Assistant, who is a native speaker. There will be interactive learning, doing presentations, responding to texts, debates, arguing your point of view in the foreign language, responding to films and recordings from German television, radio or the internet. You will read British and foreign newspapers and become aware of issues in current affairs in Europe and of European history, particularly the recent past. In the spring of Year 12, we offer a work experience placement in Germany, during which students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture and thought processes via the language.

Students will develop their ability to learn independently, to research on the Internet and to use other foreign language resources. The opportunity exists in the coursework for students to pursue their own interests in the foreign language whether in scientific developments, the arts or historical events.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

Exam Board: WJEC German			
AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1: Speaking	Conducted by teacher and externally marked	Unit 4: Speaking	Conducted and marked by visiting examiner
Unit 2: Listening and Responding	Examination	Unit 5: Cultural Studies	Coursework
Unit 3: Reading and Responding	Examination	Unit 6: Listening, Reading, and Responding	Examination

Entry Requirements

GCSE German grade B or better is required for this course.

Career Links

The study of a language beyond GCSE opens up many possibilities. The most obvious opportunity is that of working abroad, using the language learnt. Similarly, many companies in Great Britain now require knowledge of a European language as a condition of employment. Former students have gone on to employment in marketing, journalism, tourism, scientific research, medicine, teaching, law, the leisure industry and many more.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (SPANISH)

Exam Board: WJEB

Course Summary

At AS and 'A' level all four language skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) have to be developed and are of equal importance. What will studying a language beyond GCSE be like? It will involve vocabulary and grammar learning and individual conversation classes. There will be interactive learning, doing presentations, responding to texts, debates, arguing your point of view in the foreign language, responding to films and recordings from Spanish television, radio or the internet. You will read British and foreign newspapers and become aware of issues in current affairs in Europe and of European history, particularly the recent past. Students will also need to acquire knowledge about other Spanish speaking countries, i.e. South America. There might be the possibility of a work experience in Spain in the spring of Year 12. Students will develop their ability to learn independently, to research on the Internet and to use other foreign language resources. The opportunity exists in the coursework for students to pursue their own interests whether in science, the arts or historical events.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1: Speaking	Conducted by teacher and externally marked	Unit 4: Speaking	Conducted and marked by visiting examiner
Unit 2: Listening and Responding	Examination	Unit 5: Cultural Studies	Coursework
Unit 3: Reading and Responding	Examination	Unit 6: Listening, Reading, and Responding	Examination

Entry Requirements

Students require a GCSE grade B in Spanish.

Career Links

The study of a language beyond GCSE opens up many possibilities. The most obvious opportunity is that of working abroad. Similarly many companies now require knowledge of a European language. Former students have gone on to employment in marketing, journalism, tourism, scientific research, medicine, teaching, law, the leisure industry and many more.

MUSIC

Examination Board – Edexcel

Course Summary

The Music course for AS and A2 students demands performing, composing, listening and analytical skills in almost equal measure. Students will improve their skills in performing and composing in a range of styles. They will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why it was written and/or performed. Students will be assessed through a combination of external exams and internal coursework.

Modules to be studied

At AS level students will study 3 units:

Unit 1 : Performance – Solo and Ensemble

Unit 2 : Composing

Unit 3 : Developing Musical Understanding

At A2 students will also study 3 units:

Unit 4 : Extended Performance

Unit 5 : Composing and Technical study

Unit 6 : Further Musical Understanding

Students have some choice within each Unit, mainly a focus on either classical or popular music. The lessons will contain both group work and individual study and also both written and practical work.

Assessment Arrangements

The units studied are assessed through a combination of internal and external methods. Unit 3 and 6 are written exams lasting two hours.

Entry Requirements

Students should have already gained grade A* - C in GCSE Music and should be able to perform on a musical instrument or voice to a minimum standard equivalent to Grade 5. A good understanding of theory is essential.

Career Links

The course will develop a deeper understanding of a wide range of music and help those students hoping to study Music or the Arts in Higher Education. It gives experience to those who wish to pursue a vocation in Music or the Arts and complements the study of a BTEC National Diploma Course.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board – Edexcel

Course Summary

You will complete three areas of study. These are: The Principles and Practice of Music Technology, Popular Music Styles since 1910 and The Development of Technology-based Music. Through these areas of study you will learn how to: produce performances using sequencing software in a range of musical styles; develop the skills required to make high quality recordings of musical performances; learn how to compose and arrange using technology; develop your knowledge of the principles and development of music technology; learn how to control and interpret data.

Modules to be studied

At AS level students will study:

Unit 1a: Sequenced Realised Performance

Unit 1b: Multi Track Recording

Unit 1c: Creative Sequenced Arrangement

Unit 2 : Listening and Analysing

At A2 students will study:

Unit 3a: Sequenced Integrated Performance

Unit 3b: Multi Track Recording

Unit 3c: Composing using Music Technology

Unit 4: Analysing and Producing

Assessment Arrangements

The units studied are all externally assessed. Units 1 and 3 are coursework and units 2 and 4 involve a written examination lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and 2 hours respectively.

Entry Requirements

Students preferably should have already gained grade A*-C at GCSE Music and should be able to perform on a musical instrument to a standard equivalent to Grade 4. Although an important focus of the course will be jazz and popular music it is aimed equally at musicians who wish to use technology to realise traditional music and those who wish to exploit its potential for new music. Although there is no solo or group performance in this subject, students will need to show a high level of instrumental skill and a good understanding of music theory. Keyboard skills are needed.

Career links

An advanced GCE in Music Technology can lead to further study of music technology or performing arts at higher national or degree level. It can also help you on your way to a career in the music industry or to a technology/computer orientated career.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board - Edexcel

Course Summary

Photographic images, used by the mass media and the visual arts reflect some of the most complex ideas within society. By taking this course, students develop the ability to understand and communicate this visual information whilst learning the skills and techniques needed to express themselves through the medium of photography.

The course enables students to explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes, using both traditional and digital technologies. Students will cover the areas of: portraiture, landscape photography, still-life, documentary photography, photo journalism, experimental imagery, photographic installation, video, television and film before choosing one or more of these areas to focus on.

Modules Studied and Assessment Arrangements

At AS, two units will be completed; a coursework portfolio and an externally set assignment. At A2, students will carry out a personal investigation for the third unit and an externally set assignment at the end of the course. Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work throughout the course.

Each of the units are assessed internally and externally moderated.

Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements but, ideally, students will have studied Art or Media Studies at GCSE. If not, students will need to have a genuine interest in photography.

Career Links

This course prepares students for further courses and/or careers in a wide range of areas including the Arts, media and advertising, in roles such as: freelance photographer, assistant, picture editor, teacher, cinematography or work in related fields such as print media, film or journalism.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board – OCR

AS - H154 – Units G451, G452 (AS)

A2 - H554 – Units G453, G454 (A2)

Course Summary

The OCR PE specification takes a multi-disciplinary approach, encouraging the development of different methods of enquiry drawn from a wide range of disciplines, with the focal point being the performer and the performance. The specifications are based on the interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education.

Modules to be Studied

The course is divided into four modules with two covered in year 12 for the AS and then two more completed in Year 13 for A2.

Year 12 (AS)

G451 - An Introduction to Physical Education

G452 - Acquiring, Developing and Evaluating Practical Skills in Physical Education

Year 13 (A2)

G453 - Principles and Concepts across Different Areas of Physical Education

G454 - The Improvement of Effective Performance and the Critical Evaluation of Practical Activities in Physical Education

Assessment Arrangements

All theoretical units are externally assessed.

Practical units are internally assessed and moderated externally

Entry Requirements

Grade C or better in GCSE Science.

Career Links

The specifications provide a suitable foundation for specialist study in both Physical Education and Sports Studies in higher education and are also suitable qualifications for other areas of study. The specifications provide an excellent foundation for candidates intending to pursue careers in teaching and coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, health, leisure and fitness and professional sport.

PHYSICS

Exam Board: OCR (Advancing Physics)

Course Summary

This Physics course has been designed to incorporate aspects of Physics that are interesting and relevant to the modern world. The carefully planned structure has the advantage that the order in which the work is covered, the experiments, the homework questions, and even the examinations, have been selected to dovetail together, and so reinforce each other. The AS and A2 courses are presented on a CD ROM which contains all the experimental details, questions and software based activities you need. Students are encouraged to discuss the ideas involved in Physics and carry out experiments in small groups. You must be prepared to write up these experiments and communicate findings to others.

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS Modules	Method of Assessment	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1 Physics in Action	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour	Unit 4 The Rise and Fall of the Clockwork Universe	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
Unit 2 Understanding Processes and Experimentation and Data Handling	External assessment Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes	Unit 5 Field Particle Pictures and Advances in Physics (synoptic element)	External assessment Written exam: 2 hours
Unit 3 Physics in Practice	Internal assessment Two short pieces of coursework	Unit 6 Practical Investigation Research Briefing	Internal assessment Two pieces of coursework

Entry Requirements

Two Sciences and Maths GCSE grade C or better. It is not necessary to study 'A' level Maths to do Physics but you must be able to learn to rearrange formula and handle difficult numbers work. Use of Mathematics AS level would cover all the essential mathematics for Physics 'A' level.

Career Links

Physics is a desirable subject to have at 'A' level and amongst the many possible careers it may support are engineering, management, banking and accountancy. Don't forget that girls with qualifications in this area are very much in demand!

PSYCHOLOGY

Exam Board – AQA ‘A’

Course Summary

Psychology is the science of the mind. The human mind is the most complex machine on Earth. It is the source of all thought and behaviour. In Psychology 'A' Level we will study the main approaches Psychologists use and learn how to use them. The course looks at how individuals behave, how their behaviour is measured and what factors influence their behaviour.

Some of the questions you will look at are: “How do we remember and why do we forget?”; “What is abnormality?”; “What causes eating disorders?”; “How do we form relationships and why?” “How do we manage stress and what makes people aggressive?”

Modules to be Studied and Assessment Arrangements

AS Modules	Method of Assessment and Weighting	A2 Level Modules	Method of Assessment
Unit 1 : Cognitive psychology; Developmental psychology; Research methods	Exam : 1 hour 30 minutes including short answers Weighting: 25% of ‘A’ level 50% of AS Level	Unit 3 : Topics in Psychology from: Biological rhythms and sleep, perception, relationships, aggression, eating behaviour, gender, intelligence and learning and cognition and development	1 hour 30 minutes written exam Weighting: 25% of ‘A’ level
Unit 2 : Biological psychology; Social psychology; Individual differences	Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes including short answers Weighting: 25% of ‘A’ level 50% of AS Level	Unit 4 : Psychopathology, Psychology in action and Research Methods	2 hour written examination Weighting: 25% of ‘A’ level

Entry Requirements

Students would be expected to have achieved a grade C or better in English Language and Mathematics GCSE.

Career Links

Psychology ‘A’ level is flexible and will equip you with the skills to study just about any subject or enter a job requiring some level of understanding about human behaviour. Careers such as Teaching, Social Work, Law, Business, Healthcare and many more will benefit from some psychological knowledge.

PUBLIC SERVICES BTEC LEVEL 3 (SUBSIDIARY DIPLOMA)

Exam Board – BTEC/Edexcel

Course Summary

This is 'A' level 3 course equivalent to AS and A2 level courses. Public services employ millions of people including the Police, Fire Service; Armed Services, NHS, Education, etc. This course would provide an excellent preparation for students who wish to be employed in Public Services or follow higher education courses in related areas.

Course Units

There is a mix of mandatory and optional units covering areas such as:

- Government, Policies and the Public Services
- Leadership and Teamwork in the Public Services
- Physical Preparation, Health and Lifestyle in the Public Services
- Outdoor and Adventurous Expeditions

Assessment

Will be internally assessed by portfolio assignments, with a mix of written and practical activities. 100% coursework.

Entry Requirements

Good writing and IT skills will be required and an interest in a future career in Public Services would be very useful.

Links with Other Subjects

Level 3 Public Services would mix well with a range of other 'A' levels, e.g. Law, Business, Sociology, Health, Government and Politics, History, Geography, etc.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS)

Exam Board – OCR (Philosophy and Ethics) H172 / H572

Course Summary

This is a course based upon Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics (the religious content is minimal).

Modules to be Studied

At AS level (Year 12) the Philosophy element contains the traditional arguments that attempt to prove the existence (or not) of a God and Greek/Jewish influences on the philosophy of religion. In addition to these we study challenges to religious belief from science and the problem of evil. The Ethics element contains the various major ethical theories including Kantian ethics, Utilitarianism and Natural Law and in depth analysis of issues such as abortion, genetics, euthanasia and war.

At A2 level (Year 13) we study the nature of religious language, religious experience, miracles, life after death, the nature of the soul and the nature of God. The Ethics element includes meta-ethics, free will and determinism, the conscience, virtue ethics and additional moral issues such as environmental and business ethics and sexual ethics.

Assessment Arrangements

All are assessed through a written examination, two at the end of Year 12 and two at the end of Year 13.

Entry Requirements

Grade C or better in English Language and RE (short course or full course).

Career Links

A powerful entry into university. The 'A' level enhances students' abilities to think and express themselves. Self-confidence is, therefore, a bi-product of the two-year course and, as such, the students can enter a whole range of careers including personnel, banking, the economy, law, nursing etc.

SOCIOLOGY

Exam Board - AQA

Course Summary

Sociology is the study of society and its institutions eg families, education, religion and media. It also allows us to understand the differences and divisions in society in the context of ethnicity, class and gender.

Modules to be Studied

Some of the questions we ask are:

- Why do we need our families? What is the function of parents?
- What is the function of education? Why do some students achieve higher than others?
- Do we need religion in today's society? What is the function of religion?
- Why do people commit suicide and how do we research it? Why are some people more likely to fall into the pattern of crime?

Unit	Title	Weighting of Module
1	Families and Households	20%
2	Education and Research Methods	30%
3	Beliefs in Society	20%
4	Crime and Deviance	30%

Assessment Arrangements

All modules are examined through a written paper.

Entry Requirements

Students require a Grade C or better in English Language GCSE.

Career Links

Sociology develops the skills of reasoning, discussion, empathy and debate which are key employability skills. Students have progressed in many different professions including teaching, social work, law, business and health care.

TRAVEL and TOURISM

Exam Board - Edexcel 8791/9791

Course Summary

This course provides a general introduction to the diverse and dynamic nature of the Travel and Tourism industry. It will give students an insight into some of the issues that influence the industry and how the industry may need to respond.

Modules To Be Studied

The course is divided into six modules with three covered in Year 12 for the AS and three more completed in Year 13 for the full 'A' level.

Year 12 (AS)

Unit 1 - The Travel and Tourism Industry

Unit 2 - The Travel and Tourism Customer

And **EITHER**

Unit 3 - Destination Europe **OR** Unit 4- Destination Britain

Year 13 (A2)

Unit 7 - Responsible Tourism

Unit 8 - Current Issues in Travel and Tourism

And **EITHER**

Unit 9 - Working in Travel and Tourism **OR** Unit 10 - Promotion and Sales in Travel and Tourism

Assessment Arrangements

Students are assessed through a combination of internal portfolio work and external examination.

Entry Requirements

There is no requirement to have studied a Tourism related subject at GCSE, however if a GCSE level Tourism related subject has been studied, a grade C would be expected.

Career Links

Travel and Tourism provides an introduction to and a good foundation for further study for those wishing to follow careers within the industry. It may also allow students to progress into Modern Apprenticeships in Travel services or to relevant employment.

ONE-YEAR VOCATIONAL COURSES

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATES

Students who have fewer than 5 A* - C, or from at least four different subjects at GCSE level or have an average GCSE points score less than 4.5 should consider a one-year Level 2 course. This will enable them to progress onto a level 3 qualification ('A' levels / BTEC National) after one year if they achieve a **MERIT** grade in their three subjects.

In conjunction with Queensbury, we will provide a wide variety of BTEC First Certificates next year:

- Applied Science
- Art and Design
- Business
- Countryside and Environment
- Health and Social Care
- Children's Care
- ICT
- Media
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism
- Performing Arts
- Public Services

Students will be expected to choose **three** of these courses. Each BTEC Certificate is equivalent to **two** GCSEs.

BTEC Certificates are one-year courses and are aimed at students who don't have enough good passes at GCSEs to get on 'A' Level courses but still want to continue their education at school and improve their prospects. Many past students have gone on to Advanced level study at school or College after taking Vocational Courses.

How will I be taught?

The courses will use a wide range of methods and the teaching will be linked to a series of assignments. You will learn to become a more independent learner and also be able to work and solve problems in a group. Work experience, visits, talks, video, presentations and research methods are all used widely in BTEC courses. You have to produce assignments with teacher guidance. Most assignments are a mixture of individual research and case studies / surveys. We encourage you to make good use of ICT and vocational contacts.

Please note that in the Health and Social Care and the Children's Care courses you will be required to undertake a work experience placement as part of the course.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete three Units altogether. These are assessed internally via assignments and presentations. **There are no exams.** Your work is graded at Pass, Merit or Distinction, which are equivalent to GCSE grades C, B or A respectively.

BTEC First Diplomas will give you:

- A new start on new subjects
- Different teaching methods and more independence
- Work Experience and vocationally based learning
- Mainly internal 'coursework' assessment.
- A second chance after GCSEs to improve your prospects and career options
- A route to Level 3 study ('A' levels or BTEC Nationals)

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

The BTEC First Certificate in Applied Science is a work-related course where students carry out predominantly assignment-based or practical work to produce their own portfolios.

It is a one-year course comprising of three units, which are assessed through a combination of practical and written coursework.

Subject Content

The Combination of units will be as follows:

Unit 1: Chemistry Applications with four components (elements) based on the following learning outcomes for students:

- know how atomic structure relates to the properties of elements and compounds
- understand the factors involved in chemical reactions
- know the importance of organic chemistry
- understand the importance of factors involved in the earth and its environment

Unit 2: Physical Science Applications with four components (elements) based on the following learning outcomes for students:

- understand the importance of energy and energy transfer
- understand the applications of waves and radiation
- understand the applications of electricity
- understand methods used in astronomy to explore the universe, its galaxies, planets and stars.

Unit 3: Biological Systems with four components (elements) based on the following learning outcomes for students:

- understand the diversity of living organisms and how they are classified
- be able to investigate how living things interact with each other and their environments
- understand that genes are responsible for inheritance and variations within species, leading to evolutionary change
- understand the factors that may affect human health, and the ways human health is controlled.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ART AND DESIGN

Exam board: Edexcel / BTEC

Overview: BTEC Art and Design is a one year course, equivalent to two GCSEs grade A*-C. It will enable you to develop your Art, Design and research skills as you work to a brief, as well as giving you an insight into what it is like to work in the field of Art and Design.

Course Content: Over the year you will study three units. These will help you develop your 2D and 3D skills as you work from a variety of sources. You will investigate a range of Artists, Craftspeople and Designers as well as making a number of visits to galleries and museums. This will build a context for your own individual ideas and original Art and Design work.

Method of Assessment:

BTEC Art and Design is 100% coursework. At the end of each unit you will be awarded a mark of Pass, Merit or Distinction and also given feedback on how you can improve your level.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS

Exam Board- BTEC/Edexcel

Course Summary

The BTEC First Certificate is 'A' Level 2 course. Successful students will achieve a Pass, Merit or Distinction. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs grade A*-C. Through this course students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of the business world, how businesses operate, and how they can apply concepts to real situations.

Modules To Be Studied

The course is divided into three modules made up from 1 core unit and 2 specialist units

CORE UNIT

Unit 1 - Exploring business purposes

SPECIALIST UNITS

Unit 2 - Developing customer relations

Unit 5 - People in organisations

Assessment Arrangements

All units are internally assessed through portfolio work.

Entry Requirements

There is no requirement to have studied a Business related subject at GCSE to study the BTEC First Certificate in Business.

Career Links

After successfully completing this course, students are able to study Level 3 courses including BTEC National Diplomas and 'A' levels.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Exam board – Edexcel/BTEC

The Course

Study of the BTEC qualification is made up of three Modules:

- 1) Communication and individual rights within the Health and Social Care Sectors, Human Growth and Development (Core)
- 2) Individual Needs within the Health and Social Care Sectors (Core)
- 3) Vocational Experience in a Health and Social Care setting (Specialist)

Assessment

Each module will be assessed internally. Each student will complete a portfolio of work to match stated criteria. Each assignment of work consists of a series of smaller tasks that match the fixed criteria. You will work through a series of tasks in each assignment and completed assignments will make up a portfolio of evidence marked according to criteria as Pass, Merit or Distinction.

What is to be studied

Unit 1

This module considers ways of promoting good communication in care settings and emphasises how it is vitally important that information is passed around accurately in a health setting. Barriers to communication, equality and diversity in society are discussed and the importance of the care value base.

Unit 2

This module considers the individual factors influencing the health and needs of individuals. It highlights hazards in health and social care environments along with how the health and safety legislation is implemented.

Unit 3

This module includes the process of applying for a job, creating CV's and letters of application, preparing for and attending an interview. Attending a vocational placement for a minimum of 60 hours during which time you will develop interpersonal skills and produce a review of your time spent working.

Work experience

There will be a vocational placement to give you first hand work experience in a care setting. Your experience will provide you with a sound base qualification for a variety of career areas: nurse, counsellor, chiropodist, care worker, health visitor and many other National Health careers.

BTEC CHILDREN'S CARE, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Exam board – Edexcel/BTEC

The Course

Study of the BTEC qualification is made up of three core Modules:

- 1) Understanding Children's Development
- 2) Keeping children Safe
- 3) Communication with Children and Adults

Assessment

Each module will be assessed internally. Each student will complete a portfolio of work to match stated criteria. Each assignment of work consists of a series of smaller tasks that match the fixed criteria of Pass, Merit and Distinction. They will work through a series of tasks in each assignment and completed assignments will make up a portfolio of evidence.

What is to be studied

Unit 1

This unit introduces you to the pattern of growth and development that children follow. Learn to understand the importance and role of observing children and the required planning of activities that are needed to support children's needs. (30 hours class + 30 hours Vocational placement).

Unit 2

It is very important that if you are considering working with children you know how to provide a safe, secure environment for children to be in. The main purpose of this Unit is for you to find out what you need to know and be able to do in order to help to keep children of all ages safe both in child care settings and during outings (60 hours class).

Unit 3

Communication skills are a central point of all work with children in any care or education setting. In this Unit you will learn about the key features of effective interpersonal communication with children, adults, parents and other care workers. (30hrs class +30hrs Vocational placement)

Work experience

The BTEC Certificate Level 2 requires a suitable vocational placement in an educational care setting to provide information for Units 1+3.

Your experience will provide you with a sound base qualification for a variety of career options: further study of a Level 2 Diploma or a Level 3 qualification, care worker in nursery / pre-school, nurse in nursery / pre-school.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ICT

Exam board – Edexcel / BTEC

Course summary

The BTEC First Certificate is a GCSE equivalent course taken over one year that is entirely examined via submission of coursework portfolios.

Modules to be studied

It offers an interesting range of ICT topics including:

- Website creation
- Spreadsheets
- Databases
- Business documentation and systems

Assessment arrangements

Assessment is 100% coursework through a variety of reports and presentations.

Entry Requirements

There is no requirement to have studied an ICT related subject at GCSE to study the BTEC First Certificate in ICT.

Career links

It prepares you for more advanced courses in ICT and gives excellent coverage of business related ICT topics. Students taking this course have found it stimulating and challenging. The course is suitable for students who have not taken ICT to GCSE and for those who may wish to retake ICT post-16.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN LAND AND ENVIRONMENT (ANIMAL CARE)

Exam board – Edexcel

Course Summary

The BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Animal Care is a one year course consisting of three units
Unit 1 – work related experience in animal care
Unit 3 – animal accommodation
Unit 11 – Care of exotic animals.

This course is run in a purpose built building at Queensbury School.

Assessment Arrangements

The assessment is continuous, with feedback to allow for improvement to the next grade.
The course is graded at pass, merit and distinction.

Entry Requirements

There are no course specific entry requirements

Career Links

The progression is to a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Land and Environment or careers in the animal industry such as RSPCA, veterinary nursing, etc.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN MEDIA

Exam Board: Edexcel / BTEC

One compulsory unit: **Research for Media Production**

Two further units: **Video Production** and **Advertising**

Each unit has equal value.

Research for Media Production

Develops initial skills in research techniques, concentrating on research methods and techniques, identifies sources of information and how to use them to gather relevant material.

Video Production

Introduces learners to the techniques and technology of video-based production work resulting in a complete video production.

Advertising Production

Introduces learners to the techniques of advertising, shows them how to develop ideas for advertisements, and how to plan and produce advertisements in a selected medium. (We will be focusing on TV Advertising as a follow on from Video Production.)

Assessment and grading

This is based on a combination of practical work (including pre-production, production and post-production tasks) and evaluations or commentaries on the part of the candidate. These evaluations do not necessarily have to be written - they can be oral, or in the form of a video diary, a PowerPoint presentation, etc. **There are no exams it is 100% coursework.**

Careers:

This may lead onto further study at school or college in related study.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING)

This BTEC First Certificate in Performing Arts (Acting) offers a snap-shot of everything that it takes to be an actor on the professional stage. It is a bite-sized opportunity for students to study a focused programme on the skills, knowledge and understanding of acting and putting on a production.

The course comprises of three units, which are assessed through a combination of practical and written coursework; the written coursework coming in the form of learning logs or even video diaries.

Subject Content

The most likely combination of units is:

Understanding Drama	A general overview of the drama and theatre industry.
Acting	Developing acting and performance skills.
Production process	Or “Showtime”, putting into action the skills you have learnt from the first two units to create your own theatre company and performance.

Other units available are:

Performing Arts Business	Developing an awareness and understanding of the business behind creating and running a theatre company.
Performing Scripted Plays	Rehearsing and performing a scripted play
Devised Plays	Exploring and developing our own performances from a stimulus.

The course is equivalent to 2 GCSEs grades C-A*. It is graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC SERVICES

Exam Board – BTEC/Edexcel

Course Summary

BTEC First Certificate is a Level 2 Course equivalent to 2 GCSE's grade A*-C. Successful students will achieve a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Students will develop a good understanding of Public Services e.g. Fire, Police, Armed Forces and how they operate. The course involves both written and practical assignments.

Three units are studied:

- Uniformed Public Service Skills
- Uniformed Public Service Fitness
- The Value of Sport and Recreation in the Public Services

Assessment Arrangements

All units are internally assessed through portfolio assignments.

Entry Requirements

No specific requirements but an interest in Public Services is needed.

Career Links

Students could go on to study BTEC National Diplomas or 'A' levels. The course would be a very good grounding for future careers in Public Services such as the Police, Fire, Armed Services, NHS, etc.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

Exam Board – Edexcel / BTEC

Course Summary

The Edexcel Level 2 BTEC First Certificate in Sport is a 180 hour guided learning qualification which offers a bite-sized opportunity for learners to experience a vocational qualification. The BTEC First Certificate offers a focused vocational qualification for learners who wish to follow a shorter programme of study related to an aspect of employment that they might wish to move into; or a taster qualification which can extend their programme of study and provide an initial experience of a vocational area. This will also enable learners to a higher level qualification relevant to the sector.

Modules To Be Studied

The course is divided into 3 modules:

Unit 1 – The Body in Sport

Unit 2 – Health, Safety and Injury in Sport

Unit 6 – Practical Sport

Assessment Arrangements

The course is 100% coursework based. This coursework is externally moderated.

Entry Requirements

Regular commitment to extra-curricular sporting activities

Career Links

The BTEC Sport provide a suitable foundation for coaching, sports development, the leisure industry, recreational management, health, leisure and fitness.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Exam Board - BTEC/Edexcel

Course Summary

The BTEC First Certificate is a Level 2 course. Successful students will achieve a Pass, Merit or Distinction. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs grade A*-C. Through this course students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of the travel and tourism industry, how businesses within the industry operate, and how they can apply concepts to real situations.

Modules To Be Studied

The course is divided into 3 modules made up from 2 core units and 1 specialist unit.

CORE UNITS

Unit 1 - The UK travel and tourism industry

Unit 2 - Exploring customer service in travel and tourism

SPECIALIST UNIT

Unit 3 - UK travel and tourism destinations

Assessment Arrangements

All units are internally assessed through portfolio work.

Entry Requirements

There is no requirement to have studied a Tourism related subject at GCSE to study the BTEC First Certificate in Travel and Tourism.

Career Links

After successfully completing this course, students are able to study level three courses including BTEC National Diplomas and 'A' levels.

OTHER BTEC COURSES OFFERED:

In addition to the above courses we are considering offering the following courses at Level 2. Further details of these courses will be available at a later date

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN COUNTRYSIDE and ENVIRONMENT

MANSHEAD SIXTH FORM APPLICATION FORM

Dear Student,

At this stage you have a free choice of 'A' level subjects, but these will be FIXED IN BLOCKS by February half term. Please think carefully at this point and discuss plans with your teachers because changes requested after half term will be dependant upon the option structure.

Please complete this form as soon as possible and return it to your Learning Guide by Friday, 5th February.

Name _____ LG _____

I wish to apply for the following courses:

'A' LEVELS	OR BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATES
List the 'AS' level subjects you would like to study in Year 12 (Do not include General Studies)	List the three BTEC Certificates you would like to study in Year 12
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	

Student's Signature _____

I/We have read and approved my/our son's/daughter's intentions

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____