



St Bartholomew's School

COURSE GUIDE AND OPPORTUNITIES 2021-2022





WELCOME



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WHAT DOES ST BART'S HAVE TO OFFER YOU?

The Sixth Form years are an exciting time for any student, and choosing the right Sixth Form is a crucial decision. At St Bart's you will find the best environment to grow, develop and reach your full potential. Whatever you are looking for in your Sixth Form experience, you can be confident of finding it here.

Students make fantastic progress academically, and are supported to achieve their potential and to develop plans for life beyond school. All this is achieved in an environment that is lively, fun and energetic. We encourage our students to participate in and lead a whole host of activities outside the classroom. You might like to think about how you can take advantage of all these opportunities and what you can contribute.

Please contact the school if you would like to arrange an appointment to help you explore your options. We would be happy to help.

Sian Allen

Head of Sixth Form





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HOW TO APPLY?



HOW TO APPLY

Catchment areas do not apply in the Sixth Form and you can apply to us, wherever you live.

Applications for entry to Year 12 in September 2021 open immediately following the Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening on 5th November. The online application form is available on the Open Evening Virtual Site and is also on the school website at

www.stbarts.co.uk/the-sixth-form/admissions-apply.

Application forms should be submitted by Friday 3 December 2020. Applicants should make every effort to meet the deadline to ensure that they secure places on their first choice courses. However, we will continue to accept applications after this date.

All applicants will be invited to an interview with a senior member of staff during February/March 2021 and all decisions about final subject choices are arrived at after discussion with students, parents and teachers. Places are offered following completion of the interview process in late April.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To access Level 3 (A Levels and BTEC National Extended Certificate) courses, you need to secure a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above. At least 3 of these passes should be at Grade 5. If a student does not secure a Grade 4 in English Language and/or Mathematics then s/he will be required to attend lessons and re-sit GCSE exams in these subjects.

As you can see from the subject pages in our Course Guide, if you are looking to take an A Level course that you have studied at GCSE, then in most subjects a GCSE Grade of 5 is preferred. If you fall short of a 5, you cannot assume that you will secure a place on the course and will be asked to meet with the Head of Department in September to discuss whether you might be offered a place on a trial basis.

The step up from GCSE to A Level work is particularly steep in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Students should be clear that in other than the most exceptional circumstances, they will not secure a place on these courses without at least a Grade 6 in these subjects or 'Science' at GCSE.

What happens if a student gets five GCSE passes but fails to secure Grade 4s in Mathematics or English?

A student in this position will be able to take some Level 3 (A Level/ BTEC) courses but their choice may be a little more restricted and they will have to attend lessons in preparation for a re-sit in Mathematics or English Language. A student who does not secure 4s in both will only be able to enrol for the Sixth Form + Programme.

Sixth Form + Programme

Alongside our hugely successful A Level and Level 3 BTEC programme, St Bartholomew's School is proud to announce the launch of a new Sixth Form + programme. In partnership with Newbury College and with support from a network of local employers, Sixth Form + provides an exceptional opportunity for students to boost their GCSE portfolio while simultaneously preparing them for the world of work. Following successful completion of the programme, students will be in a strong position to pursue employment, further vocational training or A Level/ Level 3 BTEC courses.

Who is Sixth Form + designed for?

Students who have not secured the required grades at Key Stage 4 to enrol on A Level and Level 3 BTEC courses. For Sixth Form +, students should have a Grade 3 in either/both English Language or Mathematics.
and/or

Students who want to pursue a more vocational/work-based programme post-16.





HOW MANY COURSES?

HOW MANY COURSES?

St Bart's is in the increasingly rare position of being able to offer students the chance to study four courses in the Sixth Form. In normal circumstances, we would certainly expect students with strong GCSE results (average grades of 6 or higher) to take this option for at least their Year 12, and would encourage other students to consider whether four subjects might be right for them. Students who start with four will have an option to drop to three at any stage in Year 12. There is the option, however, to study four subjects all the way through until the end of Year 13.

The advantages of taking four subjects can be summarised as follows:

- **Academic stretch and challenge.** A fourth subject undoubtedly looks impressive to universities and future employers.
- **Flexibility.** Students can start with four and then drop to three when they have settled in. This might be particularly valuable if they have selected subjects that they have not studied before.
- **Pressure.** There is an argument that a fourth subject can ease rather than add to pressure. Having just three courses means a student cannot afford any slip-ups.
- **Cross-subject progress.** There is an argument that working within four subjects keeps a student focused and their experiences in one subject can certainly support their learning in another.



THE EPQ (EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION)

An increasingly popular and successful option for students is to take an EPQ alongside their main course programme. This gives students an opportunity to complete a major piece of independent research with the support of a member of staff. This is ideal preparation for university, and many universities actively encourage students to take the qualification. Students can submit a proposal to study an EPQ alongside either three or four courses, and it is not necessary for students to commit to this option before joining us. Irrespective of whether a student intends to go to university, EPQs can develop independent study skills that underpin and support a student's performance in all timetabled subjects.



CORE MATHEMATICS

Students are able to secure an additional Level 3 Mathematics qualification alongside their A Level and BTEC choices. This option will be particularly attractive and useful for students studying subjects like Biology, Economics, Geography, and Psychology where there is a significant Mathematics element. The course will help to underpin their performance in these subjects, and there may be circumstances where students are directed towards the Core Mathematics option as part of their overall programme. [Click here for more information](#)



STRETCH & CHALLENGE

Stretch and Challenge is an optional course taught for an hour a week in timetabled lesson. The course teaches the skills of critical thinking:

- The ability to read carefully and critically
- How to analyse and evaluate
- What makes a coherent argument
- Flaws in arguments
- Precision in the selection of evidence presented to support points
- Precision, clarity and facility of writing

Stretch and Challenge is particularly helpful for those students who plan to apply to the most competitive universities (Oxford and Cambridge) and courses (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Law) as the content will help prepare you for the aptitude tests for those courses and universities. However, it is a course that will help anyone to improve their thinking and writing skills, which will reap dividends in all aspects of academic and cultural life. There is no external examination but the course ends with a test of the learnt skills.



OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS AND PROGRESSION PLANNING

All students benefit from a programme of talks and activities that are designed to prepare them for the world of work. They have access to sophisticated software that allows them to research careers and enables them to identify university and apprenticeship opportunities. Alongside this, students are given opportunities within their timetable to pursue meaningful work experience or volunteering opportunities each week. Many students spend an afternoon each week out of school and others use the opportunity to develop subject-specific skills, working with a teacher to offer classroom support for younger students. Towards the end of Year 12, students are also able to take 5 days off timetable, not necessarily on consecutive days, for a more sustained period of work experience.

Careers advice is available to all Sixth Form students throughout the school year. Professional careers advisers from Adviza are available to students on site, and students can request multiple appointments as their plans develop.

VESPA - THE A LEVEL MINDSET

The VESPA programme is an important part of our wider curriculum and teaches valuable and practical skills for success at A Levels and beyond! The programme is based on lots of research that took place in schools, just like St Bart's, and involved many students. The basic notion is that in order to succeed, the most important attribute is a great mindset and that skills related to mindset are as important, if not more so, than academic ability or prior attainment. These mindset skills include a range of 'non-cognitive skills' such as organisation, detailed note taking, positivity, resilience and having a clear goal or vision. These characteristics can be learned and adopted. The VESPA programme has 5 key areas of mindset:

V - VISION - creating goals, visions and aims for the short, medium and long term.

E - EFFORT - refining and developing skills to promote hard work and build good habits.

S - SYSTEMS - organisational strategies and tactics for excellent working routines and time management.

P - PRACTICE - developing strong study and revision skills to make learning work for you.

A - ATTITUDE - maintaining positive attitudes, relationships and building resilience.

Students will have a fortnightly VESPA session in a PM tutor slot and we will refer to it often in enrichment, assemblies and even across subjects.



WELL-BEING

We believe that it is important for all students to take part in some kind of physical recreation during the school week. The school enjoys a considerable reputation on the games field, and at Sixth Form level there are excellent fixture lists for athletics, cricket, lacrosse, netball, rugby, soccer and tennis. In addition, a wide range of other team and individual games and sports are available to Sixth Form students on a more social basis for an hour on Wednesday afternoons.

WIDER ACTIVITIES

We believe that St Bart's offers an unrivalled choice of activities to broaden students' opportunities beyond the classroom. Some of these are focused around the strong House system and result in friendly rivalry between students in the four Houses. Some of the choices include CCF, Sport, House and School Drama, House and School Music, Mentoring, Young Enterprise, World Challenge, Debating, Equestrian Team and Horticulture. Full details are in our Wider Opportunities guide <http://www.stbarts.co.uk/the-sixth-form/sixth-form-info/>

TUTOR TIME

At St Bart's, each student has a tutor; the teacher guaranteed to see you face to face every day, Monday–Thursday, who will be with them every step of the way, right alongside the Sixth Form Team. Each day of our fortnightly timetable offers something different in Tutor Time. Activities include: Debate, PDP, Tutor Project, assemblies and the opportunity for mentoring KS3/KS4 students.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Our Personal Development Programme builds on KS4 experience, and continues its development of the three core themes:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Relationships
3. Living in the Wider World

The KS5 Curriculum delves deeper into these core themes and establishes their relevance in adulthood. Core elements of the curriculum include British Values, budgeting and Black Lives Matter, however it is a wide-ranging and at times challenging programme, with sessions dealing with mental health and wellbeing, healthy and unhealthy relationships, independent travel, both in the UK and abroad, life in the workplace, as well as so much more.





ART & DESIGN

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)



COURSE SUMMARY

In A Level Art you will develop your practical skills and be introduced to new techniques, processes and working methods. You will develop your own areas of interest under set project themes producing evidence of recording, exploring, developing ideas and presenting a personal response.

WHY STUDY ART AND DESIGN?

"Art is an interesting subject and is a good progression from GCSE. There is plenty of freedom for independent learning; teachers really encourage students to try new things, experiment with a range of media and take risks. It is fun and rewarding to see how your work improves and progresses." *Georgie*

"Art is there to be appreciated, design is there to be used, creativity is there to be harnessed to solve problems and make people think." Frankie

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Students have the freedom to develop coursework, take drawing lessons, have tutorials on how to use new materials and machines and benefit from one-to-one teacher sessions about our work. Teachers also help with post A Level applications, giving advice on compiling portfolios and choosing a higher education course." *Amber*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

If you are thinking about art school, then obviously A Level Art & Design will help hone your skills and create a suitable portfolio. This A Level can also help you demonstrate skills that are valued by universities and employers alike, for example thinking laterally and creatively, and working to a brief. Other jobs that relate directly to Art and Design include: architect; art restorer; graphic designer; roles in advertising, fashion design and the theatrical arts; photographer; animator; scientific illustrator.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Art GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- E H Gombrich, *The Story of Art*
- John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*
- [Baltic](#)
- [BBC – Arts & Culture](#)
- [Crafts Council](#)
- [ICA](#)
- [Le Centre Pompidou](#)
- [MoMA](#)
- [Saatchi Online](#)
- [Tate](#)
- [V&A](#)



COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Biology involves the study of how our bodies work in minute molecular detail and how diseases stop them working, exploring the fragility of life on Earth. The course develops an appreciation of the implications of new developments such as Genetic Engineering and the wider effects on biological systems including our own quality of life. Towards the end of Year 12 all students take part in the Biology field trip for five days at Aberystwyth University. The focus is to develop an interest and knowledge of our natural world and to appreciate how we can preserve it. This also allows students to apply inferential statistics to real life situations, developing their mathematical skills. An important element of the course is to train students to think logically, be critically analytical and work collaboratively. These are vital skills at university and in the work place and completing an A Level Biology course enables students to become effective members of any team.

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

"The subject enables students to understand the processes that occur in order to sustain living organisms. Of particular interest to those wishing to continue with human biology related degree courses has been learning about the human body and applying this knowledge to our everyday experiences and things usually taken for granted." *Heather*



MIGHT LEAD TO...

Biology can help open doors to a range of careers and courses in human and veterinary medicine, as well as other medical related careers such as dentistry, optometry, physiotherapy and the pharmaceutical sciences. It can also lead to courses or employment in the areas of: forensic science, biomedical and biological sciences, and environmental health and food sciences.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students choosing science in the Sixth Form are advised that the assessment style associated with A Level qualifications means that if you achieve less than a Grade 6 in GCSE Science or GCSE Biology you are generally unlikely to secure a pass in the A Level Biology exam. Students who are keen to study science at an advanced level and achieve a Grade 4 or 5 in GCSE, are advised to follow the BTEC in Applied Science course, where the assessment style is continuous rather than through final exams. The success rate on the course for students with this entry profile is very high.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Cells Alive](#)
- [Genome](#)
- [Molecular Biology WebBook](#)
- [New Scientist](#)
- [Nobel Prize](#)
- [Online Biology Book](#)
- Biological Service Review Magazine

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons combine practical and theory elements. The emphasis is on theory but both elements are fun and engaging. Most lessons involve reinforcing knowledge through the use of role-play or practical work. All students have a workbook designed by the science department for each topic to reduce the amount of note taking and to enable students to focus on applying their learning. This makes learning more interactive. There is also a book with a collection of past paper questions for every topic so that patterns in the type of question asked can be spotted." *Sasi*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.



BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

The course aims to demonstrate the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The content is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society, through key contemporary developments such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation topics.

"When I leave school I hope to study business analytics at Loughborough University and pursue a career in the corporate world. I have studied Business Studies, Maths and Politics." Sam

WHY STUDY BUSINESS STUDIES?

"Lessons are fun and interactive, often involving group discussions on real-life scenarios and businesses relating to theories that we've learnt. Applying these theories to real businesses allows us to practice our analytical and evaluation skills, and we get to see the practical implications that studying business can have." Charmaine



WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"In lessons, we look at how businesses approach decision-making, taking into account internal and external influences to the business and then use real life examples to see where we

can apply our theory to real business problems. Lessons are engaging and involve researching, working on exam technique independently, and discussions of our ideas and content in groups." Harry

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

A Level Business Studies shows any potential employer that you have an interest and developed knowledge about how a business works, making it particularly suitable for those looking at a career in business management. If you are applying to university, Business Studies is particularly good preparation for courses such as economics, business studies and many other options. More broadly, some possible career choices with A Level Business Studies include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Business Studies GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a grade 5 or higher is preferred. It is important for students to have good written and numerical skills, but also a real interest in business and how it is organised and operates.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [BBC News – Business](#)
- [Gov.uk Business](#)
- [Tutor2U](#)
- Business Review magazine



COURSE SUMMARY

The course consists of four units. Three units are mandatory covering business, marketing and personal and business finance. The optional final unit includes choices ranging from management, finance, work experience, marketing, operations and the business environment. Students investigate and evaluate the different topics and gain an understanding of the business environment.



MIGHT LEAD TO...

A BTEC in Business shows any potential employer that you have an interest and developed knowledge about how a business works, making it particularly suitable for those looking at a career in business management. If you are applying to university, this qualification is particularly good preparation for courses such as economics, business studies and many other options. More broadly, some possible career choices include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.

WHY STUDY BTEC IN BUSINESS?

"This course develops students' interest in business concepts and ideas using a hands-on approach." *Callum*

All work is set in the context of real business and the business environment as it exists in the UK and abroad. Students spend time researching the business world. The course also gives students the option of a week of work experience in a local business.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"The lessons are interactive, which is really fun. There is a lot of computer based work which helps to develop students' understanding of business concepts." *Callum*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Two units of work are externally assessed. Personal and Business Finance is a 2 hour examination and Marketing is a controlled assessment. The other units are internally assessed pieces of coursework.

"When I leave school I hope to become a laboratory technician. I am currently studying BTEC Business, BTEC Science and Music Technology." Josie

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students should have a genuine interest in business activity. They should be keen to conduct independent research and visit local businesses when required. Skills in organisation and meeting deadlines are important.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [BBC News – Business](#)
- [Tutor2U](#)
- Business Review magazine



CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Chemistry is a fascinating science, which attempts to answer questions about how things happen from the sub-microscopic to bulk level. Using Chemistry, people have been able to improve our lives through developing new materials, investigating the causes of disease and helping to feed an expanding world population. The world needs chemists in the future to continue this work.



WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

"Chemistry is a really interesting subject because it can be applied to real life scenarios and helps to understand the world around you. It develops your problem solving skills as well as encouraging you to question why things happen. In class, students enjoy carrying out experiments independently. Chemistry is a valuable subject leading to lots of different career paths." *Dylan*

"After Sixth Form I am hoping to study medicine. Studying Chemistry at A Level gives me a secure foundation for starting this course." *Izzy*

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Chemistry is one of the most desirable and flexible A Levels, because it is so challenging, academic and rigorous; it is therefore highly valued by universities and employers. For some courses and careers, for example human and veterinary medicine, Chemistry is all but essential. It can also lead directly to many courses and careers in healthcare such as pharmacy and dentistry, biological sciences, physics, mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students choosing science in the Sixth Form are advised that the assessment style associated with A Level qualifications means that if you achieve less than a Grade 6 in GCSE Science or GCSE Chemistry you are generally unlikely to secure a pass in the A Level Chemistry exam. Students who are keen to study science at an advanced level and achieved a Grade 4 or 5 in GCSE, are advised to follow the BTEC in Applied Science course, where the assessment style is continuous rather than through final exams. The success rate on the course for students with this entry profile is very high.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"In the Chemistry lessons students learn to understand the principles; this is augmented through practical sessions where the theory is put into action. Learning is through various techniques, but the focus is always on the individual understanding of the concept. The teachers are approachable and this is important as they are always available when you need to ask for help." *Josh*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13. Practical work is embedded throughout the course and students must complete 12 required practical tasks. A pass or fail grading for practical skills is awarded. Assessment of practical skills is through questions in the exams at the end of the course.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [chemguide](#)
- [Knockhardy \(PowerPoints\)](#)
- [Royal Society of Chemistry](#)



COURSE SUMMARY

The course looks at the literature and art that has captured people's imaginations for centuries, and from this asks what the Greeks and Romans believed, how they behaved and how their ideas have shaped Western civilisation.

WHY STUDY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

"If you want to learn more about the myths and stories that form the basis of some of the world's most influential literature, and the fascinating societies and history that has shaped the modern world, this is the subject for you. Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad* and Greek tragedy tell of the heroes, myths and gods of the Greek world, while Virgil's *Aeneid* gives a Roman perspective and a snapshot of the politics and history of the Roman empire. The study of Greek Theatre and Religion also allows a different perspective on the ancient world. This fascinating subject enables students to learn about societies from completely different viewpoints. Myths and Greek Gods are studied as a background to the literature." *Eleanor*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"There are numerous lively class discussions. Students also read extracts from ancient texts, analyse art and architecture and learn about the myths that shape societies, texts and art." *Jesille*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

"When I leave school I hope to study Ancient History at university and study ancient Greek. I have studied Classical Civilisation, English Literature and Sociology." Eleanor

MIGHT LEAD TO...

As well as the further study of Classics at university, people go on to study law, literature, history, philosophy and languages. The course develops skills of analysis, research, questioning and debating; and a variety of careers would be open to you.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Literature is studied in an English translation, and there is no Greek or Latin required on the course. No prior knowledge of the ancient world is required.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Michael Scott Greatest Show on Earth](#)
- [School of Life Ancient History](#)
- *Classics: a Very short introduction*, Mary Beard and John Henderson





COMPUTER SCIENCE

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Computer Science is a subject that blends practical problem solving with the theoretical knowledge that underpins technology and systems that make up the real world. It enables you to understand complex computational principles, explore and apply logical processes and create your own unique programs using creativity, reasoning and ingenuity. The skills developed in Computer Science will not only put you in good stead for a future in computing, but will provide you with skills which can be applied throughout your life.

WHY STUDY COMPUTING?

"If you enjoy problem solving, like making your own programs and are interested in how things work, this is your subject. Especially enjoyable is coding. The benefit of this subject is that it leads to good job prospects." *Christian*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Discussions cover a wide variety of interesting topics and in class the course theory is enriched through practical applications. A couple of hours every week are spent making programs." *Lily*

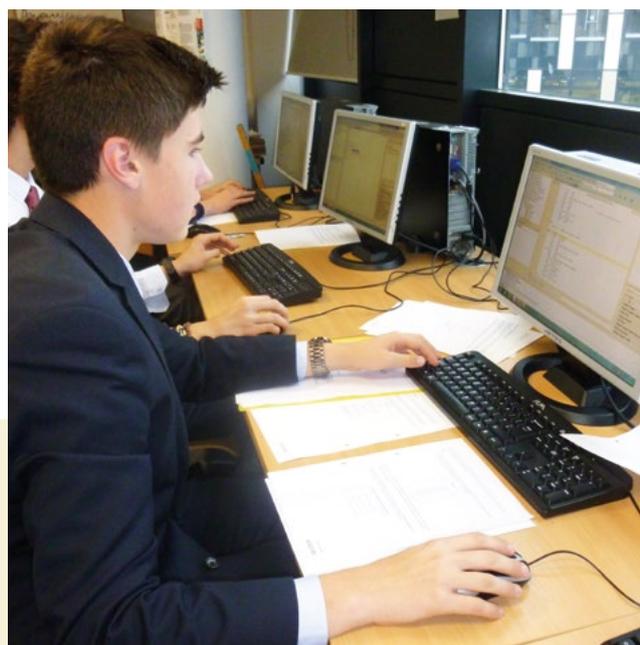
"When I leave school I hope to get a Masters degree in Computer Science and work as a systems analyst. I have studied Computing, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics." *Christian*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Computer Science is an extremely useful A Level, leading into a wide variety of computer-based disciplines. It combines well with maths and sciences and can lead on to a wide variety of careers and courses in Computing fields including networking, applications, games design and systems analysis, plus technologically rich subjects such as engineering or science. The course is equally suitable for students wishing to go straight into



work or an advanced apprenticeship in which computing is an essential part of the work or training undertaken.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

This is a very challenging but exciting course. Students need to be prepared to put in a lot of their own time to master programming and the difficult theory work. Students will not have needed to study Computing or IT at GCSE, but it would be greatly beneficial. Students taking Maths, Further Maths and Physics A Levels have been at an advantage when studying Computer Science.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Project Euler](#)
- [Computerphile](#)
- [TechRadar](#)
- [BBC News - Technology](#)
- [Stack Overflow](#)
- Hello World: How to be Human in the Age of the Machine by Hannah Fry

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

DANCE



COURSE SUMMARY

The course aims to produce creative, thinking dancers who are able to choreograph and perform a range of dance styles. You will have the opportunity to develop your physical skills to improve your all round performance and stage presence through a range of dance classes designed around you and your skills. You will also be able to analyse critically a range of dance styles, works and companies within their social and historical context to assist with your overall choreography and thinking skills. You study the Rambert Dance Company in depth and the American Musical Jazz scene through theory and practice.



WHY STUDY DANCE?

"The subject develops creativity, choreography techniques and helps with analytical skills, which is particularly useful when writing essays." Freya
The course allows you to work collaboratively with groups and individuals, building key employability skills. Dance allows students to think and express creatively and emotionally, developing verbal and non-verbal communication skills that can be transferred to other subject areas.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

A range of dance techniques are taught that link into students' practical assessments and theory lessons. Practising dance professionals are invited to teach to the students regularly.
"Students study a range of different professional works in depth. Key features of the dances and contexts of the choreographers, and their techniques, are also taught. Students are fully involved in class discussions which help us understand the topics. Taking dance encourages creativity and students need to be prepared to be pushed outside their comfort zone and think outside the box. A variety of professional performances are arranged to assist students in their academic studies." Freya

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.
Opportunities are provided for frequent assessment of students' practical and theoretical work so ample feedback is available to improve overall marks and grades. Examinations, both practical and written, are taken at the end of the course.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Any higher education or apprenticeship that is linked to a creative subject would link with A Level Dance. Students wanting to explore the option of make-up, textiles or stage design would have an advantage studying dance.

The avenues of dancer, choreographer, reviewer, lighting designer, photographer and other associated professions would link with this course exceptionally well. Employers and educational institutions are frequently looking for applicants who have studied a creative subject.

"When I leave school I hope to continue learning dance or musical theatre. I have studied Dance, English Literature, English Language and Religious Studies." Freya

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Good written communication skills are required to complete this subject to a high level. Experience of performing to an audience as well as some choreography skills are also advantageous. Dance GCSE is not a requirement but for those students who have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Gene Kelly](#)
- [Bob Fosse](#)
- [Jerome Robbins](#)
- [Robert North](#)
- [Rambert](#)
- [Richard Alston](#)
- [Christopher Bruce](#)



DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Exam Board: Eduqas

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Essentially, in this course you study not just acting, but history, psychology, sociology, literature and language. This course helps your left and right brain to work together in harmony!

"When I leave school I hope to do an advanced make-up and special effects course. I have studied Drama, English Literature, English Language and Media Studies." Katie

WHY STUDY DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES?

"Drama gives students the chance to become anyone, anywhere at any time. It gives the opportunity to perform in the classroom and in school productions in a uniquely creative environment. The support from the Drama Department combined with individual hard work has meant my dream has come true as I have a place to study Musical Theatre at Laine Theatre Arts." *Eloise*



COURSE ASSESSMENT

Students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year course, with one practical unit examined in the first year and two units, one practical and one written, examined in the final year.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

A Level will give you a great base for a university course in Drama and Theatre, giving you experience in analysing and performing theatre in a variety of different styles and genres. This course will also provide you with performance skills that will help prepare you for drama school, if that is your chosen path, but it can also help you reach other courses outside of the Performing Arts. Possible career options include acting, producing, directing, presenting, teaching, marketing and communications.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Drama GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- Scripts (as many as you can)
- Classic and modern Practitioners of Theatre
- Sophie Treadwell, *Machinal*
- Patrick Barlow, *39 Steps*
- Dario Fo, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*
- Simon Stephens, *Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night Time*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Drama provides a balance between theoretical teaching and practical application enabling students to grow as academics and as performers. The course has given me the opportunity to pursue my chosen career path studying Acting (Musical Theatre) at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama." *Joe*



COURSE SUMMARY

The aim of the Economics course is to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, encouraging students to appreciate the interrelationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics. If you are curious about what Brexit will lead to or can't decide whether or not the NHS should receive more funding, then Economics is the course for you.

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

"Learning Economics has helped me appreciate how society functions and how economics can be applied to so much of what's happening in the world. It is initially challenging but eventually makes sense as so many links can be made within topics. I have developed many skills such as analysis and evaluation and it has been very rewarding. I am studying Economics, German and Maths and I intend to study Economics with German at Nottingham." *Joe*

"While at first Economics may seem a challenge, over time with hard work and dedication the subject becomes more enjoyable and understandable and principles can be applied to the real world to gain further knowledge and understanding." *Kieran*



WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons in Economics are packed with new information every day. Like any other A Level subject, it has a decent amount that needs to be learnt, and putting time into understanding the main economic theories is so important. Then the fun bit can come where you analyse all these theories and understand why the world's economies aren't always perfect. But getting to the fun bit requires time and effort! The lesson environment is always positive and encouraging." *Teddy*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Clearly an A Level in Economics can lead to a multitude of degree and career options, be it in pure economics, business, finance, banking, accounting, management, government or politics.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

The course involves a significant amount of theory and a high level of commitment to learning this is required. A real interest in how the economy works and current economic affairs is required.

"Through the study of A Level Economics, I have found real world economic and political news much more interesting. Mainly because the subject has actually helped me understand it!" Will

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Bank of England](#)
- [BBC News – Economy](#)
- [Competition and Markets Authority](#)
- [HM Treasury](#)
- [Tutor2U](#)
- The Economist
- The Economic Review



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (LINGUISTICS)

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)



COURSE SUMMARY

A Level English Language (Linguistics) encourages and expands students' enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the English language in all its shapes and forms. Students will analyse a range of texts, spoken and written, fiction and nonfiction, drawn from a range of different historical periods and genres. Students of English Language (Linguistics) gain expertise in detailed linguistic analysis of many different kinds of texts and create some of their own.

"I've always wanted to be a writer, and the A Level English Language course has helped me sharpen my skills and given me more confidence in my own abilities". Charlotte

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE (LINGUISTICS)?

The English language plays an integral role in the culture and identity. It shapes how we express ourselves to the world and how others perceive us therefore making it a fascinating and valuable subject. Here students will explore language, gender, technology and occupations as well as accents and dialects. The course is well respected by leading universities and one which works well alongside many other A Level subjects. It is rigorous in its approach to linguistic analysis and thus equips students with vital skills, easily transferable to other courses of study. Debate and discussion are important elements and students will gain confidence and build stamina in putting forward their own ideas in this way. This course develops a wide range of writing skills as well as the ability to tackle more challenging materials across a huge variety of texts from all sorts of mediums and time periods.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Strong emphasis is placed on discussing extracts from texts, analysing them in detail and considering the different concepts and theories that underpin them. The contexts that a particular text inhabits are also addressed to see how these impact on our understanding. Students are encouraged to read around the key language topics and bring their ideas from this to classroom debate. Independent study is vital for success as it enables students to gain a wider understanding around the subject and practise the essential skill of analysing texts.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two year course with one non-exam assessment unit (coursework) and two examinations at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

English Language (Linguistics) A Level opens up pathways to many careers or courses for further and higher level study, given the significant skills with which it equips students. Recent students pursuing this course at A Level have studied Linguistics, English Language (Linguistics), sometimes with a modern foreign language, social sciences, teaching, media and the law. English Language (Linguistics) and English Literature can be taken as two separate subjects at A Level and work very effectively together both in the Sixth Form and at university. Communication skills and cultural knowledge gained in this subject effectively support many different disciplines.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language (Linguistics) is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [British Library – Learning](#)
- [EngLang Blog](#)
- [englishbiz](#)
- [Oxford English Dictionary](#)
- [David Crystal's blog](#)
- [Andrew Moore's Teachit](#)





COURSE SUMMARY

A Level English Literature aims to encourage and extend students' enjoyment and appreciation of a variety of literature drawn from a wide range of literary periods and genres. Students of English Literature make links between texts and consider them within wider cultural and critical contexts.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

"English Literature makes you question the fundamental concepts of life and society in ways you have never considered before. It is a well-respected and useful subject to support other academic routes as it develops critical analysis skills. Lessons not only help you to further your own ideas by discussing them, but also help you examine new perspectives enabling students to develop an understanding of the subject, and human nature. Writing skills, style and expression and critical evaluation are developed." *Becca*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two year course with one non-exam assessment unit and two examinations at the end of Year 13.

"Literature at A Level has enabled me to see beyond the lines and reach a wider understanding of messages and ideas." Rachel

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Careers or further study in related fields such as theatre, publishing, journalism, marketing, PR and teaching are common pathways for students of English Literature. Many other students pursue routes in business, law, and the social sciences. However, the communication skills and cultural knowledge gained in this subject effectively support a diverse range of disciplines.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Literature is preferred.

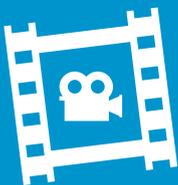
READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [British Library – Learning](#)
- [becuriouslit.blogspot.co.uk](#)
- [englishbiz](#)
- [Great Writers Inspire](#)
- [Oxford English Dictionary](#)
- [Sprint for Shakespeare](#)
- [futurelearn.com](#)
- [Andrew Moore's Teachit](#)

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"There is an emphasis on discussing different texts. We also explore literary theory and the more politicised side of the subject, which is interesting. This develops our critical understanding and supports us in forming perceptive arguments. English Literature lessons are always filled with lively debates about our different interpretations, which improves each person's confidence when establishing their own opinion. Independent reading is essential to be fully involved in informed discussion in the classroom." *Jessica*





FILM STUDIES

Exam Board: Eduqas

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Film is an enigma. Most people in the world have seen a film. A great many would say that they enjoy films. Many of these would call themselves film fans or even film lovers. However, people rarely agree on what it is about film that they love.

Despite being a relatively young art form, the potential for studying film is as rich and varied as that for literature, music, theatre or fine art. Film Studies combines approaches, theories and practices from humanities, the social sciences, and the arts in a deep examination of how and why films work.

At A Level, we examine the dominance of Hollywood alongside its alternatives. We pull apart the building blocks of film before reconstituting them in our own productions. We question the very essence of cinema.



"When I leave school I hope to go to drama school. I have studied Film, Drama and Media Studies."

Marie

WHY STUDY FILM STUDIES?

"This subject adds a new, evaluative perspective to an already interesting and most likely influential part of your life." *Matt*

"Film Studies is all about understanding the effect a film has on an audience and applying these theories to practical projects." *Alex*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"We read about films. We talk about films. We watch films. We write about films. We enjoy films. We delve into our favourite films, discuss and analyse them. We even get the chance to script our own films." *Rebecca*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Although Film Studies is not a vocational qualification, many students do go on to work in the film industry. The usual path is via a Higher Education degree. At the 2015 British Film Institute Conference, it was stated that film degrees are now second only to Medicine in ensuring employment in their respective industries. So, if you are interested in working in film, it would make sense to start here.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Film Studies GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.



COURSE SUMMARY

The WJEC Level 3 course explores all aspects of food science and nutrition, from nutritional properties of food to practical culinary skills.



"I hope to study Nutrition BSc at Surrey University. I have studied Biology, Food and Geography." Molly

WHY STUDY FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION?

"As well as achieving a Level 3 qualification (A Level equivalent) you will achieve Level 2 and 3 food safety and hygiene certificates through engaging online courses that provide transferable knowledge that can be used in the Level 3 exams and coursework. Knowledge of food science and nutrition has become increasingly relevant in today's society as people become more aware of the impact of diet on their health. The variety within the course enables students to have in-depth knowledge of aspects from diet-related illnesses to food properties and composition, combining practical food skills and individual science experiments. You will have the opportunity to advance your cooking skills and experiment with food in a two hour lesson every week, developing your knowledge of food science and practical skills." Becca

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons are fun, engaging and varied, including class discussions, practical work, food tasting, ICT and theoretical knowledge." Issie

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Food Science and Nutrition develops personal and team working skills. It is therefore sound preparation for a variety of university courses and careers. Clearly, it lends itself most directly to careers in product development, food technology, hotel and catering management, environmental health, retailing, marketing, and the healthcare sector. Significantly, the course also develops important life skills such as advanced food preparation, project management, and the application of nutritional principles.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is an Applied General Qualification with one unit studied in Year 12 leading to a Certificate and two further units in Year 13 leading to a Diploma (A Level equivalent). The units are internally and externally assessed and performance bands are Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction*.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Food GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.

Cost incurred: Purchase of ingredients for food products (suitable for inclusion in family meals). Payment for trips (optional).



FRENCH

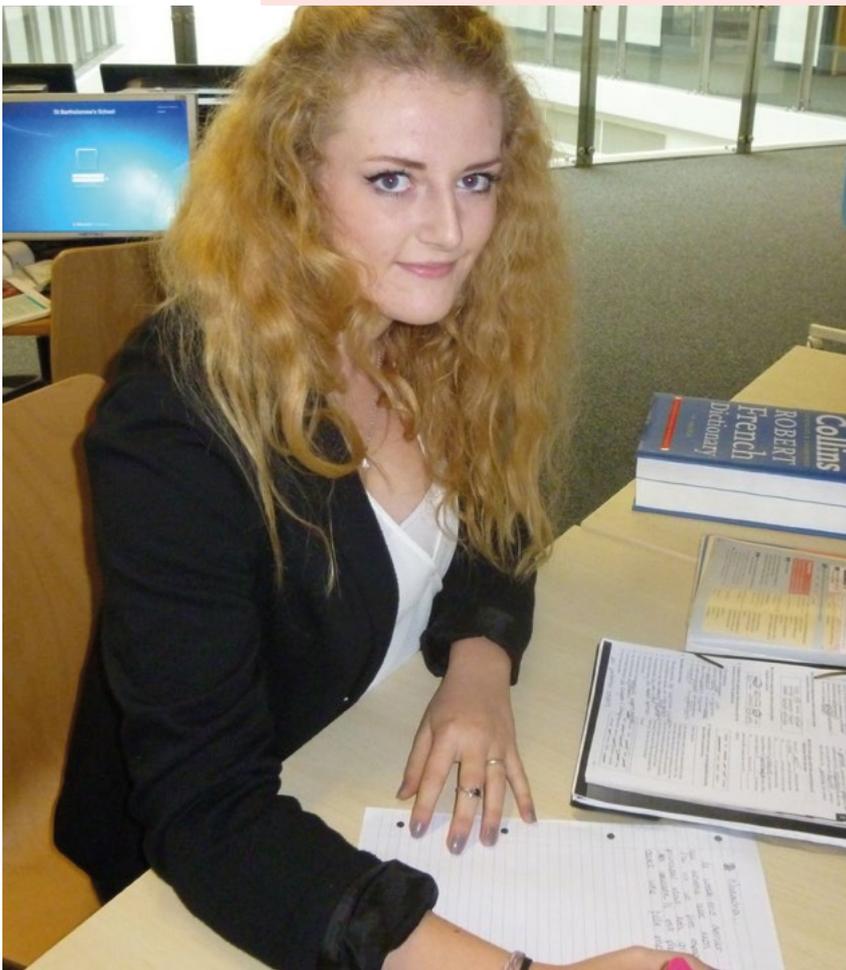
Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Studying French at A Level allows you to develop both your mastery of the language and your understanding of the history and culture of the French-speaking world. You leave school with a valuable skill for life.

"When I leave school I hope to learn more languages. I have studied French, English Literature and English Language." Beth



WHY STUDY FRENCH?

"French offers a good combination of logic and imagination. It is a challenging subject but provides opportunities to learn more about English at the same time. The course also develops students' understanding about the cultures and customs of other countries." *Beth*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons are varied and include debates and discussions, reading French literature, learning and developing the use of grammar, giving presentations and looking at French news stories." *Ashley*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

The world is your oyster! Students who study A Level languages go on to study a very wide range of subjects at university, often with a language as part of the degree (e.g. French and Law) and then go into all areas of employment. A Level languages are listed as "facilitating subjects" by the Russell Group universities and develop key study skills whilst opening up further choices in the future.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE French is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [1jour 1actu](#)
- [France2](#) – French TV
- [France Inter](#) – French radio
- [Languages Online](#) – Comprehension & grammar practice
- [Melly Buzz](#) – trending news



COURSE SUMMARY

This engaging and flexible course gives students the opportunity to:

- engage with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time.
- study the relationship between human populations with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.
- consider their own role in relation to themes and issues being studied and the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision makers.
- complete geographical fieldwork and develop geographical skills – assessed as an independent investigation, developing skills that will prepare for dissertations and employment.

The specification follows an issues and impacts approach to contemporary geography.



WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

As Michael Palin said: 'Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future'.

It opens doors, not just in education, but also in life beyond school. Everything links back to geography and our planet in some way, for as David Attenborough says 'the natural world is changing and we are totally dependent on this world – it is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it'. Everyone has a part to play in geography in some way. The A Level course involves a combination and interaction of human and physical topics that caters to all students' interests and abilities. This is a most diverse subject, opening the door to a wide range of career paths.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Typical lessons range from discussions and debates to learning and questioning geographic issues as well as note taking from cutting edge articles. The field trip is the highlight of the year, being able to make new friends whilst gaining first hand field work experience, based on things we have learnt in class." *Milly*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Geography can be an excellent preparation for a range of different academic disciplines at university. The skills developed in the A Level course are valued for a variety of courses and a variety of careers. While it has broad appeal,

the subject is clearly particularly welcome for courses and careers in environmental management, the sciences, management and administration, law and politics, business and finance, information services, leisure and tourism, social services and economics.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Geography GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred. Please note that in accordance with the curriculum, there is a compulsory residential field trip in the region of £200 and at least one compulsory day trip for NEA data collection.

"When I leave school I hope to study Geography BSc at Swansea University. I also hope to travel to experience new cultures. I studied Geography, Biology and Psychology." Grace

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [TED talks](#)
- [The Guardian.com/world](#)
- [Thinking about taking A Level geography?](#)

Books

- David Waugh, Geography: An Integrated Approach
- Joel Cohen, How Many People Can the Earth Support?
- Al Gore, Earth in the Balance
- Tim Marshall, Prisoners of Geography

DVDs/Documentaries/TV

- The Inconvenient Truth
- Planet Earth I and II
- Food Inc.
- Blue Planet I and II
- Countryfile
- Frozen Planet
- Before the Flood



GERMAN

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Studying German at A Level allows you to develop both your mastery of the language and your understanding of the history and culture of the German-speaking world. You leave school with a valuable skill for life.

WHY STUDY GERMAN?

"In learning a language your world becomes infinitely bigger. Studying German enables students to discover new foods, slang and music. It's really exciting to take part in a different culture." *Ellie*



WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"German lessons are always highly engaging with students talking to each other in a mix of German and English. There are some lessons which focus on grammar as well as plenty of opportunities to discuss current affairs or analyse a German film. A favourite German word in our group is 'Gummihandschuh' (rubber glove)." *Ceri*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

The world is your oyster! Students who study A Level languages go on to study a very wide range of subjects at university, often with a language as part of the degree (e.g. German and Engineering) and then go into all areas of employment. A Level languages are listed as "facilitating subjects" by the Russell Group universities and develop key study skills whilst opening up further choices in the future.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE German is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [ZDF](#) – German TV
- [News4kids](#) – Simpler texts on news stories
- [TuneIn Radio](#) – German Radio
- [German](#) – German grammar practice

"When I leave school I hope to continue learning more languages. I have studied German, Art and Religious Studies." Ellie



COURSE SUMMARY

Over two years, students will complete a variety of mini projects and coursework assessment units. Students will learn how to develop creative ideas in response to a design brief. They will explore how the use of image and text can be used to promote, advertise and inform. There will be opportunities to work with a range of media and techniques such as photography, digital design, painting, drawing and mixed media in order to create a variety of outcomes. The work that is developed will form a personal coursework portfolio. Students will be given a range of design briefs to explore that will allow them to experiment and develop their understanding of Graphic Communication.

WHY STUDY GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION?

What is Graphic Communication? Most people have a vague idea of what a graphic designer does. Creating logos for businesses? Working with images in Photoshop? Making magazine ads? Many designers do these things, but really they are just little elements of a much bigger picture. Graphic design and communication is all around you. If you are trying to communicate a concept in a visual way, then you will be using graphic design to get your message across. From pouring your morning cereal to waiting for the last bus home, you will find yourself looking at the work of a graphic designer.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

During Year 12 you will explore a range of materials and techniques. You will experiment with Illustration, CAD (computer aided design), Packaging, Photography, Drawing, Printmaking and Typography alongside learning how to document your ideas and project development.

During Year 13 you will have opportunities to develop your knowledge of the areas you are most interested in.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Students will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13. The course is assessed as 60% portfolio, 40% practical exam at each level.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Students who have studied Graphic Communication at St Bart's in previous years have gone on to have careers in design, marketing, advertising, animation, architecture, product design and engineering. Some students have continued their studies to degree level, others have found apprenticeships within the design industry.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Are you creative? Are you willing to experiment? Can you follow advice? Do you have a background in Art and/or Design? (we would suggest a Grade 5 at GCSE or above). Are you hardworking? (this course will take up lots of time outside of lesson hours) if you have answered yes in the majority, we would love to have you on the course!

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Grafik.net](#)
- [8 faces](#)
- [Pinterest](#)
- [Design Museum](#)

'Graphics is a mixture of being creative, conceptual and innovative. The teachers allow freedom for independent learning.' Hemi





BTEC IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

This course is made up of four units of work which cover aspects of health and social care from birth to the end of life. Students gain an in depth understanding of the factors which affect individual growth and development and the key principles underpinning health and social care services. This course provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop a sound knowledge base of highly relevant and dynamic topics. Students also develop key transferrable skills for independent learning, effective communication, analysis, problem solving, writing and team work. Students are encouraged to be curious and questioning, to develop resilience and organisational skills and to better understand themselves, their peers and the world around them.

WHY STUDY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

"Health and Social Care is a relevant subject for today's society. The course builds on what you already know of Health and Social Care and enables you to examine all its different aspects in much greater detail. It's really interesting." *Chris*

"Lessons are challenging but enjoyable. The tasks and activities are varied. What we do has opened my eyes to what happens in the health and social care sector." *Lorna*

"When I leave school I hope to work in the social care sector. I have studied Health and Social Care, Sociology and Art" *Keira*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Students look at case studies, watch documentaries and work in teams to compile information. Class discussions help develop our ideas and improve students' confidence." *Imogen*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Two core units are externally assessed by written examination and the remaining two units are internally assessed by coursework submission.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

This course creates a variety of routes into Health and Social Care professions. Students may progress to university courses in social work, paramedic science, occupational therapy, speech therapy, teaching, midwifery, any social sciences, criminology, sports

science, nursing and youth and community work. This course can also provide access to relevant apprenticeships in care. This course also provides a pathway to employment in policing, nursing, caring professions or public sector workforce.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Previous study in Health and Social Care is not required. Where students have studied the Level 2 BTEC course, a Merit or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- Emma Healey, *Elizabeth is Missing*
- Anne Fine, *Flour Babies*
- Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*
- [BBC](#)
- [NHS](#)
- [Oxford Brookes University \(Health\)](#)
- Pixar's UP (film)
- Still Alice (film)
- The Theory of Everything (film)
- Boyhood (film)
- BBC Radio 4 In Touch Case Notes



Exam Board: OCR
Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

HISTORY



COURSE SUMMARY

This fascinating course consists of four units which collectively cover themes from British, European and world history. The British unit focuses on the captivating period of the early Tudors, dating from 1485-1547. The topics studied include Henry VII, Henry VIII and the mid-Tudor crisis from 1547-1558.

The unit focusing on Germany from 1919 to 1963, covers the turbulent period in German history, which saw the rise of Hitler followed by 12 years of Nazi rule, before Germany was then divided into East and West.

A third unit is a thematic study of Russia's history during the period 1855-1964 and focuses in particular on continuity and change as Russia moves from a Tsarist system of government to one of Communist dictatorship.

The final aspect to the A Level History course is a coursework unit in which students investigate a history topic connected to one of the other 3 units. For this task, students are given the opportunity to research a particular event or period, and then produce their own personal investigation into that topic.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

"A Level History equips you with analytical, research and communication skills that help you develop both as a student and for the future work environment. A genuine enjoyment of History will be reinforced and rewarded by the engaging content of this course." *Harry*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons are mainly content based, but regularly interspersed with exam based skills for essay writing. Students also take part in group activities which help reinforce learning. In the second half of Year 13 many lessons provide opportunities for independent learning enabling students to progress with coursework." *Robert*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

You'll be amazed at the number of careers that are supported by a History qualification: journalism, law, politics, broadcasting, management, museum work, teaching, archaeology, to name just a few. Employers really value individuals who have the skills to research, analyse and communicate information effectively, and these are skills you will get from studying History.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

History GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Historical Association](#)
- [History Learning Site](#)
- [National Archives](#)



"When I leave school I hope to go to University to study History. My choice of History, Psychology and English Literature A Levels has set me up well for this course." *Amber*



LAW

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

This practical and interesting course consists of four units, which together give students a secure grounding in the English legal system; the course covers the court system, the legal profession, concepts of criminal liability (fatal and non-fatal offences, theft, robbery and burglary and criminal defences) and how personal and property rights are protected. Law Making and the Legal System and The Concept of Liability (Civil and Criminal) are studied, which develops knowledge and understanding of the legal system, together with an evaluation of its operation and performance. In the second year, knowledge and skills are developed and expanded, including investigations in the concepts of law, and possible reforms.

WHY STUDY LAW?

Law will help develop students' analytical skills and critical thinking. It also develops problem solving skills through the application of legal rules. Law complements studies in many other subjects.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Lessons are varied and include group activities and student discussion focusing on current events and different legal scenarios. Essay writing is essential and problem solving skills are developed. There will also be opportunities for enrichment visits such as to the House of Commons and courts as well as Moots and Mock Trials.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Studying Law gives you a window into the way the world works, and provides excellent preparation for many different careers: law, politics, broadcasting, journalism, accounting, business and management, education and teaching, to name just a few. Employers value the skills that you will develop in logical analysis, research, and communicating information, as well as the ability to apply your knowledge and skills in novel scenarios.



ADVICE ON ENTRY

A good command of English is required together with strong essay writing skills as well as an active interest in current affairs.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [British and Irish Legal Information Institute](#)
- [Legal website for students](#)
- [The Citizenship Foundation](#)



COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Mathematics will extend and develop your use of algebraic techniques to solve problems in a variety of mathematical contexts. This includes calculus, trigonometry and coordinate geometry (graphs). You will also apply your skills to problems in statistics (data handling and probability) and mechanics (objects moving, or not, in the real world). To be successful you need to be confident with algebra and enjoy Maths!

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

"Maths skill are hugely transferable and useful in a wide range of careers, as well as in day-to-day life. It is a desirable qualification for universities and supports other courses like sciences, computing and economics." *Hannah*

"When I leave school I hope to study computing at University. I study Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Computing and Business Studies." *Punam*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Students take comprehensive notes and work through examples and practice questions in class to consolidate their learning. There are also lots of opportunities for group work and teachers are very supportive and helpful." *Hannah*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

A Level Mathematics is an excellent foundation from which students can proceed into a range of different academic careers and disciplines. Students with A Level Mathematics go on to pursue higher education and careers in a wide range of courses including medicine, sciences, finance, social science and computing. Students wishing to study Mathematics itself at university, or apply for engineering at certain universities, are advised to take Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Mathematics is required.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [RISPS](#)
- [Hegarty Maths](#)
- [Interactive Mathematics](#)
- [NRICH Maths](#)

Books

- Keith Devlin, *The Millennium Problems*
- Edwin Abbott Abbott, *Flatland*
- G.H. Hardy, *A Mathematician's Apology*
- Charles Seife, *Zero*
- Marcus Du Sautoy, *The Music of the Primes*



COURSE SUMMARY

Opting for Further Mathematics means you are taking two A Levels in Mathematics – Mathematics and Further Mathematics. This means you have eight hours of Mathematics lessons per week to extend and develop your understanding of Pure Mathematics (algebra, trigonometry, calculus, coordinate geometry) to solve problems, and apply your skills in Statistics (data handling and probability) and Mechanics (how and whether things move). A Level Further Mathematics requires excellent algebra skills and the ability to enjoy the challenge and satisfaction of solving complex problems.

"When I leave school I hope to study Mathematics at Warwick or Exeter University and then become an Actuary. I have studied Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Biology and Sociology." Amy

WHY STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

"If you choose Further Mathematics it means the subject has to be something you really enjoy and are willing to spend a lot of time doing. Maths takes up your life with the students in the class having a maths addiction; the lessons and the subject become like a family. The class atmosphere is amazing and the teachers are very supportive." *Amy*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Anything you want! Almost any university course or job values A Level Further Mathematics highly. If you wish to study Mathematics itself at university, or apply for engineering at certain universities, you are advised to take Mathematics and Further Mathematics. It is also recommended for some courses in the physical sciences and computing.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Mathematics is required.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [RISPS](#)
- [Hegarty Maths](#)
- [Further Maths Support Programme](#)

Books

- Paul Nahin, *An Imaginary Tale*
- Simon Singh, *The Code Book*

See also books listed under Mathematics.



WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lots of maths! Typically, students go through theory and examples in the first half of the lesson and then the remainder is spent going through questions. The lessons are fast paced with each lesson covering one topic." *Amy*



COURSE SUMMARY

You consume media all the time. You watch TV, films and YouTube; you listen to music and play mobile games on your phone; you listen to music while flicking through the pages of a magazine. Maybe you've questioned how all this material ends up in front of you – who puts it there, and who profits from it. Maybe you're a media producer yourself. You might be making your own films, using a camera or on your phone; maybe you're into photography and are looking to go beyond your Tumblr and Instagram pages. Maybe you're interested in getting to grips with industry-standard video, photo-editing and desktop publishing software.

You may be interested in dealing with all of this at an academic level that will prepare you for undergraduate study; you may also be keen to develop the 'soft skills' that employers are looking for, including project management and team working. You may want to do an A Level where you can learn to use Photoshop and Premier Pro for coursework. That's what we do.

WHY STUDY MEDIA STUDIES?

"It allows you to express your creativity and personalise the course to your own interests." *Annie*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Media lessons are always the lessons I look forward to. We are continuously learning in different ways, for example from PowerPoints, taking notes and class discussions to interactive class games and computer design work." *Sophie*

MIGHT LEAD TO...

University courses in media, film, or other creative arts. Apprenticeships or placements in the creative industries. An enormous range of careers in the creative media sector.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Film or Media GCSEs are helpful, but not a requirement. You don't already need to have technical expertise or experience, but you need to be willing to learn. You need to be willing to study any text from any media industry – even if you don't like it. Being a reliable and co-operative team worker is absolutely essential.



COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

"Media Studies has inspired me to develop my creative skills and to want to study film and TV production at Aberystwyth University. I want to eventually be a part of a production company, which could maybe be my own. I currently study Media Studies, Psychology and English Language." Sofia

"I want to study animation at Bournemouth University and then move onto working at an animation studio as a character animator and designer. I study Media, Art and Graphic Communications." Georgia



MUSIC

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Music is an enlightening subject which can develop your individual creative intelligence alongside your academic ability to explore analytical methods, perfect performance techniques and enhance your general musicianship. Music is a widely respected discipline and offers students an opportunity to expand their study skills in a variety of ways.

The course provides students with three clear areas for development. Within the A Level course you will be required to complete a composition portfolio of two pieces (one free composition and one to a set brief), whilst developing an understanding of four-part harmony. The second area incorporates the submission of a performance portfolio of between eight and ten minutes on your chosen instrument. This may take the form of solo work(s) or ensemble performances and must be recorded as one continuous performance in front of a small or large audience (you choose). The third area of study encompasses analysing and investigating music from a very broad historical range.

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

Whether you are looking to read Music at university or study Music A Level as an additional subject, the course has been structured to facilitate and promote learning at all levels. Many previous students have decided to pursue a career/degree in music at Britain's most revered institutions. Equally students following alternative career paths have found the high aspirations of the Music A Level beneficial to their University applications.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Different musical ideas are translated to help students with their performance skills and assistance is given in developing an individual's composition style. Students also look at music from the past, analysing the harmony, melody and other musical features. The learning taking place secures a good balance between written tasks (analysis and essays) and practical composition and performance components.

Additionally, students can be supported by external specialist teachers. St Bart's is the Newbury Music Centre for Berkshire Maestros who can offer instrumental tuition where requested. A Level study workshops and appropriate educational visits are also organised to support classroom learning.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed improving my composition skills, finding new and exciting ways to communicate my musical ideas." *Adam*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

The A Level Music course is externally assessed/moderated and weighted according to the different areas submitted. Performing (30%), composing (30%) and the written

examination paper (40%). This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Studying Music degree courses at Britain's most prestigious institutions or facilitating entrance to other undergraduate courses. Music A Level has also enabled students to lead careers in music performance, composing, musicology, music promotion, journalism, teaching, conducting, (the list is endless). Equally students who have opted to study Music A Level for the love of their art and not as a career have enjoyed the wider benefits of the subject.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Music GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred. It is essential to be able to play a musical instrument or sing for the performing aspect of the course. Additional music exams are also beneficial but not essential. Please speak to a member of the music staff if you are unsure about any of these areas.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Music History 102](#)
- [Naxos – History of Classical Music](#)





COURSE SUMMARY

The majority of music produced today is brought to the listener via technology. The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of the impact of technology on a wide range of music. You will learn how to sequence and record using a range of production techniques, arrange music in a variety of styles, and understand the history of popular music and how this has shaped and been shaped by music technology innovations.

WHY STUDY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

"Music Technology is a great way to explore your musical abilities and interests in production. This course will allow students to be able to produce and compose music to a high standard as well as learning about contemporary music of the last 100 years." *Callum*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"The great thing about Music Technology is the independence students are given. Most lessons are set aside to work on your own compositions and experiment with musical software." *David*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

The majority of students who have followed A Level courses at St Bart's have subsequently pursued degree courses in Music Technology, although it can support a various higher education courses ranging from Music, to Music Technology at conservatoire level, mechanical engineering and human biology. Careers can then be accessed in a number of industries encompassing music, broadcasting as well as other areas.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

GCSE Music is not a requirement, but where it has been studied, a Grade 5 is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Allmusic](#)
- [Musictech.net](#)
- [Point Blank](#)

"When I leave school I hope to take the skills I have learned from this course and study music technology at university. It has been my favourite A Level and has opened doors to my future. I have studied Maths, Art and Music Technology."

Louis





PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

This is a course which encourages students to develop and express creative ideas through the medium of photography. There is a considerable emphasis on producing a body of photographic work in response to various briefs. Students have an opportunity to develop their understanding of technical aspects of photography while also engaging with the work of established photographers and artists.



In Component 2 (exam), students respond to a stimulus to produce photographic work, which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints and to develop a personal and meaningful response to address all of the assessment objectives.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Careers in the creative industries.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students are not required to have any experience of taught lessons in photography but should have an established interest in both photography and art and design. Students will have access to the school's digital camera equipment but are encouraged to use their own equipment where appropriate. Due to the requirement for ready access to cameras and other equipment, please note that class sizes may have to be limited.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- Langford, Basic Photography
- Peter Stepan, 50 Photographers You Should Know
- Susan Sontag, On Photography
- Tom Ang and Michael Freeman have also written widely on the subject

WHY STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY?

A fantastic opportunity to develop creative and technical skills in a lively, artistic environment.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

The emphasis is very much on developing practical skills and producing a portfolio of work but students are also required to conduct research into photographers and photographic techniques. Written work is also a key part of the assessment as students need to provide an extensive commentary to their own photographic output.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

In Component 1 (coursework), students develop photographic work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme developing a personal and meaningful response, which addresses all of the assessment objectives. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographer(s) or craftspeople and include written work of between 1000-3000 words that supports the practical work.



COURSE SUMMARY

The course looks at factors affecting performance in physical activity and sports. It includes units on applied anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition, sport and society, exercise physiology, biomechanical movement, sport psychology, the history of sport and technology in sport. You will be assessed through both written examinations and coursework. The coursework includes assessment as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one sport, plus written analysis of performance.

"PE isn't only one subject, it is many. It includes anatomy, psychology and the history of sport. There's something for everyone and is so versatile and fun" Hannah, Emma and Molly

WHY STUDY PE?

"The course is extremely interesting and includes elements of several different subject areas including anatomy and physiology, psychology, historical and contemporary issues. If you are passionate about sport, regularly participate in sport to a high level, and enjoy keeping up to date with current issues in sport – then this is the subject for you." *Oliver*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"There is a mixture of teacher delivery, individual research and group presentations. There is a large element of classroom based theory, as well as practical application." *Oliver*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

This A Level opens up a number of career options such as sport science, physiotherapy, sport psychology, teaching, injuries, fitness, nutrition or working for a national governing body. PE goes well with other subjects.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

PE GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 is preferred. There is a strong science element in the course and a strong GCSE performance in Science is also important. Students with a keen interest in sport who do not meet the required technical standards are encouraged to consider the BTEC Sport option.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Brian Mac Sports Coach](#)
- [My PE Exam](#)
- [Teach PE](#)
- [PPOne](#)





PHYSICS

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

There are six modules to be covered over the two years and these will cover all aspects of Physics. Practical experiments play a large part in the course and these will be backed up with your theory lessons. The skills that you will develop will give you a deeper understanding of the underlying Physics being taught and will enable you to gain the accreditation for the practical endorsement. Lessons are varied in content and style and sometimes we even ask you to be the teacher and present! For those wishing to have a greater understanding of how the world works, then Physics is for you.

WHY STUDY PHYSICS?

"Physics changes how you view the world and explains why things work the way they do. It gives you the tools to solve complicated problems. Physics leads the way to so many opportunities and careers." *Megan*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons are varied in content and range from answering questions, theory and practical work." *Josh*

"When I leave school I hope to study engineering at Cambridge University. I have studied Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths and Physics." Rob

computing, scientific journalism, cybernetics, astronomy, medical physics, education, transport, communications, as well as careers in medicine, law, and veterinary science and teaching.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Students choosing science in the Sixth Form are advised that the assessment style associated with A Level qualifications means that if you achieve less than a Grade 6 in GCSE Science or GCSE Physics you are generally unlikely to secure a pass in the A Level Physics exam. Students who are keen to study science at an advanced level and achieve a Grade 4 or 5 in GCSE, are advised to follow the BTEC in Applied Science course. The success rate on the course for students with this entry profile is very high.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

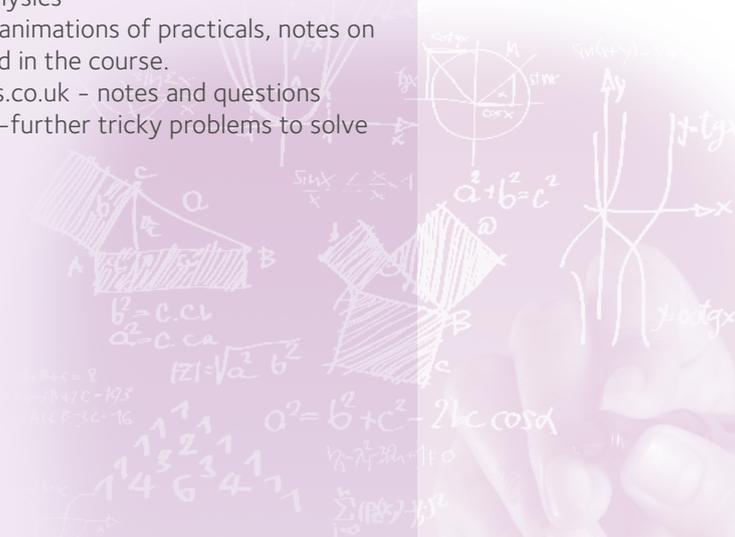
- Institute of Physics
- Phet - online animations of practicals, notes on topics covered in the course.
- SchoolPhysics.co.uk - notes and questions
- IsaacPhysics - further tricky problems to solve

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Physics is a universally respected A Level choice and can lead to a multitude of courses and careers. There are hundreds of careers for which Physics is useful, including most types of engineering, architecture,





COURSE SUMMARY

Politics is a fast moving subject with institutions and ideas changing daily, as Harold Wilson said 'A week is a long time in politics'.

In Year 12 we look at how our political system works including Parliament, law courts, the EU and the constitution. We also look at how people can participate in politics and what the different ideas are that we can vote for. In Year 13 we look at how the political system and people participation works in America as well as ideologies that influence political thinking including conservatism and socialism.

"When I leave school I hope to attend university at Grinnell College, Iowa (USA), a liberal arts college. I have studied Politics, Maths and History." Josh

WHY STUDY POLITICS?

"Politics is a really interesting subject and opens up academic writing in an accessible way whilst also educating students on issues that will directly affect you throughout your adult life. As well as being an exciting and interesting subject, it is extremely complementary to study alongside subjects such as History and English." *Joshua*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"The format of lessons can vary with some lessons being heavily structured based around a PowerPoint presentation and looking at the theory of how different political institutions and ideas are meant to work. Many other lessons involve students discussing contemporary events and ideas and assessing how successful our political institutions are. Essay writing is essential and the focus of assessment." *Eleanor*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Politics is seen as an academic subject which can help develop your understanding of the world and helps strengthen your analytical skills. It would be considered a particularly useful subject when considering a degree in Humanities, Law and English. However, its skills are valued in such university courses as journalism, law, nursing or medicine as well as the more obvious history, politics and social sciences. It is similarly

attractive to employers from the worlds of finance to management and science. It could also lead to a real interest in politics and a desire to get involved in national and local party politics.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

An interest in the political world that we live in is essential.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [BBC Democracy Live](#)
- [BBC News – Politics](#)
- [Huffpost Politics](#)
- [Reuters \(US\)](#)
- [The Guardian](#)
- [The Huffington Post](#)
- [The Times](#)
- [Total Politics](#)
- [The Week](#)
- [www.parliament.uk](#) – glossary
- [Politico](#)
- [The Washington Post](#)





PRODUCT DESIGN

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. This course requires students to cover technical and designing and making principles.

WHY STUDY PRODUCT DESIGN?

Product Design is thinking about the objects that are all around us in modern day life, how a new mobile phone was designed on a computer screen, modelling new products, making prototypes. The course involves looking at design movements, designers and architecture to gain inspiration to design new innovative, creative products for a target audience. The course encourages students to be inquisitive about how things work and fascinated about materials and how to work with them.

"Product Design is a brilliant course that allows you to open your mind and to expand on your creativity by learning from others and by sharing ideas." *Sam*

"This course is without a doubt one for the organised and for the creative. I would recommend it." *Alex*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

The students will have two lessons a week concentrating on the coursework element and two hours a week developing theory and knowledge skills through written work and practical work. The students develop their knowledge with tools and machinery through a variety of focused practical tasks.

"A Level Product Design at St Bart's is a fun and creative course. Although the coursework is a lot of work and can be quite challenging, it is very independent and hands-on, which is a nice change from other subjects. It opens doors to a number of jobs in the design industry." *Megan*

"Product Design is a really fun subject. It has been my favourite subject this year because it is a very creative and hands on subject rather than a lot of writing and listening." *Evie*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course with all units examined at the end of Year 13. At the end of the course there are two written exams in technical principles and designing and making principles which represent 50% of the final qualification. The other 50% is a non-exam assessment where students chose their brief to design and prototype their own solution to solve an everyday need or problem.

"When I leave school I hope to study Product Design at Loughborough. I have studied Product Design, Graphic Communication and English."

William

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Participation in this course can help to establish a secure foundation for further and higher education courses. It is particularly useful for those who want to go into product design, graphic design, interior design, architecture, industrial design or engineering.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Design and Technology GCSE is not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.





COURSE SUMMARY

A Level Psychology includes some of the most popular and controversial psychology topics of study. The area of social influence in the first year of study gives students the opportunity to investigate and replicate some of the most interesting topics in psychology. There are also opportunities to study mental illnesses and abnormal behaviour including OCD, depression schizophrenia and phobias. As the A Level course involves science and maths elements, students are expected to plan, carry out, present and analyse data from their own investigations, which makes the new A Level course more in line with university study and psychology in the real world. There is also the opportunity in Year 13 to study forensic psychology which includes investigating serial killers and the profiling techniques used to catch them.

"I hope to go to university to study Law. I have studied Psychology, Classical Civilisation and History at A Level." Catherine



WHY STUDY PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is a great subject to study as it enables you to develop a unique understanding about yourselves as well as others. The course explores aspects of human behaviour that will help your learning and memory performance in daily life, while also developing an understanding of the causes of psychological disorders. As well as this, Psychology also teaches you about various research methods and an analytical way of thinking which you can apply in a range of contexts, making it an excellent subject for a range of careers.

"Studying Psychology at A Level has inspired me to go on to study Law as it has helped me to understand why people do certain things and ethical reasons behind various actions. It's not only this evident psychological basis that's encouraged me to study a subject like Law, the analytical skills involved in writing essays and selecting various research to back up knowledge will also stand me in good stead for future study." Victoria

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Studying Psychology A Level has really helped me to understand multiple explanations for why people act in certain ways. In addition, the lessons are consistently fun and engaging because of the subjects fascinating nature" Lucy

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13. As part of our course there are rigorous assessments tracking progress throughout the two year course that are designed to prepare all of our students for the challenges of three final two-hour exams.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Due to the various high level skills acquired through studying psychology, there are many career paths open to psychology graduates; teacher training, health professionals, counselling and therapy, working with the police, working with SEN children and much more.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

The course involves significant English, Science and Mathematics skills and elements. Grade 5 and above in these subjects at GCSE is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [St Barts Psychology](#)
- [PsychCrunch](#)
- [BBC Science: Human Body and Mind](#)
- [Very Well Mind](#)



RS (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS)

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

RS (Philosophy and Ethics) introduces you to a variety of new, interesting, thought provoking and academically rigorous topics from Plato's cave to Aristotle's prime mover, Nietzsche's 'God is dead' to Aquinas 'necessary being', Aristotle's virtue ethics to Bentham's 'greatest happiness for the greatest number'. The course gives you an insight of ideas that have shaped thinking in politics, business, law and medical ethics, among other fields.

WHY STUDY RS (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS)?

"The subject studies how humans understand the world around them. We consider how we make our moral choices and try to provide clues to life's bigger questions. We take part in plenty of debates and look at the study of philosophical, theological and ethical theories which underpin and structure our world today." *Abbie*

"When I leave school I hope to take a year to see the world then study Philosophy at university, either Durham or St Andrew's before finally pursuing a career in sales. Philosophy can lead to almost any career; politics, law etc. I have studied Religious Studies, Biology, Sociology and Psychology." Annabel

British life. All universities and employers recognise the importance of this subject. The subject can lead to degrees or careers in law, theology and religious studies, philosophy, history, medicine, scientific research, police force, teaching, civil service and politics among others.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

The specifications build on, but do not depend on, the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE Religious Studies. Grade 5 at GCSE Religious Studies is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- Ahluwalia, *Foundations for Study of Religion*
- Jordan, Tate & Lockyear, *Philosophy of Religion*
- Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*
- Clarke, *Questions about God*
- Burns & Law, *Philosophy for AS & A2*
- Palmer, *The Question of God*
- Dawkins, *The God Delusion*
- Vardy, *The Thinker's Guide to God*
- Swinburn, *Is there a God*
- Cole, *Philosophy of Religion*
- Vardy, *The Puzzle of God*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lesson activities are varied and range from lively discussions, debates, retrieving information from texts and analysing these, teacher led sessions, use of audio visual clips, news articles and student led sessions." *Charles*

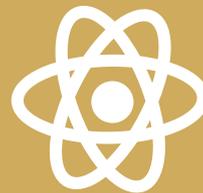
COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

RS (Philosophy and Ethics) is one of the fastest growing A Levels for the reason that the thinking skills learnt at this level are applicable to many aspects of 21st century





COURSE SUMMARY

The course develops essential skills in Science and comprises of four units, two of which are examined over two years.

WHY STUDY BTEC IN APPLIED SCIENCE?

"The course is enjoyable and suits students with an interest in Science. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied which develops scientific concepts and ideas whilst using a hands-on approach." *Lauren*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons are very practical with lots of experiments which help develop confidence in scientific ideas. Assignments are based on practical sessions in which we have to analyse and evaluate the outcomes. Our understanding of working in the science industry is also developed." *Lauren*

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Students have gained enormous benefit from this course in terms of results, gaining university places, training opportunities and acquiring excellent employment positions. This course will equip you well for both the world of work and higher education.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

The course builds on GCSE Science knowledge, particularly with respect to 'How Science Works'. Grade 5s in both Science GCSE and Mathematics GCSE are preferential. Ultimately, a good attitude to learning and adherence to deadlines, along with an interest in science, is the recipe to success in L3 BTEC Applied Science.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- Science based news stories (newspaper)
- [BBC news/science and environment](#)
- [Focus magazine](#)

"When I leave school I hope to study midwifery at university. I have studied BTEC Science, BTEC Health & Social Care and English Language." Emma





SOCIOLOGY

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

Students will learn about the main theories in Sociology and the themes which run throughout the course, such as stratification, socialisation, culture and identity. In the first year students will focus on the sociology of the family and education and carry out some primary research in local schools. The second year will focus on crime and deviance and global development.

WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY?

"If you are fascinated by the behaviour of others and why we act the way we do, then Sociology is for you! Sociology seeks to understand all aspects of human social behaviour including the social dynamics of small groups of people, large organisations, communities, institutions and even entire societies. Sociology is a dynamic, fun, fascinating, empowering and very enjoyable subject and adds a new perspective to your life." *Jess*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons cover a wide range of topics, such as causes of crime, family diversity, class, poverty, and class debates and discussions form an integral part of the course. Students are encouraged to take an active part in discussing current events and relating them to sociological perspectives." *Jess*

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Research shows people entering the job market will change careers several times over the course of their working life. Sociology trains you to answer the 'what, 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies, giving you a competitive edge in the job market and providing a strong intellectual background for students considering careers in the professions and business. It makes you think about things in society that you might not have considered.

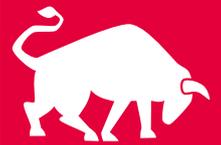
"When I leave school I hope to study Sociology at Cardiff University and become a Social Researcher. I have studied Sociology, Food and Religious Studies." Evie



Sociology is a respected subject for study in higher education. Students go on to have careers in administration, business, health and welfare, education, journalism, public relations, police and research.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

A good command of English is required together with strong essay writing skills as well as an active interest in current affairs.



COURSE SUMMARY

Studying Spanish at A Level allows you to develop both your mastery of the language and your understanding of the history and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. You leave school with a valuable skill for life.

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

"Studying Spanish not only gives you a competitive edge when applying to university, but also a huge advantage when travelling as you can involve yourself in another person's culture when you can understand and speak their language." *Elisa*

"I'm from Madrid and I enjoy learning about my own culture from a different perspective. One of my favourite parts was when we sent questions to a real Venezuelan immigrant. It was fascinating to learn about his experiences, and how other people live in the Spanish speaking world." *Dan*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

"Lessons are fun and engaging, with lots of discussion and debates around the topics studied, allowing you to express your own opinion and listen to others, all whilst learning Spanish." *Maddy*

"Students in the current Year 13 class are planning on studying these subjects at university: Modern Languages at Bath, Computer Science with a Year Abroad in a Spanish speaking country at Exeter." Ethan

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.



MIGHT LEAD TO...

The world is your oyster! Students who study A Level languages go on to study a very wide range of subjects at university, often with a language as part of the degree (e.g. Spanish and Business) and then go into all areas of employment. A Level languages are listed as "facilitating subjects" by the Russell Group universities and develop key study skills whilst opening up further choices in the future.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Spanish is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Aprender Espanol](#) – Grammar practice
- [rtve](#) – Spanish Radio and TV
- [Spanish Revision](#) – Revision exercises
- [Videoele](#) – Video clips for learning Spanish
- [BBC Mundo](#) – BBC news in Spanish



BTEC IN SPORT

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: [Click here for more information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

The Course is made up of four units of work: Unit 1 is anatomy & physiology, which is an external exam. Unit 2 is fitness, training & programming for health, sport & wellbeing, which is a controlled assessment and is externally marked. Unit 3 is professional development in the sports industry, which is the careers coursework; Unit 4 is the practical sports performance. The course provides students with an excellent cross section of subject areas, which would support work in a career in sport. Students also develop key transferable skills for independent learning, research, effective communication, analysis, problems solving, writing and teamwork.

WHY STUDY BTEC SPORT?

"This subject is accessible to all who have an enthusiasm and passion for sport; it is not graded on your practical ability. The course will help those of all abilities to improve in sport as well as being able to develop the ability to analyse the performance of yourself and others. Students also learn how to apply theory to practical situations; it helps to open up opportunities to work in the sports sector."
Laura & Mia

possible, the subject is made practical and there is a constant emphasis on vocational learning.

"The lessons are interactive and include computer based work when researching case studies and undertaking assignments." *Jack*

MIGHT LEAD TO...

This course creates a variety of routes into Sport professions. Students may progress to university courses in sport coaching, fitness and personal training, physical education, sports development, sports physiotherapy and sports psychology.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Previous study in sport is not required. Where students have studied the Level 2 BTEC course, a Merit or higher is preferred. Where students have studied the GCSE PE course, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Brian Mac Sports Coach](#)
- [My PE Exam](#)
- [Teach PE](#)

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Tasks are set through an assignment brief and the required content of the assignments is taught both in the classroom and in a practical environment. A variety of approaches are used ranging from presentations, case study research, debates and demonstrations. Students are expected to complete the assignments on their own but will often carry out preparation work in small teams or pairs. iPads are used extensively in lessons to record coursework evidence, reflect on learning and analyse the impact on their work. Where

"When I leave school I hope to study Sports Development and Coaching Sciences at Bournemouth University." *Callum*





COURSE SUMMARY

In A Level Textiles you will develop your own skills and knowledge through creative exploration. You will be given themes to inspire, and together with technical guidance and contextual stimulus you will develop original projects and outcomes.

WHY STUDY TEXTILES?

"If you are interested in a career in art or textiles or in a creative industry, this subject provides the knowledge and skills to put together a portfolio. The classes are small; students bond well and so we have plenty of support from teachers. The subject also helps develop your time-management skills." *Sam*

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Lessons are practical and students develop their projects while receiving guidance to help further their own creative journey. New techniques and skills are fed into the course and students create technical and contextual sketchbooks that support their own project development.

"Textiles is great for those who like to expand, improve and develop their creativity through fashion and creative Art pieces" Ellie

COURSE ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course. This means that students opting for an A Level in this subject will be committing to a two-year linear course, with all units examined at the end of Year 13.

MIGHT LEAD TO...

Recently students have gone on to study foundation courses in Art and Design at Bournemouth, Oxford Brookes and Surrey. Post foundation students have continued to study a range of courses in fashion design (menswear/women's wear/children's wear), textile art, pattern cutting and textile design



(weave, print and embroidery). Other career options include visual merchandiser, jewellery design, fashion journalism, costume design or fashion buying.

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Textiles/Art GCSE are not a requirement, but where students have completed the GCSE courses, a Grade 5 or higher is preferred. During the course you will be expected to purchase fabrics and resources to make products.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Selvedge](#)
- [Fashion Museum – Bath](#)
- [Directory of fashion/garment form](#)
- [Fashion Era – History](#)
- [Fashion Museum – London](#)
- [textileartist](#)
- [62group](#)
- [Art Textiles Made in Britain](#)
- [Studio21](#)



BTEC IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism

Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification: [Click here for further information](#)

COURSE SUMMARY

The course is made up of four units of which three are mandatory and two of the four units are externally marked. The units cover aspects of the travel and tourism sector allowing students to develop knowledge, and skills required, including customer service skills and factors that affect travel and tourism not just in the UK but Worldwide. Students will also develop transferrable skills for independent learning, effective communication, analysis, writing and team work. Students are encouraged to ask questions, develop organisation skills and to work in a range of ways including written reports, brochures and role play.

WHY STUDY BTEC IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM?

"Travel and Tourism is interesting and fun."
Courtney

"So many topics to look at makes the course really interesting. It's made me rethink what I want to do in the future."
Emily

"Learning about travel agencies interested me in following a career in the industry. I have now been accepted onto an apprenticeship scheme with a leading travel agent."
Maisie

MIGHT LEAD TO...

The travel and tourism sector is rapidly expanding and has a wide variety of industries which offer huge employment opportunities. These include holiday representative, tour manager, tourism officer, travel agent, flight attendant and airport ground crew.

"When I leave school I hope to work in the travel industry and have the opportunity to explore the world." Jack

ADVICE ON ENTRY

Previous study in Travel and Tourism is not required. Where students have studied the Level 2 BTEC course, a Merit or higher is preferred.

READING AROUND THE SUBJECT

- [Travel Weekly Magazine](#)
- [Which Travel Magazine](#)

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

The course uses a variety of teaching and learning styles. The theoretical content is teacher-led however there is emphasis on student-learning. The students look at a variety of case studies within the travel and tourism industry. It is assessed through a variety of assignments which may take the form of business reports, presentations and case studies. The important thing is that students evidence their skills and knowledge.

