

Poynton High School Sixth Form Prospectus

2024 ENTRY

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Introduction

As a Year 11 student you now have to make serious decisions about your future. If you wish to continue with your studies you will want to choose subjects you enjoy and that you are good at. However, it's worth remembering the subjects you choose at this stage can be very important to the future of your further studies or your career. We recommend you take some time exploring the following, whilst making your decisions to ensure you have considered all of your options fully.

The **Advanced Mathematics Support Programme** (**AMSP**) is a government-funded initiative to help you find out what Maths requirements there are for STEM subjects at University: https://amsp.org.uk/

The **Uni Guide** has an A Level explorer section so you can see where different combinations of subjects could take you:
https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer
You can research subject entry requirements for university courses of interest at www.ucas.com

For students who are hoping to apply to the most competitive courses and universities the Informed Choices guide from the Russell Group will also be very helpful.
www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices/

Information about what subjects you need for certain careers can be found at: www.nationalcareersservice
and
https://targetcareers.co.uk/careers-advice/a-level-choices/315491-what-a-level-subjects-should-i-take
and
https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices

SUBJECTS OFFERED – 2024 ENTRY

Please see below the subjects offered for 2024 entry and the entry requirements. This list may change during the course of the year as all subjects will run subject to demand. We will inform students of any changes to curriculum provision and agree a suitable alternative programme of study prior to starting with us in September 2024.
Students study three or four A Level courses, or a combination of one BTEC Extended Certificate (1 A Level equivalent) and two or three A levels as part of their overall study programme. This option, combined with our extensive range of courses, enables student to create an individual programme reflecting their interests and strengths.

Subject	**Entry Requirements listed are in addition to the <u>minimum Sixth Form entry requirement</u> for all students of 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4. Where students have followed a GCSE equivalent programme, four full course GCSE passes grade 4 or above must also be achieved.**
Core Mathematics	This course does not form part of a student's core subject choices but is intended to complement other A Level study. Grade 4 in mathematics GCSE is required to access this course.
Extended Project Qualification	This course does not form part of a student's core subject choices but is intended to complement other A Level study.
	A Level Courses
Art & Design	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art & Design or another Art & Design based subject.
Biology	Grade 6/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in the science subject to be studied plus a grade 6 in another science.
Business	Grade 4 in this subject if taken at GCSE or grade 4 in Mathematics if not previously studied
Chemistry	Grade 6 /6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in the science subject to be studied plus a grade 6 in another science. Grade 5 in maths is also desirable.
Computer Science	Grade 5 in Mathematics GCSE and a grade 4 in Computer Science if studied at GCSE.
Drama & Theatre	Grade 4 in Drama and grade 4 in English Language or English Literature
Economics	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
English Language	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
English Literature	Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature
Fashion & Textiles	5 GCSEs grade 4 or above and a grade 4 in Textiles or another Art or Design subject if these have been studied at GCSE level. Students who have not studied Textiles or Art/Design subjects at GCSE are welcome to choose this A-level.
Geography	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography if studied or a grade 5 in maths and English Language if not previously studied.
German (MFL)	Grade 5 in GCSE German

History	Grade 5 in GCSE History if studied or a grade 5 in English Language or Literature if not previously studied
Mathematics	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Media Studies	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Music	GCSE Music grade 5 and be of a Grade 5 standard or above, on an instrument or voice. If you have not taken GCSE Music and/or haven't taken any instrumental examinations, then you will be required to complete an audition with the Music Department to assess your suitability, prior to being made an offer.
Philosophy & Ethics (R.S)	Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Studies if studied or grade 5 in English Language or Literature GCSE if not previously studied.
Photography	No Additional Entry Requirement.
Physical Education	Grade 5 in GCSE PE if studied. It is advisable to have gained a grade 5 in a science subject and to be able to demonstrate a history of ongoing sporting aptitude.
Physics	Grade 6/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in the science subject to be studied plus a grade 6 in another science. Physics students must also be continuing their study of maths at A level.
Product Design (D&T)	Grade 4 in a Product Design (D&T) or Art subject if previously studied, grade 4 in maths if not previously studied.
Psychology	Grade 5/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in a single science. A grade 4 in English Language is advisable.
Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature.
Spanish (MFL)	Grade 5 in GCSE Spanish.
	BTEC Extended Certificate Courses (1 A Level Equivalent)
BTEC Ext Cert Business	If students have studied a Level 2 Business or Enterprise course, a Level 2 pass must have been achieved. Where no related course has been studied at Level 2 our minimum Sixth Form entry requirement applies.
BTEC Ext Cert Health and Social	No additional entry requirement
BTEC Ext Cert Sport	No additional entry requirement however, it is preferable that students will have a grade 4 in GCSE PE or a Level 2 pass in CNAT or BTEC Sport. Where a student has not previously studied sport, a proven enthusiasm for, and involvement in sport is essential.

Core Mathematics

This course does not form part of a student's core subject choices but is intended to complement other A Level study.

Examination Board
AQA

Explore the Course:
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/mathematical-studies-1350
Entry Requirements: Grade 4 or above in Mathematics at GCSE

Staff Contact: Ms R Horne

Course Description
The course awards UCAS points equivalent to an AS qualification and is regarded highly by universities.

This Level 3 qualification enables you to retain, deepen and extend your mathematical understanding. This is achieved through using mathematics to solve meaningful and relevant questions. The Core Mathematics course covers 4 main key themes:

- Understanding personal finance
- Understanding commerce
- Understanding chance
- Understanding data

Problem solving skills will be contextualised, and often there is no single correct way to approach a task. The course is fully delivered and examined in Year 12 so that the skills you learn can be applied to your other A-Level choices.

Courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Geography, Product Design, Business & Economics include a significant proportion of mathematical content and it would assist you to take Core Maths alongside these A-Levels if you do not intend to study A-Level Mathematics.

Learning Method
Lessons in Core Mathematics will have a very different feel to mathematics as you currently know it. They are all about applying your skills to the real world. Each lesson is centred around a specific real-world problem, such as '*My student loan gets paid to me in September, how much money will I have to socialise each week?*' or *'If all major festivals in the UK reduced the use of festival tents by 30%, what could be the environmental benefits? How could we investigate this?*'

Student Progression
Non-mathematical A-Levels and degree courses include a significant proportion of mathematical content. Some of which you will not have met at GCSE. The Core Mathematics course covers these required skills, and helps you apply and interpret the mathematical problems you encounter in a real-world context which will further prepare you for university, academic or vocational learning, employment and life.

Extended Project Qualification

This course does not form part of a student's core subject choices but is intended to complement other A Level study.

Examination Board
AQA

Staff Contact: Mrs A Cutler

Course Description
The Extended Project provides students with the opportunity to explore an area of interest outside
the main area of study. Projects may be in the form of a written dissertation, an artefact or a performance. Students will decide on a topic with the help of a supervisor. Previous topics have been as diverse as examining the benefits of human cloning to composing a song or providing the lighting for a whole school show. The process allows students to develop valuable skills in research, project management and independent working. As the Extended Project is worth half the points of an A Level, with an A* worth 28 UCAS Points, a good project can have a great influence on your results. We have seen an increase in interest from universities in the Extended Project with some now offering reduced tariff offers to students who are completing a project.

Learning Method
While there are taught sessions, the emphasis is on independent research leading to the end product which will have been decided by the student with guidance from the supervisor. During the course of the EPQ, the student will be required to complete a production log which documents their research and their progress and this accounts for half of the overall marks. Should the student choose to do something practical for their project, then this will be accompanied by a 1000 word essay. Otherwise the end product will be a 5000 word investigation of the student's choosing, containing footnotes, bibliography, appendices, and evidence of the final presentation. The student will then present their findings through a public presentation to an audience. In addition to the taught sessions, each student will have a minimum of five one to one sessions with their supervisor which
they need to document as part of their production log. All taught sessions are run in the style of university seminars and tutorials. The Extended Project is assessed internally with some studies being chosen to be moderated by the examination board.

Student Comment
Students who have undertaken the Extended Project have found it to be a valuable experience in preparation for university and some have undertaken topics relevant to their degree courses to strengthen their UCAS applications. Students view the Extended Project as a very positive experience and when asked said they would all recommend participation to other students. They have particularly enjoyed being able to undertake a project on something they feel passionate about or have a particular interest in.

Art and Design



Examination Board:
Eduqas

Explore the course:
www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design/as-a-level/

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level which must include a grade 5 or above in GCSE Art & Design or another Art & Design based subject.

Staff Contact: Mrs K Spinola

Course Description:

This is a two year, linear A Level course. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that employ a range of traditional and new media, processes and techniques appropriate to the Fine Art course. Knowledge of art, craft and design is developed through research, development of ideas and making, working from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source materials. Students will be required to participate actively in their course of study, recognising and developing their own strengths in the subject and identifying and sustaining their own lines of enquiry.

Learning Method:

Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video, film, animation) and photography. Students will produce a coursework portfolio of work, which accounts for 60% of the A Level grade, and an Externally Set Task which accounts for 40% of the A Level grade.

Students will be given the opportunity to display their artwork in an Art Exhibition at the end of both Year 12 and Year 13.

Student Progression:

In recent years students of Art and Design A Level have progressed to a range of university courses including Art and Design Foundation, Interior Design and Primary Education. The qualification has also supported a number of students who progressed into apprenticeships or employment.

Biology

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Examination Board:
AQA

Explore the course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE which must include grade 6/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in this subject plus a grade 6 in at least one other science.

Staff Contact: Mr J Lambert

Course Description:
There are 8 topics which cover the full A level specification.
1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

There is no coursework examination for this qualification though key practical activities will be embedded within lessons throughout the course. Students will receive a practical endorsement if they complete all required practicals to a high standard. Structured questions will appear in the examinations testing practical skills. 10% of all examination questions will test student mathematical skills

Learning Method:
The subject content will be taught in topics and will involve note taking, problem solving and practical activities. How Science Works practical skills will be linked in to all the topics throughout the course. There will be a field trip in the summer term to explore topic 7 with a focus on ecology and ecosystems.

Student Progression:
Biology A level facilitates entry, when combined with other appropriate A levels, to a wide range of courses. In recent years students have progressed to degree courses in, for example, Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Genetics, Veterinary Science, Zoology, Psychology and Biological Sciences, Mathematics and New Media. A number of Biology students have also entered employment and /or apprenticeships in a variety of fields.

Business

Core Maths supports the study of this subject



Examination Board:
EDUQAS

Explore the course:
www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/business/as-a-level/

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level, including a 4 or above in this subject if studied at GCSE or a grade 4 in Mathematics if this subject has not been previously studied.

Staff Contact: Miss H Williams

Course Description
A level Business introduces learners to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. The focus of the specification is to nurture an enthusiasm for studying business using contemporary contexts, allowing learners to develop an appreciation of the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues from a local to global perspective.

A level Business provides students with an excellent understanding of the world of both working in, and running businesses from small start-ups to multinational corporations. Modern topics such as digital technology, e-tailing, social media marketing, lean production, globalisation, ethics and supply-chain management combine with the study of the four key business functions of Marketing, Operations, Human Resources and Finance. Students will also gain an understanding of the wider political and economic environment in which business organisations operate. Throughout the course students will be introduced to a range of tool, theories, models and concepts that will enable them to analyse business performance and make proposals for future growth. Specific concepts include Investment Appraisal, Ansoff's Matrix, Critical Path Analysis, Boston Matrix, Ratio Analysis and Porter's Five Forces

Learning Method:
Classes will be taught using a variety of methods to ensure solid understanding of the key concepts and how to apply them. Businesses are studied on both a local and national scale including visits from local business people and visits to a number of businesses. Time is spent understanding and preparing for the demands of the examination.

Student Progression:
Learners will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of essential skills required for higher education and employment. The course provides an excellent progression platform for a number of degrees including Business, Management, Accountancy, Events Management, Marketing, Human Resources and PR as well as being extremely useful to those opting for an apprenticeship or embarking upon a career.

Chemistry

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Examination Board
AQA

Explore the course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/chemistry-7404-7405

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level including a grade 6/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in this subject plus a grade 6 in at least one other science. Grade 5 in maths GCSE is also desirable.

Staff Contact: Mrs C Smeaton

Course Description
A level Chemistry consists of 3 Units exploring Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry and is designed to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed during the GCSE Chemistry and Combined Science courses. At least 20% of all examination questions will test mathematical skills.
There is no coursework examination but students will keep a record of selected practical activities that they undertake over the two years, providing evidence for an internally-decided "practical endorsement". Examples of practical work undertaken are making aspirin and separating species by thin layer chromatography.

Learning Method:
The subject is taught in topics and aims to develop intellectual and practical skills including planning, research, problem solving, data handling, report writing and team work. In practical lessons students will be taught how to use more sophisticated laboratory equipment than is available to them at GCSE and will also learn how to conduct their own risk assessments for the activities that they undertake.
Students are expected to engage in independent learning to improve understanding of each topic and to make their own notes where necessary. Basic mathematics skills need to be good, and an ability to take responsibility for your own learning is essential. Students will be asked to think and reason in a logical manner. A positive commitment is essential and students should choose Chemistry because they are interested in the subject and determined to do well.

Student Progression:
Chemistry A level facilitates entry, when combined with other appropriate A levels, to a wide range of careers both in and out of the lab. In recent years students have progressed to degree courses including, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Genetics, Veterinary Science, Geography, Psychology, Biomedical Sciences, Natural Sciences and even Law and Accountancy. A number of Chemistry students have also entered employment and /or apprenticeships in a variety of fields.

Computer Science



Examination Board
OCR

Explore the course:
www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 5 in mathematics and a grade 4 in computer science if this subject has been studied at GCSE.

Staff Contact: Mrs D Bemowski

Course Description
This is a course that would interest any student who might be interested in a career as an IT professional e.g. software/application developer or telecommunications. Students do not need to have studied this subject previously; however, a student with GCSE Computer Science would find that they are further developing their programming skills in an environment that encourages creative thinking and logical problem solving. The specification is designed for students who wish to go on to higher education or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial.

Learning Method:
During Year 12 many lessons are dedicated to programming. We begin with very basic programs a few lines long and build up from there. Students are given resources in the form of electronic files and programming tasks that they will be required to work on outside of the lessons. It would therefore be advantageous for the student to have Internet access at home and a suitable PC or laptop. Students study a wide range of programming languages and focus on Python for the examinations.

Later in the year as the examinations approach there are a greater number of theory lessons. Progress is gauged through programming assignments and many short tests. There are no essay type assignments but there is coursework including a report during Year 13. This qualification will provide key business and personal skills, in addition to advanced software capability and theoretical understanding of computer programming.

Student Progression:
Universities offer Computer Science degrees that would allow a student to further their studies in this subject, however, previous students have also progressed to degrees in Medicine, Law, Politics and many types of Science when this course is combined with a suitable range of other A Levels.

Drama and Theatre



Examination Board
WJEC/eduqas

Explore the course:
www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/as-a-level/

Entry requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 4 or above in GCSE Drama and grade 4 or above in English Language or Literature.

Staff Contact: Mrs A Cutler

Course Description:
The A level Drama course is exciting and challenging and suits anyone who is interested in theatre, design, social history and culture. They are not, however, training grounds for actors and as with any A Level, there is a significant amount of written work involved. The course includes opportunities for groups to perform or design for both scripted and devised pieces of drama as well as to work practically to unlock play texts, and their political and social value.

Learning Method:
Students participate in the creation, development and performance of pieces of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text or a stimulus supplied by the exam board. The pieces must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Students are also expected to stage a devised piece and a scripted piece. With this in mind live theatre visits are essential and students will be offered opportunities to attend a variety of theatre productions. Students must also be prepared for practical homework, which will be set for after school and possibly weekend rehearsals.

The course offers many opportunities to perform and/or design. The assessed practical work will take place in the first and fourth half terms of Year 13 and consist of one scripted piece, one devised and one, a mixture of both. In Year 12 texts will be taught through practical workshops and written analysis. The written exam will be based on three contrasting texts where students will discuss ideas on performance, staging and design.

Student Progression:
Previous A Level Drama students have gained places at world renowned training schools including LIPA, Rose Bruford, East 15 and RADA. They have also made successful applications to Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group Universities and progressed into law, medicine, journalism, marketing, design, sales, theatre production and a wealth of other creative industries.

Economics

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Examination Board
AQA

Explore the course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics/as-and-a-level/economics-7135-7136

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 5 in maths.

Staff Contact: Miss H Williams

Course Description
Economics A level combines trade and development, microeconomic and macroeconomic content. Learners will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories by looking at current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life, drawing on local, national and global contexts.
Learners will study the content areas below:

- Scarcity and choice
- Demand and supply in product markets
- Demand and supply in labour markets
- Resource allocation
- Costs, revenues and profits
- Market structures
- Market failure.

The course enables learners to develop an in-depth understanding of the role markets play and the way in which governments seek to manage them.

Learning Method:
Economics is taught through a variety of methods. Group work and discussion tasks are used to help develop understanding of new topics. Clear examples are used and teachers have developed strong resources which allow students to maximise their learning. Time is spent understanding and preparing for the demands of the examination.

Student Progression:
The specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of economics or a related area in a range of higher education courses. Students who have combined economics with a range of other A levels have progressed to a wide range of university courses and employment destinations.



English Language



Examination Board
AQA
Explore the course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 4 in GCSE English Language
Staff Contact: Mrs K Greenfield, Mr A Graham, Mr R Hardman

Course Description
The course will enable you to build on the skills you have developed at GCSE, by engaging creatively and critically with a wide a range of texts and genres. The topics include:

- Child Language Acquisition
- Language and Occupations
- Accents and Dialects
- Language and Gender
- Language Change
- Global English

In the non-examination assessed unit you will produce a Language Investigation into a topic that interests you and a piece of creative writing in any genre and style you wish.

Learning Method:
English Language encourages students to debate and engage with the meanings and structures of language itself. We consider how the English Language has developed over time and how we ourselves speak and use language to our own advantage. The subject is a combination of taught lessons, independent study and personal research. It provides you with opportunities to develop a wider and deeper knowledge of the systems of the English language and of issues relating to language and its uses. Throughout this course you are presented with opportunities to develop your own creativity, both in the ways you think about language and in the ways you develop your expertise in using spoken and written language to communicate in different ways. The course introduces you to a variety of assessment styles, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing, allowing you to develop a wide range of skills, including writing and research skills which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

Student Progression:
Previous students have progressed to read English Language, Journalism or Marketing courses at university. When combined with other A Level courses, students also went on to study a wide range of unrelated courses or gained higher level apprenticeships.

English Literature



Examination Board
AQA

Explore the Course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717

Entry Requirement: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 5 or above in English Literature.

Staff Contact: Mr S Hoyle, Mr J Hogben

Course Description:
The course offers students an engaging and far-reaching study of the literature of various time periods and genres. 'Aspects of Tragedy' and 'Elements of Crime' provide the thematic focus for the examination units, with texts such as 'Death of a Salesman', 'Othello' and 'Brighton Rock' and 'When Will There be Good News'.
A non-examination unit allows students more independence as they study prose and poetry through the lens of a number of established critical approaches, such as feminism, Marxism, eco-criticism and canonical study. Students explore these critical approaches, alongside their own ideas, in two essays focused upon areas for study that they individually choose, plan and write.

Learning Method:
English Literature lessons encourage debate and engagement with texts through small group, paired and individual activities, as appropriate. Your English Literature lessons will be full of ideas, opinions, analysis and no little argument.

With examinations in mind, a variety of assessment styles are used, such as passage-based questions, unseen material, single text questions, multiple text questions, open and closed-book approaches. This allows students to develop a wide range of skills, such as the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research; all of which are invaluable for both further study and for future employment.

Student Progression:
Year after year, we have a number of students who, suitably inspired by their study of English Literature at A Level, then wish to further their learning of English Literature at university. Sometimes those students undertake English Literature degrees as a sole focus, sometimes they study English Literature as a joint degree in combination with other academic disciplines. Other students find that an A Level English Literature qualification is a really useful springboard for a wide range of careers. The skills of analysis, reflection and communication, which A Level English Literature promotes, are seen by employers as very desirable particularly for working in vocational fields such as journalism and publishing; education and training; counselling and social services; marketing sales and advertising; and management.

Fashion and Textiles

(Design & Technology)

Examination Board
AQA
Explore the Course:
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/as-and-a-level/design-and-technology-fashion-and-textiles-7562

Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs grade 4 or above and a grade 4 in Textiles or another Art or Design subject if these have been studied at GCSE level. Students who have not studied Textiles or Art/Design subjects at GCSE are welcome to choose this A-level.

Staff Contact: Mrs K Mottram

Course Description
Students will have the opportunity to study and work with a variety of fabrics and equipment. Topics for study will include: materials and components, processes and manufacture, design in the human context, design in practice, systems and control, industrial and commercial practice, smart materials, environmental and ethical issues. The course is assessed by an NEA worth 50% of the overall course mark and written examinations for the remaining 50%.



Learning Method
You do not need to have studied this subject at GCSE to take this at A level but you will need to spend additional time beyond lessons to familiarise yourself with the machinery and GCSE course content and also to develop your practical skills. A variety of teaching and learning methods will be used to appeal to all types of preferred learning styles. Theory work and practical manufacture of samples and finished products will be carried out. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for research, asked to give presentations to the group and to take part in discussions to act as a stimulus for their own designs. You will need to be self-motivated in order to meet the coursework deadlines.

Student Progression
A number of past students have gone on to study related degrees such as fashion design, clothing technology, fashion marketing and embroidery at University. When combined with other A level or BTEC courses, the skills gained on this course help students to also progress to a wide range of unrelated courses and employment.

Geography

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Examination Board
AQA

Explore the course:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a 5 or above in Geography if studied at GCSE. A grade 5 in maths and English Language is required if this subject has not previously been studied.

Staff Contact: Mrs C Hardman

Course Description
A Level Geography is an engaging course in which students study a range of physical and human geography topics and complete an independent geographical fieldwork investigation. In physical geography students gain an understanding of the cycles that drive our planet, looking at the water and carbon cycles. Students will also study areas of the world which are under stress such as cold environments. There is also the study of hazards looking at the relationship between earthquakes and volcanoes and humans. In human geography students will study how urban growth presents significant environmental and social challenges for human population; peoples' engagement with places and how the experience them; and globalisation and the driving forces behind the global economy and society. Students will undertake four days of fieldwork which will be used to prepare for their personal fieldwork unit.

Learning Method
Students will have separate physical and human geography lessons. Through the delivery of the course content, students will develop competence in a variety of geographical skills. This will include the use of use of different types of geographical information, including qualitative and quantitative data, digital, numerical and spatial data. Students will undertake four days of compulsory fieldwork where they will collect their own data. Students will also complete their own independent investigation where they will interpret and analyse their data, and present their findings. With the aim of the investigation being to communicate and evaluate findings, draw well-evidenced conclusions informed by wider theory, and construct extended written argument about geographical matters.

Student Progression
A Level Geography is a passport to success in a wide variety of careers. As well as carrying on in a career using your subject knowledge you will have acquired many valuable skills which make geographers valued employees. You will have proved that you have the ability to work on your own or as part of a team, will have a knowledge of current affairs and the ever-increasing environmental challenges we will face in the future. It has also been very pleasing each year to see a number of students continuing their Geography education at Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds in recent years.





History



Examination Board
AQA

Explore the course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/as-and-a-level/history-7041-7042

Entry Requirements: 5 Grade 4 at GCSE including a 5 or above in History if previously studied at GCSE. A grade 5 in English Language or Literature is required if not previously studied.

Staff Contact: Mrs C Hall

Course Description
The course aims to give students a chance to explore key areas of British and European History that are significant and gain a deep understanding of how events have shaped Britain, Europe and the wider world.

There are two examined components; the first is a breadth study looking at The Tudors from 1485-1603. The second component is a depth study on a key period of European history; this will be focused on Germany from 1918-1945 or Russia from 1917-1953. There is also a third component, which is assessed through coursework. Students will complete a 4500-word investigation based upon a topic in British or world history.

Learning Method
Students will be taught by two members of staff, each specialising in British or European History. A range of techniques are used and students will experience a variety of learning styles from note-taking and class discussion to group work and individual research.

Students may get the opportunity to go on a trip to London to enhance their understanding of the Tudors by visiting such sites at Westminster Abbey and Hampton Court Palace. They will also be offered the opportunity to apply for a place on the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, run each year by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Student Progression
Our students go on to a wide variety of things, not just History! The analytical and written skills you develop are highly prized by employers and universities and will give you access to a diverse range of opportunities. In previous years our history students have gone on to study, for example, English Literature, law, business, psychology, marketing, German, nursing and events management.

Mathematics

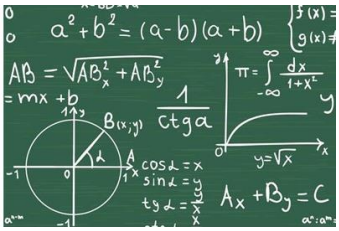
Examination Board
OCR

Explore the Course:
www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-mathematics-a-h230-h240-from-2017

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level including a grade 6 or above in Mathematics.

Staff Contact: Ms R Horne

Course Description
The areas of study for the new Mathematics A-level courses can be split into three sections; Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics. In Pure Maths you will learn new techniques to explore and model problems algebraically. Ever wanted to find the gradient of a curve? You'll learn how in Pure Maths. Mechanics explores real world problems involving motion and forces; use the techniques you have learnt in Pure Maths to find the velocity you'd be travelling at during a parachute jump. Statistics will teach you to calculate and interpret statistics including; the probability that you pass your exams! Or that the England football team could ever win the World Cup. There are many links to other subjects in Mathematics; Physicists will find many parallels between the Pure Maths and Mechanics content and the Physics course, whereas Biologists, Geographers and Psychologists will all employ techniques learnt in Statistics.



Learning Method
Initially, successful completion of the summer transition pack is required as this will be assessed at the beginning of the course. In lessons you will tackle a variety of problems from simple questions to more in-depth real world contextual problems. Outside of lessons a dedicated programme of independent practice will be expected to compliment the learning within the lessons. To help support your learning, we run after school Supported Study sessions every week. Please be aware that if you achieved a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics, it is quite likely that you would need to attend these sessions each week in addition to your timetabled lessons.

Student Progression
Mathematics is a highly valued qualification and is essential for many higher education courses,
Including; Engineering, Pure and Applied Sciences, Economics, Computing, Architecture, Accountancy and Medicine. If you are interested in further study in Science, Engineering or Computing, you may benefit from also studying Further Mathematics, which is detailed in its own section.

Further Mathematics

Examination Board
OCR
Explore the course:
www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-further-mathematics-a-h235-h245-from-2017
Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level including a grade 7 or above in Mathematics. Students MUST be studying Mathematics A Level to enable study of Further Mathematics.
Staff Contact: Ms R Horne

Course Description
Further Mathematics is taught alongside A Level Mathematics with additional classes to cover the extra content studied. It is suitable for students who are looking towards further study in Science, Engineering, or Mathematics and is a very highly regarded qualification that is essential for students looking to study related subjects at prestigious universities. Although historically seen as a qualification for only the most able mathematicians, we have successfully guided students of all abilities through the Further Maths course and are confident that all students with a good knowledge of GCSE Mathematics will be able to access Further Maths.
The course content will be split along similar lines to the A-level Mathematics qualification with students studying additional Pure Mathematics alongside the option to study either additional Mechanics, Statistics or Discrete Mathematics. Discrete Mathematics may be known to some as Decision Mathematics and involves the study of areas such as Game Theory, where students will learn to predict and explain behaviours in contexts from simple games to Economics and Conflict analysis. This branch of Mathematics can now only be studied as part of the A-level Further Mathematics qualification.

Learning Method
The Further Mathematics group is usually quite small so it allows for a lot of individual attention, helping students to achieve excellent grades in both the Mathematics and Further Mathematics qualifications. The school has developed links with the Further Mathematics Support Network and other local schools to support the learning of Further Mathematics students. Further support is offered for students who wish to take STEP or Oxford entrance examinations, which are necessary for students looking to study a range of related subjects at Cambridge, Oxford and some other top universities. Further Mathematics can be studied as a fourth A Level option choice.

Student Progression
This is an essential qualification for students who wish to study Mathematics at University and also has strong links to subjects such as Computing and Engineering. It enables the most able of students to meet concepts and techniques in Mathematics for the first time that would otherwise not be encountered until their degree course. In addition, Further Mathematics students consistently excel in their Mathematics A Level because of the crossover of study.

Media Studies



Examination Board
AQA

Explore the Course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies/as-and-a-level/media-studies-7572

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level which must include a grade 4 or above in English Language or Literature. An interest in film, television and popular culture is highly desirable.

Staff Contact: Mrs K Greenfield, Mrs S Coultas, Mr A Graham

Course Description
The course will comprise of a mixture of written examination and practical work. Students will learn how to produce, analyse and deconstruct a range of media products. These will include:

- Television
- Radio
- Newspaper and Magazines
- Advertising and Marketing
- Online, Social and Participatory Media
- Video Games
- Music Videos

As well as studying contemporary media, students will also study media products made before 1950 and products created for a non-English speaking audience. Students will engage with a range of media theories and will learn practical skills of storyboarding, filming and post-production editing.

Learning Method
Media Studies encourages students to debate and engage with contemporary and relevant issues and ideas; we consider how the mass media influences every aspect of modern life. If you enjoy analysing media products, discussing important social and cultural issues as well as creating your own media products then this is the course for you. The course is essentially an academic course that will help you to develop a mixture of research and practical skills that will be beneficial for whatever you choose to do after Sixth Form.

Student Progression
A third of students who studied Media Studies in 2020-2022 have moved on to study or work in a media-based degree or apprenticeship. The media industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the UK and there are many varied career possibilities whether it be digital based media or the more traditional media, marketing and advertising.

MFL - German



Examination Board
AQA
Explore the Course
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662
Entry Requirements 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level including a grade 5 or above in German
Staff Contact: Mr S Farrell

Course Description
Being able to speak a foreign language is now an essential life skill in a globalised society in which international relationships are often a necessity for organisations and businesses to thrive. Studying German at A Level will enhance the linguistic skills acquired at GCSE and extend your knowledge of German culture enabling you to communicate in both written and spoken German as you move towards fluency.

You will also explore the culture and politics of German-speaking countries as well as having the opportunity to take part in the German Exchange programme to Germany. You will study a film and a text and in the second year you will have an opportunity to carry out independent research on a topic of your choice.

Learning Method
As a language student, you will learn through a variety of whole class discussion and debate, pair work and group work as well as your individual study to allow you to grow in confidence in expressing your ideas in speech and writing on a range of topics. You will be expected to be well-motivated, hard-working and prepared to participate fully in lessons in order to practise all four key skill areas. You will also be required to work independently, researching new topics for your Individual Research Project and building your own language portfolio in addition to regular vocabulary learning.

Themes to be studied:

Year 1	Year 2
The changing state of the family	Immigration
The digital world	Integration
Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television	Racism
Film: *Das Leben der Anderen*	**Set text:** Dürrenmatt - *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Student Progression:
Learning a language is hugely rewarding, offering students the opportunity to travel and experience cultures very different to their own. A level German is recognised by universities as a challenging qualification which develops the transferrable skills highly valued by employers. As well as directly related fields such as languages, linguistics and translation, German is also incredibly useful if you want to go into the sciences, engineering medicine, history, the social sciences and law and is also offered in combination with a wide array of courses including business and management, marketing, sciences, arts and music. Many language students choose to spend an Erasmus year abroad in Germany as part of their degree.

MFL - Spanish



Examination Board
AQA
Explore the Course
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692
Entry Requirements 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level including a grade 5 or above in Spanish
Staff Contact: Mr S Farrell

Course Description
Being able to speak a foreign language is now an essential life skill in a globalised society in which international relationships are often a necessity for organisations and businesses to thrive. Studying Spanish at A Level will enhance the linguistic skills acquired at GCSE and extend your knowledge of Spanish and Latin American culture enabling you to communicate in both written and spoken Spanish as you move towards fluency. You will also explore the culture and politics of Spanish-speaking countries around the world as well as having the opportunity to take part in the Spanish Exchange programme to Madrid. You will study a film and a text and in the second year you will have an opportunity to carry out independent research on a topic of your choice.

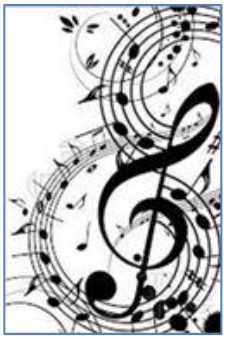
Learning Method
As a language student, you will learn through a variety of whole class discussion and debate, pair work and group work as well as your individual study to allow you to grow in confidence in expressing your ideas in speech and writing on a range of topics. You will be expected to be well-motivated, hard-working and prepared to participate fully in lessons in order to practise all four key skill areas. You will also be required to work independently, researching new topics for your Individual Research Project and building your own language portfolio in addition to regular vocabulary learning.

Themes to be studied:

Year 1	Year 2
Modern and traditional values	Immigration
Cyberspace	Racism
Equal rights	Integration
Film: *El Laberinto del Fauno*	**Set text:** Lorca – *La Casa de Bernada Alba*

Student Progression:
Learning a language is hugely rewarding, offering students the opportunity to travel and experience cultures very different to their own. Universities and employers value the ability to speak another language as well as the transferrable skills acquired through the study of a language at A level. As well as directly related fields such as languages, linguistics and translation, Spanish is also incredibly useful if you want to go into the sciences, medicine, history, the social sciences and law and is also offered in combination with a wide array of courses including business and management, marketing, engineering, sciences, arts and music. Many language students choose to spend a year abroad in Spain or South America as part of their degree.

Music



Examination Board:
AQA

Explore the Course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/as-and-a-level/music-7272

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE including GCSE Music grade 5 and be of a Grade 5 standard or above, on an instrument or voice. If you have not taken GCSE Music and/or haven't taken any instrumental examinations, then you will be required to complete an audition with the Music Department to assess your suitability, prior to being made an offer

Staff Contact: Mr T Webster & Mr C Western

Course Description:
Musicians are creative! This course will tap into your creativity and equip you with the skills required to develop your musical knowledge and abilities. You will develop your skills in performance, composition and appraising in terms of musical elements, contexts and language. This contemporary music qualification gives you the opportunity to study a wide range of musical genres. The Subject content is divided into three components: appraising music, performance and
composition.

Learning Method:
We're confident you'll find A-level Music course inspiring, interesting and practical.
The content of the lessons will motivate and stretch you, whatever your musical ability, equipping you with the skills and experience to succeed and go on to further study. We appreciate all styles and genres, skills and instruments and cater for different learning styles and musical tastes.Music technology is fully integrated, and many areas of study have artists or composers who have written works in this format. You can perform and compose using technology if you choose to.

Student Progression:
Students study A Level Music in preparation for further musical study at conservatoire or university level, or take the course to supplement other subjects... and because they enjoy it... what better reason! Music supports a range of subjects and can lead to numerous related (or unrelated!) careers - it is well respected as an academic subject and is considered highly by universities.
The teachers in the music department are passionate about music and would be delighted to welcome you to their exciting A level course.

Philosophy and Ethics (R.S.)



Examination Board:
AQA
Explore the course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7062/introduction

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE level including a 5 or above in this subject if taken at GCSE. A grade 5 in English Language or Literature is required if this subject has not previously been studied.

Staff Contact: Miss R Long

Course Description
This is a fascinating philosophical, ethical and theological course which focuses on some of the biggest questions that human beings can ask.

Philosophy
Why is there something rather than nothing? Is our universe real? Are you free to make choices or are they pre-determined? If you think you have an answer, know an answer or want to find an answer, then Philosophy is clearly for you. Philosophy is challenging ideas and debating your opinion. It asks important questions such as is God dead? Are religious experiences real? Is the universe infinite?

Ethics
Do you enjoy debating ethical issues? Do you find yourself aggravated by ideas you see in the media? Are you ready to dispute other peoples' opinions? Are you prepared to risk having your views challenged by others? If so, Ethics will provide opportunities to debate issues such as abortion, animal testing, sex, euthanasia and terrorism. Ethics is engaging with the most highly debated issues in the world today and confidently making moral conclusions.

Learning Method
You will be required to debate a series of complex and sometimes controversial topics. We expect everyone to share their voice and make their mark on the subject. You will regularly need to research a variety of key scholars and concepts and to keep up to date with current affairs. You will be expected to regularly construct practice essays both in lessons and researched as part of home learning. Essentially, you will need to engage within the world in which we live.

Student Progression
Beyond A Level, Philosophy and Ethics are highly respected academic subjects. They provide a solid foundation for higher education courses in Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Social Sciences, Politics and Law. In addition, it complements subjects such as History, English Literature and Medicine. The course benefits a huge spectrum of careers such as the police force, teaching, law, social work and health care. Over the years we have demonstrated that students who work hard will achieve pleasing results. Just as important, they thoroughly enjoy the time they spend with us.

Photography



Examination Board:
Eduqas
Explore the Course:
www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design/as-a-level/
Entry Requirements: 5 Grade 4 or above at GCSE level.
Staff Contact: Mrs K Spinola

Course Description:
This is a new two-year course which allows students to expand their creative horizons through taking and editing photographs. Initially the course will help students understand the workings of the camera and the use of editing software such as Photoshop. Emphasis is also placed on framing of photographs through understanding composition and light, as well as a range of artistic styles that can be developed photographically. Students will explore a range of genres including portraiture, landscape photography, commercial photography, still life photography, documentary photography, fashion photography, experimental imagery and the moving image/animation. Students are exposed to a wide variety of photographers' styles and techniques, which they can use or respond to through their own work. They will also have the opportunity to combine their photography with traditional art skills in printing, collage and 3D. The course will help students to develop their skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, creativity and perseverance. The department will provide access to DSLR cameras, lighting equipment and computer software.

Learning Method:
Initially the course is directed through teacher-led workshops and projects. This is in order to help students to develop their confidence and understanding of photography in preparation for their own independent projects. Students will then specialise in an area of photography which engages them. They will then complete a Personal Investigation consisting of a major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative portfolio of outcomes based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance. Towards the end of Year 13, an Externally Set Task will then be completed. It includes a preparatory study that leads to a 15 hour period of sustained focus in which students will produce a response to a chosen visual or written stimulus.
The Personal Investigation accounts for 60% of the overall A Level grade, and the Externally Set Task accounts for 40%. Students will be supported and led by specialist teaching staff throughout the course to enable them to achieve their potential in the subject. Students will be given the opportunity to display their photography in an exhibition at the end of Year 12 and Year 13.

Student Progression:
The specification provides a suitable foundation for the further study of Photography or, when combined with other Level 3 courses, a similar area in a range of academic or vocational degrees relating to Art careers, Advertising, Film, Photojournalism, Fine Art, Editing, Fashion Photography, Portraiture photography, Sports and Travel.

Physical Education

Examination Board:
OCR

Explore the course:
www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-physical-education-h155-h555-from-2016/

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 5 in this subject if studied. It is advisable to have gained a grade 5 in a science subject and to be able to demonstrate a history of ongoing sporting aptitude.

Staff Contact: Miss C Wilson

Course description:
Are you interested in sport and recreation? Do you know what happens to your body when you exercise and how to develop your fitness? Are you interested in how we make decisions when playing sport and why some performers have high levels of skill? Would you like to know how sport has evolved to its present state? Are you a good performer in one sport? If so this could be the course for you.

Students will be examined on theoretical areas including applied anatomy and exercise physiology biomechanical movement, skill acquisition, sport psychology, sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport.

Learning methods:
A wide variety of teaching and learning techniques are used to ensure students develop the skills and competence needed to meet the course requirements. The syllabus takes a multi-disciplinary approach, encouraging the development of different methods of study, with the focal point being the performer and performance.

Student Progression:
Physical Education students have progressed to University and studied subjects including Physiotherapy, Teaching, Sports Medicine, Business Management, Journalism, Sports Coaching and Sports Science. This course has also enabled students to access higher level apprenticeships with a range of employers including Network Rail and even lead to a traineeship as a jockey.



Physics



Examination Board
AQA
Explore the Course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/physics-7407-7408

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 6/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in this subject plus a grade 6 in at least one other science.
Physics students must also be continuing their study of maths at A level.

Staff Contact: Mrs K Pitt, Miss M Drumer

Course Description:
A Level Physics covers a broad range of topics including measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, periodic motion, thermal physics, fields and their consequences and nuclear physics. There is one optional topic chosen from a range of courses and students at Poynton will study Turning Points in Physics.

Learning Method
"*Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.*" *Carl Sagan*
New concepts are taught with practical experiences to link theory to reality. Experiments play a key role in Physics and throughout the course practical skills are developed so that students gain the knowledge and confidence to design valid investigations of their own. Students will deepen their understanding and appreciation for mathematical techniques, which provide the tools for Physicists to predict and analyse real-world behaviour.

You will study the workings of the universe, from the ordered motion of stars and galaxies to the bizarre quantum behaviour of the tiniest particles. Studying Physics gives us the ability to analyse physical experiences to gain a deeper understanding of our wonderful universe, and, in a very real sense, predict the future (with measurable uncertainty!). All the Physics teachers are highly qualified specialists with a passion and commitment to encourage our students to develop and enjoy their youthful curiosity, which Richard Feynman called "the pleasure of finding things out". In previous years, students in Year 12 have attended a Physics taster day at Manchester University's Schuster Laboratory, while Year 13 travelled to CERN, Geneva to find out about current particle physics research using the Large Hadron Collider.

Student Progression
Students go on to study a wide range of subjects at university having studied Physics at A level. In recent years, their Physics qualification has enabled them to access courses in Materials Science and Engineering, Natural Sciences, Biomedical Systems Engineering, Sound Engineering as well as pure Physics degrees.

Product Design

(Design & Technology)

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Examination Board
Pearson Edexcel
Explore the course:
https://www.qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/design-technology-product-design-2017.html

Entry Requirement: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level including a grade 4 in a D&T Product Design or Art subject if previously studied. A grade 4 or above in maths is required if not previously studied.

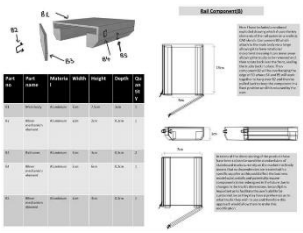
Staff Contact: Miss A Corry

Course Description

During the two-year course you will study a range of materials, you will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in.
You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. You will develop a critical mind through enquiry and problem solving, exploration, creation and evaluation of iterative designs. Pearson Edexcel encourage freedom in approaches towards designing and making so as not to limit the possibilities of project work or the materials and processes being used. The Pearson Edexcel content requires you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. This content reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject





The coursework element represents 50% of your A level, as does the examination. The examination will test your knowledge of product Design as well as subject related mathematics.

Learning Method

The course develops a range of design, communication and personal skills. The structure of the course will develop your ability to recognise and overcome challenges and constraints when working towards the production of high-quality products. Students will learn how to use ICT to enhance designs and how production processes, including CAD/ CAM affect a range of design and technology activities. Students will learn how to recognise the values inherent in design and technological activities and develop critical evaluation skills in technical, aesthetic, ethical, economic, environmental, sustainable, social, cultural and entrepreneurial contexts.

Student Progression

The course is particularly suitable for those preparing for courses in Architecture, Product Design, Engineering, Fashion Design, Ergonomics, Aeronautical and Mechanical Design, Furniture Design and teaching Design and Technology and Art and Design. Our recent leavers have gained places on Product Design, Architecture, Graphic Design, Building Surveying and Visual Effects Degrees.

Psychology



Examination Board
AQA
Explore the Course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level which must include grade 5/6 in the Science Dual Certificate or a grade 6 in a separate science subject. A grade 4 or above in English Language would be highly advisable.

Staff Contact: Mr G. Kenyon, Mr Lambert or Miss M Drumer

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Course Description:
A Level Psychology covers a broad range of introductory topics including social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. You will, for example, have the opportunity to explore whether a holocaust could occur in England, debate the fragile nature of human memory and study early influences on the social and emotional development of children. Psychopathology both explains and questions the nature of mental illness.

The Psychology in Context section of the course allows you to explore biopsychology; whether we control our body or whether it controls us. You will also research and debate different psychological disciplines such as the cognitive approach and the work of Freud. In order to evaluate opposing ideas it is essential to explore the increasingly scientific nature of psychology and learn to analyse a variety of data collection techniques.
The final section of the course, Issues and Options in psychology, delves into cognitive development and provides explanations for aggression. You will also study schizophrenia and apply different models, classifications and diagnoses to the disorder.

Learning Method:
Lectures and discussion are augmented with experimental practice and activities. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of the scientific method in psychology and assessment of its validity. Independent learning skills are nurtured and you are required to explore and produce your own research according to the protocols of professional scientific reporting, in the manner of a journal article. Visiting speakers have included professional psychologists, able to give an insight into both psychology as a subject and also as a career choice.

Student progression:
A large percentage of students go on to further study of psychology at university. The course nurtures a range of transferable skills and can complement a career in the arts, humanities or science. Our ethos is to encourage students to research, analyse and evaluate independently and to communicate their ideas effectively. Consequently, A-level psychology is ideal preparation for any research degree at university.

Sociology

Examination Board
AQA

Explore the Course:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level which must include a grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

Staff Contact: Mr A Bennett, Mr S Keifer.

Core Maths supports the study of this subject

Course Description
A-level Sociology offers students the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods. It is designed to encourage students to demonstrate the application of a range of skills and consider the integration of sociological themes:

- socialisation, culture and identity
- social differentiation, power and stratification.

The core units in year one examine patterns in the family and also the education system. During year two we delve into the media and crime and deviance. We will examine patterns of inequality within society, consider the impact of ownership and control and question the usefulness of social policies in creating a fair and meritocratic society.

Learning Method
You will be expected to take part in discussions and to be able to express your opinions clearly and logically. You will have to research current and past issues using the internet and other media sources and keep constantly up to date with recent events, both at home and abroad. You will be expected to be involved in personal research on controversial topics and prepare presentations and display work. Exam and past question practice is considered essential and you will be regularly assessed. In short, you will be made to think how society works around you.

At a time when employers and Higher Education are seeking breadth in studies Sociology complements both scientific and creative subjects. Since you will be taught to examine complicated and difficult issues in depth and are actively encouraged to express your opinions, universities regard this subject highly. Independent informed thinking is regarded by them as a key skill.

Student Progression
Careers linked to Sociology are wide and varied and include social and child care, the entire legal and criminal justice profession, human resources, public relations, research, teaching, health services, the media, politics and local administration, the leisure and entertainment industry and marketing and publicity.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Business

Examination Board
Pearson/BTEC

Explore the Course:
http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/business-2016

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level. If students have studied a Level 2 Business or Enterprise course, a Level 2 pass must have been achieved. Where no related course has been studied at Level 2 our minimum Sixth Form entry requirement applies.

Staff Contact: Miss H Williams

Course Description
This is a new course which was introduced for teaching in 2016 and has been designed to provide students with the balance of practical, research and behavioural skills required to progress to higher education or directly into employment. This course utilises a range of assessment styles, both practical and written, which will give students the study skills necessary to progress to higher education or employment.

The final range of modules will include one or more of the following:

Assignments – Students complete a series of tasks set in a work-related scenario. Examples of possible assignment modules: Exploring Business, Managing an Event, International Business.

Tasks - Students complete, in controlled conditions, a task tackling an everyday challenge, some tasks also draw on pre-released information. Examples of possible tasks modules: Developing a Marketing Campaign, Principles of Management.

Written Examinations –Students will draw on essential information to create written answers to practical questions in test conditions. Examples of written examination modules: Personal and Business Finance.

Learning Method
Theory knowledge will be delivered, assignments set and students will then be expected to work independently in order to fulfil the criteria. Assessments may be made on written work, presentations or practical video evidence.



BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Health & Social Care

Examination Board:
Pearson

Explore the Course:
http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/health-and-social-care-2016.html

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 or above at GCSE.

Staff Contact: Mrs K Mottram

Course Description
The course provides a broad basis of study for the health and social care sector and is designed to support progression into higher education when taken alongside other BTEC or A Level subjects. The course is equivalent to one A Level and is comprised of four units over the two years, both externally assessed and coursework as indicated below.
Students will study:

1. Human Lifespan Development (Externally assessed)
2. Working In Health and Social Care (Externally assessed)
3. Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (Coursework portfolio)
4. Physiological Disorders and Their Care. (Coursework portfolio)

Learning Method
Theory knowledge will be delivered, assignments set and students will then be expected to work independently in order to fulfil the criteria. Assessments may be made on written work, presentations or practical evidence. Final assessment is equally split between external examinations and student portfolio coursework.

Student Progression
This course can be combined with other BTEC or A Level qualification and allows access to a range of destinations. It will be of particular use to students who wish to go into a career in nursing, midwifery, psychology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, criminology, social work, residential care management, youth work or the probation service. In recent years for example, students have progressed to Coventry University to study Occupational Therapy, Applied Nursing at the University of Sheffield, a Healthcare Degree at Salford University and Paramedic Science at Liverpool John Moores University.



BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Sport



Examination Board
Pearson
Explore the Course:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/sport-2016.html#tab-2
Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level. Preferably students will have a grade 4 in GCSE PE or a Level 2 pass in CNAT or BTEC Sport. Where a student has not previously studied sport, a proven enthusiasm for, and involvement in sport is essential.

Staff Contact: Mr K Shaw

Course Description
The following units are delivered to complete the Extended Certificate.
External Assessment (50% of total qualification)
Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology (examination)
Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (case study)
Mandatory unit
Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry (Assignments and practical)
Internally Assessed Module (subject to External Moderation) Students study:
Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

The course has been designed as a two-year programme and combines well with A Levels. Depending on the accompanying A Levels, this qualification is ideal for students looking to progress to employment in sports performance or sports related university courses. These aspirations are supported and also broadened by taking complementary A Level qualification alongside this course.

Learning Method
Students will be primarily responsible for their own learning. Theory knowledge will be delivered, assignments set and students will then be expected to work independently in order to fulfil the criteria. Assessments may be made on written work, presentations or practical video evidence. External assessment is in the form of examination and case studies.

Student Progression
After completing the full course, some students may choose to continue their education through a variety of appropriate university courses. Some students may also choose to move straight into work within the broad sports industry which can be researched at https://www.uksport.gov.uk/jobs-in-sport
Many students have been accepted at universities on a variety of courses ranging from further sports development and coaching and sports business management. The course has also enabled students to access unrelated degrees such as English Literature and journalism and a range of higher-level apprenticeships within industries both related and unrelated to sport.