

Poynton High School

Sixth Form

Subject Information

2021 ENTRY

A BIBBY

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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, which aims to increase participation in A level Maths by showing you where it could lead:

<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>

SUBJECTS OFFERED – 2021 ENTRY

Please see below the subjects offered for 2021 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 2021.

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.
Career Ready	This course does not form part of a student's core subject choices but is intended to complement other A Level study.
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.
Art & Design	Grade 5 or above in GCSE in Art
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
Geography	Grade 4 in GCSE Geography if studied or a grade 4 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
Music	Grade 4 in GCSE Music or Grade 4/5 on an instrument or voice
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	No additional entry requirement
Spanish (MFL)	Grade 5 GCSE in Spanish
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 Information Technology	No additional entry requirement
BTEC Ext Cert Sport	No additional entry requirement

Career Ready

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

What is the Career Ready Programme?

Career Ready is a two year programme for 16 to 19 year olds, supported by some of the biggest names in British business. Students joining Career Ready within the school will benefit from:

- support for their learning, leading to national qualifications
- an internship with a local employer during the summer
- special employer-led master classes, seminars and company visits
- one-to-one mentoring by an experienced business volunteer
- networking opportunities with other Career Ready students around the UK
- the Capital experience

What skills do Career Ready students gain?

The Career Ready curriculum is delivered within school and is delivered alongside the students' A level subjects. All students following the Career Ready programme must be committed to their own development and have a keen interest in work related study. The students receive two Career Ready lessons per fortnight and during these lessons they will be working on employability and other work related skills. They will be fully prepared for the progression to Employment, Apprenticeships or University.

What are the benefits of the programme?

Career Ready helps young people achieve their full potential. Hand in hand with the qualifications

and workplace experience, Career Ready students develop life skills - time management, interview techniques, public speaking etc – and significantly grow in confidence.

Where do Career Ready students move on to?

The unique combination of classroom teaching and 'real' experience of the world of work shows students just where their studies can take them. The results speak for themselves as 85% of Career Ready students go into higher or further education, the remainder going directly into employment via apprenticeships or school leaver programmes.

Career Ready is hard work and it won't suit everybody. You've got to be prepared to put in extra hours of study, live up to an employer's expectations of its own employees and be ready to work as part of a team of like-minded young people. Your teachers will push you and have very high demands and expectations. The rewards are certainly worth it.

If you are interested in this exciting programme please speak to Mr Bemowski, the Career Ready Coordinator. Competition for Career Ready places will be stiff. If you think you're ready for this sort of challenge, we look forward to meeting you. For further information about Career Ready visit; www.careerready.org.uk

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

Staff Contact: Mr S George, Miss K Smith

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 accounting for 40% of the A Level grade.

Students will be given the opportunity to display their artwork in an end of year 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

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 D Tarmey

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



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

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 is a challenging but rewarding course that develops students' scientific skills and knowledge. The A level consists of 3 Units exploring Physical Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.

Learning Method:

Advanced Chemistry aims to develop your intellectual and practical skills. Opportunities will be given for planning, research, problem solving and team work. Practical skills such as observation, manipulation of equipment, interpretation and planning will be carried out within, and examined during the course of this A Level.

You will be expected to engage in six hours of reading and written work outside lessons per week and to read texts to improve your understanding of each topic and to make your own notes where necessary. Your basic mathematics needs to be good, and an ability to take responsibility for your own learning is essential. You will be asked to think and reason in a logical manner. A positive commitment is essential and Chemistry should be chosen because you are interested in the subject and determined to do well. Students who have achieved the greatest success are those who have been most involved from the start and so inevitably obtained the most enjoyment.

Student Progression:

Chemistry 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 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: Mr D Bennison, Mr L 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. Currently the texts are *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* adapted by Simon Stephens and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo.

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

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: Miss 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

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.

Geography



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 4 or above in Geography if studied at GCSE. A grade 4 in maths and English Language is required if not previously studied.

Staff Contact: Mrs C Crossan

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 including certain ecosystems and 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 they 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 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 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 L Hicketts

Course Description

The course aims to give students a chance to explore key areas of British and European History that are both significant and interesting and gain a deep understanding of historical developments.

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 English Literature, law, business, accountancy and finance, psychology and film and tv studies and have gained degree level apprenticeships in the construction management industry.

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: Mr D Wilson

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

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.

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.

Staff Contact: Mrs D Wilson

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. An interest in film, television and popular culture is highly desirable.

Staff Contact: Miss K Greenfield, Mrs S Coultas

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 2017-2019 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: <i>Das Leben der Anderen</i>	Set text: Dürrenmatt - <i>Der Besuch der alten Dame</i>

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: <i>El Laberinto del Fauno</i>	Set text: Lorca – <i>La Casa de Bernarda Alba</i>

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 at GCSE level including a grade 4 or above in GCSE Music if taken. Students who have not studied Music GCSE must have at least grade 4/5 on an instrument or Voice.

Staff Contact: Mr C Western, Mr T Webster

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.

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:

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 Mechanical Engineering, Automotive Engineering, Natural Sciences and Aviation Technology as well as pure Physics degrees.

Product Design (Design & Technology)

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:

Mrs G Burdett

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 and Graphic Design 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

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. Grade 5 or above in English would be highly desirable.

Staff Contact: Mr A Bennett, Mr S Keifer.

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 National 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 National 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 qualifications 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 National Extended Certificate Information Technology

Examination Board

Pearson

Explore the course:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/information-technology-2016.html>

Entry Requirements: 5 grade 4 at GCSE level.

Staff Contact: Mr L Bemowski

Course Description

This course has been designed to provide students with the balance of practical, research and technical skills required to progress to higher education or directly into employment. Students will be required to undertake a range of vocational assessments – both written and practical- allowing them to showcase their learning and achievements to best effect. Students will study a range assignment modules such as; Using Social Media in Business, Programming, Data modelling, Website creation, Mobile applications, Computer Games and Animation.

This qualification is designed to support progression into higher education when combined with either other BTEC qualifications or A levels.

Learning Method

There will be a practical approach to learning on this course. Developing and extending skills in all the different specialisms. This will be through intensive skill development in the classroom and practical sessions led by the teachers and also industry experts. The students will also experience visits to digital enterprises in the North West where they will get expert help and guidance from specialists in their field. They will be able to network with other IT and computing professionals and get a good grasp of the up to date skills and qualities required in the digital sector.

Student Progression

This course is ideal for a student who is interested in a career in the digital industry and also to a student that may wish to go onto Higher education. It has been designed by leading employers and universities. The content has been refined so that it is more modern and suitable for a young person setting out in the 21st Century.



BTEC Level 3 National 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 BTEC Sport. Where a student has not previously studied sport, a proven enthusiasm for, and involvement in sport is essential.

Staff Contact: Miss J Hancock

Course Description

A selection of the following units will be delivered for 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 Modules (subject to External Moderation) Students will study one module from the four listed below:

Unit 4: Sports Leadership

Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing

Unit 6: Sports Psychology

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

The course has been designed as part of 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 qualifications 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. 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.