

BELFAIRS ACADEMY

POST 16 COURSE GUIDE LEVEL 3



SEPTEMBER 2026

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SUGGESTED COURSE CHOICES

FOR CAREER/DEGREE PATHWAYS

The pathway lists below are not intended to limit students to certain subject choices. However, they give guidance as to what we would recommend and other relevant courses you would like to study in order to pursue a career or degree on a certain pathway.

BUSINESS

Recommended Courses: Business
Cambridge Tech, Business Studies,
Economics, ICT Cambridge Tech

Relevant Accompanying Courses:
Mathematics, Media Studies,
Sociology

Example Careers/Degrees:
Entrepreneurial, HR, Management,
Marketing, Retail, Sales

FINANCE

Recommended Courses: Business
Studies, Computer Science,
Economics, Mathematics

Relevant Accompanying Courses:
French, ICT Cambridge Tech, Spanish

Example Careers/Degrees:
Accountancy, Actuarial Science,
Brokering, Insurance

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Recommended Courses: Art & Design,
Drama & Theatre Studies, Music,
Photography, Textiles

Relevant Accompanying Courses:
English, Film Studies, Media Studies

Example Careers/Degrees: Design,
Fashion, Marketing, TV & Film
Production, Visual Arts

HEALTHCARE

Recommended Courses: Health &
Social Care, Sociology

Relevant Accompanying Courses:
Biology, Physical Education,
Psychology, Religion Philosophy &
Ethics

Example Careers/Degrees: Care
Provider, Health Care, Midwifery,
Nursing, Physiotherapy, Social Work





MEDIA/JOURNALISM

Recommended Courses: English, Film Studies, Media Studies

Relevant Accompanying Courses: French, ICT Cambridge Tech, Religion Philosophy & Ethics, Sociology, Spanish

Example Careers/Degrees: Journalism, TV & Film Production

TECHNOLOGICAL

Recommended Courses: Computer Science, Engineering, ICT Cambridge Technical

Relevant Accompanying Courses: Art & Design, Mathematics, Media Studies, Photography, Physics

Example Careers/Degrees: Aerospace, Electronics, Engineering, Programming, Robotics, Software

HUMANITIES

Recommended Courses: Geography, History, Sociology

Relevant Accompanying Courses: English, Religion Philosophy & Ethics, Psychology

Example Careers/Degrees: HR, Journalism, Law, Public Relations, Public Service, Publishing

MEDICINE

Recommended Courses: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics

Relevant Accompanying Courses: Physics, Psychology

Example Careers/Degrees: Dentist, Doctor, Pharmaceutical, Surgeon, Veterinarian

SCIENTIFIC

Recommended Courses: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology

Relevant Accompanying Courses: Computer Science, Economics, Geography, Physical Education

Example Careers/Degrees: Astronomy, Environmental Science, Medical Science, Natural Science, Research Science

In addition to this, the Russell Group universities publish a list of what they consider to be 'facilitating subjects'. These are subjects that, if taken, allow a broader scope of options for university study. The facilitating subjects that are on offer at Belfairs are listed below:

Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Geography, History, French, Mathematics, Physics and Spanish.

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Art A Level

Entry Requirements	Art GCSE Grade 5 or above.
What will I study?	<p>Students study and submit work under the fine art specification. This includes drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture & photography.</p> <p>Students will develop an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How ideas, feelings and meaning are conveyed through images and pieces of art, both at a personal level and how they are also socially constructed over time through Genres, styles, and art movements. Observational drawing, as this is a key focus point of syllabus. The use of a variety of media to produce pieces of art. How to develop and explore their own personal ideas in relation to a theme.
How is the course assessed?	<p>60% Coursework / 40% Exam</p> <p>Coursework will begin in lessons in October 2026, for completion by January 2028. Part of this is an essay of 1,000 – 3,000 words. This unit is known the 'Personal Investigation' and students will choose the topic or theme of study themselves. The exam unit begins in February 2027, with the external exam to be sat in May 2028.</p> <p>There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practice exam technique.</p>
Additional information	Students will need to be independent learners with lots of ideas and imagination which will enable them to create an interesting unit of coursework. They should also have a good skills base to execute the practical elements of the course. However, most importantly, they must have passion for the subject.
Future prospects	<p>Curating, set design, fashion design, interior design, art therapy, teaching, illustration and advertising, as well as numerous jobs within the design field.</p> <p>Students find that the skills of independent learning, creative thinking and research, along with presentation, are advantages which they can apply to many areas of employment.</p>
Course leader	Miss E Absolom

Biology A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined science OR grade 6 in GCSE Biology. Additionally, you must have GCSE Maths at grade 5.
What will I study?	Biological molecules; Cells; Organisms exchange substances with their environment; Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms; Energy transfers in and between organisms; Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; The control of gene expression.
How is the course assessed?	<p>There is a teacher led assessment of practical competency; this will lead to an award separate from the overall A level grade. There are 12 required practicals, which will also be assessed during the written exams.</p> <p>3 written papers at the end of the A level:</p> <p>Paper 1 will cover topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills, 2 hours, 35% of A level</p> <p>Paper 2 will cover topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills, 2 hours, 35% of A level</p> <p>Paper 3, a synoptic paper, will cover topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills, 2 hours, 30% of A level.</p>
Additional information	<p>The exam papers may include a mixture of short and long answer questions, extended response questions, comprehension questions, structured questions, including practical techniques, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay from a choice of two titles.</p> <p>At least 10% of the marks will be awarded for mathematics at higher tier GCSE level.</p>
Future prospects	Biology is a desired subject for many degree courses including medical services, Nursing, Ophthalmology, Environmental management and Forensic science. It is good for those seeking to pursue a career in Sports and fitness coaching, Biotechnology, the Food industry and Horticulture, along with many others.
Course leader	Dr M Wisdom

Business OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	Grade 4 in GCSE English.
What will I study?	<p>This qualification can be studied as a single or double option.</p> <p>Single option: Year 12 3 units Level 3 Certificate Year 13 2 units Level 3 Extended Certificate</p> <p>Double option: Year 12 5 units Level 3 Extended Certificate Year 13 5 units Level 3 Diploma</p> <p>Mandatory units include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business Environment • Working in Business • Business Decisions • Customers and Communication <p>Optional units: (subject to variation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing • Finance • Accounting • Human Resources
How is the course assessed?	<p>Single Option: 2 externally set exams and 3 units of coursework.</p> <p>Double Option: 4 externally set exams and 6 units of coursework.</p>
Additional information	The single option is broadly equivalent to 1 A Level. The double option is broadly equivalent to 2 A Levels. Students will need to have an interest in business and must be able to work towards deadlines as all assessment tasks are portfolio based.
Future prospects	After completion of the course, students can gain employment, progress on to further training or continue to university in a variety of business-related fields, such as Marketing, Accountancy etc.
Course leader	Mrs C Gunasekaran

Business Studies A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths.
What will I study?	<p>3.1 Focus: What is business, managing marketing and finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1.1 Business and objectives • 3.1.2 Forms of business and stakeholders • 3.1.3 Marketing management • 3.1.4 Financial management <p>3.2 Focus: Managing operations and people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2.1 Operations management • 3.2.2 People management • 3.2.3 Managing business culture (A-level) <p>3.3 Focus: Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy (A-level only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3.1 Business and society • 3.3.2 Business and the external environment • 3.3.3 Strategy • 3.3.4 Change
How is the course assessed?	<p>3 x 2hour papers</p> <p>Each paper will consist of 2 case studies and 5 mandatory</p>
Additional information	<p>A Level Business Studies helps students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value • Be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspective of a range of stakeholders • Acquire a range of skills including decision-making and problem-solving • Be aware of the current structure of business and business practice
Future prospects	A Level Business Studies provides students with the opportunities to develop important skills and relevant tools that will be helpful in many courses and for employment. In particular, Business Studies will give you a head start if you are interested in careers within accountancy, marketing and personnel management.
Course leader	Mrs C Gunasekaran

Chemistry A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. Additionally, you must have GCSE Maths at grade 5.
What will I study?	Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; Enthalpy, entropy and free energy; Amount of substance; Redox and electrode potentials; Acid-base and redox reactions ;Transition elements Electrons, bonding and structure; Organic chemistry; The periodic table and periodicity; Polymers Group 2 and the halogens; Organic synthesis; Reaction rates and equilibrium; Analytical techniques (IR and MS) pH and buffers; Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)
How is the course assessed?	There is a teacher led assessment of practical competency; this will lead to an award separate from the overall A level grade. There are required practical's to be completed over the course of two years which will also be assessed during the written exams. Total of 6 hours of examinations (2 x 2 hours 15 minutes and 1 x 1 hour 30 minutes) taken at the end of the course.
Additional information	The exam papers will include a wide range of question types including multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. They provide an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of both theory and practical skills through the examinations.
Future prospects	A Level Chemistry is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare such as medicine, pharmacy and dentistry as well as the biological sciences, Physics, Mathematics, pharmacology and analytical chemistry. Chemistry is also taken by many law applicants as it shows you can cope with difficult concepts. Chemistry can also complement a number of arts subjects.
Course leader	Mr A Moses

Computer Science A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Computer Science grade 5. GCSE Maths and/or Science grade 5 or above if Computing/Computer Science is not studied at GCSE
What will I study?	<p>The OCR Computer Science specification will above all else be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. The new specification will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on programming, building on the GCSE Computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. • Have an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course. • Put computational thinking at its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence. • Allow students to apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems in an exciting and engaging manner. • Give students a clear progression into higher education, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.
How is the course assessed?	NEA (Non Exam Assessment) 20% & two Exams worth 40% each Both exams taken at the end of year 13. NEA to be taken at the end of year 12 and into year 13.
Additional information	Skills that are developed throughout the course - problem solving, logical reasoning, computational thinking, abstraction and referencing of information sources.
Future prospects	Computer Programming, Game Development, System Analysis, Network Engineer, IT Consultant, Multimedia Programmer, Database Administrator, Software Developer.
Course leader	Mr S Carroll

Art and Design: 3D Design AQA A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Design Technology/Art grade 5 or above is preferred although studies in other creative subjects will be considered.
What will I study?	<p>Students study and submit work under the 3D Design specification.</p> <p>Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of three-dimensional design, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ceramics • sculpture • exhibition design • design for theatre, television and film • interior design • product design • environmental and architectural design • jewellery/body ornament • 3D digital design.
How is the course assessed?	<p>60% Coursework / 40% Exam</p> <p>Skills and coursework projects will begin in lessons from the start of the course, for completion by January 2028. There will be a range of briefs set and chosen by the student.</p> <p>Part of this is an essay of min 1,000 words. This unit is known as the 'Personal Investigation' and students will choose the topic or theme of study themselves which relates to the projects they do.</p> <p>The exam unit begins in February 2028, with the external exam to be sat in April/May 2028, which is a 15 hour practical exam set over 3 days for students create their final piece.</p> <p>There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practise exam technique.</p>
Additional information	<p>This creative qualification gives students the practical skills and confidence to succeed in a wide range of careers, especially those in the creative industries.</p> <p>They will investigate influences on design, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing a range of projects of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.</p> <p>Opportunities for trips, live briefs, competitions, workshops and guest speakers are also part of the course.</p>
Future prospects	The majority of students can use the qualification to go on to Higher Education in a related area, or onto a Foundation course in Art and Design and it also develops creative skills recognised by employers.
Course leader	Mrs S O'Neill

Drama and Theatre Studies

A Level

Entry Requirements	English GCSE grade 5. GCSE Drama at grade 5 or above is preferable but not compulsory.
What will I study?	<p>Throughout the course you will study</p> <p>Component 1 – Theatre Makers (Written Exam)</p> <p>The study of TWO set texts. You will explore these practically in class and then answer questions in regards to your exploration.</p> <p>You will also attend a live theatre production.</p> <p>Component 2 - Devising</p> <p>In groups you will create a piece of drama based upon a given stimulus. You will complete a working portfolio alongside your practical work reflecting on the process and the use of practitioners within your devised piece.</p> <p>Component 3 – Text in Practice (Practical Exam)</p> <p>You will study 3 contrasting texts practically and develop and perform 3 extracts from each one of the plays. Extract 3 ONLY will be performed to a visiting examiner. You will complete a reflective report to comment of your choices for your extracts and the implementation of a practitioner into your extracts.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>30% Coursework (Completed in Year 1)</p> <p>30% Practical external exam (Nov - May 2026- 2027)</p> <p>40% Written exam (Actual: June 2028)</p> <p>Coursework is controlled assessment. This will form a portfolio for internal assessment/external moderation.</p>
Additional information	Further reading lists are offered as part of induction but any reading surrounding influential practitioners of the 20 th century and the history of theatre, as well as visiting the theatre to see live performance would be strongly recommended.
Future prospects	<p>Many employment prospects can be enjoyed within the drama and theatre industry, such as: actor (live, theatre, TV), radio, theatre practitioner, theatre in education, playwright, teacher and drama therapy.</p> <p>Jobs that require the following skills also find the subject helpful: public speaking, leadership, negotiation, empathy and communication skills.</p>
Course leader	Ms M Rainbird

Economics A Level

Entry Requirements	Maths and English GCSE grade 6.
What will I study?	<p>The course gives an introduction to the world of economics, with modules on microeconomics and macroeconomics. One can expect to explore the notion of a market, studying topics such as demand and supply, elasticity and market failure. In macroeconomics there is an opportunity to study economic growth, inflation, unemployment, balance of payments, exchange rates, fiscal policy, monetary policy and supply side policy. Microeconomics covers mainly business economics and the distribution of income including market structures (monopoly, oligopoly and perfect competition), economic efficiency and the labour market.</p> <p>The course is divided into 4 themes:</p> <p>Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure</p> <p>Theme 2: The UK economy – performance & policies</p> <p>Theme 3: Business behaviour & the labour market</p> <p>Theme 4: A global perspective</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Paper 1: Markets & business behaviour – 35% of the A Level – 2hrs duration – 100 marks</p> <p>Paper 2: The national & global economy – 35% of the A Level – 2hrs duration – 100 marks</p> <p>Paper 3: Microeconomics & macroeconomics 30% of the A Level – 2hrs duration – 100 marks</p>
Additional information	<p>The qualification aims to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the subject Appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic & social environment Develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts Use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the Study of economics
Future prospects	<p>Economics is well regarded by universities as a rigorous A Level, because of the analytical skills that it teaches. Possible career choices include accountancy, stockbroker, banker and online financial and business-related careers; however most require a higher level of education. Your A Level Economics can lead you to degrees in Economics, Business Studies, Social Sciences and Engineering.</p>
Course leader	Mrs C Gunasekaran

Engineering OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	GCSE Mathematics and Science grade 5 and English at grade 4. Level 2 Engineering is also preferred.
What will I study?	This qualification is equivalent to a full A Level. During this course, you will be given the opportunity to develop and extend your knowledge and understanding in Engineering. You will explore the application of Mathematics and Science for Engineering as well as immersing yourself into the principles of Mechanical, Electronic and Electrical Engineering. These four units will form the core of this qualification, while the following two units will extend your knowledge and understanding of the core units. The Computer Aided and Mechanical Design units will provide the platform for practical application of the knowledge gained in the core units.
How is the course assessed?	The course is currently split at 33.33% Coursework and 66.67% Exam . The external exams can be sat in January and June of 2026 and 2027 depending on students' readiness. The coursework will be completed in the form of portfolios which will be assessed by your teacher and moderated by the examination board.
Additional information	In order to be able to grasp the concepts and context of this course readily, a GCSE level of understanding in Science, Mathematics, Engineering or Product Design would be beneficial but not mandatory. Due to the nature of the course, it will require learners to be able to think in a logical and sequential manner when developing solutions to potential engineering problems. The ability to retain and recall information and a strong will to persevere, as well as showing commitment to the subject, will help to pave the way in meeting your potential.
Future prospects	The world of Engineering is far-reaching and this qualification will count towards an undergraduate course at university or will hold the candidate in good stead if they wish to pursue an apprenticeship. In addition to that, you will be able to seek apprenticeships in the Mechanical and Electronic & Electrical sectors as a designer or manufacturer.
Course leader	Mr S McKenzie

English Language & Literature A Level

Entry Requirements	English Language and English Literature GCSE grade 6.
What will I study?	<p>Units of Study are: Telling Stories - what is studied: Remembered Places - The Study of an AQA anthology of fiction and non-fiction texts to consider the representation of a particular place. <u>Imagined Worlds</u> – The study of a novel to explore the point of view and genre in prose. <u>Poetic Voices</u> – The study of a collection of poems from a particular poet to explore and assess how a poetic voice is captured through particular forms and what is the function of the poetic voice. Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities Exploring Conflict- what is studied: <u>Writing about society</u> – considering the role of the individual in society, and re-creating aspects of the text studied. <u>Critical commentary</u> – evaluating own writing through methods of language analysis. <u>Dramatic encounters</u> – exploring the nature conflict in a play. Making Connections - Non-exam assessment: This is a <u>personal investigation</u> that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2,500–3,000 words)</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Year 1: Termly Written Assessments for internal assessment and target setting. Internal examination in April. Year 2: External Examinations in Summer Term fall under the examination titles of each unit: Unit 4.1 Telling Stories: 40% of examination grade awarded. Unit 4.2 Exploring Conflict: 40% of examination grade awarded. Unit 4.3 Making Connections: 20% of examination grade awarded.</p>
Additional information	You will study a selection of texts defined by the examination board; two novels, a collection of poetry, a dramatic text and an anthology of both fictional and non-fictional texts. You will also select texts to study and read independently. The course is designed to enable learners to develop their interest and enjoyment of literature and literary studies. This imperatively includes reading widely and independently.
Future prospects	Students who study English can progress within numerous careers where written accuracy and analytical skills are essential. Popular career choices include Teaching, Journalism, Marketing and Advertising, Editing, Creative Writing, Law and Media. English is seen as a competitive and worthy subject to excel and progress in. The skills acquired through the study of English are highly valued by employers and are seen to be the foundation of many other academic subjects such as History, Law, Sociology and Psychology.
Course leader	Mrs H Heighington

English Literature A Level

OCR

Entry Requirements	English Language and English Literature GCSE grade 6.
What will I study?	<p>Year One: Component 01: Drama the study of Tragedy (2 plays studied) Component 02: The Study of the Novel (2 novels studied) Component 04: NEA commencement</p> <p>Year Two: Component 02: Poetry - Modern anthology and a themed collection; preparing for unseen poetry</p> <p>Component 04: NEA Completion Revision of Components 1 and 2</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Each unit will involve formative assessments to develop students towards their final summative and examination assessments at the end of year 13.</p> <p>Year 1: Final Internal examination in April</p> <p>Year 2: Final examination</p> <p>Component 01: Drama - two essays on each play Component 02: A comparative essay on the novels studied Component 03: Comparison between unseen and seen poem, and essay on themed poet collection.</p>
Additional information	<p>The course is designed to enable learners to develop their interest and enjoyment of literature and literary studies. This imperatively includes reading widely and independently which students must do. Students will engage creatively with a substantial body of texts and respond to them in a variety of different ways allowing the cultivation of critical and analytical skills.</p> <p>Additionally, students will explore the contexts of the texts chosen as well as other interpretations of them. If productions of any of the texts studied are being performed, every endeavour will be made to try and ensure that students get to view it to aid their love of literature – and of the course.</p>
Future prospects	An A Level in English Literature can prepare students for many employment fields, especially journalism, the legal profession & the arts and media industries. Moreover, an A level in English, enables students to progress to a path in further education and will greatly help at degree level.
Course leader	Mrs H Heighington

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Level 3

Entry Requirements	All students entering Post 16 on Pathway 1 can be entered for the EPQ at Level 3. Other applications will also be considered upon enrolment.
What will I study?	<p>What is appealing about the EPQ is that the project can be based on – subject to academy and examination board approval – any issue that really interests a student. Students can choose to either do an artefact or a dissertation. Current projects include creating a film in the style of Wes Anderson, the psychology of colour, the benefits of alternative medicine in treating cancer and the creation of a short ghost story.</p> <p>Students are taught research methodology, academic writing skills, how to prepare for tutorials and a whole host of attributes needed to succeed in higher education and employment. Visiting speakers will include representatives from universities and employers such as the Bank of England. Students will also make use of the Open University's 'Future learn' and other virtual platforms.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>This is a research based project taking place over the majority of their study time in post 16. It is equivalent to half an A Level in terms of UCAS points.</p> <p>Students will have to provide high standard evidence of their research on topic, including logs of supervisor meetings, research diaries and records of evaluating all resources used.</p> <p>Their final piece of work will be a 5000 or so word research report, or artefact (just about anything-DVD, sculpture, performance, art ...) combined with a 1500 word research report.</p> <p>Submission for their final project is planned for March 2027.</p>
Additional information	<p>Much, but not all, content of the course is student led and it develops independent learning skills and the ability to write critically.s well liked by some universities and can sometimes be considered as a qualifying factor when applying.</p> <p>EPQ is a fantastic opportunity to study something of great personal interest, be accredited for it and significantly enhance your future!</p>
Future prospects	Universities and many demanding workplaces really value EPQ. Students will be much better prepared for both by gaining the qualification.
Course leader	Mr M Collins

Film Studies A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE Media/Film Studies and English. Admission can be subject to discussion with subject leader if not previously studied at GCSE.
What will I study?	<p>2 EXAMS AT THE END OF YEAR 13</p> <p>Component 1: Film History A study of film form and meaning through the study of US film from The Silent Era 1930-1960 1961-1990 A study of experimental surrealist films and The French New Wave movement</p> <p>Component 2: Critical Approaches to Film Development and understanding of critical approaches to film via a range of films Contemporary British Contemporary US Documentary Non- European non English language English language (non-US) US Independent</p> <p>1 PRACTICAL UNIT: NEA (Non Assessed Unit) A production of a 5 minute short film or a 10 minute screenplay</p>
How is the course assessed?	2 exams worth 70% NEA worth 30%
Additional information	Critical thinking, decision-making and analysis skills required. An existing knowledge of a range of film genres (even just as an audience/consumer) is essential.
Future prospects	This course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Film Studies or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for those who intend to pursue a career in the media/film industries, journalism, graphic design etc.
Course leader	Ms E Dietman

French A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE French grade 6 and grade 6 in English Language
What will I study?	<p>Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing nature of the family (La Famille en voie de changement) • The 'cyber-society' (La "cyber-société") • The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat) <p>Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse) • Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?) • How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels) <p>Artistic culture in the French-speaking world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine) • Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine) • Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma: le septième art) <p>Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenagers. The right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique) • Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power? (Manifestations, grèves - à qui le pouvoir?) • Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration) <p>The study of Literary Texts and Films</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Listening, Reading and Writing Exam: 40% of exam grade</p> <p>Writing Exam: Based on Literary texts and films 30% of grade</p> <p>Speaking Exam: Discussion of a theme and then presentation and discussion of an individual research topic 30%</p> <p>Internal Assessments at the end of each half term.</p>
Additional information	Other Skills needed: Good work ethic; independent learning; resilience. Essay-based subject; logical thinking; a lot of further reading; have opinions; be able to speak and hold a debate.
Future prospects	Languages can be studied alone or alongside many other subjects at university and can complement a variety of professions.
Course leader	Ms K Campbell

Graphics A Level

Entry Requirements	Photography or Art GCSE grade 4 or above or subject to submission of a portfolio if not studied at GCSE.
What will I study?	<p>Students study and submit work under Graphics specification. This includes a range of graphic communication processes and techniques that may be hand rendered or digital.</p> <p>Students will gain an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How own research informs practical work and outcomes. • A range of graphic communication areas including; illustration, branding and advertising. • Ability to respond to an issue, concept or idea whilst working to a brief. • Appropriate use of typography, which may be hand lettering or digital.
How is the course assessed?	<p>60% Coursework / 40% Exam</p> <p>Coursework will begin in lessons in October 2026, for completion by January 2028. Part of this is an essay of 1,000 – 3,000 words. This unit is known as the 'Personal Investigation' and students will choose the topic or theme of study themselves.</p> <p>The exam unit begins in February 2028 with the external exam to be sat in May 2028.</p> <p>There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practice exam technique.</p>
Additional information	<p>Students will need to be independent learners with lots of ideas and imagination which will enable them to create an interesting unit of coursework.</p> <p>They will be encouraged to develop projects based on their own interests. Students must be able to successfully respond to a client brief.</p> <p>They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of mediums and graphic communication.</p>
Future prospects	<p>A qualification in Graphics can lead to a multitude of careers including; graphic designer, illustrator, animator, advertising & marketing designer and set designer.</p> <p>The course will allow for transferrable skills including; meeting requirements of a brief, time management and creative problem solving.</p>
Course leader	Miss E Absolom

Geography A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE grade 4 in Geography, English and maths. Admission can be subject to discussion with subject leader if not previously studied at GCSE.
What will I study?	At A Level you will build upon and develop skills and knowledge from GCSE. However, there is an expectation of more detailed understanding and more complex theories at this level. Physical Geography topics studied include; Water and carbon cycles, Coastal environments and Hazards. Human Geography topics include; Global systems and global governance, Changing places alongside Population and the environment.
How is the course assessed?	40% Physical Geography Exam 40% Human Geography Exam 20% Geographical Fieldwork Investigation (3-4000 words) All of which will be assessed in June 2027 following 2 years of study. PPEs and end of topic assessments will be used to monitor progress throughout the course.
Additional information	Geographers should have a passion for the subject evidenced through previous success in the subject. Content is delivered using a variety of teaching methods from a dynamic Post 16 team and students should expect a mixture of enquiry based learning, analysis of statistics and essay writing.
Future prospects	Geography can lead to many related university courses but it is also held in high regard by many employers due to the vast range of skills a geographer will develop through an A Level course. Skills such as communication, decision making, enquiry, problem solving, research, data collection and working in teams are just a few as well as the essential geographical knowledge and understanding developed. A Level geographers have gone on to become entrepreneurs, engineers, town planners, teachers and environmental consultants to name a few.
Course leader	Mr I Toward

Health and Social Care

BTEC Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	Merit at Health and Social Care or grade 5 in GCSE English if new to Health and Social Care.
What will I study?	Students develop a broad understanding of the health, social care and early years sectors, as well as the skills and technical knowledge of this area. In addition, they will gain an awareness of particular groups and their needs by focusing on health, early years, care of older people or individuals with specific needs. This is a sector specific qualification. There are four units to be studied over the two years. Units covered: Human Lifespan Development Working in Health and Social Care Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs
How is the course assessed?	Two units are portfolio based. The units contain assessment tasks at Pass, Merit and Distinction level. Two units have examinations, one in year 12 and one in year 13.
Additional information	<u>You must have a genuine interest and enthusiasm to work with people of all ages and needs.</u> This course requires you to apply knowledge and understanding from the 'real' world so some experience in this area is useful. This will support you to achieve the higher grades. This course has the same UCAS points as the A level in H&SC.
Future prospects	Health and Social Care enables students to progress to degree level courses such as nursing, midwifery, social work, teaching and physiotherapy. It is an ideal course in preparation for these degrees and is fully accepted by admissions tutors. You could also go onto relevant employment within the health, social care and early years sector.
Course leader	Mrs N Barrett

History A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE grade 5 in History and English. Admission can be subject to discussion with subject leader if not previously studied at GCSE.
What will I study?	<p>Component 1: Breadth study - Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964. In Year 2 students will study the significance of historical developments within Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union over a period of around 100 years and associated interpretations. This option allows students to study in breadth, issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period of the Tsars, Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev.</p> <p>Component 2: Depth study - The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007. In Year 1 students will study this option which will consider in depth, the key political, economic, social and international changes which helped to mould Britain in the second half of the 20th century. It explores concepts such as government and opposition, class, social division and cultural change. It encourages students to reflect on Britain's changing place in the world as well as the inter-relationship between political policies, economic developments and political survival - this involves the study in depth of a major historical change or development and associated primary evidence.</p> <p>Component 3: Historical investigation – Tudors 1485-1603. (Coursework component) A personal independent study based upon an allocated question. This should take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years.</p>
How is the course assessed?	20% Coursework /80% Exam - Coursework is carried out through lessons and independently through a historical investigation that will lead them to write a 4,500 word essay which will be internally moderated and then submitted to AQA. Internal assessment, including PPE will be held April 2026 and January 2027
Additional information	Year 2 students will build on their learning from Year 1, by drawing on and evaluating a greater depth and range of increasingly more sophisticated content and evidence, producing responses that are more analytical.
Future prospects	History can lead to many related university courses but it is also held in high regard by many employers due to the vast range of skills that will be obtained at A level. Skills such as enquiry, research, interpretation, debate, evaluation and working in teams are just a few as well as the essential historical knowledge and understanding developed. A Level historians have gone on to work in journalism, politics lecturing, public services, law, department of defence, librarian and marketing to name a few.
Course leader	Mr J Rainey

IT OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	GCSE grade 4 in English and maths. Admission can be subject to discussion with subject leader.
What will I study?	<p>This specification sees students develop a wide range of IT skills together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of ICT. Candidates are encouraged to become discerning users of ICT.</p> <p>A wide range of centre-assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on the Fundamentals of IT, Global Information. Students will follow the Application Developer pathway.</p>
How is the course assessed?	40% Coursework / 60% Exam. Internal assessment: Coursework at the end of each term unit exams throughout the two years, according to need.
Additional information	Basic skills that will be developed are essay writing, logical thinking, presentation, problem solving and interview techniques.
Future prospects	The course is designed to meet UCAS requirements. Although this course is vocational, it is focussed on building desirable/essential skills to join apprenticeships within the IT and creative industries.
Course leader	Mr S Carroll

Mathematics A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Maths Grade 6 . GCSE Statistics is advantageous but it is not compulsory.
What will I study?	<p>Candidates will study Pure Mathematics topics that will consist of 66.66% of their examination, topics in Mechanics and Statistics will make up the other 33.33%. You will develop your understanding of algebra and geometry from GCSE and explore ways in which Mathematics can be applied to the real world.</p> <p>Areas which you will cover include:</p> <p>Pure Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra and Functions Coordinate Geometry Sequences & Series Differentiation Integration Exponentials and Logarithms Trigonometry and proofs <p>Mechanics and Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Presentation and Interpretation Probability Statistical Distributions Statistical Hypothesis Testing Kinematics Forces and Newton's Laws
How is the course assessed?	The course is assessed entirely on examination, which take place at the end of the second year (Summer 2027). Candidates will sit three (3) papers, two (2) of which relate to Pure Mathematics, with Paper 3 being the applied Mechanics and Statistics Module. Each paper is worth 100 marks lasting for 2 hours. Candidates will be regularly assessed throughout the course via internal testing and PPE's.
Additional information	Skills in logical thinking, algebraic manipulation, problem solving, analytical, communication and good working habits are essential as this will make the learning experience dynamic and eventful.
Future prospects	Mathematics provides an excellent opportunity for candidates to take on apprenticeships in Accounting, Finance, Engineering, Banking, Investments, Economic, Insurance, Mortgage Broker, Mortgage Consultant, Army, Air force, Navy, Jobs in the Ministry of Defence, Property Management to name a few. Studying Mathematics A Level benefits candidates to study certain subjects at University such as Economics, Accounting, Computer Science, Investment, Banking, Finance, Actuarial Science, Insurance, Mathematics, Mathematics Education, Applied Mathematics, Sports Science, Risk Analysis and Statistics.
Course leader	Mr M Raza

Media Studies A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE Media/Film Studies and English. Admission can be subject to discussion with subject leader if not previously studied at GCSE.
What will I study?	<p>2 EXAMS AT THE END OF YEAR 13</p> <p>Component 1: Media Messages An in depth study of contemporary news in the UK to explore how and why newspapers and magazine are evolving as media products You will also explore media language and how it creates meaning focussing on representation in advertising, magazines and music videos</p> <p>Component 2: Evolving Media You will explore media industries and audiences through a range of radio, video games and film products An in depth study of TV and the phenomenon of on demand and binge watching</p> <p>1 PRACTICAL UNIT: NEA (Non Assessed Unit) A production task set by the exam course – could be Radio, TV, Print or Music Video</p>
How is the course assessed?	2 exams worth 70% NEA worth 30%
Additional information	Critical thinking, decision-making and analysis skills required. An existing knowledge of Media products (even just as an audience/consumer) is desirable.
Future prospects	This course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Media Studies or related courses in higher education. Equally it is suitable for those who intend to pursue a career in the media/film industries, journalism, graphic design etc.
Course leader	Ms E Dietman

Core Mathematics AS Level Equivalence

Entry Requirements	GCSE Maths Grade 4 . Please note this is not an equivalent award to A Level Mathematics.
What will I study?	<p>The content areas covered in this qualification (across both papers) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applications of statistics • probability • linear programming • sequences and growth. <p>Each of these content areas can be assessed in either Paper 1 or Paper 2 or in both Papers 1 and 2. Students should be prepared in all four content areas for both papers.</p> <p>The content of this qualification is drawn from a range of GCSE content areas predominantly: statistics, probability, algebra and ratio, proportion and rates of change, together with 20% of content drawn from beyond and above GCSE content.</p> <p>Notable new content beyond GCSE include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spearman's rank • Conditional Probability and set notation • Linear programming and graphical representations • Exponential functions and growth • Sum of geometric series to n terms and infinity.
How is the course assessed?	The course is assessed entirely on examination, which take place at the end of the first year. Candidates will sit two (2) papers. Paper 1 is Comprehension (40% of total qualification, 60 marks, 1 hour 40 minutes); Paper 2 relating to Applications (60% of total qualification, 80 marks, 1 hour 40 minutes). Candidates will be regularly assessed throughout the course via internal testing and PPE's.
Additional information	This is an AS equivalent sized course in teaching hours and UCAS points accreditation. Students will study this alongside their 3 chosen A Levels or equivalents and sit the external examinations at the end of Year 12.
Future prospects	<p>This qualification provides the mathematical skills to support students progressing to higher education to study subjects that 'use' mathematics including, for example, Biology, Business, Geography, Health and Social Care, Nursing and Psychology.</p> <p>Students planning to study more mathematically-based subjects, including Mathematics, Statistics and Physics, will find that A Level Mathematics (and not Core Mathematics) is likely to be a requirement.</p>
Course leader	Mr M Raza

Music BTEC Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	Must play an instrument and must have or be willing to take instrumental/vocal tuition. Preferable to the level of ABRSM Grade 4 or above, but not compulsory. A working knowledge of music theory, including the ability to read music notation OR guitar or drum tab. You must have the desire to want to perform solo or in groups. You do not need to have taken GCSE Music to join this course.
What will I study?	<p>Single: BTEC Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level) covering 4 units of work over the 2 year course</p> <p>Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony. (internally assessed) You will examine the signs and symbols used in musical notation, you will explore the application of melodic composition based on musical elements. You will be taught how scales are constructed and learn about melodic and rhythmic development by composing music based on particular scales. You will also explore chords and cadences for composition or arrangement – building on GCSE knowledge. To connect this unit to your practical skill you will need to produce correct musical notation for a performance, this notation can be in any form but you must evidence that it is fit for purpose.</p> <p>Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry (externally assessed unit) A two-part assessment. Part A (research), and Part B (written task). You will learn about planning, promotion and budgeting whilst investigating legal trip hazards such as licensing, health and safety, insurances and performance rights. Putting on an event is probably something you have seen your music teachers do many times. You may have even been asked to help with things like set up and promotion.</p> <p>Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance (externally assessed) Learners choosing three songs from a prescribed list and performing them within an ensemble of three to eight performers. As you did in GCSE you will continue to develop your interpersonal skills adapting to the skillset around you whilst producing a high level performance presentation to a live audience. Slightly different from GCSE you are to evaluate your groups success and produce an article which critiques your performance – this is to get you thinking about elements of success and areas for improvement - a vital skill in the industry where we need to maintain standards and compete with other artists or genres in the market. For a lot of you this will be the unit and the reason why you wanted to take music as a post sixteen pathway. Working together with other musicians is lots of fun and can be very rewarding.</p> <p>Units 4,5,6: Unit of Choice (internally assessed) Learners will then additionally complete one of the following four internally assessed units: Unit 4: Composing Music; Unit 5: Music Performance Session Styles; Unit 6: Solo Performance. Most students opt for solo performance. Similar in layout to the Ensemble Unit you will be expected to perform a solo set with a balanced programme that demonstrates your breadth of skill, technical control range and how you embrace style and your audience. Overall this is a busy and challenging course, which will give you a high profile around the Academy. As post sixteen students you will become music ambassadors and role models for our younger budding musicians. There will be opportunities for you to lead rehearsals of some of the established academy groups.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>PEARSON</p> <p>Regular internal summative and formative testing/progress checks. Year 12 and 13 PPE as per the Academy calendar.</p> <p>Assignments marked both by teachers and external moderators</p> <p>Final Pearson written examination in June of the year of entry.</p> <p>Coursework carried out within guided hours, submitted for internal assessment before sent to external moderators.</p>
Additional information	Working knowledge of music technology would be beneficial. You are <u>expected</u> to join in extracurricular activities and be an ambassador for the department. You are expected to attend and contribute to concerts both in and out of school.
Future prospects	Performing musician/artist, composer (film/TV/commercial), arranger, studio engineering, Armed Forces musician, lyricist, sound designer, teacher etc.
Course leader	Mr E Marriott

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Entry Requirements	<p>5 GCSEs at a grade 4 and above including English and Maths</p> <p>Level 2 qualification in Performing Arts or GCSE in Dance/Drama is desirable and will equip you with key skills.</p>
What will I study?	<p>This course is equivalent to one A Level.</p> <p>The course is made up of 4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 1 is optional.</p> <p>Mandatory Units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Investigating Practitioners Work 2) Developing Skills and techniques for live performance. 3) Group Performance Workshop <p>Plus, one optional unit chosen by the centre.</p> <p>The course will be assessed on all disciplines of the performing arts genre: Dance, Drama and musical theatre. There will be opportunities to perform and experience live theatre as part of the course.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).</p> <p>External assessed units are set by Pearson and marked by the board. The assessment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Set tasks – written evidence to support the work and assessment undertaken over a set time. • Performance – demonstrate technique and performance skills in front of a live audience. <p>Internally assessed units are created and assessed by the teachers delivering the course. The assessment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write up the findings from independent research • Use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations. • Carry out projects for which ownership is given students and they will have a choice in the direction and outcomes. • Demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate techniques and processes.
Additional information	<p>Core skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, critical analysis and extended writing skills • Appropriate skills and techniques in various performance disciplines such as acting, dance, musical theatre and physical theatre • Being able to work collaboratively; teamwork • Personal management and organisation (rehearsals, time-management) • Being able to give and take direction from feedback • Confidence to perform in front of an audience • Problem solving • Choreographic skills to explore practical outcomes
Future prospects	<p>Performing arts employment:</p> <p>Actor employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live actor/actress • TV and film • Radio • Theatre Practitioner (exploring and influencing others in experimental methods/approaches to modern theatre) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playwright • Teacher of drama/dance and/or the performing arts • Drama therapy • Dance Movement Therapy • Choreography • Performer in one of the 3 disciplines or encompass Musical Theatre as a whole.
Course leader	Mrs Rainbird and Mrs Bish

Photography A Level

Entry Requirements	Photography or Art GCSE grade 5 or above or subject to submission of a portfolio if not studied at GCSE.
What will I study?	<p>Students study and submit work under Photography specification. This includes digital photography, digital editing and other creative processes involving photographic imagery. Students will gain an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography as a visual communication. A range of approaches to working with images, signs and symbols such as observation, analysis, expression, communication and imagination. Genres such as portrait, landscape and movement. Role and function such as documentary, portraiture and narrative. A range of techniques appropriate to the specialism of photography. Digital photography techniques i.e. Photoshop
How is the course assessed?	<p>60% Coursework / 40% Exam</p> <p>Coursework will begin in lessons in October 2026, for completion by January 2028. Part of this is an essay of 1,000 – 3,000 words. This unit is known as the 'Personal Investigation' and students will choose the topic or theme of study themselves.</p> <p>The exam unit begins in February 2027 with the external exam to be sat in May 2027.</p> <p>There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practice exam technique.</p>
Additional information	<p>Students will need to be independent learners with lots of ideas and imagination which will enable them to create an interesting unit of coursework. <i>They will be encouraged to develop projects based on their own interests.</i></p> <p>Being willing to go out and conduct photo-shoots in their own time is an important aspect of the course in terms of developing their own ideas. Having access to their own DSLR camera would also be beneficial.</p> <p>However, most importantly, they must have passion for the subject.</p>
Future prospects	<p><i>'UK creative industries generate more than £100bn a year to the UK economy and employ more than 2m people</i></p> <p><i>'Creative industries continued to power the growth of the UK's workforce last year, adding new posts at twice the rate of the rest of the economy, according to official data.</i></p> <p><i>With an estimated 2,040,000 jobs - 75 per cent of them outside London - the UK's creative industries are developing new jobs faster than other sectors despite record employment in the UK economy as a whole.</i></p>
Course leader	Miss E Absalom

Physical Education A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 4 in at least two GCSE sciences and Grade 4 in GCSE PE but not compulsory. Students must also play competitive sport at club level or higher externally.
What will I study?	<p>The A-Level is made up of 3 components consisting of 2 written exams and an internal assessment with external moderation.</p> <p>Component 1: Exploring concepts in physical education</p> <p>Component 2: Evaluating physical education</p> <p>Component 3: Improving personal performance in physical education. Within this, students will perform, analyse and evaluate their own performance, identify areas of performance they could improve and suggest causes and appropriate corrective measures.</p> <p>Exercise physiology, training and performance</p> <p>Movement analysis, technology and biomechanics.</p> <p>Sport psychology</p> <p>Skill acquisition</p> <p>Sport and society</p> <p>Any of the areas of study can be assessed in any of the components. The content can be assessed in components 1 and 2 as part of the written examination and in Component 3 as part of the analysis and evaluation of performance. The specification enables learners to understand the interrelationships between the areas of study and apply them in a variety of contexts.</p>
How is the course assessed?	The course is assessed through written examinations, practical moderation as well as internal and external assessment.
Additional information	Students will be required to research and produce structured written dialogue showing comprehension of theory and the ability to relate to practical settings. The ability to gather relevant information from multiple sources to back up your work and strengthen your writing is needed.
Future prospects	The skills developed on the course will allow the students to continue studying in further education in courses such as Physical Education degrees, Sports Science degrees, Sports Management degrees. In addition they may undertake career opportunities in Sports Development, Sports Massage, as well as other sports related activities.
Course Leader	Mr P Schmid

Physics A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Physics. Additionally you must have GCSE Maths at grade 6 and ideally be studying A level Maths.
What will I study?	<p>Students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurements and their errors • Particles and radiation • Waves • Mechanics and materials • Electricity • Further mechanics and thermal physics • Fields and their consequences • Nuclear physics <p>And an additional special topic – Engineering Physics</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>There is a teacher led assessment of practical competency; this will lead to an award separate from the overall A level grade.</p> <p>There are 12 required practicals, which will also be assessed during the written exams.</p> <p>3 written papers at the end of the A level</p> <p>Paper 1 2 hours, 34% A level</p> <p>Paper 2 2 hours, 34% A level</p> <p>Paper 3 2 hours, 32% of A level</p> <p>Section A – Practical skills</p> <p>Section B – Special Topic - Astrophysics</p>
Additional information	The exam papers may include a mixture of short and long answer questions, extended response questions, comprehension questions, structured questions, including practical techniques. Papers 1 and 2 will also include multiple choice questions. At least 40% of the marks will be awarded for mathematics at higher tier GCSE level.
Future prospects	Physics is the route to many careers from predicting climate change to designing computer games. A physics background is also useful for careers in research-based roles, finance, IT and engineering.
Course leader	Mr F Burden

Product Design A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Design and Technology grade 5 or subject to submission of a portfolio if not studied at GCSE. Additionally, students must also have GCSE Maths and English grade 5.
What will I study?	A-level Product Design offers the exciting opportunity to develop your skills as a designer and improve your craft to create your own products. You will improve your knowledge of materials and manufacturing techniques to create products by hand alongside using machinery and computer aided manufacture. In addition to this, through study and detailed analysis of a wide range of products, you will develop knowledge and understanding of the broader issues for the designer such as how to design sustainably for the benefit of future generations.
How is the course assessed?	<p>50% Coursework, 50% Exam</p> <p>Students get the chance, through the coursework project, to design and make their own product. The subject knowledge acquired alongside the coursework will be tested on in the terminal examinations in the summer of 2028</p>
Additional information	Students wishing to pursue this course will need to demonstrate a sense of creativity and the ability to express their ideas through drawings, 3D models and computer aided designs. In addition, successful students will display a logical and analytical approach to tackling challenges coupled with the ability to plan and organise their own time effectively. These are vital skills for a product designer and will be developed in this course.
Future prospects	By completing this course, you can pursue a career in Britain's second largest economic sector, the creative sector, going onto university or into an apprenticeship. This offers numerous opportunities ranging from architecture and interior design to car or furniture design through to developing products using the latest materials.
Course leader	Mrs S O'Neill

Psychology A Level

Entry Requirements	English GCSE at grade 6 and Maths GCSE at grade 5
What will I study?	<p>In the first year of study we look at topics within Psychology as diverse as Human Memory, Attachment, Social Influence and Psychopathology. Students will also look at the main approaches within the subject as well as research methods.</p> <p>In the second year of study, students look at a range of topics in more detail including Biopsychology, Forensic Psychology, Gender and Stress. We will also consider some of the key issues and debates that dominate Psychology. Students need to be aware that there are elements of the course that have a mathematical base and also some sections have a biological base.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>100% exam. 3 x 2hours exams assessed at the end of the two years.</p> <p>The exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer questions, plus essays covering a range of course content.</p>
Additional information	Students need to be aware that there is a significant level of mathematical content in the course.
Future prospects	Psychology is a discipline that leads to a number of careers in a range of fields including education, health, law enforcement, business and social work.
Course leader	Mr M Collins

Religious Studies (Religion, Philosophy & Ethics)

A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in English GCSE. Although students need not have studied the subject at GCSE, this would prove an advantage.
What will I study?	<p>Students will study THREE units over the course of the two years:</p> <p>Unit 1 – Philosophy This involves a study of philosophical influences ranging from Plato and Aristotle to current 21st century philosophical ideas. Topics include debate about the existence of God and the soul, body, mind distinction.</p> <p>Unit 2 – Ethics This unit involves a study of morality. Students will consider how different ethical theories help people to make moral decisions. They will then apply these theories to issues surrounding euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics.</p> <p>Unit 3 – Developments in Christian thought This unit involves a study of religious beliefs, values and teachings and their interconnections. They will look at key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>This course is 100% exam.</p> <p>Students will sit THREE 2 hour papers at the end of the course.</p> <p>There will be regular mini-assessments throughout the course.</p>
Additional information	Sociologists should have a passion for the subject. Content is delivered using a variety of teaching methods from a dynamic Post '16 team and students should expect a mixture of enquiry based learning, analysis of statistics, research methods and essay writing.
Future prospects	<p>To be successful at this subject, students need to have an interest in philosophical, ethical and religious ideas. They need to be willing to debate and to consider a variety of viewpoints. There is no need to hold any religious beliefs.</p> <p>Students should be prepared to read around the subject and be independent learners. They should appreciate that the course demands the ability to write extended essays.</p>
Course leader	Mrs B Hughes

Sociology A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE English. Students must have a good standard of English, as this is an essay-based course and will require extended writing.
What will I study?	<p>A-level Sociology offers students the opportunity to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods. Students will develop a holistic understanding of the subject. In order to demonstrate the level of expertise required, candidates are expected to be able to interrelate areas of content and address the requirements at Year 2 by using appropriate concepts, knowledge and skills developed throughout the course. Sociology, as a subject, is inherently synoptic. The following topics will be studied over the two years and will allow students to understand how society functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and Households Education Research Methods in Context Social Stratification and Differentiation Crime and Deviance
How is the course assessed?	<p>Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods 80 marks-33.3% of A-level</p> <p>Paper 2 Topics in Sociology Section A: Families and Households Section B: Social Stratification and Differentiation 80% marks – 33.3% of A Level</p> <p>Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods 80 marks-33.3% of A-level</p> <p>All papers will be assessed in June 2027 following 2 years of study. PPEs and end of topic assessments will be used to monitor progress throughout the course.</p>
Additional information	Sociologists should have a passion for the subject. Content is delivered using a variety of teaching methods from a dynamic Post 16 team and students should expect a mixture of enquiry based learning, analysis of statistics, research methods and essay writing.
Future prospects	Sociology can lead to many related university courses but it is also held in high regard by many employers due to the vast range of skills that will be obtained in A level. Skills such as enquiry, research, data collection, evaluation and working in teams are just a few as well as the essential sociological knowledge and understanding developed. A Level sociologists have gone on to become researchers, teachers, lecturers, police officers, lawyers, social workers and public relations officers to name a few.
Course leader	Mr M Collins

Spanish A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Spanish grade 6 and grade 6 in English Language
What will I study?	<p>Aspects of Hispanic Society – Current trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern and traditional values (Los valores tradicionales y modernos) Cyberspace (El ciberespacio) Equal rights (La igualdad de los sexos) <p>Artistic culture in the Hispanic World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern day idols (La influencia de los ídolos) Spanish regional identity (La identidad regional en España) Cultural heritage (El patrimonio cultural) <p>Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigration (La inmigración) Racism (El racismo) Integration (La convivencia) <p>Aspects of political life in Hispanic Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens (Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana) Monarchies and dictatorships (Monarquías y dictaduras) Popular movements (Movimientos populares) <p>The study of literary texts and films</p>
How is the course assessed?	<p>Listening, Reading and Writing Exam: 40% of exam grade</p> <p>Writing Exam: Based on Literary texts and films 30% of grade</p> <p>Speaking Exam: Discussion of a theme and then presentation and discussion of an individual research topic 30%</p> <p>Internal Assessments at the end of each half term.</p>
Additional information	Other Skills needed: Good work ethic; independent learning; resilience. Essay-based subject; logical thinking; a lot of further reading; have opinions; be able to speak and hold a debate.
Future prospects	Languages can be studied alone or alongside many other subjects at university and can complement a variety of professions.
Course leader	Ms K Campbell

Textiles A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Design Technology/Art grade 5 or above is preferred although studies in other creative subjects, with portfolio of work, will be considered.
What will I study?	<p>Students study and submit work under the Textiles specification.</p> <p>Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of textile design, that could include: fashion design, costume design, interior design, art textiles, accessories.</p> <p>Students will be required to demonstrate skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to respond to a concept or idea, working to a brief • Understanding of a variety of textile methods, such as: fabric printing, mono-printing, relief printing, screen printing and laser printing; tie-dye and batik; spraying and transfer; fabric construction; stitching, appliqué, patchwork, padding, quilting and embroidery. • Understanding of traditional and modern/Japanese pattern cutting techniques
How is the course assessed?	<p>60% Coursework / 40% Exam</p> <p>Skills and coursework projects will begin in lessons from the start of the course. There will be a range of briefs set and chosen by the student. Part of this is an essay of min 1,000 words. This unit is known as the 'Personal Investigation' and students will choose the topic or theme of study themselves which relates to the projects they do.</p> <p>The exam unit begins in February 2027, with the external exam to be sat in April/May 2028, which is a 15 hour practical exam set over 3 days for students create their final piece.</p> <p>There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practise exam technique.</p>
Additional information	<p>This creative qualification gives students the practical skills and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries.</p> <p>They will investigate influences on design, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing a range of projects of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.</p> <p>Opportunities for trips, live briefs, competitions, workshops and guest speakers are also part of the course.</p>
Future prospects	The majority of students can use the qualification to go on to Higher Education in a related area, or onto a Foundation course in Art and Design and it also develops creative skills recognised by employers.
Course leader	Mrs S O'Neill

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