

BELFAIRS ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

POST 16



SEPTEMBER 2027

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Post 16

WELCOME



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WELCOME



A Welcome from our Head of School

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Belfairs Academy Post 16 prospectus. Choosing where to continue your education after Year 11 is a critical decision. Your Post 16 years are about much more than achieving academic qualifications; they are an opportunity to discover your strengths, develop your independence, build confidence and prepare for the next exciting chapter of your life.

At Belfairs Academy, we combine high expectations with a supportive and inclusive environment where every young person is known as an individual and encouraged to fulfil their potential. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing quality teaching, guidance and pastoral support, while encouraging students to take increasing responsibility to support their journey into adulthood.

Our curriculum offer ensures that every student can find a pathway that excites and motivates them, whether they have a clear vision for their future or are still exploring their options.

Our staff know our students well, and we work together with families to support each young person through every challenge and celebrate every success. We want our students to leave us not only with strong academic and vocational qualifications, but also with the knowledge, skills, strength and resilience they need to succeed in life. Whether your ambition and goal is to progress to university, an apprenticeship, employment or another pathway, we will work with you to help you make informed choices and take your next steps with confidence.

Our Post 16 students are valued members of our academy community. We expect them to be positive role models and leaders, to contribute to academy life and to embrace the many non-curriculum and enrichment opportunities available to them, both inside and outside the classroom.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our community and look forward to supporting you as you begin this exciting next stage of your journey.



Mrs Haddow
Head of School

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WELCOME



Welcome from our Post 16 team

We are incredibly proud to lead Post 16 at Belfairs Academy at such an exciting time in its development. Thank you for taking the time to consider us for your further education.

We are able to offer a broad range of curriculum subjects and whilst you will leave here with academic success, you will also be able to take advantage of an excellent enrichment programme offered as part of our standard wider curriculum.

Making the right choice for your Post 16 education is vital. At Belfairs we promise to support you through every stage of the transition. As we move from strength to strength, the high quality teaching on offer, coupled with outstanding student care, guidance and enrichment, means that you will be fully supported throughout your time with us.

Our tutorial system means that your tutor will know you personally and is able to tailor their support to meet your needs, whatever your plans for the future.

At such an important and exciting time in your education we are confident you can succeed with us and look forward to welcoming you to Belfairs.

Belfairs Academy Post 16 Team



Mrs Rowland
Asst. Principal



Mrs Talbott
Post 16 Snr. Lead



Miss Dollery
Post 16 Learning Mentor

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BELFAIRS ACADEMY

SHAPING THE FUTURE

OUR VISION

To inspire everyone to be the best they can be.

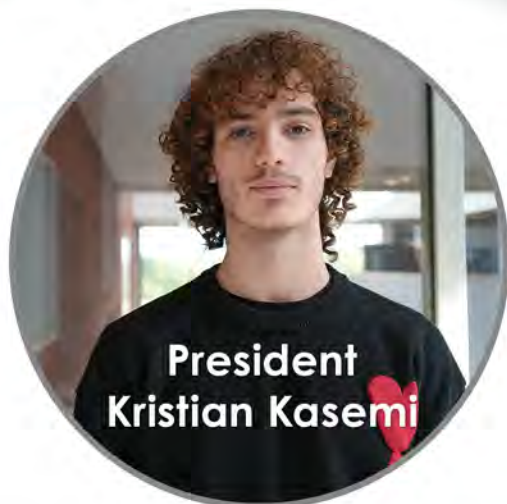
To provide innovative learning opportunities in a forward thinking environment.

To prepare and empower everyone to embark on future challenges with excitement and confidence.

To foster respect and responsibility and reach out into the wider world.



STUDENT PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT



**President
Kristian Kasemi**

After completing my GCSEs at Belfairs, I chose to stay here for my A Levels as I wanted to experience the full 7 year pathway at Belfairs Academy. I love the academy environment and knew that staying at Belfairs Academy for Post 16 would give me the chance to thrive and pursue my future aspirations.

I currently study A Level Maths, Economics and Geography, where these interrelated subjects have helped me develop skills that will serve me well in my future career.

I enjoy Belfairs for its welcoming nature; enabling me to work not only with my peers but staff as well, whether it's linked to my academic studies or other opportunities. I have been able to remain resilient with help from my classmates and teachers.

Belfairs Post 16 allows me to delve deeper into my personal interests and take advantage of clubs and trips and favourite enrichment experience so far has been the opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament. My teachers have helped me develop my interests and through the role of President I have been able to help the academy and enable others to develop their interests too.

I am proud to be President and a valued member of the Belfairs Academy community.



**Vice President
Hamnet Wheatley**

Belfairs Post 16 offers a wide variety of unique opportunities to students, allowing us to grow into our individual selves. Within these opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular, you will find supportive, caring staff members who genuinely want you to succeed and are always willing to help you.

From studying English Literature, Sociology, and Philosophy and Ethics, I have learned new ways to think and view the world around me. The teachers are so passionate about their subject, you feel excited to learn more. I have found new interests since starting these subjects that will affect my future positively.

By choosing Belfairs, you are given the chance to develop your skills through student leadership including roles such as College Captains, Ambassadors or Vice President and President. We are a friendly sixth form where your ideas are heard, respected and valued.

OUR CURRICULUM



OUR COURSES

Whatever your personal interests or talents, we have the right course for you. We offer a diverse number of A Level and vocational courses, BTEC level 3, CTEC and applied diploma. The aim is to give our students a broad curriculum that suits their skills and interests.

OUR CURRICULUM

Students at Belfairs Academy take advantage of our dedicated facilities, up to date teaching and countless extra-curricular opportunities on offer. Our Level 3 programme enables students to follow a programme of three courses in subjects that suit their personal abilities. Our curriculum is designed to enable students to progress successfully to either higher education, advanced Apprenticeships or employment.

Our offer also includes a Level 2 Mathematics qualification to those who have not achieved a grade 4 at GCSE previously.

EPQ

The EPQ is offered to our most academically able as a way of furthering their independent study and research skills. It is recognised by universities and employers and is an opportunity to develop skills in decision making, researching and problem solving.



COURSES



Courses on Offer

3D Design
Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama & Theatre Studies
Economics
English Language & Literature
English Literature
Film Studies
French
Geography

Graphics
History
Maths
Media Studies
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Politics
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
Sociology
Spanish
Textiles

Vocational Courses

(all equivalent to 1 A Level)

BTEC Health & Social Care
BTEC Music
BTEC Performing Arts
CTEC Business
CTEC Engineering
Applied Diploma in Criminology *NEW*

Additional Qualifications

EPQ
Core Maths

POST 16 PATHWAYS



PATHWAY 1

English at grade 6 or above plus a minimum of 4 other GCSEs at grade 6 or above

Pathway = 3 Courses and EPQ

For students who meet an exceptionally high standard at GCSE, we are willing to discuss the option of taking 4 courses for the 2 years.

PATHWAY 2

Maths and English Language at grade 4 or above plus a minimum of 3 other

GCSEs at grade 4 or above

Pathway = 3 Courses

PATHWAY 3

English Language at grade 4 or above plus a minimum of 4 other GCSEs at grade 4 or above, not including Maths

Pathway = 3 Courses and Maths Level 2 Qualification

It is recommended that students on Pathway 3 should choose at least 1 vocational course as part of their application.

Students must also meet individual entry requirements for subjects.

See the Post 16 Course Guide for specific details.

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COMMITMENT - RESPECT - EXCELLENCE - SELF-BELIEF - STRENGTH

Non-Curriculum Offer: Preparing our Students for Adulthood



At Belfairs Academy, we believe Post 16 education is about more than academic success. Our comprehensive non-curriculum offer gives students the skills, experiences and confidence they need to succeed in higher education, apprenticeships, employment and adult life.



LEAP – Life Skills, Enrichment, Aspirations & Personal Development

Our fortnightly LEAP programme helps students develop the skills needed for life beyond Post 16. Students explore careers and employability, develop effective study skills, access external speakers and providers, and take part in a wide range of enrichment opportunities. LEAP complements our academic curriculum and encourages students to become confident, independent learners.

Personal Development

Personal Development lessons take place fortnightly for all Post 16 students, covering key areas including healthy relationships, mental wellbeing, online safety, careers and employability, diversity and inclusion. Students also receive practical CPR training, developing valuable skills for life beyond school.



Non-Curriculum Offer: Preparing Our Students for Adulthood



Careers & Future Destinations

We are committed to helping every student aim high and secure a successful destination. Our Careers Lead works closely with students to support their aspirations and future plans. For university applicants, our UCAS support begins in April of Year 12 and continues through to Results Day and beyond. Students benefit from the UCAS Discovery Exhibition trip to University of Essex, personal statement and student finance workshops, and a dedicated parent information evening.

For students considering apprenticeships, we provide weekly opportunities and information, external speakers and a mock apprenticeship assessment day to build confidence and application skills.

Work Experience

All Year 12 students complete a one-week work experience placement, supported by CV workshops and mock interviews. These experiences help students develop professional skills and understand the world of work. A number of our students have gone on to secure apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships as a result of their work experience.

Legal Club

Our Legal Club develops public speaking, teamwork, communication and leadership skills, alongside opportunities to participate in a local Mooting Competition. Student success in the competition over the last few years has led to valuable work experience with local solicitors and mini-pupillage at Trinity Chambers in Chelmsford as well as competing in a local court house.

Preparing Students for Their Future

Our Post 16 offer ensures that students leave Belfairs Academy with more than academic qualifications. They develop the independence, confidence, skills and real-world experience to take their next steps successfully and make the most of the opportunities ahead.



CARE, SUPPORT & GUIDANCE



We pride ourselves in knowing every student personally. Your allocated tutor will work with you daily, to make sure you are on track to make progress and succeed to the best of your ability, in all of your courses.

Through group tutorials and regular one-to-one meetings your progress is monitored throughout your time with us and we work with you, and your parents or carers to ensure you are on track to achieve your best at all times. In addition to your tutor, there is a wide range of additional support for those who need it during their time with us. Our Targeted Services department ensure that students with Special Educational Needs are fully supported at Post 16. Our full time, dedicated learning mentor is always on hand to work with students on a wide range of issues affecting their education and we tailor the support on offer to meet your personal needs.

In addition, the entire Post 16 team ensures students are actively studying in their non-contact time. Academic support and guidance is offered routinely at times which suits students timetables. We are confident that every student who studies with us feels safe, secure and able to access support when necessary. This means that if you choose to study with us you will have a supportive team guiding you to achieve your very best.

SAFEGUARDING

Belfairs Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

We have high expectations of all students with regard to attendance and behaviour, in line with all academy core values. We expect students to act as role models to younger students and ambassadors within the local community. All students attend registration each day and assembly once each week.

In addition, students are expected to adhere to the Post 16 dress code and partnership agreement.

FACILITIES & PRIVATE STUDY



Our dedicated Private Study programme gives students the time, space and support to take greater ownership of their learning and prepare for success beyond the classroom.

Alongside their taught lessons, Personal Development and LEAP, students use Private Study to deepen their understanding, prepare for future learning, consolidate key knowledge and develop their confidence in applying what they have learned to examination-style questions.

With access to high-quality resources and guidance from experienced teachers, students are supported to become increasingly independent, organised and purposeful learners.

This strong culture of independent study ensures that every student is well prepared to achieve their ambitions and reach their full potential by the end of Year 13.



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COMMITMENT - RESPECT - EXCELLENCE - SELF-BELIEF - STRENGTH

PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE



Whether you intend to pursue a career, an apprenticeship or go on to higher education, we will offer you personalised and independent careers advice and guidance.



All Post 16 students have access to our dedicated careers leader who provides individual careers advice and guidance. For students wishing to go on to work, we offer CV and interview support and will help with all stages of the application process. We also have a wide range of access to apprenticeship programmes and training opportunities, all of which we pass directly on to you. Belfairs Academy Post 16 students have gone on to work for companies such as; Airbus, Price Waterhouse Cooper, Detra, Millers, Olympus and Kier Group amongst others. We are proud that many students who leave us go on to university and a full programme of UCAS support is offered from the early stages of decision making in Year 12, through the application process to the moment you collect your results. We take all students to the UCAS Discovery Exhibition and encourage you to attend open days.

University destinations of our leavers have included Russell Group Universities including; Warwick, Bristol and Exeter. We collaborate with a number of external advisory agencies who work with the students to ensure they gain impartial and expert advice. We have a timetabled interview experience week and work experience week built into our calendar to give our students all the confidence they will need when faced with the real thing. All students studying with us can be secure in the knowledge that whatever their aspirations for the future, we can offer the advice and guidance needed to make the next steps.

APPLICATION PROCESS



Request or download an Application Form (available from the Post 16 office or online)



Complete the Application Form and return it to us as soon as possible



All applicants will be invited to interview with parents/carers



Offer made following interview and subject to options



All applicants who are made an offer attend the Post 16 Induction in July



Enrolment to Post 16 – on GCSE results day

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?	Students study and submit work under the 3D Design specification. 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: • 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?	60% Coursework / 40% Exam Skills and coursework projects will begin in lessons from the start of the course, for completion by January 2029. 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. The exam unit begins in February 2029, with the external exam to be sat in April/May 2029, which is a 15 hour practical exam set over 3 days for students create their final piece. There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practise exam technique.
Additional information	This creative qualification gives students the practical skills and confidence to succeed in a wide range of careers, especially those in the creative industries. 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. Opportunities for trips, live briefs, competitions, workshops and guest speakers are also part of the course.
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 I Sahin

Art A Level

Entry Requirements	Art GCSE Grade 5 or above.
What will I study?	Students study and submit work under the Art, Craft and Design specification. This includes drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture & photography. Students will develop an understanding of: • 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?	60% Coursework / 40% Exam 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. The exam unit begins in February 2028, with the external exam to be sat in May 2028. There will be a PPE in Year 12 and again in Year 13 to practice exam technique and time management.
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	Curating, set design, fashion design, interior design, art therapy, teaching, illustration, advertising as well as numerous jobs within the design field. 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.
Course leader	Mrs I Sahin

Biology A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Triple Biology or Grades 6 6 in Combined Science. 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?	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. 3 written papers at the end of the A level: Paper 1 will cover topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills, 2 hours, 35% of A level; Paper 2 will cover topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills, 2 hours, 35% of A level; Paper 3, a synoptic paper, will cover topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills, 2 hours, 30% of A level.
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, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay from a choice of two titles. At least 10% of the marks will be awarded for mathematics at higher tier GCSE level.
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	Mrs K Venables & Dr M Wisdom

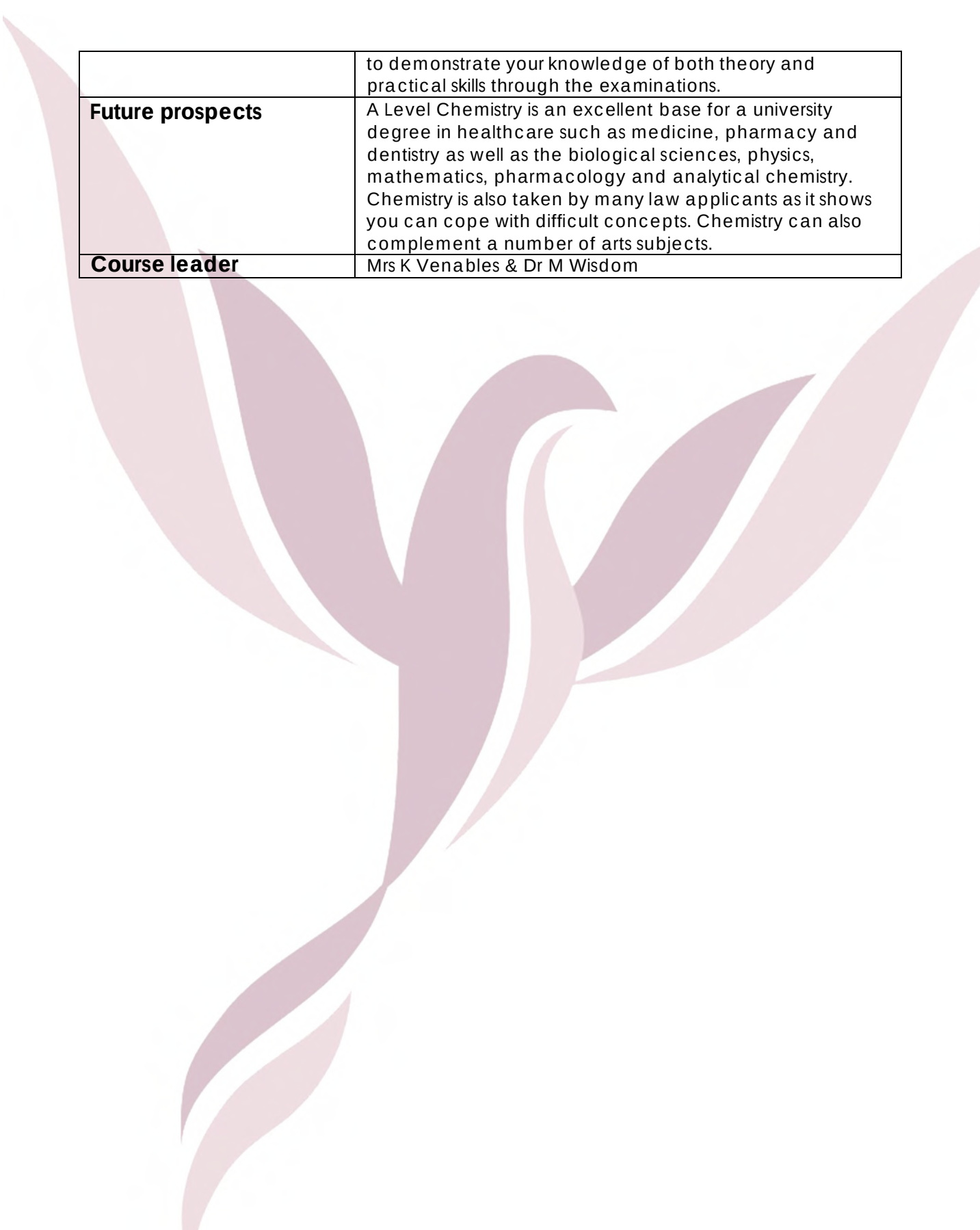
Business Studies A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE English and Maths.
What will I study?	The Edexcel A Level Business course is structured into four interrelated themes studied over two years: Theme 1: Marketing and People • Meeting customer needs • The market • Marketing mix and strategy • Managing people • Entrepreneurs and leaders <i>Focus:</i> How businesses identify opportunities and gain a competitive edge through effective marketing and the development of human resources. Theme 2: Managing Business Activities • Raising finance • Financial planning • Managing finance • Resource management • External influences <i>Focus:</i> The financial and operational aspects of running a business, including sources of finance, budgeting, and economic influences. Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy • Business objectives and strategy • Business growth • Decision-making techniques • Influences on business decisions • Assessing competitiveness • Managing change <i>Focus:</i> Strategic decision-making in larger organisations, including data analysis, long-term planning, and managing organisational change. Theme 4: Global Business • Globalisation • Global markets and business expansion • Global marketing • Global industries and companies (multinational corporations) <i>Focus:</i> How businesses operate internationally, examining global trade, cultural considerations, and the challenges of operating across borders.

How is the course assessed?	Paper 1 Marketing, People, and Global Businesses (Themes 1 & 4) Paper 2 Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy (Themes 2 & 3) Paper 3 Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment (All Themes, synoptic) Each paper includes a mix of data response, case study, short-answer, and essay-style questions. Paper 3 is based on a pre-released context which is issued by Edexcel in advance. Each paper is 2 hours long
Additional information	Business is at the heart of the modern world, influencing everything from global markets to local enterprises. Whether you're interested in launching your own company, pursuing a career in management, or understanding how organisations operate, A Level Business provides the tools and insights needed to succeed in a competitive economy.
Future prospects	A Level Business is excellent preparation for degrees in Business, Management, Economics, Finance, Marketing, and related fields. It also provides a solid foundation for degree apprenticeships or starting your own business. Career paths include: • Business Management • Finance and Banking • Marketing and Advertising • Human Resources Entrepreneurship
Course leader	Mrs C Gunasekaran-Vasanthakumar

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?	Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry Practical skills assessed in a written examination Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations Amount of substance Acid–base and redox reactions Electrons, bonding and structure Module 3 – Periodic table and energy The periodic table and periodicity Group 2 and the halogens Qualitative analysis Enthalpy changes Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative) Module 4 – Core organic chemistry Basic concepts Hydrocarbons Alcohols and haloalkanes Organic synthesis Analytical techniques (IR and MS) Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative) pH and buffers Enthalpy, entropy and free energy Enthalpy, entropy and free energy Redox and electrode potentials Transition elements Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis Aromatic compounds Carbonyl compounds Carboxylic acids and esters Nitrogen compounds Polymers Organic synthesis 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 practicals 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	Mrs K Venables & Dr M Wisdom

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?	The OCR Computer Science specification will above all else be relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. The new specification will: • 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

Drama and Theatre A Level AQA

Entry Requirements	English GCSE grade 5. GCSE Drama at grade 5 or above is preferable but not compulsory.
What will I study?	Throughout the course you will study Component 1 – Theatre Makers (Written Exam) The study of TWO set texts. You will explore these practically in class and then answer questions with regards to your exploration. You will also attend a live theatre production. Component 2 - Devising 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. Component 3 – Text in Practice (Practical Exam) 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.
How is the course assessed?	30% Coursework (Completed in Year 1) 30% Practical external exam (Nov - May 2027- 2028) 40% Written exam (Actual: June 2028) Coursework is controlled assessment. This will form a portfolio for internal assessment/external moderation.
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	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. Jobs that require the following skills also find the subject helpful: public speaking, leadership, negotiation, empathy and communication skills.
Course leader	Ms M Rainbird

Economics A Level

Entry Requirements	Maths and English GCSE grade 6.
What will I study?	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. The course is divided into 4 themes: Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure Theme 2: The UK economy – performance & policies Theme 3: Business behaviour & the labour market Theme 4: A global perspective
How is the course assessed?	Paper 1: Markets & business behaviour – 35% of the A Level – 2hrs duration – 100 marks Paper 2: The national & global economy – 35% of the A Level – 2hrs duration – 100 marks Paper 3: Microeconomics & macroeconomics 30% of the A Level – 2hrs duration – 100 marks
Additional information	The qualification aims to enable students to: • 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	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.
Course leader	Mrs C Gunasekaran-Vasanthakumar

English Language & Literature A Level AQA

Entry Requirements	English Language and English Literature GCSE grade 6.
What will I study?	Units of Study are: Telling Stories - what is studied: <u>Remembered Places</u> - 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)
How is the course assessed?	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.
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 Edexcel

Entry Requirements	English Language and English Literature GCSE grade 6.
What will I study?	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 Year Two: Component 2: Poetry - Modern anthology and a themed collection; preparing for unseen poetry Component 04: NEA Completion Revision of Components 1 and 2
How is the course assessed?	Each unit will involve formative assessments to develop Students towards their final summative and examination assessments at the end of year 13. Year 1: Final Internal examination in April Year 2: Final examination 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
Additional information	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. 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.
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

Film Studies A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE Media/Film Studies and English.
What will I study?	2 EXAMS AT THE END OF YEAR 13 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 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 1 PRACTICAL UNIT: NEA (Non Assessed Unit) A production of a 5 minute short film or a 10 minute screenplay
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?	Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends • 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) Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues • 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) Artistic culture in the French-speaking world • 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) Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world • 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) The study of Literary Texts and Films
How is the course assessed?	Listening, Reading and Writing Exam: 50% of exam grade Writing Exam: Based on a literary text (No et moi) and a film (La Haine) : 20% of grade Speaking Exam: Discussion of a theme and then presentation and discussion of an individual research topic : 30% Internal Assessments. PPE dates in April 2027 and December 2027
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	Miss O Sediri

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 Urban Environments and issues.
How is the course assessed?	AQA Exam Board 40% Physical Geography Exam 40% Human Geography Exam 20% Geographical Fieldwork Investigation (3-4000 words) All of which will be assessed in June 2028 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 N Concannon

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?	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. Students will gain an understanding of: • 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?	60% Coursework / 40% Exam 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. The exam unit begins in February 2028 with the external exam to be sat in May 2028. There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practice exam technique.
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 will be encouraged to develop projects based on their own interests. Students must be able to successfully respond to a client brief. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of mediums and graphic communication.
Future prospects	A qualification in Graphics can lead to a multitude of careers including; graphic designer, illustrator, animator, advertising & marketing designer and set designer. The course will allow for transferrable skills including; meeting requirements of a brief, time management and creative problem solving.
Course leader	Mrs I Sahin

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 History at GCSE.
What will I study?	Component 1: Breadth study - Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964. 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. Component 2: Depth study - The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007. 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. Component 3: Historical investigation – Tudors 1485-1587. (NEA 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. This is a taught unit with scaffolding to support writing. All 3 components will be taught simultaneously by specialist teachers in each subject area across Year 12 and Year 13.
How is the course assessed?	20% NEA /80% Exam – The NEA is carried out through lessons and independently through a historical investigation that will lead them to write an extended essay which will be internally moderated and then submitted to AQA. The NEA component builds upon the skills learnt in components 1 and 2. Internal assessment, including PPE will be held April 2027 and January 2028. Pupils will be continuously assessed through a variety of extended writing and short answer questions to review key knowledge learnt.
Additional information	There is a linear progression of skill across the course, and 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

Mathematics A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Maths Grade 6 GCSE Statistics is advantageous but it is not compulsory.
What will I study?	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. Areas which you will cover include: Pure Mathematics: ❖ Algebra and Functions ❖ Coordinate Geometry ❖ Sequences & Series ❖ Differentiation ❖ Integration ❖ Exponentials and Logarithms ❖ Trigonometry and proofs Mechanics and Statistics: ❖ 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 2028). 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 foundation for a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities, including careers in Accounting, Finance, Engineering, Banking, Investment, Economics, Insurance, Mortgage Broking, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defence, and Property Management. A-Level Mathematics also supports progression to university courses in subjects such as Economics, Accounting, Computer Science, Finance, Banking, Investment, Actuarial Science, Insurance, Mathematics, Mathematics Education, Applied Mathematics, Sports Science, Risk Analysis, and Statistics.
Course leaders	Mr D Murphy, Mr M Raza

Media Studies A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in GCSE Media/Film Studies and English.
What will I study?	2 EXAMS AT THE END OF YEAR 13 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 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 1 PRACTICAL UNIT: NEA (Non Assessed Unit) A production task set by the exam course – could be Radio, 2 x magazine covers and contents pages and a website to support/promote the magazine.
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

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?	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: • 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?	60% Coursework / 40% Exam 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. The exam unit begins in February 2028 with the external exam to be sat in May 2028. There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practice exam technique.
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 will be encouraged to develop projects based on their own interests. 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. However, most importantly, they must have passion for the subject.
Future prospects	<i>'UK creative industries generate more than £100bn a year to the UK economy and employ more than 2m people</i> <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> <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>
Course leader	Mrs I Sahin

Physical Education A Level

What are the entry requirements?	Grade 4 in at least two GCSE sciences and at least Grade 4 in GCSE PE. Students must also play competitive sport at club level or higher externally.
What will I study?	The A-Level is made up of 3 components consisting of 2 written exams and an internal assessment with external moderation. Component 1: Exploring concepts in physical education Component 2: Evaluating physical education 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. Exercise physiology, training and performance Movement analysis, technology and biomechanics. Sport psychology Skill acquisition Sport and society 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.
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 it 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 G Townson

Physics A Level

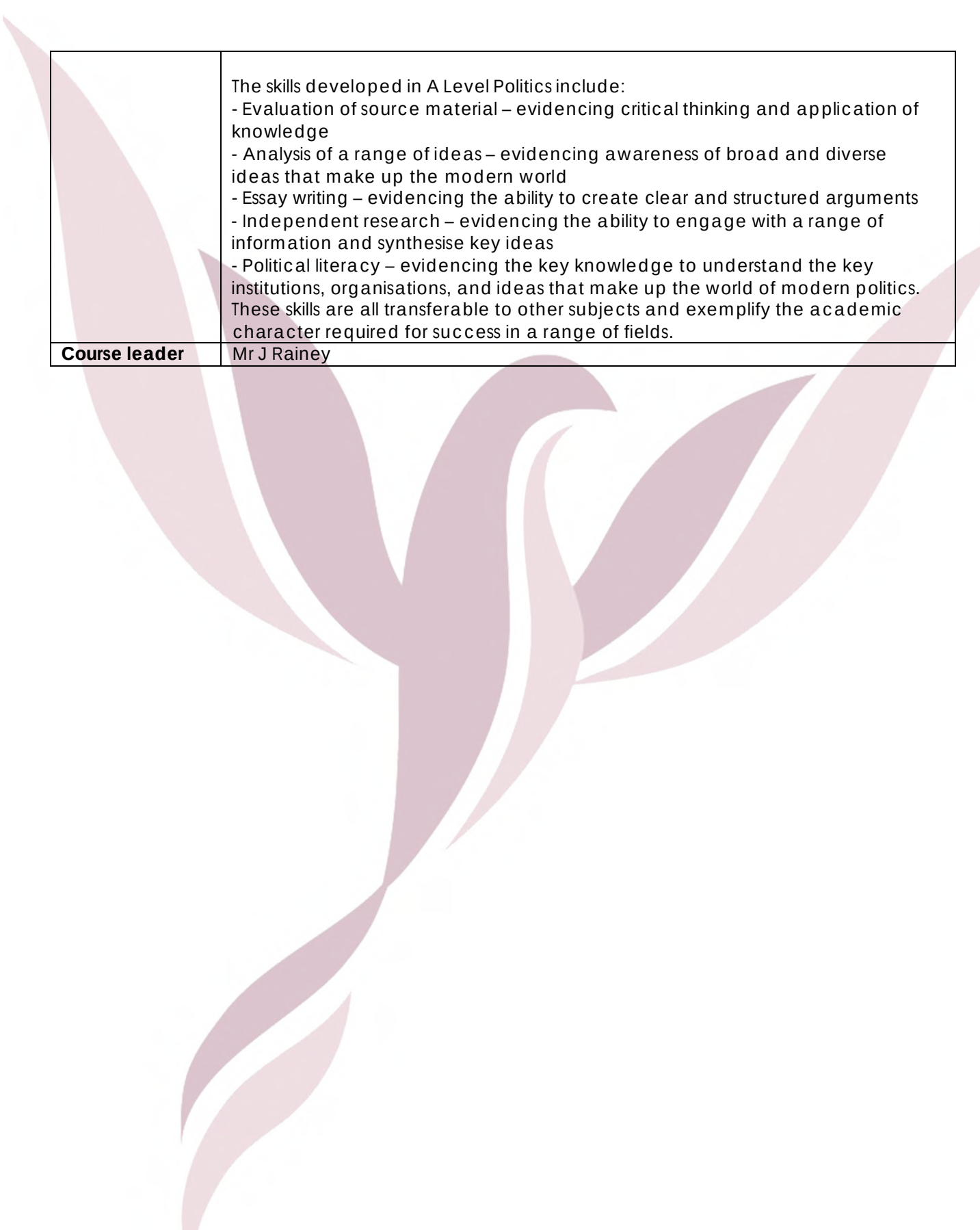
Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Physics. Additionally, you must have GCSE Maths at grade 6 and ideally be studying A level Maths.
What will I study?	Students will learn about: 1 Measurements and their errors 2 Particles and radiation 3 Waves 4 Mechanics and materials 5 Electricity 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics 7 Fields and their consequences 8 Nuclear physics And an additional special topic – Astrophysics
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 12 required practicals, which will also be assessed during the written exams. 3 written papers at the end of the A level (June 2027): Paper 1 2 hours, 34% A level Paper 2 2 hours, 34% A level Paper 3 2 hours, 32% of A level Section A – Practical skills Section B – Special Topic - Astrophysics
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 - AS 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	Miss G Walsh

Psychology A Level

Entry Requirements	English GCSE at grade 5 and Maths GCSE at grade 5
What will I study?	In the first year of study we look at topics within Psychology as diverse as Human Memory, Attachment, Social Influence and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health. Students will also look at the main approaches within the subject as well as research methods. In the second year of study, students look at a range of topics in more detail including Biopsychology, Forensic Psychology, Cognitive Development 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.
How is the course assessed?	100% exam. 3 x 2 hours exams assessed at the end of the two years. The exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer questions, plus essays covering a range of course content.
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

Politics A Level

Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in History, or if History is not say Grade 5 in English Language.
What will I study?	<u>AQA A Level Politics</u> Component 1: <u>The Government and Politics of the UK</u>, including The British Constitution, The Parliament, The Prime Minister, The Judiciary, Devolution, Participation, Elections, Parties, Pressure Groups, The EU. Component 2: <u>The Government and Politics of the US</u>, including The Constitution, The Congress, The President, The Judiciary, Elections, Parties, Pressure Groups, Civil Rights, Component 1 and 2: Comparative Politics – Students will study a comparison between the different elements of US and UK politics. Component 3: <u>Political Ideologies</u> Pupils will study 3 core ideologies – Liberalism, Socialism, and Conservatism. They will also study Nationalism. These are assessed in reference to their nature, varieties, and place in modern politics.
How is the course assessed?	The course is assessed through 3 exams at the end of Year 13. <u>Paper 1: UK politics</u> 2 hour exam 77 marks A mix of medium length and long written essays <u>Paper 2: US Politics and Comparative studies</u> 2 hour exam 77 marks A mix of medium length and long written essays <u>Paper 3: Political ideas</u> 2 hour exam 77 marks A mix of medium length and long written essays
Additional information	A Level Politics pairs well with History, English Literature, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Law and Philosophy/RE. It is also effective as a standalone subject to exemplify a range of skills to compliment other subjects that are not extended writing based. The structure of the course allows pupils to develop and extend knowledge as they build upon concepts in more depth, for example studying political parties in the UK then political parties in the US in Year 12 before doing a comparative study of the two in Year 13, giving an opportunity to review and extend knowledge.
Future prospects	Politics is the fastest growing A Level subject (11.9% increase in entries in 2026). It has broad links to an array of university course such as, but not limited to; - Politics and International Relations - Humanities subjects – History, Geography, Philosophy - Law and criminology - Social Sciences However, studying A Level Politics does not lock you in to a career in politics but can open many doors.



	The skills developed in A Level Politics include: - Evaluation of source material – evidencing critical thinking and application of knowledge - Analysis of a range of ideas – evidencing awareness of broad and diverse ideas that make up the modern world - Essay writing – evidencing the ability to create clear and structured arguments - Independent research – evidencing the ability to engage with a range of information and synthesise key ideas - Political literacy – evidencing the key knowledge to understand the key institutions, organisations, and ideas that make up the world of modern politics. These skills are all transferable to other subjects and exemplify the academic character required for success in a range of fields.
Course leader	Mr J Rainey

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. Grade 5 at GCSE English language is a requirement.
What will I study?	Students will study THREE units over the course of the two years: Unit 1 – Philosophy This involves a study of philosophical influences ranging from Plato and Aristotle to current 21 st century philosophical ideas. Topics include debate about the existence of God and the soul, body, mind distinction. 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. 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.
How is the course assessed?	This course is 100% exam. Students will sit THREE 2hour papers in May/June 2028. They will sit a PPE in April 2027 and a further PPE in December 2027. There will be regular mini-assessments along the way.
Additional information	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. 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.
Future prospects	An A level in this subject can lead to a wide range of degree courses. Students with an A level in Religious Studies can go on to careers in teaching, law, the forces, police, nursing and any public sector job amongst others.
Course leader	Mr L Maher

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?	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. • Families and Households • Education • Research Methods in Context • Social Stratification and Differentiation • Crime and Deviance
How is the course assessed?	Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods 80 marks-33.3% of A-level Paper 2 Topics in Sociology Section A: Families and Households Section B: Social Stratification and Differentiation 80% marks – 33.3% of A Level Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods 80 marks-33.3% of A-level All papers will be assessed in June 2028 following 2 years of study. PPEs and end of topic assessments will be used to monitor progress throughout the course.
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?	Aspects of Hispanic Society – Current trends • Modern and traditional values (Los valores tradicionales y modernos) • Cyberspace (El ciberespacio) • Equal rights (La igualdad de los sexos) Artistic culture in the Hispanic World • Modern day idols (La influencia de los ídolos) • Spanish regional identity (La identidad regional en España) • Cultural heritage (El patrimonio cultural) Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society • Immigration (La inmigración) • Racism (El racismo) • Integration (La convivencia) Aspects of political life in Hispanic Society • Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens (Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana) • Monarchies and dictatorships (Monarquías y dictaduras) • Popular movements (Movimientos populares) The study of literary texts and films
How is the course assessed?	Listening, Reading and Writing Exam: 50% of exam grade Writing Exam: Based on a literary text (Como agua para chocolate) and a film (El laberinto del fauno) 20% of grade Speaking Exam: Discussion of a theme and then presentation and discussion of an individual research topic 30% Internal Assessments at the end of each half term PPE dates in April 2027 and December 2027
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	Miss O Sediri

Textiles Art and Design Eduqas A Level

Entry Requirements	GCSE Textiles/Design Technology/Art grade 5 or above is preferred although studies in other creative subjects will be considered.
What will I study?	Students study and submit work under the Textiles specification. 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 or accessories. Students will be required to demonstrate skills in the following areas: • 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?	60% Coursework / 40% Exam Skills and coursework projects will begin in lessons from the start of the course, for completion by January 2029. 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. The exam unit begins in February 2029, 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. There will be a PPE in year 12 and again in year 13 to practise exam technique.
Additional information	This creative qualification gives students the practical skills and confidence to succeed in a wide range of careers, especially those in the creative industries. 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. Opportunities for trips, live briefs, competitions, workshops and guest speakers are also part of the course.
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

Health and Social Care BTEC Level 3 AAQ Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	Merit at Health and Social Care or grade 5 in GCSE English and science 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 and Development - Exam Human Biology and Health - Exam Principles of Health and Social Care Practice – Coursework Promoting Health Education - Coursework
How is the course assessed?	Two units are portfolio based. The units contain assessment tasks at Pass, Merit, Distinction 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. You also need a good understanding of science due to the Human Biology and Health unit. This course has the same UCAS points as A levels.
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

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 a must. 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?	Single: BTEC Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level) covering 4 units of work over the 2 year course 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. 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. 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. 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 and 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 school groups and you will be expected to be involved in the special family that we are in Belfairs Music Department.
How is the course assessed?	PEARSON Regular internal summative and formative testing/progress checks. Year 12 and 13 PPE as per the Academy calendar. Assignments marked both by teachers and external moderators. Final Pearson written examination in June of the year of entry. Coursework carried out within guided hours, submitted for internal assessment before sent to external moderators.
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	5 GCSEs at a grade 4 and above including English and Maths Level 2 qualification in Performing Arts or GCSE in Dance/Drama is desirable and will equip you with key skills.
What will I study?	This course is equivalent to one A Level. The course is made up of 4 units, of which 3 are mandatory and 1 is optional. <u>Mandatory Units:</u> 1) Investigating Practitioners Work 2) Developing Skills and techniques for live performance. 3) Group Performance Workshop Plus, <u>one optional unit</u> chosen by the centre. 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. Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (58%).
How is the course assessed?	External assessed units are set by Pearson and marked by the board. The assessment includes: • 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. Internally assessed units are created and assessed by the teachers delivering the course. The assessment includes: • 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 will have a choice on the direction and outcomes. • Demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate techniques and processes.

Additional information	Core skills: • 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 knowledge and skills within realistic sport and coaching contexts. This is an applied course and students should expect to combine classroom study with practical coaching and leadership experiences. Students will be required to research independently, communicate effectively and produce structured written work demonstrating their understanding and application of theory. Students will also develop their ability to plan, deliver and evaluate coaching sessions, work effectively with others, respond to feedback and demonstrate professional behaviours appropriate to the sport and active leisure industry.
Future prospects	The qualification is designed for post-16 students who may wish to progress directly towards employment within the sports coaching and development sector, including opportunities to work as an assistant coach. When studied alongside other Level 3 qualifications as part of a Post-16 study programme, it can also support progression to a wide range of higher education courses. Relevant degree pathways may include Sports Coaching, Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Development, Sports Management, Strength and Conditioning, and Health and Physical Activity. The course also develops transferable skills valued by universities and employers, including leadership, communication, organisation, teamwork, problem-solving and reflective practice.
Course Leader	Mr G Townson

Business OCR Cambridge Technical – CTEC

Entry Requirements	Grade 4 in GCSE English.
What will I study?	This qualification can be studied as a single or double option. Single option: Year 12 3 units Level 3 Certificate Year 13 2 units Level 3 Extended Certificate Double option: Year 12 5 units Level 3 Extended Certificate Year 13 5 units Level 3 Diploma Mandatory units include: • The Business environment • Working in Business • Business Decisions • Customers and Communication Optional units: (subject to variation) • Marketing • Finance • Accounting • Human resources
How is the course assessed?	Single Option: 2 externally set exams and 3 units of coursework Double: 4 externally set exams and 6 units of course work
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 on to university in a variety of business related fields, such as Marketing, accountancy etc.
Course leader	Mrs C Gunasekaran-Vasanthakumar

Engineering OCR Cambridge Advanced National Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements	GCSE Mathematics and Science grade 5 and English at grade 4 minimum requirements. 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 areas of study will form the core of this qualification, while the following two optional units will extend your knowledge and understanding of the core units. The Computer Aided Design and Mechanical Product Design units will provide the platform for the practical application of the knowledge gained in the core units.
How is the course assessed?	The course is currently split at 40% internally moderated units and 60% externally moderated units . The external exams can be sat in January and June of 2028 and 2029, depending on students' readiness. The coursework will be completed in the form of practical assessments and portfolio based work, 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, at least a grade 5 is essential in GCSE Science, Mathematics and 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

Criminology – Criminology Level 3 Applied General Diploma - vocational Qualification

Entry Requirements	English GCSE at Grade 4. Maths GCSE at Grade 4
What will I study?	The course is split into four mandatory units covered over two years (earning a Certificate at year one and a Diploma at year two): Year One Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (Internal Controlled Assessment): Learn about different types of crime, why some go unreported, and how media impacts public perception. Unit 2: Criminological Theories (External Examination): Explore the biological, psychological, and sociological "why" behind criminal behaviour. Year Two Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom (Internal Controlled Assessment): Examine the processes of criminal investigations, gathering evidence, and courtroom trials. Unit 4: Crime and Punishment (External Examination): Evaluate the effectiveness of social control, policies, and the penal system.
How is the course assessed?	2 x Internal Controlled Assessment and 2 x External exams 50% Internal Controlled Assessment: Controlled assignments and portfolio work completed during the course. 50% (2 x) External Assessment: Standard written exams set and marked by the exam board.
Additional information	Students will need to work continually to develop their portfolios leading to the internal assessment and so must keep up with the work set at all times
Future prospects	University and Higher Education Undergraduate Degrees: Progress to a full bachelor's degree in Criminology, Criminal Justice, Sociology, or Psychology. Law Conversion: Use your critical thinking and essay-writing skills to transition into qualifying law degrees or conversion courses. Combined Honours: Pair criminology with subjects like forensic science, politics, or human rights. Direct Career Pathways (with further training) Policing: Apply to join the police force as an officer via the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) or graduate entry schemes. Prison and Probation Services: Train as a probation officer or work within custodial management. Youth and Community Work: Support young offenders or vulnerable groups through youth offending teams or local community charities. Civil Service and Policy: Work in government administration, research, or as a policy adviser focusing on crime reduction.
Course leader	Mr M Collins

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?	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. Recent projects included the analysis of High Altitude Training on Athletic Performance. The accuracy and efficacy of football prediction systems, and also a project analysing and evaluating the value and appropriateness of guitar amplifiers. Students are taught research methodology, academic writing skills including referencing techniques, research techniques, how to manage their projects and using tools to help plan, how to prepare for tutorials and a whole host of attributes needed to succeed in higher education and employment. We follow the AQA Level 3 specification for this qualification the 'Extended Project Qualification'.
How is the course assessed?	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. 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. 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. Submission for their final project is planned for March 2028.
Additional information	Much, but not all, content of the course is student led and it develops independent learning skills and the ability to write critically. It is well liked by some universities and can sometimes be considered as a qualifying factor when applying. EPQ is a fantastic opportunity to study something of great personal interest, be accredited for it and significantly enhance your future!
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

Core Mathematics AS Level Equivalence

Entry Requirements	GCSE Maths Grade 4. Please note this is not an equivalent award to A Level Mathematics.
Course Length	This is an AS equivalent sized course in teaching hours and UCAS points accreditation. Students will study this along side their 3 chosen A Levels or equivalents and sit the external examinations at the end of Year 12.
What will I study?	The content areas covered in this qualification (across both papers) are: • applications of statistics • probability • linear programming • sequences and growth. 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. 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. Notable new content beyond GCSE include: • 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 (Summer 2026). 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.
Prospects	This qualification provides the mathematical skills to support students progressing to higher education to study subjects that 'use' mathematics including, for example, biology, psychology, business, economics, health and social care, geography, and computing. 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.
Course leaders	Mr D Murphy