

# **Post 16 Prospectus 2017 - 2019**



**An Academy**



# Headteacher's Welcome

Whether you have spent the last five years at Aldridge School or you are joining us from another school, we offer you something special – the opportunity to achieve academic success and the chance to develop as an individual so that you leave us happy, confident and well prepared for the next phase in your life, be it work or university.

We work with our Sixth Form students as young adults ready to enter the world of Higher Education and employment. Our primary aim therefore is to ensure that all Sixth Formers make the right choice and are well prepared to realise their ambitions, whether at an Oxbridge or Russell group University or at an Apprenticeship or Further Education provider.

We have a growing reputation for success in a full range of A level and vocational courses. We have a proven range of extra-curricular challenges and opportunities to make sure all your talents and interests help you prepare for future success.

Aldridge recognises the importance of the partnership between the school, parents and students. The significant change, however, is that there is increasing responsibility upon each of you to become a self-motivated and independent learner. We continue to expect to “achieve excellence together”. We hope you will join us in this ambition.



David Mountney  
Headteacher



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## Faculty of Business Communication

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Business	Level 2 BTEC First Award	18
Business	BTEC Extended Certificate	19
Business Studies	A Level	20
Children's Play, Learning and Development	BTEC Level 2 First Award	22
Economics	A Level	23
Health and Social Care	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate	25
IT	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical	26
IT	OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma	27
Psychology	A Level	28
Sociology	A Level	29

## Faculty of Design

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Art and Design	A Level	30
Art and Design	OCR Cambridge Technical level 3	31
Fashion	OCR Cambridge Technical level 3	32
Photography	GCSE (level 2)	33
Hospitality and Catering	BTEC Level 2 First Award	34
Food Science and Nutrition	Level 3 Diploma	35

## Faculty of English

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
English Language	A Level	36
English Literature	A Level	37
Media Studies	GCSE (level 2)	38
Media Studies	A Level	39

# Subjects by Faculty

## Faculty of Humanities

Subject	Award Type	
Citizenship Studies	GCSE (level 2)	40
Classics (Ancient History)	A Level	41
Geography	A Level	42
History	A Level	43
Law	A Level	44
Religious Studies	A Level	45
Politics	A Level	46

## Faculty of Mathematics

Subject	Award Type	
Mathematics	A Level	47

## Faculty of Performance

Subject	Award Type	
Music	A Level	48
Music Technology	A Level	49
Sport	BTEC Level 2 Award	50
Sport	BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate	51

## Faculty of Science

Subject	Award Type	
Biology	A Level	52
Chemistry	A Level	54
Physics	A Level	56

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Subject	Award Type	
Business Studies	A Level	61
Economics	A Level	62
French	A Level	64
German	A Level	65
Performing Arts	BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate	66
Psychology	A Level	67
Spanish	A Level	68
Sports Studies	A Level	69





# Why you should join Aldridge School Sixth Form?

At Aldridge School – An Academy we have a very popular and thriving Sixth Form and recognise that the choices made for life after KS4 are a very important step in your educational journey; a step that will lead onto University or apprenticeships.

We are very proud of our student's success with over 80% securing places at some of the top Universities and higher apprenticeships last year.

We offer a very broad range of both academic and vocational courses at level 3, alongside a package of level 2 courses, ensuring that Aldridge School Sixth Form is an option for a wider range of students.

We understand the need for enrichment opportunities for all our students. We have the highest aspirations and expectations; and support the students in every way to ensure that they realise their potential.

The personal and social welfare of each of our students is of paramount importance at Aldridge School and our pastoral care extends throughout Sixth Form life. Students will be offered advice, guidance and support at the right times.

The High quality teaching that takes place at Aldridge School is provided by KS5 subject specific staff; with a proven track record of success. We believe that our Sixth Form will provide the right opportunities and environment for you to achieve your potential.







# Guidance and Monitoring

We understand that whatever you choose to do after Sixth Form it's important that you are prepared. During your time with us you will be given high quality Information Advice and Guidance at a time when you need it the most. This will be delivered as part of your weekly timetable.

The move from KS4 to KS5 is one of the most difficult changes that students make during their education. To help with this transition we have a comprehensive pastoral system that will provide you with care and guidance. You will be allocated a Form Tutor that will help you to settle into Sixth Form life and the expectations that this demands of you. We also run a comprehensive induction programme during the month of July. All applicants to Aldridge School Sixth Form are expected to attend these days.

During Y12 and Y13 you will be supported in your University application whether this be to Oxford or Cambridge, a Russell Group University or progression into the work place.

During your time in the Sixth Form your teachers, Heads of Faculty and Form Tutor, will give you a huge amount of academic support. We also have a Head of Sixth Form who supports those students who are not yet achieving their full potential with low aspirations being openly challenged. Students are given organisational, motivational and practical support to help ensure progress and achieve potential.

## Facilities

The Sixth Formers have an excellent range of facilities available to them at Aldridge School. Not only do they have access to the whole school facilities but have a dedicated and newly refurbished Sixth Form area.

This area comprises Café Aspens where you can relax and enjoy something to eat and drink as well as dedicated study areas for independent work. Free Wi-Fi is also available and students are encouraged to bring their own devices to use within the school.

# Enrichment Opportunities

At Aldridge School we are all committed to academic success, but it's not all about academic learning. We understand that enhancing the learning experience that our pupils have is fundamental to their success. Our enrichment programme provides the opportunity to develop skills that will enhance your personal development allowing you to make the move into Higher Education and employment more smoothly.

All our students are encouraged to make the commitment to be fully involved with promoting the school's ethos of Achieving Excellence Together.

The following are examples of some of the enrichment opportunities available at Aldridge School Sixth Form:

- Provide academic support by mentoring younger pupils within the school.
- Links with local primary schools providing support in English, Maths and sporting activities.
- Voluntary work within care settings.
- The opportunity to lead via our student voice and election to the position of Head Boy or Girl.
- Develop interview skills via mock interviews.
- Development of financial responsibility.
- An extensive range of outside speakers to provide Information Advice and Guidance through out the academic year.
- Involvement in the community; both representing the school at events and completing community projects.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- Driver awareness courses.



# Making the right choices

When you are choosing the subjects that you wish to study at Aldridge School Sixth Form it's important that you choose subjects that you not only enjoy and are interested in, but are potentially relevant to a university course or career aspiration. Careful consideration of subject combinations is important. It is not uncommon to have a University course or job in mind when applying; and your selection of subjects should support these ambitions.

To help you make these choices it would be helpful to talk over your options with family members or friends. If you feel you need help, then feel free to contact the Head of Sixth Form at Aldridge School at any time. We also run a Sixth Form taster programme in July to give you a true taste of what it's like to be part of the Sixth Form at Aldridge School.

Below are a number of resources that will help you with your choice of courses:

- <http://university.which.co.uk>
- <http://www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf>
- <http://www.careers4u.tv/what-degree/>
- <https://www.oxford-royale.co.uk/articles/how-to-choose-a-levels.html>

## Aldridge School Sixth Form Packages

All students that join Aldridge School Sixth Form receive an excellent level of Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG); whether you are making an application to Oxbridge, applying to study Medicine at a top Russell Group university or moving into the world of work to start a higher apprenticeship. However some pupils require a more bespoke package due to the nature of their chosen career paths.

If you have aspirations to follow a career in Primary Education or Nursing we can offer you a more dedicated IAG package.

This will include the following aspects:

- The offer of a prearranged extended work experience in an appropriate setting.
- A more tailored IAG programme throughout the year.
- Interview experience.
- Preparation for entrance tests as appropriate/applicable.

# Working together

Aldridge School values and appreciates the important role that parents and guardians play in providing the support and guidance that young people need to make informed choices. We run a programme of events throughout the academic year to provide advice and guidance on all aspects of academic and personal development.

These events include the following:

- Sixth Form Induction Evening
- Preparing for life after Sixth form evening; including UCAS application preparation
- Student Finance evening
- KS5 progress evenings and reports

However we do not see the above as the only opportunities to talk to our parents, we are available to discuss any questions you may have at any point.

## How do I make an Application to Aldridge School Sixth Form?

We are welcoming all applications to join the Sixth Form at Aldridge School in September 2017 using the online application form found at the address below:

**[www.apply.aldriggeschool.org](http://www.apply.aldriggeschool.org)**

The application process will begin on 11th November 2016 and close on 16th December 2016. All applicants for Aldridge School Sixth Form will be required to attend an interview. These Interviews will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have regarding your application as well as for us to ascertain your suitability for Aldridge School Sixth Form we will also offer advice on the combination of subjects you have applied for. Successful applicants will be offered a conditional place in writing.







# Expectations when choosing your subjects

To ensure that you succeed in your chosen subjects the following expectations apply when choosing your courses:

1. To continue a subject at A Level there is an expectation that you will have achieved a grade B/7 or above at GCSE in the subject you plan to study.
2. To continue to study a Vocational subject at level 3 there is an expectation that you will have achieved a P2 or above at Level 2 in the subject you plan to study.
3. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology are considered to be among the most challenging courses on offer. If you are considering choosing any of these courses we strongly advise that your APS is 6.3 or above, and that your GCSE grades for these subjects are among your highest grades achieved.

\*Some subjects may also have additional entry criteria.

# What are the entry requirements for Aldridge School Sixth Form?

The Sixth Form at Aldridge School is open to all pupils who wish to continue their studies beyond the age of 16; that meet the entry requirements and are prepared to study seriously and make a positive contribution to the ethos of the school.

To enable students to select the most appropriate subjects to study at Aldridge School Sixth Form, entry will be based on an Average Point Score (APS) system using the end of KS4 results. This APS gives a true reflection of a student's current ability and is proven to be a reliable tool when offering the most appropriate access route and advice when choosing courses.

The 3 access routes on offer and the APS scores required to study on these access routes are shown below: -

## Access Route 1

**APS: - 6.0 or higher (A\*/A and B grades)**

**Choice:** - 3 A Levels over 2 years

**Maths and English Language:** - Maths or English obtained at grade 6 or higher with at least a grade 5 in the other.

## Access Route 2

**APS: - 5.9 – 5.0 (B and C grades)**

**Choice:** - Mixture of A Levels and Vocational Qualifications over 2 Years.

**Maths and English Language:** - grade 5 or above in one and at least a grade 4 in the other. You must retake GCSE English or Maths where a grade 5 or above is not achieved.

## Access Route 3

**APS: - 4.9 – 4.0 (C and D grades)**

**Choice:** - A choice of three Level 2 qualifications over 1 year.

**Maths and English Language:** - At least a grade 4 in **both** English **and** Maths. You must retake GCSE English and Maths.



# How do I calculate my APS?

The entry requirements for Aldridge School Sixth Form are expressed in terms of GCSE APS.

To work this out, add together all the points for your grades, using the points table below, and then divide by the number of GCSE grades you have.

GCSE Maths and English								
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
GCSE								
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
8.5	7	5.5	4	3	2	1.5	1	
BTEC								
D*	D2	M2	P2					
8.5	7	6	4					

## EXAMPLE

James gets the following predicted Grades:

GCSE Subject	Grade	Points
English Language	7	
English Literature	6	
Maths	5	
French	B	5.5
History	A	7
Art	C	4
Science Core	C	4
Science Add	C	4
ICT	D2	7

$$\frac{7+6+5+5.5+7+4+4+4+7}{9} = 5.5\text{APS}$$

James would be suitable for Access Route 2

Achieving a GCSE APS score of 6.0 will allow you to choose from any of the courses currently on offer at Aldridge School – An Academy.

Achievement at GCSE and APS scores are considered to be good indicators of success for courses at A level.



# GCSE retakes in English and Mathematics

Under the new Government reforms, post-16 students who have not yet achieved a GCSE grade 5 in English or Mathematics are required to continue to study these subjects at post-16. Aldridge School offers the opportunity for students to study these subjects and retake these GCSEs alongside their other post-16 options.

At Aldridge School we offer timetabled classes and the opportunity to re-sit the English and Mathematics examinations in November. If pupils achieve a grade 5 or above in November then they would no longer be required to study these subjects. If they are still yet to achieve a grade 5 in these subjects then they will have another opportunity to retake in the summer exam period.

Post 16 re-sit classes in English and Mathematics are taught by experienced subject specialists. Staff will liaise with students regarding examination specifications followed and work that needs to be completed.

For external students coming from other schools who have taken English/Mathematics exams with a different board, we are happy to offer advice about GCSE preparation and retake strategies, either by telephone, e-mail or at interview.





# Life After Aldridge School Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form team and careers advisors work closely with the students and place a large amount of time and energy into providing Information, Advice and Guidance as the pupils prepare to leave the school and move on to Higher Education and employment.

Below are just some examples of the support that students can expect to receive:

- Support with the University application process available from the Sixth Form Team, Form Tutors and Teaching Staff.
- Sixth Formers have access to University open days.
- Support for BMAT and LNAT tests.
- Considerable support during results day, making the next steps as smooth as possible.
- Specialist area mock interviews; Vet Med, Medical, Teaching.

The vast majority of our pupils in Y13 will progress from our Sixth Form and take up places on under-graduate courses in universities across the country. Every year we have a large proportion of our students embarking on degrees in Russell Group Universities along with Cambridge and Oxford.

Contained in the table opposite are some of the Universities and courses on which previous Aldridge School pupils have secured places:

Students who wish to consider taking a Gap Year or employment are catered for through the support of our careers advisor. We also have excellent contacts with a variety of Gap Year organisations and will support progression to apprenticeship employment or training.

University	Courses
The University of Birmingham	Psychology, English Language and Classical Literature
University of Bristol	Economics and Music
University of Manchester	History, Pharmacy and Business
University of Nottingham	Economics and Psychology
University of Leeds	Biochemistry, Chemistry and Law
Birmingham City University	Textiles Design and Computer Science
Swansea University	Physical Geography, Music Technology
University of Liverpool	Ophthalmic
University of Leeds	Chemistry, Physics and Law
University of Durham	Chemistry
University of Sheffield	Maths
De Montfort University	Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacy and Adult Nursing

## Level 2 BTEC First Award

# Business

If you are enterprising and have the passion to succeed in the exciting world of Business, then this is the course for you. This course will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills to excel in the world of work.

This is an integrated course that has been designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of the business sector. You will have the opportunity to develop a range of business based knowledge and skills.

### How will I be assessed?

This is a practical work-related course where you will learn by completing a range of assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations. In addition, you will be assessed through an externally graded examination.

This is a one year course that comprising of 4 Units.

- Unit 1- Enterprise in the business world (internally assessed)

You will research your own ideas for a start-up business and prepare an initial plan that shows that you have considered current trends and the needs of your local business environment.

- Unit 2- Finance for business (external exam).

You will learn the importance of preparing the key financial documents that enables business to measure its success and identify areas where improvement is needed. You will learn the main techniques used by businesses to plan and monitor their financial situation.

- Unit 4- Principles of customer service (internally assessed)

You will be expected to research two different business to show you understand how good customer service impacts on a business, and ways in which a business can exceed customer expectations

- Unit 8- Recruitment, Selection and Employment (internally assessed).

You will learn how functional areas and job roles can differ between organisations. You will prepare a job description and person specification and apply for a suitable job role.

Each piece of work will be graded a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

### Where can this lead me?

The BTEC L2 course can help you achieve your full potential in the business world. In addition, you could progress to a relevant Level 3 course such as the Business BTEC Level Extended Certificate or direct entry into employment/ apprenticeships in a business environment in a supervisory or trainee management post.



# BTEC National Extended Certificate

# Business

The BTEC National Extended Certificate is made up of four units which provide specialist work- related programmes of study that cover the key concepts of Business. The BTEC National Extended Certificate is the equivalent of one full GCE Advanced Level Qualification.

This course follows a programme of study that enables progression to both Higher Education and employment within Business.

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Have a keen interest in business and how it operates.
- Enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- Want to find out more about business through personal investigation.
- Are interested in developing an understanding of business organisations, the markets they serve and how to deal with customers effectively.
- Want to follow a course that is active and enjoyable
- Want a course that is assessed by a mixture of exam, Exam board set assignments and School based assignments
- Want to move onto a related career or Higher Education course

..... then BTEC Business is for you!

Throughout the two year course you will study the following units:

## Unit 1 Exploring Business

In this unit you will gain an overview of the key ingredients for business success, how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate, and how this shapes them and their activities. You will also look at the importance of innovation and enterprise to the success and survival of businesses, with the associated risks and benefits.

This unit is a coursework based assignment marked by the school.

## Unit 2 Developing a Marketing Campaign

In this unit you will examine the marketing aims and objectives for existing products/ services and understand the importance of relevant, valid and appropriate research in relation to customers' needs and wants. You will use given market research data and other information to make recommendations about the type of marketing campaign that a business should undertake. This unit will give you an insight into how important marketing is to business. It will enable you to make an informed choice as to whether you want to specialise in marketing in employment training or Higher Education.

This unit is assessed under supervised conditions. You will be provided with a Case Study two weeks prior to a supervised assessment of three hours which is marked by BTEC.

## Unit 3 Personal and Business Finance

This unit will include aspects of both personal and business finance. Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing your money can help prevent future financial difficulties. The business finance aspects of the unit will introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses. Planning tools, such as cash flow forecasts and break-even, will be prepared and analysed. Measuring the financial performance of a business will require you to prepare and analyse statements from income and expenditure to statements of financial position of a business.

This Unit is assessed by a two hour examination.

## Unit 8 Recruitment and Selection Process

Recruiting the right people is essential to the success of a business. It is important that the processes and procedures involved in recruitment and selection meets the needs of the business and complies with current regulations. You will learn that successful recruitment is the key to maintaining the success of the business, as people are considered to be the most valued resource. This unit will give you the opportunity, through role play, to take part in selection interviews to demonstrate your communication skills are good.

This Unit is assessed by Coursework set and marked by the school.

## Career Prospects

This course is ideally suited to those students who have a strong desire to study and eventually enter the business world. Students learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include the important business skills of decision making and planning. Students can start a career in business armed with an excellent knowledge of how a business operates.

On completion of the course, students will have a wide variety of options for progression onto Higher Education to study at Degree or HND level, to employment or a professional apprenticeship.

# Business Studies

This course is aimed at students who have a strong interest in Business Studies and want to learn how a business is organised, operates and makes its decisions.

## What will Students Learn?

- How to develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value.
- The internal workings and management of organisations.
- The process of decision making in a dynamic external environment.
- How business behaviour can be influenced by a range of people and organisations including customers, managers, creditors, owner/shareholders, employees and other stakeholders.
- What outside factors influence the operations of a business, such as the state of the economy, the environment, ethical considerations, the government, the law, social and technological issues associated with business activity.
- Analyse and solve business problems
- The importance of setting objectives

How a business markets its products or services, what production is about financial control of business and how human resources are planned.

## Why choose Business Studies?

By taking a holistic approach to the subject, students will demonstrate the interrelated nature of business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The content of the course is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant to today's society. They will study key contemporary developments such as technology and business ethics, and globalisation is covered throughout the areas.

## How are they assessed?

The question papers will consist of a variety of assessment styles including multiple choice, short answer, data response, essay and case studies that enable students to feel more confident and engage with the questions. Real life case studies will be used wherever possible to make it easier for students to relate their knowledge and skills developed throughout the course.

The course is linear in structure and all examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13.

## Year 12 Business Studies

We will be investigating businesses in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing) and consider:

- The importance of the context of business in relation to decision making
- The interrelated nature of business activities and how they affect competitiveness
- The competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate
- How technology is changing the way decisions are made and their response to such decisions
- The use of non-quantitative and quantitative data in decision making (including the interpretation of index numbers and calculations such as ratios and percentages)

These units allow students to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues, assessment material is based on real business situations. By examining and thinking critically about real business situations as they study the subject, students will gain an insight into different contexts which will help them to understand the key issues in any situation and compare and contrast this with other situations and apply their understanding.

## Year 13 Business Studies

A-Level Business includes questions that allow students to demonstrate the ability to:

- Draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the full course of study
- provide extended responses
- The study of strategic decision making should build on the study of decision making in the functional areas
- The impact of technology on strategic decision making
- The influences of Corporate Social Responsibility, ethical and environmental issues on strategic decisions
- The difficulties in forecasting future trends
- The importance of assessing feasibility and risk when making strategic decisions
- The impact on stakeholders of strategic decisions and their response to such decisions.





### Student Comments

I have found Business Studies to be a very enjoyable and fulfilling course. Through the course you dissect the world of business in every aspect i.e learn how to actually set up a business of your own. If you have an interest in a business and how it works, I would strongly recommend this course as I think it places you in a strong position for work after education



The exam paper will consist of extended questions which require students to draw together different areas of the specification. An extended response is evidence generated by a student which is of sufficient length to allow that students to demonstrate the ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantial and logically structured.

### Career Prospects

Students with Advanced GCE Business Studies have access to a wide range of possible careers and Higher Education opportunities. Students learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include the important business skills of decision making and planning. Students can start a career in business armed with an excellent knowledge of how businesses operate. In particular students will have a head start in careers within accountancy, marketing, and human resources.

Business Studies combines well with a range of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Mathematics subjects to lead to university subjects in such areas as Business, Economics, Law, and Accountancy.

### How will I be assessed?

Three two hour exams each worth 33.3% of A-Level and 100 marks

Paper 1 contains three compulsory sections, Section A has 15 multiple choice questions worth 15 marks. Section B has short answer Questions worth 35 marks. Sections C and D have two essay questions each worth 25 marks.

Paper 2 Contains three data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of three or four questions.

Paper 3 Consists of a case study and approximately six questions.



Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Award

# Children's Play, Learning and Development

This course is a one year course that is designed to inspire students considering a career in early years, or related sectors, where knowledge of child development is relevant.

This qualification gives students the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge, understanding and the development of the skills needed to work in the Early Years' Sector. Students will study 3 units. All units for this qualification are compulsory.

## **Unit 1 – Patterns of Child Development - external exam unit worth 25% of the final grade**

This unit aims to develop knowledge and understanding of Child Development; focusing on areas of development and how these are linked.

## **Unit 2 - Promoting Children's Development Through Play – internally assessed unit worth 25% of the final grade**

This unit focuses on how play helps children to learn new skills and knowledge. Students explore the different types of play and their benefits and disadvantages.

## **Unit 3 – The Principles of Early Years Practice – internally assessed unit worth 50% of the final grade**

This unit explores the key principles in early year's practice, such as inclusive practice, valuing children, empowering them to become independent and using the key person approach to meet the children's emotional and care needs.

## **Progression opportunities**

This course supports progression to more specialised Level 3 vocational qualifications or related academic courses, such as in Early Years, Health and Social Care or Psychology, or an Apprenticeship within Early Years and Health and Social Care sectors to help students with the potential opportunity to enter employment in the future.

# A level Economics

## Why study Economics?

"I was curious about everything that happens around me. Studying Economics satisfies my curiosity"

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices.

Economics students and graduates are some of the most employable in the country with the average student starting on a salary in line with that of a student obtaining a degree in medicine.

A subject which opens many doors using a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include:

- collecting and analysing Economic information from different sources e.g. Internet
- development of written communication skills
- development of problem-solving, quantitative and qualitative and evaluation skills.

## Students will learn:

how to develop an understanding of Economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life.

how to apply Economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and to appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real-world phenomena.

how to analyse and explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of the government within it.

## Economics is a linear subject with all examinations being taken at the end of Year 13

*Paper 1: (4.1)*

### Markets and market failure.

This section of the specification is primarily about microeconomics.

Students will be required to acquire knowledge and understanding of a selection of microeconomic models and to apply these to current problems and issues. Microeconomic models such as demand and supply, perfect competition, monopoly, the operation of the price mechanism and the causes of market failure are central to this part of the specification. Students will need to demonstrate a realistic understanding of the decisions made by firms and how their behaviour can be affected by the structure and characteristics of the industry in which they operate. Other key models relate to the operation of labour markets, wage determination and causes of inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth.

Students will be expected to understand that traditional economic theory generally assumes that economic agents act rationally but they should also be introduced to models that recognise that consumer and firms' behaviour is often governed by more complex influences.

During their course of study, students will be provided with opportunities to use economic models to explore current economic behaviour. They should be able to apply their knowledge and skills to a wide variety of situations and to different markets and examples of market failure, including environmental and labour market failures. They should appreciate and be able to assess the impact that developments in the European Union and in the global economy have upon microeconomic behaviour and performance.

*Paper 2 (4.2)*

### The national and international economy.

This section of the specification is primarily about macroeconomics. However, students should understand that microeconomic principles underpin the behaviour of the macroeconomy. Understanding some aspects of macroeconomic behaviour requires that students have a firm grasp of related microeconomic principles, for example, understanding of price elasticity of demand is essential when analysing the impact of changes in the exchange rate on an economy. Students should have a good knowledge of developments in the UK economy and government policies over the past fifteen years. They should also be aware of developments in the world economy, including the European Union, and how these have affected the UK. They are not required to have specific knowledge of economic developments in any individual country, other than the UK, but if this is needed, relevant data will be presented to students.

Students should recognise that there are a number of models demonstrating how the macroeconomy works and should appreciate that different economic models provide insights into different aspects of the behaviour of the macroeconomy. When using these models students should be critically aware of the assumptions upon which they are based and their limitations when they are used to make sense of real world phenomena. Furthermore, they should be prepared to propose, analyse and evaluate possible solutions to macroeconomic problems. They will be required to assess the impact and effectiveness of current government policies to deal with these problems, as well as considering alternative policies and approaches.

### Paper 3 (4.1& 4.2)

#### Economic principles and issues.

The third paper will include topics from both sections of the specification and students, particularly when answering questions linked to the case study, will be expected to recognise when it is appropriate to use microeconomic and/or macroeconomic models.

Students will be expected to acquire competence in quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject content and be familiar with the various types of statistical and other data which are commonly used by economists. They should be able to make relevant calculations from economic data and be able to interpret data presented in the form of index numbers. Examples of other relevant quantitative skills include: the construction and use of graphs and the application of statistical measures such as the mean, median and relevant quantiles.

#### Economics and other A levels.

Economics goes well in subject combinations with other academic A levels. Having both quantitative and qualitative elements students have combined mathematical and scientific A levels as well as History and English. Economics traditionally works well with Maths, Science, History/Government and Politics although this is certainly not a pre-requisite to take this exciting A level.

#### Exam board: AQA

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/economics>

#### Career Prospects

Investment banking, Banking ,Finance, Politics, Civil Service, Accounting, Department of Commerce, Scientific research, Journalism , Management Consultancy, Local government, Positions at University such as professors or tenures, Teaching.

#### How you will be assessed

<b>Paper 1: Markets and market failure</b>	+	<b>Paper 2: National and international economy</b>	+	<b>Paper 3: Economic principles and issues</b>
<b>Assessed</b>		<b>Assessed</b>		<b>Assessed</b>
Written exam:2 hours		Written exam:2 hours		Written exam:2 hours
80 marks		80 marks		80 marks
33.3% of A-level		33.3% of A-level		33.3% of A-level
<b>Questions</b>		<b>Questions</b>		<b>Questions</b>
Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts worth 40 marks		Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts worth 40 marks		Section A: multiple choice questions worth 30 marks
Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of from three worth 40 marks		Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of from three worth 40 marks		Section B: case study questions requiring written answers, worth 50 marks





## BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

# Health and Social Care

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is equivalent in size to one A Level. The qualification supports access to a range of higher education courses, if taken alongside other A Levels or Level 3 qualifications.

### What does this qualification cover?

The mandatory content of the qualification incorporates topics relevant across the health and social care sector:

- Human Lifespan Development - examined unit
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Plus, one more unit to support their progression to specialised degree programmes:

- Physiological Disorders and their Care.

### What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification is generally taken alongside other qualifications as part of a 2-year programme of learning. This will enable learners to progress to a degree programme chosen from a range of programmes in the health and social care sector. The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education institutions as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses.

It can be taken alongside, for example: • A Levels in Biology or Psychology, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Nursing • A Levels in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education • a BTEC National Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Social Work • a BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport, which could lead to a Foundation Degree in Sports Studies and Development.

# OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical IT

## Why study A Cambridge Technical in IT?

In the 21st Century IT is becoming as important as being able to read and write so no matter what career path you are going to choose, the Cambridge Technical in IT will offer you skills and experience that you can use in any walk of life.

Cambridge Technical are aimed at young people aged 16 to 19 who have completed Key Stage 4 of their education and want to study in a more practical, work- related way.

These qualifications are particularly attractive because of their real-world relevance and close alignment with industrial practice – allowing you to achieve a real understanding of the subject that's a true fit with the needs of the workplace.

## What to expect?

For this brand new course there will be in total 4 units of work that will be assessed either internally or externally to give you your overall grade. 3 of the units will be mandatory and 1 will be optional.

The course will also allow students to undertake a unit of work that will allow them to specialise in a IT 'pathway' depending on their chosen IT interests.

The course will consist of the following mandatory units:

- Exam unit of work called 'Essentials of IT'
- Exam Unit of work called 'Essentials of cyber security'
- Internally assessed coursework called 'Using data analysis software'

Then the completion of one unit of internally assessed coursework choosing from a possible 2:

- Using emerging technologies
- Using social media channels for business

## Career prospects

This qualification is specifically designed for students to be able to access Level 3 courses at the end of its duration. It would be expected that students then opt for the Level 3 equivalent of this course at the end of the year or have gained skills that will aid them in other Level 3 courses. This would be an intermediate step between 6th Form studies and university.

## Subject combinations

Computer arts subjects

If you were aiming to be a computer games/web developer then suggested subjects would be Art and design subjects to allow you to develop your artistic flair.

Computer Science subjects

If you were aiming to be a computer programmer or hardware engineer then more academic subjects like Physics and Mathematics would be advisable.





# OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma

# IT

## Why study A Cambridge Technical in IT?

In the 21st Century IT is becoming as important as being able to read and write so no matter what career path you are going to choose, the Cambridge Technicals in IT will offer you skills and experience that you can use in any walk of life.

Cambridge Technicals are aimed at young people aged 16 to 19 who have completed Key Stage 4 of their education and want to study in a more practical, work-related way.

These qualifications are particularly attractive because of their real-world relevance and close alignment with industrial practice – allowing you to achieve a real understanding of the subject that's a true fit with the needs of the workplace.

## What to expect?

For this brand new course there will be in total 5 units of work that will be assessed either internally or externally to give you your overall grade. 3 of the units will be mandatory and 2 will be optional.

The course will also allow students to undertake a unit of work that will allow them to specialise in a IT 'pathway' depending on their chosen IT interests.

Year 12 will consist of the following:

- Exam unit of work called 'Fundamentals of IT'
- Exam Unit of work called 'Global information'
- Then the completion of on units of internally assessed coursework choosing from a possible 3:
  - Project management
  - Product development
  - Internet of Everything

## Year 13 will consist of the following:

The completion of one unit of internally assessed coursework choosing from a possible 3:

- Project management
- Product development
- Internet of Everything
- Then the completion of one unit of internally assessed coursework which allows the students to specialise into a chosen pathway.
  - Computer networks – IT Technician pathway
  - Virtual and augmented reality – Future practitioner pathway
  - Application design – Application developer pathway
  - Data analysis and design – Data Analyst pathway

## Career prospects

This qualification allows the opportunity for students to study for an HND (Higher National Diploma) or a degree in computer science and any other areas of the computer industry.

The skills acquired in the qualification are also highly sought after in all areas of work and industry as well as specialising in IT industry jobs like hardware engineer, web developer, computer programmer or systems analyst.

## Subject combinations

Computer arts subjects

If you were aiming to be a computer games/web developer then suggested subjects would be Art and design subjects to allow you to develop your artistic flair.

Computer Science subjects

If you were aiming to be a computer programmer or hardware engineer then more academic subjects like Physics and Mathematics would be advisable.



# A level Psychology

This interesting and dynamic subject involves the study of the behaviour of individuals and their mental processes.

Unit 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology. Studying topics such as social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology.

Unit 2 - Psychology in Context. Studying topics such as approaches in psychology, bio psychology, research methods and issues and debates in psychology.

Unit 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology. Studying topics such as relationships, stress or schizophrenia and forensic psychology or addiction.

The two year A-Level will be assessed by exams taken at the end of year 13. There will be three 2 hour exams.

The skills which are developed through studying Psychology include analytical skills which can be useful in a number of different subjects. Students will also develop the ability to analyse behaviour from a variety of approaches in psychology. The exam will assess their ability to apply their understanding to new situations.

Students have many opportunities to study the subject at a higher level, either choosing a BSc or BA degree. There are further opportunities to pursue a career in Psychology, by undertaking a Postgraduate qualification in a variety of Psychology related areas, for example, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology and Forensic Psychology.

Psychology is a useful subject for any job involving people, because students will gain an understanding of human behaviour, which can be applied in a variety of situations. Such as counsellor, family and marriage therapist, psychiatric nurse, childcare worker, social worker, youth counsellor.

Psychology fits well with a variety of subjects such as Sociology, Health and Social Care, Biology, English, Religious Studies and more. It is well suited for those interested in the Sciences or the Arts.

There is an expectation that students have achieved at least a B or above in Science and a Grade 6 or higher in Mathematics.







A level

# Sociology

Students who have an interest in the society we live in today and how it has changed throughout history would find this subject enjoyable.

This subject involves the study of sociological thought and methods. It allows for the integration of sociological themes, such as socialisation, culture and identity, and social differentiation, power and stratification. Students would be expected to think critically about how society develops and how the people in our society change. Students will be required to study key sociologists' work and evaluate how successful the work has been at explaining society.

We study the AQA specification, further information can be found at [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk).

The two year A-Level will be assessed by exams taken at the end of year 13. There will be three 2 hour exams.

Unit 1 - Education with Theory and Methods.

Unit 2 - Topics in Sociology. Studying topics including families and households and beliefs in society.

Unit 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

Sociology requires students to write essays, which are constructed well and reflect on more than one perspective. Such as feminist, Marxist and functionalist. This will allow students to develop their debating skills, by presenting different arguments and forming a conclusion.

Sociology fits well with Arts and Humanities subjects, such as English and History, but would also combine with subjects such as Psychology due to the scientific nature of the research methods used. It may also combine well with Health and Social Care.

Students would find that Sociology would help them with further careers in Health Care, Business, Local Government, Social work, Military, Criminal justice, Education, Law or Child welfare.

# Art, Craft and Design

## The Design Faculty

Official statistics published in January 2016 showed that the UK's creative Industries are now worth £84.1 billion per year to the UK economy – generating just under a staggering £10 million pounds an hour. Growth of 8.4% in 2014, almost double UK economy as a whole and has consistently outperformed all other sectors of UK industry. British films, music, video games, crafts and publishing are taking a lead role in driving the UK's economic recovery, according to the latest Government statistics. (source. [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Students who study a design related course will have access to a variety of higher education opportunities, ranging from foundation studies to BA honours degrees. Courses applied for often include Fine Art, Animation, Graphic Design, Fashion and Textiles, Photography, Architecture, Computer Game Graphics and Character Design and Illustration.

This year we are happy to offer A-level and OCR Cambridge Technical courses, studying Art and Design and Fashion (Textiles). Students who haven't studied a Design based course at Key stage 4 will be required to be interviewed with a portfolio of work.

## A level Art and Design

The A level course will enable students to develop a wide range of skills and techniques, together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Art, Craft and Design. The course offered is extremely adaptable to the student and the area of art and design that interests them the most. In the past students have followed a number of different pathways, ranging from fine art, graphic communication and three dimensional design.

### Course outline

#### Component 1.

Personal investigation. This consists of two elements. The main section being a practical portfolio of work. Students will have the opportunity to embrace the current and emerging technologies including animation and games design, moving image and 3D digital design, as well as the traditional routes of art, craft and design such as drawing, painting, sculpture and photography. The course encourages students to be extremely independent and their chosen area of study will reflect their interests and their desired area of specialism. All components for the course are internally assessed and externally moderated. This is accompanied by a related written study which has a guide of a minimum 1000 words.

#### Component 2.

Externally set task. Students receive an early release paper in February, this will provide the students with a number of themes and a wide range of starting points. From this they will choose one option and produce a body of work that culminates with the 15 hour controlled time for them to produce a personal response.





# OCR Cambridge Technical level 3 Introductory Diploma

The Cambridge Technical qualification aims to provide more freedom for interpretation as students are not bound by a final examination. It's exciting to be able to use a wealth of media and materials which enable pupils to explore practical applications in some depth.

The diverse range of units provides scope and flexibility to direct learners according to their skill sets, and allows time to specialise according to their individual skills and strengths. Cambridge Technical will give the ability to tailor the course through flexible assessment and they promote progression. This year we are offering the Art and Design pathway covering units from Art and Graphic design or the Fashion specialist pathway.

Course outline: 6 units taught over the course.

## OCR Cambridge Technical level 3 Art and Design

**Art and Design in Context** - Students will start the course by studying Art and design in context (mandatory unit), The aim of this unit is that students understand key trends, movements and events in the context of a chosen art or design discipline and identify areas of personal interest. They'll investigate artists and/or designers more specifically involved, and use this to develop an idea for a personal piece of creative work. They'll also produce and review a final outcome, sample model or maquette.

**How artists and designers use 2D materials, techniques and processes** - The work of artists or designers, and characteristics and working properties of 2D media, materials and techniques.

**Art and design illustration** - Students will look at different types of illustration and professional practice, and planning how to satisfy a brief.

**How artists and designers use 3D materials, techniques and processes** - Students will investigate artists'/ designers' work to influence the generation and development of ideas for their work.

**Realising an outcome for a specialist art or design brief** - Students learn how to identify a suitable idea and investigate 2D/3D media, materials, techniques and processes.

**Digital image creation** - In this unit students will explore the work of a range of digital artists/ photographers, and practical skills.



# OCR Cambridge Technical level 3

# Fashion

## Specialist Pathway

**Art and Design in Context** - Students will start the course by studying Art and design in context (mandatory unit), the aim of this unit is that students understand key trends, movements and events in the context of a chosen art or design discipline and identify areas of personal interest.

They'll investigate artists and/or designers more specifically involved, and use this to develop an idea for a personal piece of creative work. They'll also produce and review a final outcome, sample model or maquette.

**Fashion Design** - Understanding fashion design, and the media, materials and techniques used in the production of fashion products.

**Fashion Production** - An opportunity to understand the fashion production process.

**Textile Design** - Students will explore innovative and mixed media approaches to the design of surface decoration and pattern.

**Up-Cycling Fashion Products** - Students will experience the currently popular up-cycling trend in the fashion industry.

**Fashion Illustration** - Students will understand fashion illustration, including styles, influences, materials, processes and presentation techniques.





GCSE (level 2)

# Art and Design: Photography

The course consists of 2 components detailed below.

## Component 1. Coursework Portfolio

Students will produce a portfolio of work in which they will show evidence of a range of photography skills and digital processing techniques. Students have opportunity to explore their creative ideas through experimenting with digital SLR cameras and adobe photoshop.

## Component 2. Externally set task

Students will receive an early release paper in January with a range of different themes and starting points. From this they will choose one option and produce a body of work that culminates with the 10 hour exam period. This will be divided between the final photoshoot and editing time

## Student Comments

GCSE Photography is an enjoyable but challenging course.

It allows you to be creative whilst learning new skills.



# Hospitality and Catering

BTECs provide a practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a theoretical background, giving students the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment or further study in the Food and Hospitality industry.

This course will

- inspire and enthuse students to consider a career in the hospitality industry,
- support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic hospitality and catering course or an apprenticeship in hospitality and catering
- give students the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of, and skills in, the hospitality industry
- give students the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the hospitality industry, for example waiter/waitress, assistant front-of-house staff, temporary events/matchday hospitality staff, concessions catering assistants, fast food servers.

The course consists of 4 units of work

## Unit 1: Introducing the Hospitality Industry

Students will learn about different aspects of the hospitality industry, looking at its component parts and the different products and services that are offered as well as the essential processes involved in operating a hospitality business. This unit is assessed through an on line exam.

## Unit 2: Working in the Hospitality Industry

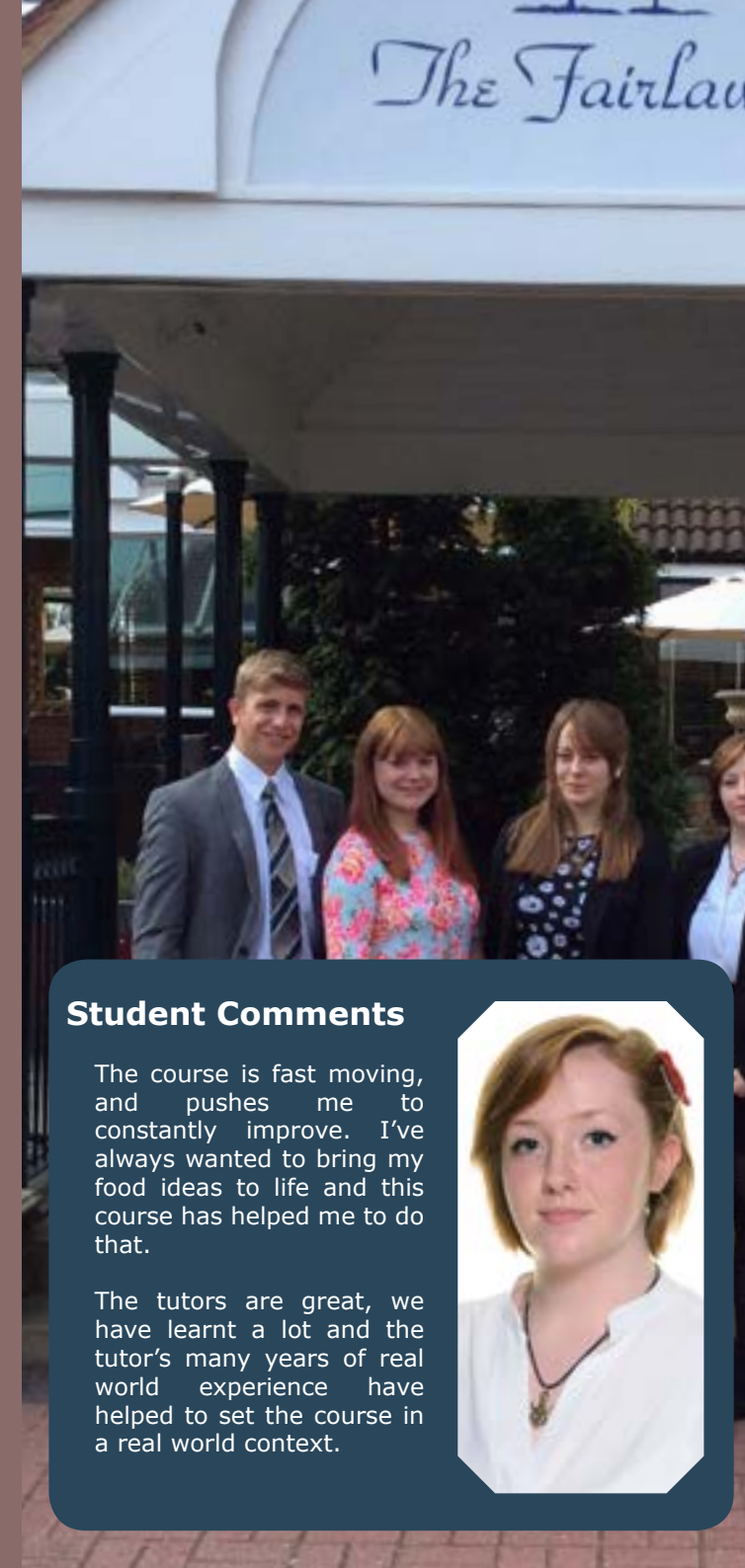
Students will learn about the importance of team working and customer service for working in a variety of roles within the hospitality industry, and look at other important aspects such as personal appearance and personal attributes necessary to work successfully.

## Unit 3: Food Safety and Health and Safety in Hospitality

Students will discover the various aspects of health and safety, and food safety law in relation to those working in the hospitality industry.

## Unit 6: Planning, Preparing, Cooking and Finishing Food

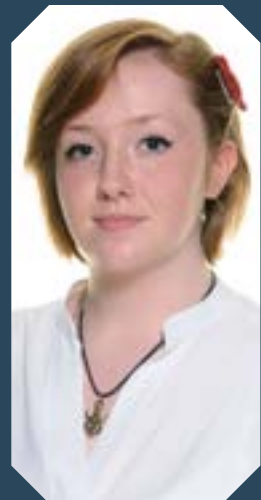
Students will explore the understanding and skills required for proficiency in planning, preparing, cooking and finishing a range of food types in the hospitality industry.



## Student Comments

The course is fast moving, and pushes me to constantly improve. I've always wanted to bring my food ideas to life and this course has helped me to do that.

The tutors are great, we have learnt a lot and the tutor's many years of real world experience have helped to set the course in a real world context.



# Food Science and Nutrition

The course has a practical emphasis focusing on the designing, making, testing and evaluating of food products. Students will analyse existing products to understand the needs of consumers and how the food industry attempts to meet these needs.

Students develop new practical skills as well as an understanding of the principles of nutrition and food science. Current topical issues such as obesity, food allergies, sustainable food production and the 'power of the supermarket' are examined too. Much of the learning takes place through practical activities including product analysis, food preparation, experimental work and food materials testing.

Theoretical work will be linked to the practical activities where appropriate and a variety of learning styles will be used such as discussion, debate and group presentations.

## Unit 1- Meeting Nutritional needs of specific groups

The aim of this unit is to give learners understanding of nutrients, their functions in the body and how nutritional requirements vary in different situations. They will be able to use this understanding to critically assess diets of specific target groups and plan changes needed to ensure a nutritional balance is maintained. They need to acquire skills to enable the planning and cooking of nutritionally balanced/ complex dishes, whilst demonstrating an understanding of the importance of food safety.

## Unit 2- Ensuring food is safe to eat

The aim of this unit is to give learners an understanding of hazards and risks in relation to storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks. They will be able to use this understanding to be able to produce guidance material to facilitate the training of new food handlers recommend control measures that need to be in place, in given environments, to ensure that food is safe to eat.

## Unit 3 Experimenting to solve food production problems

The aim of this unit is for learners to:

- Understand the properties of food.
- Plan and carry out experiments or practical work to demonstrate the properties of food.
- Use results of experiments or practical work to propose options to solve food production problems.

## Unit 4- Current issues in food science and nutrition

The unit aims to provide learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of an issue that is currently affecting or recently affected the consumer food choice within the food industry. This may be something they have developed an interest in through their earlier studies or something they are introduced to through this unit.

## Developing practical food production skills

This is integral in all units.

## Career Prospects

When students successfully complete this course they can go on to degree courses in food technology, hospitality and catering, even travel and tourism. This subject would also be valuable to students considering careers in food science, nutrition and health. Design and technology is often highly regarded by university admission tutors as the approach to problem solving and communication that is developed by students is transferable to other subjects.



# English Language

## English Language

This is a scientific study of how language works on different levels and is nothing like anything you've ever studied at GCSE. You will develop a thorough understanding of grammar as well as the ability to write coherently and fluently. This course offers the opportunity to explore differences between spoken and written language use as well as more contemporary multi-modal texts. Of great interest is the way in which language can be used to create representations of people, events and institutions and to manipulate audiences, including you! Other fields of study include the ways in which children develop as speakers and writers and how language changes across time, place and community. For more information, we follow the AQA specification which can be accessed via:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702>

## Why should I study English Language and where can it lead?

If you're interested in how English works and the origins of our very own language then this is the subject for you. You'll learn how to analyse speech, write creatively and understand the ways that writers put texts together. You will become a more skilled writer who can express and articulate ideas confidently and competently. It's a great course to have if you're interested in a career in journalism, law, business, publishing, broadcasting or speech therapy. English Language would also be useful in careers such as nursing, teaching, advertising, police or social work - anything that involves communication with other people.

## What else can I study with English Language?

English Language forms a good basis for study in any arts-based subject and complements other subjects such as English Literature, Media Studies, Sociology, History, Psychology, Law, Politics or Languages. Linguistics can be studied as a single discipline in Higher Education or can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects.

## What skills will I develop?

Apart from learning about language, you will also develop a wide range of useful skills that will help you in the work place or in higher education.

These include

- creativity
- interpreting ideas and appreciating alternative perspectives
- investigating hypotheses and evaluating methodologies
- working independently and setting your own aims, goals and deadlines

Students must have achieved a Grade 6 or above in English Language at GCSE.

## Student Comments

Are you interested in why certain people speak like they do? Have you ever noticed how men and women speak differently? Do you know what makes a good communicator? Are you sure you know your nouns from your verbs?

English Language is interesting, stimulating and allows you a chance to actively engage with everyday language and understand how it works.







A level

# English Literature

English literature is a subject that, by its nature, requires learners to consider individual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues. This specification provides a framework for exploration of such issues. As learners progress through the two year course, their studies will be extended in breadth and depth, developing and enhancing techniques of analysis, evaluation and comparison of literary texts in the context of a wide range of cultural and literary significance. The specification requires learners to show knowledge and understanding of the significance of:

- the ways in which writers use and adapt language, form and structure in texts
- the interpretation of texts by different readers in different contexts
- how texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres
- the cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

## What happens in English Literature?

Reading, reading and more reading! In English Literature you will study a number of different genres such as crime or comedy. From Shakespeare to Charles Dickens and 'The Great Gatsby' to 'The Kite Runner', you'll study the ways that authors construct their work and the effects this can create. There will be the opportunity to explore different perceptions and readings of literature as well as offering your own interpretations.

This course allows for you to build on the skills acquired at GCSE. We follow the AQA B specification which can be accessed via: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7717>

## Why should I study English Literature and where can it lead?

If you enjoy reading then this is the course for you. English Literature is also a facilitating subject and students with A level English Literature are highly regarded by universities. You will learn and use a wide variety of transferable skills during the course. These include writing for a variety of purposes, expressing informed and independent opinions and identifying and developing the links between different literary texts - skills that are in demand from employers, universities and colleges and are also valuable in their own right.

## What else can I study with English Literature?

English Literature forms a good basis for study in any arts-based subject and complements other subjects such as English Language, Creative Writing, Media Studies, Sociology, History, Psychology, Law, Politics or Languages. It can be studied as a single subject in Higher Education or can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects.

## What skills will I develop?

Apart from learning about the literary texts, you will also develop a wide range of useful skills that will help you in the work place or in higher education.

These include

- creativity
- interpreting ideas and appreciate alternative perspectives
- working independently and selecting your own path through your coursework

Students must have achieved a Grade 6 or above in English Literature at GCSE.

## Student Comments

I love the way we study such varied texts, one week Shakespeare and the next our own choice.

We have had the opportunity to study some of the great classics. I valued the opportunity to study Tennyson's poems, which were fascinating.



GCSE (Level 2)

# Media Studies

Media Studies as a subject has changed considerably over the last few years, evolving into a course which is academically challenging, whilst still maintaining the creative, practical elements which make it appealing to so many students.

The alterations to the course specification means that students will need to have an understanding of the way that media constructs the world around them and how it is relevant to their lives in ever-increasing ways. Media Studies is a contemporary and interactive subject which encourages students to develop their imaginative, analytical, research and communication skills through exploration of a range of media forms and perspectives.

## Assessment:

This is split into examination and coursework

### Examination:

Paper One

35% of GCSE

1 hour 30 minutes

Focus on industries, audiences and representation

Multiple choice and short answer questions, with one extended response question

Paper Two

35% of GCSE

1 hour 30 minutes

Focus on media language and contexts of the media

Multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions

### Coursework

30% of GCSE

A choice of topics relating to a theme which changes annually

Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework

Practical skills relating to the media format of their choice





## A level

# Media Studies

It has been argued that media in the 21st Century dominates our lives and that the media we consume is the basis for our understanding of the world in which we live.

Television, radio, newspapers, magazines, film, the Internet, videos, DVDs, CDs and computer games have become, to varying degrees, central to our lives. In the same way that it is essential for everyone to be able to read and write, it is now increasingly important that everyone should develop media literacy.

Students who study Media Studies will be interested in developing a critical and analytical approach to the mass media and be interested in the ethical, social and cultural issues surrounding the deployment, expansion and impact of media technologies.

This course provides an excellent foundation for further study in Media, Film and Communication courses in Higher Education, and for a range of related subject areas in the Arts and Humanities.

### Assessment

#### AS Level Year 12

During the course of study, students complete two modules in total. The AS modules, Investigating Media and Creating Media, demand detailed study of Media Concepts and Media Forms. The coursework requirements mean that there is an emphasis on practical work, and students undertake two practical productions. Unit one, Investigating Media is assessed by a two hour exam.

#### A2 Level Year 13

The A2 modules of study, Critical Perspectives and Research and Production, build upon the skills and knowledge acquired at AS. Again, assessment is divided between terminal examination and practical coursework.

### Career Prospects

An A-Level in Media Studies is a valuable qualification which can be used in further education, as well as practically in the world of work. Students will be able to use programmes such as Photoshop and Movie Maker, which are widely used in a range of industries. After completing an A level in Media Studies, career prospects in journalism, film, television, radio and many others can be undertaken. The Media Studies course opens many doors in terms of employment and education, including Public Relations, Television/Film Producer, Advertising, Presenting, Journalism, Market Research.

### Subject Combinations

Media studies complements subjects such as English Literature, English Language, Psychology, Sociology, ICT, Economics and Business Studies.

Exam Board: AQA

Website: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

### Student Comments

Media is an exciting and stimulating subject that really relates to the real world;

I can see how this subject can be used out in the workplace





# Citizenship Studies

This is a one year course about the modern world in which we all live and function and allows students to investigate topical Citizenship issues and concepts. You will be able to contribute to debates on the challenges facing society involving a range of political, social and ethical ideas at a local, national and international level.

There are five themes studied through this year of study and two examinations will be sat the end of the year; each worth 50% covering what has been studied.

## Key Questions Explored:

### Theme A: Living together in the UK.

- How have communities developed in the UK?
- What is identity?
- What are democratic values and where do they come from?
- How does local democracy work?

### Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK.

- Who runs the country?
- How does Parliament work?
- How is power shared between Westminster and the devolved administrations?
- How does government manage public money?

### Theme C: Law and Justice.

- What is the law for and how does it affect us?
- How does the justice system work?
- Is crime increasing in society?

### Theme D: Power and Influence.

- What power and influence can citizens have?
- What role and influence should the media have?
- Does the UK have power and influence in the wider world?

### Theme E: Taking Citizenship action.

Students must carry out an in-depth, critical investigation leading to Citizenship action. The investigation and action can be based on any aspect or issue arising from the course content and should be designed to have an impact locally, nationally or globally. There are many types of investigation and action that students can take that use different methods and Citizenship skills.

## What is Citizenship useful for?

Besides developing an understanding of the functions of the modern world, transferable skills are also developed that are invaluable for later life. Being able to see issues from different perspectives will always help you understand fully what is going on around you and the range of activities will help develop your group work skills and appreciate the benefits of good team work.

## What can you do after GCSE Citizenship Studies?

Aldridge School currently offers A Levels in a number of Humanities subjects; specifically Law and Government and Politics that will build on the knowledge and skills acquired from the GCSE course. Alternatively, career choices for those who have studied Citizenship include public services, work in government, the law and law enforcement and teaching.

## Who will be suited to studying Citizenship?

Students who choose this course will need to be extremely well organised and self-motivated as the course requires students to be active in communities. Students will need a flexible approach to study the wide range of issues covered and the ability to use the information which has been learned. There is also a need to be well-versed in current affairs.







### Student Comments

"By studying ancient history, I have learnt so much about how it has led to the development of things like democracy, military tactics and the way we think about ourselves as humans. It gave me the opportunity to study a period of history that I had not been able to study before at school."



# A level Classics (Ancient History)

## What is it?

An A Level in Ancient History will allow you to study the ancient world, its momentous events and its larger than life personalities including Alexander the Great, Hannibal and King Leonidas of Sparta. You will see how ancient civilisations like the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians have shaped the world that we live in today and develop a passion and curiosity for ancient history. The course will also allow you to gain a greater understanding of the literature of the period, including the first great historians like Herodotus, Thucydides and Livy.

## Why study it?

We are the only comprehensive school in Walsall to offer this subject at A Level. Many of our students enjoy the subject so much, that they go on to study this subject at University, taking degrees in Ancient History and Classics.

An A Level in Ancient History would fit well with various combinations, such as: English, French, German, History, Religious Studies, Government and Politics, Psychology, Art & Design, Music and Media Studies. We also have many scientists opting for the subject.

## Course Content

Some of the topics that we have studied in the past have included;

Athenian Democracy – a critical study of the political development of Athens in the sixth and fifth centuries BC and the way democracy operated in the second half of the fifth century BC.

The second Punic War – a study of the crucial war between Rome and Carthage that shaped the future of the ancient world and who would control it.

The Persian Wars A critical study of the Persian Wars 490–479 BC which saw tiny Greece defend itself against Persian invasion thanks largely to the efforts of Athens and Sparta.

Alexander the Great A study of Alexander's career between 336 and 323 BC which saw him invade and conquer the mighty Persian Empire.

There is no coursework in A Level Ancient History. All units are 100% exam and take place at the end of the course in Year 13.

## What could it lead to?

Given the critical thinking skills that Ancient History develops, students can enter a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism and the media in general; advertising, accountancy, business management, marketing, public relations, the armed forces and the police; the civil service, the dramatic arts and education at all levels.

# A level Geography

As well as being an interesting and relevant subject in its own right, Geography is also a facilitating subject.

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. Geography is a broad based subject that really fits well for your future progression. For example, for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change geography is an obvious choice. For careers in the world of business, an understanding of global economics forms an important part of geography.

If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare then Geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as; How do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies? If you are aiming at a future course in Medicine or Vet Med then Geography is a good choice to give your A Level options the breadth that universities like as you will gain a clear understanding of how the environment affects the health and survival of people, animals and ecosystems as well as enhancing your skills of writing essays and extended reports.

Geography is quite a wide-ranging subject and can focus on aspects to do with people (populations, demographics and so on) or on Earth processes. Suggested combinations with Geography would be – Economics, Sociology, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Foreign Languages.

A Level Course – Geography A level qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit their exams and submit all their non-exam assessments at the end of the two year course.

## **Physical: 2.5 hour exam paper (40%)**

- Water and Carbon Cycle
- Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Hazards OR Ecosystems under Stress OR Cold Environments.

## **Human: 2.5 hour exam paper (40%)**

- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environment OR Population and the Environment OR Resource security.

## **Geographical Investigation: (20%)**

- 3000-4000 word individual investigation which must include data collected in the field.

Students will be expected to conduct fieldwork. There will be a residential field trip in the summer term of Year 12. The trip aims to consolidate the core topics of the course whilst preparing students to use a wide range of skills. Parents and students will be required to cover the cost of the 4 day residential to a Field Studies Centre. There will be a payment scheme available from September in order to pay in installments.

## **Career Prospects**

For careers such as Planning, Estate Management, Agriculture, Forestry, Business Management, Accountancy, the Police Force and Sales and Marketing, a geographical training provides valuable knowledge and insight.







## A level History

As well as being immensely enjoyable in its own right, studying History at A-Level will ensure that you are studying an academically rigorous subject which is well respected by both universities and employers alike.

History gives students an insight into major developments which have shaped the modern world and helps them to understand issues and events which make the headlines today. History fits well with various combinations, such as Classics (Ancient History), Economics, English, and Government & Politics.

### Course Content and Structure

A Level History is a two year course which will be examined by 2 exams at the end of year 13 and a controlled assessment assignment.

#### **Paper 1: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964**

This paper is broken down into four sections.

- Section 1: Trying to preserve autocracy  
1855–1894
- Section 2: The collapse of autocracy  
1894–1917
- Section 3: The emergence of Communist dictatorship 1917–1941
- Section 4: The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction 1941–1964

#### **Paper 2: Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154 - 1216**

This paper is broken down into six sections.

- Section 1: The Restoration of Royal Authority, 1154 - 1166
- Section 2: The Crisis of Royal Authority, 1166 - 1174
- Section 3: The Struggle for Royal Authority, 1174 - 1189
- Section 4: Richard I, 1189 - 1199
- Section 5: King John, 1199 - 1214
- Section 6: The End of John's Reign, 1214 - 1216

### Career Prospects

Thanks to the highly valued academic and life skills provided by studying History, students can enter a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism and the media in general; advertising, accountancy, business management, marketing, public relations, the armed forces and the police; the civil service, the dramatic arts and education at all levels.

### Student Comments

The A Level History course is one of excitement, fascination and sometimes utter disbelief. All the teachers have a passion for whatever they teach.

The events of the past have helped shape the world today. It is people and their actions which shape society. How can we understand society today if we don't study past actions?



# A level Law

## **A-level Law develops knowledge and understanding of the English Legal System**

Studying Law helps to develop students' problem solving skills through the application of legal rules, together with an understanding of legal methods and reasoning. Other A-level subjects that Law works well with are History, Government and Politics, Sociology, Ancient History, Business and Religious Studies.

### **Career Prospects**

Apart from the obvious career choices of solicitor or barrister, Law students are well liked by industry, commerce and local government and will be found working in retail management, publishing, journalism, the police force, social services and teaching.

### **Assessment**

Student progress will be assessed through homework, weekly in-class assessment, end of chapter tests and mock examinations. Students will sit external examinations at the end of Year 12 for AS and at the end of Year 13 for A2.

### **Modular Units Taken: (5 teaching hours per week)**

AS makes up 50% of A-level Law and is made up of the following:

Unit 1: Law Making and the Legal System which includes Parliamentary Law Making; Delegated Legislation; Civil Courts and Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution; Criminal Courts and Lay People.

Unit 2: The Concept of Liability (Offences Against the Person and Negligence) which includes Underlying a Principles of Criminal Liability; Non Fatal Offences; Criminal Courts: Procedure and Sentencing; Tort: Liability in Negligence and Tort; Procedure and Damages for Negligence Cases.

A2 makes up 50% of A-level Law and is made up of the following:

Unit 3: Criminal Law (Fatal and Non-Fatal Offences) which includes Murder and Voluntary Manslaughter; Involuntary Manslaughter; Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person and Defences.

Unit 4a: Criminal Law (Offences Against the Property) which includes Theft; Robbery, Blackmail, Burglary and Criminal Damage; Fraud and Making Off Without Payment and Defences.

Unit 4c: Concepts of Law which includes Law and Morality; Law and Justice; Judicial Creativity; Fault and Balancing Conflicting Interests.

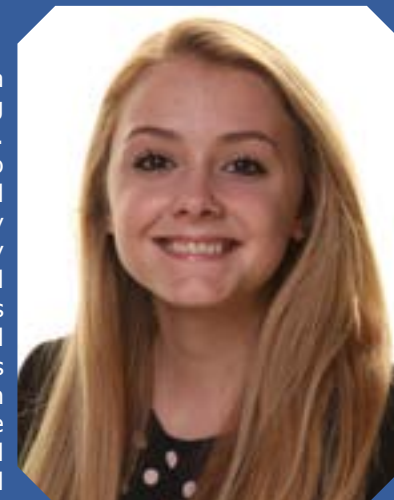
### **Expectations**

Law is an academic subject and as such has a large element of recall and application of specific legal information, which must be communicated concisely. The threshold for an E grade is 40% and students will be required to work hard to achieve success in this subject retaking assessments where necessary to achieve their target grade. However, successful candidates who achieved 75% have gained A's in this subject in previous years with many planning to pursue a career in Law.

Students are expected to have achieved a Grade B or above in a Humanities subject and a Grade 6 or above in English.

## **Student Comments**

A-level Law develops a knowledge and understanding of the English Legal system. It enables students to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills. Really interesting and genuinely useful. It makes you feel more involved in society, as you can understand the world around you better. It gives you transferable skills that can facilitate a number of future careers, such as law, social services and the criminal justice system.







A level

# Religious Studies

Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, designed for people of any faith... and people who have no faith. It is not necessary to have taken Religious Studies at GCSE. It is beneficial to all students who wish to pursue their studies in any area of Humanities for example, teaching and social work.

## Exam board

We study the AQA Religious Studies specification. It is a two year course and all examinations will take place at the end of year 13. There is no coursework element. For further information from the exam board please see [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies).

## Content

During the course, topics are split into two different components. Component one being Philosophy and Religion, component two is Christianity and Ethics.

### Year 12 will comprise of -

Philosophy and Religion - topics will range from Self, Death and the Afterlife to Religious Identity.

Christianity and Ethics - topics range from Arguments for the Existence of God to Evil and Suffering.

### Year 13 will comprise of -

Philosophy and Religion - topics will range from The Nature and Function of Religion to Religion and Sexual Identity.

Christianity and Ethics - topics range from Miracles to Free Will and Moral Responsibility.

## Examinations

At the end of the course, component one and two will each be examined separately. Each will have a three hour written examination of equal weighting. Each examination is marked using the AO1 and AO2 criteria. AO1 asks students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the topics studied. AO2 asks them to analyse and evaluate the topics studied. AO1 will constitute 40% of the overall marks, while AO2 will account for the remaining 60%.

## Study Time

Pupils will be expected to read widely around the subject, as advised by their teacher. Homework will be set for each aspect of the course on a regular basis. It will mostly involve research for a specific topic area and may also involve preparations for group/paired/individual presentations. There will also be practice essay/exam questions set aside for private study and timed exam practice will take place in the lessons.

## Career Prospects

Teacher, Administrator, Advice worker, Counsellor, Housing Advisor, Journalist, Librarian, Social Worker, Youth and Community Worker, Nursing, Police, Philosopher, Charity Worker.

# A level Politics

## Why study politics?

Politics is far more than the study of boring men in boring suits; politics is the study of power – the what, who, where, why and when of that universal phenomenon. Government and Politics has many strengths. It is a varied and exciting subject, with the political landscape changing every day there are new examples appearing in the media regularly. Politics helps you understand not only our nation's parties and political systems but it can help you clarify your own beliefs. Politics also helps you develop a range of transferrable skills, it helps students develop their critical thinking skills and enhance their ability to interpret, evaluate and comment on the nature of politics

The specification is broken down into three units.

## Year 12

Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK ( 2 hour exam paper)

- People, Politics and Participation

An introduction to the political world: Why do people vote? Who do they vote for? How do elections work? Why do people take part in political protests?

- Governing Modern Britain

How is Britain governed? How are laws made? Who holds the real power in this country?

Unit 2: Government and Politics of the USA ( 2 hour exam paper)

- Politics of the USA

This unit looks at how Politics in the USA is conducted. How is the President elected? What is the difference between a Primary and a Caucus? Why do Republicans and Democrats dominate? How much power do pressure groups in the USA wield?

- Government of the USA

How is the USA governed? What is the difference between a senator and a governor? How much power does the president really have? What is the constitution?

## Year 13

Unit 3: Political Ideas ( 2 hour exam paper)

- Students study 4 ideologies including the 3 core ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

This course is ideal for students who would also like to study Economics, History, Law, Sociology and English; or, anyone that has a keen interest in the nature of how this country is governed, what our rights and responsibilities are and how we can ensure that future governments follow Lincoln's principle of 'Government of the people, by the people, for the people.'

## Career Prospects

Students can enter a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism and the media in general; advertising, accountancy, business management, marketing, public relations, the armed forces and the police; the civil service, the dramatic arts and education at all levels.



## Student Comments

Politics is a subject which I have studied avidly. It is a subject that has broadened my knowledge of current affairs, ideologies and governance.

Politics is a unique subject, exciting and appreciable for the way it is constantly evolving in both its theories and events around us. The way we are governed is central to our lives and understanding it gives you a broader and more sophisticated knowledge of the world in which we live.



A level

# Mathematics

Mathematics has become the most popular A-level in the country, particularly amongst pupils who are hoping to go on to University. The subject requires pupils to use various methods to solve complex problems and provides the opportunity to develop studies into fields such as Calculus, Statistics and Classical Mechanics. Studying A-level Mathematics broadens pupils' horizons and gives pupils a firm grasp of transferrable skills which support a wide range of other subjects, especially the Sciences. It is also a fascinating subject to study in its own right.

## Assessment\*

The new Mathematics A-level will be taught for the first time from September 2017. Assessment will consist of terminal examinations at the end of year 13. Two-thirds of the content will be 'Pure Mathematics' which includes Calculus, Geometry and Linear Algebra and builds upon much of the Algebra and Trigonometric work covered at GCSE. One-third of the content will be 'Applied Mathematics' which will consist partly of Mechanics which includes Constant Acceleration Problems and Modelling various real life situations and partly of Statistics which will include Correlation and Probability amongst other topics.

Mathematics is considered one of the most challenging A level courses on offer. If you are considering taking Mathematics we strongly recommend that your APS is 6.3 or higher with the GCSE grade in this subject being one of your highest grades achieved. Students are expected to have achieved a Grade 6 or a higher in Mathematics.

## Expectations and Support

A-level Mathematics is enjoyable but also challenging. As with other subjects' pupils will be expected to spend time outside of lessons working through problems. To assist with this A-level Mathematics Clinic will run after school on a weekly basis and there will also be lunchtime sessions offered to pupils who require them. At Aldridge School we are fortunate in that there is a team of Mathematics Specialists who will deliver A-level Mathematics. There is also the possibility that Further Mathematics may be offered as an enrichment opportunity as has happened in 2016-17

Exam Board: To Be Confirmed

\*At the time of writing the Specification for the New Mathematics A-level from 2017 is still awaiting final accreditation, therefore the above is accurate of July 2016 but some details may be subject to change.

## Student Comments

Everyone is always impressed when I say I'm taking A level Maths. I've found Maths hard but fun, I get loads of support and it's helped with my Physics A level.

A-level Maths has developed my critical thinking skills which will be fantastic for University.

At A-level I didn't just learn to understand Maths, I learnt to love it.





# A level Music

**The course offers a variety of alternatives which enable students to submit work demonstrating their strengths in the subject. There are three units of study. External examinations/assessments take place in Year 13.**

Music may be combined with Arts and Sciences and many universities offer combined degree courses. A number of colleges are now offering degree courses in Performing Arts where Music may be studied along with Movement and Drama, Art and Literature. Intending performers would usually apply to music colleges, through the CUKAS system.

Music is welcomed by universities and colleges in particular even if the subject is not to be continued beyond that level. Aldridge School has a long tradition of sending young musicians to further education and has had students at all major conservatoires in the UK and major universities including Oxford and Cambridge. It can also lead to a life-long cultural interest in the arts generally. Music brings people together and strengthens the local community.

A Level Music combines well with a wide range of A Level subjects. It is highly regarded as an academic A Level but its practical and enjoyable nature gives youngsters a welcome alternative to other subjects.

**Assessment:** Over the two year course students cover Listening, Composing and Performing in three units.

Exam board - OCR.

In units 1 and 2 Students may opt for Option A or B. This flexibility means they can gain up to 35% in the option for higher study and 25% in the option where they choose the smaller amount of study.

## **Unit 1: Performing (35% or 25%)**

Here students have the opportunity to perform both as a soloist and in ensembles. Performances can take place on any instrument, including voice. A recital is prepared for Year 13 and should last either for six to eight minutes (Option A) or twelve to fifteen minutes (Option B)

## **Unit 2: Composing (25% or 35%)**

Students are required to compose two pieces. One from a brief set by the board and one working from their own brief. For Option A an extension to their composing comprises of four part harmony and two part counterpoint.

## **Unit 3: Listening and Appraising (40%)**

This work is undertaken through the study of four areas of study. Areas 1 and 2 are compulsory and a further two are selected from Areas 3-6. They are

- 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven;
- 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band;
- 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz from 1910 to the present day;
- 4: Religious Music of the Baroque period;
- 5: Programme Music; 6: Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day.

## **Career Prospects**

Musician, Conducting, Teaching, recording studios, member of orchestra, theatre, session players, TV companies, radio, film scoring, music composition, recording engineer. Many past students now have fulfilling careers in these aspects, and we enjoy having such a continued success.



A level

# Music Technology

**This course is designed to allow students to study music through use of recording and producing technology.**

This course recognises technology in music as a way of music making in its own right that requires a high level of skills acquisition and application, as well as a high level of knowledge and understanding.

It is designed to have the rigour of Advanced GCE in terms of the breadth, depth and scope of the content, as well as in the challenges posed in the assessment tasks. The specification is designed for musicians to focus their studies in the direction of technology in order to gain a contextual understanding of the impact of technology on a range of music.

The current specification requires pupils to produce two portfolios:

one in year 12

one in year 13

## Year 12

Portfolio 1

Task 1: MIDI sequenced realisation of a three minute pop song.

Task 2: 12 track Multi-track recording of a three minute song of the student's choosing.

Task 3: MIDI arrangement in a genre set by the exam board.

## Year 13

Portfolio 2

Task 1: MIDI sequenced performance of a three minute song to integrate live vocal performance.

Task 2: 24 track Multi-track recording of a three minute song of the student's choosing.

Task 3: A three minute composition focusing upon technology as a compositional tool.

There is a listening and analysing task at the end of year 12 and 13 completed under exam conditions.

Music at GCSE is not necessary to study A level Music Technology.

Skills

Manipulation of Sound, ICT, Analytical research.

## Subject Combinations

Physics, Media, Music

## Career Prospects

There are many important opportunities in higher education, and many career possibilities for those proficient in handling music technology. Music technology careers could include work as a: Sound engineer, record producer, teacher, TV and radio work.

Examboard - Edexcel website [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)

## Student Comments

Music Tech is interesting and teaching is 'hands on' and personal.

You work with other musicians and have access to numerous resources.

Music Tech is a mix of Music and Science. You work with different styles of music.

I enjoy being in charge of my own work and being able to manage a project.





# BTEC Level 2 First Award

# Sport

This is a one year course that aims to give learners a knowledge and understanding of the sport and active leisure sector. The BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport will give learners a foundation in the sporting sector and provide an opportunity to gain skills required for further study in the Level 3 Extended Certificate, as well as further qualifications. This will set them up for employment in this sector.

## The Course Content

The BTEC Level 2 Award in Sport is made up of 4 Units which cover a range of key concepts in sport.

## The Core Units

### Unit 1- Fitness for Sport and Exercise

In this unit learners will know about the components of fitness and the principles of training, explore different fitness training methods and investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

### Unit 2- Practical Sports Performance

In this unit learners will understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports. In addition to this learners will also need to practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports and be able to review theirs and others sports performance.

## Optional Units

We then choose two units from a list of 4 covering all aspects of Sport.

Examples of units include:

- The Mind and Sports Performance
- The Sports Performer in Action
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Leading Sports Activities

## What skills will I gain?

By studying this course you will:

- Develop your practical performance in a selected sport.
- Improve your understanding of a variety of sporting activities.
- Understand how to review performances in relation to techniques and tactics.
- Increase knowledge of training methods and fitness testing.
- Develop leadership, communication and organisation skills.

## Careers Prospects and Other Prospects

Qualifications in this subject can lead to further study in the form of the Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport. This can then lead to many areas of further education at university as well as leading to opportunities of employment in the sporting sector. These include sports coaching, sports physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports journalism and personal training and instructing.

Other prospects include: Teaching, Journalism, Stadium operations, leadership and community work and recreation management.







# BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate Sport

The course aims to give students knowledge and a broad understanding of the sport and active leisure sector. The BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport will give learners a solid foundation in the sector and provide an opportunity to gain skills required for employment and the understanding to progress to further qualifications.

## The Course Content

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is made up of 4 Units which cover a range of key concepts in sport.

## The Mandatory Units

### Unit 1- Anatomy and Physiology

In this unit learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems. Assessed by external examination.

### Unit 2- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness

programming to support improvements in a client's health and wellbeing. Assessed by externally set and marked controlled assessment.

### Unit 3- Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Learners explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities. Assessed by internal course work.

## Optional Units

We then choose one from the four units that are offered and assessed by internal course work. These include:

- Sports Leadership
- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Psychology
- Practical Sports Performance

## What skills will I gain?

By studying this course you will:

- Develop your understanding on key anatomical structure and function
- Learn how to develop training programmes for specific groups
- Develop your confidence in dealing with work related issues
- Understand how to apply your skills to areas of the industry
- Improve your knowledge and understanding within key training principles
- Gain valuable team working and communication skills by taking part in PE department events

## Careers Prospects and Other Prospects

Qualifications in this subject are rapidly becoming an essential prerequisite for specialist study in Physical Education and Sport Studies in Higher Education. It provides an excellent foundation for students intending to pursue careers in recreational management, the health and fitness industry and in teaching or coaching.

Other prospects include: Journalism, Broadcasting, college athletics jobs, Sports Internships, Stadium Operations jobs and Physiotherapy.

## Entry Requirements

Level 2 BTEC Sport: Merit

GCSE PE: C

If neither sport course had been studied then:

Science (Biology): C

English Language: 5

# A level Biology

"The world and the universe is an extremely beautiful place, and the more we understand about it the more beautiful does it appear."

Richard Dawkins (Evolutionary Biologist)

## Why study Biology?

By studying A Level Biology, you will learn to understand the living world, which you are a part of and play a pivotal role in. You will be able to explain how plants use sunlight in the process of photosynthesis, how a zygote develops into a complete functioning organism and how proteins are made and function in our cells. The course is enjoyable and motivational, and improves performance through skill based learning and building on GCSE knowledge.

## What skills can I gain from studying Biology?

Biology will enable you to develop your practical skills, through the new practical endorsement addition to the course. This will develop skills essential for university and research centres. The new course now has an emphasis on math's, allowing biologist's to develop their math's skills in real life biological situations.

## How will you be examined?

3 papers

Paper 1 – Biological processes 2hr 15 min in length Section A – 15 marks MCQ Section B – 85 marks short and extended answers

Paper 2 – Biological diversity 2hr 15 min in length Section A – 15 marks MCQ Section B – 85 marks short and extended answers

Paper 3 – Unified biology – 70 marks 1hr 30 minutes

These external examinations are linear in structure and will all be taken at the end of Year 13.

You will in addition complete 12 practicals' as part of the practical endorsement

## What career paths would biology be suitable for?

A Level Biology is accepted as a qualifying subject for entry into degree courses specializing in pure and applied science and more vocational courses leading to a career in medicine, veterinary science, animal health, agriculture and pharmacy

## How will you be taught?

You will be taught Biology over five hours a week. This time will be divided between two specialist teachers. During lesson time the teaching will consist of investigations, practical work, discussions, presentations and self- study. You will be issued with homework and expected to complete at least 3 hours of private study a week produced fortnightly in a folder check.

## Skills you need for Biology

You will need self-discipline and motivation to achieve your potential. A level Biology is not an "easy option": it requires Mathematical skills and a good grasp of Chemistry and Physics is essential. The most important requirement, if you have all the rest, is an interest in the subject and a desire to understand the world that we all live in.

## Possible subject combinations

Biology works well with any other A-levels offered by the school. Many choose to complete Biology alongside the traditional subjects of Chemistry and Physics. However due to the long answer content of the paper and the math's focus, students found English and Math's to be a good combination. Students have also studied Biology alongside P.E and found the crossover of content useful.

Biology is considered one of the most challenging A level courses on offer. If you are considering taking Biology we strongly recommend that your APS is 6.3 or higher with the GCSE grade in this subject being one of your highest grades achieved.









# A level Chemistry

A-level Chemistry goes into much more detail than GCSE. It attempts to answer the big question 'what is the world made of' and it's the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless.

## Possible career options

Chemistry A-level can lead to many different degree courses such as chemistry, medicine, pharmacy, pharmacology, toxicology, biomedical science, forensic science, chemical engineering, veterinary science and dentistry. This list isn't remotely complete. You can work chemistry into any industrial, educational, scientific or governmental field. Chemistry is a very versatile science. Mastery of chemistry is associated with excellent analytical and mathematical skills. Students of chemistry are able to solve problems and think things through. These skills are useful for any job!

## Topics covered

A-level Chemistry is a two year course. The table below shows what you'll learn in each year.

	Physical chemistry	Inorganic chemistry	Organic chemistry
First year of A-level	Including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium and Le Chatelier's principle	Including periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, group 7 the halogens	Including introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogen alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis
Second year of A-level	Including thermodynamics, rate equations, the equilibrium constant, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells	Including properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution	Including optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography

Chemistry is considered one of the most challenging A level courses on offer. If you are considering taking Chemistry we strongly recommend that your APS is 6.3 or higher with the GCSE grade in this subject being one of your highest grades achieved.





## Exams

This qualification is linear; this means you will sit all three A-level exams at the end of the two year course.

There are three exams at the end of the two years for A-level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks are based on what you learned in your practicals.

There is no coursework on this course. However, a separate 'endorsement' of practical work will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded. If students pass, it will be reported on their certificate, otherwise it will not be reported.

## A-level Chemistry exams, AQA 7405

	Content and assessment
<b>Paper 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inorganic chemistry, with relevant physical chemistry and practical skills</li><li>• Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level</li><li>• 105 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions</li></ul>
<b>Paper 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organic chemistry, with relevant physical chemistry and practical skills</li><li>• Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level</li><li>• 105 marks: a mixture of short and long answer questions</li></ul>
<b>Paper 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All practical skills &amp; all content</li><li>• Written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks, 30% of A-level</li><li>• 40 marks: questions on practical techniques and data analysis</li><li>• 20 marks: testing across the specification</li><li>• 30 marks: multiple choice questions.</li></ul>

## Possible subject combinations

A-level Chemistry goes well with Maths, Biology and Physics. Past students have also combined A-level Chemistry with Economics and Geography.



# A level Physics

"Einstein was a giant. His head was in the clouds, but his feet were on the ground. Those of us who are not so tall have to choose!" Richard Feynman

## Why study Physics?

What happened before time began? Where does the universe end? What are atomic particles made of? Understanding Physics enables students to confront the most difficult questions with at least some confidence. Physics lies at the forefront of a rapidly developing technological age. The exciting worlds of microelectronic innovation, nuclear power, space research and computer technology are all based upon some of the most fundamental principles of Physics.

The course aims to encourage students to derive interest, enjoyment and a sense of achievement from their studies. Students will learn by doing experiments, solving problems, analysing data and obtaining information from a variety of sources. We will expect students to show interest and initiative in their work and to be reliable in meeting deadlines. Students will need to take responsibility for their own notes and for reading widely around the subject. Students should take it upon themselves to act positively by seeking help and advice when in difficulty. Students must be mathematically competent and should be aware that several new mathematical skills beyond GCSE level will be taught and examined throughout this course.

The Physics Department is well equipped with apparatus for advanced practical work and we have a good stock of text books and resource materials.

Physics provides an essential foundation for students wishing to follow careers in science, engineering, medicine, electronics and computing. Employers in all fields recognise the value of Physics, since successful students will have a proven ability to be numerate, to be able to solve problems, to have used a wide range of equipment and to be able to communicate difficult concepts effectively.

## The course

Students will follow the AQA Physics specification. <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/physics-7407-7408>

This consists of the following sections:

### Compulsory Sections

- 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

Options; one of the following sections will be studied

- 9 Astrophysics
- 10 Medical physics
- 11 Engineering physics
- 12 Turning points in physics
- 13 Electronics







### Student Comments

I liked the fact that we were able to vote to choose the optional topic. Our group voted for Astrophysics and it was fascinating to learn about Black Holes and how the Universe is expanding."

Some of my friends think I'm a right boffin because I study Physics. To be fair, it's not that hard if you're happy with maths and can use your imagination to picture abstract concepts like electricity.

The thing with Physics is that the more you learn, the more questions you want to ask.

I couldn't believe that we were discussing quarks and antimatter in the first term!



### "Assessment

A-Level – 3 written papers, each of 2 hours duration

Paper 1 – questions based on sections 1-5 and part of section 6

Paper 2 – questions based on sections 6-8

Paper 3 – questions based on practical skills, data analysis and the optional topic

### Subject Combinations

A-level Physics is far more mathematical than at GCSE level and many degree courses in Physical Sciences and Engineering require Physics and Maths A-levels.

Students looking towards careers in medicine, dentistry and chemical or biological sciences are most likely to take A-levels in all three sciences.

### Career Prospects

Studying Physics at A-level is a good foundation for a myriad of higher education courses in physical sciences and technological subjects. Either by going to university for further study or by following an apprenticeship, A-level Physics could lead to careers in the following areas:

Telecommunications, Scientific research, Armed forces, Astronomy, Education , Atomic & Nuclear Industry, Engineering, Climate change, Energy & the environment , Medicine.

Physics is considered one of the most challenging A level courses on offer. If you are considering taking Physics we strongly recommend that your APS is 6.3 or higher with the GCSE grade in this subject being one of your highest grades achieved.



THE MERCIAN TRUST

# Mercian Trust Welcome

The Mercian Trust is a new and exciting development for education in Walsall. It brings under one banner five successful schools to work together as a Multi-Academy Trust or MAT. The five schools are unique in their identity and united by their ambition to offer the best possible future for their pupils.

The five Schools are:

- Aldridge School
- Queen Mary's Grammar School
- Queen Mary's High School
- Shire Oak Academy
- Walsall Studio School

Each School has its own distinct ethos and approach, but we have this over-arching aim in common: we prepare all our pupils to enjoy life to the full by inspiring them to:

- Realise their potential as learners
- Thrive in the world of work
- Make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community

The Mercian Trust respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, fosters strengths that are greater than the sum of its parts. Working together as a Multi Academy Trust provides a framework for sharing expertise and enthusiasm, resources and ideas.

For the students in the Trust's schools, we have a strong focus on pastoral care and family values. We recognise that good relationships underpin successful education. We aim to ensure that excellent teaching and learning are complemented by care and support which value and applaud each student's gifts and abilities.

As you start making important choices for your future, we hope that The Mercian Trust will increase your range of options and opportunities. Choosing the right School for the Sixth Form is important. We hope that the information in this booklet will help you reach the best decision.

We look forward to welcoming you to our family of schools in Walsall.

Mr Timothy Swain  
Queen Mary's Grammar School

Mr David Mountney  
Aldridge School

Dr Alison Bruton  
Queen Mary's High

Mr Ray Beech  
School Shire Oak Academy

Mr Dan Parkes  
Walsall Studio School



# Specialist Subjects across the MAT

By working together in The Mercian Trust, our plan is to offer a full range of subject options, whatever your academic interest and aptitude may be.

Each School will continue to offer its own curriculum (as you will have already seen in this booklet) but, from September 2017, we will be collaborating to provide the opportunity to study a subject which may not be on offer in the school where you are registered as a pupil (and will spend most of your time).

We have done this by creating a MAT Block: part of the working day which will be timetabled not just in one school, but across all the schools working together in the Multi Academy Trust. You can choose to do a subject from the MAT Block in a different school. (You can, but you don't have to!) This may mean a bit of extra travelling a couple of times a week, but it will be worth going the extra mile if it allows you to take a subject which really interests you and prepares you for the post 18 pathway you have in mind.

You can find information about MAT Block subjects in the next few pages. You may not have thought about some of these opportunities before. It's worth taking a look and finding out more.

The Mercian Trust will give you access to 35+ A Level courses and a range of specialist technical and vocational programmes. At a time when many schools and colleges are having to cut their curriculum offer, we think that our collaboration is something to celebrate!

## Exciting Enrichment

It is still very early days for The Mercian Trust. You will be pioneers in this exciting new venture.

Our aim is clear. We want to use the new partnership to your advantage, giving you the opportunity to participate in activities and trips organised by different schools in the MAT.

Walsall Studio School is housed in The Goldmine in Walsall Town Centre. Big Centre TV also uses the Goldmine as its base. Through the MAT, you may get the chance to experience what it is like to work in a TV studio.

Within The Mercian Trust, we have access to our own Field Centre in Wales. We can offer Biology and Geography Field Courses or an Oxbridge immersion weekend at affordable rates. You can benefit by collaborating with students from other schools.

You might be interested in a ski trip or a sports tour abroad; you might be attracted to the experience on offer in a Cadet Force or join a cohort preparing for the Duke of Edinburgh Award; or you might enjoy the chance to get involved in a big-scale concert or drama production.

Joining a Mercian Sixth Form gives you access to more than we can provide as single schools. A new opportunity is opening up across the Borough and you can be part of the story. Join us as we turn this vision in to reality from September 2017.

# Business Studies

This A level course will introduce students to businesses in a variety of contexts such as large/small, UK focused/global, service and manufacturing. It will particularly focus on the important decisions that have to be made in order to make businesses successful in a competitive and global business world. Students are expected to keep themselves up to date with current business news such as the potential impact of BREXIT on a variety of businesses operating within and outside of the UK.

## **Assessment**

### Paper 1 Business 1

This paper contains a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions.

- written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

### Paper 2 Business 2

This paper contains three data response compulsory questions

- written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

### Paper 3 Business 3

This paper contains one compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions

- written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

## **Entrance Requirements**

It is not essential that students have studied GCSE Business Studies, however, we are looking for students who have achieved 5 GCSEs at A\* - C including Maths and English.

## **Opportunities**

Entrance to degree courses like marketing, accountancy, law and business related subjects. Teacher training is a possibility, as are management careers in insurance and banking. It is also an excellent foundation for anyone who aspires to run their own business.

## **Related subjects**

English Language , English Literature, Mathematics, ICT and Applied Law are all good choices to select alongside A level Business Studies.



# A level Economics

Studying A Level Economics will allow students to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, and encourage students to appreciate the interrelationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics.

The A level covers the following 14 topic areas:

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

1. Economic methodology and the economic problem\*
2. Individual economic decision making
3. Price determination in a competitive market\*
4. Production, costs and revenue\*
5. Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly\*
6. The labour market
7. The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
8. The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets\*

The national and international economy

9. The measurement of macroeconomic performance\*
10. How the macroeconomy works : the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts\*
11. Economic performance\*
12. Financial markets and monetary policy\*
13. Fiscal policy and supply-side policies\*
14. The international economy

\*Indicates content will be a feature of the first year of study (Year 12)



THE MERCIAN TRUST





## **Examinations:**

### **Paper 1: Markets and market failure**

(33.3% of A-level)

What's assessed

Content 1–8 above

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks

Questions

Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts worth 40 marks

Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of one from three worth 40 marks

### **Paper 2: National and international economy**

(33.3% of A-level)

What's assessed

Content 9–14 above

Written exam 2 hours

80 marks

Questions

Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts worth 40 marks

Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of one from three worth 40 marks

### **Paper 3: Economic principles and issues**

(33.3% of A-level)

What's assessed

All content 1–14 above

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks

Questions

Section A: multiple choice questions worth 30 marks

Section B: case study questions requiring written answers, worth 50 marks

## **Entrance Requirements**

Grade 7 in Mathematics or an A in an Economics/Business GCSE

## **Are there any extra-curricular activities?**

**Shares4schools** – an exciting national school's competition where as part of a team you get to invest £1,500 of real money into the stock exchange! You will meet your investors and aim to make a profit through buying and selling shares.

**Target 2.0** - what better way to test your economic knowledge than by making the next interest rate decision on behalf of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. This prestigious school's competition is a richly rewarding activity which requires dedication and a passion for the subject. The school came third in the country overall in 2012.



## **Why study French at A-level?**

The course builds upon and develops the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing which have been acquired in GCSE work. An important difference is that the subjects concentrate not on basic transactional language but on wider social, political, economic and cultural issues.

The course will develop not only skills but also understanding of the grammatical systems of the language studied; and give a better insight into the way of life, history, geography, political system, economic life and customs of countries where the language is spoken. Students will also have the opportunity to study the literature of the country and where possible , to visit the theatre ,cinema or watch video and on-line material

Furthermore, we strongly recommend experience of a working environment using the language through a programme of work experience in Year 12.

Topics include Social issues and trends , political and artistic culture, grammar; literary texts and films

## **How will I be assessed?**

All exams are taken at the end of year 13 and consist of three exams

Paper 1 : Listening /Reading/Writing

Paper 2 : Writing

Paper 3 : Speaking

## **Career options**

Statistics show that employment amongst language graduates is second only to medicine and law. More and more employers expect a high level of competence in a modern foreign language and there are now a large number of degree courses with a language component.

Career opportunities include Teaching, Interpreting/Marketing and Business.

## **Entrance Requirements**

Grade A at GCSE in French

# A level German

## Why study German at A-level?

The course builds upon and develop the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing which have been acquired in GCSE work. An important difference is that the subjects concentrate not on basic transactional language but on wider social, political, economic and cultural issues. The course will develop not only skills, but also understanding of the grammatical systems of the languages studied; and give a better insight into the way of life, history, geography, political system, economic life and customs of countries where the languages are spoken. Students may also have the opportunity to study the literature of the country and where possible to visit the theatre, cinema or watch video and on-line material.

Furthermore, experience of a working environment using languages is underlined by the possibility of a programme of work experience in Europe for Year 12 students and/or a study tour in the Summer. Topics covered include aspects of daily life, leisure and entertainment, communication, media and popular culture.

## How will I be assessed?

All exams are taken at the end of year 13 and consist of three exams

Paper 1 is the Listening / Reading / Writing paper assessing:

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Aspects of political life in German-speaking society
- Grammar.

Paper 2 is a written paper assessing:

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Paper 3 is the Speaking Test with Stimulus Card material followed by a more general conversation assessing:

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes i.e. Aspects of German-speaking society or Artistic culture in the German-speaking world or Multiculturalism in German-speaking society or Aspects of political life in German speaking society

## Career options

Statistics show that employment amongst language graduates is second only to medicine and law.

More and more employers expect a high level of competence in a modern foreign language and there are now a large number of degree courses with a language component.

Career opportunities include Teaching, Interpreting / Marketing and Business.

## Entrance Requirements

Grade A at GCSE in German

## Student Comments

With German A-level I can go on to study 'International Business Management with a Modern Language' at uni. This will open so many doors for me and literally make the world my oyster.

The study is admittedly much more intensive, but this is because your language studies won't just be glorified memory tests. You finally get a valid understanding of your chosen language. Languages, I feel, are the most versatile qualification you can get at A-Level, as they don't just lend themselves to one field or profession.

I find A Level French to be much more enjoyable than studying it at GCSE; you are pushed to improve yourself so much more and the joy of speaking a language is much more palpable. Since practically every large or international business has a need for translators and interpreters, there is an abundance of jobs you can find both here and overseas.





# Performing Arts

## Who should study Performing Arts?

- Students who have been performing on stage for at least 2 years
- Students who relish the idea of performing to a live audience
- Students who have an aptitude for singing, dancing or acting
- Students who wish to further their studies in any of the areas of dance, music, drama, musical theatre, sound technician, light technician, stage management
- Students who are willing to undertake extra personal practise to improve their performance work
- Students who are interested in the study of the performing arts industry
- Students who are interested in analysing and investigating all areas of the performing arts

## Core Units

### Unit 1 - Investigating Practitioners' Work

- Task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions
- Learner will be provided with the assessment booklet for a six week term time period in order to carry out investigation and critical analysis
- The final evidence will be completed during a supervised assessment period of three hours timetabled by Pearson

### Unit 2 - developing skills and techniques for live performance

- Task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions
- Learners will be provided with the task booklet in January in order to prepare for the development and completion of the group performance and their digital process log
- The final evidence will be completed in 5 hours under supervised conditions in a number of sessions arranged by the centre within the period timetable by Pearson

### Unit 3 - group performance workshop

- Understand how to interpret and respond to stimulus for a group performance
- Develop and realise creative ideas for a group performance in response to stimulus
- Apply personal management and collaborative skills to a group performance workshop process
- Apply performance skills to communicate creative intentions during performance workshop
- Review and reflect on the effectiveness of the working process and the workshop performance

### Optional Unit

- Contemporary dance

### Entrance Requirements

No specific subjects are needed to study this subject however a genuine interest in the vocational area is essential.

Also a natural confidence and willingness to perform in front of an audience.



# A level Psychology

Psychology is a science subject that is concerned with the study of the mind and behaviour. It has links with a variety of other scientific disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Forensic Sciences, etc and it can be successfully used a science qualification in applications for courses such as Medicine and Dentistry. It also fits very well with the humanities subjects such as Geography, History, English, etc due to the development of communication and analytical skills. Psychology covers a wide range of topics and will provide a useful qualification for all applications to University. The common factor linking people who study Psychology is curiosity and the desire for knowledge.

There are a number of reasons why you may wish to study Psychology:-

Psychology is interesting

What makes a criminal? Why do people commit inhumane acts? Why do some people develop psychological disorders? How have attitudes towards mental health changed?

Psychology is challenging

How can we measure intelligence? Is imprisonment an effective punishment? How do we develop morals? How can we identify a psychopath?

Psychology is useful

Psychology has a broad range of real-world applications, ranging from health, mental illness, artificial intelligence and criminal attributes, to personal development, social interaction and the environment to name but a few.

Psychology offers good career prospects, but the skills you learn will also readily transfer to many other roles. These skills include oral and written communication, computer literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, evaluative and analytical skills as well as the ability to carry out independent research

## Course Overview

You will study research methods and learn how to evaluate research as well as plan, conduct and analyse your own small scale investigations. Alongside these skills you will look at the following topics:

## Core Studies

Social: Responses to people in authority and people in need. E.g. Obedience and

disobedience. Cognitive: Memory and Attention. E.g. Eyewitness testimony.

Developmental: External influences on children's behaviour and moral development. E.g. Evaluations of lying and truth-telling. Biological: Regions of the brain and brain plasticity. E.g. Split brain research. Individual Differences: Understanding disorders and measuring differences. E.g. The language of psychopaths.

## Applied Psychology Issues in Mental Health

- The historical context of mental health
- The medical model
- Alternatives to the medical model

## Criminal Psychology

- What makes a criminal?
- The collection and processing of forensic evidence
- Psychology and the courtroom
- Crime prevention
- Effect of imprisonment

## Child Psychology

- Intelligence
- Pre-adult brain development
- Perceptual development
- Cognitive development and education
- Development of attachments

## Assessment Model:

Psychology is assessed by examination with a mixture of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Exam 1: Research methods (2 hours)

30% of total A-level

Exam 2: Psychological themes through core studies (2 hours)

35% of total A-level

Exam 3: Applied psychology (2 hours)

35% of total A-level

## Career options

Psychology opens the door to many career options both within and outside of Psychology itself. The wide range of topics covered means it can link to many different degree courses and careers. It can be used as a science subject for applications to degree courses that have this requirement. Our Psychology students have successfully gone in to a wide range of careers after 6th form study, including:-

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Social Work
- Law
- Nursing
- Teaching
- Counselling
- Art Therapy
- Law Enforcement
- The Prison Service
- Speech Therapy

Further Psychology study can lead to a career as a:-

- Clinical Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Health Psychologist
- Occupational Psychologist



## Why study Spanish at A-level?

If you want access to South America, and increasingly the North, a thorough working knowledge of the 3rd most spoken language in the World after Mandarin and English, some insight into countries with civilisations ranging from the Aztecs, Incas and Mayans to the Moors of North Africa, then Spanish in 6.1 and 6.2 is probably for you.

Spanish offers to the future employer a student who is able to communicate, aware of intricacy and detail, confident when dealing with others and a person open to new experiences, challenges, hard work, full of opinions and with the ability to think outside the box; in short, an asset to their company. Above all, it is a subject that brings much to the students themselves.

AS and A Level are therefore for students who want to travel and see something of another land, meet interesting people and experience another culture. Ability to deal with others is prized by all employers and many act as mentors for Years 7-11, and run the Spanish Club open to all.

We benefit from the help of our native speaker for supplementary conversation classes and look out for cinema, theatre and other cultural experiences to add variety and interest to the studies. Frequent use is made of up to date material from the Spanish and Latin American to give real insight into the modern and changing world. We aim to have a study visit to Spain to put the pupils' skills into practice.

The topics of 'Social issues and trends', 'Artistic culture' and the study of a literary text or film, guide the student from GCSE through to a more advanced content and degree of interest, appropriate to their age. In the upper sixth, the content moves to further studies of social issues and trends, political and artistic culture and literary texts or films such as La Casa de Bernarda Alba (one of the best-known plays ever to come out of Spain).

## How will I be assessed?

All exams are taken at the end of year 13 and consist of three exams

Paper 1 – 2h30 Listening/Reading/Trans. to/from Spanish

Paper 2 – 2 hours – 2 essays on 2 books or book + film

Paper 3 – Speaking – 21-23 minutes – Discussion of card (5 mins' prep) and presentation/discussion of chosen topic

## Entrance Requirements

Grade A at GCSE in Spanish



# A level Sports Studies

Our A Level qualification in Physical Education has four components assessed through two externally assessed written examination papers (scientific and social), one practical performance and a Performance Analysis that includes a Personal Development Programme (PDP).

## Component 1

Scientific Principles of Physical Education  
Anatomy and Physiology  
Exercise Physiology  
Applied Movement Analysis  
2 hours 30 minutes  
140 marks  
40%

## Component 2

Psychological and social principles of Physical Education  
Skill acquisition  
Sport psychology  
Sport and society  
2 hours  
100 marks  
30%

## Component 3

Practical Performance  
Skills performed as either a player/performer or a coach  
40 marks  
15%

## Component 4

Performance analysis and Performance Development Programme  
Performance analysis  
Performance Development Programme (PDP)  
40 marks  
15%

## Key Changes

- There is an increased emphasis on the theoretical content, now worth 70% of the qualification. It is assessed through written examinations. It also includes more detailed expectations for developing qualitative and quantitative data skills - up to 5% of the qualification.
- The requirements for carrying out and assessing the Non Examined Assessment (NEA) have changed. NEA is now worth 30% of the qualification, comprising of practical performance and performance analysis, both of which will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- The practical is now worth 15% of the NEA and must be assessed in one activity - either as a player/performer or as a coach.
- Performance analysis is worth 15% of the NEA.

## Entrance Requirements

At least a C grade in Physical Education GCSE

Students must be playing and competing in a sporting activity at club level or equivalent.

Due to the demanding scientific aspects of the A Level syllabus we require a GCSE pass of an A\* - B in Science/s

## Related Subjects

Science subjects, especially Biology and Physics, as well as Psychology are good choices if choosing A Level Physical Education.









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