

# Sixth Form Information Guide

2025



**HFC** Sixth Form

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As the CEO of Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust and with Mr McLoughlin and Mr Maddocks, we are delighted to share with you the offer from our newly unified HFCMAT Sixth Form.

This exciting development brings together the strengths and resources from across our family of schools to create a dynamic and enriching environment where every student can thrive, flourish, and reach their full potential.

Our vision for HFCMAT Sixth Form is to go beyond simply combining resources. We are building a collaborative and ambitious community to provide opportunities that will take you to the next stage of your learning and life.

By joining our sixth forms under one banner, we are able to offer a significantly broader curriculum with a wide array of academic and vocational courses. We aim to provide opportunities and study routes that will meet the needs and interests of every student. Our goal is to ensure that each of you finds a path that resonates with your goals for the future, whether that's through university, apprenticeships or careers.

Through partnerships with local industry, businesses and HEIs, there will be exciting opportunities that will help you in future employment. This will provide valuable hands-on experience, build professional skills, and access learning that connects directly to your future ambitions. You'll also have the chance to hear from inspiring guest speakers-exceptional leaders in business, healthcare, technology, and more, who will share their journeys from school to success, giving you insight into what's possible for your own future.

Becoming part of HFCMAT Sixth Form will unlock an enriched experience, expand your network and offer even more spaces to grow, learn, and engage. With access to a wider range of enrichment activities and a supportive community, you'll have everything you need to make the most of these important years.

With our collective experience and passion, we are committed to helping each of our students succeed in an environment that celebrates their individuality while guiding them toward a bright future.

HFCMAT Sixth Form marks a new chapter for us all, and we look forward to what we can achieve together.

Come and join us for an exciting journey ahead!

Mr A Moor  
CEO

Mr P McLoughlin  
Headteacher SJP

Mr K Maddocks  
Headteacher St Mary's

# WHAT SETS US APART?







# JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM LEADING THE WAY

The Cross-Campus Junior Leadership Team is an exciting initiative that brings together passionate students from both St John Plessington Catholic College and St Mary's Catholic College. As members of this team, students will play a crucial role in shaping the future of both campuses, collaborating on projects that promote unity, encourage student voice, and inspire positive change. This unique leadership opportunity enables students to develop their skills in communication, teamwork, and decision-making while actively contributing to the growth and success of their schools. The team will meet regularly to discuss ideas, address challenges, and implement initiatives that reflect the values and vision of the Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Together, these young leaders are paving the way for a brighter, more connected future across both colleges.







**Wide range  
of courses**

**Quality  
Teaching &  
Learning**

**Phenomenal  
success rate  
into higher  
education**

**£2m Sixth Form  
Building  
Investment**

**High  
Achieving  
Students**

**Close  
monitoring  
& tracking of  
academic  
progress**



# EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE, EXCEL

## Unforgettable Trips Await

Students at Sixth Form have the opportunity to go on over 100 exciting trips and visits each year. These experiences have provided them with the opportunity to travel, take in different cultures, grow on a personal level and make lifelong friendships.



Ski Trip - France



Auschwitz



London



Uni Visits



China



Hilbre Island



Moel Famau



A group of students are hiking through a field of tall yellow wildflowers. They are wearing large backpacks and using trekking poles. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

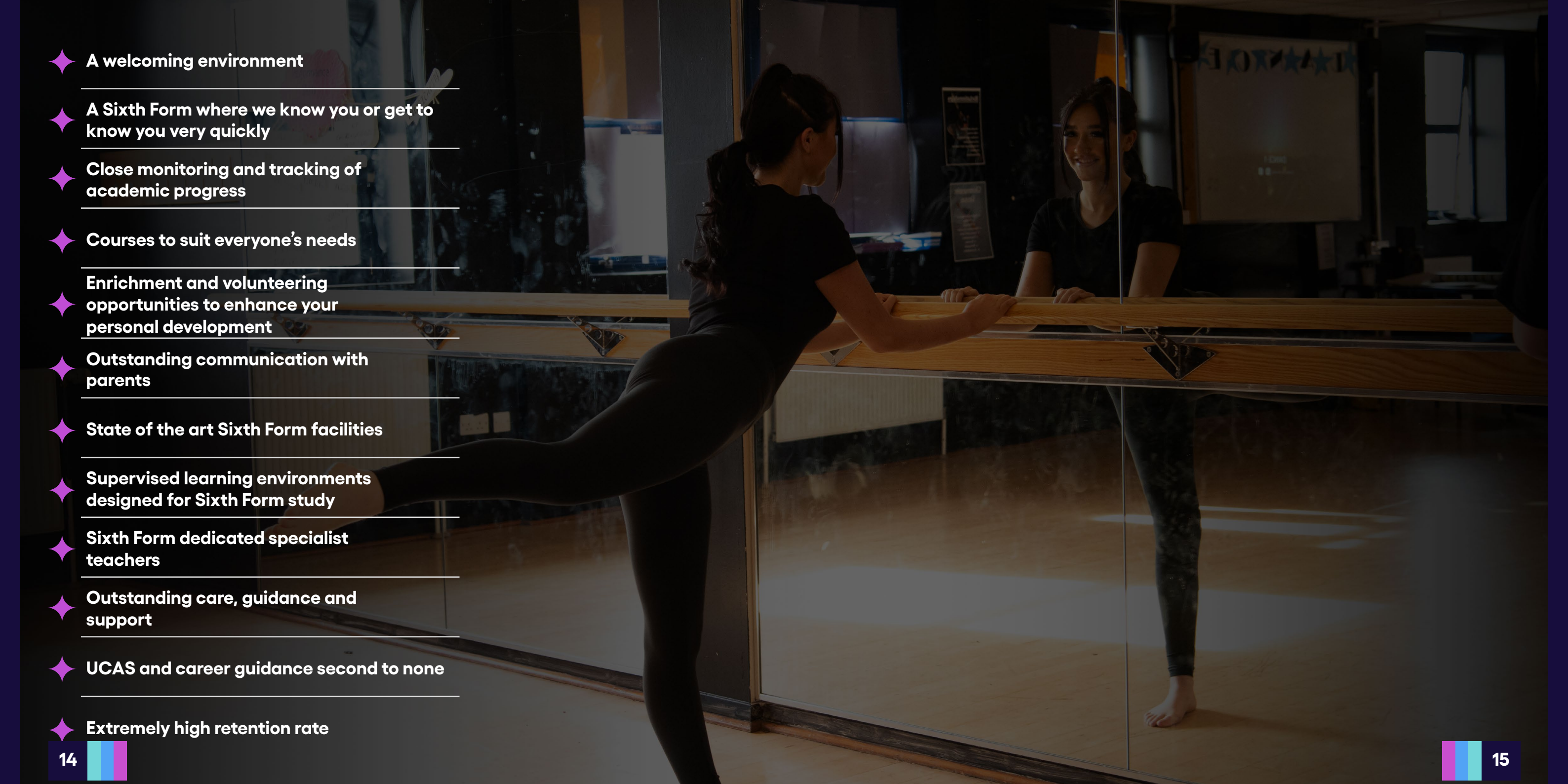
# ENRICHING YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

## Beyond The Books

We are immensely proud of all that the Sixth Form contribute to the school as well as our local and wider communities. The energy and enthusiasm of our students has transformed the lives of many others. All Sixth Form students are expected to commit at least one hour each week to such service.

- Fundraising for whole school charities
- Peer mentoring of younger students
- Offering support to tutors and teachers
- Acting as Literacy and Numeracy buddies
- Taking an active part in school events such as Open Evenings
- Working with younger pupils in music and drama activities
- Role models and group leaders in SJP Experience Weeks
- Key role in fundraising extravaganzas
- Leadership of the School Council
- Eco-team
- Faith in Action Team
- Taking part in many music and drama productions
- Sports Leadership
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award



- 
- ✦ **A welcoming environment**
  - ✦ **A Sixth Form where we know you or get to know you very quickly**
  - ✦ **Close monitoring and tracking of academic progress**
  - ✦ **Courses to suit everyone's needs**
  - ✦ **Enrichment and volunteering opportunities to enhance your personal development**
  - ✦ **Outstanding communication with parents**
  - ✦ **State of the art Sixth Form facilities**
  - ✦ **Supervised learning environments designed for Sixth Form study**
  - ✦ **Sixth Form dedicated specialist teachers**
  - ✦ **Outstanding care, guidance and support**
  - ✦ **UCAS and career guidance second to none**
  - ✦ **Extremely high retention rate**



# FIRST CLASS FACILITIES

Our Sixth Form Centre provides university-style independent study facilities for our students. There is a large open plan study area, incorporating state of the art ICT facilities and Wi-Fi access, as well as offices for the Sixth Form Pastoral Team. This new build connects with our College Library which our students can access, with additional computer facilities available. The Study Centre also provides a number of bespoke Sixth Form classrooms, including a new Media Suite with an additional area for film and media development, where pupils will study in a truly inspirational environment.



## THE REFECTORY

Staff and Sixth Formers have the opportunity to come together and share a mutual working and relaxation area near the dining room. It is equipped with Wi-Fi access and staff and students are able to eat and drink in this area, as well as work in a productive environment during study periods.

# STUDENT WELLBEING AND PERSONAL SUPPORT

## PASTORAL CARE

All students will have ongoing discussions covering general academic progress, student concerns, tutor concerns and issues relevant to careers. Tutors are expected to keep themselves informed about members of their tutor group by talking to students and checking progress. Tutors may arrange for contact with home to be made but will usually discuss matters with the student as a first step. Tutors will record any action taken and liaise with the Head of Learning and with the relevant subject teachers. The Head of Learning will arrange a parental meeting if concerns are ongoing.

## ACADEMIC MONITORING

Students are provided with progress meetings over the two academic years of study. These involve an interview with their Learning Coach, in which academic progress is discussed and future targets set.

In addition to this, students receive two Progress Reports per year. Any concerns regarding academic progress will be shared with both student and parent.

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

At the heart of the Sixth Form is our faith. We are a Catholic Sixth Form which welcomes people of all faiths to our community.



# CAREERS AND PROGRESS SUPPORT

The College provides a thorough programme of monitoring and guidance for students to progress to the adult world. We ensure that every individual is prepared with what they need to know in order to achieve their goals. This includes an extensive UCAS programme, dedicated to supporting students in the process of selecting and applying to university. Those not choosing to go to university or further study will benefit from working with our own Careers Lead, Mr L Wellens, who has links with and knowledge of local employers.

You will be supported with expert advice r.e. applications to apprenticeships and employment.



# SMART CHOICES BRIGHT FUTURES

COURSES AT SIXTH FORM

## Your Results

## Course Choices

Five GCSEs at grades  
9 - 4 (including Maths and  
English Language)

Advanced Level  
(A Levels and BTEC  
qualifications)

GCSEs at grades 3 - 2

Elevate package  
Foundation courses  
at level 2 leading to  
level 3 courses

GCSEs at grades 2 - 1

Please contact the  
Sixth Form Team for  
advice



# A LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry	Five GCSEs at grades 9 - 4 (including Maths and English Language)
Year 1	Study three A Level subjects or BTEC equivalent qualifications
Year 2	Study three A Level subjects or BTEC equivalent qualifications
Progress	University, employment, or further education/higher education course

A Level Subjects	A Level Subjects
Art	Geography
Applied Science	History
Chemistry	Mandarin
Design & Technology: Fashion & Textiles	Mathematics
Design & Technology: Graphics (Product Design)	Media & Film Studies
Design & Technology: Product Design	Physics
English Combined	Psychology
English Literature	Philosophy, Ethics And Dct
Extended Project	Sociology
French	Spanish
Further Maths	

# VOCATIONAL & T-LEVELS

## VOCATIONAL AND T LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

T Level and Level 3 - Five or more GCSEs at grade 9-4, including English Language and Maths.

Higher grades are required in certain subjects.

You can find the individual entry requirements for each course within the course information on the college website or by speaking to our Admissions Team who will advise you at your interview.



### Vocational Subjects

- Applied Science
- Business Studies
- Children's Play, Learning & Development
- Design & Technology: (Food Science)
- Health & Social Care
- Health & Social Care - Double Award
- ICT
- ICT Computing
- Media & Film Studies
- Music Performance
- Performing Arts (Acting)
- Performing Arts (Dance)
- Physical Education

### T - Level

- Education & Early Years



# Applied Science

This course is for students interested in learning about the Applied Science sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses. This course can be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other BTEC Nationals or A Levels. An optional unit is also studied to broaden the students’ understanding and to support any future career aspirations.

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science is equivalent to one A Level and is comprised of four units. Three of these units are mandatory:

- Principles and Applications of Science
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Science Investigation Skills

The remaining unit is optional and can be selected from choices such as Genetics and Genetic Engineering or Electrical Circuits and their Application.

### Assessment

The mandatory Unit 2 and the optional unit are assessed using assignments which are set and marked internally usually involving practical projects. Mandatory Unit 1 is assessed using a written examination set and marked by the examining body which will require students to recall and apply technical knowledge. The remaining mandatory Unit 3 is assessed via tasks set and marked by the examining body which will involve applying their learning to ‘real life’ situations.

The grading of this course ranges from Pass through to Distinction\* which are equivalent to A Level grades and will have a specific number of UCAS points associated with them.

- Overall PASS – Equivalent to E grade
- Overall MERIT – Equivalent to C grade
- Overall DISTINCTION – Equivalent to A grade
- Overall DISTINCTION \* – Equivalent to A\* grade

### Progression Routes

Applied Science is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers such as

- Nursing,
- Healthcare,
- Sport Science,
- Support Services,
- Laboratory
- Technician, assisting with Chemical,
- Biological and Physical Research,
- Education and Manufacturing Industries.

[Full course details](#)

# Art/Textiles

The course is essentially concerned with the traditional media of painting, drawing, ceramic, textile, printing and mixed media exploration. However, in keeping with developments in contemporary art practice, you are encouraged to explore a range of media and experimental approaches including digital technology to facilitate an engagement with more ‘cutting edge’ methods of visual expression. This is likely to involve a study and exploration of more innovative conceptual approaches to visual communication common to the expanded field of art practice today. This will also incorporate an emphasis on the value of drawing to record the creative process interpreted through a wide range of media.

The overall aim of the course is therefore to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design which is informed and developed through an in-depth study of both historical and contemporary art practice.

In turn this should enable you to embrace and explore a range of ideas in your work of both a personal and an objective/ analytical nature and, in so doing, harness a meaningful appreciation of visual culture.

### Assessment

Assessment Year 12: foundation skills portfolio

The course will start similar to a foundation course and allow you to develop and reflect on the core elements within art, you will explore a variety of art mediums such as painting, drawing, ceramic, textile, printing and mixed media, you will then choose two mini projects in a specialism of your choice until December. From December the course is comprised of one internally assessed component, the ‘Personal Creative Enquiry’; this component requires you to keep a working journal/ portfolio which can be defined as a combination of a sketch-pad and a diary comprising of drawings,

paintings, photographs, written notes documenting ideas and other visual research materials on your personal topic. The progression of your work at all stages will be nurtured and stimulated by an organised extra-curricular enrichment programme to include both gallery and practical workshop visits.

Year 13 Component 1 Personal Creative Enquiry 60% of A Level This is an internally assessed unit in which you continue to build upon and develop the ideas pursued during Year 12 through drawing, painting and other disciplines such as ceramics, textiles or print. You should also research both historical and contemporary artists and their work and experiment with media and processes, before producing a personal final outcome based on themes negotiated between yourself and staff. In addition this component demands evidence of written communication showing research and understanding of an Artist or related Art Movement in the form of a 1000 words (minimum) of continuous prose which could take the form of an illustrated essay.

### Is there anything else I should know?

Art can mix very well with subjects such as Design & Technology and humanities subjects such as History and Religious Studies which deal with moral and social issues and encourage you to explore personal attitudes.

### Progression Routes

Former students have gone on to a wide range of careers within art and design, including: international artist, surface pattern designer, interior designer, costume and set designer, animator, art historian and gallery curator, freelance designer, and studio manager.

[Full course details](#)



# Business Studies

If you are looking for a career in business and want to develop skills and understanding that are directly relevant to the business world, then this BTEC qualification is for you. This course will help build your skills, knowledge and understanding of the business environment which are needed to continue studying to degree level and to start work. The skills and experience you will receive are vital to succeed in the business environment, thereby enhancing your employability within the business sector. Ideally you will be a good communicator, both in written and verbal forms, confident, conscientious and able to work independently. Above all, you will not be afraid of hard work.

### Assessment

There are a total of four units (three mandatory and one optional). Two of the units are internally assessed and worth 42% of the overall grade. Two units are externally assessed and worth 58% of the overall grade.

Candidates must achieve four units over two years in order to gain the full award equivalent to one A Level.

The course also provides the flexibility of completing two of the core unit's in one year equivalent to 0.5 A Levels.

The units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. The total of each unit will determine the overall grade for the course.

### Is there anything else I should know?

The new BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Business have been designed to accredit candidates’ achievement in a modern and practical way that is relevant to the workplace. There is no requirement for candidates to have achieved a Level 2 Business qualification before progressing to this award.

### Progression Routes

Employment in a business related role – for example: Supervisory or Management Trainee; entry to college or university for further study; work towards work-related and vocational qualifications in Business.

[Full course details](#)

# Biology

Biology is taught as a linear course that is practical, modern and relevant to society today. The course covers

a diverse and exciting curriculum including key biological principles such as biochemistry, cytology and ecology but also modern medical advances in genetics, anatomy and physiology. If you are interested in how the body functions, genetics, disease, nature and the environment – if you can absorb facts, sort and synthesise a lot of information, as well as explain things fully – if you want to continue to study Biology at university level – then Biology A Level is for you. Ideally you will be a good communicator, confident, conscientious and able to work independently. We work with individuals to find suitable career paths and work placements, where necessary, to motivate you and support you in gaining a place at the university of your choice.

### Assessment Objectives

1. Biological Molecules.
2. Cells.
3. How organisms exchange substances with the environment.
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.
5. Energy Transfers in and between organisms.
6. How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments.
7. Genetics, populations and ecosystems.
8. The control of gene expression.

### Assessment

As with Physics and Chemistry, Biology is taught as a linear course that is assessed by examinations in June of Year 13.

[Full course details](#)

Paper 1: Topics 1 – 4, including relevant practical skills and extended response questions. Examination – 2 hours 35% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 2: Topics 5 – 8, including relevant practical skills and comprehension question. Examination – 2 hours 35% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 3: Topics 1 – 8, including relevant practical skills, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay question. Examination – 2 hours 30% of the overall A Level Marks.

### Progression Routes

Biology is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Biology is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers such as Health, Research and Clinical Professionals in areas including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Education, Optometry, Nursing, Zoology or Marine Biology.



# Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of everything material. What we

eat, wear, drive, build and listen to is all affected by Chemistry. You will gain a challenging and fascinating insight into the building blocks of our planet. Starting with the structure of atoms and how they bond together, the course covers many aspects of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. The practical aspects of the course will develop your analytical skills using a range of chemicals and high-precision equipment.

## Assessment Objectives

1. Apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study as appropriate, using associated terminology and coherent written expression.
2. Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in texts.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which texts are produced and received.
4. Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods.
5. Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

## Is there anything else I should know?

You will develop excellent practical and problem solving skills and the course will prepare you for a wide range of degree courses and careers in Science.

## Progression Route

Chemistry is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditional ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Chemistry is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers involving Health, Research or Industry. These may include professions such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Education, Forensic Science, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Pharmaceutical Research and Development.

[Full course details](#)

# Children’s Play, Learning & Development

Are you interested in pursuing a career working with children? Then Children’s Play, Learning and Development can give you that opportunity.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. It is a natural progression from BTEC Level 2 in Children’s Play Learning and Development or Health and Social Care and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. You can still study at Children’s Play Learning and Development Level 3 if you have not studied it before.

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Early Years. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding but it also allows you to improve your research and application skills, organisational skills and time management. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

## Assessment

Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed units.

Unit 1 will be a written examination consisting of a 1.5 hours paper each. Unit 2 consists of a set task provided by the exam board.

The remaining two units are assessed through the completion of assignments. Each of these internally assessed units has a number of tasks to complete in order to fulfil the individual unit requirements. Within assignments, tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level.

Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a pass level in order to pass the whole unit.

On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size of the unit (GLH). At the end of the course, the points will be added from all eight units to make a combined total points score. Overall PASS - Equivalent to E grade. Overall MERIT - Equivalent to C grade. Overall DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade. Overall DISTINCTION\* - Equivalent to A\* grade.

## Is there anything else I should know?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. It can be taken alongside, for example:

It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process, students will need to provide details on attainment/expected attainment within individual units.

## Progression Route

Many students who study Children’s Play, Learning and Development on to university to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Teaching. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university or going directly into Early Years employment via an Early Years Educator Apprenticeship.

[Full course details](#)



# Design & Technology: (Food Science)

This A Level course is focused towards Graphic products and their applications; you will learn about materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development. You will design a range of products in Year 12 to meet identified consumer needs, including toys, jewellery, hand held products and architectural models. During this course you will build upon and develop your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interest you during Year 13.

### Assessment

In Year 13 you will commence a non-examined ‘Iterative Design Project’, a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real-time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.

In the first year of this course you will take part in a range of design and make activities and projects to build on you designing and manufacturing skills in preparation for your A Level coursework project which commences following the Easter holidays in Year 12.

### Unit 2: Written Exam

The ‘Principles’ examination paper is worth 26.7% (80 marks) of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your

understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries.

### Unit 3: Written Exam

The ‘Problem Solving’ paper is worth 23.3% (70 marks) of the A Level qualification and requires learners to apply their knowledge and understanding through higher level thinking skills, reflecting on the viability of products and possible design solutions in context and being able to make critical judgements on the most appropriate methods and outcomes.

### Is there anything else I should know?

For candidates wishing to study Product Design, Graphic Design or Illustration at higher education the desirable subjects to choose along with Design & Technology are Art & Design, Media, Mathematics, Science (Applied), Physics, Business Studies and ICT. However, other combinations are acceptable depending on the type of higher education establishment

### Progression Routes

Success in this course can lead to higher education qualifications and careers in Product Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation, Industrial Design, Computer Aided Design, Architectural Design Technology, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering as well as other creative, design and engineering disciplines.

[Full course details](#)

# Design & Technology: (Fashion & Textiles)

The A Level course is focused towards fashion and textiles products and accessories in a range of applications; their analysis in respect of materials, process, trends and use in relation to industrial and commercial practices of fashion and textiles. You will design a range of products in Year 12 to meet identified consumer needs, including a bag, a garment, and a range of textiles products and accessories. During this course you will build upon and develop your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interest you during Year 13.

### Assessment

### Unit 1: Coursework

In Year 13 you will commence a non-examined ‘Iterative Design Project’, a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real-time evidence of your project development. In the first year of this course you will take part in a range of design and make activities and projects to build on you designing and manufacturing skills in preparation for your A Level coursework project which commences following the Easter holidays in Year 12.

### Unit 2: Written Exam

The ‘Principles’ examination paper is worth 26.7% (80 marks) of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries.

### Unit 3: Written Exam

The ‘Problem Solving’ paper is worth 23.3% (70 marks) of the A Level qualification and requires learners to apply their knowledge and understanding through higher level thinking skills, reflecting on the viability of products and possible design solutions in context and being able to make critical judgements on the most appropriate methods and outcomes.

### Is there anything else I should know?

If you want to follow a career or higher education route in Textiles, Fashion Design or Interior Design you may also consider Art & Design and ICT as companion A Levels. If you are wishing to follow a career or higher education route in Fashion Merchandising and Buying, you might also consider Business Studies, Mathematics and ICT as companion Level 3 courses. Media Studies, Graphics, Business Studies and ICT are suitable courses to choose alongside Textiles if you wish to enter the creative advertising and marketing profession.

### Progression Routes

Success in this course can lead to higher education qualifications and a number of exciting careers in Textile Design, Clothes/ Fashion Design, Interior Design or Fashion Merchandising and Buying. You could also apply this A Level to your portfolio of skills as a teacher.

[Full course details](#)



# Design & Technology: (Graphics)

This A Level course is focused towards Graphic products and their applications; you will learn about materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development. You will design a range of products in Year 12 to meet identified consumer needs, including toys, jewellery, hand held products and architectural models. During this course you will build upon and develop your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interest you during Year 13.

## Assessment

### Unit 1: Coursework

In Year 13 you will commence a non-examined ‘Iterative Design Project’, a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real-time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.

In the first year of this course you will take part in a range of design and make activities and projects to build on you designing and manufacturing skills in preparation for your A Level coursework project which commences following the Easter holidays in Year 12.

### Unit 2: Written Exam

The ‘Principles’ examination paper is worth 26.7% (80 marks) of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes

and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries.

### Unit 3: Written Exam

The ‘Problem Solving’ paper is worth 23.3% (70 marks) of the A Level qualification and requires learners to apply their knowledge and understanding through higher level thinking skills, reflecting on the viability of products and possible design solutions in context and being able to make critical judgements on the most appropriate methods and outcomes.

## Is there anything else I should know?

For candidates wishing to study Product Design, Graphic Design or Illustration at higher education the desirable subjects to choose along with Design & Technology are Art & Design, Media, Mathematics, Science (Applied), Physics, Business Studies and ICT. However, other combinations are acceptable depending on the type of higher education establishment

## Progression Routes

Success in this course can lead to higher education qualifications and careers in Product Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation, Industrial Design, Computer Aided Design, Architectural Design Technology, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering as well as other creative, design and engineering disciplines.

[Full course details](#)

# Design & Technology: (Product Design)

The course is focused towards consumer products and applications; their analysis in respect of materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development. In Product Design, materials and components are studied from the perspective of analysing modern consumer products that are designed to meet identified consumer needs, their design and manufacture. During this course you will build upon and develop your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interest you.

## Assessment

During the two year course, you will study a range of materials including timbers, metals, plastics and paper boards. You will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. This subject also requires you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

## Is there anything else I should know?

For candidates wishing to study Product Design or Industrial Design at higher education the desirable subjects to choose along with Product Design are Art & Design, Mathematics, Science (Applied), Physics, Business Studies and ICT. However, other combinations are acceptable depending on the type of higher education establishment.

## Progression Routes

Success in this course can lead to higher education qualifications and careers in Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Computer Aided Design, Architectural Design Technology, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering as well as other creative, design and engineering disciplines.

[Full course details](#)



# Education & Early Years: (T-Level)

This highly practical course will introduce you to a wide range of interesting and enriching topic areas relevant to early years practice, from practical skills for looking after children to psychological theory of development.

### Assessment

You will acquire an understanding of the Education and Early Years sector from ages 0-19 years. This will include the theory of child development and how to support children and young people in education. It will also develop your knowledge and understanding of safeguarding, health and safety, managing behaviour and how to effectively work with parents, carers and wider families. You will carry out a minimum of 750 hours work placement, which will be in a variety of settings, where you will be able to perform observations and assessments of children and young people whilst also developing your skills in being a reflective practitioner.

In addition to the core content, you will complete the occupational specialism, as an early year’s educator, specialising in the age range of 0-7 years. You will be assessed by written examinations, synoptic assessment, assignments, employer-set project and assessed observations in work placement.

### Progression Routes

On successful completion of the course, you will you have the equivalent to 3 A Levels and gain the Early Years Educator status, which will provide you with access to employment in childcare or to an apprenticeship. T Levels also come with UCAS Tariff points, which will support you progressing onto higher education to study degrees such as primary education, working with families and social work.

[Full course details](#)

# English Combined

Do you enjoy reading and writing independently, away from your college studies? Above everything else, this is the sign that you will enjoy and be successful at A Level English, whether you choose Literature or Language and Literature Combined.

On this course you will combine the study of literary texts with the study of language and linguistic techniques to better understand how writers construct and convey meaning and how in turn readers develop an understanding of a text. You will create your own writing pieces, but also you will read and write about some classic works of literature. If you love to read and enjoy producing your own writing then this course will allow you to showcase your abilities at the same time as experiencing texts across a wide range of genres.

### Assessment

- Apply concepts and methods from integrated linguistic and literary study as appropriate, using associated terminology and coherent written expression.
- Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in texts.
- Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which texts are produced and received.
- Explore connections across texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts and methods.
- Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

The components comprise a comparative analysis of poetry and an unseen text and the critical response to prose. Students will also study drama texts including a Shakespeare play. This course also develops student engagement with spoken language and non-literary materials.

The non-exam assessment enables pupils to pursue an independent line of enquiry investigating language usage within a particular text or genre.

### Is there anything else I should know?

The skills that you will learn in this subject, such as independent research, close reading, analysis and evaluation of material and assimilation of material into a formal essay are desirable skills for universities. English Combined is therefore an ideal companion to History, French, Psychology, Religious Studies or any of the Science subjects.

### Progression Routes

Naturally English Combined will be appropriate for students who wish to progress to study a form of English at university. It also provides many of the skills desirable for degrees in History, Law, Anthropology, Criminology and Teaching.

[Full course details](#)



# English Literature

On this course you will study some fantastic plays, novels and poetry, ranging in period. You must be willing to undertake independent reading, which should not really feel like a chore, more a pleasure. A qualification in English Literature proves that you are highly motivated, analytical and confident in your ability to construct and convey an argument in both spoken and written form.

### Assessment

- Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology and coherent, accurate written expression.
- Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
- Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
- Explore connections across literary texts.
- Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.
- This course has no AS component – it is a two year programme of study culminating in three A Level examinations and the submission of a coursework portfolio.

The components comprise a study of a Shakespeare play; the critical and comparative analysis of poetry and drama; unseen texts and a critical extended response to two prose texts from different periods. This course develops student engagement with a prose text of their own choice in the non-exam assessment element, which enables pupils to pursue independent reading and critical research.

### Is there anything else I should know?

The skills that you will learn in this subject, such as independent research, close reading, analysis and evaluation of material and assimilation of material into a formal essay are highly desirable skills for universities.

English Literature therefore is an ideal companion to History, French, Psychology, Religious Studies or any of the Science subjects.

### Progression Routes

English Literature is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

[Full course details](#)

# Extended Project

This is a free standing qualification that carries UCAS points. The course offers students a unique opportunity to develop essential skills for higher education and the workplace, in a subject area of their own choice. The Extended Project gives students more control over their study than ever before. You have a free choice of project topic, so you can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject you’re studying, or another subject, or choose a topic in which you have a personal interest. This level of choice and flexibility means students are engaged and motivated and gain valuable research and project management skills along the way.

You have to:

Choose a topic of your choice to study  
Complete a Production Log to document your project process  
Plan, research and write up their findings of your project  
Prepare and deliver a presentation on the outcome.

### Assessment

This is an independent piece of research. You will meet with a member of staff (supervisor) weekly to discuss your progress and to guide you and help you develop the necessary skills to complete a successful project. You will also attend taught sessions which equip you with the key skills needed for primary research, project writing and independent study.

You can write a 5000 word essay arguing both sides of your research topic or you can create a product with a 1000 word report on the research that lead you to your end product.

The assessment covers both the process and the end product. The final project, plus the Production Log, will be assessed as a whole, according to a generic set of marking criteria. We’ll be looking at how well students identify and use resources, carry out research, develop their ideas to realise an outcome

and then reflect on the outcome and the process. Students complete a Production Log as they carry out their projects and at the end they must deliver a presentation which should be for a non-specialist audience. This could take the form of a group presentation (in the case of a group project) or a one-to-one presentation to the supervisor.

The presentation must be supported by a question and answer session which is recorded in the Production Log. The complete Production Log, a written report, the evidence and the presentation are assessed together by the centre at the end of the process.

### Is there anything else I should know?

This is an independent piece of work and will require students to manage their time effectively throughout the year. Students will be encouraged through self-motivation and independent study inside and outside of school.

Students will need to be confident within their area of study to evaluate, reflect, criticise and support their ideas using other pieces of research.

### Progression Routes

This is an independent piece of work and will require students to manage their time effectively throughout the year. Students might use the project at interview stage for higher education and/or in their Personal Statement on their UCAS form.

[Full course details](#)



# French

Are you a linguist? Are you a good communicator? Do you enjoy travelling to new places? Are you interested in people and other cultures? Then you should be considering studying French to A2 Level! More and more universities are asking for a language qualification for their courses, irrespective of your chosen career path.

At A level, you will benefit from one hour per week which builds specifically on your grammar knowledge from GCSE. In all lessons, your teacher will speak French as often as possible and you will use a variety of media to research the topics.

The internet will be exploited to give you access to authentic materials and you will also be given the opportunity to go on a work experience placement in France which will enable you to use your language in real life situations.

You will study a two year course full A Level. Throughout the course, you will develop and refine your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as revising and building on the grammar already learnt at GCSE to improve the complexity and fluency of your language. In addition you will learn about the culture of France and the life of people in France and the French speaking world. There are two areas of study which are taught at A Level; ‘Social issues and trends’ and ‘Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture’. You will study a theme per year across both years of the A Level. You will also study literature and cinema from the French speaking world.

## Assessment

Exams taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: 50% Listening, Reading and Translation into English and into French

Paper 2: 20% Critical response in writing; two essays on both books or book and film studied

Paper 3: 30% Speaking exam: discussion from a speaking stimulus and presentation on individual research project (21-23 minutes)

## Progression Routes

French is highly regarded and considered a facilitating subject for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditional university ‘humanities’ subjects but also for engineering, Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

The Advanced GCE in French can lead to further study of languages at degree level and can easily be combined with other courses such as Law, English, Business, International Studies, a range of engineering degrees or other languages that can be taken up ab Initio at university, such as Mandarin and Japanese. Current popular career choices for students of languages include Translation and Interpreting, Business, Journalism, Computing, Law, Publishing, Marketing, as well as Teaching, both in the UK and abroad. Linguists are sought after employees for many types of Business and Industry.

On average, people who use languages in their jobs earn 8% more than their non-linguist colleagues.

Full course details

# Further Maths

Further Mathematics is an A Level qualification which both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A level Mathematics. It is designed to be learnt alongside AS Level Mathematics in Year 12.

Any student planning to take a mathematics-rich degree (this covers a very wide range of academic areas - Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics, etc, as well as Mathematics itself) will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics. Students who are not planning to study for mathematics-rich degrees but who are keen on mathematics will find Further Mathematics a very enjoyable course and having a Further Mathematics Qualification identifies students as having excellent analytical skills, whatever area they plan to study or work within.

Further Mathematics introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many mathematics-rich degrees. Students who have studied Further Mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward. Studying Further Mathematics should also boost your performance in A Level Mathematics. To study Further Mathematics at advanced level you must be studying A Level Mathematics, and should have the very top grades from GCSE Mathematics.

The course is based on the Edexcel Further Maths A Level. You will study three areas of mathematics if you choose to take Further Maths. These are currently Pure Mathematics (compulsory), Mechanics and Statistics however there are also options to study Further Pure Mathematics or Decision Mathematics. These options are decided by the Mathematics department each year based on the cohort.

## Assessment

Four exams;  
**Paper 1:** – Core Pure Mathematics 1: Written examination - 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the 3 qualification, 75 marks.  
**Paper 2:** – Core Pure Mathematics 2: Written examination -1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks. Paper 1: and 2 content: Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations.  
**Paper 3:** - Further Statistics 1: Written examination - 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks. Paper 3 content: Probability distributions, Hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests, Central Limit Theorem, Probability generating functions, Quality of tests.  
**Paper 4:** – Further Mechanics 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks. Paper 4 content: Momentum and impulse, Work, energy and power, Elastic collisions in one and two dimensions, Elastic strings and springs and elastic energy.  
For A Level Further Mathematics students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

## Progression Routes

Further Mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are strongly welcomed by universities. Students who take Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematics-rich degree.

Full course details

# Geography

Geography is the study of physical and human environments and how they interact together. It is delivered in the two disciplines of Physical and Human Geography and deals with a range of current topical global issues. Geography builds on what is covered at GCSE Level and apply a range of detailed contemporary case studies to core geographical concepts. You will study the systems, patterns and processes that happen in both urban and rural areas. The content includes studying volcanoes, earthquakes and our changing coastline. Why is Africa the poorest continent on earth? Can Liverpool ever reclaim its status as the ‘second city’ of Great Britain? How will climate change impact upon my life? Without Geography we stand little chance of answering such questions.

**Assessment**

You are encouraged to:

- Develop and apply your understanding of geographical concepts and processes to understand and interpret the changing world.
- Develop your awareness of the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, culture and environments at local and global scales.
- Develop as global citizens who recognise the challenge of sustainability and the implications for their own and others’ lives.
- Improve as critical and reflective learners aware of the importance of attitudes and values, including their own.
- Become apt in the use and application of skills and technologies through your geographical studies.
- Be inspired by the world around you, and gain enjoyment and satisfaction from your geographical studies.

**Is there anything else I should know?**

Field trips are an integral part of the geography department at St Mary’s. It is a vital and valuable component of the compulsory phase of every student’s school experience. Four days of fieldwork opportunities are organised to enable students to experience and test theory learnt in the classroom in a variety of contexts.

**Progression Routes**

Geography is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Previous students have gone on to study Geography at university, as either a science or in the arts faculties. Your skills of data analysis, interpretation and your ability to present logical arguments match the skills required in today’s workplace.

Geographers are highly skilled in both literacy and numeracy, and employers recognise the abilities A Level Geographers possess. A geographical background is beneficial in the following careers: Crime Intelligence Analyst, Travel Writer, Environmental Manager, Teaching and Engineering.

[Full course details](#)

# Health & Social Care

Are you a good communicator? Do you care about other people and how our society develops? Are you interested in pursuing a career working with children, older people or in the NHS? Health and Social Care can give you these opportunities.

The Edexcel BTEC Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. It is a natural progression from the BTEC L2 in Health & Social Care and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. You can still study L3 Health & Social Care if you have not studied it before. Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Health, Social Care and Early Years. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding but it also allows you to improve your research and application skills, organisational skills and time management. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

**Assessment**

The BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care is run over two years and content is broken down into four units, with two being externally assessed. The size of each unit is determined by how many guided learning hours (GLH) have been set for delivery and to successfully complete the course, you must complete a total of 360 GLH. You must complete the selected four units in order to fulfil the course requirements.

**Units studied over the 2 years:**

- Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (90 GLH)
- Unit 2: Working in Health & Social Care (120 GLH)
- Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (90 GLH)
- Unit 14: Sociological Perspectives (60 GLH)

**Is there anything else I should know?**

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care can be studied with a variety of other subjects to suit the needs of the student. Many students combine with A Levels in Psychology, Sociology and English or BTEC’s in Children’s Play, Learning and Development and Applied Science. It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process, students will need to provide details on attainment/expected attainment within individual units.

**Progression Routes**

Many students who study Health & Social Care go on to university to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Teaching. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university or going directly into Social Care/Early Years employment.

[Full course details](#)



# Health & Social Care: (Double Award)

Do you care about other people and how our society develops? Are you interested in pursuing a career working with children, older people or in the NHS? Health & Social Care can give you these opportunities.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels. It is a natural progression from BTEC Level 2 in Health & Social Care and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. You can still study Health & Social Care at Level 3 if you have not studied it before. Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Health, Social Care and Early Years.

The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding but it also allows you to improve your research and application skills, organisational skills and time management. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

### Assessment

The BTEC Level 3 in Health & Social Care is run over two years and content is broken down into eight units, with three being externally assessed. The size of each unit is determined by how many guided learning hours (GLH) have been set for delivery and to successfully complete the course, you must complete a total of 720 GLH. You must complete all the units in order to fulfil the course requirements.

Units studied over the 2 years:

- Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (90 GLH)
- Unit 2: Working in Health & Social Care (120 GLH)
- Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health & Social Care (120 GLH)

- Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (90 GLH)
- Unit 7: Principles of Safe Practice in Health & Social Care Settings (90 GLH)
- Unit 8: Promoting Public Health (90 GLH)
- Unit 10: Psychological Perspectives (60 GLH)
- Unit 14: Physiological Disorders and their Care (60GLH)

### Is there anything else I should know?

Three exams and five piece of coursework across two years  
weighted 50% exam 50% coursework

### Progression Routes

Many students who study Health & Social Care go on to university to study Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work and Teaching. The level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university or going directly into Social Care/Early years employment.

[Full course details](#)

# History

Are you interested in finding out how society has developed over time? Are you looking for a chance to further develop your analysis and interpretation skills? Have you got a passion for the past? Then you should strongly consider choosing to study History at A Level.

History at A Level is a highly esteemed qualification which offers genuine opportunities to develop important personal skills as well as enabling students to keep their options open in terms of Higher Education and career choice. Studying History at A Level involves students becoming involved much more in the actual work of historians than GCSE. There will be opportunities for original research and for participating in wider debates about the fundamental features of human society.

You will study the Edexcel qualification and as the course is linear, with the four key units (three examinations and one piece of coursework) being studied across Years 12 and 13 and then all are examined at the end of Year 13.

### Assessment

- 3 exams:**  
British 30%,  
Russia 20%,  
Germany 30%  
Coursework 20%

### Is there anything else I should know?

Studying History enables students to keep their options open when going into university and choosing careers. Previous students have gone into teaching, accounting, journalism, politics and many other realms. With History A Level being such a challenging subject, universities value the traits of dedication and commitment needed to succeed in the subject

[Full course details](#)

# ICT

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Computing. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding, but it also allows you to improve your organisational skills, time management and the ability to apply learning to a vocational context. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems

This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed by a written examination. You will study the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations. This unit will give you a fundamental and synoptic understanding of all areas of IT, supporting your progression to an IT-related higher education course.

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information

This is a mandatory unit that is externally assessed under supervised conditions. You will study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

Unit 3: Social Media in Business

This is an internally assessed unit through which you will explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Students also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Unit 6: Website Development

This is an internally assessed unit through which you investigate website development principles. They will design and develop a website using scripting languages.

Is there anything else I should know?

You will study 4 units in total, 2 units are externally assessed and 2 are internally assessed portfolios of work.

Internal – 42%  
External – 58%

Progression Routes

The qualification, when studied with other Level 3 qualifications, is aimed at progression to higher education but also enables learners to develop knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry-level roles such as a social media specialist, web/content developer, or business analyst.

Full course details

# ICT (Double)

The objective of this qualification is to give students the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in IT. Students investigate the relationship between hardware and software, managing and communicating information and data, and the principles of designing and developing digital technologies and processes to support organisations. IT Project Management and IT Cyber Security and Incident Management are also studied as part of the double award. This qualification also includes a choice of optional units, covering areas such as data modelling and analytics, app and games development, mobile internet technologies, creative technologies and enterprise for IT. This will allow progression to a variety of degrees when combined with other suitable Level 3 qualifications.

How will my work be assessed?

You will study 8 units in total, 3 units are externally assessed and 5 are internally assessed portfolios of work.  
Internal – 55%  
External – 45%

Progression Routes

In addition to the IT sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification enable students to develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. For example, the study of IT particularly encourages development of research and analysis skills, project management and prioritising, effective communications, the synthesis skills of adapting and integrating, and the evaluation skills of assessing, interpreting and validating.

This qualification is equivalent in size to two A Levels and meets the requirements for progression to some degree programmes in IT or related study such as an HNC or HND in Computer Science, IT, Engineering and Business Management.

Full course details



# ICT Computing

It is a natural progression from the study of Computing at GCSE and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner.

Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of Computing. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding, but it also allows you to improve your organisational skills, time management and the ability to apply learning to a vocational context. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

## Assessment

There are a total of four units (three mandatory and one optional). Two of the units are internally assessed and worth 42% of the overall grade. Two units are externally assessed and worth 58% of the overall grade. Candidates must achieve four units over two years in order to gain the full award equivalent to one A Level. The course also provides the flexibility of completing two of the core units in one year equivalent to 0.5 A Levels. The units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. The total of each unit will determine the overall grade for the course.

The overall grade equivalents are detailed below:  
PASS - Equivalent to E grade.  
MERIT - Equivalent to C grade.  
DISTINCTION - Equivalent to A grade.  
DISTINCTION \* - Equivalent to A\* grade.

## Is there anything else I should know?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Computing can be studied with a variety of other subjects to suit the needs of the student. It has been designed to accredit candidates’ achievement in a modern and practical way that is relevant to the workplace. It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process; students will need to provide details on attainment/ expected attainment within individual units.

[Full course details](#)

# Mandarin

Are you a linguist? Are you a good communicator? Do you enjoy travelling to new places? Are you interested in people and other cultures? Then you should be considering studying Mandarin to A Level! More and more universities are asking for a language qualification for their courses, irrespective of your chosen career path.

In addition to lessons with your teacher each week you will have extra conversation classes with a native Mandarin speaker to improve your accent and the style of your spoken Mandarin. You will take advantage of the instant access to authentic materials that the internet affords us and use your language in real life situations.

Through the A level route you will develop and refine your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as revising and building on the grammar already learnt at GCSE to improve the complexity and fluency of your language. In addition you will learn about the culture of China and the life of people in China.

You will also study literature and cinema from China. :  
A pigeon called Feng, a short story by Cao Wenxuan;  
And ‘Please vote for me’ directed by Chen Wenjun.

## A Level - two year qualification

Exams taken at the end of Year 13  
**Paper 1:** 40% Listening, Reading and Translation into English and into Mandarin.  
**Paper 2:** 30% Essays on both books or book and film studied.  
**Paper 3:** 30% Speaking exam on an individual research project (21-23 minutes).

## Progression Routes

Mandarin is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

The Advanced GCE in Mandarin can lead to further study of languages at degree level and can easily be combined with other courses such as Law, English, Business, International Studies or other languages that can be taken up at university such as Japanese. Current popular career choices for students of languages include Translation and Interpreting, Business, Journalism, Computing, Law, Publishing, Marketing, as well as Teaching, both in the UK and abroad. Linguists are sought after employees for many types of Business and Industry.

[Full course details](#)

# Mathematics

Do you enjoy a challenge and want an A Level that is highly regarded by universities and employers alike? To study Mathematics at advanced level you must have a determination to succeed and a passion for successfully solving problems. The course is based on Edexcel

Mathematics. There are three areas of study for the exam – Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

The focus of the Pure Mathematics aspect is to further develop elements of the mathematics that you will have explored at GCSE. It will be a continuation of work on topics such as solving quadratic equations, factorising, sketching curves, vectors and trigonometry. You will also extend your mathematical knowledge further by learning how to differentiate and integrate; fundamental to Calculus.

Statistics explores some of the handling data GCSE topics that you have already seen, but to a further level. You will complete calculations that will help you better explore the spread of data, correlation shown on scatter graphs and whether hypothesis are deemed to be plausible. Mechanics is the study of motion. It looks at the way that a physical body moves when subjected to a force. Much of the work is based around Newton’s three laws of motion. Statistics and Mechanics allow you to apply Mathematics to real life scenarios.

## Assessment

**A2**  
**3 exams:**  
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics – Written examination: 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification, 100 marks.

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics – Written examination: 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification, 100 marks.

Paper 1 and 2 content: Proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Numerical methods, Vectors.

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics – Written examination:

2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification, 100 marks.

Paper 3 content: Section A (Statistics) – Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distribution, Statistical hypothesis testing.

Section B (Mechanics) – Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton’s laws, Moments.

For A Level Mathematics students must complete all assessment in May/June in year 13.

## Progression Routes

Mathematics is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditionally ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Mathematics A Level is an essential requirement for many mathematics and science based courses at degree level. It is also a highly regarded and valuable qualification for a wide range of professions including Engineering, Computing, Economics, Accountancy and Actuarial work and is a suitable qualification for undergraduate courses in subjects such as Psychology, Law, Medicine and Business & Management Studies.

[Full course details](#)

# Media & Film Studies

Media Studies is designed to enhance your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the media and its role in your daily life. The course introduces you both to media ideas and the practice of production, which gives you the chance to develop a real understanding of media platforms, the contemporary media landscape and the influential role of the media in today’s society. This course helps you develop these relationships with the media. As a consumer you’ll become more aware of the many ways in which media messages are presented to us, as well as discovering how the institutions which produce and distribute media products are trying to reach you. Using the most up to date technology, utilising the capabilities of Apple iMacs and associated software, you will create work of a professional standard that will showcase your technical and creative capabilities.

## Assessment

**Section A: News and Online Media**  
This section consists of two linked in-depth studies that focus on contemporary news in the UK, requiring you to explore how and why newspapers and their online counterparts are evolving as media products and the relationship between both online and offline news.

**Section B: Media Language and Representation**  
You will explore media language and representation, through media products set by OCR in the following media forms - magazines, advertising and marketing and music videos. 02: Evolving media (35% of total A Level) 2 hour written examination.

**Section A: Media Industries and Audiences**  
You will explore media industries and audiences, through media products set by OCR for – radio, video games and film.

**Section B: Long Form Television Drama**  
You will engage in one in-depth study of television as an evolving, global media form. You must study one complete episode of a contemporary English language long form TV drama and one complete episode of a non-English language long form TV drama to inform your study.

Non-Exam Assessment: Making media (30% of total A Level)  
You will create a cross-media product in response to an OCR set brief relating to TV, music video, magazine, radio or film.

## Progression Routes

Media Studies naturally leads to careers in journalism, marketing, advertising or public relations. Awareness of how the world of media works can also support other careers, such as social work, law and education. By knowing how the media operates you’ll be able to interpret information more skilfully, and engage with topics that interest you. Students work individually as well as in groups which is attractive to employers as it demonstrates a focus for work as well as social skills required to work with others. Students studying Media Studies will also be using industry standard software on Apple iMacs to equip them appropriately for a variety of careers within the Media industry as well as other design and/ or ICT based jobs.

[Full course details](#)



# Media & Film Studies

The Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production provides a coherent introduction to the study of creative digital media world.

Students develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media representations and pitching and producing media projects. It is designed for post- 16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the media industries. The course is built around a series of tasks and assignments that enables students to develop a portfolio of skills including technical skills, audio-visual skills, presentation skills, communication skills and team work.

### Assessment

Units 1 and 8 are externally set and assessed units and make up 60% of the overall grade. Units 4 and 10 are internally assessed. The assessment for these units is made through the completion of assignments. Tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level.

Each individual assignment must be completed to the minimum required standard in order to pass the whole unit. On successful completion of a unit, points are awarded depending upon the level of completion and the size of the unit. At the end of the course, the points will be added from all three units to make a combined total points score.

Overall PASS- Equivalent to E grade  
Overall MERIT- Equivalent to C grade  
Overall DISTINCTION- Equivalent to A grade  
Overall DISTINCTION\*- Equivalent to A\* grade

### Is there anything else I should know?

Future Progression BTEC qualifications are fully accepted by universities, higher education institutions and employers across the country. The level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university courses in Digital Media, Media Production, Media and Communications and Film Studies or for entering straight into the industry.

### Progression Routes

Students mainly pursue careers within media, but the skills developed are essential to a variety of other professions such as teaching, social media, website design, advertising, journalism or TV and film production. It is respected by higher education institutions and provides a range of transferable skills. With the growth of Media City in Salford, there are a wide range of potential career pathways and higher apprenticeships available too.

[Full course details](#)

# Music Performance

This two year course gives musicians the chance to develop their musical skills beyond GCSE level. It is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. The programme gives a broad overview of the sector, with a focus on performance, including musical skills development and professional practice. There will be a mixture of written and practical work and regular recording events to present coursework both in and out of school time. The language and traditions of music from many cultures is studied, as well as examples from a huge range of styles.

### Assessment

The course is run over two years and content is broken down into 4 units. Each unit is worth a specific amount of credits and to successfully complete the course, you must complete the selected units in order to achieve the required amount of credits. Each assignment has a specific vocational context and a scenario in order to allow students to relate their studies to the industry. The 4 units are:

- Professional Practice in the Music Industry – an externally assessed unit that explores what it is that makes someone a professional in the music industry and how to put forward a bid for work.
- Practical Music Theory and Harmony – an internally assessed unit that develops the learners’ knowledge and understanding of music theory and harmony, and apply their understanding in practical scenarios.
- Ensemble Music Performance – an externally assessed unit to work as part of a musical ensemble and develop their skills and techniques in rehearsal and performance.
- Music Performance Session Styles – an internally assessed unit exploring the styles of music encountered in the role of a modern session musician.

### Is there anything else I should know?

Due to the course content it is advisable to have studied Music; however, promising musicians who have a good standard of performance but have not studied the subject in Year 11 should talk to the Music staff about their suitability for the course.

### Progression Routes

The qualification can provide the UCAS points required to allow access to higher education courses including degrees and foundation degrees. Potential occupations include opportunities in teaching, promotions, performance, studio work, publishing, music therapy and the media.

[Full course details](#)

# Performing Arts

This course is a BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts, equivalent to an A Level. Spread over two years, the Performing Arts course covers a wide spectrum of performance based units in order for learners to experience every medium of drama and theatre. Learners will develop the technical and interpretative skills necessary to work in many areas of the performing arts. Learners will explore the means and processes of characterisation, interpret texts, develop material for performance through rehearsal as well as participating in performances of rehearsed material. Although the emphasis is on practical work, the course does contain elements of both theory and written work.

### Assessment

**Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners’ work.**  
This is an externally assessed unit. Learners investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. In this unit, you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential performing arts practitioners. Additionally you will draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

**Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance.**  
Learners will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing techniques in at least two performances. This unit serves as an induction into the performing arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in one or more of the performance disciplines of acting, dance, musical theatre, physical theatre and variety/popular entertainment.

**Unit 3: Group Workshop Performance.**  
This is the second externally assessed unit of the BTEC course. Learners explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a

performance in response to a given stimulus. In this unit, you will learn how to respond to a given stimulus as part of a group, using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present an informal presentation of the work to an invited audience.

**Unit 19: Acting Skills. Learners develop acting methods by exploring different acting styles.**  
This unit will introduce you to the basic differences of a range of styles of theatre and the approaches of theatre practitioners. You will take part in workshops that explore acting styles, techniques and practices used by different theatre practitioners in their work. This will enable you to create character, interpret lines and develop your vocal and physical skills while rehearsing and performing a text or devising original work.

Assignments must be completed for each unit, within set deadlines. On completing this award pupils will be awarded either a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade. All units must be completed and passed in order to achieve the final award. Assessment is carried out over the two years of the course through practical drama sessions, written projects, presentations, essays and performances. There are two externally assessed units as part of the course. You will have the opportunity to discuss possibilities for pathways through two core units plus two Specialist Units.

### Progression Routes

The Performing Arts course is an excellent preparation for the further study of Drama or Acting at Drama School or university, as well as for a wide range of other related areas within the Theatre Industry. Further employment opportunities include teaching, acting, theatre, drama therapy and the media.

[Full course details](#)

# Performing Arts (Dance)

Students will have the opportunity to develop their musical skills beyond GCSE level, giving them the chance to refine and develop skills that are applicable as professional musicians. The course is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. The programme gives a broad overview of the sector, with a focus on performance, including musical skills development and professional practice.

There will be a mixture of written and practical work and regular recording events to present coursework both in and out of school time. The language and traditions of music from many cultures is studied, as well as examples from a huge range of styles.

### Assessment

**Unit 1: Investigating Practitioner’s work.**  
This is an externally assessed unit. Learners investigate the work of performing arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. In this unit, you will develop skills that allow you to investigate the work of influential performing arts practitioners. Additionally you will draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

**Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance.**  
Learners will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing techniques in at least two performances. This unit serves as an induction into the performing arts where you will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in one or more of the performance disciplines of acting, dance, musical theatre, physical theatre and variety/popular entertainment.

**Unit 3: Group Workshop Performance.**  
This is the second externally assessed unit of the BTEC course. Learners explore and integrate creative, physical and vocal skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. In this unit, you will learn how to respond to a given stimulus as part of a group, using research, discussion and practical exploration to develop performance material and later present an informal presentation of the work to an invited audience.

**Unit 12: Contemporary Dance Technique.**  
This internal unit explores the technical and expressive skills and qualities required for a contemporary dancer. Learners will be developing and refining dance works, showing the correct sense of style, alignment and musicality of the work. This will prepare them for a career in the dance world.

Assignments must be completed for each unit, within set deadlines. On completing this award pupils will be awarded either a Pass, Merit, Distinction grade or Distinction\*. All units must be completed and passed in order to achieve the final award.

### Progression Routes

The Performing Arts course is an excellent preparation for the further study of Dance or performance at university, as well as for a wide range of other related areas within the performing arts industry. Further employment opportunities include teaching, choreographer, theatre and therapy.

[Full course details](#)



# Physical Education

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is equivalent to one A Level. It is a natural progression from the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport and is designed to further develop you into an independent learner. Throughout the course you will study a variety of topics and build upon your knowledge and understanding of the world of sport. The nature of the course not only gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of aspects of sport but it also allows you to improve your organisational skills, time management and the ability to apply learning to a vocational context. You will develop personal skills and attitudes essential for successful performance at university and in working life.

### Assessment

The BTEC Level 3 in Sport is run over two years and content is broken down into units. There are four units and each unit is worth a specific amount of points depending on its size. To successfully complete the course you must complete all four units. Two of the units are externally assessed and the other two units are internally assessed. You must complete all units to at least Pass level to gain the qualification overall.

Units studied over the two years:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology in Sport (120 GLH)
- Unit 2: Fitness Testing and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing (120 GLH)
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry (60 GLH)
- Unit 4: – Sports Leadership

### Is there anything else I should know?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Sport can be studied with a variety of other subjects to suit the needs of the student. It is widely accepted by universities and during the UCAS application process; students will need to provide details on attainment/expected attainment within individual units.

### Is there anything else I should know?

Many students who study PE continue their sporting studies at university. The Level 3 course is excellent preparation for entering university courses such as Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Sports Development, Sports Coaching and PE Teaching.

[Full course details](#)

# Physics

Physics helps you to understand the fundamental laws that describe mathematically how the earth and the entire universe operate. Understanding these laws allow us to design and develop new technologies which improve our daily lives. The course appeals to students who enjoy a challenge, who are confident in their maths skills, and those who like to see the bigger scientific picture and make links to other sciences. The course begins by building on knowledge learnt at GCSE and progresses onto contemporary topics such as Medical physics and the existence of dark matter and energy. In the modern world, an understanding of Physics empowers you to form educated opinions about current issues such as global warming, climate change, alternative energy, nuclear power and treatment of nuclear waste.

### Assessment

As with Biology and Chemistry, Physics is taught as a linear course that is assessed by examinations in June at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Modelling physics – Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5  
Examination – 2 hours and 15 mins – 37% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 2: Exploring Physics – Assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6  
Examination – 2 hours and 15 mins – 37% of the overall A Level Marks

Paper 3: Unified Physics Any content and any practical skills.  
Examination – 1 hours and 30 mins – 26% of the overall A Level marks

### Progression Routes

Physics is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other traditional ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management.

Physics is a good choice for students looking to progress into careers such as Engineering, Electronics, Education, IT and Software Design, Medicine, Domestic Energy Supply, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

[Full course details](#)

# Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes and how these have an impact on an individual's or group's physical and mental state. The goal of psychology is to understand, predict and modify human behaviour. The A level Psychology course allows you to study behaviour, including aggression, gender and abnormality, as well as psychological theories and research. You will develop research skills, as well as developing skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation. The course explores different areas of Psychology, including Cognitive, Social and Developmental Psychology; Approaches in Psychology, including, psychodynamic theory, behaviourism, social learning theory and bio-psychology. You will also explore ethical issues in psychological research.

## Assessment

There is no coursework in psychology, although you will be given the opportunity to conduct practical investigations. There are three external examinations that will be taken at the end of the second year. You will be assessed at the end of the first year by an internal mock examination. Your progress is continuously monitored throughout the course at different assessment opportunities.

Social influence: This explores the influence of others on our behaviour. You will study the topics of obedience and conformity in depth. Why do some people obey even if it causes harm to others? Why do some refuse to obey? What makes us conform and follow the crowd?

Memory: You will explore how our memory works, taking an in-depth look at short and long term memory. You will be investigating eye witness testimony and how false memory can lead to wrongful convictions in law. Attachment: You will learn about different types of attachment and how our early relationships can impact our mental health and future

relationships. You will investigate the link between criminality and attachment type.

## Progression Routes

The subject combines well with English, Biology, Maths, Sociology, Religious Studies and History. It also combines well with BTEC courses like Health and Social Care and Children's Play, Learning and Development.

A degree in Psychology offers graduates a wide choice of future employment opportunities such as Clinical/ Occupational/ Developmental/Forensic/Sports Psychologist roles, Teaching, the Police, Nursing, Social Work, as well as providing valuable transferable skills that can apply to a wide range of occupations.

[Full course details](#)

# Philosophy, Ethics and DCT

Religious Studies is the study and analysis of the world and people to understand why they behave as they do and how their approach to the world impacts on their actions. The beauty of Religious Studies is that it allows for personal reflection, discussion, and the formation of argument and the debating of relevant ethical ideas. Your lessons will allow you to deepen your thoughts and ideas, challenge traditional concepts and arguments and articulate your reasoning and evaluation of moral issues.

This qualification is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. You will develop your skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

OCR's A Level Religious Studies course aims to engage you thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world.

## Assessment

Philosophy of religion – 33.3% of A Level and a 2 hour exam  
Religion and Ethics - 33.3% of A Level and a 2-hour exam  
You

Developments in Religious Thought - 33.3% of A Level and a 2 hour exam

There is no coursework in Religious Studies. Religious Studies is designed to teach you analytical and evaluative ability and is therefore useful to study alongside any subject.

## Progression Routes

The skills of evaluation and analysis that Religious Studies teaches you is applicable to almost any walk of life. Religious Studies can prepare you for anything that you want to do.

According to AGCAS - the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service. RE/Theology graduates go into a wide range of careers. However they, and employers, feel that it particularly prepares students for the following careers:

- Financial Services sector
- Legal sector
- Medicine
- Politics
- Consultancy Journalism
- Media sector
- Education sector
- Publishing sector
- Social Care sector
- Voluntary sector
- Social & Pastoral Care
- Community work

[Full course details](#)



# Sociology

Sociology entails the study of human society. Sociology explores the way that individuals influence society and how society shapes individuals. Sociology looks at factors such as social class, ethnicity and gender and the impact of these on our life chances. Sociology is topical and political. You will explore contemporary issues such as changing patterns in crime and deviance and fundamentalism. It also investigates social areas such as Education, The Family, Power and Politics, Crime and Deviance, Poverty, The Media, Religion and

Research Methods. Sociology causes debates. Taken for granted assumptions are investigated and challenged. The study of Sociology leads to the understanding of complex issues and it is a good basis for university level study in all disciplines. This course requires a hungry mind and a desire to want to get beneath the headlines that often shape our opinions.

### Assessment

The subject is 100% exams based and is assessed through three examinations at the end of the year 13. Over the two year course students will study a range of topics which may include: Family: including its changing pattern, roles and government policies; Education: including the hidden curriculum and government policies; Research methods: such as ethical issues and observations;

Theories: such as functionalism, Marxism and feminism; Religion: including secularisation and cults; Crime: including the effects of social class and age.

Some questions will require short answers and students will also be expected to provide longer essay based questions on some of the above topics.

Each exam paper is 2 hours long and worth 80 marks.

Paper 1: Education with theory and methods - Education (50 marks), methods in context (20 marks), theory and methods (10 marks).  
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - Families and households (40 marks) and beliefs in society (40 marks).  
Paper 3 : Crime and deviance with theory and methods - Crime and deviance (50 marks), theory and methods (30 marks).

### Is there anything else I should know?

A Level Sociology combines well with English, History, Psychology and Religious Studies. It also combines well with BTEC courses like Health and Social Care and Children’s Play, Learning and Development

### Progression Routes

Many students who study Sociology go on to university to study Criminology, Sociology, Social Studies, Youth Work, Teaching, the Police, and Social Work. Graduates are able to access a wide choice of future employment opportunities in various sectors, as well as providing valuable transferable skills that can apply to a wide range of occupations.

[Full course details](#)

# Spanish

Are you a linguist? Are you a good communicator? Do you enjoy travelling to new places? Are you interested in people and other cultures? Then you should be considering studying Spanish to A Level! More and more universities are asking for a language qualification for their courses, irrespective of your chosen career path.

In addition to lessons with your teachers each week you will have extra conversation classes with a native Spanish speaker to improve your accent and the style of your spoken Spanish. You will take advantage of the instant access to authentic materials that the internet affords us and use your language in real life situations.

Through the A level route you will develop and refine your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as revising and building on the grammar already learnt at GCSE to improve the complexity and fluency of your language. In addition you will learn about the culture of Spain and the life of people in Spain and the Spanish speaking world.

There are four areas of study which are taught at A Level; ‘Spanish society and social trends’, ‘Culture in the Spanish speaking world’, ‘Immigration and multicultural society’ and ‘Franco’s dictatorship and the move to democracy’. Also you will study literature and cinema from the Spanish speaking world. In Year 12 you will study the film ‘Laberinto del Fauno’ and in Year 13 you will study the text ‘Crónica de una muerte anunciada’.

### A Level - two year qualification

Exams taken at the end of Year 13  
Paper 1: 40% Listening, Reading and Translation into English and into Spanish.  
Paper 2: 30% Essays on both books or book and film studied.  
Paper 3: 30% Speaking exam on an individual research project (21-23 minutes).

### Progression Routes

Spanish is highly regarded and considered a ‘facilitating subject’ for the top universities in the country, regardless of the degree that you wish to study. It provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to progress onto Law and other ‘humanities’ subjects but also for Medicine and Veterinary Science as well as Business or Management. The Advanced GCE in Spanish can lead to further study of languages at degree level and can easily be combined with other courses such as Law, English, Business, International Studies or other languages that can be taken up at university such as Chinese and Japanese. Current popular career choices for students of languages include Translation and Interpreting, Business, Journalism, Computing, Law, Publishing, Marketing, as well as Teaching, both in the UK and abroad. Linguists are sought after employees for many types of Business and Industry.

[Full course details](#)

# General RE

The Key themes that underpin the units of study in General RE are my world and how I see it- my morality and how I live it - my faith and how I grow it. These ideas are a common thread woven through each unit topic which maps on to one or more of the themes. Consequently, the aims of each unit, studied over a two year period, are as follows:

To provide students with the opportunity to reflect upon and develop their own faith position.

Enable students to use a range of skills that will be valuable during their time in school and beyond.

Promote the moral, spiritual, and cultural development of each student.

Explore ethical and religious matters in regards to modern culture.

Provide students with the opportunity to learn about the wider community and other faiths.

### Expectations of Students

Successful completion of the course is determined by:

- Regular attendance – Students must be present for every lesson unless they are absent from school due to illness or any other authorised reason. General RE lessons continue as normal during the exam periods.
- Attitude to Lessons – Students are expected to engage actively in lessons through participation in class discussion and group work.
- Written Evidence – Students will be provided with a course booklet which will serve as written evidence that they have successfully completed the course and engaged with the activities designed to reflect their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.

### Course Content

In Years 12 and 13 students will study the following topics:

Thinking Spirituality - Including looking at the importance of spirituality, debate the big questions and research other religions and other world views.

Thinking Morality - Including what morality is and what we consider when we make a moral decision.

Thinking Globally - Including what it means to be a global citizen and the importance and impact of the work of CAFOD.





# HOW TO APPLY: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

**Sign Up:** Visit [www.sixthform.hfcmat.com/apply](http://www.sixthform.hfcmat.com/apply) or scan the QR code to submit your application (please ensure you include accurate contact details and fully complete your application).



**Guidance Support:** You should make sure you seek advice from a rang of people which could include: Subject Teachers, Form Tutors, Heads of Learning, Learning Coaches, Connexions and Parents/Carers.

**Enrolment:** After receiving your GCSE results, you will be invited to attend College to complete your enrolment and find out everything you need to start your course.

**Let's Go:** Finally, in September, your classes begin! Get ready for new adventures and learning at college!

**If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact our Admissions Team via email at [schooloffice@stmarywallasey.com](mailto:schooloffice@stmarywallasey.com) or call 0151 639 7531**

**APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2025 ENTRY:**

**FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2024**

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT BURSARIES AND TRAVEL

At Sixth Form students can access financial assistance to support them during their studies. This support could be in the form of a College Bursary, or assistance with meals, equipment, uniforms and much more.

You can find out about eligibility by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.sixthform.hfcmat.com/bursary-information/](http://www.sixthform.hfcmat.com/bursary-information/)



Behaviour showing high  
moral standards.





### We believe...

that SJP can offer you the very best education possible, enabling you to achieve your goals and fulfil your ambitions, whatever they may be. You will learn new skills, grow in confidence, become more independent and more fully developed as an individual. Most importantly, you will have had a brilliant time in the process.

### You can achieve...

great things through hard work, commitment and dedication. We will offer you outstanding support and guidance during your time with us. Our shared goal is to stimulate and challenge you to use all your gifts positively.

### Our aim is to...

inspire curiosity, creativity and compassion; enrich spiritually, socially and culturally and encourage independence, responsibility and confidence.

The purpose of careers advice in the Sixth Form is not to tell students what to do with their lives, but to guide and advise them on the options that are realistically available.

It is the student's responsibility to attend Academic Review and request interviews or attend open days. The Sixth Form staff are able to guide and advise students but it is the responsibility of students to seek out advice and complete their own research.

Application to university begins in the summer term of Year 12. Using the web-based 'Apply' system, students can complete the UCAS form on their own PC at home or online at College. Applications for some courses must be completed by October and early application is beneficial for all courses. Students are expected to do their own research and seek advice from their tutor. University visits are essential. Students not wishing to apply to university are called 'Jobseekers' and a separate programme of support is provided. The careers service takes increasing responsibility for students who are not sure of what to do after completing their exams.

### University visits – Open Days

Students who are considering university courses are strongly advised to visit a number of universities. Visits on Open Days or at other times may provide a student with a clear idea of where to go or where not to go. The buildings – campus or not – and, in particular, the location of student accommodation is better experienced first hand.

***Each student will usually be allowed a maximum of 3 Open Day visits.***

### Interview Preparation

Students can request the opportunity to practise their interview technique prior to attending university interviews. Similarly, students seeking employment may request interview preparation training sessions. This should be arranged via the Head of Work Related Learning.

### Community Work

The expectation is that all students will complete an hour a week of Community Work. This could be working with staff at SJP mentoring or coaching younger pupils or arranged through an outside agency. Students will be expected to keep a log of the hours they complete for this community work which will provide a useful point of information to include in their reference.



**Old Chester Road, Bebington, Wirral. CH63 7LF**

**T** 0151 645 5049

**E** [schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com)

**W** [stjohnplessington.com](http://stjohnplessington.com)

**X** @SJPHedTeacher

**f** /SJPHedTeacher

**@** /SJPHedTeacher



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